

THE MARA RIDING SAFARI
WITH CLARE ARBUTHNOTT
8TH — 18TH MARCH 2024

Riding up close to elephant, lion and buffalo, or cantering with wildebeest and zebra is exhilarating and one of the ultimate wildlife experiences. If you are a rider, there is simply no better way to see Kenya than from the back of a well-schooled and fit horse. The ride will take you across the Masai Mara, accompanied by a traditional mobile tented safari camp with support vehicles and Land Rovers. This is the epitome of what a true 'safari' is all about. Game is plentiful in all the areas that we ride and your guide is highly knowledgeable and conversant with the habits and likely reactions of the wildlife.



Day 1 – 8th Mar

Fly to Nairobi International airport under own arrangements having discussed flights in advance

Upon arrival at Nairobi you will be picked up from the airport and driven to Hotel Tamarind Tree for your first night. Tamarind Tree is a comfortable hotel and provides an ideal base to recuperate after the long-haul flight.

Day 2 – 9th Mar – Nairobi – Masa Mara

Olare Lamun Camp – After breakfast you will be transferred to Wilson Airport for your Safari-link flight to Mara Naibosho. It is a beautiful flight passing over the fertile Kikuyu Highlands, and the volcano-studded landscape of the Great Rift Valley before reaching the Loita Hills and Naibosho Air strip. You will be met and then driven for about one hour to the camp in time for lunch. The camp is set amidst a grove of acacia trees, by a stream at the southern edge of the Loita Plains at Olare Lamun (the rhino salt lick). In the afternoon you will meet the horses and set out on an afternoon ride.

Day 3 – 10th Mar – Olare Lamun Camp

After an early morning ride you will return to camp for a light breakfast and then set out for a game drive and walk up Oloiburmut Hill returning to camp for a brunch/lunch. There will be time for a siesta and at around 4pm you will drive to visit a local Masai Village.

**Day 4 – 11th Mar – Olare Orok Camp**

This is your first moving day with a long ride but with the option to continue by vehicle in the afternoon. You ride across rolling open plains with the game generally becoming more plentiful as we approach the Mara National Park. You should see herds of zebra, topi, giraffe, wildebeest, gazelle and also a good chance of seeing elephant and buffalo. You reach camp on the edge of the Masai Game Reserve on the Olare Orok Lugga in the late afternoon. From camp you are likely to hear lion and hyena at night as well as an abundance of game.



Day 5 – 12th Mar – Olare Orok Camp

A full day of morning and evening rides from camp with the option of driving into the game park for some good photographic opportunities. From the Land Rovers we can get closer to lion, elephant and buffalo than from the horses.

Day 6 – 13th Mar - Escarpment Camp.

Your second moving day and you head west across the Mara plains before reaching the Mara River on the Park boundary. You will ford the river (unless it's in complete flood) at one of the famous wildebeest crossings and then head south-west across the Mara triangle for a picnic lunch. From here you ascend the Soit Olololo Escarpment to reach camp in a forest glade overlooking the whole Mara National Park.

**Day 7 – 14th Mar – Mara River Camp**

This morning you descend the escarpment and ride through the triangle once more to the river crossing heading to your final campsite set up on the banks of the Mara River. Close by there are hippo pools and their grunting at night is a special feature of this camp.

**Day 8 – 15th Mar – Mara River Camp**

A walk or game drive will be on offer after breakfast, providing another good opportunity to take close up photographs. There will also be morning and afternoon rides from the camp along the river.

Day 9 – 16th Mar – Deloraine

You will have a last morning ride before saying goodbye to your horses. After breakfast you will game drive to the airstrip in time to catch the plane for a 35 minute flight to Deloraine Airstrip. On arrival we will be driven to Deloraine where we shall be spending the last 2 nights.

Deloraine House is located on the western edge of the Great Rift Valley, on the lower slopes of Mount Londiani. The house features large bedrooms, all with en-suite bathrooms, a grand drawing room and spacious verandas overlooking the beautiful gardens. The house offers a wide range of riding and polo with some lovely walks and quiet time beside the large cool swimming pool.



Deloraine is the permanent home to the 80 horses which are used for the riding safari and staying here is a charming way to see the horses at rest and hear about the breeding programme.

Day 10 – 17th Mar – Deloraine

Today is a relaxed day to enjoy all that is on offer at Deloraine.

Day 11 – 18th Mar – Deloraine – Nairobi

After a leisurely morning and your final lunch at Deloraine we shall depart by vehicle and drive back to Nairobi. The journey is 3.5 hours with a stop en route.

Arrive Nairobi International Airport

Depart Nairobi (under own arrangements)

If you would like to spend some time in Nairobi or explore the coast this can also be arranged.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Climate

The weather in the Masai Mara apart from the months of April/May and November, which is the rain season, is fantastic for wildlife viewing year round. The riding is at an average of 5,500 ft, which makes for warm days (25c) and cool nights (11c) and very few mosquitoes. The abundance of animals can be seen all year round.

Accommodation

The mobile tented camp includes a dining room, mess tent and spacious 9ft x 10ft sleeping tents with camp beds, mattresses, sheets and blankets. Towels, soap and torches are provided. There is a solar lamp in each tent with hurricane lamps outside at night time. There is a long drop loo for every tent and hot safari bucket showers.

Food

All the food is fresh, made in camp and starts with an English breakfast, light lunches with an abundance of salads, vegetable and fresh produce and a 3 course dinner all normally served in the open air. There will also often be picnics. Bread is baked daily on open fires and the chefs are extremely good. All house wines, beers and spirits (not including champagne) are included.

Dietary requirements need to be notified at the time of booking.



Riding and Ability

The riding is in big game country, on open plains interspersed with bush. The short grass plains are ideal for riding (although you must look out for holes). You will ride for 4 – 7 hours per day with 1 ½ - 2 hour lunch stops and on the longest moving day we stop for breakfast en route. Leading horses on foot is sometimes necessary over rough terrain.

In order to enjoy the safari and for the safety of all the riders and horses, guests should be able riders and comfortable in the saddle at a walk, trot and canter. You should be balanced with an independent seat and physically fit enough to ride between 4 and 7 hours a day. There is a strict maximum weight limit of 15 stone/95kg due to the horses not being very big and the distances covered.

On booking there is a riding experience form which has to be filled out with your age, weight and height so that the appropriate horse can be matched to you.

All the horses are based at Deloraine House and are boxed to camp ahead of the guests. The horses are either thoroughbred or thoroughbred cross and have excellent stamina. They are well schooled, responsive and incredibly fit.

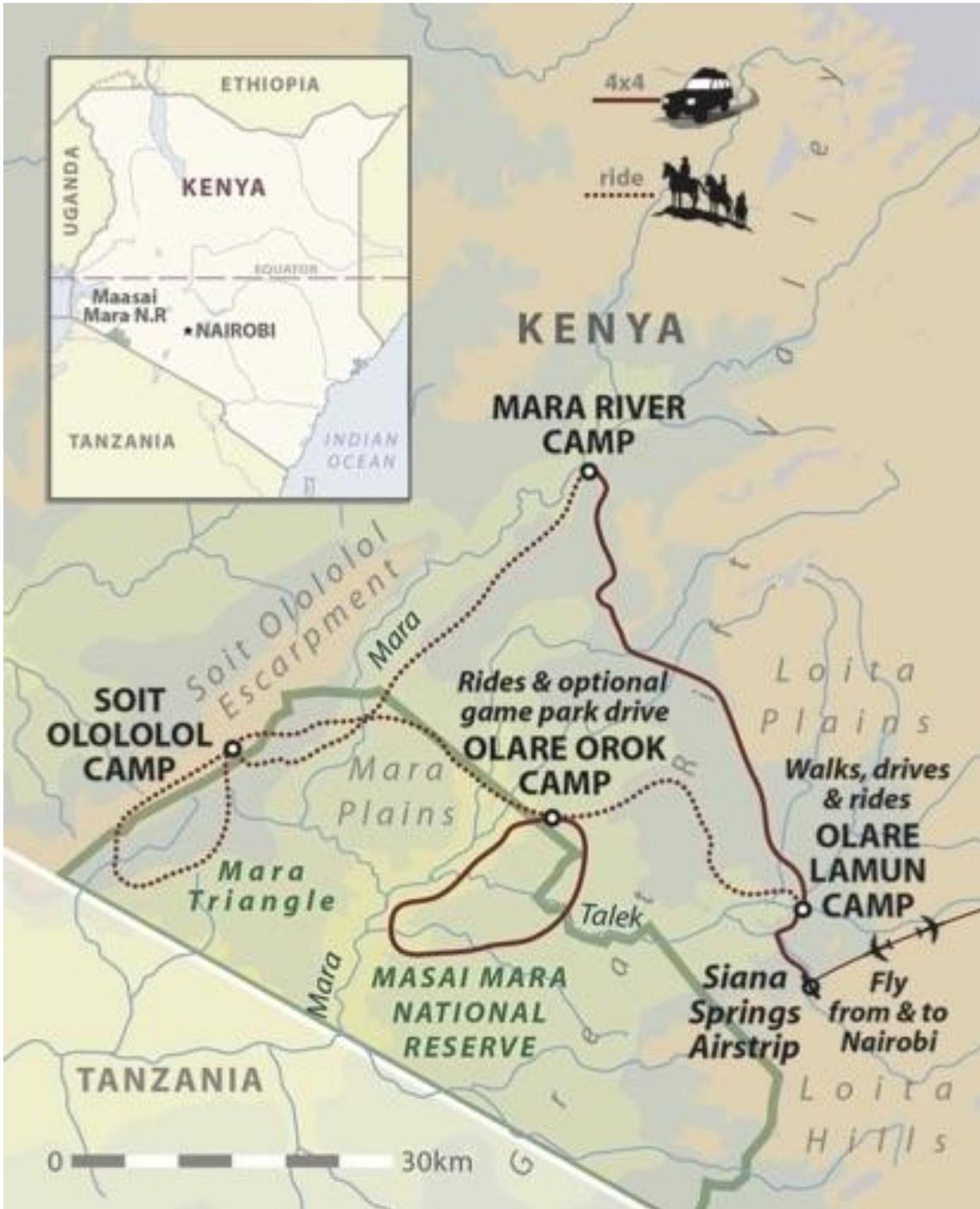
The tack is English General Purpose Wintec saddle and leather saddles. Seat savers are available. Snaffle Bridles are mainly used.

Non riders

There is the opportunity for non-riders to join. The holiday is catered very well for anyone who would rather not ride and there is an excellent team of guides and spotters who take them out by vehicle, meeting up with the rest of the group for meals, picnics and sundowners. All the guests enjoy game drives, night drives and walking. This is also applicable if the riders want to have a morning or afternoon off and a break from the saddle every so often.



Location



Holiday Cost

\$12990 per person based on twin occupancy.

Including:

Accommodation at Tamarind Tree Hotel – 1 night

Mobile Tented Safari – Masai Mara – 7 nights

Accommodation at Deloraine House – 2 nights

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

All drinks (except champagne)

Activities – horse riding, game drives, safari expeditions

Laundry

All Transfers

Internal Flights

Nairobi – Masai Mara

Masai Mara – Deloraine

AMREF– Flying Doctors

If you would prefer a single room please enquire about price and this will be subject to availability.

Not included:

International Flights

Personal Travel Insurance

Tips

If you would like to pay in pounds sterling, this can be arranged.

The holiday is operated for a minimum of 8 people and a maximum of 14 people. In order to book our booking form will need to be filled out and returned to us along with payment of a 20% deposit.