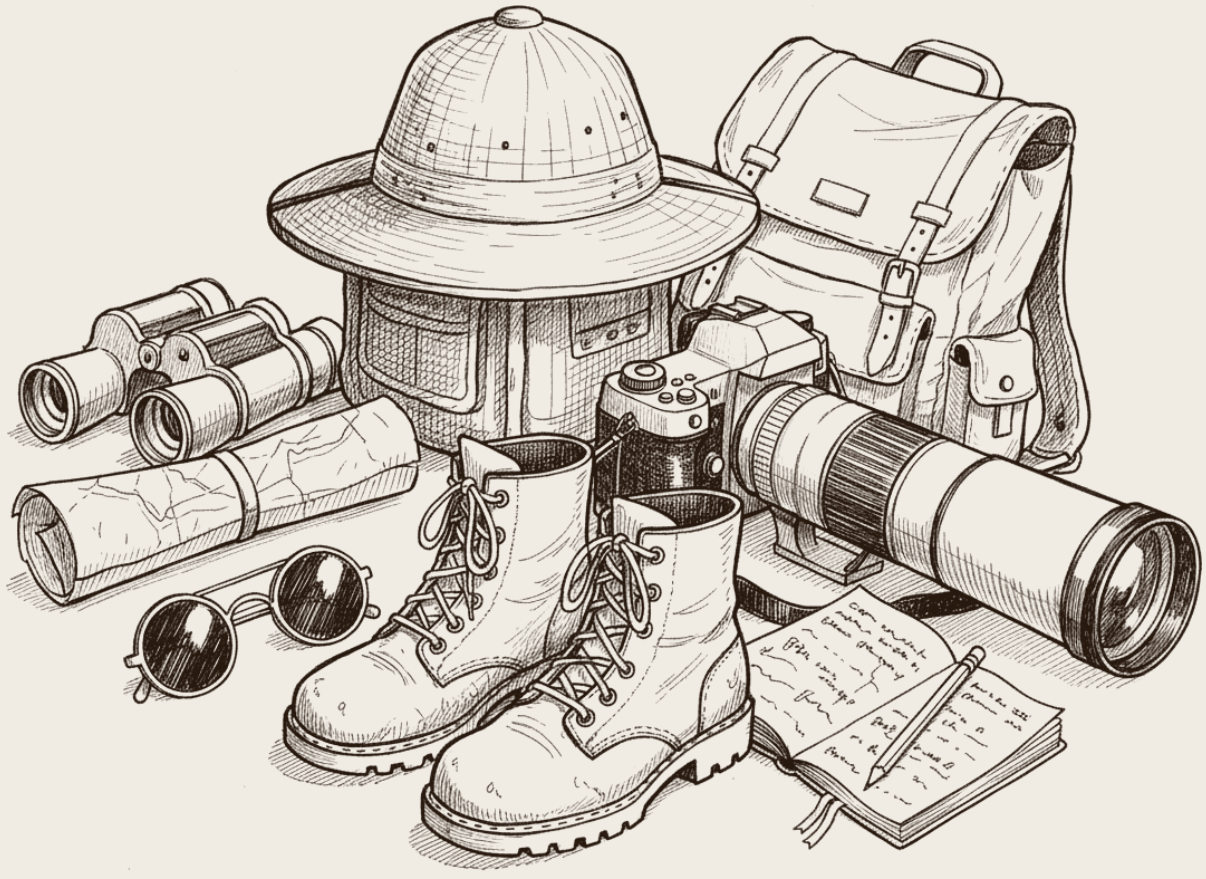
Soroi COLLECTION

Journey Guide

for the Maasai Mara



your friendly guide to getting here, getting ready and getting going

MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE, KENYA

HELLO, MARA

you're booked, so let's get you packed

Congratulations, you are going to the Maasai Mara! This little guide covers all three of our Mara camps on the Olare Orok River: Soroi Mara Bush Camp, Soroi Private Wing and Soroi Luxury Migration Camp. It answers the questions we hear most: what to wear, what to bring for your camera, and what to leave at home.

SETTING	The Olare Orok River inside the Maasai Mara National Reserve, in an area known for big cats. All three camps face the river's trees.
CLIMATE	Daytime temperatures average 20 to 30°C in the Kenyan highlands and are warmer at the coast, with cooler mornings and evenings.
STYLE	Safari casual. Neutral, breathable clothing by day and a warm layer for early mornings and evenings.
GAME DRIVES	Drives run morning and afternoon, and your guide will agree a departure time with you.
GETTING HERE	A 5 to 6 hour drive from Nairobi. Olkiombo airstrip is 10 minutes from Mara Bush Camp and Private Wing, and 25 minutes from Luxury Migration Camp.
POWER	24-hour solar power and Wi-Fi throughout camp. UK-style three-pin plugs at 240V, with adapters provided at each camp.
LAUNDRY	Complimentary at Private Wing and Luxury Migration Camp. At Mara Bush Camp, laundry is available at an additional charge.

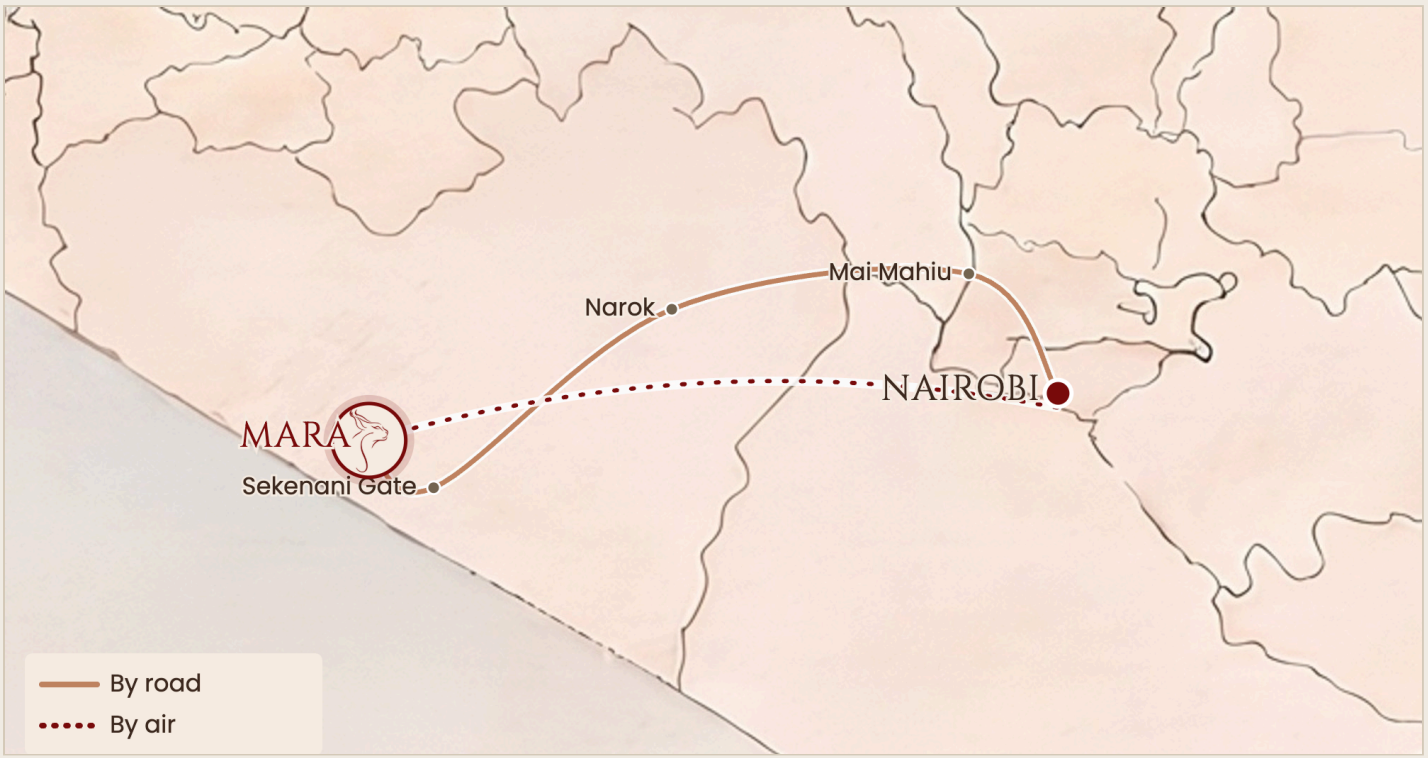


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GETTING HERE

by air, by road, or by rail

Most guests fly. The road is a long but scenic day through the Great Rift Valley.



BY AIR

- Daily scheduled flights from Wilson Airport in Nairobi, about 45 minutes to Olkiombo airstrip.

BY ROAD

- About 220 to 230 km, 5 to 6 hours from Nairobi.
- Via the Great Rift Valley and Narok town, about halfway.

TRANSFERS

- Mara Bush Camp and Private Wing: about 10 minutes from Olkiombo airstrip.
- Luxury Migration Camp: about 25 minutes.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Light aircraft leave from Wilson Airport, not the international airport (JKIA), so allow time to transfer between them.
- Soft bags only, with light-aircraft weight limits. Domestic flights allow 15 kg per person including hand luggage.

ON ARRIVAL DAY

from the airstrip to your first drink

A quick run-through of what happens when you land, so nothing is a surprise.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- Reservations will send your flight or transfer details before you travel.
- Keep documents, medication, a warm layer and your camera in your hand luggage.

MEETING YOU

- A Soroi guide or driver greets you at Olkiombo airstrip, or at camp if you drive.
- Your guide will tell you about the drive in, and game viewing often starts on the way.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- You will receive a welcome note with your manager's name and number. Save the number in your phone.
- Check-in from 12:00 pm.
- Your manager will talk you through the property, meal times and your first activity.

IF SOMETHING CHANGES

- Flight delayed, bag late or running behind? Call your manager's number, or reservations on +254 754 351 908.
- Light-aircraft and train schedules can shift, so build in a little slack.



DOCUMENTS AND INSURANCE

sort these before you leave home

Kenya's entry rules changed in 2026. Everything below is for most foreign visitors, so check the official portals for your own nationality.

YOUR ETA AND PASSPORT

- Apply for your electronic travel authorisation (eTA) well before you fly, at etakenya.go.ke, and carry a copy.
- Passport valid for at least 6 months, with at least 2 consecutive blank pages (3 or 4 if you are travelling through several countries).
- Keep a digital copy of your passport, itinerary and insurance.

KENYA HEALTH INSURANCE (NEW)

- From 6 October 2026, foreign visitors staying less than 12 months need Kenyan health insurance bought through the government portal. East African Community citizens are exempt.
- It costs US$44 per person, children included, plus small system and gateway charges at checkout.
- Buy it during your eTA application, or beforehand at insurance.ecitizen.go.ke. The two portals recognise each other. Use government portals only.
- No policy document is issued. Save your reference number and a screenshot of the "Valid" status.
- Details are still being clarified, so check the official portals before you fly, or ask reservations.

YOUR OWN TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Travel insurance is a requirement for all our guests: medical emergencies, medical evacuation, trip curtailment and loss of belongings.
- Medical evacuation is not included in our rates.
- The government portal does not currently accept a policy from another company, so keep your own cover as well.
- Insure your camera and video equipment and personal items too.

WHAT WE MAY ASK YOU FOR

- Your travel insurance details, passport numbers, an emergency contact, date of birth and blood group, for our records.

MONEY AND TIPPING

small notes make life easier

A few practical notes on paying for things and saying thank you.

CURRENCY

- The Kenyan shilling (KES). Exchange is available at airports, hotels and banks.
- ATMs dispense shillings only.
- Carry your passport or other photo ID, as proof of identity may be requested.

CARDS AND CASH

- Major credit cards are accepted at hotels, lodges and shops, but a surcharge of about 5% is often added.
- Bring some small notes (5s, 10s and 20s) for tipping. We recommend US dollar bills printed in 2013 or later.

KEEPING CASH SAFE

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, and spread it across different bags.
- Never leave luggage unattended, and keep valuables close or locked away.

TIPPING

- Tipping is never obliged, but it is warmly appreciated.
- Suggested: US$3 to 5 per day for porterage, stewards and housekeeping, and US$10 per person per day for your driver/guide.
- Use the tip box at reception for the whole team, or tip any standout staff member personally. Tip your driver/guide separately.
- Staff should never ask for tips or gifts for their families. If this happens, please tell us.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

the sensible bits

Kenya is generally a low-risk destination, and a few simple precautions keep it that way.

HEALTH

- We advise malaria prevention. See your doctor or a travel clinic 6 to 8 weeks before you travel about vaccinations.
- A yellow fever vaccination and certificate are needed for travellers from India, South America, Singapore or across the tropics.
- This is a general guide, not a substitute for your travel doctor. Carry personal medication in your hand luggage.

DRINKING WATER

- Mineral water is available at all Soroi Collection properties and in all shops and restaurants, and is provided in every room.
- Use it for brushing your teeth too, and drink more than you are used to while on safari.

DANGERS OF THE BUSH

- Always listen to your guide and follow instructions carefully.
- Do not walk alone after dark, or outside the limits of camp.
- Do not get out of the safari vehicle without first asking your guide.
- The animals may look relaxed, but they are wild and can be dangerous. None are tame, and none should be approached.

PARK RULES

- Our properties sit in protected reserves and conservancies, each with its own rules.
- Read the park rules at camp, or ask your guide or manager for a copy.

KENYA IN A NUTSHELL

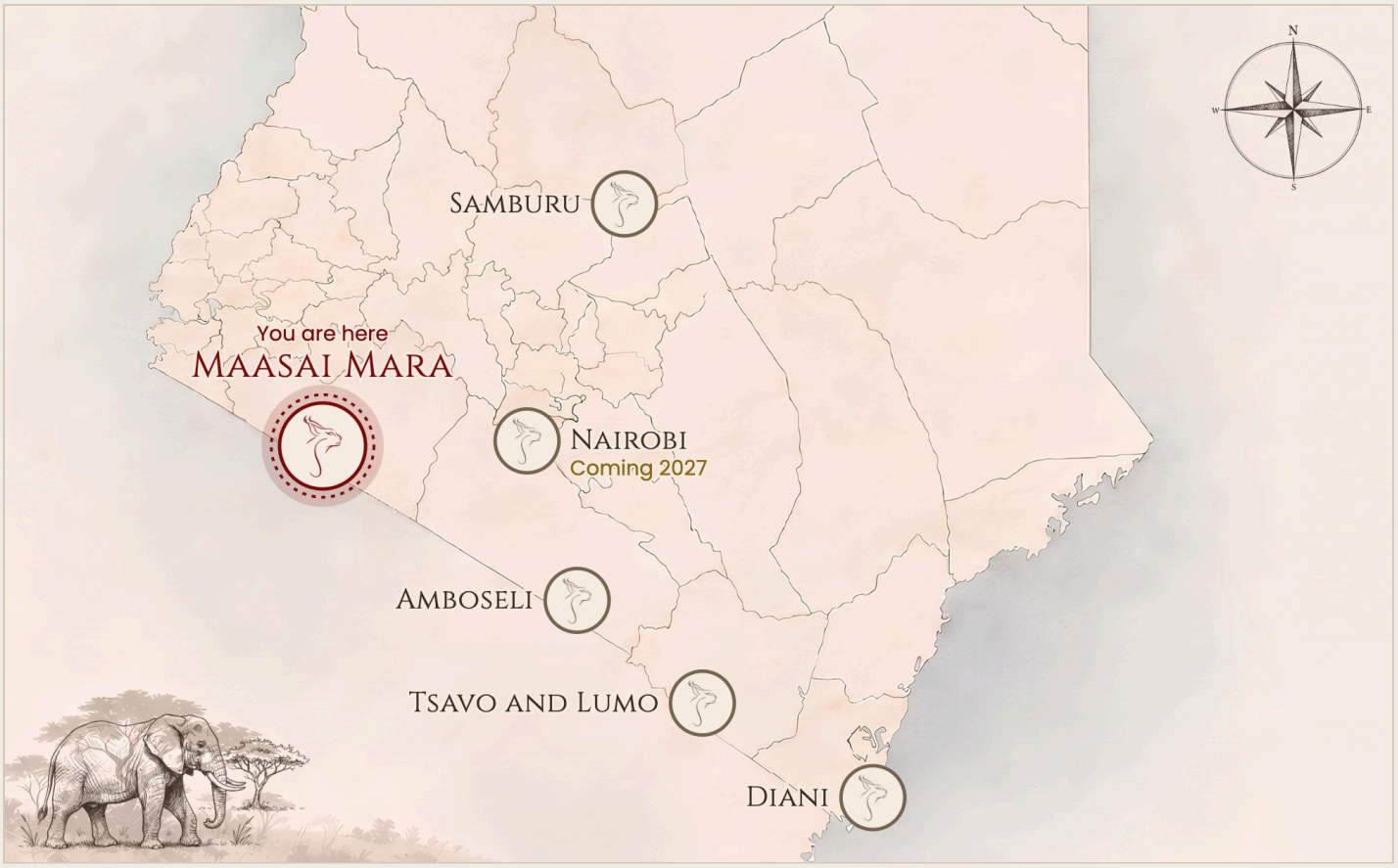
the quick-reference page

The practical basics, all in one place.

TIME	East Africa Time (UTC+3) all year. Kenya does not use daylight saving.
LANGUAGE	English and Kiswahili are widely spoken, especially in towns, lodges and hotels.
CLIMATE	Kenya lies on the equator, with altitude shaping the weather. Highland daytime temperatures average 20 to 30°C, and the coast is warmer. There is no real winter or summer, only dry and wet seasons.
DRIVING	Kenya drives on the left. Your Soroi driver or guide takes care of the roads.
POWER	220 to 240V, 50Hz, with UK-style three-pin plugs. Our camps have 24-hour electricity with backup generators, and adapters are provided at each camp. On request, an inverter in your safari vehicle charges camera batteries and phones.
CONNECTIVITY	Phone coverage and Wi-Fi are available, and Wi-Fi is strongest in reception, dining and lounge areas. In the bush, occasional network outages happen.
LUGGAGE	Pack in soft bags, 15 to 20 kg per person. Domestic flights allow 15 kg per person including hand luggage. Luggage can be stored at your hotel or our Nairobi office during your safari.
LAUNDRY	Complimentary laundry at Private Wing, Luxury Migration Camp, Larsens Camp, Soroi Amboseli and Lions Bluff Lodge. Other properties vary, so ask reservations.
PLASTIC	Single-use plastic bags have been banned in Kenya since 28 August 2017. Do not bring any in, as fines are strict and high, and remove them from luggage and purchases before you fly. Single-use plastic such as straws, bottles and cutlery is also banned in parks and reserves.

THE SOROI COLLECTION

six destinations, one Kenya



MAASAI MARA

- Soroi Mara Bush Camp
- Soroi Private Wing
- Soroi Luxury Migration Camp

NAIROBI

- Soroi Nairobi, inside Nairobi National Park (coming 2027)

SAMBURU

- Soroi Larsens Camp
- Soroi Samburu Lodge

AMBOSELI

- Soroi Amboseli

TSAVO AND LUMO

- Soroi Lions Bluff Lodge
- Soroi Leopards Lair
- Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp

DIANI

- Soroi Blue Diani

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PEOPLE AND GIVING BACK

meeting Kenya well

Soroi is passionate about philanthropy and sustainability. A few guidelines help your visit do good.

WHO YOU MIGHT MEET

- Kenya is home to over 40 ethnic groups, each with its own dialect.
- Around our properties you are likely to meet Taita, Samburu and Maasai communities.
- Cultural visits are encouraged. Ask your manager, travel agent or reservations consultant when you book, or during your stay.

PHOTOGRAPHING PEOPLE

- Always ask permission first. Not everyone will agree.
- Ask your driver or guide before photographing local communities.
- Never photograph State houses, airports, military installations, police stations, government facilities, border posts, soldiers or police. It is strictly prohibited.

GIVING BACK WISELY

- Please do not hand out money or gifts to locals. It goes against responsible tourism practice.
- Soroi works with community projects and schools. Ask your manager how to help.
- Pens, pencils, school supplies and clothing are valued, but a donation saves your luggage allowance and makes sure communities receive what they really need.

COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- Every booking contributes directly to our NGO, Community & Wildlife Conservation (community-wildlife.org).
- It supports communities with food donations, educational materials and job opportunities.
- It also funds anti-poaching work, tree planting to protect biodiversity, and education in remote villages.

SAFARI MANNERS

how to be a good guest in the wild

Our guides drive safari-equipped 4WD Land Cruisers. A few simple habits keep you, the animals and everyone around you happy.

IN THE VEHICLE

- Stay seated and inside the vehicle unless your guide says it is safe.
- Keep voices low and movements slow near wildlife.
- Never feed, call or throw anything at animals.
- Take every piece of litter back with you.

AROUND CAMP

- Stay within camp limits, and do not walk alone after dark.
- Zip your tent closed and keep food out of it.
- Never approach or feed monkeys.

WITH PEOPLE

- A smile and a "jambo" go a long way.
- Ask before photographing anyone.
- Please do not hand out money or gifts. Ask your manager how to help.
- Dress modestly in villages and at cultural sites.

LOOKING AFTER THE LAND

- Stay on the tracks and keep to your guide's route.
- Leave rocks, plants, shells and feathers where they are.
- Use water thoughtfully, especially in the dry season.



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A FEW WORDS OF SWAHILI

pole pole, you will get there

A little Swahili is always appreciated. Try these on your guide, your host and everyone you meet.

SWAHILI	SAY IT	IT MEANS
Jambo	JAHM-boh	Hello
Karibu	kah-REE-boo	Welcome
Asante (sana)	ah-SAHN-teh (SAH-nah)	Thank you (very much)
Tafadhali	tah-fah-DAH-lee	Please
Sawa	SAH-wah	OK, fine, agreed
Pole pole	POH-leh POH-leh	Slowly, slowly
Pole	POH-leh	I'm sorry (for your trouble)
Hakuna matata	hah-KOO-nah mah-TAH-tah	No worries
Ndiyo / Hapana	n-DEE-yoh / hah-PAH-nah	Yes / No
Kwaheri	kwah-HEH-ree	Goodbye

Pole pole is also a very good way to run a safari.

DRESS FOR THE BUSH

layers, layers, layers

Mornings start cool and the sun builds fast, so think in layers you can add and remove as the day goes on.

ON SAFARI

Neutral tops, long and short sleeve
Khaki, olive, tan and soft browns blend in and hide dust.

Lightweight long trousers
Sun and scrub protection on drives and walks.

A warm layer for early starts
A fleece or light jacket. You will peel it off as the sun climbs.

Wide-brimmed hat or cap

UV-protective sunglasses

Buff or light scarf
Keeps the dust off your face.

Light rain jacket
Showers are possible in the wetter months.

AROUND CAMP

Light, breathable day wear
Shorts, dresses and linen shirts all work.

Cover-up or sarong

Comfortable sandals
The camps are on decking among trees, so flat shoes are best.

EVENINGS

Light long sleeves and trousers
Covered skin keeps the insects off near the river.

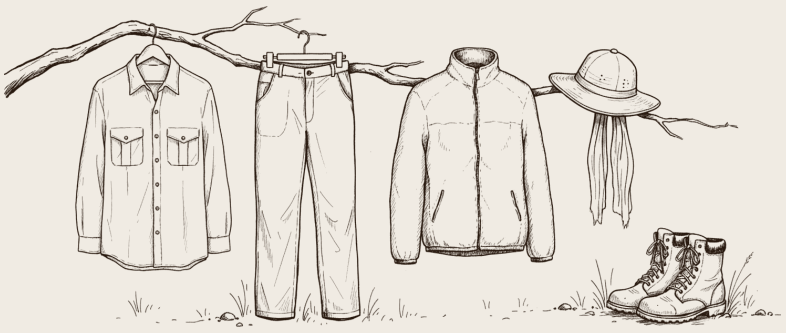
A jumper or wrap
For sundowners and the fire.

One smart-casual outfit
Entirely optional, for dinner.

PACKING FOR THREE NIGHTS

- 3 to 4 tops, 2 pairs of trousers and 1 pair of shorts or a skirt is plenty.
- Check the laundry arrangements for your camp, then pack lighter than you think.
- Flying in to Olkiombo on a light aircraft? Soft bags are easier to load. Domestic flights allow 15 kg per person including hand luggage.

Pro tip: skip bright white (it shows every speck of dust) and camouflage prints (not permitted in Kenya). There is no swimming pool at any of the three camps, so swimwear stays at home unless you are continuing to the coast.



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FEET, GEAR AND FIRST AID

the small stuff that saves the day

None of this is glamorous, all of it is useful.

FOOTWEAR

- **Closed walking shoes or light boots**
  For nature walks and uneven ground.
- **Sandals or flip-flops**
  For around the property.
- **Socks**
  Breathable cotton or merino.

SUN AND INSECTS

- **High-SPF sunscreen**
- **Lip balm with SPF**
- **Insect repellent**
  Evenings and early mornings.
- **After-bite relief**

HEALTH

- **Personal medication**
  Carry it in your hand luggage, with a copy of the prescription.
- **Basic first-aid kit**
  Plasters, antiseptic, rehydration salts and antihistamines.
- **Malaria prophylaxis**
  As advised by your doctor before you travel.
- **Hand sanitiser and wipes**

USEFUL GEAR

- **Binoculars**
  8x42 or 10x42 suit most guests.
- **Small daypack**
  For drives, hides and picnic stops.
- **Reusable water bottle**
- **Power bank and plug adapter**
- **Zip-lock bags**
  Dust protection for phones and cameras.

Good to know: activities are arranged through your guide or at reception. Wheelchair access is possible at some camps, so tell us your needs in advance.



FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

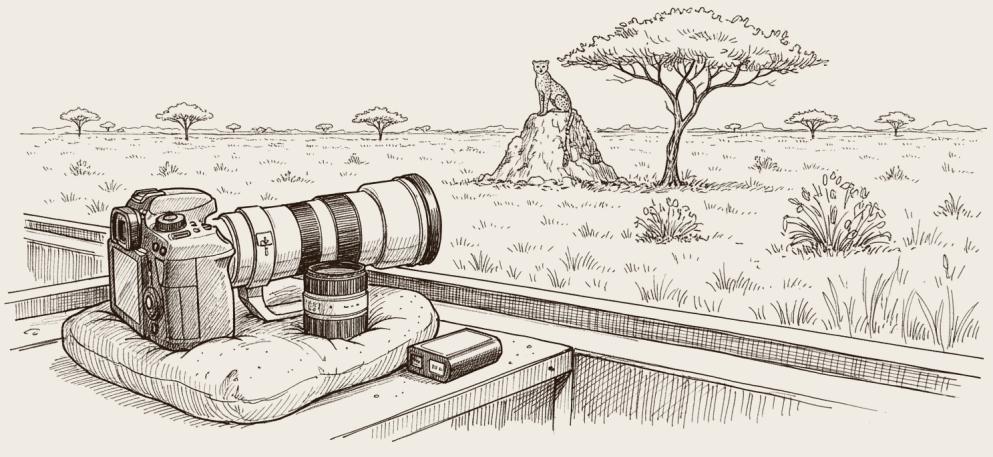
what to bring for the good light

The Olare Orok is known for lion, leopard and cheetah, and Luxury Migration Camp is set up for photographers, with a photographer's lounge, charging points, and a projector and screen. Mara Bush Camp and Private Wing have a photo lounge, and Private Wing has an on-site photo studio. All guests can use Soroi Photography Studio & Camera Rentals.

WHERE	SUGGESTED KIT	TIP
GAME DRIVES	Telephoto zoom (100-400mm or similar), a standard zoom, beanbag	Switch the engine off when you shoot. It steadies the frame.
BIG CATS	70-200mm zoom plus a longer lens if you own one	Cats are often in the long grass, so a longer lens lets you keep your distance.
BIRDS	400mm or longer, or a teleconverter	Birds are everywhere along the river. Ask your guide.
DAWN AND DUSK	Fast prime lens (f/1.8-f/2.8), a body that handles high ISO	The best light is often the first and last hour of the day.
DUST CARE	Blower, microfibre cloths, lens hoods, zip-lock bags	Change lenses inside the vehicle, away from open windows.
POWER AND STORAGE	Spare batteries, extra memory cards, power bank	Charge fully every night. Luxury Migration Camp has charging points in the photographer's lounge.

CAMERA BAG CHECKLIST

- Camera body, plus a spare if you have one
- Beanbag for the vehicle
- Extra memory cards
- Rain cover
- Lenses to suit the table above
- Spare batteries and charger
- Blower and microfibre cloths
- Laptop or drive for nightly backup



BALLOONS AND BIG CATS

up early, and worth it

Two Mara moments are worth packing for specifically.

BALLOON SAFARI

- The balloon crew collects guests as early as 5:00 am, followed by about an hour in the air with an experienced pilot and a champagne breakfast on landing.
- Children under 8, or under 1.25 metres tall, are not permitted for safety reasons.
- Wear layers you can shed, closed shoes and a hat for the landing.

BIG CAT TERRITORY

- Sightings can be close and quiet. Keep voices low and movements slow.
- Follow your guide at all times and stay inside the vehicle unless told otherwise.
- Silent shutter on and no flash, especially at dusk.

THE GREAT MIGRATION

- Luxury Migration Camp is positioned around the Great Migration season.
- Timing varies with the herds and the rains, so ask reservations what to expect when you travel.

CAMERA MANNERS ELSEWHERE

- Ask before photographing people, including Maasai community members and our staff.
- Respect other guests' privacy in the lounge and at the dining table.
- Follow your guide's instructions near wildlife, always.



LIFE IN CAMP

what to expect when you arrive

A few practical details so nothing surprises you. Details differ slightly between the three camps.

ROOMS AND SERVICES

- Tents sit on raised timber decking facing the river, each with a private verandah or deck chairs.
- Mara Bush Camp: check-in from 12:00 pm and check-out by 10:30 am.
- Wi-Fi and 24-hour solar power throughout camp. Wi-Fi is strongest in the main areas, and the bush can bring occasional outages.

MEALS

- Plated service. Special dietary needs are catered for on request, and private dining can be arranged.
- Tell reservations about dietary requirements before you travel.

CAMP HABITS

- Mara Bush Camp is eco-conscious and unfenced, set among the trees of the river forest.
- There is no swimming pool at any of the three camps.
- Weddings and blessings are available on request at an additional charge.

STAYING SAFE

- Mara Bush Camp is unfenced, so wildlife can pass through. Please do not walk alone after dark.



A WORD ON DRONES

we get asked this a lot

Please leave the drone at home.

Drones are prohibited in the conservation areas where our camps are, including the Maasai Mara. Drones disturb wildlife and other guests, and in Kenya they also need permits from the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority.

Can I fly a drone at the property?

No. Drones are not permitted in the conservation areas where we operate.

Can I bring one into Kenya?

Drones are regulated and may need to be declared on arrival, so check current requirements. They still cannot be flown at our properties.

Why so strict?

Wildlife, guest privacy and the area's own rules come first.

BEST LEFT AT HOME

- Drones (not permitted in conservation areas)
- Single-use plastic bags, which are banned in Kenya and attract high fines
- Camouflage and bright white clothing
- Valuable jewellery you would hate to lose



SEASONS AT A GLANCE

any month works, the bag just changes

The Mara can be visited all year. Kenya has no real winter or summer, only dry and wet seasons, and what changes is the landscape and what you will want in your bag.

SEASON	WHAT TO EXPECT	ADD TO YOUR BAG
Warmer months (December to mid-March)	Warm days and big skies.	Sun hat, extra sunscreen, lightweight cotton
Long rains (late March to May)	Lush and quiet, with the heaviest showers. Rainy seasons bring quieter parks and vibrant greenery.	Waterproof jacket, closed shoes, insect repellent
Cooler months (July and August)	Cooler and often overcast, so mornings and evenings are chilly.	A warm fleece for early starts and evenings
Short rains (late October to November)	Greener landscape, with showers.	Light rain jacket, quick-dry layers

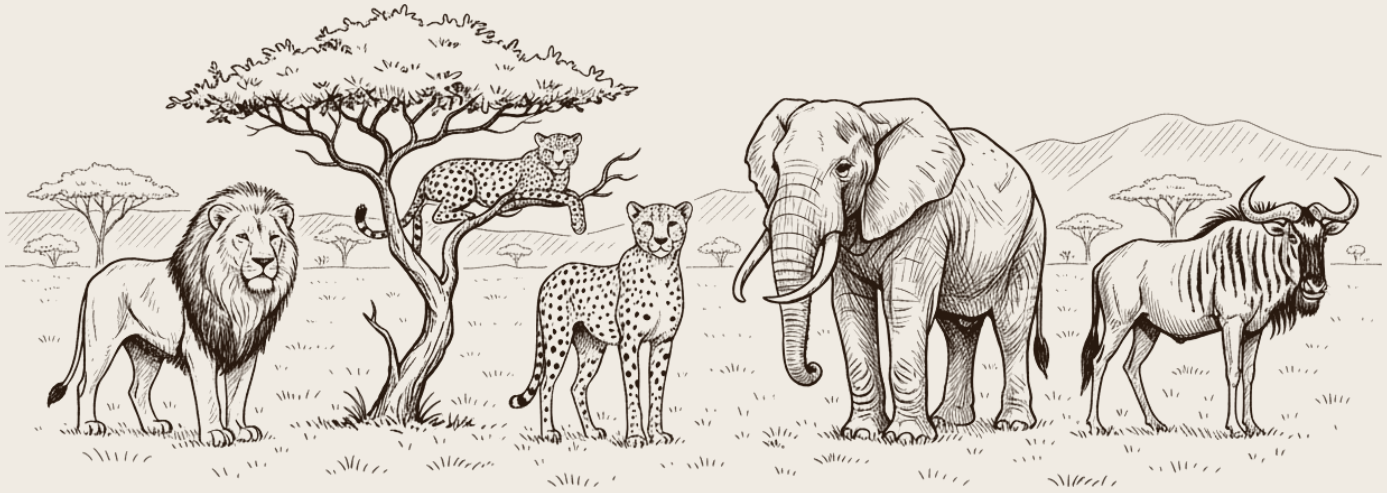
Whatever the month, layers are the best thing you can pack.



SEE YOU SOON

Questions before you travel?

Our reservations team is happy to help with transfers, dietary needs, photography requests and anything on this list you are unsure about.



The Olare Orok is known for its big cats. Can you spot a lion, a leopard and a cheetah, plus an elephant and a wildebeest from the migration?