

# Kicheche Bush Camp Fact sheet

Kicheche Bush camp consists of six stylish tents spread widely in light acacia woodland within Olare Orok Conservancy. The personal attention at camp and exclusivity of the conservancy offer a winning combination.

### LOCATION

Kicheche Bush Camp is located within the Olare Orok Conservancy (created from Koiyaki Group Ranch lands) bordering the Reserve. The Olare Orok Conservancy, through its strict limit on bed numbers, offers an incomparable gameviewing experience without crowds. The camp is located in a prime wildlife area and game viewing starts right from the camp itself. The location is also ideal to enjoy the wildebeest migration.

**GPS** 1°21'33.38"S 35°12'49.29"E

### Olare Orok Conservancy

is the first private Conservancy in the Masai Mara eco-system. The Conservancy not only offers outstanding wildlife viewing it also offers an uncrowded wilderness. There are 30,000 acres of rolling grassland, hills, escarpment and the Motorogie plains located immediately to the north of the Ol Kiombo area of the Reserve. Within Olare Orok there is great walking country and also the opportunity to overnight in a fly camp. The Conservancy is a ground breaking venture between the local Maasai landowners and only 3 small eco camps including Kicheche's Bush Camp.

### Access

**By air :** A scheduled one hour flight from Nairobi's Wilson Airport to Mara **Olare** airstrip. Flights depart at 0900, 1000, 1300 and 1500.

With Safarilink, Air Kenya or Fly540. Flights also available from Nanyuki, Naivasha and Mombasa.

The camp is a 40-minute game drive from the airstrip.

**Note : Luggage allowance 15kg per person only, in soft luggage bags. Excess luggage is charged at approx \$5 per kilo.**

**By road:** 5½ hours drive from Nairobi.

### FACILITIES

#### Guests tents

The camp is a classic, intimate, luxury bush camp with only six tents, completely unfenced. The custom designed tents are spacious, fully insect-proof and equipped with Podocarpus beds, Egyptian cotton linen, bedside tables, luggage racks and Indian rugs. Bathrooms are en-suite and are equipped with a dresser, safari bucket shower, a flushing toilet and a washbasin with running water. There are very comfortable chairs on the veranda of each tent where you can watch the world go by. One tent can be converted to a triple on request.

#### Lounge Tent

A large open sided dining tent, overlooking the plains also hosts a relaxing lounge area with a selection of reference books and a small curio shop.

#### Meals and Drinks

All meals and drinks are inclusive in your stay and taken al-fresco, beneath the shade of the acacia trees or underneath the stars or in our dining tent. We have a fully stocked bar with a range of wines. Drinks are included with the meals. Picnic breakfasts and lunches are also available on game driving excursions.

#### Laundry

Included in the rate is a daily laundry service. Please note this is a bush laundry that cannot cope with delicate items of clothing.

#### Power & Lighting

There is no mains power however each tent has its own 24 hour solar lighting system. Camera and Video batteries can also be charged on the central system in the dining tent. The inverter system is backed up with a generator.



## **Safety**

Safety is of paramount importance and therefore askaris (night-watchmen) patrol the camp at regular intervals after dark. Guests are advised to remain in their tent after dark, and will be escorted between their tent and the lounge/dining areas by a staff member. Each tent is equipped with a whistle to call for assistance in case of emergency and there is also a walkie-talkie in each guest tent that can be used from 6pm to 6am if guests wish to communicate with askaris or management. Each vehicle is equipped with a radio for communications with camp and the camp is in contact with the Nairobi office on a daily basis. Flying Doctors' medical evacuation planes can be called in the event of an emergency.

## **Children**

We accept children but adults must be aware that our camp is not fenced and no additional facilities are available to occupy them outside our normal excursions. No baby equipment is provided.

## **Souvenirs**

There is a camp souvenir shop with a selection of clothing, maps and miscellaneous items.

## **Tipping**

It is customary to tip your guide and camp staff however it is not compulsory and tips should only be given if you are satisfied with the service provided.

## **Payments at camp**

We accept credit card payments (AMEX, VISA and MASTER CARD) or cash (EURO, USD, GBP and Kenya Shilling). There is a safety deposit box at camp where all valuables can be kept.

## **PREPARATION**

### **Climate**

The long rains are from early April through to May, and the short rains in November. The coolest time of year is from Jun-Aug when temperatures are low in the morning hours.

Dry seasons offer more reliable road conditions though game viewing is excellent year round. Please bear in mind over the past few years the weather patterns in the Masai Mara, and Kenya in general, have changed and are somewhat unpredictable.

***Kicheche Bush Camp is closed in April, May & November.***

### **Clothing**

Generally speaking Kenya is cooler than most people expect for a region on the equator, this is due to the altitude (1500-2000 metres) over much of the area. Therefore it is advisable to have a warm jacket or jumper for cool mornings. During the day however it is usually quite warm.

Natural safari colours are recommended especially if you are game walking, they are also ideal to conceal the African dust! Good walking shoes/ boots will be useful if you intend to walk. A sun hat, sunglasses, lotion, lip balm and skin moisturiser are important to counteract the sun, wind and dry conditions.

### **Health**

Kenya is a malaria zone therefore guests should consult their doctor about prophylactic measures before travelling. Guests should also be covered by comprehensive travel insurance.

### **Photography**

It is highly recommended to bring a camera with a zoom lens of at least 200mm for wildlife shots. A bean bag or jumper is useful to rest your camera on for shooting in low light (tripods are too cumbersome for use in a vehicle). We have several locally made bean bags at the camp however, if you wish to come with your own it can be filled at camp. We recommended to bring your own film supplies as they are not available at the camp. Don't forget to bring a spare camera battery. Recharging facilities are available for digital cameras and videos (230V 50Hz). Another important item to bring is a pair of binoculars. It is worth buying a pair if you unable to borrow. Small compact binoculars are fine and handy to carry around however a larger (e.g. 7x50) pair will be superior in the low light conditions in the morning and evening when most game drives take place. Always ask permission before taking photographs of people.

### **Communications**

There is a variable mobile signal at camp however usage is restricted in the camp public areas and on game drives. There is an unreliable e-mail connection at camp [bushcamp@kicheche.com](mailto:bushcamp@kicheche.com) therefore all communications should be copied to the Nairobi office ([sales@kicheche.com](mailto:sales@kicheche.com)). In the event of an emergency the camp number is +254736699952 but is not a reliable connection; therefore we recommend you contact the Nairobi Duty mobile phones: +254 736 888 055 / +254 700 888 055. Kenya is GMT +3 hours and does not have summertime/daylight savings.

## ACTIVITIES

### Daily Routine

Guests are woken with tea, coffee or hot chocolate & biscuits brought to their tent. An early morning game drive sets off at sunrise and returns to the camp late morning. Breakfast is a leisurely affair taken outside in the morning sunlight. Lunch is also served al-fresco in the shade of an acacia tree. During the heat of the day, relax and appreciate the silence, punctuated only by birdcalls. Alternatively, utilise our reference library in the lounge tent, which has a good selection of books. An afternoon game drive departs around 16h00 after tea and returns after sundowners. Freshen up before joining other guests around the campfire for a pre-dinner drink. Dinner is served by candlelight al-fresco or in the dining tent. Take a nightcap by the fire before retiring. Rigid daily schedules are not on our agenda, there are no hard and fast rules at Kicheche so guests can decide on the duration and frequency of their drives but this is much easier if you have booked sole use of vehicle. Picnic breakfasts, lunches and sundowner drinks are popular options to include on game drives.

### Game Drives

Early morning and late afternoon are the most productive hours for game drives and our safari customised 4WD vehicles give everyone a perfect view. Watching wildlife at close range, but without encroaching on their space, is endlessly fascinating and our guides' instincts and experience provide superb photo opportunities of wild animals.

**Game driving** is available throughout the area and your program is arranged daily with your guide. Game viewing drives are conducted in open-sided and open roofed customised 4WD Land Cruiser vehicles. Game drives are shared with other guests though **exclusive use** of a vehicle is available at an extra charge. Our vehicles are superbly designed for photographers, all our fleet is open-sided with open roofs. Cameras can be rested on the roof, with supplied beanbags, or on the armrests lower down, to which we can mount simple platforms for larger lenses. For complete flexibility it is recommended that you take a vehicle on an exclusive use basis (\$320 per day supplement).

### Walking

A different perspective is gained through escorted walks on the savannah. Our interpretive guides may point out the spoor of a leopard, the nest of a rare bird or signs of recent migration activity that would pass unnoticed by the eyes of stranger. Walks are included in our tariff.

### Village visits

Guests can visit one of the local Maasai villages to see first hand their way of life. A village guide or your Kicheche guide will give you an interpretive talk during your visit. There is sometimes dancing and traditional souvenirs are on sale. There is a charge of \$15-\$20 per person.

### Aitong Primary

Kicheche's Community Trust supports the local school, medical clinic and Discovery Centre. During term time it is possible to pay a visit to the school – Aitong Primary Academy. Any educational gifts or donations that you can contribute are an enormous help to these struggling schools.

### Hot Air Ballooning

This is a popular excursion in the Masai Mara. Balloons take off early each morning at sunrise and glide over the plains for approximately an hour before landing. Upon touchdown a champagne breakfast is set up before you. The excursion finishes with a game drive back to camp. Trips can be booked through your tour operator or with the balloon operator.

### Fly Camping

Kicheche Camps offers escorted walking safaris with overnight stays in a fly-camp in the bush. These excursions are led by one of Kicheche's senior guides and an armed ranger. It is an outstanding opportunity to see the Mara from a completely different perspective and also offers some welcome exercise whilst on safari.

#### For further information, please contact:

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