



RIDE WORLD WIDE

KENYA

PRIVATE OFFBEAT MARA SAFARI WITH LAURA COLLETT
15TH TO 22ND DECEMBER 2026

RIDE INFORMATION

Offbeat Safaris has been operating top quality adventurous horse safaris in Kenya for over thirty years and prides itself on taking you (as the name suggests) far off the beaten track. Founded by the late Tristan Voorspuy, a great horseman and enthusiastic conservationist, and still very much a private family business, Offbeat's riding routes cross some of East Africa's best, yet much of it little-touristed, big game country. Nights on safari are at wonderfully situated and secluded private camps, and riding each day is through a far-reaching landscape where game thrives in abundance and the going is ideal for horses. A route from place-to-place, an authentic safari camp, forward going horses, knowledgeable guides who really want you to have *THE* best time and game, game, game - the epitome of a riding safari and, we think, one of the best you can do in Africa!



We are delighted that in December 2026, Laura Collett, one of Britain's leading event riders, will be joining the Offbeat team on safari. FEI European Champion in 2025, Olympic individual bronze and team gold medallist in 2024, Badminton winner in 2022 and Olympic team gold medallist in 2021 - Laura has a string of remarkable achievements to her name. She's also adventurous and great fun - the perfect match to ride with Offbeat!

DATES

This 7 night private safari will run from Tuesday 15th December to Tuesday 22nd December 2026

HORSES

The safari horses used, all of which are owned by Offbeat, are between about 14.2 and 16.2hh. They are a mixture of polo ponies, TB and TB crosses, and as well as being ridden on safari, many are used for local polo, three phase events and cross-country competitions. Offbeat currently has about 45 safari horses, many of which were home bred by the Voorspuys with a focus on producing horses with the energy, athleticism and stamina, as well as the all-round 'bush sense' to make a perfect safari mount. They are a responsive, forward going and thoroughly enjoyable ride, well-schooled for safaris, sensible to handle and at home in the bush. They are looked after with great care at Deloraine Estate by Lucinda Voorspuy (herself a successful local race and 3 phase event rider) and a team of grooms. Grooms will accompany the safari seeing to the horses in camp and preparing them for riding.

TACK

Good quality English style tack is used and most of the horses are ridden in snaffles. Saddles are English GP leather or Wintec, with a few Australian Stock saddles on request. Saddlebags will be provided where needed and some seat savers are also available.

RIDING

The safari is for a group of 12 riding guests (including Laura) and will include up to about 5 or 6 hours in the saddle each day (although one longer moving day can be up to 7 hours, there will be a shorter ride to try the horses on the first day and a short ride for those who wish on the last). Riding is either from camp to camp, with rest stops en-route to watch game, for refreshments and a picnic lunch, or split into early morning and late afternoon rides when the game, and light for photography, is often best.



WEIGHT LIMIT

The usual rider weight limit is a strict 95 kgs / 15 stone although some fit and experienced heavier riders may be accommodated by prior arrangement. Please contact us if your weight is close to this.

PACE

The riding pace on the safari will generally be moderate to fast overall, with lots of chances for long trots and canters although it will always vary with local ground conditions, weather, game movements and so on. Much of the going underfoot is excellent for horses with vast, grassy plains providing wonderful opportunities for long, exhilarating canters - although you must always watch out for aardvark and hidden spring hare holes as you ride! You may also need to go carefully where the grass is long, weave your way through thorny bush and tread lightly across crusty black cotton soil, which means a slow, careful pace. Where the going is good, riders will be encouraged to spread out and take their own line rather than following one behind another to fully enjoy the open country and superb sense of space.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

Anyone planning to join this safari as a rider must be reasonably experienced, well balanced and confident in the saddle. Riding will be in open country where there is a variety of terrain and 'big' (potentially dangerous) game, including elephant, buffalo and lion. All riders are expected to be comfortable, secure and able to independently control a well-schooled horse in open country, at all paces (including a fast canter). It is not necessary to be an expert over fences or in competition and so on, but you do need to feel confident you can stay on your horse if it reacts suddenly or has to move quickly out of trouble. With up to 35 miles to cover a day, you will also enjoy the safari much more if you are fairly fit – so if you do not ride regularly at home we strongly recommend you accustom yourself to the time spent in the saddle with regular training in the weeks and months before you go.

NON-RIDERS

Non-riders are very welcome and will be well looked after. There will be at least one dedicated game drive vehicle for non-riders in camp and with experienced trackers always on hand, those who do not ride (or who do not want to ride every day) will still get the full, exciting safari experience. On 'moving' days, when horses move from camp to camp, non-riders will be able to travel by game drive vehicle, with a dedicated guide, taking their own route between camps to track and watch game. They will be able to meet up with riders at breaks and / or for lunch out in the bush and then again at the new camp at the end of the day. When the safari group spends two consecutive nights in the same camp, there will be choices of activity (rides out, game drives or bush walks to explore the local area) and opportunities for riders to join non-riders on game drives or guided bush walks after or instead of riding. There will be lots of opportunities for overlap between riders and any accompanying non-riders.

TERRAIN

The rolling hills and wide, grass-covered sandy plains of Masailand provide excellent going for horses allowing plenty of space for long canters. At its highest, the Soit Olololol Escarpment reaches a little over 6,000 feet (approximately 1,900 metres) and there are some rough, rocky paths you will climb to admire wonderful panoramic views or descend, perhaps dismounting to lead your horse over the rough ground. There are also some areas of thick thorny bush and occasional rocky or difficult river crossings to negotiate - your horse may need to scramble up or jump down a steep bank into or out of the Mara River, which the horses often ford.

WILDLIFE

If you are hoping to see game when riding, this will be a wonderful safari choice. The Mara area is full of game year-round, with animals wandering freely in and out of the Mara Game Reserve and on the migration route from the Serengeti in Tanzania. There are no fences but much of the route followed will be in the private, Masai owned, Mara North Conservancy, which, for the last 15 years or so, has been carefully managed alongside local Masai as a game and conservation area. Tourist access is very restricted, and the local Masai are fully involved in the conservancy ethos, meaning it has become a haven for many game species. On any Mara safari you can usually expect to see abundant plains game - zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, hartebeest, topi, gazelle and impala, often in spectacularly large numbers - and you should also see plenty of 'big' game such as elephant, buffalo and hippo. Predators, including lion, jackal and hyena, are often seen and frequently heard at night, and many safari participants have fantastic viewing of other cats such as cheetah or leopard. When not riding, game drives by day and at night with a spotlight will be a wonderful way to get closer to big game than you might wish to on a horse.



GUIDES & SAFETY

Offbeat is renowned for its excellent guiding and back-up, with many long standing and experienced safari staff. It is expected that this safari will be led by Simon Kenyon, who together with his wife Rosy and in partnership with Daisy Soames and Jakob Von Plessen, is now part owner of Offbeat. Simon, Daisy and Jakob all trained with Tristan, Offbeat's founder, in their late teens and have proved themselves to be natural, worthy successors for the Offbeat brand. Simon was brought up on a ranch in Kenya, and after university in England, spent several years managing Sosian Lodge. Always fantastic company, he is an excellent, enthusiastic and very approachable guide, with a deep love and knowledge of the bush. He manages to combine a tremendous sense of fun and adventure - traits fundamental to Offbeat - with a sympathetic, reassuring guiding style that ensures safaris are an exciting but relaxing treat for all! Daisy also leads safaris - another guide who is always enormous fun but reassuring company - as does Jakob who is now based in Argentina but still very much part of Offbeat. Mara safaris would not be complete without a Masai spotter/guide and Netti is an inspiration in this role. When riding, lead guides will be accompanied by a back-up rider and / or local groom(s) and a radio, cell phone(s) and first aid kit for emergencies, will be carried. Safari vehicles have radios for communication and a comprehensive medical kit is kept in camp.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation on the safari will be in a private tented camp set up especially for the group. Spacious, walk-in double safari tents will be used, furnished with comfortable 'stretcher' beds with pillows, cotton sheets, blankets and towels, provided. Camps have shared shower tents (usually 3 showers for the group, depending on numbers), each sleeping tent has a private 'short drop' loo a short way behind and chairs and a basin for hot water set up outside, at the front. Hot water for washing and shaving will be brought with your morning wake up call, and a traditional hot 'bucket and pulley' shower will be prepared for you by staff when you return to camp after a long day in the saddle or at any other time you wish.



Camps also have a spacious central dining / mess tent for candlelit dinners, or if the weather is fine, the long dining table will be set up outside under the stars. Although the camp is relocated every few nights and the overall feel is of living out in remote bush, you can expect the standard of service to be high, with everything you need thought of and provided - from polish (and a polisher!) to clean your shoes to ice to cool your drinks!

Accommodation is based on two sharing a tent and a single supplement will be payable if you are not prepared to share with another same sex guest if numbers require.



MEALS

Expect food to be tasty, plentiful and freshly cooked by staff who are experts at producing delicious fare over an open fire. There will be plenty of fresh fruit, salads and vegetables, and bread baked in camp every day. Days might start with fruit, porridge, toast and depending on the day's plans, a full English breakfast for those who wish. On moving days, you might stop for a picnic breakfast out riding, perhaps egg and bacon rolls carried in saddlebags or brought to meet you by vehicle, and then after a few more hours, will have a longer stop with the back-up vehicle meeting you for an extensive picnic lunch of salads, quiches, pizza or perhaps a BBQ to be followed by a siesta. A welcome cup of tea, or if you prefer a cold beer or gin and tonic with ice and lemon, will greet you when you arrive at or return to camp late afternoon and after evening showers, drinks by the fire are accompanied by appetising snacks to keep you going until dinner. Dinner will be a substantial three courses, perhaps soup to start followed by perfectly roast beef and a home-made pudding, served at a long table by candlelight in the best safari style. There will be a good, varied bar with a selection of spirits, wine, beer and soft drinks all included.



WEATHER

The Mara area of Kenya is quite high and daytime temperatures generally very pleasant for riding at around 20-25 C year-round. Historically the rainy seasons are late March to May, when there may be intermittent downpours with sunshine in between, and November / early December when there may be short, but sometimes heavy, bursts of rain. Rain showers are, however, possible at any time (and in recent years the seasonal boundaries seem to have become more fluid and harder to predict!)

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.



ITINERARY

The following is an example of the itinerary planned but **note** it is **only** an example. Safaris are organised a long way ahead and day-by-day arrangements, riding route and camp locations may be changed if movement of game, weather or other local conditions require. You may also ride the route in reverse if this works best. Arrangements are left to the discretion and experience of your guiding team.

Day 1 [Tuesday 15th December] Collected from your Nairobi hotel or Nairobi international airport and transferred to Wilson Domestic airport for a flight of about an hour departing [10.00], to the Masai Mara. Met at the Mara airstrip and driven by 4-wheel-drive vehicle to the first night's camp, set up at Olare Lamun (the 'rhino salt lick') in a grove of acacia trees to the south of the Loita Plains. Shown around camp, a late lunch and time to relax. After a siesta and cup of tea at about 16.00, meet the horses and a short first evening ride (about 1½ hours) to try them. Return to camp at sunset for hot showers, drinks and the first dinner in camp. Overnight Olare Lamun camp. (L,D)

Day 2 [Wednesday 16th December] Morning wake-up call and after tea, coffee and a light breakfast, the first full day to get used to the horses and explore the remote Ol Kinyei and Naibosho Conservancies with their abundant game. Heading out on the horses at dawn, when the light is fantastic and game often at its best, you might see your first group of giraffe elegantly lolling in slow motion. There are often family groups of 10 or more, always a magical sight in the morning light. After riding for about 3 hours, head back to camp mid-morning for hot showers and breakfast. Then perhaps jump in vehicles for a drive to investigate signs of lion or elephant spotted out riding or walk up a nearby hill, Oloiburmat, which has far-reaching 360 degree views. Back to camp for lunch and a rest. After a siesta and tea at about 16.00, you might head out again on a ride or drive to visit a local Masai village. Drinks and dinner in camp. (B,L,D)



ITINERARY cont.

Day 3 [Thursday 17th December] The morning wake-up call is early to give plenty of time for breakfast on this first moving day. With nearly 35 miles to cover this is one of the longest rides of the safari. Mount up at about 07.00 riding out whilst camp is packed up by staff who relocate it to the next spot. The route heads towards the Mara Reserve and Mara North Conservancy, where game is always plentiful and, as well as seeing zebra, giraffe, gazelle and wildebeest at close quarters, you're likely to see elephant and perhaps buffalo. Stop for a rest and picnic breakfast at about 10.00, then ride on again until you meet the support vehicle for lunch at about 13.00. After a long lunch break and siesta, head off on the final leg aiming to get to the new camp, Olare Oruk, on the edge of the Mara Reserve at teatime. Tea, drinks and hot showers will be ready in camp before an atmospheric dinner listening to the night sounds of the bush, the chime fruit bats and call of hyena and lion. Night Olare Oruk camp (B,L,D)



Day 4 [Friday 18th December] Today will be spent at the Olare Orok camp with a combination of rides, game drives and perhaps a chance to explore on foot - all wonderful opportunities to see the game that thrives here and wanders freely in the area around the Mara Reserve. Game drives are the best way to photograph lion and elephant close-up, often getting closer than you want to on a horse. Lunch in camp and in the evening after riding, perhaps head out with a spotlight, looking out for aardwolf, bush babies, hyena, leopard and other nocturnal game. Dinner and night Olare Orok camp (B,L,D)

Day 5 [Saturday 19th December] Another moving day. Ride out of camp after breakfast, west across the Mara plains towards the Mara River on the Park boundary. The horses will ford the river (unless it is in complete flood) at one of the famous wildebeest crossings, before riding southwest across the 'Mara Triangle' to meet vehicles at a spot chosen for lunch. After lunch and siestas, ride on up the Soit Olololol Escarpment to reach the new camp, in a forest glade overlooking the whole Mara ecosystem, at teatime. Tea, showers, a relaxing dinner and night in the Soit Olololol camp with its spectacular views. (B,L,D)



Day 6 [Sunday 20th December] Breakfast and ride down the escarpment again, before crossing the river at the same wildebeest crossing. On the far bank, turn northwest and stop for lunch in the shade before riding on to the final camp set up on the banks of the Mara River, close to some hippo pools. Dinner in camp listening to hippos as they grunt, wallow and dive in the river. Night Mara River camp (B,L,D)

ITINERARY cont.

Day 7 [Monday 21st December] An early morning ride, perhaps crossing the river at a different point to explore more of the far bank, or head out onto the plains, before returning to camp for a cooked breakfast. Then perhaps a game drive to explore more of this northern part of the Mara ecosystem, making the most of the vehicle for photographs. Return to camp for lunch and a siesta. In the afternoon, after tea, ride out again heading back to camp just before sunset or perhaps just relax in camp, watching the hippo grunting and diving in the river. Showers and a last evening drive with sundowners and a spotlight, before dinner. Night at Mara River Camp. (B,L,D)

Day 8 [Tuesday 22nd December] A final early morning ride for those who wish, heading out at about 06.30, before breakfast in camp and time to pack up. You will then be driven to the airstrip to meet a flight that will take you back to Nairobi (usually departing 11.00 arriving Nairobi about 12 noon). A taxi will meet you at Wilson Domestic airport and take you to a hotel close to the International airport where day rooms will be booked (twin shared basis). Relax by the hotel pool or head out for some last-minute shopping, before being collected in the evening and driven to the airport for your onward flight. (B)

(NB the route may be run in reverse, starting at the Mara River and ending at the Olare Lamun campsite)



PRICE

COST: USD 11,950 per person sharing (assuming a private group of 12 guests).
(at exchange at date of printing USD1=£1.33 this is approximately £8,985 per person)

Please note the safari rate is quoted in USD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD/sterling exchange rate in force on the date you book/pay.

Rate INCLUDES: all riding, private guiding and equipment, game drives / walks and other safari activities offered during itinerary, 7 nights' accommodation (based on two sharing) in a private safari camp with all meals (lunch first day to breakfast last day) and drinks / alcohol; collection and return to Nairobi International airport (or Nairobi hotel) on the first and last day; internal charter flights from Nairobi to the safari start point and back as a group on first / last day; day room in Nairobi on last day if required; flying doctor ambulance cover and laundry service.

Rate EXCLUDES: International flights to Nairobi and taxes, personal medical insurance (which you **must** have), any extra nights' accommodation before / after safari itinerary, special transfers from / to Nairobi at times other than with the group, visa fees and tips.

Single Supplement: Rate assumes twin accommodation and a single supplement of USD 100 per night is payable if you are not prepared to share a twin safari tent / room with another guest.



The safari meeting place is Nairobi. British Airways has direct flights between London and Nairobi every day and you can also fly, usually via Europe, with Kenya Airways. British Airways flights from London for this date (assuming flying out just for the safari) are as follows:

OUT Monday 14th December British Airways flight no BA65 due to depart London Heathrow T5 **09.50** and arrive Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta at **21.40**

RETURN Tuesday 22nd December British Airways flight no BA 64 due to depart Nairobi JKIA **23.55** and arrive LHR T5 next day Wednesday 23rd December at **06.15**

The BA arrival at Nairobi JKIA in the evening of Monday 14th December means you need to ADD an extra night (14th December) in a Nairobi hotel. There are several convenient, comfortable hotels which allow a good night's rest before the safari and we can easily arrange this (extra charge).

On the last day, the safari rate **includes** a day room at a Nairobi airport hotel and transfer to the International departure terminal for evening departures.

For further advice on flights, a quote or to book flights, please call us (our ATOL number for flight bookings is ATOL 6213).

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking.)

Visas British Passport holders **require** Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) to visit Kenya as a tourist to be applied for online via www.etaKenya.go.ke **prior to arrival**. The fee is currently approx. USD 35.

Health The TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends most travellers are vaccinated against **Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid and Hepatitis A**. Vaccination against **Yellow Fever** may also be recommended and *IF* you are travelling *from* another tropical country you will need to carry a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate (certificate **only** required when entering Kenya from another Yellow Fever tropical country, not if you are travelling from UK for example). Rabies, Cholera, Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis (TB) and Meningococcal Disease may also be recommended in certain situations. You will also usually be advised to take **anti-Malaria** tablets - please consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice.

(DRAFT 22/02/2026)