

COTTAR'S

SAFARIS

EST. 1919

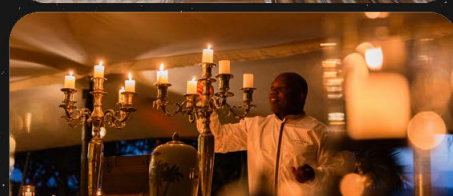




Located in the private **Olderkesi Conservancy** - a wildlife-rich conservancy leased from the **Maasai community** and set within the **Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem** - our multi-award-winning properties offer an **unrivalled, authentic luxury safari experience** in Kenya.

Managed by the fifth-generation Cottar family, with **over 100 years in Africa**, we embody the **perfect East African safari**. Our team endeavours to **excel in everything they do**, providing the highest standards of **professionally guided wildlife and wilderness adventures**.





COTTAR'S

1920s CAMP

EST. 1919



STEP BACK IN TIME

TO AN ERA BEAUTIFULLY REIMAGINED AT OUR AWARD-WINNING
TENTED CAMP, ROOTED IN CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY.

Cottar's 1920s Camp is set in the private Olderkesi Conservancy in the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem - far from the crowds, but not the herds. One of only twelve Global Ecosphere Retreats in the world, it is recognised for leading on conservation, community, culture and commerce.

Owned and run by Calvin and Louise Cottar - the fifth generation of the Cottar family in Africa - this multi-award-winning tented camp evokes the romance of a century-old safari tradition, without compromising on modern comfort.





Personally designed by Louise Cottar, each of the eleven tented suites blends the romance of the 1920s with quiet contemporary luxury - spacious verandas, elegant wooden floors, hand-picked vintage furnishings, and wallpapered en-suite bathrooms that bring the era vividly to life. Comprising five Luxury Tents, two Honeymoon Tents and four generous two-bedroom Family Tents, the camp is arranged to ensure that tents are private and quiet - whether for honeymooners or families with young children.

At the heart of the camp, the main Mess Tent and the Explorer's Tent form welcoming spaces for candlelit dinners, sundowners, quiet afternoons with a book, and long evenings of stories and conversation. The pool and Spa Tent offer a peaceful retreat between safaris - or, for something truly memorable, ask for a signature Cottar's canvas bush bath, drawn on your private veranda under the vast African sky.

Beyond the camp, authentic and expertly guided day and night wildlife drives, bush walks, and the full range of Cottar's Safaris' renowned impact activities await - each one designed to connect you more deeply with this extraordinary landscape and the people who call it home.

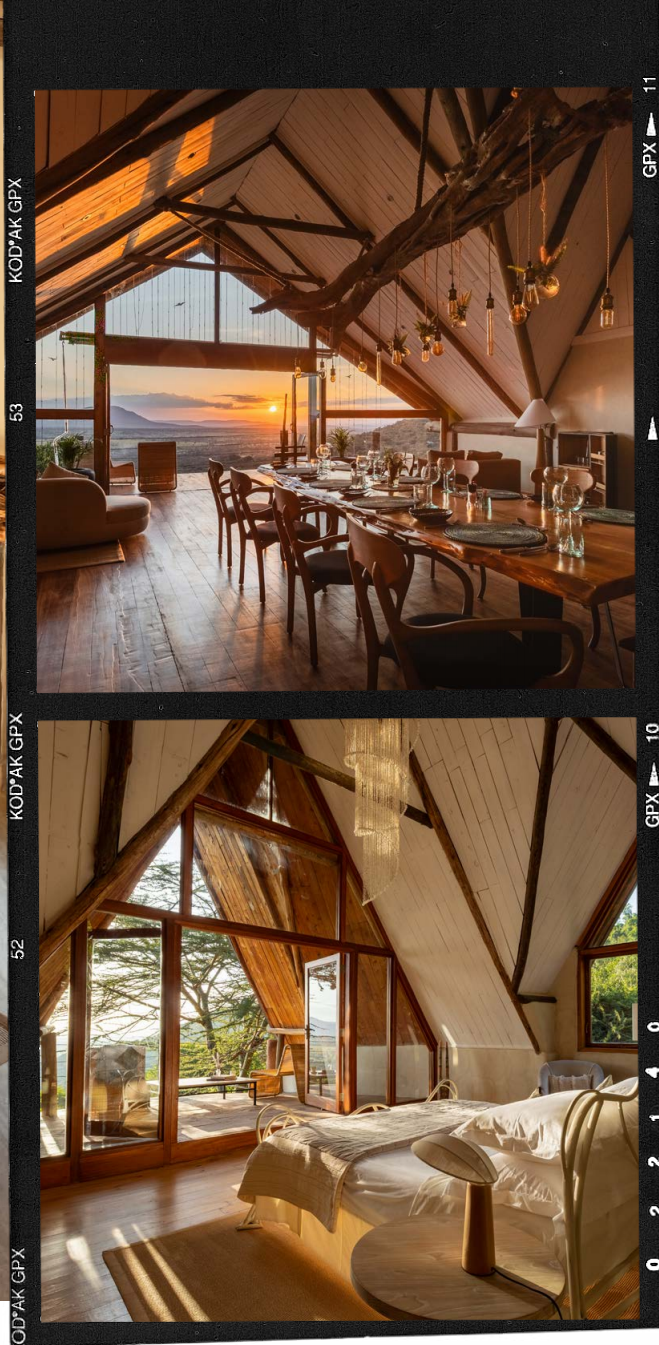


COTTAR'S

BUSH VILLA

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THE ORIGINAL PRIVATE VILLA IN THE MAASAI MARA.

An award-winning private safari home designed for families or groups seeking space, privacy, and an exceptional experience.

Set high on a hilltop within the private Olderkesi Conservancy, Cottar's Bush Villa looks out across the Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem. Spanning over 10,000 square feet, it accommodates up to ten guests in five beautifully appointed en-suite bedrooms - a private home set within one of the richest wildlife ecosystems on Earth, where complete privacy, refined comfort and a deeply immersive safari experience define the stay.

From the outset, Cottar's Bush Villa redefined how the Maasai Mara could be experienced - placing a private home within one of Africa's most extraordinary landscapes. Following a recent complete refurbishment, it remains a benchmark for exclusive safari stays.



DESIGNED BY LOUISE COTTAR AND
BUILT BY HAND USING SUSTAINABLE,
LOCALLY SOURCED MATERIALS.



The villa features a spacious living area, a striking new bar and dining room with panoramic views, expansive viewing decks, a private 25-metre swimming pool, and a bespoke firepit set for storytelling under the stars. A private massage room, curated library, boules lawn, solar power and Wi-Fi throughout complete the home - with decorative elements crafted in partnership with the Maa Trust.

Managed to the same exacting standards as Cottar's 1920s Camp, the villa comes with a dedicated team of staff - including a private chef, housekeeping, an expert safari guide, and an exclusive-use safari vehicle - at your disposal throughout your stay.

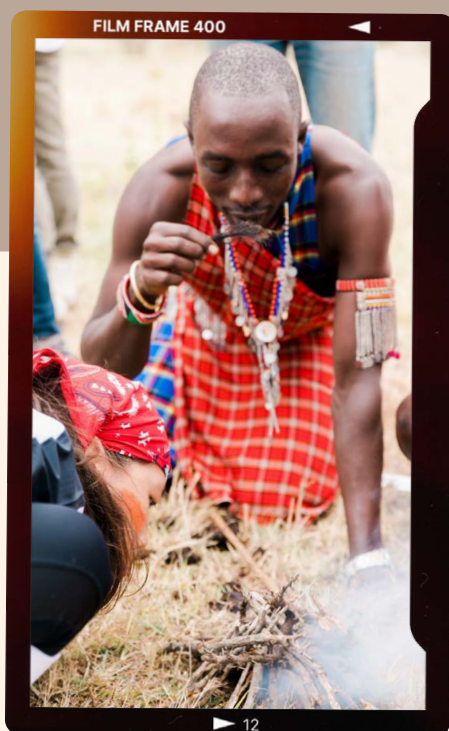
Experiences are entirely tailored - from privately guided day and night wildlife drives and bush walks to the Maasai Warrior School. Guests can also take part in impact experiences, offering meaningful insight into local conservation and community initiatives.

EXPERIENCES

The Cottar's Safaris team delivers truly extraordinary wildlife and wilderness experiences, honouring the original spirit and essence of 'safari': an abundance of wildlife, a guarantee of privacy, and the highest standards of professional guiding, and sustainability all within a luxurious and authentic safari environment.

Our activities are tailored to give you the most meaningful African safari experiences, focusing not only on wildlife and cultures but also on impactful activities that contribute to sustainability and the importance of the ecosystem that surrounds us.

We strive to maintain a balance between commercial prosperity, sustainable conservation, social entrepreneurship and community development — and all our activities reflect this commitment.



IMPACTFUL ACTIVITIES

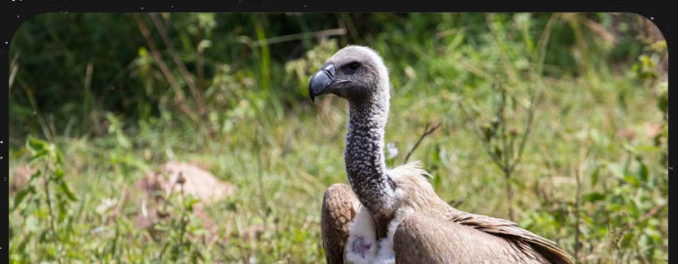
Cottar's Safaris has developed over twenty guest impact activities, shaped in line with The Long Run's 4C framework, ensuring that conservation, community and Maasai cultural heritage are at the centre of every stay - not as an addition to the safari experience, but as its foundation. Louise Cottar, co-owner, explains:

"Luxury safaris and the Big Five experience have become commonplace. We believe that travellers still value these elements, but they also want to participate in a safari that has values, purpose and impact. Over the past few years we have developed safari impact experiences that have a positive effect on the guest, on the complex and unique biodiversity that surrounds us, and on the local Maasai community - as we move forward into the next 100 years of safari and conservation."

A selection of our impact experiences: an immersive raptor experience with the Kenya Birds of Prey Trust; a conservation helicopter flight with the Mara Elephant Project; time with the Maasai Mara's only all-female conservation ranger unit; the Maasai Warrior School; a wilderness run or walk with a Maasai warrior; a foraging and medicinal walk; joining a reforestation seedball dispersal; and evening talks on the history of African safari and pangolin conservation.



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ACTIVITIES THAT ENGAGE AND IMPACT

- A conservation helicopter flight with the Mara Elephant Project (MEP) over the Maasai Mara
- Beading with Mamma Naishuru Batian
- Carbon footprint, recycle and upcycle talk and experience
- Medicinal and foraging bush walk
- Immersive raptor experience with
- Kenya Birds of Prey Trust (KBOPT)
- Maasai Warrior School
- Mara Cheetah Educational Experience
- One hour learning with female conservation rangers
- Reforestation seedball dispersal activity
- Visit our local Maasai Village
- Scenic helicopter flight over the
- Maasai Mara
- Kids entomology safari
- Tracks for Tomorrow'

FOR THE FULL AND DETAILED LIST OF ALL
OUR ACTIVITIES PLEASE EMAIL US.

bookings@cottarsafaris.com

COTTAR'S SAFARIS EXPERIENCES & ACTIVITIES

- Balloon ride over the Maasai Mara
- Coffee tasting experience
- Cottar's Safaris famous traditional canvas
- bush bath
- Wildlife drives
- Wilderness run/walk with a
- Maasai warrior
- Maasai warrior singing and dancing
- Pool time
- Spa treatments
- Stargazing experience
- Swimming and or fishing at the waterfall
- The Explorer's Tent educational visit

COTTAR'S SAFARIS TALKS

- Talk on the history of Cottar's Safaris
- Talk on Maasai culture
- Talk on sustainability and conservation
- Talk on history of African travel



HIGHLIGHTS

CONSERVATION AT THE CORE

Both of our properties are located in, and solely support, the private 7,608-acre Olderkesi Conservancy in the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem - protecting the wildlife corridor linking the Maasai Mara, Serengeti and Loita Hills.

A GLOBAL ECOSPHERE RETREAT®

One of only twelve Global Ecosphere Retreats® in the world - a recognition reserved for properties that demonstrate the highest standards across the 4Cs: conservation, community, culture and commerce.

IMPACTFUL ACTIVITIES

Over twenty guest impact activities, shaped in line with The Long Run's 4C framework - every one designed to benefit the guest, the wildlife, and the wider community.

HIGHEST STANDARDS OF GUIDING

Cottar's Safaris has the highest concentration of Gold-level safari guides - Kenya's top professional rating - of any camp in the country. All of our guides have been chosen for their unique skill set, depth of knowledge, intuition in the field, guiding ethics, and the warmth they bring to every guest encounter.

SAFARI WITH PURPOSE

Twenty per cent of every Cottar's Safaris booking is reinvested in conservation and community. Each guest receives a breakdown of where their contribution has gone - across staff empowerment, species support, and community social impact investments - so they leave knowing their safari has made a meaningful difference.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Cottar family works in partnership with the Maasai community towards sustainable ecosystem management through conservation. We solely support the 7,608 acre Olderkesi Wildlife Conservancy which supports a critical migratory corridor for wildlife. The camp is situated on Maasai owned land and employs members of the Maasai community and supports numerous initiatives including a school, medical facilities, water supply and ambulance service.

THE MAASAI EXPERIENCE

We work hard to provide authentic and respectful cultural experiences and have developed some genuine engagements such as 'The Maasai Warrior School', cultural visits, Maasai beading, Maasai wedding blessings and invitations to certain Maasai ceremonies.





LOCATION

Cottar's 1920s Camp and Cottar's Bush Villa are set within the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem - home to the largest concentration of terrestrial wildlife on Earth, including the annual migration of over 2.5 million wildebeest, zebra and plains wildlife, and some of the highest Big Five sighting rates anywhere in Africa.

PRIVACY

Cottar's 1920s Camp and Cottar's Bush Villa are the only properties in the private 7,608-acre Olderkesi Conservancy, set within the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem and bordering the Serengeti. No hot-air balloons overhead, no minibuses buzzing past, no neighbouring lodges, no low-flying aircraft, no crowds - simply undisturbed wilderness.

AWARD WINNING PROPERTIES

Cottar's Safaris is recognised by the Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards, the World Travel Awards and the Safari Awards. Recent accolades include 'Best Guides in Africa' (Safari Awards 2025), 'Best Villa in Africa', 'Most Romantic Safari Property' and 'Most Ecologically Responsible Property in Africa'. Other accolades include 'Best Tented Camp in the World' (Tatler), 'Top Guides of Africa' (Condé Nast Traveller) and '101 Best Hotels' (Tatler Travel Guide), among many others.

"If you ask old Africa hands to name the best guides, Cottar appears at the top of every list." - Condé Nast Traveller

LUXURIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Two distinct ways to stay: Cottar's 1920s Camp, with its eleven cream canvas tented suites in vintage style, or Cottar's Bush Villa - five en-suite bedrooms, a private 25-metre pool and an exclusive-use team of staff. Both are managed to the same exacting standards and offer the full range of Cottar's Safaris signature experiences, from the canvas bush bath to massage in the dedicated Spa Tent.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

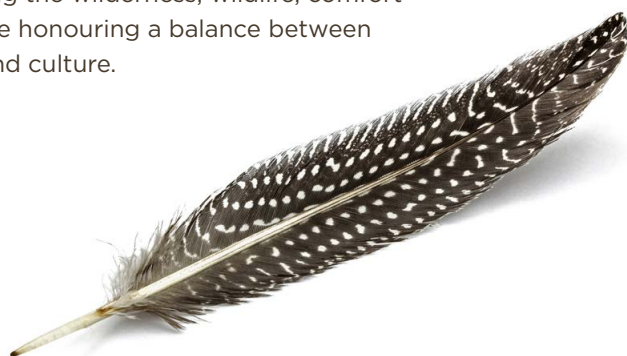
Cottar's Safaris is designed to accommodate every kind of guest - from honeymooners and young families to multi-generational groups. Romantic honeymoon tents set apart from the camp, two-bedroom family suites, an exclusive-use villa for up to ten, children's menus and a guide team experienced with travellers of every age.

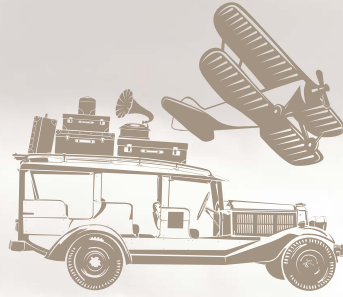
AN AUTHENTIC HISTORY - EST. 1919

Our story started over a 100 years ago, Cottar's Safaris is owned and managed by the oldest established and continuing safari family in Africa.

A LASTING COMMITMENT

Our vision is for Cottar's Safaris to be financially successful and sustainable for the next 100 years - by remaining true to the family tradition of providing an authentic and individualised safari experience, and by safeguarding the wilderness, wildlife, comfort and security that define a Cottar's Safaris stay, while honouring a balance between conservation, prosperous commerce, community and culture.





COTTAR'S

SAFARI SERVICES

EST. 1919



A CENTURY OF SAFARI KNOWLEDGE, CURATED FOR YOU

For over 100 years, the Cottar family has lived and worked in Africa, building long-standing relationships with the continent's most exceptional camps, guides and conservation partners.

Cottar's Safari Travel Concierge operates as a boutique, on-the-ground DMC, designing highly tailored journeys across East and Southern Africa. Our approach is grounded in first-hand experience, trusted partnerships, and a deep respect for conservation, community and culture.

We see our relationships with agents as true partnerships - working together to create journeys that are thoughtful, seamless and genuinely meaningful for your clients.







A FULL 20% OF OUR NET COMMERCE SUPPORTS THE COTTAR'S WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST, CONTRIBUTING TO CONSERVATION INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH OVER 6,000 MAASAI LANDOWNERS.

Our team is based on the ground in Kenya, with deep regional knowledge and long-standing relationships across the continent. We work in partnership with agents and tour operators - designing journeys that are slow, considered, and built on a century of safari expertise.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- A dedicated, experienced safari consultant
- Tailor-made itineraries aligned to your client
- Transparent costings and full breakdowns
- Personally vetted camps and experiences
- End-to-end support, including 24-hour assistance while your clients are travelling

Our model is intentionally low-volume and high-impact: each itinerary built from the ground up, with trusted owner-run partners who share our values. For us, every journey is an opportunity to make a lasting difference - for your clients, and for the people and places that make Africa exceptional.

WWW.COTTARS.COM

COTTAR'S SAFARIS & THE LONG RUN





We are a member of The Long Run and with their help and guidance, we aim to maintain a healthy and productive planet for posterity.

They support, connect and inspire us to excel in following the highest standards of sustainability encompassing: Conservation, Community, Culture and Commerce (The 4Cs).

Cottar's Safaris joined The Long Run in 2012 and committed to a balanced approach across the 4Cs: Conservation, Community, Culture and Commerce - contributing meaningfully to the biodiversity and our local community. In 2015, we received Global Ecosphere Retreat® (GER) accreditation for:

- Establishing a **7,608 acre wildlife conservancy** bordering the Maasai Mara: the **Olderkesi Conservancy**
- **100 years of safari history** - the Cottar's have **60,000 important historical images** of value in a trust, from the 1900s onwards
- Maasai culture & community - **more than 70% of employees are from the local Maasai community**, and they are actively encouraged to show-off their culture by interacting with visitors, wearing traditional dress and selling their handicrafts

We believe it is essential that our efforts are fully accountable, and that our values and learnings are shared with the wider world.

Through our partnership with The Long Run and your time spent with Cottar's Safaris we hope to create a culture of sustainable tourism and encourage global citizens.



COTTAR'S

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST



COTTAR'S WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY TRUST (CWCT)

One of the achievements that the Cottar's Safaris community is most proud of is the Cottar's Wildlife Conservation Trust (CWCT), a non-profit organisation working to conserve critical wilderness and wildlife corridors and areas bordering the Maasai Mara and Serengeti National Reserves. The Trust works to protect biodiversity, through empowering the local Maasai community with wildlife conservation.



“I started working here about 18 years ago and I’ve seen a transformation in that time. One in which the community is now the champion of conservation.”

Head Guide and shareholder Douglas Nagi

The Olderkesi Conservancy is managed by Cottar’s Wildlife Conservancy Trust (CWCT), which leases land from the Olderkesi Community Wildlife Trust (OCWT). The 7,608 acres of the Olderkesi Conservancy is owned by all 6,500 Maasai landowners of the 106,000 acre Olderkesi area, but it is rented by Cottar’s Wildlife Conservancy Trust. CWCT arranges a long-term lease of land from the OCWT, paying fair rates that exceed what could be charged by subdividing land with fences and putting competing land uses such as monoculture, domestic farming or livestock. This is most easily described as ‘renting land for wildlife.’ Rent payments go to the entire community, not just a few leaders in the group - everyone gets an equal share.

CWCT also assists with creating opportunity and growth for the community in other ways. To date, the CWCT has built schools, provided medical services, employed security scouts from the community, built water troughs for cattle, provided bursaries to students and assistance to protect local cedar forests from illegal logging. In return, the leased land is to be left alone, free of settlements, farming, and uncontrolled domestic livestock grazing, and exists as a safe habitat and passage for wildlife.

Nothing of value comes without cost, nor can anything truly sustainable be achieved without ownership and commitment from those it is intended to benefit.

WWW.COTTARSWILDLIFECONSERVATIONTRUST.ORG





COTTAR'S SAFARIS & THE MAA TRUST

Cottar's Safaris works together with a local community-based non-profit organisation, The Maa Trust, to support community development projects with a focus on education & child protection, water & health, gender and sustainable livelihoods.



We believe tourism, conservation, and sustainable development are deeply interconnected. We share The Maa Trust's ethos that sustainable conservation is only possible when communities are at the heart of the solution and that the integration of community well-being with environmental stewardship, and conservation efforts directly benefit the people who live closest to nature.

To avoid a pet 'project' approach, we have a) partnered with the experienced experts of The Maa Trust and b) undertaken an extensive needs assessment and baseline survey covering 2,925 households out of 3,030 in Olderkesi (97% household coverage).



Additionally, we are advocating for coordinated approaches by donors, implementing partners and tourism stakeholders toward the needs as prioritised by the Olderkesi community.

30-35% of the Kenyan population on average live under the poverty line. In the Olderkesi community, that figure is 96% suggesting a community which is marginalised, extremely vulnerable, and largely unsupported.

Whilst Cottar's Safaris have for many years supported a school for over 1,000 children, paid to the community for leasing land for wildlife, invested in a health clinic, and undertaken human - wildlife conflict initiatives, the size and scale of our, and others support needs a step change.

WHAT ARE COTTAR'S SAFARIS DOING?

We are paying for land for wildlife, biodiversity and tourism to 6,500 landowners in Olderkesi on an annual basis. We are hiring and sourcing locally, and financing through our business various socio-economic initiatives that The Maa Trust are undertaking. We are advocating for tourism partners, local and national governments and philanthropic organisations to have a concerted and coordinated effort toward community upliftment.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

In 1919, Charles Cottar and his sons Mike, Bud and Ted established Cottar's Safari Services - the first safari outfitter on the continent to use motorcars, and one of the first registered safari companies in Africa, offering pioneering explorations and film safaris across Africa, India and Indochina.

Charles Cottar had first come to Africa in 1909 from the United States, inspired by tales of President Theodore Roosevelt's adventures on safari. He quickly established himself amongst the first professional safari guides in Kenya, and in 1915 brought his entire family back to settle for good. The Cottars became renowned for being rebellious and anti-establishment, preferring long stints in the wildest corners of the continent. They were the first to import American vehicles for safaris, the first to reach remote areas such as Lake Paradise, and the first to capture never-before-seen wildlife footage.

Charles was a true pioneer: daring, tenacious, and deeply connected to the land. He survived elephant, buffalo and three leopard attacks in his lifetime, finally succumbing in 1939, aged 66, to a rhino charge in the Mara region. His sons Mike and Bud carried on the family business - guiding for the Duke and Duchess of York, Woolworth Donahue, and Martin and Osa Johnson, among others. Mike was friends with many of the famous characters from *Out of Africa* and was Beryl Markham's first flying passenger.

In the 1960s, Charles's grandson Glen Cottar and his wife Pat led the way in photographic safaris, founding Kenya's first purpose-built tented camp - in Tsavo. They went on to establish further camps in Amboseli and the Maasai Mara through the 1970s and 1980s - laying the foundation for the conservation-focused luxury eco-tourism that defines the industry today.

In 1998, Glen's son Calvin - the fifth generation of the Cottar family - together with Louise Cottar, co-owner and CEO, established Cottar's 1920s Camp in the private Olderkesi Conservancy, set within the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem: a tribute to the elegance and authenticity of early safari, reimagined with modern purpose.



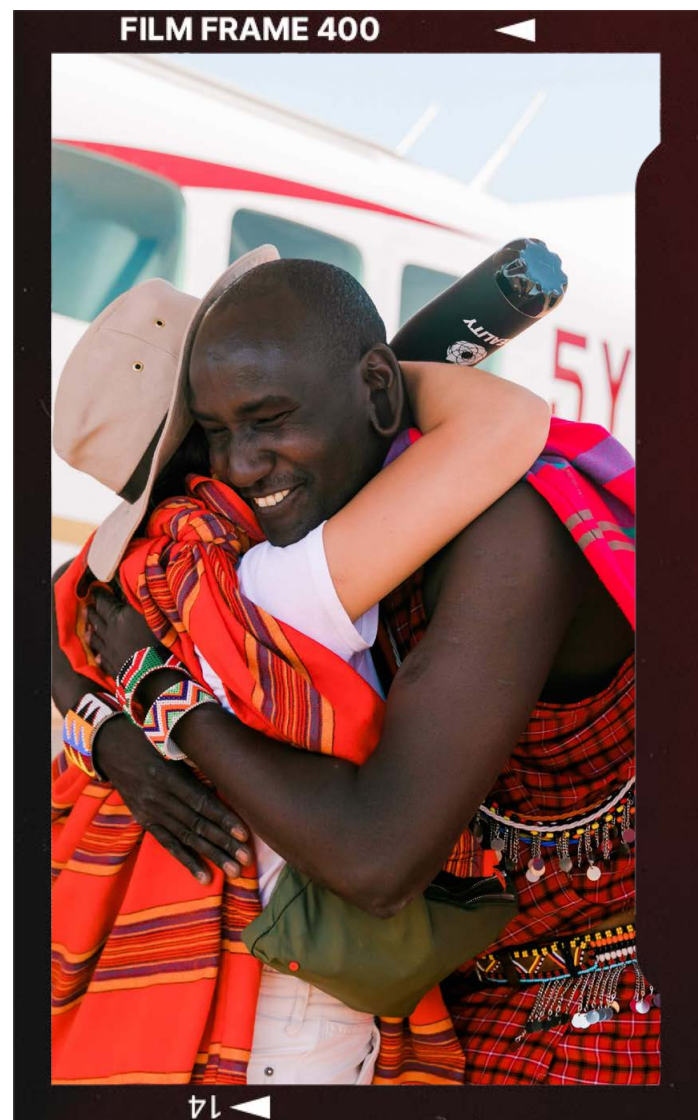
TODAY

Cottar's Safaris remains a family business spanning more than a century, and is proud to be one of Africa's oldest established family-run safari companies. Together, Calvin and Louise have built a multi-award-winning portfolio of two properties - Cottar's 1920s Camp, established in 1998, and Cottar's Bush Villa, added in 2012 as one of the first luxury private villas in the Maasai Mara. Both are set within the private Olderkesi Conservancy, leased from the local Maasai community in the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem.

Calvin and Louise are not merely preserving the Cottar family story - they are redefining it. As they have raised their children among the same savannahs that have inspired the Cottar family for more than a century, they have laid the groundwork for a future in which the family's vision continues to thrive: not as a memory of the past, but as a model for travel that sustains wild places, supports local livelihoods, and deepens our connection to nature.

For the Cottar's Safaris team, the motivation runs far deeper than luxury. As pioneers first in vehicles, then in photographic safaris, and now in conservation-led travel, the family has always embraced change. More than a century on, that spirit remains at the heart of everything they do - safeguarding Africa's wild places for the generations still to come.

“IT’S THE PEOPLE THAT
MAKE A PLACE,
A SPACE, A HOME.”



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

“As we move forward we hope to continue to provide safaris with purpose. As a business with family, community and conservation at its core, Cottar’s Safaris values the need to inspire, educate and enthrall the next generation of budding conservationists from an early age, through play, discovery and engagement.” - Louise Cottar

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COTTAR'S

SAFARIS

EST. 1919



PLANNING YOUR SAFARI? MESSAGE MARA ON WHATSAPP

Your 24/7 concierge for accommodation information, camp experiences,
and travel inspiration.

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