

## Masai Mara (9 days, 8 nights)



The Masai Mara doesn't need much of an introduction given its worldwide fame: next to the Serengeti in Tanzania it is unrivalled as the most famous game reserve in the world, as far as quantity and quality of wildlife experiences is concerned.

Ingrid Vekemans, your tour leader and professional nature photographer, has been travelling to Africa every year for more than 30 years now, and has lost her heart on the continent. She feels at home there and looks forward to sharing her knowledge and passion with the group.

This trip takes place in the high season for a reason. The month of January lies in between the two rainy seasons in the Masai Mara. It will be mostly dry (although it is becoming more and more difficult to make predictions about the weather), but green, and with a chance of a few thunderstorms that could create some dramatic cloudy skies.

During this trip we will be staying in comfortable tented camps in the middle of nature. This way you can enjoy the setting and relax before and after the intense game drives.

The trip is aimed at people who love nature and wildlife, and who love photographing it (of course partners are also welcome!). Unlike normal group tours, we will be looking especially for photographic opportunities and will take whatever time is required if the situation is interesting from a photographer's point of view. The group is small, which enables a personal approach and provides enough space in the vehicle for the photographic equipment - we will be using 8-seater 4x4 vehicles for a maximum of four people per vehicle. Hence two vehicles will be our transport, and Ingrid will split her time evenly between them.

Besides photographing together, and immediate advice and tips, on the no-travel days you can expect more time with Ingrid. On these days there will be dedicated 'feedback' sessions after lunch, where a selection of photos from each participant can be discussed.

A typical day starts early, so we can make optimal use of the first, soft morning light. This often results in the most memorable photographs. Also, this is the time of the day where most animal activity can be seen. Most days we will be taking a packed breakfast, which we can enjoy enroute in a scenic area. In the late morning and early afternoon, when the temperature rises, you will be at the camp, relaxing, and/or photographing, and/or viewing photos, selecting photos for the feedback session. Late afternoon we will set off again to take photos until the light disappears. (Please note that it is obviously not obligatory to participate in all game drives – often good photo opportunities exist within the camps themselves). There is time to freshen up before dinner after which you can linger to discuss the events of the day, or you may prefer the peace and quiet of your room or tent. After all, tomorrow will undoubtedly be another exciting day!

## THIS SAFARI IS OPERATED BY



## Day 1

The participants arrive in Nairobi in the evening, where they will be picked up at the airport and taken to their hotel. Here they will receive a short briefing about the course of the following day, after which everyone can take to their room for a refreshing night's sleep.

## Day 2

After breakfast we will be picked up to take a domestic flight into the heart of the Masai Mara. Upon arrival in the Masai Mara we will meet our drivers, and the safari can begin! They will take us to our first tented camp, located very centrally in the Mara, and our home for the following 4 nights.

Late afternoon we set off for a game drive again after which we can freshen up before dinner. Afterwards we can discuss the events of the day, or you may choose to go to bed early to enjoy Africa's nighttime sounds before falling into a deep sleep.

## Day 3-4-5

Further exploration of the central Masai Mara around the Mara River.

Normally we should see elephants, buffalos, lions, zebras, impalas and other antelopes. There is also a big chance of seeing cheetahs and hyenas. With a bit of luck, we can see the elusive leopard as well as some smaller predators like the jackal, the bat-eared fox, the serval and the caracal. After every lunch during these days, there is the possibility to discuss a few photos with Ingrid.



## Day 6

We will leave with our packed breakfast and all our luggage and - whilst photographing - we will move to our next camp, that is in a more eastern location in the Masai Mara. After lunch we can check in and have a rest or download photos, after which we will get ready to explore this part of the Masai Mara.



## Day 7-8

Further exploration of the eastern Mara region with morning and afternoon game drives. On both days, there is the possibility of photo discussions after lunch.

## Day 9

We will have an early breakfast in the camp and will leave with all our luggage towards Nairobi. On the way back, we will stop somewhere for our final lunch together, after which we continue to the international airport of Nairobi.

Unfortunately, our group trip has come to an end. From here participants can take a flight home. Another possibility is to spend one or more extra nights in Nairobi or at the tropical Mombasa coast with its blue water and white beaches, before flying home totally rested and refreshed.

**ATTENTION: a change to the above travel schedule is always possible, if the circumstances dictate.**



## **PRACTICALITIES**

### **TUI**

The safari is organised by TUI tours, part of TUI Belgium n.v. The TUI group is the largest tourism group in the world.

You can apply online for your reservation or for a non-binding price quote with the TUI Belgium n.v. headquarters. To this end you can use the 'PRICE INQUIRY' button on top of the page of this respective trip on the website [www.ingridvekemans.com](http://www.ingridvekemans.com).

The invoice and booking terms and conditions will be sent to you by TUI Belgium n.v.. TUI Belgium n.v.'s general and special conditions are applicable in so far as they do not deviate from the below mentioned terms. You can find all information on <https://www.tui.be/nl/reisvoorwaarden>. In case of cancellation by the traveller - special cancellation conditions: In case of advance payment of accommodation or other services the cancellation costs can be as high as 100% relatively long before departure. This amount must be increased with the compensation charged by the airline and the administration costs in accordance with the time of cancellation.

The **price** of the trip is 6490€ and is based on sharing a double or twin room. The supplement for a single room will be 950€. An advance of 500€ per person will be requested at the time of reservation of the trip, and as soon as departure is guaranteed, a second advance of 1200€ per person will be asked. All prices mentioned on this website are subject to change in case of increase of local taxes or park income fees, and fuel increases.

**Safari Period:** 29 January 'til 6 February 2027

**The price is inclusive of** airport transfers, the domestic flight from Nairobi to the Masai Mara, accommodation in comfortable hotels and tented camps (8 nights), all meals, transport by 4x4 vehicles throughout, bottled water in the vehicles, drinks (except spirits) in the second camp in the Masai Mara, game drives (two per day unless on travel days), Flying Doctors service, experienced drivers/guides, park entry fees and community fees for the Masai Mara, guiding and advice about the animals and how to photograph them, photo analyses and an experienced and passionate tour leader!

**The price excludes** the international flight and related taxes, eTA for Kenya, passport costs, travel insurance, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages (except for the second camp in the Masai Mara where they are included), tips, personal expenses, optional balloon flight in the Masai Mara.

**Minimum number of participants:** minimum 5 (maximum 7) participants

**Minimum age for participants:** 16

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As soon as the minimum number of participants is reached, you will be contacted by TUI. TUI will then make you flight proposals for the **international flights**. You can then choose whether to book your flight through TUI or to take care of your international flights yourself. The international flights can be booked at the earliest from 1 February 2025.

**Insurance:** It is strongly recommended for every participant to have cancellation and travel insurance.

**Force majeure:** The photo safaris are normally accompanied by Ingrid Vekemans. Only if Ingrid Vekemans would be prevented through force majeure an alternative - equivalent replacement will be sought in view of a good execution of the travel contract.

**Luggage restrictions:** To be sure to have enough freedom to move around the vehicle on travel days, maximum one soft travel bag (dimensions maximum h 40cm x d 40cm x l 80cm) per person is allowed as well as the camera bag. Only if every participant sticks to this restriction, the trip will be comfortable for all. The maximum allowed weight of your luggage will depend on the airline with which you book your flight.

### **Requirements for the participants:**

Beginners, as well as more experienced photographers (and their partners) are welcome to join this trip. To get the most out of the photographic opportunities, it is however advised that you know the basics of photography (regarding ISO/shutter speed/aperture and light metering), such as you might learn in a basic digital photography or a wildlife photography workshop. The trip is physically not very demanding because we will always be photographing out of a vehicle. The game drives, however, will start very early in the morning and can last a long time depending on what we see. Participants therefore must be in good health. It can be surprisingly cold in the mornings, so make sure to pack enough warm clothing!

Participants must take care of any necessary **vaccinations and medications**. For more information, check <https://www.wanda.be/en>. The information on this website needs to be evaluated by the participant in consultation with a qualified physician. Participants must make sure they have a **valid international passport (valid at least another 6 months after the date of return) and an eTA** for Kenya. The latter must be requested online a few weeks before departure, but you will receive instructions on how to do this at the time. Ask the Kenyan embassy in your country for more information. For the last update: see <http://diplomatie.belgium.be>.

**Finally**, respect for nature and the animals is a must!

Participants have to be aware that Africa sometimes requires patience and understanding: roads can be bumpy and things may not work as efficiently as at home. The pace of life is slower, which should ultimately benefit us all...

