

Activities offered when staying at these Saruni Basecamp properties:  
**Saruni Mara / Saruni Wild / Basecamp Mara Houses**

## MARA NORTH & LEMEK CONSERVANCIES

Each region of Kenya offers different surprises and delights. We've grouped the camps and lodges in the Saruni Basecamp by region (or geolocation); within each geolocation, some activities are available at all properties, while others are exclusive to specific properties (as indicated).

Mara North & Lemek Conservancies (Mara North & Lemek geolocation) features three properties: **Saruni Mara, Saruni Wild** and **Basecamp Mara Houses**. Many of the activities listed and described below are available at all of these camps, while some may be unique to specific properties (as indicated). Each day during your safari, your guide and the lodge/camp team will recommend activities based on your specific interests, and factors such as the season, weather, recent sightings, and any special occasions.

ACTIVITY / EXPERIENCE		Saruni Wild		Saruni Mara		Basecamp Mara Houses	
		Included	Payable extra	Included	Payable extra	Included	Payable extra
Game Drives (in open-sided vehicles) & Wildlife	Guided Shared Day Game Drives	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Guided Shared Night Game Drives	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Migration River Crossings/Masai Mara National Reserve Visits	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓
	Picnics, Bush Meals & Sundowners	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Birdwatching	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Drive atop Mount Kilileoni	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	OI Chorro Rhino Sanctuary Visit	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓
Walking / Hiking	Guided Bush Walking Safaris	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
Educational / Family / Cultural & Community Awareness	Tribal Storytelling Through Song & Dance / Fireside Chats	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
	Warriors Academy - Family Activity	✓	×	✓	×	×	×
	Young Explorers Club - Children's Activities	×	×	×	×	✓	×
	Local Weekly Market Visits (Thursdays only)	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
Eco / Sustainability	Seedballs Kenya Regreening Project	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓
Wellness	Complimentary Massage Treatments	✓	×	✓	×	×	×
	Additional Massages & Treatments	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓
	Swimming	×	×	×	×	✓	×
Specialist	The Library at Saruni Mara	×	×	✓	×	×	×
	Hot Air Balloon Safari	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓
	Traditional Ceremonies & Blessings	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓

## Game Drives & Wildlife

### Guided, Shared Day Game Drives (in open-sided vehicles)

Game drives are a safari staple, but there's nothing average about exploring the Mara North and Lemek Conservancies in a custom-built game viewer with a Maasai warrior as your guide. Their knowledge of their ancestral lands manifests itself as an almost uncanny ability to find wildlife, and then add extra enjoyment to your experience by sharing their knowledge about each species' unique behaviour. You'll also learn about conservation initiatives designed to preserve especially rare species and gain insights into the circle of life as you witness feeding, playing, and maybe even hunting, mating and births.

### Guided, Shared Night Game Drives (in open-sided vehicles)

Although they're not permitted in the Masai Mara National Reserve, guided night drives are certainly on offer in the Lemek and Mara North Conservancies. The savannah is a very different place at night: nocturnal species emerge, and much of the most dramatic action (including hunts) happens after the sun has set. Your guides will introduce you to the seldom-glimpsed nightlife of the Mara. Night game drives can be conducted as an extension of your afternoon game drive or as a separate activity after dinner – it's up to you.

## Migration River Crossings & Masai Mara National Reserve Visits

**The Great Wildebeest Migration** is one of the most incredible natural spectacles anywhere on the planet. Each year, over two million wildebeest, zebra and antelope move between the Mara and Serengeti in a ceaseless loop, driven by the need to find fresh grazing. While exact dates vary depending on rainfall and other factors, we expect to see the massed herds in the Mara from July to October. Simply seeing the sheer numbers of animals on the plains is an amazing experience, but there is also the option of witnessing a river crossing, when the migrating animals must run the gauntlet of the giant crocodiles in the Mara River.

**NB** Payable extra charges payable include the daily reserve entry fees (US\$100 pp during January – June; US\$200 pp during July – December) and exclusive use of an open-sided safari vehicle (US\$350 per day). Daily reserve fees for children are available on request.



# MARA NORTH & LEMEK CONSERVANCY ACTIVITIES

MASAI MARA, KENYA



### Picnics, Bush Meals & Sundowners (at a scenic spot)

Our guides know all the best spots to stop for anything from a cup of Kenyan coffee or tea to a full-blown bush dinner. You might enjoy a sundowner under an iconic lone acacia tree, a picnic lunch at a shady spot on the banks of the Mara River, or snacks in a secluded valley. It's a well-known safari truth that food and drink taste even better in the bush, and we'll make sure that you get to experience this for yourself during well-timed pauses in the safari action. A particular highlight is our daily selection of 'bitings' – delicious pre-dinner snacks.



### Birdwatching (with expert guide & field guide in the vehicle)

The Mara offers exceptional birdwatching action, with over 500 species having been recorded here, including seasonal migrants and almost 60 species of raptors. The variety of habitats means that in the course of a stay at one of our Mara North or Lemek Conservancy' properties, you could see species of birds that thrive in grasslands, wetlands, forests or mountains. The sheer diversity is remarkable, from vultures with immense wingspans to tiny finches. The beauty of birdwatching is you don't even have to leave the lodge/camp to add new species to your list – simply learn to look and listen. To get the most out of birdwatching in the Mara, we recommend bringing a good pair of binoculars with you.

### Drive atop Mount Kilileoni

Mount Kilileoni is a very special place – it's the single highest point in the entire Mara-Serengeti ecosystem, and offers spectacular views and unique wildlife-viewing opportunities. Despite its slightly otherworldly feel, Mount Kilileoni can be reached by vehicle as part of an extended game drive – we would recommend either a picnic excursion or an afternoon drive culminating in sundowners with vistas over plains and forests reaching as far as the Tanzanian border. Look out for rare high-altitude antelope species as well as grazing herds of buffalo and elephant – perhaps not what you might have expected on top of a mountain, but they're there!

### Oi Chorro Rhino Sanctuary Visit

By visiting the Oi Chorro Rhino Sanctuary, you're directly contributing to the ongoing success of a long-running white rhino conservation project. Located a 30-minute drive from our Mara North & Lemek properties, Oi Chorro offers you the opportunity to experience a guided walk towards the rhinos, in the company of an experienced ranger. Seeing rhinos on the slopes of a mountain is an unforgettable sight; knowing that you've helped ensure that future generations will also see them is a deeply rewarding realisation. You'll also be helping to secure the livelihoods of the local people who work at this heart-warming sanctuary.



# MARA NORTH & LEMEK CONSERVANCY ACTIVITIES

MASAI MARA, KENYA



## Walking/Hiking

### Guided Bush Walking Safaris

If a game drive is like watching the movie, then a bush walking safari – guided by a Maasai warrior who grew up in this area – is like reading the book the movie was based on. The sense of freedom is incredible, as is the opportunity to observe the smaller details of the Mara. Each plant and insect contribute to making this one of the most remarkable wilderness areas on the planet, and you'll benefit greatly from absorbing a blend of scientific fact and Maasai lore. Walks on the top of Mount Kilileoni are also an option. If a bush walking safari appeals to you, be sure to bring suitable footwear.

## Educational / Family / Cultural & Community Awareness

### Tribal Storytelling Through Song & Dance / Fireside Chats

Maasai culture is best expressed visually and acoustically – an authentic cultural performance will draw you in and leave you feeling mesmerised. On special occasions, you can gather around the fire as Maasai warriors enthral you with their performance, including their famously high standing jumps. The Maasai are justifiably proud of their identity, and although fiercely protective of it, they are happy to share it with visitors – you are welcome to take pictures and video. Indeed, you can also join in if you're unable to resist the allure of the rhythm! A Maasai cultural performance is certain to be a highlight of your time in Kenya.

### Warriors Academy – Family Activity

The ultimate family safari activity, our Warriors Academy programme is ideal for kids of all ages, and their parents. It can be designed to fit into a morning or an afternoon, or take up an entire day. This is a chance to not just learn about the traditional Samburu way of life, but to actually live it. Under the watchful eyes of a Maasai moran (warrior), trainee warriors will learn essential skills like how to light a fire, and how to find food and water in the wild. Our Warriors Academy programme adds extra nuance and meaning to your entire safari experience, and can be particularly eye-opening for kids. (Bookable in advance)

### Young Explorers Club – Children's Activities

As a family-oriented company, we have established the Young Explorers Club to ensure safaris in Masai Mara are more exciting for both parents and their children. We aim to teach children about the environment and nature while at the same time offering them an opportunity to have fun in and around the camp. From learning bush survival skills, shooting bows and arrows, beading lessons with local Maasai ladies, learning to track with the guides, to playing board games. If we have any budding young chefs, they are always welcome to get involved in the kitchen, baking cakes and bread! These activities will keep them entertained throughout their stay and you, as the parents, can enjoy some well-deserved downtime. (Bookable in advance)



**Local Weekly Market Visits (Thursdays only)**

*Available at Basecamp Mara Houses from 01 June 2024*

Aitong is an important regional centre for local Maasai people, and the Thursday market is an opportunity to see how tradition and change are both playing a role in the lives of our neighbours. Maasai herders have always measured their wealth in terms of cattle, and the cattle market is often a hive of activity as people buy, sell, and keep a close eye on prices. The Aitong market is a fascinating experience, and a great place to pick up authentic souvenirs in the shape of everyday household items and clothing that the Maasai themselves are also shopping for. Your guide will be able to interpret for you, so you can get into the spirit of the occasion. Photography and filming are permitted.

**Eco / Sustainability**

**Seedballs Kenya Regreening Project**

A seedball is a Kenyan solution to a problem that is affecting many parts of Africa, and when you buy a box of them for a small fee you're investing in something priceless: reforestation. So, what is a seedball? It's a native tree seedling encased in a charcoal crust and when you throw it into the bush, it will have the best possible chance of flourishing and doing all the wonderful things that trees do, like capturing carbon, releasing oxygen, providing shade and preventing erosion. Your Maasai guide can advise you on the best place to throw your seedball, and once it germinates, we'll keep you informed on its progress.

**Wellness**

**Complimentary Massage Treatments**

*Available at Saruni Mara (in the 'Maasai Wellbeing Space' and Saruni Wild (in the privacy of your tent).*

As you relax and unwind during your Kenyan safari experience, you might begin to notice the occasional ache and pain from stress that you've been carrying. Fortunately, our therapists have your back – quite literally! Enjoy a complimentary 30-minute back and neck massage to help you ease into your holiday. Our experienced therapists use a hands-on approach that incorporates elements of Maasai herbal wisdom to rejuvenate and reinvigorate tired muscles, and ensure that your body and mind can make the most of your time on safari. Additional treatments (payable extra) can also be arranged.

- 1 x 30-minute complimentary back & neck massage per room per stay at Saruni Mara & Saruni Wild
- 1 x 30-minute complimentary back & neck massage per house per stay at Basecamp Mara Houses (from 01 June 2024 onwards).

## Additional Massages

Available at Saruni Mara (in the 'Maasai Wellbeing Space'), Basecamp Mara Houses (in the 'Wellbeing Space') and Saruni Wild (in the privacy of your tent). Our Wellbeing Spaces are blissfully serene settings in which to indulge in treatments designed to help you relax and re-energise. Whether you feel tired or anxious, the hands-on approach of our therapists and their knowledge of traditional herbal treatments will soothe your muscles and calm your mind, leaving you able to focus on being present on your Kenyan safari holiday, and opening your eyes to the many benefits of reconnecting with Nature in an area of pristine wilderness. Relaxing massages are treatments are the perfect complement to your other safari activities, and can introduce a more meditative element to your holiday.

## Swimming

Available at Basecamp Mara Houses

A dip in the pool at Basecamp Mara Houses is the ideal way to cool off after a day on safari. Let the water wash away any dust and fatigue, and enjoy looking up at the vastness of the Kenyan sky. Let our team members bring you a refreshing drink, or relax on a lounge around the pool between dips. While the Mara is not nearly as dry as Samburu, water is still a precious commodity here – all of which makes the opportunity for a swim a moment of true luxury. The stillness and near-silence of the setting invite reflection as you relive highlights of your safari holiday, or daydream about the many wonders still to come.

## Specialist

### Hot Air Balloon Safari

Rising into the air at dawn is the finest way to begin the day. From a hot air balloon, you can look down on the rolling plains of the Mara, and the vast herds that call this region home. Drifting with the wind, you'll float above the trees, rivers and savannah that make up the mosaic of habitats that make up the Mara. The absence of an engine means you won't disturb the wildlife below as you enjoy an eagle's eye view of this remarkable wilderness in the most tranquil way possible. At the end of your flight, as you gently return to earth, you'll be greeted by breakfast to continue the celebratory feel of the experience. The hot air balloon safari experience concludes with a game drive back to camp.

### Traditional Ceremonies & Blessings

The vast landscapes of the Mara are sure to stir feelings of romance, and a traditional wedding here is a unique and unforgettable way to declare your love for each other. Plus, you'll already be in the perfect place to begin your honeymoon. Experience the beauty and majesty of the Mara in a whole new way as you declare your unending love for each other – a love as boundless as the views over the plains. We can organise an authentic Maasai blessing, with traditional singing and dancing in the presence of the community elders. We also include floral displays, a wedding cake, champagne and a private wedding dinner.