

An aerial photograph of a camp in a savanna landscape at sunset. The camp consists of several small, dark-roofed buildings and a larger structure with a blue roof, surrounded by trees and a winding river. The background shows rolling hills under a golden sky.

# Kicheche Mara North

Fact sheet

**Kicheche Mara North** is located in a prime wildlife area and is a classic tented camp hidden in a stunning acacia valley overlooking the Olare Orok stream.

## LOCATION

Kicheche Mara North is located in Acacia Valley, in **Mara North Conservancy**. The camp is hidden in a picturesque valley in a prime wildlife area. Game viewing starts right from the camp itself.

**GPS** [1°12'51.8"S 35°09'54.5"E](#)

## Mara North Conservancy

Mara North Conservancy is a beautiful private wilderness area of more than 28,377 hectares (~70,121 acres). It is a vital part of the Masai Mara ecosystem as it forms the north-western zone, bordering the Masai Mara National Reserve in the south of Kenya. Professional wildlife and tourism management ensure guests a truly exclusive and private safari experience with a very low vehicle density. The conservancy is a partnership between thirteen member camps and over 800 Maasai landowners. Their aim is to create a best practice, world class conservancy with long-term commitments to the environment, wildlife and local communities.

## Access

**By air:** A scheduled one-hour flight from Nairobi's Wilson Airport to Mara's **MARA NORTH airstrip**. Flights depart at 0900, 1000, 1300 and 1500.

With Safarilink or Air Kenya. Flights are available from Nanyuki, Naivasha & Mombasa.

The camp is a 20-minute game drive from the airstrip.

**Note: Luggage allowance is 15kg per person only, in soft luggage bags. Excess luggage is charged at approx \$5 per kilo.**

**By road:** 4½ hours drive from Nairobi.

## FACILITIES

### Guest tents

The camp is a classic, intimate, luxury bush camp, completely unfenced and consisting of nine standard tents and one family suite. Spacious, fully insect-proof Selous style tents (eight twins/doubles), equipped with cedar beds, linen, bedside tables, luggage racks and rugs. Bathrooms are en-suite and are equipped with a dresser, shower and flushing toilet and running water. There are canvas directors and deck chairs on the verandas. Triple tents and family quad tents (1 double & 2 single beds) are available on request.

### Lounge Tent

Our spacious lounge tent, with its comfortable local furnishings and informative collection of reference books, is a delightful place to relax between game drives or other activities.

### Meals and Drinks

All meals and drinks are inclusive in your stay and taken al-fresco in a clearing overlooking the plains or, in the event of bad weather, in the spacious dining tent. The cuisine is Western/European with occasional African dishes and hygiene standards are high. We can cater for special dietary requirements however please notify us in advance. Mineral water is provided in each tent every day.

### Laundry

Included in the rate is a daily laundry service. Please note this is a bush laundry that cannot cope with delicate items of clothing.

### Power & Lighting

There is no mains power however we do supply 24-hour low wattage power for lighting through an inverter system. Camera and Video batteries can also be charged on this system. The inverter system is backed up by a generator.



## Safety

Safety is of paramount importance and therefore askaris (night-watchmen) patrol the camp at regular intervals after dark. Guests are advised to remain in their tent after dark, and will be escorted between their tent and the lounge/dining areas by a staff member. Each tent is equipped with a whistle to call for assistance in case of emergency. Each vehicle is equipped with a radio for communications with camp and the camp is in contact with the Nairobi office on a daily basis. Flying Doctors' medical evacuation planes can be called in the event of an emergency.

## Children

We accept children but adults must be aware that our camp is not fenced and no additional facilities are available to occupy them outside our normal excursions. No baby equipment is provided.

## Souvenirs

There is a camp souvenir shop with a selection of clothing, maps and miscellaneous items.

## Tipping

It is customary in East Africa to tip your lodge/camp staff. As a guideline allow approx. \$10-\$15 per person per day, to be split between your guide and camp staff. However, it is not compulsory and tips should only be given if you are satisfied with the service provided. Unfortunately, we can't accept tips through credit cards.

## Payments at camp

We accept credit card payments (AMEX, VISA and MASTER CARD) or cash (EURO, USD, GBP and Kenya Shilling). There is a safety deposit box at camp where all valuables can be kept.

## PREPARATION

### Climate

The long rains are from early April through to May, and the short rains are in November. The coolest time of year is from Jun-Aug when temperatures are low in the morning hours. Dry seasons offer more reliable road conditions though game viewing is excellent year round. Please bear in mind over the past few years the weather patterns in the Masai Mara, and Kenya in general, have changed and are somewhat unpredictable.

***Kicheche Mara North is closed in April & May.***

### Clothing

Generally speaking, Kenya is cooler than most people expect for a region on the equator, this is due to the altitude (1500-2000 metres) over much of the area. Therefore it is advisable to have a warm jacket or jumper for cool mornings. During the day, however, it is usually quite warm. Natural safari colours are recommended especially if you are game walking, they are also ideal to conceal the African dust! Good walking shoes/ boots will be useful if you intend to walk. A sun hat, sunglasses, lotion, lip balm and skin moisturiser are important to counteract the sun, wind and dry conditions.

### Health

Kenya is a malaria zone therefore guests should consult their doctor about prophylactic measures before travelling. Guests should also be covered by comprehensive travel insurance.

### Photography

It is highly recommended to bring a camera with a zoom lens of at least 200mm for wildlife shots. A bean bag or jumper is useful to rest your camera on for shooting in low light (tripods are too cumbersome for use in a vehicle). We have several locally made bean bags at the camp however, if you wish to bring your own they can be filled at camp. Although there is a small supply of film available at camp it is recommended to bring your own. Don't forget to bring a spare camera battery. Recharging facilities are available for digital cameras and videos (230V 50Hz). Another important item to bring is a pair of binoculars. It is worth buying a pair if you are unable to borrow one. Small compact binoculars are fine and handy to carry around however a larger (e.g. 7x50) pair will be superior in the low light conditions in the morning and evening when most game drives take place. Always ask permission before taking photographs of people.

### Communications

There is a variable mobile signal at camp however usage is restricted in the camp's public areas and on game drives. There is an unreliable e-mail connection at camp [maracamp@kicheche.com](mailto:maracamp@kicheche.com) therefore all communications should be copied to the Nairobi office ([sales@kicheche.com](mailto:sales@kicheche.com)). In the event of an emergency, the camp number is **+254 734 699 952** but is not a reliable connection; therefore we recommend you contact the Nairobi Duty mobile phone: +254 736 888 055 / +254 738 888 055. Kenya is GMT +3 hours and does not have summertime/daylight savings.

There is Wi-Fi available in the guest tents (30Mbps).

## ACTIVITIES

### Daily Routine

Guests are woken with tea, coffee or hot chocolate & biscuits brought to their tent. An early morning game drive sets off at sunrise and returns to the camp late morning. Breakfast is a leisurely affair taken outside in the morning sunlight. Lunch is also served al-fresco in the shade of an olive tree. During the heat of the day, relax and appreciate the silence, punctuated only by birdcalls. Alternatively, utilise our reference library in the lounge tent, which has an excellent selection of books. An afternoon game drive departs around 16h00 after tea and returns after sundowners. Freshen up before joining other guests around the campfire for a pre-dinner drink. Dinner is served by candlelight al-fresco or in the dining tent. Take a nightcap by the fire before retiring. Rigid daily schedules are not on our agenda, there are no hard and fast rules at Kicheche so guests can decide on the duration and frequency of their drives. Picnic breakfasts, lunches and sundowner drinks are popular options to include on game drives.

### Game Drives

Early morning and late afternoon are the most productive hours for game drives and our safari customised 4WD vehicles give everyone a perfect view. Watching wildlife at close range, but without encroaching on their space, is endlessly fascinating and our guides' instincts and experience provide superb photo opportunities of wild animals.

**Game driving** is available throughout the area and your program is arranged daily with your guide. Game viewing drives are conducted by open-sided and open-roofed customised 4WD Land Cruiser vehicles. Game drives are shared with other guests though **exclusive use** of a vehicle is available at an extra charge. Our vehicles are superbly designed for photographers, all our fleet is open-sided with open roofs. Cameras can be rested on the roof, with supplied beanbags, or on the armrests lower down, to which we can mount simple platforms for larger lenses. For complete flexibility, it is recommended that you take a vehicle on an exclusive use basis at US\$400 per vehicle per night in peak season and US\$350 in regular and mid-season.

### Walking

A different perspective is gained through escorted walks on the savannah. Our interpretive guides will point out the spoor of a leopard, the nest of a rare bird or signs of recent migration activity that would pass unnoticed by the eyes of strangers. Walks are included in our tariff.

### Village visits

Guests can visit one of the local Maasai villages to see first-hand their way of life. A village guide or your Kicheche guide will give you an interpretive talk during your visit. There is sometimes dancing and traditional souvenirs are on sale. There is a charge of \$30 per person. It is possible to visit Talek town or some projects supported by Kicheche Community Trust. *(One can visit all)*

### Community Projects

**Kicheche Community Trust** supports local schools, medical clinic and Discovery Centre. When schools are open it is possible to pay a visit to the schools – Aitong Primary & Secondary and Olkimitare Secondary. Any educational gifts or donations towards academic material are an enormous help.

### Beading lessons

Learn Maasai beadwork process while being guided by Maasai women to create your own piece. You will learn more about their culture, as well as the symbolism and social significance of this craft, providing a one-of-a-kind cultural experience.

### Hot Air Ballooning

This is a popular excursion in the Masai Mara. Balloons take off early each morning at sunrise and glide over the plains for approximately an hour before landing. Upon touchdown, a champagne breakfast is set up before you. The excursion finishes with a game drive back to camp. Trips can be booked through your tour operator or with the balloon operator.

### Fly Camping

Kicheche Camps offers escorted walking safaris with overnight stays in a fly-camp in the bush. These excursions are led by one of Kicheche's senior guides and an armed ranger. It is an outstanding opportunity to see the Mara from a completely different perspective and also offers some welcome exercise whilst on safari.

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