



FACT FILE 2013

LOCATION

Cottar's Private Conservancy in Olderikesi, South East Masai Mara

ACCOMMODATION

6 1920s style white ensuite tents ~ 5 doubles and 1 twin tent

1 Honeymoon tent

4 Family Tented Suites ~ each suite consists of 2 ensuite bedrooms with a shared sitting / dining room

1 Private House ~ can accommodate up to 10 guests, in five large ensuite bedrooms

DESCRIPTION

Cottar's 1920's Camp ~ The Cottar Safari tradition began in 1919. Over 90 years on, we continue to provide an unparalleled safari experience to discerning clients in Africa. Extending an era of luxury and quality, we return to the original spirit and essence of 'safari', reminiscent of a golden era ~ an era of romance, professional guiding, adventure and elegance. Situated in an untouched exclusive concession bordering the Serengeti, Masai Mara and Loliondo reserves, the camp and the area guarantee privacy and an abundance of wildlife. The camp accommodates up to 28 guests in authentic white canvas luxury tents. The camp spreads over 1 kilometre and has 2 mess tents, so guests are assured a spacious yet intimate environment. The tents include private ensuite dressing rooms and bathrooms, main bedrooms and verandas, with family tents also having a living room with a fireplace.

Cottar's Private House ~ Cottar's is pleased to announce the new luxuriously appointed Cottar's Private House in the Masai Mara. For those that want absolute privacy combined with dedicated and discrete staff, award winning guides, and an abundance of wildlife, this Mara homestead offers the only real private luxury home in the Maasai Mara. The contemporary African style house can be rented only on an exclusive basis and comes with a dedicated staff of 8. The house has a large living room, a dining room, a magnificent viewing deck and 5 ensuite bedrooms, all with stunning views, Game vehicle(s) and a dedicated guide are provided to guests throughout their stay.

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- **History** ~ The Cottar family have been operating luxury tented safaris since 1919, and have been part of the Mara community for over 9 decades.
- **Location** ~ Cottar's 1920s is set in exquisite hills in a unique private game concession adjoining the Serengeti, and Masai Mara game reserve.
- **Highly qualified guides** ~ With only 15 Gold-standard 'Kenya Professional Safari Guide' qualified guides in Kenya, Cottar's are pleased to announce they have an impressive 3 Gold-level KPSGA guides, with the remaining guides having their Silver-Level KPSGA qualification.
- **Private House** ~ exclusive accommodation for a family, special occasion, or high profile guests
- **Swimming pool** ~ one of the only small luxury properties in the Mara with a swimming pool

AWARDS

- **SILVER** Eco rating certification ~ Ecotourism Kenya, 2013/2014
- Nominee for Best Safari Product in East Africa, Best Safari Guide Team, Best Ecological Property, Best Community Property ~ Good Safari Guide, 2012
- Finalist Best Safari Guiding Team & Best Safari Property in East Africa ~ Good Safari Guide, 2009/2010/2011
- Best Guide ~ Harper's Bazaar, 2008
- 101 Best Hotels ~ Tatler Travel Guide 2007
- The 50 Best Camp Sites ~ The Independent, April 2006
- Best Safari Camp ~ Harpers & Queen, January 2003
- Best Tented Camp in the World ~ Tatler Magazine, January 2003
- Top Guides of Africa ~ Condé Nast Traveller, November 2002

ACTIVITIES

Day & Night Game Drives, Guided Bush Walks

Bush Meals & Sundowners

Cultural Visits

River Swimming & Fishing

Swimming Pool (main camp), Massage & Spa treatments

Gift Shop

NEED TO KNOW

HOW TO GET THERE

- Keekorok airstrip is a 1.5 hour drive from camp ~ \$220 per vehicle per transfer, max 4 pax.
- Cottar's private airstrip is 10 minutes drive from camp.
- Flights to Cottar's private airstrip for private charters and Fly 540/East African Safari Express airlines only. All other airlines into Keekorok airstrip.
- Twice daily scheduled Fly 540 flight to Cottar's private airstrip departing Wilson at 10h00 and 15h00
- Three times daily in high season and twice daily in low season ~ Air Kenya flights to the Masai Mara departing Nairobi Wilson at 09h15, 12h15 and 15h15
- Once daily scheduled Air Kenya flight departing Samburu / Lewa at 08h30 and Nanyuki at 09h15
- Twice daily scheduled Safarilink flights to the Masai Mara departing Nairobi Wilson at 10h00 and 15h00
- Once daily scheduled Safarilink flight departing Shaba at 09h10, Samburu & Lewa at 09h30 and Nanyuki at 09h45
- Once daily Mombasa Air flight departing Mombasa at 07h30, Ukunda at 08h30 and Amboseli at 09h30
- Private charters into Cottar's private airstrip from anywhere, with landings and take-offs anytime before 5 pm

AIRSTRIPE COORDINATES

Cottar's Airstrip coordinates are:
SO1°41.016; E 35°20.989; Length 1.3kms

PAYMENT OPTIONS (AT CAMP)

Cash (US\$ notes newer than 2006, Euro, GBP, KSH)
Visa & MasterCard, no Debit cards

TIPPING POLICY

All tips are at the guest's discretion. As a guideline, we recommended tips in the region of US\$ 5 to 20 per guest per night for camp staff, with guides tipped separately (recommended are US\$ 25 per group per day).

ELECTICITY

- Cottar's 1920's Camp uses electricity generated by wind, solar and generator.
- Rooms have 240v electricity when the generator is on. Lights run off the inverter, and therefore work 24 hours.
- Guests can recharge their camera batteries in the cars and the manager's office
- Guests are recommended to bring converters & universal plug adaptors.

MEAL POLICY

Communal dining is encouraged, however, Cottar's Camp is happy to also provide private dining arrangements on request.

Breakfast: 06h00 to 10h00

Lunch: 12h30 to 14h30

Dinner: 19h00 to 22h00

The camp has a daily set menu.

Please inform us about any dietary requirements or allergies prior to arrival.

Guests departing in the afternoon will be charged for an extra lunch on their day of departure.

WATER

Bottled drinking water is provided free of charge.

COTTAR'S VEHICLES

6 x 4x4 Vehicles:

- 5 x New Land Cruisers (open sided, 5 Window seats, 7 Seats in total)
- 1 x wooden-bodied classic car

All the above vehicles are open, with sun cover, which can fold down in bad weather. The vehicles have radios, fridges, (drinks are available anytime), fold-down windscreens and some cars have charging stations.

When necessary, guests may have to share their vehicle with others, unless 'Exclusive Use of Vehicle' has been paid for.

MASAI MARA CLIMATE

- Altitude: 5,500 ~ 6,400 feet
- Rainfall: Approximately 760mm per year
- Warm, dry days, and cool nights, no humidity

MALARIA

As Cottar's 1920's Camp is situated in a location higher than 4000ft altitude, it is considered malaria free.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT COTTAR'S

- Guides ~ All our guides speak English and Kiswahili and we have one guide who is fluent in Spanish.
- Management ~ English.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Internet: Guests can access the Internet in the Gift shop, and wireless Internet access is also available around the main mess tent.

Mobile phones: There is no phone signal until 1km out of camp.

A landline phone is available at charge in the office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

- Cottar's is on the Olderikesi group ranch, adjoining the Maasai Mara National Reserve and the Serengeti National Park. The location is a critical dispersal area and wildlife corridor.
- Cottar's have a charitable trust called the Cottar's Wildlife Conservation Trust (CWCT).
- CWCT are working towards a sustainable conservancy for the area, in partnership with the Masai community. Such a conservancy would manage the land on behalf of the community and pay market rates for the land to the community. Management of the conservancy will protect the critical wildlife corridor and its species, mitigate the challenge of overgrazing by wildlife and invest in human development initiatives.
- CWCT invest in key social public goods such as schooling, water supply and medical support.
- Cottar's promote women's handiwork for sale to visitors.
- CWCT operate a repeater VHF station and 5 radios for community scouts for liaison on ambulance and medical needs, security issues and wildlife poaching.
- More than 40% of the staff are employed from the local community.
- Cottar's were the leaders in a successful bid to stop a major lodge development in the Mara National Reserve that would permanently have damaged the last wilderness area in the Reserve.
- Revenue for the rental of land goes directly to the Maasai landowners.
- Cottar's supports a Forest Protection Program ~ arresting illegal woodcutters of cedar trees on hills behind camp and planting of indigenous trees.
- Cottar's are a Long Run Alliance Member of the Zeitz Foundation, working towards Global Ecosphere certification.

SPECIAL FEATURES & KEY WILDLIFE IN THE AREA

- Cottar's maintains the original safari tradition and feel of the 1920s. An authentic white 1920s style camp, with no fences or manmade structures (other than roads) for hundreds of kilometres.
- The South East Mara has most of the Mara's Rhino population, so Cottar's guests see them often. There are also many lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, gazelle and other migratory wildlife. Colobus monkeys can be seen in the hills behind the camp.
- The hills are great for hill walks, where Verreaux Eagles can be seen on cliff nesting sites, as well as rare chandlers reedbuck in the moor like hill tops.
- Cottar's is situated far from the Mara River, and recommends that guests who particularly wish to see the migration crossing the river stay in a lodge closer to the river, and visit Cottar's Camp for the traditional migration experience in far more privacy and away from the mass tourism experience of the crossings.
- Cottar's does have a varied hilly terrain & wilderness feel to its area, making drives private. Pure wilderness, privacy & uninterrupted views ~ no cars or other lodges, no balloons ~ this is what is different about our area.

PRESS COMMENTS

- "Music wafting out of crackling gramophones, hotwater bottles at the foot of canopied beds, wood burning stoves, faded Louis Vuitton trunks and a roaring twenties feel. Cottar's is like a slice of history." ~ Tatler Magazine
- "The camp captures the spirit of the early explorers." ~ Daily Mail
- "A nostalgic safari experience." ~ Financial Times Magazine
- "You'll feel a part of this family history as soon as you notice the memorabilia of candelabras, leather trunks and rattan desks that decorate the interiors..." ~ Top Billing
- "Cottar's seems to be drawn straight from the pages of a Hemingway novel." ~ The Independent
- "Anyone looking for ultimate luxury, romance & adventure, you can't beat a Cottar's safari." ~ Travel Magazine
- "The perfect place to combine the wild life and the high life. Cottar's is a very intimate, very invigorating way of seeing Africa." ~ Tatler Travel Guide
- "Cottar's feels like a scene from Out of Africa." ~ The Sunday Times

GUEST COMMENTS

- "It was magical! It was such a special experience that I'll never forget and look forward to having again. I was told that Africa will get into my heart and it truly has, along with the people of Cottar's."
- "This was the most wonderful holiday we have ever had. Cottar's Camp is simply a jewel. The friendliest staff you will ever meet & the most professional guides; very cunning & all with a great sense of humor."
- "You are made to feel part of the Cottar family. If you want to experience the wild Kenya, the old safari Kenya, the fast disappearing Kenya ~ all in a luxury in synch with the enveloping wilderness – this is the place to come!"
- "This is a seriously exclusive camp ~ the place to go when you want to experience what the Mara is really about. Every guide is highly qualified & each safari is designed for the individual visitor. We can't recommend it enough!"
- "Cottar's camp is now at the top of our most unbelievable, best experience list. The scenery, the service, knowledge, beauty, and memory will last forever."