



HEMINGWAYS  
OL SEKI MARA

Set on a rocky promontory overlooking the Isupukiai River Valley, Hemingways Ol Seki 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 nine beautifully designed traditional safari tents, Hemingways Ol Seki 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.

The infinity swimming pool set alongside a sunset deck with a built in fire pit overlooking the watering hole and Koiyaki plains is the ideal spot to relax during the midday sun and enjoy the quintessential safari 'sundowners' at dusk.

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 giraffe 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 team of chefs.

Hemingways Ol Seki 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 area of camp comprises an extra large dining room and lounge where guests can relax in between game drives in comfortable armchairs and sofas with a gin and tonic overlooking a nearby watering hall. The baraza seating area offers a comfortable corner to enjoy a mid morning cappuccino. Other than private dining, all meals are served in the dining area. Sitting below the Lounge and Dining tent is the infinity swimming pool and adjacent Sunset Deck where guests can relax during the day and where we usually gather together in the early evening before supper.

70% of camp staff come from local Maasai communities and all 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, Hemingways Ol Seki Mara hosts a maximum of 20 guests. Each stylish tent has been designed to offer secluded privacy and spacious accommodation in muted tones with a twist of Bedouin style as a nod to the shape and style of the tents. Locally sourced fabrics and furniture, a writers desk and a large comfy day bed add further comfort.

### **Nina Tents – 8**

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 eight double/twin guest tents and following a major refurbishment, the tents now feature glass sliding doors opening onto a large private terrace as well as indoor and outdoor showers and a large bath tub with views out onto the plains. The lobby area into the tent features a small mini bar as well as a pop hatch for early morning tea and coffee orders.

### **Simba Private Villa 1**

The Private Villa is a self-contained penthouse in the bush with a secluded 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 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 terrace with private plunge pool provides an ideal viewpoint for wildlife watching during the day and stargazing at night. The main feature of the Private Villa is exclusivity with your own dedicated chef for all meals as well as a private game drive vehicle and guide.

**Simba Private Villa 2** (layout as per above) opens 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

### **Tent Amenities**

- Electricity and hot water is sourced through a private solar farm with back up generator for emergencies. Phone and camera batteries can be charged in tents.
- Free standing fans
- Complimentary laundry service
- Mini bar in each tent with water and soft drinks. Private Villas have their own fully stocked fridge
- Indoor and outdoor showers
- Bathtub
- Safe for storage of valuables



## DINING

### Dining Room

With a near panoramic view of the acacia valley beyond the table, the Dining Room offers a private dining experience or an area outside to gather together around the fire place and have a communal part 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.

### 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 terrace 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 Private Villas, an exclusive chef is provided 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 *Leti/let* 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. This cannot be pre-booked & is subject to availability on arrival.

### Safari Dining

One of the advantages of being in a private 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 Hemingways Ol Seki Mara can also choose to experience other memorable adventures. These include learning about the cultural heritage of the Maasai as well as the pioneering conservation model of Naboisho.

### 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 Bush 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.

### Cultural Village Visits

Working so closely with the local community, Hemingways Ol Seki 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 about community conservation, human wildlife conflict and the challenges of protecting huge swathes of pristine wildlife habitat in today's ever changing world.



### Hot Air Balloon

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. Freshly brewed tea and coffee is delivered prior to your departure. The early morning Mara breeze will float guests southwards towards Tanzania and as they follow the Mara River, all the magnificent 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.

### Horse Riding

Departing at approximately 06h00, guests will enjoy a 2-hour horseback safari in the bush in the Olerai Conservancy followed by a champagne bush breakfast. Alternatively, guests can ride in the afternoon departing at 15:15pm for a 16h00 ride ending with sundowners & bitings.

## FAMILY

With the specially designed Private Villa – Simba Suite accommodates families in absolute style & comfort. Hemingways Ol Seki Mara is the perfect choice for those looking to experience the thrill of safari as a family.

The Private Villa, under one canvas, provides excellent accommodation for younger children ensuring everyone feels safe and secure. 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 tent.

Hemingways Ol Seki 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 Hemingways Ol Seki Mara starts from USD650 per person based on two people sharing a double Nina tent during the regular season. The rate excludes Conservancy Fees which are charged separately.

### 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 per day
- 1 shared Bush Breakfast per stay (weather permitting)
- Shared Night Game Drive in Naboisho Conservancy per stay
- 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.)
- Wi-Fi internet
- Government taxes

The camp usually closes in May to allow for maintenance and repairs.



## LOCATION & CONTACT

### Physical address:

Hemingways Ol Seki 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

Last Full Refurbishment: May 2023

### 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 4.5 hours drive

