

ACACIA AFRICA

Updated Mar11
FOR 2012
DEPARTURES

MASAI MARA SAFARI – TOUR DOSSIER

TOUR CODE MMS3

NAIROBI – NAIROBI

3 DAYS

Tour Starts – Pick up at 07h30 on Day One from joining hotel

HIGHLIGHTS

Great Rift Valley
Masai Mara National Reserve – Game Drives

A short safari to one of the most renowned game reserves in Africa. Take in spectacular views across Africa's Rift Valley before enjoying exciting game drives through the rolling grasslands and woodland of the Masai Mara National Reserve



INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, a certain amount of flexibility is built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.

Duration: 3 Days
Countries visited: Kenya

DAY 1
Great Rift Valley, Masai Mara, game drive
L D
Permanent Tent with bed

We depart Nairobi for the Masai Mara National Reserve. En route we travel across Kenya's Great Rift Valley, descending the steep eastern escarpment wall (spectacular views) and cross the Valley floor to the rolling hills of Masai-land and the provincial centre of Narok. Road conditions can be difficult as we continue to the west, driving past the Loita Hills and into the Masai Mara area passing the occasional Maasai *manyatta* (traditional village). As we approach the Reserve we may see zebra, antelope, even giraffe to the side of the road. Eventually we reach the park gate and turn off just before the Reserve to reach our camp. We have time to unpack and unwind before lunch and our first game drive into the park (or optionally, a visit to one of the local Maasai *manyattas*). Finally we return to camp for dinner and overnight.

DAY 2
Masai Mara National Reserve
B L D
Permanent Tent with bed

We spend the whole day in and around the Masai Mara. There is usually time for two game drives (morning and afternoon) with time to relax at camp in middle of the day (when wildlife is less active). The landscape in the Reserve accords with many people's idea of 'classic' Africa - rolling grasslands, open vistas, distant horizons, and herds of zebra, antelope, giraffe and other large mammals. The 'Big Five' (elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard) are all found here and we would hope to see at least some of these. If you are travelling between July and October you are seeing the park at its peak and may experience one of nature's most inspiring spectacles: the annual migration of thousands of grazing animals (mainly wildebeest and zebra) as they move from the dry southern Serengeti (to the south) northwards in search of the fresher greener grasses of the 'Mara'.

The number and concentration of grazing animals attracts predators (lion, leopard, hyena amongst others) hoping for some 'easy pickings'. This is an inspiring sight but the precise time varies from year to year and such is the wealth of the wildlife, the 'Mara' is worth visiting at any time of year, and the day we have here provides an interesting insight into the park's wildlife.

DAY 3
Nairobi
B

We leave the Mara this morning and head back past the Loita Hills and Rift Valley to Nairobi. Time allowing (and on request) we may stop along the way to browse at local craft markets where you can pick up some last minute souvenirs (bargain hard!). Our normal time of return to Nairobi is early/mid afternoon.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari. These are designed for those who like adventurous travel with camping but on a smaller scale and more focused on a particular area, than Acacia's larger Overland groups. Campsites vary in standard but are generally clean and secure with washing and toilet facilities. However due to some lack of infrastructure locally they may in some areas and at certain times of year experience shortages of some facilities or supplies.

Accommodation varies from camping (all equipment is provided) to small locally owned tourist class hotels.

Our Small Group safaris are operated by a locally based (African) ground handler who has maintained standards at a high level over a period of time. We believe that working with a local operator in this way assists the community to benefit in a sustainable way from tourism. At the same time it provides our clients with the extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm of the local staff and guides employed to ensure your safari is as enjoyable as it is memorable.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, bed and bedding, camping equipment, park fees, meals as indicated, services of an English speaking guide/driver.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, optional activities, laundry, gratuities, passport & visa fees, drinks & items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

Camping is twin share permanent tents with beds and bedding provided. Camps have showers and running water. The tents are pre-erected, with bedding and simple bath room facilities attached.

Acacia would be pleased to reserve pre /post tour accommodation in Nairobi - please see below.

MEALS

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x2, Lunch (L) x2, Dinner (D) x2

These meals are prepared in camp by the tour crew, although help washing plates at the end of meals is invited. Most dietary requirements can be catered for on the road but please ensure you inform Acacia of any special requirements when you book or at your earliest convenience.

TRANSPORT

Minibus with pop-up roof for game viewing. Please note that some of the roads in Kenya are in a very poor state of repair. Driving can sometimes therefore be slow and bumpy! Your driver will do his best to make your safari as comfortable as possible but your patience at such times is much appreciated.

TOUR PREPARATION

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Nairobi is well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

Meeting point in **Nairobi**:

Hotel Boulevard
Harry Thuku Road

Contact Details Nairobi
Tel: +254-020- 227 567/ 8 /9 or +254 20 229 127

Website www.sentrim-hotels.com/boulevard.html

Tour start time: 07h30 on Day 1

Tour end point **Nairobi**: As Above

Tour end time: Approx 14h00 – 16h00 on Day 3

PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Nairobi on day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and to acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation for you – please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements.

However please book early to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings.

If time allows, you may wish to plan a night or two after your tour in Nairobi. The Kenyan capital is a bustling city with shops, restaurants, markets to explore. There is a national park on the outskirts of town – you can book morning (or afternoon) game drives - and one or two small but interesting museums.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices are correct at time of print but are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices.

Description	Price
Nairobi	
Pre /post tour accommodation – triple share pppn	£25
Pre /post tour accommodation – Twin pppn	£40
Pre /post tour accommodation – Single pppn	£61

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack is ideal. On this tour you should bring a mixture of lightweight, cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (ie fleece, long trousers and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be cool then and on morning game drives. Pack a light rain jacket. Mosquito spray or repellent is recommended throughout the year. A small pair of binoculars and a camera with a good zoom is recommended for game viewing. A money belt/pouch, worn under the clothing is also a good idea. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe wherever possible to store cash and valuables.

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Kenya	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R

C = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

Please note Kenya is a **malarial** area; we strongly recommend you consult your doctor for appropriate anti malarial prophylactics (as well as precautions against the other diseases mentioned above)

VISA REQUIRMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk . For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website. Currently (Oct 11) the Kenyan visa is available for most nationalities on arrival at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The price for most nationalities is USD 50 (USD cash only).

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Kenya	Yes																

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$10-15 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities (see below) and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars which you exchange into the local currency (Kenya Shilling) on arrival or at your hotel.
- **Money Exchange:** Adequate spending money should be changed in Nairobi as money changing facilities are minimal outside the city. Please note - bring US dollars cash in **clean, un-torn post-2005 bills** as old, dirty bills may not be accepted. Small denomination notes are often subject to lower exchange rates.
- **Currency:** Kenyan Shilling
- **ATM machines** are found in Nairobi and Nairobi airport, although are not always reliable (and we therefore recommend you do not rely on them). They will only provide you with Kenya Shillings (they will **not** allow you to draw Sterling or US dollars cash).
- **Credit cards** may be used in Nairobi although charges are high (3-5% by Western standards).
- **Travellers cheques** may be encashed in Nairobi (airport, hotel, banks) – although you may need to show your receipt for purchase – but are very difficult to use outside the capital.

It is recommended you bring your money in a mixture of ways (cash, credit card, Travellers' cheques)

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary, provided you find the services rendered satisfactory, to give a small gratuity to hospitality staff in return. The amount is always a matter for you as client but as a guide you may wish to consider a figure of between \$5 - \$10/person/day for your driver/guide and perhaps around \$1-\$2/person/day for a cook or camp staff (if applic).

LOCAL PAYMENT

Local Payment is an amount paid by you to your guide / local representative on arrival on tour. It is usually collected on the first day of the tour. It is a way of allowing your guide tour funds which will be used by them to run the itinerary. Please bring it in **high denomination clean, un-torn post-2005 US dollar bills**.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Masai Village Visit	\$20	Masai Mara Balloon Safari	\$499

NB The above costs have been converted into approximate US dollars for convenience. Expect to pay for some optionals in the local currency.

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide may ask you for a copy of your policy when you join the tour. We recommend you leave a copy of the policy with a friend or the person nominated as your emergency contact. Acacia do not arrange insurance but can suggest an experienced travel insurance specialist broker who can offer professional advice. Please contact us for more information.

Useful Swahili Words

Hello	Jambo	Yes	Ndiyo
How's it going?	Habari gani?	No	Hapana
Thank you	Asante	Bring here	Lete hapa

Mister	Bwana	To eat	Kula
Go away	Enda	Today	Leo
Slowly	Pole pole	Tomorrow	Kesho
Coffee	Kahawa	To sleep	Kulala
Tea	Chai	Goodbye	Kwaheri
Milk	Maziwa	How much?	Ngapi?
Water	Maji	Come here	Njoo hapa
Sugar	Sukari	Welcome again	Karibu tena
Food	Chakula	See you	Tutaonana
Please	Tafadali	No, thanks	Hapana sante

ACACIA ON THE ROAD



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

GET CONNECTED

Join our facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travelers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter!

Follow our blogs from the road <http://acaciaontheroad.blogspot.com/> and <http://africastuckonyou.blogspot.com/> get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Premium Overlanding, Acacia Small Group Safaris, Short Safari's & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours and Dive Tours please visit www.acacia-africa.com



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