

THE SAMBUK SUITE AT MARA NYIKA

NABOISHO CONSERVANCY | MAASAI MARA



A “Sambuk” is a type of dhow typical of East African traditional wooden sailing vessels, often with a distinctive keel design with a sharp curve right below the top of the prow.

And so Kenya’s brand new 2-bedroomed Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika pays homage to the Swahili culture and language component found in this East African region.

The design is characteristic of its flowing canvas roofs and welcoming space for guests to relax in. This Réserve-Collection Suite rings with the romance of the vast open plains of East Africa from a time when light canvas flapped in the light breeze across those great plains (Nyika) as wildebeest and zebras call to each other and, at twilight, “Simba,” the great lion’s roar reverberated across the Nyika.

The design is also a homage to the influences from the Swahili culture right across Kenya.

It is the perfect sister safari camp to the Masaai Mara’s 2-bedroomed Jahazi Suite at Mara Plains.

Typical of the Maasai Mara’s ancient Nyika is the flat-topped Acacia kirkii trees. The Dereck Joubert-designed Sambuk Suite takes advantage of these umbrella-thorn trees’ shade. While the Mara Nyika Camp is in a valley straddling a small stream, this 2-bedroomed suite is set away from the main camp area and up high under the tree’s canopy to offer guests awe-inspiring views out over the bush and total privacy.

Many may think of Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika as a treetop camp, where the raised walkway to Mara Nyika Camp’s main area gives a feel of a treehouse under canvas. However, the entire camp’s ethic and inspiration are still one of exploration and adventure - a sense of impermanence in this ever-changing world. Privacy is the key to understanding it. Privacy to live, think, explore, be romantic, and be pampered – all the while with one of the most spectacular backdrops Africa can provide. The camp is a proud Relais & Châteaux member.

“We spent over three years circling the site of the camp, identifying one and then another, looking for light or noise pollution and finally settling on this exceptional place,” says Dereck Joubert. “One where each time we visited, we saw a male leopard or a lioness and cubs.



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A site where no one else will see our lights or canvas. A safari is about creating a story, an ideal dream, and we want to create our own without eroding someone else's."

The 2-bedroomed Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika is part of our Mara Nyika Camp. Together they are located in the private 20 000-hectare Naboisho Conservancy. This is a unique area to explore and forms the perfect juxtaposition to one's safari when combining your stay with our safari camps in the private Olare Motorogi Conservancy and Maasai Mara Reserve. Each wildlife experience from our camps is unique and offers guests the opportunity to experience the different Mara faces, which is an unbelievable bonus.

CAMP FEATURES

Total Number of Bedrooms:

The 2-bedroom private Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika can accommodate a family of 5 with 2 adults and 3 children (aged 6 – 15 years), or 4 adults traveling together;

1 Guide room with a double bed and a bathroom.

Type of Lodge:

Réserve Collection Safari Camp

Lodge Season & Opening:

Year Round



Ideal length of stay:

3 / 4 Nights

CHECK OUT TIME

We maintain a high level of flexibility when it comes to check-out times at our camps. However, due to some scheduled air transfer schedules, there are instances where we may kindly request guests to check out of their suites by 9:00am. In such situations, our lodges and camps are set up to ensure that guests can utilise the facilities located in the central area. This includes access to Wi-Fi, the provision of complimentary drinks and lunch in the event of any unexpected delays, and access to hides or other activities if available.

CAMP CO-ORDINATES

1°22'30.6"S 35°17'24.6"E

ACCESS DIRECTIONS

- Scheduled aircraft transfers to the nearby Naboisho (Ol Seki) airstrip, from Nairobi's Wilson domestic airport (flying time 1hr 15mins) and other locations in Kenya;
- Private Air charter access available;
- The Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika is an approximate 40-minute drive from the airstrip with often wildlife viewing opportunities en route;
- Co-ordinates: S01°22.557', E035°17.649';
- Olseki Airstrip length: 1300m

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ACTIVITIES

Wildlife viewing

Safari drives (day & night) in some of the most luxurious wildlife viewing vehicles are available.

Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika offers guests a private vehicle (Toyota Land Cruiser) which is open-sided, canopied, and customised for photographers with fold-down screens, raised roofs, photographic bars, multi-plug invertors, all in keeping with the origins of Dereck & Beverly Joubert as National Geographic photographers. The vehicle has a fridge stocked with drinks and snacks, ready for longer days out if the wildlife viewing is exciting and just too hard to leave.

No two days are the same on safari. Wildlife viewing often starts at sunrise, returning to camp for a late breakfast and departing again in the mid-afternoon after tea before returning just after sunset. However, we can often go out all day with a packed breakfast, lunch, and beverages should you wish. One visit per guest's 3- or 4-night stay includes heading into the famous Maasai Mara Reserve. Should you want to visit the Mara on more occasions, these would be subject to additional park fees payable. Very often, our safaris will continue into the night, a possibility because of our location on the private Naboisho Conservancy. Night drives are incredibly prolific, and while they take patience, sightings commonly include lesser-known nocturnal mammals and even lion and hyena hunts.

Hot Air Ballooning

Hot air ballooning is available but should be booked in advance, subject to availability, and additional cost. Departures are very early in the morning to allow time to transfer to the nearest launching point.

Cultural Experience

The Naboisho Women's Group cultural experience is supported by the Great Plains Foundation, enabling the group to purchase raw materials in bulk including a tailor hired to work on leather products. Available to guests staying at Great Plains Conservation camps all profits from the sale of their wares are ploughed back into the women's business training to ensure this group is self-sustainable. Items available for purchase include, but are not limited to, beaded & leather products, coasters, bracelets, necklaces, belts, dog collars, earrings, and decorated dawa sticks for example.

Photography

The Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika comes with a pair of high-quality binoculars for guests to enjoy in addition to a professional camera set, including a camera body and 100-400mm and 24-70mm lenses. Our team will download all the guest's photos to a memory stick on the guest's departure.

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Private vehicle option

Included as standard.

Private Guides

Private guides are encouraged and welcomed.

MARA NYIKA CAMP: CENTRAL FACILITIES

- Main lounge;
- Dining room, wine cellar, and bar;
- Coffee/tea station;
- Outdoor fire pit with seating;
- Great Plains Safari Boutique: Selling locally and regionally produced crafts, many of which support local community projects in the nearby Maasai communities. The Boutique also stocks the d&b clothing line: Dereck and Beverly Joubert have inspired this bespoke range of clothing they typically wear, and which is perfect and cool while on safari yet elegant when in the city. All materials are responsibly sourced. Visit www.greatplainsconservation.com/safariboutique/

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

- Our world-class meals are Relais & Chateaux recognised;
- All meals included and prepared by our Executive Chefs and their teams in a state-of-the-art kitchen that guests are welcome to visit;
- All drinks and beverages are included, including imported spirits and champagnes;
- Group meals and/or individual tables, a la carte menu options;

- Indoor and outdoor dining;
- Private dining on guest's private verandah on request;
- All dietary requirements are catered for from regular to vegan to children; prior notice required;
- We are extremely flexible on timings. Picnic breakfasts or lunch (or both) are the norm due to very active safari drives, often delivered to the bush!

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

BEDROOM FEATURES

- The 2-bedroom private Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika includes the services of wildlife viewing vehicle & guide;
- The Suite is olive green in colour with high ceilings and netted windows, so are light and bright;
- Indoor dining area;
- Prominent outdoor verandah;
- Coffee and tea station;
- Desk and dressing area as well as small lounge;
- Mini bar with drinks of choice;
- Overhead ceiling fan;
- Either twin or double bed configuration.

Bathroom features

- Each bedroom of the Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika is en-suite with flush loo, shower (indoor), copper bathtub and double basins;
- Hot and cold running water;
- Soap, shampoo, conditioner and lotion provided;
- Power system does not support hairdryers, shavers or any high wattage device (low voltage hairdryers provided).



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ACCOMMODATING CHILDREN AND SHARING ACCOMMODATION

- We look forward to having children stay with us that are 6 years and older;
- The private Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika can cater for a maximum of four adults sharing or two adults and up to three children (aged 6 – 15), sharing in two separate bedrooms;
- Young children must be supervised as the Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika is unfenced, the pool is not covered, there are high predator densities in and around camp and there is a river nearby;
- Great Plains Young Explorers program – thoughtfully designed to explore a range of experiences and topics from birding to cooking to art to tracking wildlife.

SPA TREATMENTS

Wellness spa with locally inspired treatments is available for in-room treatments.

FITNESS

Yoga mats and bands are provided in each suite.

LAUNDRY

Included in nightly tariff - next day service, weather permitting.



POWER AND COMMUNICATION

Power

- The camp is run by an impressive solar farm;
- This system produces 240V, 24-hour electricity to the suites and main area;
- Plug points in each suite;
- Type of plug: Universal plug points;
- Power system does not support hairdryers, shavers or any high wattage device (low voltage hairdryers provided).

Internet & Mobile

- Cell service is relatively good;
- Wi-fi available in guest suites;
- No cell phones or computers are allowed in the public areas of camp or on safari vehicles, only in the privacy of guest suites.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health

- Malaria: Minimal exposure risk– Malaria prophylaxis are recommended if guests are concerned; however, this is a remote area with little occurrence;
- Kenya is considered a Yellow Fever Zone. Consult your medical practitioner prior to travel.
- Guests must hold comprehensive medical insurance and emergency evacuation insurance;
- Senior staff all has first aid training;
- Nearest decent medical facility is in Nairobi.

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Possibility of Disabled Access

The camp layout is conducive to guests who use wheelchairs due to interconnected raised decking and pathways between the suites and the main area. There are steps between the main entrance and arrival bridge, but our staff will be on hand to assist;

SAFETY

- Safety: The camp is unfenced to wild animals that do move through the property especially at night. Security guards are armed with traditional spears;
- Fire extinguishers in each suite.

MONEY MATTERS

Safes

Safes are provided in every suite.

ACCEPTED PAYMENT ON LOCATION

- Staff gratuities can be paid in Kenyan Shillings, US Dollars, Euros or GB Pounds;
- Credit card facilities are available in camp (except American Express) subject to 3.5% charge.

The Team

Lodge Owners

Great Plains Conservation

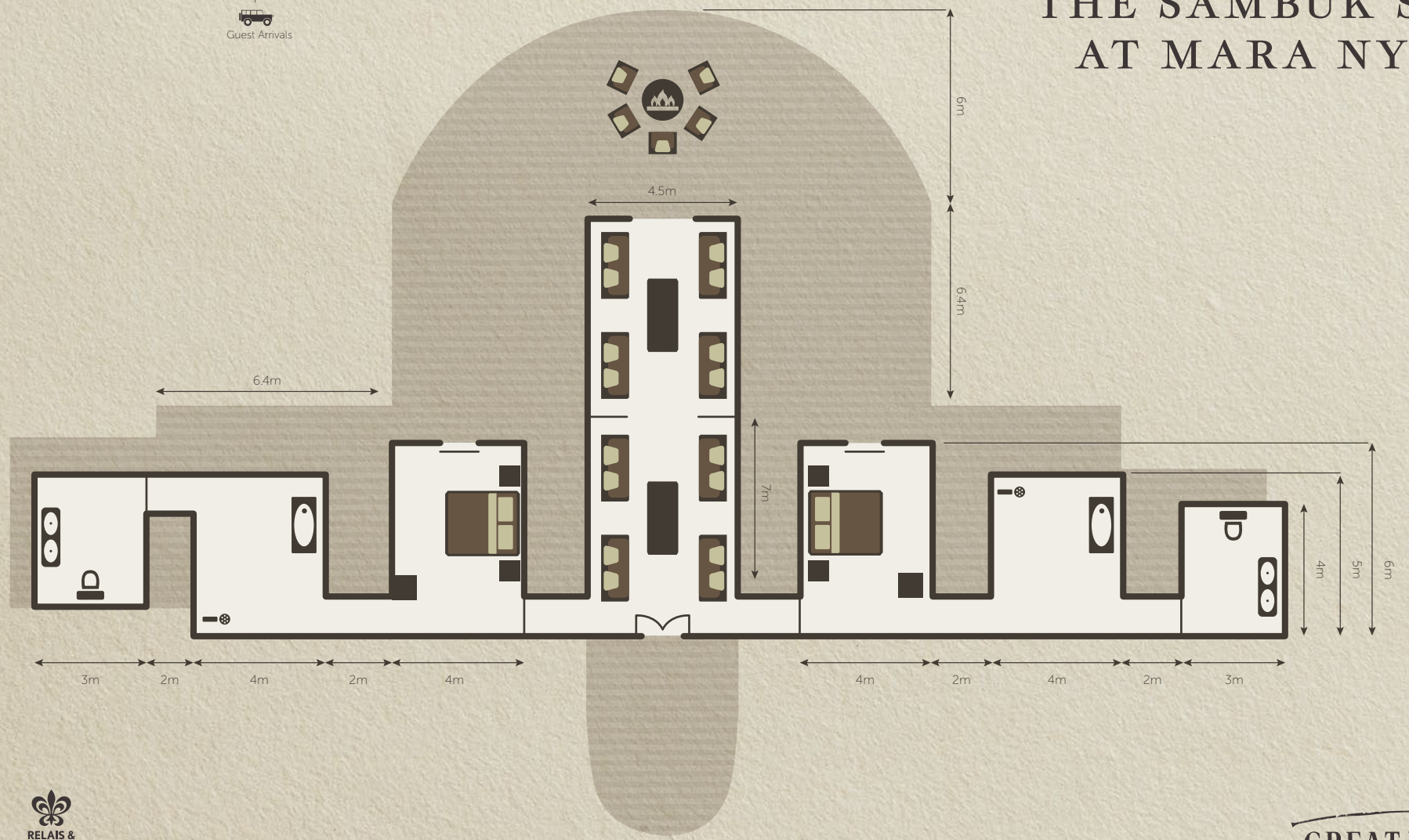
FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Naboisho Womens Group

Great Plains supports the Naboisho Women's Bead Group, based in the community of Nkoilale not far from Mara Nyika. Great Plains' support for the project helps the group to bulk purchase beads and other raw materials for their products and provides training, sales & marketing support. The project enables women in the local community to bolster household income, in turn supporting food security, education, health and more for their families. The project directly impacts the 105 households of the women in the group which means that nearly 1000 people are directly impacted by the money the program generates.

In addition to our own programs Great Plains Foundation keeps a list of school needs in the countries where we work. Needed items can be hand-carried by travelers or we can help purchase them locally. To learn more or to help support students and educators as part of your trip please reach out info@greatplainsfoundation.com

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GREAT PLAINS

CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS



GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION STRIVES TO FIND THE RIGHT FORMULA OF CONSERVATION, COMMUNITIES AND COMMERCE THAT MAKES A LASTING, SUSTAINABLE DIFFERENCE TO THE WORLD'S ICONIC WILDLIFE HABITATS



Mara Toto Tree Camp • Mara Expedition Camp • Mara Triangle

• Camp Kunji
• Mara Plains Camp & The Jahazi Suite at Mara Plains
• Mara Nyika Camp & The Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika

Maasai Mara Reserve

Serengeti National Park

Kenya

Tanzania

Mount Kilimanjaro

Nairobi

Shompole

Ol Donyo Lodge

KENYA CAMPS

| ACTIVITY | OL DONYO LODGE | MARA PLAINS CAMP & THE JAHAZI SUITE AT MARA PLAINS | MARA NYIKA CAMP & THE SAMBUK SUITE AT MARA NYIKA | MARA TOTO TREE CAMP OPENING JULY 1, 2024 |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Camp Classification | Réserve-Collection | Réserve-Collection | Réserve-Collection | Réserve-Collection |
| Location | Mbirikani Group Ranch | Olare Motorogi Conservancy | Naboisho Conservancy | Maasai Mara National Reserve |
| Size of concession / reserve | 110 000 Hectares / 275 000 Acres | 13 300 Hectares / 33 000 Acres | 20 000 Hectares / 50 000 Acres | 28 000 Hectares / 69 000 Acres |
| Traversing | Mbirikani Group Ranch | Olare Motorogi Conservancy & Maasai Mara National Reserve | Naboisho Conservancy & Maasai Mara National Reserve | Mara North Conservancy & Maasai Mara National Reserve |
| Number of Suites / Tents | 8 Suites | 5 Suites | 3 Suites | 4 Suites |
| Family Accommodation | One 2-bedroom suite | The 2-bedroom Jahazi Suite at Mara Plains | The 2-bedroom Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika. One two-bedroom suite | n/a |
| Children can be accommodated from: | 5 Years | 6 Years | 6 Years | 6 Years |
| Day Drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Night Drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes (water level dependent) |
| Cultural Experience | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Private Vehicle (at an additional charge) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Guided Walks | Yes | No | No | No |
| Horseback Riding | Yes | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Hot-Air Ballooning (at an additional charge) | n/a | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Mountain Biking | Yes | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Hide | Yes | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Main Swimming Pool / Private Plunge Pools | Yes (Main Pool & Private Plunge Pools) | Yes (Jahazi Suite only) | n/a | n/a |
| Shower | Indoor & Outdoor | Indoor | Indoor | Indoor |
| Bath | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Hairdryers (low voltage) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Mosquito Nets | Yes | Yes (On all tent sides) | Yes (On all tent sides) | Yes (On all tent sides) |
| Fans | Standing fan | Overhead fan | Standing fan | Standing fan |
| Wi-Fi – in-room (complimentary) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Safe - In-room | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Spa treatments (at an additional charge) | Yes (In-room only) | Yes | Yes (In-room only) | Yes (In-room only) |
| Fitness | In-room Equipment | In-room Equipment | In-room Equipment | In-room equipment |
| Boutique on site | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

KENYA CAMPS

| ACTIVITY | MARA EXPEDITION CAMP |
|--|---|
| Camp Classification | Explorers Collection |
| Location | Maasai Mara National Reserve |
| Size of concession / reserve | 28 000 Hectares / 69 000 Acres |
| Traversing | Mara North Conservancy & Maasai Mara National Reserve |
| Number of Suites / Tents | 5 Tents |
| Family Accommodation | One 2-bedroom family tent |
| Children can be accommodated from: | 6 Years |
| Day Drives | Yes |
| Night Drives | Yes (water level dependent) |
| Cultural Experience | Yes |
| Private Vehicle (at an additional charge) | Yes |
| Guided Walks | No |
| Horseback Riding | n/a |
| Hot-Air Ballooning (at an additional charge) | Yes |
| Mountain Biking | n/a |
| Hide | n/a |
| Main Swimming Pool / Private Plunge Pools | Main swimming pool |
| Shower | Indoor |
| Bath | n/a |
| Hairdryers (low voltage) | n/a |
| Mosquito Nets | Yes (On all tent sides) |
| Fans | Standing fan |
| Wi-Fi – in-room (complimentary) | Yes |
| Safe - In-room | Yes |
| Spa treatments (at an additional charge) | n/a |
| Fitness | Yoga mats |
| Boutique on site | n/a |