

AACUC-ACCOSCA Safari Experience

Oct 12-15, 2024

General Information

General:

Safari Accommodations:

Muthu Keekorok Lodge (<https://www.muthuhotelsmgm.com/muthu-keekorok-lodge-maasai-mara-kenya-hotel.html>). There is a pool, spa and other amenities at the lodge.

Safaris Dates/Times:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<i>Oct 12</i>	Sat		4:00-dusk
<i>Oct 13</i>	Sun	6:30-9:00	4:00-dusk
<i>Oct 14</i>	Mon	6:30-9:00	4:00-dusk
<i>Oct 15</i>	Tue	6:30-9:00?	

Lodge Departure:

Oct 15 at 10:00am*. Flights to NBO at 11:00 am (8:15)

Tentative Seating Arrangements for Safari Trucks:

Four people per truck is comfortable and provides room for cameras, binoculars, small bags, etc. For convenience, we assigned seats for the drive to the lodge and for the first drive. You are free to remain that way or mix it up on subsequent drives. There is time in between drives for time at the spa pool. Spa visits require reservations. If you decide to skip a drive, please let someone in your group, Diana Houston, Mike Mercer know.

Preparation:

Packing:

Temperature. During the day, the average temperature will be around 86 F with cooler nights dropping to about 61 F. Humidity levels are not particularly high although there is a moderate chance of rain. Consider dressing in layers so you can be comfortable throughout the day. In general, modest dress is a good cultural fit.

Clothing. Neutral color clothing like green, tans and browns are ideal. Bright colors can stand out to the animals. Black and dark blue can attract tsetse flies. Long pants will protect against mosquitos and flies. And lightweight hiking boots or sturdy sneakers

protect against stones and insects. Some water resistance will be helpful. Sandals might be comfortable around the lodge.

A wide brimmed hat is ideal although a baseball cap can offer decent protection. A bandana can protect your neck from the sun or cover your face in dusty conditions during a game drive to provide extra comfort.

Lightweight, long-sleeved shirts offer good protection from the sun, insects and dust. You can roll up the sleeves during the day. Tank tops or t-shirts under button-up shirts are layering possibilities.

If you type in 'safari women's (or men's) clothes' in search for Amazon, a lot of choices appear.

Misc Items: Binoculars, Dramamine, water bottle, camera, first aid kit, TUMS, sweatshirt, light jacket

Insect Repellent:

Skin. DEET is a widely used insect repellent that is applied directly to the skin but it can irritate the skin and prolonged use may cause issues. **A better alternative to DEET is Picaridin.** This is as effective against mosquitoes and ticks but without the strong odor. It is safe to use on skin and is considered to be less irritating.

Clothing. **Permethrin** is primarily used to treat clothing, shoes, gear and tents, but not applied directly to skin. It highly effective at killing and repelling insects like mosquitoes, ticks and mites. Once applied to fabrics, it can last for several was cycles or up to 6 weeks. It is safe for most users but **can be toxic to cats and aquatic life.**

Picaridin and Permethrin can be found on Amazon.

Luggage: ALL LUGGAGE MUST HAVE A NAME TAG

Soft Duffle bag. Due to air-carrier baggage limitations, space for baggage is limited to 15kgs (33 lbs) per person in a soft duffel-type bag. This weight limit includes hand luggage and camera equipment.

Non-Safari luggage. Baggage not being taken to the Mara will be taken to Four Points in Nairobi for storage. ACCOSCA will ensure safe transport. Participants will collect their luggage at 4 Points upon their return to Nairobi on the 15th prior to their departure from NBO.

Travel:

Check-Out of Lake Naivasha Resort:

On Saturday, October 12, Safari Participants will need to be checked out of Lake Naivasha Resort by 8:30 am. Luggage to be stored will be collected at that time . We will update you about this process while we are at Lake Naivasha.

Safari Participants will be leaving the Lake Naivasha Resort on Saturday, Oct 12 at 9:30am. Ground transportation will be provided for the 3.5 hour ride to the Keekorok Lodge in the middle of the Maasai Mara, the northern extension of the famous Serengeti wildlife reservation. It is possible that we will be transported in safari trucks. We'll know more about the mode of transport when we get to Kenya.

Return to Nairobi:

On October 15th we will fly back to Nairobi. Most of us will depart the Keekorok Lodge at 10:00am for an 11:00am flight to Wilson airport (near the Weston). From there, the group will be transported to the Four Points by Sheraton, which is near the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO). Participants will be reunited with their luggage at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel.

Day Rooms:

We have reserved 'Day Rooms' at Four Points by Sheraton that will be available from 1:00pm to 7:00pm. Most have flights that depart in the late evening from 10-12pm. The Four Points has frequent shuttle service to the airport. It was recommended that we leave the Four Points four hours before flight departure times, but no later than 7:00pm.

Note: A few will be leaving on an earlier flight from Keekorok to connect with late afternoon flights at NBO. We'll make arrangements for those folks on site.

Tipping:

As is typical when traveling, you will want to tip those who provide a service during your stay. This may include housekeeping, bellhops, doorman, servers, bellhops, drivers, etc.

You may find this [Suggested Tipping List](#) helpful. While tipping is appreciated, it is not expected for service. It is more customary in the safari industry.

US Dollars (USD) are accepted, but the local currency, Kenyan Shilling (KES), are preferred as the exchange rate on small bills is poor.

- 400KES per day for room attendant (\$3 USD)
- 400KES per day for room attendant (\$3 USD)
- 500-1,000KES for wait staff in restaurant (\$4-7 USD)
- 400-1,000KES per day for courtesy (\$3 USD)
- 10% for specialty services (e.g. spa)

For the safari there is a unique practice of tipping the safari drivers. Among the guides there is a lead guide who is in charge of the crew. It is customary that at the end of the

trip the group gives the full tip amount for the stay to the lead guide who then distributes the total between all of guides who worked with us.

The suggested amount would be for our stay would be \$100 USD per person. We would collect that near the 15th and then present it to the lead guide. Please consider contributing to this pool while we are at the Lodge. Ideally, we will be collecting your \$100 in denominations of \$10 and/or \$20 bills.

IN KENYA, ONLY US DOLLAR BILLS MINTED IN 2013 OR EARLIER ARE ACCEPTED FOR EXCHANGE. BILLS FROM LATER YEARS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED DUE TO LOCAL REGULATIONS AND PREFERANCES. IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO CHECK WITH YOUR EXCHANGE SERVICE BEFORE TRAVELING TO ENSURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT BILLS.

MASAI MARA

K E N Y A



WILDLIFE SAFARI

Discover one of Africa's Greatest Wildlife Reserves

Do's in the Mara



RESPECT THE MAASAI PEOPLE:

The Maasai are known for their rich cultural heritage. Respect their traditions, customs, and way of life. Greet them politely and ask for permission before taking photographs.



FOLLOW YOUR GUIDE'S INSTRUCTIONS:

If you are on a guided tour or safari, listen to your guide's instructions and follow them closely. They are experienced and knowledgeable about the area and wildlife, ensuring your safety and minimizing disturbance to the environment.



TAKE PROPER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

While experiencing the Maasai Mara, prioritize your safety and that of the wildlife. Be cautious during game drives, keep a safe distance from animals, and do not get out of the vehicle unless your guide permits it.



DRESS APPROPRIATELY:

When visiting the Maasai Mara, opt for comfortable and light-coloured clothing suitable for the climate. It is also respectful to dress modestly out of consideration for the local culture.

Dont's in the Mara

DISRUPT THE WILDLIFE:

During game drives or encounters with wildlife, avoid making sudden movements, loud noises, or approaching too closely. Respect the natural habitat of animals and do not interfere with their behaviour.



DISPOSE OF LITTER IRRESPONSIBLY:

Help keep the environment clean by properly disposing of any trash you have. Carry a bag for your waste and dispose of it in designated areas or back at your accommodation



TOUCH OR FEED THE ANIMALS:

It is crucial to maintain a safe distance from wildlife and refrain from touching or feeding them. These are wild animals, and interfering with their natural behaviours can be dangerous for both you and the animals.



DISRESPECT LOCAL CUSTOMS:

Be aware and respectful of cultural practices in the Maasai Mara. Avoid any behaviour that may be deemed disrespectful or offensive. Seek guidance from your guide or local community members if you are unsure about appropriate behaviour.

