



Updated September 2013 for all 2014 departures

Masai Lodge Safari (14MLS3) – Tour Dossier

Introduction

This exciting holiday offers you a comprehensive insight Kenya's best known and most popular game park – the Masai Mara National Reserve. This unique itinerary has been carefully designed maximizing your experience within the short time you spend on holiday with us. This Adventure tour allows you to touch and embrace the magic of Kenya leaving you with an everlasting desire to discover more of this dynamic and diverse continent.

Highlights

Nairobi
Great Rift Valley

Mt. Longonot
Loita Plains

Masai Mara National Reserve
Game drives

Intended Itinerary

Day 1:

Nairobi – Masai Mara National Reserve

Distance travelled: +/-385km

Approx driving day: Full day

Departing from your hotel, we make the journey from Nairobi west through the Great Rift Valley and head to the magnificent, world-famous Masai Mara Game Reserve. The Masai Mara is Kenya's most prolific wildlife conservation area, and is home to a magnificent collection of wildlife in a natural, wild and basically untouched state. The park has an incredible diversity of wildlife amongst rolling fertile plains dotted with the distinctive flat-topped acacia trees, (Mara is a Masai word meaning spotted). It is watered by the tree-lined Mara River and its tributary the green and winding Talek River, full of hippo and crocodile. Lunch is taken en route after which we take an afternoon game drive to our lodge, spotting our first animals and birdlife en route. We arrive in the late afternoon and enjoy a relaxing dinner before spending the first night under the enormous skies of the Mara.

Wow Factors: Nairobi, Great Rift Valley, Masai Mara National Reserve

Accommodation: Comfortable twin share lodges or tented camps with en suite

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2:

Masai Mara National Reserve

Distance travelled: Morning and afternoon game drives

We spend a full day in the park and explore the Mara on afternoon and early morning game drives. The reserve situated alongside its border is the northern extension of the huge Serengeti to the south, in Tanzania. The Mara is crossed every

year from July to October by large herds of wildebeest and their zebra friends who journey from the adjoining Serengeti National Park on a continuous circular migration. Predators and scavengers follow in their wake, relying on the huge herds for food. If you are in the Mara during this season and are lucky enough to catch the migration it is a spectacular sight. However, the Mara is excellent for game viewing at any time of year and with luck we hope to spot some, if not all, of the Big 5 - elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo and leopard, as well as warthogs, baboons, spotted hyenas, grey jackals and prolific herds of Grant's gazelle, wildebeest, impala, topi, zebra and Masai giraffe. Birds too, are prolific here, and well over 450 species have been recorded, including 57 species of birds of prey.

Wow Factors: Masai Mara National Reserve, Game drives

Accommodation: Comfortable twin share lodges or tented camps with en suite

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3:

Masai Mara - Nairobi

Distance travelled: +/-385km

Approx driving day: Half day

After a hearty breakfast we leave our lodge and make our way back across the Rift Valley to Nairobi. We aim to arrive back in the Capital by lunchtime where the tour ends.

Wow Factors: Great Rift Valley, Loita Hills, Mt. Longonot, Nairobi

Accommodation: None

Meals included: Breakfast



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Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Short Safari & Treks

This Short Safaris & Treks tour is operated by a locally based (African) ground handler who has maintained standards at a high level over a period of time. We believe that working with a local operator in this way assists the community to benefit in a sustainable way from tourism. At the same time it provides our clients with the extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm of the local staff and guides employed to ensure your safari is as enjoyable as it is memorable

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Tour highlights, accommodation, transport, meals as indicated, park fees, complimentary safari hat, 1-litre bottled mineral water per person per day whilst on safari and services of a tour guide/driver.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, optional activities, laundry, gratuities, passport & visa fees, items of a personal nature

LOCAL PAYMENT:

The local payment (LP) set out in the brochure is to be paid to the tour guide/driver on day 1 of this tour. This local payment covers running costs on the road – meals indicated, pre erected camp and tour highlights. Traveller's cheques and credit cards are not accepted. Payments must be made in US Dollars (US Dollars in clean, un-torn **post 2006** edition notes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Comfortable twin share lodges or tented camps with en suite

TRANSPORT:

Safari vehicle

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Nairobi is well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

Joining Information

Meeting point in **Nairobi** :

Pick up from your hotel in Nairobi

(If we have not reserved your accommodation in Nairobi for you please remember to tell us where you are staying the night before departure!)

Tour start time:

07h00 (7:00am)

Tour end point in **Nairobi**:

Drop off at your hotel in Nairobi

Tour end time:

Early afternoon on day 3

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Nairobi at 07:00am on day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation for you – please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements.

However please book early to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings.

If time allows, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of Nairobi and the surrounding area.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. **These prices are a guide line only and are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices.**

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Description	Price (USD)	Description	Price (USD)
Nairobi		Nairobi	
Pre tour accommodation – Twin/ double ppn	\$65	Post tour accommodation – Twin/ double ppn	\$65
Pre tour accommodation – Single ppn	\$100	Post tour accommodation – Single ppn	\$100
Pre tour accommodation – triple ppn	\$50	Post tour accommodation – triple ppn	\$50

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack is ideal. On this tour you will need a mixture of lightweight cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (i.e fleece, long trousers and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be cool on game drives. Pack a light rain jacket. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray throughout the year. Bring a towel and a pillow if required. A money belt/pouch that can be worn comfortably beneath your clothing is recommended. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safe to store your cash, passport and air tickets.

VACCINATIONS / HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure. Please note some areas visited are **malarial**. We recommend you speak to your doctor or travel clinic about appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Kenya	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R

R = Recommended, R* = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required

NB To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Kenya	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

NB The above is a guide only. Please check all visa requirements at least one month in advance of travel. Most nationalities do not need to obtain any of the above visas in advance. They are available at the border entry points and payable in US\$ cash.

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$10-15 per day. Most spending will be in US\$ cash but exchange some money into Kenyan Shillings.

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- **Spending money** is best carried as cash is US dollars (US Dollars in clean, un-torn post 2006 edition notes). Your guide will give general guidance about spending during the tour.
- **Currencies** are as follows: Kenyan Shillings, US Dollars
- **ATM machines** are found in Nairobi
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for larger optional activities although fees for use may be higher than you are accustomed to.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy it has become customary to offer a small gratuity to local staff at the end of the tour if service has been of a high standard. Naturally this always remains at your discretion.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Masai Village Experience	\$20	Masai Mara Hot Air Balloon	\$500

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can help provide specialist travel insurance for this tour through our local operator. Please contact Acacia for more information.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

GET CONNECTED

Join our facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travelers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour.

Find us on Instagram #acaciaafrica and tag us in your amazing travel photographs!

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter!

Follow our blog <http://acacia-africa.com/blog> and get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Premium Overlanding, Acacia Small Group Safaris, Short Safari's & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours and Dive Tours please visit www.acacia-africa.com

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