

Activities offered when staying at these Saruni Basecamp properties:

Saruni Leopard Hill / Saruni Eagle View / Basecamp Wilderness / Basecamp Dorobo Mobile

Mara Naboisho Conservancy – Masai Mara, Kenya

Each region of Kenya offers different surprises and delights. We've grouped the camps and lodges in the Saruni Basecamp by region (or geolocation); within each geolocation, some activities are available at all properties, while others are exclusive to specific properties (as indicated).

Mara Naboisho Conservancy (Naboisho geolocation) features four properties: **Saruni Leopard Hill, Saruni Eagle View, Basecamp Wilderness** and **Basecamp Dorobo Mobile**. Many of the activities listed and described below are available at all of these camps and lodges, while some are unique to specific properties (as indicated). Each day during your safari, your guide and the lodge/camp team will recommend activities based on your specific interests, and factors such as the season, weather, recent sightings, and any special occasions.

ACTIVITY / EXPERIENCE		Saruni Leopard Hill		Saruni Eagle View		Basecamp Wilderness		Basecamp Dorobo Mobile	
		Included	Payable extra	Included	Payable extra	Included	Payable extra	Included	Payable extra
Game Drives (in open-sided vehicles) & Wildlife	Guided Shared Day Game Drives	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Guided Shared Night Game Drives	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Migration River Crossings/Masai Mara National Reserve Visits	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	×
	Picnics, Bush Meals & Sundowners	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
Walking / Hiking	Guided Bush Walking Safaris	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
Educational / Family / Cultural & Community Awareness	Tribal Storytelling Through Song & Dance / Fireside Chats	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Young Explorers Club - Children's Activities	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Local Maasai Manyatta/Village Visits	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	×
Eco / Sustainability	Seedballs Kenya Regreening Project	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓
	Visit to Conservation & Community Projects at Basecamp Masai Mara	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×
Wellness	Complimentary Massage Treatments	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
	Additional Massages & Treatments	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	×
Specialist	Hot Air Balloon Safari	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	×
	Traditional Ceremonies & Blessings	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓



Game Drives & Wildlife

Guided, Shared Day Game Drives (in open-sided vehicles)

The Mara is one of the most iconic wildlife viewing areas in Africa, renowned for both its remarkable scenery and the profusion of game species. A game drive is the very best way to experience this legendary setting for yourself. With a local Maasai warrior as your guide, you'll experience so much more than just a safari. While our guides are extremely skilled in finding and identifying wildlife, and using their tracks and other signs to interpret the daily dramas of life in the wild, they also bring in aspects of Maasai culture which can take your experience to a whole new level. A Mara Naboisho game drive typically lasts from 2 – 5 hours, depending on sightings.

Guided, Shared Night Game Drives (in open-sided vehicles)

The Mara is a very different place at night, but it's a world that your Maasai guide will be equally familiar with. As the darkness falls, creatures which have been resting the entire day begin to emerge and become more active, leading to unusual sightings and fascinating interactions. A night drive can be either a continuation of your afternoon game drive, or a separate activity after dinner in camp. Your guide will find creatures you may have seen before, and interpret their behaviour as they go about their nightly quest for survival.

Migration River Crossings & Masai Mara National Reserve Visits

Available at Saruni Eagle View, Saruni Leopard Hill & Basecamp Wilderness

River crossings are among the most dramatic moments of the ceaseless cycle of the Great Wildebeest Migration. Driven by the urge to find fresh grazing as they follow the rainclouds, the massed herds have no choice other than to contend with the steep banks of the Mara area rivers – and the giant crocodiles that wait in the muddy brown waters. It all adds up to compelling wildlife viewing, and offers spectacular viewing opportunities. While river crossings are seasonal and cannot be guaranteed, our Maasai guides have years of experience in anticipating the moves that the herds will make, and in getting you into exactly the best position for the most exciting river action views.

NB When staying three nights or more during the Great Wildebeest Migration Season (July – September inclusive), guests can visit the Masai Mara Reserve by paying only the daily reserve entry fees (US\$200 pp) on a shared vehicle basis.

For all other travel months, extra charges payable include the daily reserve entry fees (US\$100 pp during January – June; US\$200 pp during October – December) and exclusive use of an open-sided safari vehicle (US\$350 per day). Daily reserve fees for children are available on request.



Picnics, Bush Meals & Sundowners (at a scenic spot)

The delicious food we prepare in our camps tastes even better when it's enjoyed al fresco, with fresh savannah air to stimulate your appetite and passing wildlife glancing curiously in your direction as you enjoy a bush breakfast or dinner. Bush meals – or the traditional early evening sundowners, accompanied by delicious snacks or 'bitings' – can easily be integrated into your other safari activities. From breakfast under a lone acacia tree with expansive views to the magic of a full bush dinner experience in a dry riverbed or by a rocky kopje, with lanterns, a roaring campfire and traditional singing and dancing, a bush meal is a quintessential safari experience.

Walking/Hiking

Guided Bush Walking Safaris

We offer walking safaris that can last for a morning or afternoon, or as an 'expedition' over several days. Whichever option appeals to you, you'll discover that a guided walking safari in the company of Maasai warriors is a truly eye-opening experience. Your guide will point out the tiny but vital details like insects, seed pods and above all tracks and signs that reveal so much about this ecosystem – but only if you know how to look. As well as demonstrating their remarkable bushcraft, they'll also share traditional Maasai herbal knowledge as they explain the various uses to which Mara plants can be put.

Educational / Family / Cultural & Community Awareness

Tribal Storytelling & Fireside Chats – tribal storytelling on occasion

Join the Maasai warriors around the campfire after dinner, and soak up the ambience of the vast, starry night skies of the Mara. The Maasai are great storytellers, and over the course of an evening, you'll gain unique insights into their world, their history and their unique relationship with the ecosystem around them, and the wild animals they share it with. To invite you into a world that has remained largely unchanged for centuries, the Maasai will use a combination of drama, humour and the beautiful intonations of their words and phrases. Naturally, you're also welcome to share stories from your own life and community.

Young Explorers Club – Children's Activities

As a family-oriented company, we have established the Young Explorers Club to ensure safaris in Masai Mara are more exciting for both parents and their children. We aim to teach children about the environment and nature while at the same time offering them an opportunity to have fun in and around the camp. From learning bush survival skills, shooting bows and arrows, beading lessons with local Maasai ladies, learning to track with the guides, to playing board games. If we have any budding young chefs, they are always welcome to get involved in the kitchen, baking cakes and bread!

MARA NABOISHO CONSERVANCY ACTIVITIES

MASAI MARA, KENYA



These activities will keep them entertained throughout their stay and you, as the parents, can enjoy some well-deserved downtime.

Local Maasai Village & Manyatta Visits

The Maasai have always lived in manyattas – clusters of traditional houses grouped together for extended families, and surrounded by thorn bushes to protect both people and livestock from predators. Visiting a Maasai village is a truly eye-opening experience: you'll experience the generosity and joy of people who, from a material point of view, may have much less than you, but who are extremely wealthy in terms of family ties, community cohesion, and deep roots. Learn more about how the Maasai address the daily chores of finding and preparing food, washing clothes, maintaining their homes, caring for their livestock, and passing on their accumulated knowledge to their children. Cultural experiences like this can add a great deal to your safari by complementing the wildlife viewing and other activities.

Eco / Sustainability

Seedballs Kenya Regreening Project (cost of seedballs)

Seedballs are an award-winning conservation initiative that we have embraced. By combining fun with reforestation, seedballs are a great way to get kids interested in conservation. For just a small fee, you can purchase a seedball consisting of an indigenous seedling encased in a charcoal crust. Your guides will point out the ideal location to throw your seedballs so you can give your seedling the best possible chance of survival, and of contributing to the reforestation of the Masai Mara. We'll keep an eye on the young trees that result, and update you on their progress.

Visit to Conservation & Community Projects at Basecamp Masai Mara (OPTIONAL)

Many of our most important community and conservation projects are located at or close to Basecamp Masai Mara, and can be visited during your stay at Saruni Leopard Hill, Saruni Eagle View or Basecamp Wilderness. These include the Enjoolata Awareness Centre which provides fascinating insights into Maasai culture and the Maasai lifestyle – everything from daily tasks to the important ceremonies that mark the major milestones in the lives of men and women. You can also shop for authentic Maasai handicrafts at the Maasai Women Arts & Crafts Centre (Basecamp Maasai Brand, or BMB). Founded in 2003, this initiative provides Maasai women with opportunities to make a livelihood by using their beading and crafting skills to create items that combine Maasai heritage with contemporary style. BMB now empowers over 150 local women, and you can watch them at work during your visit.

If you'd like to see where the ingredients for our delicious meals come from, take a tour of the organic fruit and vegetable garden. You can then round out your visit with a stroll through the tree nursery, including the 'Obama Forest', and learn how our reforestation programme is capturing carbon, providing shade and helping to channel precious rainfall. For a small donation, you can choose to plant your own tree to add to our growing forest (tree nursery tour is bookable in advance).

Wellness

Complimentary Massage Treatments

Available at Saruni Leopard Hill (in the 'Maasai Wellbeing Space') and Saruni Eagle View (in the privacy of your tent).

As you relax and unwind during your Kenyan safari experience, you might begin to notice the occasional ache and pain from stress that you've been carrying. Fortunately, our therapists have your back – quite literally! Enjoy a complimentary 30-minute back and neck massage to help you ease into your holiday. Our experienced therapists use a hands-on approach that incorporates elements of Maasai herbal wisdom to rejuvenate and reinvigorate tired muscles, and ensure that your body and mind can make the most of your time on safari. Additional treatments (payable extra) can also be arranged.

- 1 x 30-minute complimentary back & neck massage per room/tent per stay at Saruni Leopard Hill and Saruni Eagle View.

Additional Massages

Available at Saruni Leopard Hill (in the 'Maasai Wellbeing Space') and at Saruni Eagle View (in the privacy of your tent).

Whether you feel tired or anxious, the hands-on approach of our therapists and their knowledge of traditional herbal treatments will soothe your muscles and calm your mind, leaving you able to focus on being present on your Kenyan safari holiday, and opening your eyes to the many benefits of reconnecting with Nature in an area of pristine wilderness. Massages are the perfect complement to your other safari activities, and can introduce a more meditative element to your holiday.

Specialist

Hot Air Balloon Safari

Rising into the air at dawn is the finest way to begin the day. From a hot air balloon, you can look down on the rolling plains of the Mara, and the vast herds that call this region home. Drifting with the wind, you'll float above the trees, rivers and savannah that make up the mosaic of habitats that make up the Mara. The absence of an engine means you won't disturb the wildlife below as you enjoy an eagle's eye view of this remarkable wilderness in the most tranquil way possible. At the end of your flight, as you gently return to earth, you'll be greeted by breakfast to continue the celebratory feel of the experience. The hot air balloon safari experience concludes with a game drive back to camp.

Traditional Ceremonies & Blessings

The vast landscapes of the Mara are sure to stir feelings of romance, and a traditional wedding here is a unique and unforgettable way to declare your love for each other. Plus, you'll already be in the perfect place to begin your honeymoon. Experience the beauty and majesty of the Mara in a whole new way as you declare your unending love for each other – a love as boundless as the views over the plains. We can organise an authentic Maasai blessing, with traditional singing and dancing in the presence of the community elders. We also include floral displays, a wedding cake, champagne and a private wedding dinner.