



KINARA

TRIP PREPARATION FAQs

A journey to Kinara begins long before you arrive. The notes that follow are here to help you prepare gently and thoroughly, so that once you land in the Mara, there is nothing left to think about but the land, the light and the rhythm of the wild around you. You are never alone, simply reach out to our reservations team for any clarifications you may have.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Will someone greet me on arrival in the Maasai Mara?

Yes. A member of the Kinara team welcomes you personally at the airstrip and settles you gently into the rhythm of camp, from the moment you land.

Can I confirm my itinerary before I arrive?

Yes. During your pre-arrival communication our team is glad to walk through the options and help shape the days ahead.

GETTING HERE

Where is Kinara?

Kinara rests on the banks of the Mara River, within the Maasai Mara National Reserve, near Ol Kiombo or Musiara airstrip, a quiet, central place from which to discover the wider Mara.

How do I travel to Kinara?

Fly into Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO), then take a scheduled bush flight from Wilson Airport, a 45–60 unhurried minutes over the Great Rift Valley, landing at Ol Kiombo or Mara Musiara airstrip, around 45 minutes from camp. Your bush flight can be booked directly with Safarilink or Air Kenya, or our reservations team is glad to arrange it on your behalf.

The road from Nairobi takes 5–6 hours; self-drive is not permitted within the Mara.

What time is the first flight to the Maasai Mara?

Scheduled flights from Wilson Airport typically depart from 7:00–7:30am, with the last flight usually departing around 2:30–4:00pm, depending on airline and season.

Are transfers from Nairobi to Wilson Airport included in my booking?

No. Wilson Airport sits around a 20-minute drive from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Our reservations team is glad to arrange this road transfer for you; simply reach out at stay@kinara.ke.

Is the transfer from Maasai Mara airstrip included in my booking?

Yes. Return transfers between Ol Kiombo or Musiara airstrip and camp are included. Our team is also glad to help arrange onward transfers from Nairobi; simply reach out to our reservations team at stay@kinara.ke.

Do I need a visa and passport to travel to Kenya?

Yes. An [Electronic Travel Authorisation](#) (eTA) is required before arrival, together with a passport valid for at least six months beyond your return date, with two blank pages.

Are there any restrictions on luggage to the Maasai Mara?

Soft duffel bags only are recommended. 15kg per person on scheduled flights, 20kg on private charters. Excess luggage is charged separately.

If my flight arrives at night to Nairobi, can you organise an overnight stay?

Yes, of course. Please speak to our reservations team at stay@kinara.ke, who will happily arrange this for you.

Can I leave excess luggage in Nairobi?

Yes. Please speak to our reservations team at stay@kinara.ke, who can arrange this ahead of your journey.

MONEY & CURRENCY

What is the currency in Kenya?

The Kenyan Shilling (KES). Kinara is a cashless property, so major cards are welcomed for all payments at camp; US Dollars are also widely accepted elsewhere in Kenya. Currency exchange is available at the airport and at banks.

How can I pay for extras?

By card or electronic transfer, settled directly with camp before departure.

WEATHER & BEST TIME TO VISIT

What is the best time to visit?

Every season in the Mara has its own quiet character. River crossings peak between July and October, calving season unfolds across the southern plains from January to March, and the herds drift north from April to June before returning south later in the year. From its place on the Mara River, Kinara offers a front-row seat to the Migration, whenever it arrives.

What is the weather like in the Mara?

Two rainy seasons pass through: long rains in April and May, and short rains from late October into early December, usually brief, generous bursts followed by clear skies. The drier months make for easy game viewing; the green season brings a softer, lush landscape and fewer fellow travellers.

PACKING & PREPARATION

What should I pack?

Light, breathable clothing in neutral, earthen tones; long sleeves for sun and insect protection; closed-toe shoes; a warm layer for cooler mornings and evenings; a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent, and any personal medication, carried, where possible, in a soft duffel bag. A suggested packing list is available to guide you

What voltage does Kenya use?

240V at 50Hz. Every suite and safari vehicle is fitted with universal charging sockets.

Health, Safety & Insurance

Is the water safe to drink?

Please keep to the sealed bottled water provided in your suite, around camp, and on every game drive.

Do I need to take precautions for malaria?

Malaria risk in the Mara is generally low, though we recommend consulting a travel clinic around eight weeks ahead of your visit. Long sleeves and repellent in the evening are wise companions — we also spray each suite at turndown, as a further precaution.

Should I purchase medical insurance?

Yes. Comprehensive travel and medical insurance, including evacuation and repatriation cover, is strongly recommended.

Can I get medical attention if I am unwell?

Kinara keeps first aid close at hand, with a resident nurse at camp, and emergency evacuation available through the AMREF Flying Doctors Service, alongside access to good medical facilities nearby.

Are there any important safety tips?

We simply ask that you avoid carrying large amounts of cash, keep valuables and travel documents secure in the safe provided, and carry copies of important documents. Kinara is a safe and gentle place the usual quiet awareness of travel is all that's needed.

Are there wild animals at Kinara?

Yes. Kinara sits within an open, unfenced wilderness, and is often visited by wildlife such as hippos, hyenas, and even lions and leopards passing close by during the night. For your safety, a Maasai guard will accompany you between suites and communal spaces in the early mornings, late evenings and after dark; we gently advise against walking unaccompanied at night, and golf carts are always on hand to carry you to your suite.

Is the camp safe?

Yes. Kinara takes care of your safety throughout your stay, from the guard who walks with you after dark to the personal safe fitted in every suite for your valuables.

FACILITIES, RATES & FEES

What facilities and services do you have at Kinara?

Kinara offers an abundance:

- Two dining spaces. Asili, our main dining room, and Under the Acacia, our poolside restaurant
- A wine cellar and cheese room
- A spa, gym and temperature-controlled pool
- A steam, sauna, cold plunge and hot tub
- Viewing deck, yoga deck and sundowner deck
- Sony photography equipment to use and learn
- Panoramic views from our luxury Land Cruisers
- Expert guides
- In-suite dining
- Filtered mineral water
- A boutique
- Laundry services
- Security patrol guards
- A choice of experiences
- Wi-Fi and mobile reception

What does the rate include and exclude?

Your rate includes:

- Luxury accommodation at Kinara
- All meals, and curated beverages, alcoholic and non-alcoholic
- Game drives in open safari vehicles, shaped around your preferences, guide expertise and wildlife movement
- Private vehicle allocation where possible, at no extra charge, though it cannot be guaranteed in advance
- Bush breakfasts, picnics and sundowners, weather and wildlife permitting
- Photography equipment rental (subject to availability) Sony cameras, lenses and Nikon binoculars, plus use of the Discovery Lounge
- Wellness facilities: gym, heated pool, steam, sauna, cold plunge, hot tub and yoga deck
- In-room dining
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Complimentary laundry
- Complimentary curated minibar
- Return transfers between camp and Ol Kiombo or Musiara Airstrip
- Emergency medical air evacuation (AMREF)

- Applicable statutory taxes at the date of booking

Your rate excludes:

- Flights to and from the Maasai Mara, beyond the included airstrip transfer
- Maasai Mara National Reserve Park, conservation and other government fees
- Signature treatments at Olgilai Wellness and other private wellness sessions
- Boutique purchases
- Accommodation for personal drivers or guides
- Personal travel, medical insurance and visas
- Gratuities
- Private or specialist guides and other exclusive-use safari arrangements
- Balloon safaris and off-property excursions
- Special event dining or bespoke private events
- Guided photography or videography sessions and personalised instruction
- Guaranteed private or exclusive-use vehicles

How much are Maasai Mara Park fees?

Charged per person, per day, by season: adults USD 100 (Jan–Jun) or USD 200 (Jul–Dec); children 9–17 USD 50 (Jan–Jun) or USD 100 (Jul–Dec); under 8s stay free. We highly recommend to pay your park fees prior to travel and our reservation team can assist you with the same.

Tickets run 6:00am–6:00pm; an overnight stay within the reserve counts as two days.

What are the check-in and check-out times?

Check-in from 12:00pm, check-out by 10:00am.

Is Kinara wheelchair accessible?

Yes. Our main pathways and shared spaces are accessible, with golf carts available for suites set further from reception. Dedicated accessible suites can be arranged on request, please let us know when booking.

Are all dietary requirements catered for?

Yes. All dietary requirements can be thoughtfully catered for. Simply let our reservations team know in advance, and they will make the necessary arrangements ahead of your arrival.

Is there air conditioning in the suites?

No. Each suite is instead kept comfortable with fans, allowing the space to stay cool and airy in the warmth of the day.

Do we have cycling bikes?

No. Kinara doesn't currently offer cycling bikes for guests to use around camp.

Is there Wi-Fi internet access available?

Yes, complimentary throughout your suite and across camp.

Do you offer laundry services?

Yes, complimentary and included in your stay.

What is your smoking policy?

Smoking is permitted in outdoor areas of the camp and on the decks of our suites only.

Smoking is prohibited on game drives: You cannot smoke inside safari vehicles while touring the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Smoking inside the suites is not permitted and we ask guests to be mindful at all times of fire risk and of other guests when smoking in public areas.

What is your pet policy?

Pets, including service animals, are not permitted, in consideration of the wildlife that moves freely around us.

LIFE AT CAMP & SAFARI EXPERIENCE

What experiences do you offer at Kinara?

There is a fullness to each day at Kinara, mornings, afternoons and evenings each unfold in their own way:

- Game drives with expert guides, tracking the Big Five and the Mara's hidden rhythms
- Bush breakfasts and bush lunches in the open savannah
- Sundowners at golden hour and stargazing beneath vast African skies
- Cultural immersion with the Maasai, including traditional beadwork with local artisans
- Photography lessons in the Discovery Lounge, with expert guidance and professional equipment
- A wine and cheese tasting experience, and a visit to the Kinara farm
- Spa and wellness rituals inspired by nature
- In-suite private dining and fireside boma evenings of storytelling and shared connection
- Padel court (opening end 2026)
- Guided birdwatching and nature walk around camp
- Sunrise balloon safaris over the plains

What is a typical day at Kinara?

Each day at Kinara is shaped gently around you. A typical morning begins around 5:30am, with an unhurried wake-up call ahead of your sunrise game drive. This is the Mara at its most alive: the air still cool, the predators most active. A quieter start, and a lie-in, are just as welcome.

Guests return to camp for a hearty breakfast at Asili Restaurant or pause instead for a bush breakfast beneath the open sky.

The hours that follow are yours to fill as you wish: rest on the open-air decks and patios, listen to the sounds of nature, watch the plains unfold from the Viewing Deck, take a guided walk in search of birds and other quiet wildlife, visit the Kinara farm, revisit the day's photographs in the photo studio, or slip away to the spa, work off some energy in the gym, cool off in the pool, or simply enjoy the stillness of your suite.

After lunch, afternoon game drives typically depart around 4:30pm, followed by sundowners by the hippo pool or main deck, dinner at camp, and a fire that burns long into the night. Most evenings settle by 10pm, the sounds of the Mara carrying you gently to sleep.

What do the safari vehicles offer?

Custom-built Land Cruisers, designed for comfort and considered use, with soft-sided panels that roll away for uninterrupted viewing, and leather-and-canvas bucket seats. Each vehicle carries:

- A refrigerator stocked with water and other beverages
- A Nespresso machine
- Curated snacks
- Fleece-lined rain ponchos
- Hot water bottles
- Blankets
- Charging sockets
- Professional Nikon binoculars
- Hand sanitiser, sunscreen and insect repellent

Are the safari vehicles equipped with binoculars or cameras?

Binoculars travel in every vehicle, and Sony professional camera equipment can be loaned from the Discovery Lounge during your visit. Our resident photographers are on hand to help you hold on to every moment of your stay.

Do we have binoculars in the suites?

No. Simply ask your Personal Host, who will happily arrange for a pair to be brought to your suite.

What does the Discovery Lounge offer?

A quiet space to sit with our resident photographer, look back over the day's images, and prepare for what tomorrow's light might bring.

Are night game drives permitted?

No. Night game drives are not permitted within the Maasai Mara National Reserve. All drives take place during the Reserve's official hours, generally between 6:00am and 6:00pm, in keeping with its conservation guidelines.

Do you allow drones at Kinara?

No. In keeping with government regulation, drone use is not permitted within the Maasai Mara. Any drone arriving with you will be confiscated at the airport, so we recommend leaving it at home.

What treatments does the spa offer?

Wellness at Kinara unfolds gently beneath the Olgilai tree, where every treatment draws on locally sourced botanicals and the rhythm of the Mara. Signature rituals such as A Journey Inward and the Calm of Kinara invite deep stillness through touch, heat and water, while shorter rituals like the River's Welcome and the Canopy offer a lighter pause in the day. A full treatment menu, with durations and pricing, can be shared with you prior to your arrival.

What are the Masai Mara National Reserve rules?

Our guides lead every drive with care, for your safety and the ecosystem's: please remain inside the vehicle except where invited to step out, keep voices low, and never feed the animals, leave litter, or take anything from the land. Drives run from sunrise to sunset. For further detail, please see our Maasai Mara National Reserve Visitor Guidelines.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS & GROUP BOOKINGS**Do you cater for honeymoons, anniversaries, or special occasions?**

Yes. Please speak to our reservations team at stay@kinara.ke, who will be glad to help make your stay extra special.

Can Kinara be booked for exclusive use or private groups?

Yes. The whole camp can be arranged on an exclusive basis for weddings, celebrations and private groups. Please speak to our reservations team at stay@kinara.ke to begin planning.

Is Kinara suitable for families with children?

Yes. Kinara welcomes families with children aged six and above. Guests aged 6–17 receive the applicable child rate when sharing a suite with two adults, while guests aged 18 and above are charged the adult rate. Children may not occupy a suite independently and must share with at least one accompanying adult.

As Kinara is an unfenced wilderness camp, it is generally unsuitable for children under six. In exceptional circumstances, a younger child may be accommodated with prior approval. The accompanying parent or guardian will be required to sign an indemnity form on arrival and accepts full responsibility for the child throughout the stay.

CULTURE & CONSERVATION**Are there any environmental or cultural considerations?**

Plastic bags are banned across Kenya, so please pack accordingly. We ask that you dress and behave with care and respect when visiting local communities, a small thoughtfulness that helps keep the Mara, and its people, thriving for generations to come.

CONFIRMING YOUR STAY**How do I confirm my booking?**

A deposit is required to confirm your reservation, with the balance due prior to arrival. Cancellations are subject to our standard terms and conditions, please speak to our reservations team at stay@kinara.ke for full details.