



# HEMINGWAYS

## OL SEKI MARA

Set on a rocky promontory overlooking the Isupukiai River Valley, Ol Seki Hemingways Mara is a private luxury tented camp, which enjoys panoramic views across a wilderness teeming with game on the Naboisho Conservancy, north of the Mara Reserve. The area provides a rare opportunity to enjoy wildlife viewing in a pristine setting away from mass tourism. Ol Seki guides, who know every inch of the bush, lead guests throughout the Conservancy and onto the Mara plains to experience once-in-a-lifetime encounters with Kenya's extraordinary wildlife.

Encompassing ten beautifully designed traditional safari tents, Ol Seki Hemingways Mara is an intimate oasis nestled amongst Cordia and Acacia trees, with views across the valley. Each spacious tent features a private deck, enabling guests to view animals and birds in their natural habitat, or simply enjoy the stunning sunsets, from the comfort of their tents.

A new feature for 2019 is the infinity swimming pool alongside an expanded sunset deck with a built in fire pit overlooking the watering hole and Koiyaki plains. This is the perfect spot to relax during the midday sun and enjoy the quintessential safari sundowners.

Game drives usually take place twice a day, although guests are largely given the flexibility and freedom to design their day as they wish thanks to the small size of the camp. An early morning drive may lead to a picturesque alfresco breakfast in the bush, with views of giraffes and zebra in the near distance. In the evenings, guests gather for sundowners by an open fire pit to share stories from the day, before enjoying a delicious four-course menu prepared by Ol Seki's head chef.

Ol Seki Hemingways Mara is a partner of the Naboisho Conservancy and involved in the management and major decision-making process of the conservancy. The camp is named after the Ol Seki tree, which in the local Maasai language, means, "blessed", and is traditionally a peace tree with the branches used to settle disputes.



This is apt because the creation of Naboisho, which means “coming together” has brought peace between agriculture and wildlife in the conservancy and has helped to forge a harmonious relationship between the local Maasai landowners and tourist enterprises in the area.

## THE CAMP

The main camp comprises The Library, where guests can relax in between game drives in comfortable armchairs and sofas with a gin and tonic overlooking a nearby watering hall, and The Dining Tent where all meals are served. Sitting below the Library and Dining tent is the new infinity swimming pool and adjacent Sunset Deck with a large firepit where guests can relax in between game drives and where we usually gather together in the early evening before supper.

70% of camp staff come from local Maasai communities and all its safari guides are graduates of the Koiyaki Guiding School which was established by Naboisho Conservancy to educate and train aspiring guides

## THE SAFARI TENTS

Small and exclusive, Ol Seki Hemingways Mara hosts a maximum of 20 guests. Each stylish tent has been designed to offer secluded privacy and spacious accommodation in traditional safari muted tones of vanilla and taupe. These low-impact structures are camouflaged by the landscape and are fashioned for sustainability.

Every tent sits on a private vantage point up on the rocky escarpment offering a 270-degree view of the bush from the large, comfortable beds. There are ten residential tents, each with ensuite bathrooms featuring hot running water blasting through rain showerheads and elegant flush loos to ensure complete comfort.

### **Nina Tents - 6**

These tents are ideal for couples, featuring a high-domed design centering over a double bed decked out in fine linens. Six opening panels enable guests to watch the dawn break in panorama from the comfort of their pillows. The rear section of the tent houses the en-suite bathroom and dressing area and in front of the tent is a large deck for private dining, sunbathing and star gazing.



## Family Tents – 2

### Simba Tent

The Simba Suite is a self-contained penthouse in the bush with a private driveway. Complete with kitchen, dining room and living area, the tent connects two enormous double bedrooms, both en-suite. There's a fully stocked bar and fridge and guests can decide the level of service they require – a butler can be present at all times to cook, pour drinks and make coffee as required, or staff will stay in the background to give guests the freedom to help themselves to the amenities. The expansive deck provides an ideal viewpoint for wildlife watching during the day and stargazing at night.

### Chui Tent

This suite offers greater individual privacy than the Simba Suite as the two en-suite double bedrooms are separated from the central living space. The main area between the bedroom tents houses the kitchen, lounge and dining room. Stone pathways connect the three distinct structures. This means that if other members of the party want to stay up late in the private bar, guests can retire to the quiet seclusion of their room next door with a comfortable distance in-between. This suite is ideal for families or friends travelling together who would also like some privacy within the group.

### **Tent Amenities**

- Electricity and hot water is sourced through solar power with back up generator for emergencies. Phone and camera batteries can be charged in tents.
- Elevated ceiling fans
- Complimentary laundry service
- Mini fridge in each tent with water and soft drinks. Family tents have their own fully stocked fridge
- Large terraces overlooking the Koiyaki plains
- Lock up trunk in each tent for valuables.

## DINING

### **Dining Tent**

With a near panoramic view of the acacia valley beyond the table, the dining tent



offers a communal area for guests to engage and discuss their wildlife sightings. Breakfast offers a healthy continental buffet, which includes homemade muesli and freshly cut exotic fruit, or a hearty and familiar English breakfast. Ol Seki's head chef is on hand to prepare eggs to order.

Lunch menus feature light dishes such as homemade quiche with fresh herbs and salad from the organic vegetable garden. Supper is sumptuous with an extensive repertoire of classic dishes made with locally sourced ingredients. The camp manager hosts guests during meals.

### **Private Dining**

On occasion, guests might prefer the solitude of a private al fresco meal on the Sunset Deck by the pool or on the deck of their tent in the morning air or by candlelight. In the Nina tents, meals can be served from the main kitchen and waiters will attend unobtrusively. In the Chui and Simba tents, a private chef is provided for the night who will cook in the private kitchen and serve guests at their own dining table. This is ideal for family time or honeymoon couples.

### **Cave Dining**

Below the main point of the camp, we offer guests the chance to dine in the unique Ol Seki Cave. Previously inhabited by a traditional Maasai hunter/scavenger called Letilet who attracted the ire of the Kenya Wildlife Service (look out for the bullet marks on the cave walls), the Cave offers an intimate venue for a romantic honeymoon dinner.

### **Safari Dining**

One of the advantages of being in a conservancy is that guests of Ol Seki are not confined to dining in camp and with a totally mobile kitchen, Ol Seki offers the chance to dine out in the grassy plains of the conservancy. Specially designed safari coolers and hampers make for the most luxurious picnic lunches too.

## **EXPERIENCES**

In addition to the daily day and night game drives in Naboisho Conservancy, guests of Ol Seki Hemingways Mara can also choose to experience other memorable adventures.

### **Mara Reserve**

Especially during the months of the migration (July - October), many guests do like to have one full day in the Mara Reserve itself, along the main rivers in the hopes of spotting a



wildebeest crossing. Guests depart after breakfast in camp with a lovely picnic lunch and the drinks of their choice to enjoy the day.

### **Guided Walks**

Being in a conservancy we are also able to offer guided walks through the wilderness where guests have the chance to learn about the area, the Maasai culture and all the plants of the region and their traditional uses.

### **Community Visits**

Working so closely with the local community, Ol Seki Hemingways Mara have been invited to take guests along to some of the local village homes for an introduction into the Maasai lifestyle. There will always be beadwork and carvings for sale as well so this is a perfect time for guests to collect some local souvenirs. For guests seeking to immerse themselves in the local culture, we can arrange visits to Olesere Primary School and Koiyaki Guiding School where Maasai guides are trained. Spend a few hours among local Maasai school children or learn from the guides of the future.

### **Balloon Safari**

One of the iconic experiences of a safari in Africa, a sunrise hot air balloon flight over the Mara Reserve is a great way to get a different perspective on the Masai Mara. To help soothe the pain of the early morning start, freshly brewed tea and coffee is delivered prior to departure. The early morning Mara breeze will float guests southwards towards Tanzania and as they follow the Mara river all the wonderful animals of the Mara are visible. The flight usually lasts about an hour and once safely back on solid ground, guests celebrate the early morning escapade with a champagne breakfast in the bush.

## **FAMILY**

With specially designed tents to accommodate families in comfort, Ol Seki Hemingways Mara is the perfect choice for those looking to experience the thrill of safari as a family.

Simba, under one canvas, provides excellent accommodation for younger children, whilst Chui with two tents connected by decking and pathway, suits families with older children. The family accommodation is unique as younger guests can be kept completely separate from other guests, enabling no age limit for younger travellers staying in the family tents

Ol Seki Hemingways Mara offers special activities for young safari enthusiasts including Maasai Warrior spear throwing, Bow and arrow making, traditional fire lighting and campfire-side story-telling by a Maasai warrior.



## RATES

A night at Ol Seki Hemingways Mara starts from USD540 per person based on two people sharing a one bedroom tent during the green season.

Rates are inclusive of:

- Full board accommodation (early morning tea/coffee, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner)
- All drinks including alcoholic beverages – (excluding premium drinks & champagne)
- 2 shared Day Game Drives in Naboisho Conservancy
- 1 shared Bush Breakfast per stay weather permitting
- Shared Night Game Drive in Naboisho Conservancy
- Return transfers to Ol Seki Naboisho airstrip. (For transfers from/to Keekorok/Olkiombo or within the Mara Reserve, Mara Reserve Park fees and transfers charges to apply.)
- Daily Naboisho Conservancy fees
- Wi-Fi internet
- Government taxes

The camp is usually closed from mid April to the end of May to allow for maintenance and repairs.

## LOCATION & CONTACT

### Physical address:

Ol Seki Hemingways Mara  
Naboisho Conservancy  
Narok County

### Mailing address:

Hemingways Collection  
Karen Office Park, P. O. Box 146 – 00502  
Karen, Nairobi

Telephone: +254 (0) 711 032 000

Email: [olseki@hemingways.co](mailto:olseki@hemingways.co)

Website [www.hemingways-collection.com/olseki](http://www.hemingways-collection.com/olseki)

Opening year: 2008



## Access

- Daily scheduled flights to Ol Seki Airstrip, Siana Springs or Keekorok Airstrip
- By private charter flight to Ol Seki Airstrip
- By road from Nairobi – approximately 6 hours drive

