

ACACIA AFRICA

Updated Oct 2011
FOR ALL 2012
DEPARTURES

MARA LODGE SAFARI – TOUR DOSSIER

TOUR CODE MLS3

NAIROBI – NAIROBI

3 DAYS

Tour Starts – 07:00 Pick up from your Nairobi hotel

HIGHLIGHTS

Masai Mara Game Reserve
Great Rift Valley
Nairobi

A classic lodge-based safari, Explore the world famous Masai Mara and enjoy vast African vistas as well as some of the most exciting game viewing on the continent.



INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore, treat the following as a guide only.

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

Rift Valley, Masai Mara Game Reserve

Lx1 Dx1

Lodge or tented camp - en suite facilities

Departing from your hotel, we make the journey from Nairobi west through the Great Rift Valley and head to the magnificent, world-famous Masai Mara Game Reserve. The Masai Mara is Kenya's most prolific wildlife conservation area, and is home to a magnificent collection of wildlife in a natural, wild and basically untouched state. The park has an incredible diversity of wildlife amongst rolling fertile plains dotted with the distinctive flat-topped acacia trees, (Mara is a Masai word meaning spotted). It is watered by the tree-lined Mara River and its tributary the green and winding Talek River, full of hippo and crocodile. Lunch is taken en route after which we take an afternoon game drive to our lodge, spotting our first animals and birdlife en route. We arrive in the late afternoon and enjoy a relaxing dinner before spending the first night under the enormous skies of the Mara.

DAY 2

Masai Mara Game Reserve

Bx1 Lx1 Dx1

Lodge or tented camp - en suite facilities

We spend a full day in the park and explore the Mara on afternoon and early morning game drives. The reserve situated alongside its border is the northern extension of the huge Serengeti to the south, in Tanzania. The Mara is crossed every year from July to October by large herds of wildebeest and their zebra friends who journey from the adjoining Serengeti National Park on a continuous circular migration. Predators and scavengers follow in their wake, relying on the huge herds for food. If you are in the Mara during this season

and are lucky enough to catch the migration it is a spectacular sight. However, the Mara is excellent for game viewing at any time of year and with luck we hope to spot some, if not all, of the Big 5 - elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo and leopard, as well as warthogs, baboons, spotted hyenas, grey jackals and prolific herds of Grant's gazelle, wildebeest, impala, topi, zebra and Masai giraffe. Birds too, are prolific here, and well over 450 species have been recorded, including 57 species of birds of prey.

DAY 3 **Nairobi** Bx1

After a hearty breakfast we leave our lodge and make our way back across the Rift Valley to Nairobi. We aim to arrive back in the Capital by lunchtime where the tour ends.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Short Safaris & Treks

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, accommodation, transport, meals as indicated, park fees, complimentary safari hat, 1-litre bottled mineral water per person per day whilst on safari and services of a tour guide/driver.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, drinks, laundry, tips, optional activities & items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable twin share lodges or tented camps with en suite

TRANSPORT

Safari minibus

MEALS

Meals included are Bx2 Lx2 Dx2. We can cater for special diets. Please let Acacia know in advance if you have any dietary requirements.

OPERATOR

As this tour is run by a respected local tour operator, you will benefit from their extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm as well as helping Acacia support local businesses in Africa.

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

This tour begins with a pick-up from your Nairobi hotel at 07:00 on day one. The tour finishes on arrival in Nairobi at lunchtime of day three. Please ensure you give Acacia your Nairobi hotel details as early as possible to arrange your pick ups.

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

If you wish to spend extra time in Nairobi at the beginning or end of your tour Acacia can arrange additional accommodation.

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 are ideal. On this tour you should bring a mixture of lightweight, cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (i.e. fleece, long trousers and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be quite cool in open vehicles. Pack a light rain jacket – April to May is the wet season but it can rain at other time of the year. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray. A money belt/pouch, worn under the clothing is also a good idea. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safes wherever possible, to store your cash, passport and airline tickets.

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.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

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.

| 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\$10-20 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into the local currency on arrival. In East Africa especially, it is best to bring US dollars, but make sure they are **clean, post-2001 edition notes**. Older or dirty notes may not be accepted.
- **Currency:** Kenyan Shilling (Ksh)
- **ATM machines** are found in Nairobi but can be unreliable.
- **Credit cards** have limited use except to pay for extra accommodation in hotels. Please be mindful that charges for using them can be high by western standards.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

It is recommended to bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can best advise on what to use where.

LOCAL PAYMENT

The Local Payment (LP) helps cover local operational costs and ensures that a major portion of your tour price goes directly into the country you are visiting, benefiting local communities. The amount, set out in the brochure is to be paid to the local tour guide on arrival, in **US\$ cash**. Travellers cheques and credit cards are not accepted.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff at the end of a tour for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

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 Mara | | | |
| Masai Mara Balloon Ride | \$499 | | |

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 will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated

as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information

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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