



Isaaten Wildlife Conservancy;
Mara Ecosystem



BUSHTOPS
SAFARI CAMPS

About the Conservancy

Guests of Mara Bushtops enjoy exclusive use of the 6,500- acre **Isaaten Wildlife Conservancy (IWC)**. Only ten kilometres from the world renowned Masai Mara National Game Reserve, IWC is a special landscape and ecosystem, incorporating a variety of flora and fauna centered around a biodiversity-rich, natural saltlick. This feature overlooks the dining area, the Spa Village and several of the guest tented suits.

IWC is in the heart of the rich wildlife migrations associated with The Masai Mara and its surrounding conservancies. The variety of scenery from bush-covered hills, acacia woodlands, riverine vegetation and open grass plains account for the variety of wildlife.

Four of the 'Big Five'; Lion, Leopard, Elephant and Buffalo are resident in the conservancy with increased numbers during the migration season. A pride of eight Lionesses dominates the permanent stream that bisects the landscape with frequent nomadic Lion joining them. A resident Leopard patrols the Spa valley and regular sightings of others in the acacia forest are recorded in both day and night game drives. More than twenty resident Elephant seasonally swell to over one hundred. Plains game herds of three hundred Zebra and over two hundred and fifty Wildebeest, fifty Buffalo, forty Eland and sixty Topi frequent the saltlick. The density of Giraffe, often over one hundred, is a feature of the conservancy thanks to the abundant acacia and *Balanites aegyptiaca*. The antics of Mongooses and Warthogs can be watched from the dining room while guests might see the rare Bat-eared Fox with fourteen denning nearby. The feline Predators are complimented with over one hundred Spotted Hyena and an extraordinary ninety silver backed Jackal.



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The Masai Mara ecosystem has recorded over four hundred and seventy bird species, the majority of which are found in IWC, creating an ornithologist's paradise. Raptors, especially thrive in the hills and trees of the conservancy with endangered species such as the Martial eagle, Bateleur eagle, Secretary bird and the Hooded and Egyptian Vultures seen.

The bush and grasslands, surrounding Bushtops Camp, fed by permanent and seasonal streams provides nourishment to the abundant wildlife. There are also a number of boreholes and freshwater springs, locally called ChemChem, providing water in the drier months.

The Siana Airstrip provides guests with a more personal alternative to the Mara airstrips making for a much more enjoyable arrival and departure experience.

IWC boasts a modern control room with powerful conservation tools including Earthranger data collection and monitoring software, Starlink internet connection, live cameras and display boards. The control room acts a hub of information and communication collected by five, locally recruited, scout teams based in strategically placed satellite ranger posts. The control room is ergonomically designed to expand and act as a training and meeting space for community members.



The Natural Saltlick



Activities for guests

Within this extensive expanse of wilderness, guests can explore the exclusive conservancy enjoying a variety of activities including;

Day and night game drives

Off road game drives

Bush Walks

Meals in the scenic wilderness

Sundowners across multiple locations

Hiking in the hills

Kakiya Cave visit

Fly camping experience

Cultural Manyatta visits

Nkoilale Primary school visit



Community-based activities

The conservancy focuses on a variety of programs to improve the landscape including land, soil, water and road network management. Community empowerment through focused training and targeted programs is central to its ethos and allows for the fruitful partnership with the landowners and their community. **IWC as an active member of the Masai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association, is involved in the adoption of best practices in preserving the flora and fauna while ensuring that the local communities benefit from the use and development within the Mara ecosystem. The ethos of Bushtops and IWC means that community-based conservation serve as a keystone goal of the conservancy which partners with the local community in a variety of programs designed to empower, educate and uplift the landowners and members of the conservancy.**

These include;

Grazing programs; designed to sustainably facilitate the income and traditional values of livestock husbandry across the conservancy while allowing for the needs of wildlife and the habitat

Womens empowerment; Nkoilale Womens group is a community-based organisation (CBO) with 80 members, 15 from the Isaaten community, promoting high quality bead and leatherwork and honey production targeted at providing an income for women in the community.

School feeding programs; to bolster health amongst the young

School building projects; including a kitchen, freshwater boreholes, classroom improvements and boarding facilities.

Scholarships; for children of Isaaten community

Human wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation programs; looking at the prevention, mitigation and mediation of conflict between all species and people living with wildlife in the area. This includes homestead and livestock corral improvement, and a consolation scheme should predators kill livestock. Continued training of rangers and community members is central to mitigating HWC.

Relationship with KWS and other conservation players; Cooperation and coordination across the Mara Landscape is vital to best use resources, avoid duplications and utilise expertise and experience in order to solve conservation problems on the ground

Erosion control; as a result of climate change and historical over grazing on delicate soils, the landscape is vulnerable to erosion during heavy rain. Active rehabilitation of erosion gullies and prevention of future damage is a responsible, sustainable methodology in safeguarding the conservancy.



Leckie Nature Consultants

Currently contracted to consult on the community-based sustainable conservation and women's empowerment structure for Isaaten Wildlife Conservancy. LNC is a family-owned company with over 50 years of combined experience working with expertise in the Human-wildlife conflict and community-based conservation field while also drawing on knowledge of tourism requirements and tourism partner-community relations. The contract involves a number of programs including;

- Wildlife Management
- Land/Natural Resource Management
- Community Engagement
- Livestock Management
- Community Protection Scheme
- Enterprise
- Scouts & HR
- Peace and security
- Infrastructure development
- Tourism facilitation
- External Communications





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