

Kicheche Valley Camp Fact sheet



Kicheche Valley, located in acacia woodlands in a secluded valley of the Naboisho Conservancy, is an intimate luxury tented camp. The six luxurious tents, built in a unique style incorporating high eco-standards, are set on platforms and provide the perfect base to see the stunning wildlife and wilderness.

LOCATION

The camp is set on the Eastern side of the 50,000 acres conservancy in a beautiful secluded valley dotted with Acacia trees. The tents lie amongst the trees and rocky outcrops and enjoy wonderful views of the game-filled plains to the south. The location is close to both the Enniskeria river region, with its stunning granite outcrops and permanent pools popular with the resident wildlife, and the vast plains to the north hosting large numbers of plains game and containing a vital elephant corridor to the North. The valleys to the west are stunning for game driving and particularly walking.

GPS 1°24.47.43»S35°22.43.85»E

Naboisho Conservancy

The area encompasses some of the most stunning terrains in the Masai Mara ecosystem. The habitat of acacia woodlands, savannah grassland plains, riverine acacia forest, and rocky undulating hills provide a varied habitat for browsing and grazing herbivores along with hideout thickets for most predators. With strict controls on bed density and vehicle numbers, a high-quality wilderness experience is assured. **Wildlife:** The diverse habitat supports a wide range of wildlife documented by resident researchers. The highest population of giraffe in the Mara are found in Naboisho, elephant herds frequent the area, 3 prides totaling 35 lions have been identified and three prides of another 30-35 lions move between the conservancy and Ol kinyei, Bardamat hills, and the northern plains. Five leopards and three cheetahs have also been identified by researchers. A large hippo pod and crocodiles occupy the hippo pool on the Eneskaria river. Eland and Buffalo visit the conservancy, particularly during the wet season. Antelopes including, impala, topi, hartebeest, and Thompson gazelles are resident most of the year. Rare species such as Aardvark, caracal, serval cat, Aardwolf, and Wild Dog are occasionally found and a black rhino appears from time to time. Naboisho is a bird watchers paradise, several bird species rarely seen elsewhere in the Mara such as white-headed buffalo weavers, northern white-crowned shrike, pigmy falcon, Von-der Deckens hornbills, bush pipits are commonly seen.

Access

By air: A scheduled one-hour flight from Nairobi's Wilson Airport to the Mara **OL SEKI/NABOISHO airstrip**. With Safarilink or Air Kenya. Flights also available from Nanyuki, Naivasha, and Mombasa. The camp is a 10-minute drive from the airstrip.

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

By road: 4 hours drive from Nairobi.

FACILITIES

Guest tents

The six luxurious tents, built in a unique style incorporating high eco-standards, are set on platforms. These fully insect-proof-style tents are equipped with large beds, quality linen, bedside tables, desk, sofa, luggage racks, and rugs. Bathrooms are en-suite and are equipped with a dresser, shower and flushing toilet, fixed shower and hot and cold and running water. Triple tents are available on request.

Lounge Tent

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



Meals and Drinks

All meals and drinks are included in your stay and taken in the spacious lounge/dining tent. The cuisine is Western/European with occasional African dishes and hygiene standards are high. We can cater to 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

The camp is run entirely on solar energy and there is no mains power however we do supply 24-hour low wattage power for lighting through our inverter system. Camera and Video batteries can also be charged on this system. There is a charging socket in each room and additional facilities in the lounge. The solar inverter system is backed up with 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 an emergency. Each vehicle is equipped with a radio for communications with the camp and the camp is in contact with the Nairobi office daily. Flying Doctors' medical evacuation planes can be called in the event of an emergency.

Children

We accept children but parents 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 to tip your guide and camp staff however it is not compulsory and tips should only be given if you are satisfied with the service provided.

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 the camp where all valuables can be kept.

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

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. Night game drives are also possible. Game-viewing drives are conducted by open-sided and open roof 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 (\$320 per day supplement).

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 during which there may be some traditional dancing. Village made souvenirs are on sale. There is a charge of \$25 per person.

Community Projects

Kicheche Community Trust supports several projects in the greater area including the **Koiyaki guiding School** by sponsoring two students each year. We also employ graduates and currently over half of our guide are from the Guiding School which is located in the heart of Naboisho. Please let your guide know if you would like to pay a visit.

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.

PREPARATION OF YOUR TRIP

Communications

There is a variable mobile signal from a mobile network at camp however usage is restricted in the camp public areas and on game drives. There is an unreliable e-mail connection at camp naboishocamp@kicheche.com therefore all communications should be copied to the Nairobi office (sales@kicheche.com). In the event of an emergency, the camp number is +254729559111 but is not a reliable connection; therefore, we recommend you contact the Nairobi Duty mobile phone: +254 736 888 055 / +254 700 888 055. Kenya is GMT +3 hours and does not have summertime/daylight savings.

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