



Maasai Mara & Lake Nakuru (19MMLN4) – Tour Dossier

Highlights

Great Rift Valley
Lake Nakuru National Park, Game Drive

Maasai Mara National Reserve, Game Drives

Intended Itinerary

Day 1:

Nairobi – Great Rift Valley - Lake Nakuru National Park

Distance travelled: +/- 160 Km

Approx driving time: Half day

From Nairobi, we travel west to the edge of the Great Rift Valley and enjoy views of the Rift Valley lakes and Maasai villages from the top of the famous Mau escarpment. On arrival at Lake Nakuru National Park, we enjoy lunch and then take our first game drive this afternoon. The park is mainly dry bush, noticeable for its flat-topped acacia trees and candelabra cactus. It is the habitat of lion, warthog, buck and Rothschild giraffe as well as being an important sanctuary for black and white rhino. However, the shallow soda lake that dominates this park is what makes the area famous, particularly for its birdlife including flamingos that gather around the lakeshore. As the sun sets and the day cools more animals start to emerge and if we are lucky we may spot leopard or lion. We return to our lodge in Nakuru or nearby Lake Elmenteita for dinner and overnight.

Accommodation: Lodge with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2:

Maasai Mara National Reserve

Distance travelled: +/- 345 Km

Approx driving time: half day plus two game drives

This morning after breakfast, we drive across the plains to the world famous Maasai Mara National Reserve. The Maasai 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 Maasai word meaning spotted). The park is watered by the tree-lined Mara River and its tributary the green and winding Talek River. Both 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 night under the enormous skies of the Mara.

Accommodation: Lodge or tented camp with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3:

Maasai Mara National Reserve

Approx driving time: Full day including game drives

We spend a full day in the park and explore the Mara on afternoon and early morning game drives. The reserve situated alongside the border with Tanzania and is the northern extension of the Serengeti plains that lie to the south (inside Tanzania). The Mara is crossed every year from July to October by large herds of wildebeest and their zebra companions who journey from the adjoining Serengeti on a continuous circular migration. Predators and scavengers follow in their wake. 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 warthog, baboon, hyena, jackal, and herds of Grant's gazelle, wildebeest, impala, topi, zebra and the Maasai giraffe. Birdlife too, is prolific with over 450 species having been recorded, including 57 species of birds of prey.

Accommodation: Lodge or tented camp with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4:

Maasai Mara National Reserve - Nairobi

Distance travelled: +/- 340 Km

Approx driving time: Half Day

After 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.

Accommodation: Nil accommodation

Meals included: Breakfast

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Short Safari & Treks

This Short Safari and Treks tour is 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



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WHAT'S INCLUDED: Tour highlights, accommodation, transport, meals as indicated, park fees, services of a tour guide/driver.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED: Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, optional activities, laundry, gratuities, passport & visa fees, items of a personal nature.

SAFARI PASS: This small group tour has a Safari Pass which is paid to your tour leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour (or pre-paid by arrangement prior to your tour). This is separate and in addition to the Tour Price, which is paid before travel, and is paid in the currency listed on the website (usually US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2008 edition notes). The Safari Pass covers selected park entries, activities and excursions and some accommodation along the way where payment goes directly to the supplier. The purpose of the separate payment is to ensure local suppliers benefit directly from the income.

ACCOMMODATION: Comfortable double/twin share lodges or tented camps with en suite facilities.

TRANSPORT: Safari vehicle (mini bus with pop up roof for game viewing)

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking and you have made payment in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Nairobi (NBO) 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:	Pick up from your hotel in Nairobi (If we have not reserved your accommodation in Nairobi for you please remember to tell us where you are staying the night before departure!)
Tour start time:	08H00
Tour end point in Nairobi:	Drop off at your hotel in Nairobi
Tour end time:	Early afternoon on day 4

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Nairobi at 08:00am on day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and 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, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of Nairobi and the surrounding area.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. **These prices are a guide line only and are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices.**

Description	Price (£)	Description	Price (USD)
Nairobi – Hotel Boulevard		Nairobi – Hotel Boulevard	
Pre tour accommodation – Twin/ double pppn	\$60	Pre tour accommodation – Twin/ double pppn	\$60
Pre tour accommodation – Single pppn	\$90	Pre tour accommodation – Single pppn	\$90
Pre tour accommodation – Triple pppn	\$50	Pre tour accommodation – Triple pppn	\$50
PPPN = Per person per night		PPPN = Per person per night	

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 will need 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 cool on game drives. Pack a light rain jacket. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray throughout the year. Bring a towel and a pillow if required. A money belt/pouch that can be worn comfortably beneath your clothing is recommended. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables. A power bank is useful to charge electronic devices.



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NB KENYA PLASTIC BAG BAN - All forms of plastic carrier bags are banned in Kenya; including 'Airport Duty Free' plastic bags, airport security plastic bags for liquids, shopping bags, storage bags, zip-lock plastic bags. The strict ban applies to everyone and it is mandatory that you leave any form of plastic bag/s at your country of origin.

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. Please note some areas visited are **malarial**. We recommend you speak to your doctor or travel clinic about appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

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

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

NB To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice.

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.

Kenya E-VISA: Should you wish to have your visa before arrival, Kenya now offers the option to pre-apply for an e-visas online. This may take up to 7 days to process. Alternatively, qualifying passport holders can obtain an entry visa on arrival in Kenya. To check whether you qualify, please check with the Kenyan Embassy or Mission in your country of origin.

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

NB The above is a guide only. Please check all visa requirements at least one month in advance of travel. Most nationalities do not need to obtain any of the above visas in advance. They are available at the border entry points and payable in US\$ cash.

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\$15-20 per day. Most spending will be in US\$ cash but exchange some money into Kenyan Shillings.

- **Spending money** is best carried in Kenyan Shillings. Exchange facilities are open at the airport on arrival; Approximate exchange rate: £1 = KES120; Many people bring USD to Kenya. Please ensure they clean, un-torn post 2008 edition notes.
- **Currencies** are as follows: Kenyan Shillings, US Dollars
- **ATM machines** are found in Nairobi
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for larger optional activities although fees for use may be higher than you are accustomed to.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy it has become customary to offer a small gratuity to local staff at the end of the tour if service has been of a high standard. Naturally this always remains at your discretion.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

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 in US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change and availability.



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Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Maasai Mara Hot Air Balloon	From \$550	Maasai Village Experience	\$25

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 refer to: <https://acacia-africa.com/travel-info> for more details.

In the UK the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (www.fco.gov.uk) issues free up to date travel advice for all countries visited on tour. Most other governments offer a similar service to citizens. We recommend you review this information before you book your tour. Naturally we welcome any questions you may have about security and safety on tour.

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 accommodation 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.

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Get Connected

WIFI on tour:

While WIFI is becoming more common in some areas of Africa we cannot guarantee the speed, cost or reliability during your tour.

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

Upload your travel stories to Acacia Live: www.acacialive.com

Find us on Instagram #acaciaafrica and tag us in your amazing travel photographs!

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter! Or tag us at #AcacialsAfrica

Follow our blog at <http://acacia-africa.com/blog> and 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 Camping & Accommodated Overland Tours, Small Group Safaris, Short Safaris & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, please visit www.acacia-africa.com