

# SARUNI & BASECAMP

PEOPLE  NATURE

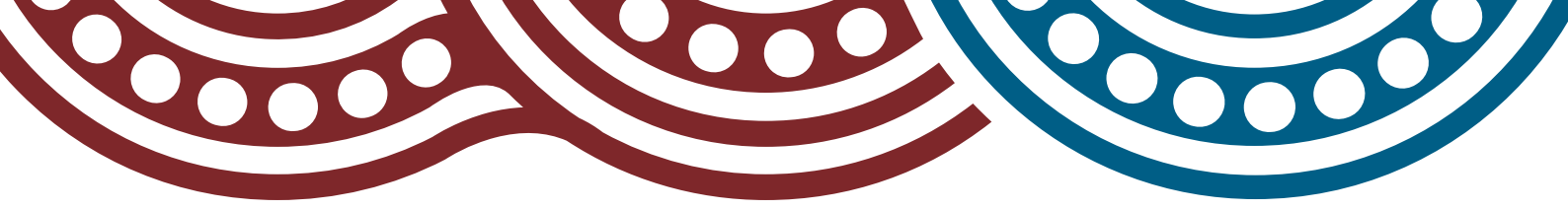


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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## 1. WHAT HAPPENS UPON ARRIVAL IN NAIROBI?

Upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), you will have to clear immigration. The visa process at the airport might be a bit chaotic with everyone filling in forms and joining the queue. You should have been given an immigration form on the plane and it is wise to fill this in before landing. That way you can go straight to the queue to passport control. However, you can find the forms at the airport as well. Make sure you have the needed paperwork for your approved online visa application. After picking up your bags, you can head to the exit. Just outside the Arrivals hall, you will be met by our driver, who will be holding a sign displaying your name. The Arrivals hall is often very crowded and you might be approached by other taxi drivers before seeing our representative. Just ignore these approaches and look out for our driver.

## 2. DO I NEED A VISA?

Passport valid for six months before expiry date are requested and visas have now been replaced by the official website of the ETA (Electronic Travel Authorization) of Kenya ([www.etakenya.go.ke](http://www.etakenya.go.ke)): authorizations using the new method to enter Kenya and obtain a residence visa as a tourist will be accepted from 27/12/2023, while in any case those who applied for the “old” online visa (evisa) by 31 December will be able to use that for the whole of 2024. However, the site itself recommends making the ETA request at least 72 hours before leaving.

### Who needs to obtain the ETA?

ETA is mandatory for all foreign visitors, except citizens of EAC member states wishing to travel to Kenya. Each individual is required to apply for an ETA before commencing travel. It is mandatory to use the official Government website to submit your application. Applications submitted via third-party websites will be automatically rejected. For children under 18, their legal guardian, parent or accompanying adult is responsible for completing the application.

### How do you apply for an ETA?

Please visit [www.etakenya.go.ke](http://www.etakenya.go.ke). Click “Apply Now” and follow the instructions. Make sure all data has been entered correctly. Submit your application. An email will be sent confirming receipt of your application. An email will be sent confirming receipt of payment, if applicable. After the immigration officer’s decision, an email confirming the approval/rejection will be sent to you. If your application has been approved, print the PDF document attached to the email, download it to your mobile device or save it in the “Kenya Travel Authorisation” mobile application. This is the travel authorization that must be shown at the departure and arrival points. If your application has been rejected, it will not be possible to travel to Kenya for the time being. Please contact: [supportkenya@govtas.com](mailto:supportkenya@govtas.com) to report your situation and obtain further details.

You can check the status of your application at any time by visiting the following URL: [www.etakenya.go.ke](http://www.etakenya.go.ke).

## 3. DO I NEED INSURANCE?

Insurance is always the guest’s responsibility. Make sure you have valid travel insurance that covers your safari trip to Kenya.

## 4. DO I NEED VACCINATIONS?

There are no compulsory vaccinations required for entry to Kenya unless you are arriving from an area infected with Yellow Fever, in which case a Certificate of Inoculation against Yellow Fever is required for all travellers older than one year. Visitors coming from other countries in Africa where Yellow Fever may occur, including Tanzania and Zanzibar, require a Yellow Fever certificate. The other recommended vaccinations are Typhoid, Hepatitis, and Polio, and anti-malarial medication is essential. Make sure to bring your mosquito repellent, and use long sleeves and trousers during evenings/ morning times as prevention of getting bitten. Please consult your doctor concerning vaccinations before your journey.



**5. WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY ON SAFARI?**

We also recommend that you purchase medical travel insurance that covers medical and hospital treatments if needed during your safari. In the event of a medical emergency that requires evacuation to a medical facility, you have the services of AMREF/Flying Doctors, a group of well-qualified physicians who travel by aircraft throughout the East African bush providing treatment and emergency transportation to quality medical facilities in larger towns. The purchase of the AMREF cover can be done ahead of your travels.

**6. IS SAFARI A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN?**

Being on safari as a family is a special and exciting experience and at Saruni Basecamp we are dedicated to providing the ultimate safari experience to both the young and old. Each of our camps is uniquely designed and due to the broad product diversity, there are certain considerations to be taken into account when planning a family safari. We have something for everyone regardless of age and we have carefully developed some guidelines that will help families make the most of their safari. The Maasai people are very fond of children and they are happy to cater to the youngsters, however, arrangements to get a childminder should be made before arrival. For our young travellers, the ‘Young Explorers Club’ has a lot to offer the children while the parents are on a game drive safari or walking safari.

**7. ARE WE SAFE IN CAMP ?**

Your safety is our highest priority, and upon arrival at our camps, you will be briefed on ‘Do’s’ and ‘Don’ts’ by our experienced safari guides. Kenya is generally safe for tourists; however, you should use the same travel precautions as you would in other parts of the world. Avoid travelling after dark in isolated places, and keep valuables safe at all times. It is advisable to not carry large sums of cash or wear expensive-looking jewelry or watches on the streets.

**8. CAN I ASK YOU TO ACCOMMODATE MY SPECIAL DIETARY? AND WHAT ABOUT PRIVATE DINING?**

Guests with special dietary requirements can send us their meal preferences before the booking for the arrangements to be made accordingly. Private dining can also be arranged in unique dining venues upon request.

**9. WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE SARUNI BASECAMP PROPERTIES OVER OTHER LODGES?**

Most of Saruni Basecamp properties are located in private conservancies and offer exclusivity: no crowds, no minibuses, etiquette rules followed by everybody, a limited number of vehicles. It is a responsibly-managed and responsibly-operated private wilderness in partnership with the Maasai communities. As with all the Saruni Basecamp properties, being “off the beaten track”, Saruni Mara was strategically built away from the other properties in the Mara to give you incredible views over the plains.

**10. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRIVATE CONSERVANCY AND THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE?**

Private conservancies are owned and managed by private Maasai landowners and supported by investors in the tourist industry. The Masai Mara National Reserve, on the contrary, is owned and managed by a local government authority called the Narok County Government. In the case of private conservancies, the income coming from tourism goes directly to the landowners, in the case of the National Reserve it goes to the local government. The main difference, though, is that private conservancies allow only a limited number of properties/lodges and vehicles to use them, while this limitation does not exist in the National Reserve. Furthermore, private conservancies allow walking and night driving, even if strictly regulated while the National Reserve does not.



## 11. IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

On safari the dress code is informal. While in Masai Mara you are at about 1300-1700 meters above sea level, so nights can be a bit chilly. Bring your sweater or fleece jacket and wind or raincoat as well. Morning and evening game drives can also be quite cold. Sandals are fine within the camp, but gym shoes – preferably with a solid sole – or hiking boots are important for walking safaris. Bring a small backpack to carry your water bottles, notebooks, binoculars, etc. You will want to bring a couple of pullovers/sweaters, both long and short trousers, good, and solid walking shoes (the same you'd wear on a mountain trek). Colours should allow you to blend into the environment as much as possible, so choose different shades of green, brown, yellow or red that characterise the African soil and vegetation. Bring a hat and sunglasses.

## 12. DO MOBILE PHONES WORK ON SAFARI?

Yes, there is extensive mobile (cell) phone service coverage throughout Kenya. Before traveling, we suggest you contact your local provider regarding the international use of your mobile device. Since most people come on safari to get away from the outside world, we set some limitations to the use of these phones in our camps and on safari. If you use your phone during your safari please respect other guests and do not use the phone during game drives or within the camp's common areas.

## 13. WHAT IS A GAME DRIVE?

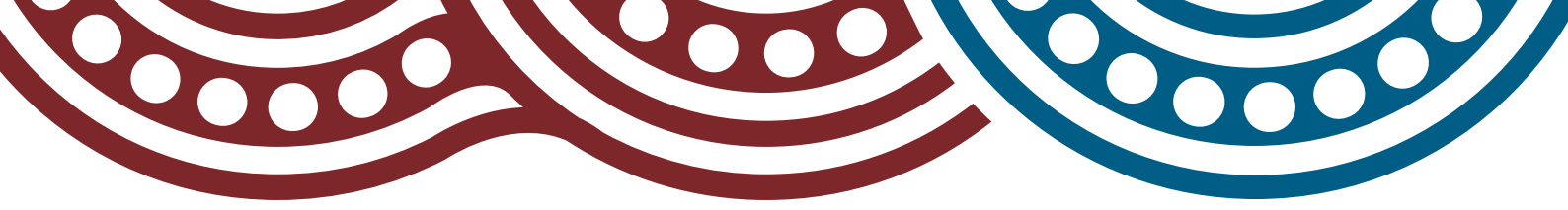
A game drive is an adventure that entails viewing wildlife in the comfort of a 4x4 open-sided safari vehicle that accommodates 4 to 6 people, a sure way to give you that classical safari feeling. Safari game drives are one of the most popular ways to see wildlife in the Masai Mara. Game drives are usually conducted in the early mornings, late afternoon, or at night since these are the coolest times of the day when most animals are more active. During the game drive, our knowledgeable guides will introduce you to life in the savanna and share their knowledge about African wildlife. A safari game drive can vary in length and distance, depending on individual preferences. As you drive into the wilderness, you will be captivated by the vast beauty of the savanna, with its rolling hills and infinite horizon. If you wish to use the safari vehicle exclusively for you and your companions, please advise us during the reservation. We are very flexible and willing to simply work with you to include the level of exclusivity that you desire.

## 14. HOW DO I GET TO THE MASAI MARA?

There are two ways to get to the Maasai Mara: by road or by flight. Flying is the quickest way to get to Mara. There are daily scheduled flights from Wilson Airport. A flight to Mara takes around 45-60 minutes. On arrival, the aircraft will land on the airstrip nearest to your camp. The Maasai Mara is about 280 km. west from Nairobi City and a drive to Masai Mara takes about 5-6 hours. While driving you will enjoy breathtaking views including that of the Great Rift Valley. The road from Narok to the reserve is quite rough.

## 15. HOW DO I GET TO SAMBURU?

There are three ways: by car, by scheduled flight and by chartered flight. The journey between Nairobi and Samburu is approximately 300km, takes about six hours and is a combination of highway and bush road at the last-minute entering into Kalama Conservancy or Sera Conservancy. The internal flight takes approximately one hour and we will be waiting for you at the airstrip, ready to begin your adventure.



## 16. WHAT ANIMALS CAN I SEE IN MASAI MARA?

Journey with us on a game safari that lets you witness nature's greatest wildlife spectacles. Our expert Masai guides are always ready to reveal to you the secrets of the savanna. Masai Mara Game Reserve is a renowned park that offers wonderful wildlife viewing throughout the year. The Masai Mara plains are commonly dominated by an incredible variety of mammals. From large herds of herbivores which include the wildebeest, zebra, and Thompson's gazelle to the famous predators, from elephants to buffalos. The region also provides habitat for a variety of birds with over 450 species having been recorded. The smaller species are also well represented; they include dik-diks, bat-eared foxes, caracals, aardwolves, a variety of mongooses, baboons, monkeys, and warthogs.

## 17. WHAT MAKES SAMBURU SO SPECIAL?

Samburu has a very evocative and iconic landscape that reminds each visitor of "the Africa of my dreams": dry and stunningly beautiful, wild and at the same time serene. Samburu also has one of the best concentrations of elephant, but also good numbers of lion, leopard and as well as the plains game. Then, there's the Samburu Special Five: Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, Beisa oryx, Somali ostrich and gerenuk (species that occur only in this part of the country). Wild dogs are also regularly seen.

## 18. WHO ARE THE MAASAI?

The Maasai are nomadic people that originally migrated to Kenya and Tanzania during the fifteenth century from the Nile region of Northern Africa. In many areas, the Maasai still live very traditional and have stayed outside the mainstream development in Kenya. And they are often seen as a symbol of "tribal" Kenya with their traditional red clothing and beaded ornaments. The Maasai live by their livestock: cows, sheep, and goats, which is the single most important thing to the Maasai, that believe that God gave them all the cattle... The story goes that Enkai (God) let cattle descend from the sky along a bark rope (or leather strap or fire stick depending on who you ask), down to the Maasai people. From that belief, it follows that there is a direct link between God and cattle and that all cattle in the world belong to the Maasai. The Maasai family lives in settlements fenced by wildlife. Inside the fence, they build their small flat-roofed houses from sticks and cow dung. Life in the village is very much centralized around the livestock and taking the cows, sheep, and goats out for grazing. The women are the ones fetching water, firewood, cooking, taking care of the children, and building/maintaining their houses. The Maasai community is strongly based on age groups. Each stage of life is decided by the promotion of successive generations to new positions of responsibility. The chief autocrat of the entire community is the 'Laibon', who decides when the time is right for the tribe's age group rituals where each generation is elevated to a new level of seniority. Each level is characterized by a name, the youngest and fittest of a generation and the most elite are the warriors, known as Ilmorran.

## 19. HOW DO THE MAASAI AND SAMBURU TRIBES DIFFER?

Both tribes belong to the Nilotic family (as opposed to the Bantu family) and are originally pastoralists and semi-nomadic. They speak two languages that are very close to each other and have similar traditions, but they also live in very different regions (the Samburu in the arid North, the Maasai mostly in the fertile South of Kenya) and this has modified their lifestyles. In a way, the Samburu are the old-fashioned version of the Maasai, even more traditional and more community-oriented.

## 20. WHAT ARE THE NOCTURNAL ANIMALS?

Nocturnal animals are animals that are more active at night than during the day. In many cases, these animals spend most of their daylight hours sleeping. They include hippos, lions, leopards, porcupines, civet cats, white-tailed mongooses, aardvarks, and cape hares. To spot these animals, you have to experience a night game drive.



**21. WHAT DOES THE WORD ‘SARUNI’ MEAN?**

In the Maasai (and Samburu) language, ‘Saruni’ means ‘sanctuary’.

**22. WHY PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THE “BIG FIVE”?**

The “Big Five” is a term that was used to refer to the 5 African animals that early big game hunters considered the most difficult and dangerous animals to hunt on foot in Africa. These animals include the African elephant, lion, leopard, Cape buffalo, and rhinoceros. Hunting is not allowed in Kenya any more and the definition of Big Five has lost its original meaning.

**23. WHAT ARE THE “SMALL FIVE” ?**

Africa has a group of animals known as the “Little Five”. The species that belong to this special category bear the names of their bigger namesakes: rhino beetle, buffalo weaver, ant lion, leopard tortoise and elephant shrew.

**24. WHAT IS A BIRD WALK?**

Bird walking is a safari that involves observing and studying different species of birds, in their natural habitat. This adventure is conducted with the help of our passionate birding specialist guide. This excursion will help you know how to recognize and name bird species by sight, sound and habitat.

**25. WHAT IS A CULTURAL WALK ?**

A cultural walk is a short tour undertaken on foot to different cultural sites within the local community where guests have an opportunity to meet local people and enjoy cross-cultural interaction.

**26. WHAT IS A WALKING SAFARI ?**

A walking safari is an adventurous activity where guests embark on slow paced, guided walks with the primary objective to explore different wildlife species along the bush. The small details that are overlooked on game drives become more apparent from the slower pace and lower angle of being on foot. Saruni Basecamp walking safaris are led by experienced and professional Maasai guides through a rich wildlife area. By walking with the Maasai, guests will get an authentic insight into the bush rather than simply observing it. African walking safari duration depends on the guest’s preference varying from 2 hours to several days of walking at a leisurely pace while exploring the open plains as well as the bush

**27. WHAT IS A BUSH DINNER?**

A bush dinner is the experience of dining under the African stars. We organize bush dinners to take place in scenic locations within the Mara plains. In most cases, the bush dinner will commence with the setting of the sun. Our guests will find that a table and chairs have already been set up and that a campfire, lanterns, and bush kitchen await. To make it an unforgettable African dining experience, a group of local Maasai men and women sing and dance providing background entertainment that blends with the sounds of the untamed bush.

**28. WHAT KIND OF FOOD CAN I EXPECT?**

Our guests enjoy 3-course lunches and dinners, and daily delicious homemade snacks and tea-time treats. The cuisine is varied and seasonal, prepared by a team of very good chefs. Our guests relish the sumptuous meals made from the very finest locally produced ingredients and enjoy your meals while listening to the sounds of Africa under the stars and safari lanterns.

**29. IS IT SAFE TO DRINK THE WATER?**

We recommend to drink only bottled water (not tap water). While staying in any of our camps, you will be supplied with bottled water in your tent, it will also be available during meal times as well as in the vehicle during game drives. We recommend you use bottled water for brushing your teeth as well.



### 30. HOW SAFE AM I FROM THE WILDLIFE WHILE IN THE TENT AND OPEN VEHICLES?

You are very safe if you adhere to camp instructions about your stay in your tent or your safari vehicle. Attacks by wild animals are very rare. To ensure your safety we have guards around the clock monitoring the movements of wildlife in and around the camp areas. While on a game drive, you are advised not to leave the vehicle without the guides' knowledge and stay in the vehicle at all times unless advised otherwise. For your safety, do not hang your hands or legs outside the vehicle.

### 31. WHAT ABOUT SNAKES, INSECTS, BUGS ETC?

It's very unlikely that you are going to be disturbed or scared by snakes, insects and bugs. Yes, the African savanna is home to all kinds of snakes and insects, but you rarely see them and if that happens, you most likely see from a safe distance. The lodge manager on arrival can instruct you further. In a dry, cool, often sunny areas like ours, bugs and insects are not likely to play a major role in your safari. During the rains, insects and bugs temporarily multiply. But you'll certainly see more elephants and lions than snakes!

### 32. WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY ON SAFARI LIKE?

Saruni Basecamp creates safari itineraries tailor-made to every guest's preferences. We aim to always provide the most authentic safari experience by allowing our guests to participate in several activities. Some of these activities are, however, consistent across most of our safari programs.

**6:30 AM Wakeup call:** After coffee or tea and a quick bite, head out into the bush. Accompanied by our skilled guides through the bush for 3-4 hours you search for wildlife and learn about animal behaviour and the environment.

**10:00/10:30 AM breakfast and siesta:** Head back to the camp where you will have a hearty breakfast served under spreading acacia and fig trees. The rest of the morning provides you time to relax or join one of the guides on a camp walk.

**12:30 PM Lunch:** the dining schedule can be easily adjusted to meet your personal preferences. Savor freshly prepared cuisine from our local recipes. After lunch, you can remain in your tented camp enjoying the surrounding landscape.

**4:00 PM Afternoon Game Drive:** After a well-deserved rest, you will venture back in the bush with your guide. During your afternoon game drive you'll spend a few hours watching the wildlife and exploring the vast savannah further;

**6:30 PM Sundowner:** As the sun sinks lower in the sky and conditions begin to cool, gaze at the vivid African sunset. Enjoy sundowners at a scenic spot with selected drinks served under an acacia tree. Afterward you'll either do a night drive or be whisked back to camp for dinner and a gathering around a campfire;

**7:00 PM Night Game Drive:** The afternoon game drive turns into a night game drive. Your guide will equip the vehicle with red-filtered UV light and a spotlight to help you to spot a range of nocturnal wildlife.

**8:30 PM Dinner & Campfire:** You return to camp where a 3-course dinner will be served, before enjoying a well-earned drink at the bar or as you wind up the day at the campfire. As you retire to your tent, enjoy the sounds of the bush and the sight of millions of stars in the night sky.



### 33. CAN I TAKE AWAY ANY SOUVENIRS?

You will have the chance to purchase a wide range of products selected from suppliers that have documented community sensitivity, fair trade certified, and micro- finance-based commodities. The Basecamp Maasai Brand products – our Fairtrade-certified handicraft project that employs over 150 Maasai women – fill our shop with beautiful Maasai-style high-quality jewelry and leatherwork.

### 34. WHAT IS A SUNDOWNER?

A sundowner is simply a ‘happy hour’ during sunset over the African Bush. As you round off your afternoon adventure, your game drive will be spiced with a Basecamp Sundowner. A selection of drinks, cocktails, and delicious bites are usually served against the unforgettable backdrop of the African sunset. If you are at our camps you may be taken away to “our” special African sundowner spot to experience this beautiful moment.

### 35. CAN I VISIT A LOCAL MARKET?

A visit to the local market is one of the best ways to get a firsthand experience of how the locals live and do business. In the Masai Mara people come from far and wide to buy and sell their products and livestock a weekly markets. Market days are full of life with Maasai women dressed in their very best; red and blue dresses paired up with pretty jewelry around the forehead, neck, arms, and ankles trying to sell their goods to willing customers. Not only will you mingle with the most authentic locals, but you will also get to see some of the most indigenous products, foods, and haggling tactics that you simply cannot get anywhere else.

### 36. IS THERE ANY ETIQUETTE ON THE USE OF CAMERAS?

The Maasai believe we are “taking their blood” when taking photos of them so remember to ask people before you take a photo. Usually, the guides and staff are used to guests wanting to document their travel memories. When selecting camera equipment, remember that there can be quite a lot of dust on the game safaris, so it is best to have a good cover for your gear. Equipment for cleaning your lenses is also a smart choice.

### 37. CAN I GET A MASSAGE?

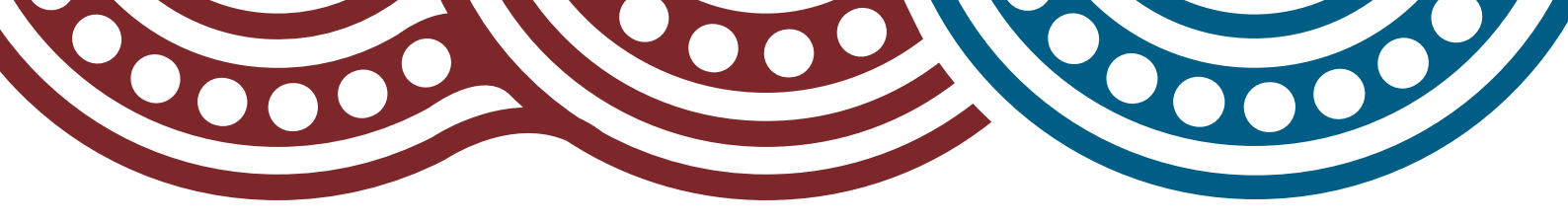
If you prefer a bit more relaxation and pampering, then in several of our properties we offer a range of massage options that are specially designed to relax, refresh and rejuvenate your body administered by a professional therapist with beautiful views over the conservancy. Most treatments are at an extra cost and must be pre-booked with the camp manager or directly with the therapist.

### 38. WHAT LUGGAGE TO TAKE?

Most internal flights allow a limit of up to 15 kg (33 lbs) of luggage per person including hand luggage. However, if a guest anticipates they will have excess baggage on ‘safari’, it is recommended that you book in advance for safekeeping at a complimentary secure store. While on-road safaris, the weight and size allowance is not strictly monitored, but you should still try to travel light. In general, luggage should be in soft duffle bags as opposed to hard suitcases to fit in the baggage compartment on the small aircraft.

### 39. WHAT EQUIPMENT SHOULD I BRING?

The most important things to remember are your sun protection cream, your binoculars and your camera or video equipment. In addition, bring your own flashlight or torch: but if you don’t have one, we can provide you with one. Equally, Birds’ or Mammals’ Field Guides are incredibly useful during your safaris if you are interested in these areas, as there will be plenty of occasions to consult them.



Whilst we appreciate everyone welcomes a freshen up after long day's game drive, we ask you kindly to respect the eco-status of our lodges and keep your hair dryer and other electrical hair/beauty appliance use to a minimum, as we operate on solar power and back-up generators. Electronics with high wattage disrupt our system and can often leave us with no power. We would prefer to provide you with a suitable hair-dryer on your arrival at the lodge should you require one. We use 3-point British plugs. International adaptors are available for use from the management.

#### **40. HOW LONG SHOULD A SAFARI BE?**

It really depends on how much time you have at your disposal. In general, if you are travelling from Europe or from the United States, you should plan to have at least a week in Africa. A period of ten days-two weeks would allow you to have an even better experience. There are two ways to enjoy a safari: one is to focus on one area and location and spend all your time there. The other is to tour several lodges, camps and locations, spending two or three nights at each of them. In the first instance, you get to discover much more of the area that you choose, you establish friendships and personal relationships with your hosts and with many of the guides and people who work at the lodge. You will get to know the area from all its different perspectives: early morning safaris, night safaris, bush breakfasts and bush dinners, dawn and sunset, the wildlife but also the people and their customs, photography and pure contemplation, the walking and the driving... The second type of safari allows you to taste the incredible variety of landscapes that Kenya and East Africa can offer. From the very hot deserts to the snows of its highest mountains. The choice is yours!

#### **41. WHAT CARS DO YOU HAVE? AM I SAFE IN THE CAR? CAN WE HAVE EXCLUSIVE USE?**

We have a fleet of 4x4 Land Rovers and Landcruisers for all game drives and transfers. The vehicles are open-sided for the best game viewing and have a canvas roof for shade. The animals do not see you – they only see the outline of the car as an object, and not as prey so you can game drive safe in this knowledge. However, it is still advisable to keep your legs and arms inside the vehicle when you are near to the wildlife. Guests, when necessary, share our vehicles, unless exclusive use of a vehicle has been arranged at an extra cost.

#### **42. WHO IS AN ASKARI?**

An Askari is security personnel in charge of maintaining security at the camp both at day and night time. Since all our camps are not fenced, every so often wild animals can be found in and around the camp area. To ensure your safety, the Maasai Askaris patrol the camp at regular intervals monitoring the movements of wild animals in and around the camp area.

#### **43. WHAT IS A COMMUNITY VISIT?**

A community visit is a cultural tour where guests have an opportunity to meet local people and enjoy cross-cultural interaction. At Saruni Basecamp, local community visits have become a memorable affair for our guests just as their first sighting of a lion, or leopard. We are committed to ensuring all of our guests return home from their trip with a real sense of the places they visited. The main activity during a community visit is a guided community walk during which you will check out the different interesting sites that our local guide will suggest. The guide will give you all the information you may need to know about the places you will visit. During the community walk, you visit places like the local schools, health centers, homesteads as well as the market. In addition, you'll learn about ancient traditions as well as contemporary struggles and adaptations to modern life.



#### 44. WHAT IS THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE ?

The Maasai Mara is one of the best-known reserves in the whole of Africa and is globally renowned for its exceptional wildlife. Despite comprising only 0.01% of Africa's total landmass, more than 40% of Africa's larger mammals can be found here. The National Reserve is one component of the broader, bigger Masai Mara ecosystem, often called "the Masai Mara". The Masai Mara is perhaps best known for the Great Migration, which takes place every year from late June to October/November. During these months the yellow savannah is dotted black by more than 1.5 million wildebeest, zebra, and antelopes that migrate from the Serengeti to the Mara in search of food and water. The Masai Mara lies in the Great Rift Valley, which is a fault line some 3,500 miles (5,600km) long stretching from Ethiopia's Red Sea through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique. Here the valley is wide, and a towering escarpment can be seen in the distance. The varied wildlife species are at liberty to move outside the park into huge area of the conservancies. There can be as much wildlife roaming outside the park as inside. Many Maasai villages are located in the 'dispersal areas' and they have developed a synergetic relationship with the wildlife.

#### 45. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRIVATE CONSERVANCY AND THE SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE?

Private conservancies are owned and managed by private Samburu landowners and supported by investors in the tourist industry. The Samburu National Reserve, on the contrary, is owned and managed by a local government authority called the Samburu County Government. In the case of private conservancies, the income coming from tourism goes directly to the landowners, in the case of the National Reserve it goes to the local government. The main difference, though, is that private conservancies allow only a limited number of properties/lodges and vehicles to use them, while this limitation does not exist in the National Reserve. Furthermore, private conservancies allow walking and night driving, even if strictly regulated, while the National Reserve does not.

#### 46. WHAT ARE CONSERVATION FEES—AND WHY DO I NEED TO PAY THEM?

This is the daily amount of US\$116 per person, payable as part of your holiday costs, due to the communities which own the private land upon which our camps and lodges are situated. In paying this, you are directly contributing to the ongoing protection of wildlife and land conservation, supporting the communities and preventing unnecessary development that would endanger fauna and flora. This 'fee' is different than that payable when you enter the Masai Mara National Reserve. For Masai Mara National Reserve fees, please email our reservations team.

#### 47. IS THERE POWER TO CHARGE MY MOBILE/CAMERA? WHAT KIND OF ADAPTER DO I NEED?

Yes, our camps full-time electricity from solar power or a generator. The supply is generally 220-240v and plugs are three-pin square or round. If you have a video or digital camera, make sure your battery charger is the same voltage. Note: it is always best to carry at least one worldwide adaptor with you to charge any equipment from the main source of power.

#### 48. WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE IN MASAI MARA?

The climate in Masai Mara is pleasantly warm, with cool nights, all year round. The area is located just south of the Equator, at an altitude of 1500 and 1900 meters. It receives 12 hours of daylight on any day of the year. The temperatures are slightly higher from October to March, reaching an average of 30C/85F, while they are slightly cooler reaching as low as 13C/55F from June to August. It is also important to note that there are two rainy seasons in Masai Mara: the longer one from April to June, and the shorter one from October to November.

#### 49. WHAT IS THE 'GREAT MIGRATION'?

Between July to October–November (depends on the year), the world famous 'Great Migration' reaches the Masai Mara ecosystem from the Serengeti when over 2 million animals – zebra and gnu are the most prominent – head north and cross the Mara river in huge herds to search for water and fresh grass. The biggest misconception, however, is that the migration is only about the river crossing. Driving through the plains during this period, you will bear witness to thousands upon thousands of wildebeest and zebra; a truly astonishing sight. This far-reaching vision also makes up the 'Great Migration'. It's the greatest natural show on earth and if you can visit Saruni Mara or Saruni Wild during this period, you'll go back home with once-in-a-lifetime memories.

#### 50. HOW MUCH DOES A SAFARI COST?

Back in the 'golden days' of safari, a high-quality safari in Africa used to be a very expensive holiday, affordable only by the famous and wealthy. The glamour of those days is still part of any well-organised safari, but times change and so does accessibility. Naturally, the cost of a safari varies according to some variable factors such as internal transfers required, flights on scheduled or chartered planes, or, driving, number of people travelling together, extra activities required. In general, you should budget an all-inclusive cost is between US\$500–1,000 per day per person (flights and transfers not included).

#### 51. ARE YOU ALLOWED TO HUNT ANIMALS IN KENYA?

No, absolutely not. Hunting has been abolished and forbidden in Kenya since 1977. The only shooting we do of wild animals and the beauty of Africa is with our cameras and with our eyes.

#### 52. WHY TRAVEL TO KENYA?

Kenya has some of Africa's finest national parks, offering one of the best and most accessible games viewing in the world, including the hard-to-resist attraction of the "Big Five". Kenya also offers breathtaking natural beauty from the snow-capped mountains, and white sandy beaches to the deep Rift Valley with its extinct volcanoes and hot springs. Other attractions include a diverse culture, with over 40 ethnic groups, a rich sporting history, and several major archaeological sites. Kenya is simply a wonderful place to visit.

#### 53. HOW DO YOU SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Saruni Basecamp believes fully and invests significantly in community development and conservation. The conservancies provide jobs, income, training and guidance for the local Maasai people. Tourism directly supports conservation, the conservancy fees paid by guests are passed on to the community and this represents its main source of income. By visiting Saruni Basecamp properties, you are directly giving back to the community who protect this beautiful land, improving their quality of life, whilst at the same time encouraging the purpose for conservation.

#### 54. WHAT IS THE MODE OF TIPPING?

Tipping at the end of one's stay is part of safari culture in Kenya, and staff tips are welcomed with enthusiasm and gratitude.

The amount to tip staff is entirely at your discretion. A general guideline is between US\$ 5–15 per guest per day, which is shared among all members of staff in the lodge, excluding driver guides. Your guide may be tipped directly at the end of your stay, and the guideline is around US\$ 5–10 per guest per day or around US\$ 30 per group per day in an exclusive vehicle.

Please ask the Camp Manager for an envelope in which to place the staff tip, and return this to the Lodge Manager or place this in the Tip Box in the reception area.

#### 55. CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION THAT IS NOT LISTED HERE?

Please do. Email [reservations@sarunibasecamp.com](mailto:reservations@sarunibasecamp.com). We look forward to hearing from you!