



Karen Blixen  Camp

The Karen Blixen Camp



The Karen Blixen Camp offers an authentic 'yesteryear' experience for visitors wishing to gain that little extra from their safari.

In the Camp one can obtain a sense of the exiting explorer days when such areas were seldom visited, and elaborate and comfortable camps were set up providing a luxurious and stylish retreat after each day's adventure.

Most of the Camp furniture has been specifically designed for Karen Blixen Camp to fit in with this atmosphere.

Karen Blixen Camp is the perfect place to sit back and relax with a gin and tonic overlooking the river whilst exchanging stories about the adventures of the day.



Karibu Kenya!

To get the very best experience from a safari; the location and choice of one's accommodation is very important. That is why we have established Karen Blixen Camp. Below is an outline of the advantages of visiting Karen Blixen Camp, and on the next pages we offer you an armchair trip to the uniqueness of our Camp and the greatness of the Masai Mara Plains.

- The Camp is set on the banks of the Mara River with an undisturbed view to the impressive Oloololo Escarpment in the front. Throughout the day elephants, giraffes, buffalo, zebras and impalas come for a drink, while crocodiles and a large resident hippo pod rest lazily in the river. Even lions and leopards occasionally come to this favored drinking spot. – It happens from time to time that one can spot four of the Big Five directly from the Camp!
- Exclusively located in the Great Plains and Masai Mara North Conservancy, a privately owned conservancy of 32,000 Ha, the area offers a more exclusive safari experiences with less safari vehicles than in any other part of Masai Mara.
- Great nature and game walks directly from the Camp with highly experienced Masai guides.
- Maximum 6 clients per game drive vehicle (all in individual seats).
- More than 180 different bird species have been spotted on the Camp's premises.
- Luxurious large en-suite tents built on beautiful mahogany platforms.
- Personal care and wellness treatments are provided by experienced masseuse.
- A feel of the 1920's and the Great Era of Karen Blixen – the Vintage Africa.
- The Camp is open all year.

The heart of East Africa



Kenya is the heart of East Africa; it is located right on the Equator and is approximately the size of Texas. The population is of 34 million people with the highest density around the Great Rift Valley, Lake Victoria, the coastline and of course in the vibrant capital of Nairobi.

Kenya is a democratic country and gained its independence in 1963. Today the country has the fourth strongest economy in Africa, coffee production, flower exports and tourism being the main contributors.

Kenya is known for its colourful people, great athletes, the largest wildlife population anywhere seen in Africa and Karen Blixen, the author who wrote the beloved novel 'Out of Africa'.





The tents

The Camp comprises of 22 large tents set on large mahogany platforms – each with a spacious veranda complete with a cushion daybed from which one can enjoy an afternoon siesta or simply relax taking in the wonderful surroundings.

Tents can be configured for either double or twin occupancy, with prior arrangement a 3rd and even 4th bed can be added for children below the age of 12 years. Each tent is en-suite and has a bathroom with flush toilet, twin wash hand basins and an outside shower with looks to the sky. The water is heated up by gas burners to avoid any use of firewood and thus conserving the Mara Woodlands. Electricity is provided in all tents 24 hours by extended solar panel system and battery storing bank.

All tents have solid, comfortable furniture giving you the ultimate in camping luxury. 19 tents are placed along the riverbank, whilst 3 tents are on raised platforms offering incredible views of the surrounding area. Our family unit comprises of two tents with a shared veranda and located along the river.







The lounge and restaurant

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 cosy retreat for the weary traveller 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.

Karen Blixen was passionate about cooking and found her inspiration in the French, English, Italian and Danish kitchen. Through historical books we have found many of her original recipes and dining at the Camp brings back the days of the early 1920-30's. The Prince of Wales Dinner Menu, Masai Partridge, Mombasa Turbot and Savarin Cake, are served under the light of kerosene lamps. Roasted leg of lamb and

red cabbage, as it was made onboard the Lunatic Line, captures the taste of these long gone colonial days. Modern day's love for cosmopolitan food with clear notes from the Far East, India or Africa's own traditional cooking is also served at our table alongside a comprehensive selection of the continents finest wines. We accommodate a very international clientele and one should feel safe that menus will always reflect a variety of choices. Succulent beef or lamb, grilled fish or lavishly vegetarian dishes is made of the very finest locally produced ingredients. Our meat comes from the ranches around Mount Kenya and selected by our butcher in Nairobi, fruits are grown at the coastal areas and vegetables come from the Kenyan highlands or our own vegetable garden.

Guests are able to enjoy their meals in the restaurant or garden. If one wishes to venture a little further we arrange the most amazingly set bush breakfast, lunch or dinner at carefully selected areas, offering guests the most spectacular view of the savannah.





Karen Blixen Treatments

Personal care and wellness
treatments are provided by
experienced masseuse







Karen Blixen treatments

We have a resident masseuse for those who wish to enjoy a massage or beauty treatment. All treatments are carried out in the privacy of your tent.

These services can also be pre-booked and included in your package.

Please contact our reservation manager at reservation@karenblixencamp.com for rates and special treatment packages.

Our beautiful laid swimming pool with sun-beds and umbrellas offers relaxation or even a little exercise in-between game drives.





The Area

The location of Karen Blixen Camp
allows guests to experience wildlife
from a prime position







Great Plains and Masai Mara North Conservancy

Masai Mara is world famed for the migration, where over 1½ million wildebeests and zebras cross the river between the Serengeti and Masai Mara savannah in search for water and greener pastures. 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.

Our private conservancy area, was until December 2008, known as Koyaiki and Lemek Conservation Area. In order to protect the fragile Mara Ecosystem over 800 Masai land-owners decided to lease their land to the Masai Mara North Conservancy and Great Plains Conservation. MMNC is owned by 12 camps and lodges located in the area while Great Plains is managed by the founder of Wilderness Safari.

The primary objectives shared between the two companies are:

- Professional management of the wildlife area.
- Conservation of the Mara Ecosystem for generations to come.
- Protection of wildlife against poachers.
- Transparent conservation fee system with just distribution of funds to Maasai landlords.
- Fundraising for community projects supporting the local Masai people.

**www.masaimaranorthconservancy.com and
www.greatplainsconservation.com**



Activities





Game walks

Game walks are serious matters because you will be walking right in middle of the big game land. You are able to come close to the plain game as giraffes, zebras, impalas or Thomson's gazelles, but we will for security reasons avoid any contact with elephants, buffalos or big cats. Our game walks are either arranged at the plains of the Masai Mara North Conservancy or at Oloisuk, our own exclusive concession area – to get there one need to cross the Mara River in a small boat. All walks are accompanied by our knowledgeable and experienced Masai ranger (armed) and guides and are arranged according to your endurance.

Nature walks

On nature walks you come close to the fauna and flora of the Mara grassland. Our Masai guides takes you for a walk in our bush garden explaining about trees, shrubs, birds and the little insects inhabiting the area. Since we stay in the vicinity of the Camp children are more than welcome to join.

**Balloon Safari**

Seeing the savannah from above while gliding quietly with the wind is an experience for life. Karen Blixen Camp works closely together with the most experienced operator in the market and arrange daily early morning balloon safari with champagne bush breakfast.

Community visits

Cultural activities and visits to the Masai community, Manyatta (village), school, market and church gives the interested guest a closer understanding of the proud people living in the Masai Mara. On a community trip you are accompanied by a Masai guide who explains about the Masai social structure, religion and culture. Female guests are also welcome to meet the Masai women and learn about their way of life and how to make their beautiful Masai jewellery. All fees for community visits go directly to the Masai people or to social projects within the area.

Family activities

Children can learn how to shoot a “zebra” using a Masai bow and arrow or learn how to track the Camps nightly visitors using the footprints and droppings. A specially trained Masai guide teaches the children about the life of a Masai warrior.

Eco awareness tour

Our eco awareness tour takes you behind the scene and shows what it takes to run a luxurious environmental friendly Camp out in the bush: from how solar panels operates, the principle of a non-power cold room, to the sewed system with zero waste water.



General Information





The three "Cs"

Conservation, Community & Compact. Karen Blixen Camp is an eco awareness camp and has been constructed to run in the most environmentally conscious manner.

We take care of the environment and make sure our impact is minimized. All electricity is powered through our extended solar panel system and gas is being used for cooking food and for heating up water for the showers. By these measurements we avoid any excessive use of diesel or burning of firewood. Waste water is led through our sewed system, mechanical and biological purified, ensuring zero impact of the nearby Mara River. Furthermore strict waste management system takes care of all waste production. Organic refuse is composted and bottle, plastic or other non-organic is being recycled. All precaution is taken to protect the beautiful environment of Masai Mara of which wildlife and people rely on.

Karen Blixen Camp supports the local Masai community through various initiatives and is currently responsible for providing better health care facilities for a Masai village in

conjunction with a local NGO and Danida, Danish International Development Assistance. The Camp is also leasing more than 700 Ha of land for conservation purposes and has begun the plantation of more than 20,000 trees.

Furthermore the Karen Blixen Trust Fund has been established with the aim of supporting the local community through private donations. Focus for the Trust is education, health and job opportunities.

Karen Blixen Camp is a member of Eco Tourism Kenya and UN Global Compact.

Please read more about our responsible tourism on our website.

The climate

The hottest months tend to be October, January and February, whilst July and August can be quite cold – particularly during the late evening and at night. Temperatures range from 15-35° C/59-95° F.

It is impossible to forecast the weather in the Masai Mara and one should never believe in any guide book talking of dry seasons and rainy seasons. Drought as well as rain can happen any time of the year. Yet there are some general patterns which are described below

Season	The savannah and the game
December to January	The savannah is green and lots of new born gazelles make an easy prey for the big cats.
February to mid April	The savannah is drying up and thousands of wildebeests are born daily in the month of February. It is a favored period of the big cats.
Mid April to mid June	The green season or the long rain season. The rain brings life to the savannah with an abundance of game seeking the area for grazing. Especially the Loita Hills migration makes game drives fantastic since thousands and thousands of wildebeests and zebras come to the area. Hefty rains with thunder usually occur in the late afternoon or late at night.
Mid June to mid July	The grass is growing longer and longer as if the plain prepares itself for the wildebeest migration. It is stunning scenery with amazing game viewing.
Mid July to November	The Grand Migration! Over 1 million of wildebeests and zebras arrive from the plains of Serengeti to the Masai Mara in search of greener pastures. If you wish to see this bunch cross the river now is season to come to Mara.
November	The short rain season The grass is very short and the wildlife very easy to spot. Wildebeests that have chosen to stick around and wait for the return to Serengeti can be seen together with a lot of new born gazelles.

**Recommended equipment and attire**

The Camp is informal so we recommend you pack for comfort. Hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, binoculars, camera & extra film/memory cards, sandals and (closed) walking shoes are essential. Since the Mara can get cold in the early mornings, late evenings and at night we recommend you to bring warm jacket, fleece or sweater. A light waterproof jacket is also advisable.

Malaria

The risk of malaria is not high but we recommend you take the necessary precautions and consult your physician before travelling.

Conservation Fee

Great Plains & Masai Mara North Conservancy receives a conservation fee for every guest in Karen Blixen Camp, which amounts to USD 50 per day (as per April 2009).

Airstrip

We use Kitchwa Tembo Airstrip or Shikar Airstrip (Please always seek advice from our booking office for any updates).

Contact

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Fax +254 20 88 38 99
Email info@karenblixencamp.com
Email reservation@karenblixencamp.com



Facts box

Number of Tents	22	Swimming Pool	Yes
Children	Allowed	Massage	Yes
Triples and Quads	Possible	Private bars	Yes
Minimum Stay	2 nights	Telephone	Satellite phone
Activities	Day & night drives, nature and gamewalks, cultural visits	Internet access	Yes
Air-conditioning	No	Hairdryers	Yes
Room Fans	No	Suitable for disabled guests	Yes
Mosquito Proof Tents	Yes	Check-out	11am
Flush toilets	Yes	Power	240v AC
Bath	No	Private 4x4 vehicle	Subject to availability and at extra cost
Showers	Yes	Credit Cards	Visa/Master Card
Hot Water	Yes		

