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## Maasai Mara



Kenya

Located in Narok County, the Maasai Mara is one of the gems of the southwestern region of Kenya

## Maasai Mara

 All meals included	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>
 Free beverages	Yes <sup>(2)</sup>
 Persons per room	2- 10
 Wifi in public areas	No
 Laundry facilities	No <sup>(3)</sup>
 Safety box	No
 Lockable rooms	Yes
 Hot shower	No
 Private bathroom	No
 Western toilet	No
 Bed linen	Yes
 Towels	No
 Mosquito protection	No
 Fan	No
 Air conditioning	No
 Heating	No

(1) 3 meals on weekdays, 2 on weekends

(2) Free drinking water provided

(3) Expect to wash your clothes by hand

## Location

Located in Narok County, the Maasai Mara is one of the gems of the southwestern region of Kenya. Named for the ancestral people of the region whose villages can still be found throughout this vast area, this National Reserve borders on Tanzania and is home to a multitude of amazing animals including the Big 5 (Buffalo, Elephants, Leopards, Lions, and Rhinos), but you should also expect to see Wildebeest, Hippos, Cheetahs, Crocodiles, and Zebras throughout this park as well.

The Mara's well-preserved wilderness landscape is full of the acacia trees and tall savannah grasses where the wildlife inhabitants are able to blend into the background when necessary for survival. But when it is cooler in the morning and evenings they come out to roam, bathe, or search for food and that is when you just might catch a glimpse of these majestic creatures in action.

Many people flock to this region at different times of the year just to witness the great migration where more than a million of the Wildebeest make their way across the river to Tanzania and then back to the Mara months later, dodging crocodiles, lions and others who lie in wait for the opportunity to make them their prey. It is the circle of life and the nature of the wild that intrigues people from all over the world to come and witness this marvel and enjoy this riveting and magnificent sight.

## Accommodation & Food

### About the Accommodation

The accommodation will be on the school grounds or in a nearby homestay. The lodging will be very simple with few amenities, toilet and bathing area will be away from the sleeping quarters, but efforts will be made to help you adjust to a simpler way of being during your stay. Resources are limited and power outages and shortages in the water supply can occur. We ask that you do your part to conserve water and energy, but to also help to keep the room and other common spaces tidy. We also request that you are mindful of the close proximity to school-aged children and refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol or using profanity as school staff is held in high regard in this community. There will be no WIFI onsite, but you are encouraged to get a local SIM card on arrival so that you will be able to access the internet and stay in contact whenever possible.

## Food Arrangements

Food will be simple homestyle meals prepared by locals, which are typical to the region, based on whatever fruits and vegetables are in season at the time. You can expect lots of rice and ugali with small portions of vegetables, occasionally meat and/or chapati will be provided as well. While we do our best to accommodate our participants, if you are a picky eater, have dietary restrictions, or if you think that you will not be satisfied with the local dishes provided you might want to consider supplementing our menu with your own western type foods and snacks that are more to your liking.

## Facilities

Due to the remote location, there are no places to shop or banks/ATM's to withdraw money within walking distance of the program or the accommodation. All of those things will need to be done in Narok (more than an hour away) which is the nearest large town with a variety of shops, supermarkets, banks, and a mall.

## Mandatory Orientation Day

At this location there is no mandatory orientation day offered.

## Activities & Events

No scheduled activities outside the program.

## Sights & Surroundings

**Maasai Mara** is a must visit for anyone in the region. It has many tours for game drives and overnight stays nearby. You will need to book these on your own, but that will be fairly easy and cost effective considering the close proximity to this National Reserve.

**Nairobi** is the capital city of Kenya and it is about 3-4 hours away by local transport. There you will find everything that you would expect from a metropolitan city, including fine dining, high-end shops, and nightclubs. There are also attractions such as Nairobi National Park, the Giraffe Center, the Elephant Sanctuary and Bomas of Kenya.

**Narok** is the largest town nearby the program location and here you will find a variety of shops, restaurants, clinics, pharmacies, banks/ATM's and supermarkets.