

OPERATOR

Karen Blixen Camp Ltd, PO Box 9913-00100 GPO Nairobi Kenya.
Marula Lane 40C, Karen, Nairobi, Kenya. Trade Register No C20/2006.
Reservations Tel: +254 20 3524 215 • +254 7115 79001
• +254 7384 13916 • +254 7715 73036. Camp: +254 7730 63863.
Email: info@karenblixencamp.com and reservation@karenblixencamp.com
Web: www.karenblixencamp.com

LOCATION

Karen Blixen Camp is set on the bank of the Mara River with the impressive Oloololo Escarpment in the front and the Mara plains behind; the location is spectacular; throughout the day elephants, giraffes, zebras and impalas come for a drink while a large hippo pod rest lazily in the river. The Camp situated in the beautiful Mara North Conservancy that forms the vital northwestern zone of the Masai Mara Ecosystem. The conservancy borders the Masai Mara National Reserve in the south of Kenya and is part of the Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem.

ACCESS

Karen Blixen Camp is accessible either by regular scheduled local flights from Nairobi Wilson Airport, Samburu, Lewa Downs and Nanyuki or by private charter flights. The nearest airstrips are Kichwa Tembo Airstrip, Shikar Airstrip and Musiara Airstrip. Our preferred airstrip is Shikar Airstrip. The drive from all airstrips is approximately 45 minute to the Camp. Flights are operated by Air Kenya, Safari Link and Fly540 and serviced with at least twice daily scheduled flights to and from Wilson Airport. For those wishing to visit Karen Blixen from the coast, Blue Sky, Mombasa Air and Fly540 also operates daily flights to the nearby airstrips. Karen Blixen Camp is also accessible by road. The drive from Nairobi takes approximately 5 hours during the dry season, and 7 hours in the green season. Kindly note that game drives within Mara North Conservancy can only be undertaken in Land Cruisers or Land Rovers.

STYLE

Karen Blixen Camp offers an authentic 'yesteryear' experience for visitors wishing to gain that little extra from their safari. The Camp gives a feeling of the early 1920's era with beautiful and comfortable furniture. Long gone are the days when staying in a tented camp meant roughing it. You will find that Karen Blixen Camp is a step back in time with the luxury of today.

ACCOMMODATION

The Camp compromise 22 luxurious en-suite canvas tents (4.6m x 8m), each set on a beautiful mahogany platform with a spacious veranda (5m x 13m) completed with cushion daybed from which one can enjoy an afternoon siesta, taking in the wonderful surroundings. All tents are placed along the river. Our family unit consists of two tents with a shared veranda. Each tent has a private bathroom with WC, twin washbasins and an outdoor shower with view to the sky. Tents can be configured for double or twin occupancy. For families travelling with children a 3rd or a 4th bed can be added.

GUESTS AREAS

The open plan 'mess' area, built on a raised mahogany deck, is beautifully located on the banks of the Mara River overlooking a resident hippo pod providing our guests with endless entertainment. The mess area is furnished with accurate reproductions of Karen Blixen's private furniture. It comprises the reception, restaurant and lounge area with a home-style bar. Comfortable sofas give a welcoming and cozy retreat for the weary traveler while enjoying a before-dinner drink. Around the campfire one can share the safari adventure of the day, listen to the sounds of the night and look at the magnificent African starlit sky. Camp facilities also include a gift shop with wireless internet, and a swimming pool. Our resident masseuse offers a wide range of wellness treatments.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the restaurant or bush garden from where one has an incredible close view of the Mara River and the wild animals coming to drink. One can also enjoy a romantic bush dinner set beneath the starlit African night. Bush breakfast with spectacular view over the Mara plains as the perfect surprise after an exciting morning game drive. Picnic breakfast or picnic lunch baskets are arranged for those going for a full day game drive. Karen Blixen was passionate about cooking and our chefs have found many of her original recipes. Dining at the Camp captures the taste of these days-gone-by with classical cooking from the French, English, Italian and Danish kitchens. The modern day love for cosmopolitan food with clear notes from the Far East, India or Kenya's own traditional cooking is also catered for, alongside the African continent's finest wines.

KAREN BLIXEN TREATS

Our resident masseuse offers a wide range of wellness treatments for those who wish to indulge in a relaxing massage. All treatments are carried out in the privacy of your own tent.

EXCLUSIVE SAFARI EXPERIENCE

Masai Mara Ecosystem is famous for its unique concentration of wildlife, birds, rich vegetation and open savannah. It has been classified among the 'Seven Wonders of the World' due to the extraordinary annual migration (July-November) when over 1.3 million wildebeests and more than a hundred thousand zebras cross from the Serengeti to the Masai Mara in search of greener pastures. Karen Blixen Camp is situated in Mara North Conservancy. The area forms the very vital northwestern part of the Masai Mara Ecosystem and offers one of the highest wildlife densities in the world. Within a 30 minute drive from the Camp one also find the renowned Leopard Gorge, which has provided the thrilling stage for numerous BBC Big Cat Diaries, National Geographic and Discovery Channel documentaries. Five prides of lions amounting to 52 family members, seven cheetah and at least six leopards inhabit the area. Mara North Conservancy is proud to have one of the lowest tourism and vehicle densities in the Masai Mara. Kindly note that game drives within Mara North Conservancy can only be undertaken in Land Cruisers or Land Rovers.

Facts at a glance

Number of rooms	22
Children allowed	Yes
Double, triple and quarto	Possible
Min. recommended stay	3 nights
Activities	Day and night game drives, game walks, balloon safaris, nature walks, birding, cultural visits, eco camp walk and reforestation project
Wellness treatments	Yes
Air condition/room fans	No
Mosquito proof tents	Yes
Flush toilet	Yes
Shower	Yes
Hot water 24 hours	Yes
Hair dryer	Yes
Safety box	Yes
Personal mini bar	Yes
Pool	Yes
Telephone	Mobile phone limited signal
Wireless internet access	Yes – in guest shop
Suitable for guests with physical challenges	Yes
Check out time	11 am
Power	240v AC Solar
Exclusive use of 4x4 game vehicle	At extra cost and subject to availability
Credit card	Visa/MasterCard

ACTIVITIES

For the utmost private and exclusive safari experience, game drives are conducted within the Mara North Conservancy. During the migration season (or on request) guests are offered the opportunity to go to the Masai Mara National Reserve or to Mara Conservancy (Mara Triangle) to have a chance to see the wildebeests crossing the Mara River. Our open Toyota Land Cruisers give a full, uninterrupted view of the wildlife roaming the area. We suggest guests leave for the early morning game drive just before sunrise; return for breakfast and relax in camp before going on the afternoon game drive. If one wishes to go for a full day game drive, a picnic lunch basket is provided. For those who wish to experience the thrilling adventures of the African night we extend the afternoon game drive into a night game drive. Our other activities include: Game walks; walking in middle of the African bush with armed Maasai guides is truly an amazing safari experience. Olisuk, our private concession area, offers plenty of wildlife and breathtaking views of the Mara plains; access is via small boat across the Mara River. Balloon safaris; imagine the thrill of gliding high above the impressive Masai Mara savannah while looking down at herds of elephants and zebras tottering beneath you. A champagne breakfast awaits you in the middle of the bush. Nature walks; learn about the trees, shrubs, birds and little insects inhabiting the Mara grassland and how the Maasai make use of the flora for medical and ritual purposes. Birding, over 180 different birds have been spotted around the Camp. The keen beginner or the experienced birder will spend the early mornings and late afternoons in a remote area of the Camp with an experienced Maasai guide viewing sunbirds, herons or weavers. Community visits, visit the traditional Masai village, the local primary school or the busy Maasai market. Eco camp walks, we show you how we run an eco friendly luxury camp out in the bush with solar panels, non-power cold room, gas burners, zero waste sewage system and waste management.

ECO ASPECT

Karen Blixen Camp has been constructed to run in the most environmental conscious manner. We are committed to protect the fragile Mara ecosystem and to minimize our impact on the nearby environment. Karen Blixen Camp is fully powered by solar panel system providing 24 hours electricity in all guest tents. Gas is used for heating water for the outdoor showers and thus avoiding usage of firewood and charcoal, which contributes to the deforestation of Kenya's woodlands. All waste water is led through a zero-waste sewage system and mechanically and biologically purified. The recycled water is used for watering our bush garden. Organic waste is composted and non-degradable waste delivered back to private companies for further recycling.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

We strongly believe that tourism has the capacity to protect a natural wildlife habitat, alleviate poverty and contribute positively to the local community. We abide by the Working Law of Kenya 2007, the Labour Organization's (ILO) declaration on rights to work and have endorsed the labour principles of the UN Global Compact. Furthermore we have entered the UN Public Private Partnership Program in conjunction with Danida, the Danish International Development Aid to build a Hospitality School. Furthermore the Camp supports the local

community through land lease payments, bed night fee and purchase of locally produced products. See more information in 'Eco Tourism at Karen Blixen Camp.'

MARA NORTH CONSERVANCY

Mara North Conservancy is a beautiful wilderness area of more than 30,000 Ha. The Conservancy is a not-for-profit public company established on the 1st of January 2009 as a partnership between 10 member camps and over 800 Masai landowners. The aim is to create a best-practice, world-class conservancy with long term commitments to the environment, wildlife and local communities. Our mission goals are: 1) Safeguarding the Masai Mara as a truly exclusive wildlife area. 2) Professional wildlife and land management. 3) Direct and transparent revenue distribution to the Masai landowners. 4) Promotion of strong eco-tourism practices and use of environmentally friendly technologies. 5) Controlled tourism and guaranteed low vehicle density for lower environmental impact and 6) Fundraising and endorsing corporate social investment for the betterment of the local communities.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH OF STAY

We recommend a stay for minimum 3 nights to ensure enough time to enjoy the beautiful wildlife.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Climate: The long rains generally start in mid April and last till mid June, whilst the short rains fall during the month of November. Even during these 'green' seasons it generally rains at night, with bright skies during the day.

Temperatures: The hottest months tend to be October, January and February, whilst July and August can be quite cold, particularly during the evening and night when a warm sweater or jacket is recommended. Temperatures range from 15-35 C.

Recommended equipment and attire: The Camp is informal and we recommend you to pack for comfort. Masai Mara is generally hot during the day, but can get quite chilly, especially in the early mornings, evenings and during the nights. Light clothing as shorts, t-shirts, dresses and sandals are comfortable during the day whereas a windbreaker, warm sweater, long trousers and proper walking shoes are advisable for the colder mornings and evenings. Please also remember to bring a hat or a cap, sunscreen, sunglasses, binoculars, camera, batteries and extra films as we situated in the bush with at least 5 hours by road from the nearest shopping center in Nairobi.

Malaria: The risk of malaria is not high but it is recommended, that you take the necessary precautions and consult your physician before travelling.

Conservation fees: All guests are kindly asked to purchase a conservancy ticket for 60 USD per person per day. The conservancy fee supports the lease payments to the Masai landowners and the professional wildlife management of the area.

Airstrip: Shikar, Musiara, Kichwa Tembo*

* Please contact our office for an update on which airstrip is in use.

CONTACT DETAILS

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+254 73 8413 916 • +254 7715 73036
Camp: +254 7730 63863

