

**MAASAI MARA ULTIMATE
SAFARI WEEKEND TRIP**

WEEKEND OVERVIEW

The Maasai Mara National Reserve is one of the largest game reserves in Kenya and is widely considered to be Africa's greatest wildlife reserve.

Sharing its boarder with the Serengeti, the park is renowned for its wide array of animals, including The Big 5 - lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo as well as plenty of other wildlife including, giraffe, hippos, crocodiles, hyena's cheetahs and much more!

During certain points of the year (July - September) you will also get a chance to witness the spectacular migration, as thousands of wildebeest and zebras make their way to and from Tanzania.

You will stay just outside the park gates - where you will have the best views to the park and sometimes experience some unexpected wildlife! The accommodation is situated amongst Maasai villages where you will get the chance to talk to the locals and find out more about their culture and way of life in the Maasai Mara.

You will explore the beautiful scenery as a group, travelling in an 8-seater tour van with pop-up roof for easy game viewing and photography. Your friendly and knowledgeable driver and guide will accompany you throughout the weekend and are on hand to answer any questions you may have!

Each weekend trip leaves on a Friday morning and returns on the Sunday evening, costing just **£519 / \$660 per person.**

The following are included within this fee:

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Transport

- Drinking water
- National park fees

START DATES

We will be running the Masai Mara Ultimate Safari weekend trip on the following dates:

10th January 2025 – 12th January 2025
7th February 2025 – 9th February 2025
7th March 2025 – 9th March 2025
11th April 2025 – 13th April 2025
9th May 2025 – 11th May 2025
13th June 2025 – 15th June 2025
11th July 2025 – 13th July 2025
8th August 2025 – 10th August 2025
12th September 2025 – 14th September 2025
10th October 2025 – 12th October 2025
7th November 2025 – 9th November 2025
12th December 2025 – 14th December 2025

9th January 2026 – 11th January 2026
13th February 2026 – 15th February 2026
13th March 2026 – 15th March 2026
10th April 2026 – 12th April 2026
8th May 2026 – 10th May 2026
12th June 2026 – 14th June 2026
10th July 2026 – 12th July 2026
7th August 2026 – 9th August 2026
11th September 2026 – 13th September 2026
9th October 2026 – 11th October 2026
13th November 2026 – 15th November 2026
11th December 2026 – 13th December 2026

We can add additional weekend trips if there is enough interest from volunteers. There is a minimum of 3 participants.

BOOKING YOUR PLACE

You can simply add this weekend trip when applying for any of our programmes in Kenya under 'Optional Extras'.



If you have already signed up for one of our volunteer programmes in Kenya and would like to add this weekend trip, you can simply request this within your My Trip account.

Places on our weekend trips are non-refundable and non-transferable between volunteers.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 – SCENIC DRIVE, GREAT RIFT VALLEY & EVENING SAFARI

Your driver will collect you from your accommodation at 8am to begin the scenic drive to the Maasai Mara. On the way you will have the chance to stop at a breath-taking viewpoint to The Great Rift Valley. Kenya has one of the best views of the valley which spans 9600 kilometres, all the way from Mozambique to the Red Sea.

The journey should take around 6 hours although bad traffic and road conditions can sometimes make this journey longer. There are plenty of places to stop for comfort breaks along the way.

Depending on timings, you will either stop for lunch on the way or when you arrive at the accommodation.

You will arrive to the safari accommodation in the early afternoon where you will have a couple of hours to relax, freshen up and enjoy the views. At around 4pm you will head out in search of Lion, Cheetah, Elephant, Buffalo and all of the other wildlife roaming the reserve. As the sun starts to set you will head back to the accommodation for a delicious dinner and a good night's sleep.

DAY 2 – FULL DAY GAME DRIVE WITH LUNCH BY THE RIVER MARA

You will kick the day off bright and early! After breakfast you will head into the national park at

7am. Here you will go on the lookout for The Big Five, seeing plenty of other animals along the way and enjoying the panoramic views of the park. You will get the chance to see hippos and crocodiles along the river Mara and also visit the border to Tanzania to learn more about the history of the landscape.

You will then enjoy a packed lunch by the river Mara, where there is also the opportunity to join a guided nature walk with one of the park rangers.

After exploring more of the national reserve in the afternoon, you will return to the accommodation around 4pm.

Here you will have a few hours to relax, enjoy the sunset and freshen up before dinner.

After dinner you have the opportunity to enjoy a bonfire and a talk from some of the local Maasai warriors. Feel free to ask questions and learn more about their thousand year old culture.

DAY 3 – RETURN BACK TO NAIROBI

After a slightly later breakfast today, you will start the journey back to Nairobi at around 8 or 9am.

The journey will take around 6 hours with comfort breaks. You should arrive back to your accommodation in Nairobi around 3pm.

ACCOMMODATION

Over the course of the weekend you will be staying in one of our chosen safari camps.

Each of the camps are basic but clean and are the perfect place to relax in nature with amazing views of the national park and (if you're lucky) some wild animals!



You will have all of the amenities you need such as western toilets, hot water and Wi-Fi, although this can be intermittent.

Rooms will be on a shared basis, with up to 4 volunteers staying in one room.

Please note, from time to time some volunteers may be required to share a double bed depending on availability. However we will always make sure this is someone you are comfortable sharing with.

MEALS

You'll be provided with three meals per day throughout the weekend trip. Meals will generally be a mixture of local Kenyan cuisine and western cuisine, served at the safari camp as well as a packed lunch on Day 2.

Please let us know in advance if you have any dietary requirements.

Tea, coffee and safe drinking water is provided but soft drinks and alcoholic beverages will need to be purchased at your own expense.

TRANSPORT

You will travel around in private safari tour vans, with a maximum of 7 other volunteers.

Your English speaking driver/ guide will be with you throughout your weekend trip. They are friendly, knowledgeable and able to help with any queries you may have about the experience or national park.

SEA TURTLE & MONKEY SANCTUARY VOLUNTEERS

Please note, you will need to organise and pay for

your transfer from the programme to the airport, book an internal flight to and from Nairobi and arrange your transfers from the airport to your chosen hotel. We can assist with ensuring everything is organised and correct, just get in touch.

We would recommend organising your flights to arrive into Nairobi for Thursday evening and booking into Davana Hotel. Our weekend trip team will then pick you up from this hotel on Friday morning.

If you want to take part on this amazing trip and the dates fall on your last weekend in Kenya then you can still take part! Please arrange your return flight from Kenya for late on Sunday or anytime on the Monday to ensure you have sufficient time to get to the airport. The accommodation on your last night is not included but you are more than welcome to stay within the volunteer accommodation if there is space for a small additional fee. We can also recommend several hotels either close to our accommodation or to the airport.

