



Safari in the Masai Mara

For many, a safari in the Masai Mara in Kenya is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The Mara, and the adjoining Serengeti National Park, is home to 40% of all the large mammals in Africa, including lions, elephants, giraffes, gazelles, zebras, leopards, cheetahs, hippos, wildebeest, warthogs, as well as many different birds. The animals, the vast expanse of the savanna, and the warmth of the Maasai people, make for an unforgettable trip. This [video](#) gives you a good sense of what it's like.

Saruni Basecamp

Founded in 1998 by Norwegian Svein Wilhelmsen, Basecamp Explorer, which recently merged with Saruni to make [Saruni Basecamp](#), takes responsible tourism to a new level by employing women, youth and the local Maasai people, securing land for the wildlife to flourish, supporting projects like reforestation and waste management, and building a tourism college to train the Maasai in the guiding and hospitality business. We are impressed with Saruni Basecamp as wildlife conservationists and for their empowering the local Maasai.

Estimated costs in US\$ (while in Kenya)
\$4,450 (per person, based on 2024 prices)
Includes 5 nights on safari, 3 nights at the Tamarind Tree Hotel in Nairobi, all transportation, tips for guides and staff, meals on safari and estimated meals and museum entry fees in Nairobi. Gifts and souvenirs are extra.

Roundtrip flights from Denver to Nairobi, for example, can start as low as \$1,200 per person.

Getting there

From North America, it's a long trip. There are a few nonstop flights from New York to

Nairobi, but most of us connected in Europe. For example, it's a 9.5 hour flight from Denver to Frankfurt, with an 8-hour time change, and another 9 hour flight from Frankfurt to Nairobi. Some of us broke up the trip in two parts by spending a couple of days in Germany before flying to Kenya.

A typical day

After a tasty breakfast, you'll get into one of the open-sided Land Cruisers and go for a morning safari, often seeing giraffes, gazelles, zebras and many other animals right away. Perhaps visit a local school or clinic, or plant trees. Eat lunch back at camp. Take a break before going out for an afternoon or evening safari, before coming back for another delicious dinner. The temperature in February is in the high 70s to mid 80s.

Vaccines

There are no required vaccines for Kenya, but we recommend you talk with your doctor or visit a travel clinic. A number of us had shots for Hepatitis B and Yellow Fever, and most everyone took malaria pills.

Passport / Electronic Travel Authorization

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months at time of entry. You must also have an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA, which replaced the Visa starting in 2024) to enter Kenya which can be purchased [online](#) for \$65 (approx) and printed on paper before you arrive into Nairobi.

More information

Here is a more detailed [FAQ](#) prepared by people who have recently experienced this safari firsthand. We're here to help. Let us know if you have any questions.

