

COTTAR'S

SAFARIS

EST. 1919

ACTIVITIES

MAASAI MARA

UPDATED MARCH 2026

COTTAR'S EXPERIENCES & ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TIME PERIOD / DAY	COST
BALLOON RIDE OVER THE MAASAI MARA	The day begins with an early morning wakeup call at 3.30am with tea and coffee followed by a 4am departure to the launch site to enjoy a balloon safari over the Maasai Mara. The drive from camp to the balloon site takes about one and a half hours. At dawn you will board and take off, rising as the sun rises, floating in whichever direction the winds of the morning take you. The pilot controls the altitude of the balloon, sometimes flying at treetop height, sometimes lower. At other times he will ascend to one thousand feet or more to see the enormous and wonderful panorama of the Maasai Mara, offering a unique perspective and great photographic opportunities of the wildlife below. The flight will last about an hour and upon landing, you will enjoy a full english breakfast with a traditional champagne toast.	4am departure	US\$550 per adult \$435 per child 4 - 11 years (Children under 4 years not allowed)
COFFEE TASTING EXPERIENCE	Take your taste-buds on a journey through some of East Africa's best coffees. Spend an hour or so one afternoon with one of our delightful waiters as he brews strong Rwandan, Ethiopian and Kenyan coffee for you using the siphon brewing method. The siphon is a visually stunning brewing method that uses vacuum filtration to push extremely hot water through a bed of freshly ground coffee. Thanks to a paper filter and a relatively quick extraction time, this technique creates an uncommonly nuanced and delicate cup that mesmerizes the senses. Our coffee expert will take you through the history of coffee in East Africa, whilst comparing the different tastes and aromas. He will explain how different climates and processing methods result in very different coffees. It's a must-do tasting experience for any coffee lover!	45 minutes	Included
COTTAR'S FAMOUS TRADITIONAL CANVAS BUSH BATH	Go back in time to when a portable canvas bath was the way of the day. It's a pampering treat and a nod to the historical culture of safaris! Cottar's Safaris is the only camp to offer this quintessential experience, and we guarantee it will be one of your most memorable moments in Africa. At any time of year, or any time of day, these canvas baths can be set up for one, for a couple, or for a family.		Included
WILDLIFE DRIVES	Take the time whilst on a wildlife drive to learn about the key challenges and opportunities that the Maasai Mara presents. Ask questions of your guide and explore ways to further engage in sustainability. See the different terrains that the Mara has including savannahs, riverine and mountain ecosystems. Wildlife drives enable guests to cover more ground and to easily traverse through both our private Oldkeresi Conservancy and the Maasai Mara National Reserve.	This is up to each guest's preference, the timings are flexible and are to be arranged directly with your guide at camp.	Included
WILDERNESS RUN/ WALK WITH A MAASAI WARRIOR	Lower your carbon footprint and spend time learning more detailed, under-foot ecosystem functions. A walk is a wonderful way to look at the smaller critters, take an interest in the plant diversity and see the wild lands at a slower pace. For the more energetic travellers, morning or evening runs can be arranged with a local Maasai Warrior as your guide.	2-4 hours	Included

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GUIDED BUSH WALKS	Exploring the bush on foot is one the most exhilarating African safari experiences, however, only very few wildlife conservancies in Kenya will allow you to get out of your vehicle. We offer bush walks for all ages and fitness levels. These are escorted nature walks just outside our camp to explore the close-range micro-universe first-hand, with emphasis on the walking, culture and scenery. Our interpretive guides will point out the spoor of a leopard, the nest of a rare bird or signs of recent wildlife activity that would pass unnoticed by the eyes of a stranger and can be overseen on a game drive. A walk is a wonderful way to look at the smaller critters, take an interest in the plant diversity and see the wild lands at a slower pace. All walks are led by a professional guide accompanied by a licensed gun bearer.	2-4 hours	Included
POOL TIME	The 1920s Camp and the Bush Villa each have their own swimming pools for guests to enjoy as and when they wish.		Included
PHOTOSHOOT ON SAFARI EXPERIENCE	Our in-house photographer can be hired for either one hour, a half or full-day session or longer to capture moments of you/your friends/family whilst on your safari. The photographs will be shared with you in digital format before the end of your safari. OR pre-book our professional off-site Canon ambassador photographer, Georgina Goodwin, to support you in your photographic journey whilst on safari. A contribution of 20% of your payment will be invested in initiatives of the Cottar's Wildlife Conservation Trust.	Mornings and evenings are the best due to the light	Starting at \$300 per hour
SPA TREATMENTS	We have a number of treatments available at the Spa which is located near the main Mess Tent area. We only use organic ingredients and allow our guests to choose the ingredients to make their spa experience truly bespoke.		From \$60
STARGAZING EXPERIENCE	Learn western and African interpretations of the African night sky, and understand how the same view can elicit such illuminating and culturally different stories. The night skies of Kenya are phenomenal. Learn from our top guides about the stars seen from the African equator.	Thursday evening	Included
SWIMMING AND OR FISHING AT THE WATERFALL	A 45 minute drive away to the sand river with your guide where you may swim under the falls, dive off the rocks and do some hand-line fishing for cat-fish.		Included, seasonal

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ACTIVITIES THAT ENGAGE AND IMPACT

ACTIVITY	WHICH 4C DOES IT CONTRIBUTE TO?	COST	TIME PERIOD OR DAY	WHY DOES IT MATTER?
A CONSERVATION HELICOPTER FLIGHT WITH THE MARA ELEPHANT PROJECT (MEP) OVER THE MAASAI MARA	 CONSERVATION  COMMUNITY	All-inclusive donation of \$2 400 for 2 guests Requires 48 hours advance planning	Scenic day flights 1, 2, or 3 hours subject to availability. Airport transfers and balloon flight transfer also available (please ask our reservations team from more details)	The Mara Elephant Project (MEP) protects Elephants and their habitat across the greater Mara ecosystem. Striving for a stable elephant population coexisting peacefully with people across the Greater Mara Ecosystem (GME). With 10 years of experience using their MEP method of boots on the ground rangers and applied research, all while taking a collaborative approach has disrupted poaching in the region and combatted conflict and habitat loss. This donation amount is all inclusive and supports not just MEP's helicopter, but also the core efforts of the organisation. A once-in-a-lifetime exclusive safari with the Mara Elephant Project. Get a behind the scenes experience in the protection of the elephants to conserve the Greater Mara Ecosystem (GME). Meet the CEO Marc Goss and fly with him and track some elephants and see firsthand how MEP uses the helicopter to increase protection for wildlife in the GME. You may even stop at a remote ranger camp before heading to the MEP Campus in Lemek Conservancy. At MEP's Campus refreshments will be provided before a tour of the operational headquarters including meeting rangers, and an interactive presentation about all the work MEP does.
BEADING WITH MAMMA NAISHURU BATIAN	 CULTURE	1 strand, 1 hour = \$20 2 strand/or similar, 2 hours = \$30 Full day 2 inch bracelet or similar = \$50	30 minutes- Full day depending on bracelet size	Mamma Naishuru is a widowed grandmother and expert Masaai beader. Please join her for a one hour interactive and fun bead making session where she can show you how to make, help you make, or make for you, a personalized bracelet. Alternatively, join her for a longer period of time and have a more sophisticated piece developed over 2 hours or half a day. Mamma Naishuru lost her daughter 3 years ago and is the sole provider for her 2 granddaughters. All half day sessions with Mamma Naishuru will result in 50% of net sales going towards the upkeep of her granddaughters. Should guests wish to further support Mamma Naishuru and her granddaughters, please contact management for more details.
CARBON FOOTPRINT, RECYCLE AND UPCYCLE TALK AND EXPERIENCE	 CONSERVATION  COMMUNITY  COMMERCE	Included	1 hour	Contribute to lowering our overall carbon footprint as Cottar's 1920s aims to be carbon neutral by 2024. Join us for a behind the scenes tour of how our camp measures its carbon footprint and finds ways to minimize it through re/upcycling.
FORAGING AND MEDICINAL WALK	 CONSERVATION  CULTURE	Included	2 - 4 hours	Learn of the unique natural wild food sources in the Maasai Mara. Values biodiversity and cultural understanding. Walk with a guide and gather seasonal interesting ingredients that our chef will develop into a wonderful tasting experience.

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IMMERSIVE RAPTOR EXPERIENCE WITH KENYA BIRDS OF PREY TRUST (KBOPT).	 CONSERVATION  COMMUNITY  COMMERCE  CULTURE	\$780	Half day. Subject to availability and needs at least one weeks notice	Seven of Africa's 11 vulture species are on the edge of extinction, and poisoning is largely to blame. Vultures are often the unintended victims of poisoning incidents where humans place poison onto carcasses to kill carnivores such as lion and hyena. Poisoning is the primary cause of vulture mortality in the Mara, and we have witnessed unprecedented declines in these species over the last few decades. Someone from KBOPT will come to camp and do a presentation on all the vital work they do. Should there be a vulture or other bird being rehabilitated, the guests can visit it. Otherwise guests can go out for a game drive with KBOPT and learn more about how they are working to protect these keystone species and other raptors.
MAASAI WARRIOR SCHOOL	 COMMUNITY  COMMERCE  CULTURE	Included	1 hour	The Maasai Warrior School showcases cultural and work skills a Maasai warrior needs in his daily life. Skills that are passed on from one generation to the next. Join our Maasai team and learn the skills of a Maasai Warrior. An age dependent engagement. For younger children the Maasai Warrior School includes fire making, spear throwing, bow and arrow practice, Maasai jumping, dancing and singing, and tracking. For grown-ups, it can be the same activities, or sit down and learn the roles and responsibilities of the Maasai community through their various age-groups.
MARA CHEETAH EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE	 CONSERVATION	Lecture and Safari donation (1-4 guests): 1,200\$ 5 guests: 1,350\$ 6 guests: 1,500\$ 8 guests: 1,800\$ 9-10 guests: 2,100\$	Half day. Subject to availability and needs at least one weeks notice.	An ongoing and age-old conflict between the Maasai people and predators has resulted in cheetah numbers being significantly affected, resulting in a third population decline in the last two decades. The Mara Meru Cheetah Project provides science for conservation on cheetahs and lions as well as enhancing understanding on predators' role within the broader ecosystem. Guests can choose from a range of experiences from a one-hour talk on cheetah with our guides, to spending a half-day out in the field followed by a talk with the head of Mara Meru Cheetah Project, Dr. Elena V.Chelysheva.hD
ONE HOUR LEARNING WITH FEMALE CONSERVATION RANGERS	 COMMUNITY  COMMERCE  CULTURE	Included	Needs to be pre-arranged 2 hours prior	Support the only all female ranger unit in the Maasai Mara, and the important conservation, community and cultural initiatives that they work on. Join the first female ranger team in the Maasai Mara and understand their goals and key challenges. When appropriate, participate in their daily activities patrolling, de-snaring, wildlife counting and liaison with the Maasai community.

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REFORESTATION SEEDBALL DISPERSAL ACTIVITY	 CONSERVATION  COMMUNITY	First bag free, donations appreciated		From your wildlife drive vehicle or whilst out on a walk, test your arm and aim as you throw seedballs around that will eventually sprout when the rains come.
VISIT OUR LOCAL MAASAI VILLAGE	 CONSERVATION  CULTURE	\$30 per person	2 hours	Conservancy fees paid by guests are donated directly to Cottar's Wildlife Conservation Trust. CWCT uses these funds to lease the 7608-acre Olderkesi Conservancy from the Maasai community, who in turn use them for community and personal development. This is a unique conservation and community theory of change model for the Maasai Mara and for Africa, in that the community have decided to not subdivide the land; it remains as one plot set aside for conservation. Visit a Maasai village and experience their rich culture. This involves a trip to their Manyattas (mud huts), village setup (security, healthcare, education and management of resources such as meals, water, firewood), local market with wonderful Maasai artefacts/ attire for sale, their livestock, and much more. You will learn about ancient traditions as well as contemporary struggles and adaptations to modern life.
KIDS ENTOMOLOGY SAFARI	 CONSERVATION	Included.	Half day experience For children 5 years and older	We believe that children should be connected to the natural world's beautiful creatures – great and small, wild places, and local communities from an early age. Our mission is to involve the whole family in our conservation vision, and Cottar's Safaris is an exceptional place filled with wonderful people and experiences for children. Children, from 5 years and above, soon become immersed in this captivating outdoor classroom, where the guide and tracker become the teachers and learning about the importance of conservation is not only educational but great fun. Whether learning the art of patience, identifying animals, or becoming friends with a Maasai warrior, a safari with children is very special.

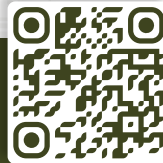
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COTTAR'S TALKS

TALK	DAY	COST
TALK ON THE HISTORY OF COTTARS	Monday evening	Included
TALK ON MAASAI CULTURE	Tuesday evening	Included
STARGAZING	Thursday evening	Included
TALK ON SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION	Friday evening	Included
TALK ON THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN TRAVEL	Sunday evening	Included
TALK ON PANGOLINS BY COTTARS	Wednesday evening	Included



PLANNING YOUR SAFARI? MESSAGE MARA ON WHATSAPP
Your 24/7 concierge for accommodation information, camp experiences, and travel inspiration.



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