



Offbeat Safaris

Weight limit: 95kg

Nearest airport: Nairobi

8 days / 6 nights / 7 riding days



Head to the wilds of Kenya to join this unrivalled mobile horseback safaris amongst big game. Riding up close to elephants, lions and buffalo, or galloping with wildebeest and zebra are exhilarating experiences. If you are a rider, there is no better way to see Kenya than from the back of a horse. This safari takes you across the Masai Mara, Laikipia, and Amboseli, over 5-10 days with a mobile tented camp that moves with you, this is the epitome of what a true wildlife safari is all about.

The Riding

The riding style is relaxed with loose reins and neck reining. All paces are used where the terrain permits including gallop. The terrain varies from thick bush, gullies and rocky hillsides but encompasses many wide open plains filled with game, ideal for faster riding. Riders are all given a full safety briefing and strongly encouraged to wear riding helmets. There are some long days in the saddle - up to seven hours, but equally a few days where you have the option to have the morning or day off and ride in the jeeps.

Guides & Group sizes

You'll be guided by experienced and qualified guides who will escort you through this big game country. The group size is between 2-12.



Horses and Tack

All the safari horses at this destination are thoroughbred and thoroughbred cross and have excellent stamina as a result. The standard of horses on this safari is well above average for Kenya and is a key point of this safari. The horses are all kind natured and very bush wise, sure footed, experienced safari horses. There is an excellent selection with 70 horses being available for the 12 riders, varying in size from 14.3hh to 16hh. All the horses are responsive and fit, great care is taken to match horses and riders and riders are welcome to swap horses throughout the week.

You will ride in English General Purpose Wintec saddles and leather saddles. Some Australian stock saddles are available on request. Seat savers are available and bridles are mainly fitted with snaffle bits. Saddle bags are provided to carry small items required en-route such as sunscreen, cameras and film or a sweater. Bottled water is also provided.



Level of riding and fitness

As you are riding with big game, competent riders with a secure seat and fit enough to enjoy up to seven hours in the saddle are required. There is no specific age limit and children who are fit and competent riders are welcome with their parents. The riding is at all paces and over uneven terrain so experience of riding out is required. The safari is fully supported by grooms and horse handlers as well as two guides and help is always on hand for mounting, stirrups etc. A back up jeep can be called by radio at any time and the guides are experienced and armed for your

safety. There have been no serious incidents giving rise to injury with mounted riders and game in the history of this horseback safari due to all the precautions taken.

Accommodation & Dining

You'll be staying in light mobile safari tented camps. The camp includes a mess tent for meals and spacious 9ft x 10ft sleeping tents with camp beds, mattresses, sheets & blankets. Towels, soap and torches are provided. There is a solar lamp in each tent, with hurricane lamps outside at night time. There is a long drop loo tent for every tent and hot safari bucket showers are always available.

All meals are freshly prepared and you will enjoy English breakfasts, light lunches and 3-course dinners. You'll often have picnics and eat in the open air if the weather is good. Ice cubes are always on hand. Bread is baked daily on open fires and your chefs are extremely good. All house wines, beers and spirits are included, except champagne.



On safari your accommodation is in large walk in tents with twin beds. The beds have mattresses and are made up with good quality bed linen and duvets. There is an ensuite short drop toilet for each tent and a hot shower. Each tent has a verandah section with chairs for you to enjoy the view in quiet. Meals are served at the table laid with table cloths and on china. You are served by fully trained waiters and meals are 3-5 courses.



Meals can be served under the stars, in the shade of huge acacia trees or in a communal tent if the weather requires. Meals are all freshly prepared on site each day. Bread is baked in a portable oven, quiches, salads, beef and lamb are all meticulously prepared. The food on this particular safari is of an above average standard. Drinks are included in the cost, from aperitif's to wine with the meals and a good selection is available, even including ice in this remote wilderness. There is a laundry service, so you don't need to pack too many clothes.

Vegetarian or other dietary requirements can be accommodated with advanced notice.

Itinerary

Day 1

This morning you will either be collected from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport or if you have arrived earlier, from your Nairobi hotel, and transferred to Wilson Airport for your 10am flight to Mara North in the Masai Mara. Your guides will meet you and drive you to your first camp, set up on the banks of the Mara River adjacent to a teeming hippo pool. Lunch will be served and you will have a little time to relax before meeting your horses and setting off on your first gentle evening ride (about 2 hours).

Overnight Mara River Hippo Camp.

2 Nights

Day 2

This morning you will begin the day with an early morning ride, crossing the Mara River for the first time and returning to camp for a light breakfast. After breakfast a game drive will be on offer. Driving provides better photographic opportunities than from a horse and exploring more of this northern part of the Mara has much to offer. We will return in time for lunch and a siesta before setting off on an afternoon ride. We return to camp in good time to shower and maybe set off in the vehicles once more for a sun downer and a short night game drive before supper.

Overnight Mara River Hippo Camp.

Day 3

This morning we will leave camp after breakfast at about 9am, heading south towards the park boundary where we meet the river again at one of the famous wildebeest crossings. We will cross the river and head southwest across the Mara Triangle, meeting the car with our picnic lunch at around 12:30. After lunch and a siesta we set off at about 4pm and ascend the Soit Olololo Escarpment. We reach our camp at about 5.30pm on the edge of the escarpment and spend the night overlooking the whole Mara ecosystem.

Overnight Escarpment Soit Olololo Camp.

1 Night

Day 4

We descend the escarpment after breakfast at about 9am and ride across to the same wildebeest crossing on the river. We head in a westerly direction and descend into the enchanting Olare Orok Valley with a picnic lunch and siesta between 12:30 - 3.30pm. Reaching our camp that afternoon, in time for tea. There should also be time to do an evening game drive and sundowners, before supper under the stars.

Overnight Olare Orok Camp

2 Nights

Day 5

Here we will have a full day of exploring this glorious area on horseback, car and possibly on foot. You will have excellent photo opportunities, getting close to buffalo, elephant, lion and maybe cheetah or leopard.

Overnight Olare Orok Camp

Day 6

Our third moving day and we break camp in good time as it the longest ride of the trip covering nearly 50kms. Setting off at 7am, we ride through the morning, stopping for a picnic breakfast along the way. We continue to cover ground with long canters before we break again for lunch and a siesta after reaching the Ol Kinyei Conservancy. That afternoon we will reach our last camp at Olare Lamun (the rhino salt lick), nestled in a grove of acacia trees by a small stream at the southern edge of the Loita Plains.

Overnight Olare Lamun Camp

2 Nights

Day 7

After an early wake up we will set off for a morning ride before returning to camp for a light breakfast. We will then set out for a game drive and beautiful walk up the nearby hill called Oloiburmut, returning to camp for a lunch and a siesta. At around 4pm we will drive or ride to visit the local Masai village.

Overnight Olare Lamun Camp

Day 8

This is our last morning ride before saying goodbye to your horses. After a final breakfast you will drive to the airstrip and fly back to Nairobi at around 11am, landing into Wilson at 12noon. We will organise for a taxi to pick you up and take you to a hotel day room (included), before taking you on to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in time for your evening flight home, or your onward destination.



International flights & Airport transfers

You will either be collected from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport or if you have arrived earlier, from your Nairobi hotel, and transferred to Wilson Airport for your 10am flight to Mara North in the Masai Mara.

Offbeat organise your domestic flights for you. Flights from Nairobi Wilson to the Masai Mara are 1 hour and you must check in at least 1 hour before your flight. If the ride begins at the River Camp you will land into Mara North Airstrip and drive 30 minutes to camp. If the ride begins at the Olare Lamun Camp you will land into Naibosho Ol Seki Airstrip and drive 30 minutes to camp.

What to bring

Layers of clothing - this is the best option as mornings and evenings can be chilly but the middle of the day can be very hot. Safari clothing should ideally be in muted safari colours such as beige and khaki.

- Riding hat
- Jodhpurs/riding trousers
- Half chaps and gloves
- Riding boots
- Long sleeved shirt
- T-Shirts
- Jumper/fleece
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Evening/day wear
- Hat/cap
- Comfortable shoes/boots/trainers for walking
- Swimming costume
- Holiday reading
- Binoculars
- Camera and charger
- Toiletries
- Sun block
- Sunglasses
- Mosquito repellent
- Copy of your passport/visa/travel insurance

Please note that there is a 15kg weight limit for the light aircraft transfers and luggage should be packed in soft bags - not hard suitcases.

Climate

Due to the altitude (Nairobi is at 6500 feet) Kenya has a pleasant temperate climate year round. There are rains in April/May and again in November/early December. June, July and August can be a little colder particularly at night and July can herald some cloud cover which is not unpleasant for riding.

Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip. We recommend anti-malarial medication for Kenya although this should be discussed with your GP.

Country specific information can also be found at the National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Kenya for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/kenya/entry-requirements>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

You need a visa to enter Kenya. Kenyan entry visas are exclusively issued electronically, with passengers required to obtain their e-visas before departure. You can apply for single entry and transit visas on the [e-visas website](#).

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

This safari is all inclusive although you may wish to have some local currency available for any souvenirs. Tips can be paid in dollars, we recommend a tip of US\$20 per day of the safari.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

saddletravel.com

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

If the ride operator is closed or you are unable to travel due to lockdown:

1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.

2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.

Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.



Contact details

+44 1497 888 228 WhatsApp

trails@saddletravel.com

saddletravel.com

5 Brayford Square,

London,

E1 0SG

CN: 05411320

<https://saddletravel.com>