

9-Day Masai Mara Photo Safari - Big Cats Focus

📍 Masai Mara



Embark on the ultimate big cat photography adventure on this 9-day Masai Mara safari, designed for wildlife enthusiasts and professional photographers. You will focus on capturing Africa's most iconic predators—lions, leopards, and cheetahs. Staying three nights at each camp gives you plenty of time to photograph these majestic animals from multiple angles.

Your journey begins at **Mara Plains Camp** in the Olare Motorogi Conservancy, a private reserve full of big cats. Morning and evening game drives take you to the best photography hotspots. Here, lions lounge on termite mounds, leopards climb acacia trees, and cheetahs sprint across open plains. Additionally, the camp's elevated viewpoints allow you to photograph stunning sunrises and sunsets over the savannah.

Next, you move to **Porini Lion Camp**, which grants exclusive access to prime big cat territories. During drives, you can capture lions stalking prey, cheetahs chasing gazelles, and nocturnal predators emerging at night. Furthermore, optional hot air balloon flights offer dramatic aerial shots of wildlife and landscapes.

Finally, you transfer to **Zebra Plains Mara Camp**, perfectly situated to photograph Mara River scenes and predator-prey interactions. The camp emphasizes personalized photography experiences. Expert rangers guide you, sharing insights about animal behavior while you spend extended time observing wildlife.

Throughout the safari, the schedule takes advantage of optimal lighting conditions. Early mornings reveal misty plains, while golden hour sunsets highlight dramatic landscapes. With skilled guides, exclusive conservancy access, and three exceptional camps, this 9-day Masai Mara safari provides unmatched opportunities to photograph Africa's big cats. Each day presents new encounters, creating unforgettable memories and breathtaking images.

Tour Facts

Group Size:
2-6

Duration:
9

Language:
English, France, Germany, Spain

Tour Type:
continuous

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 : Arrival and First Big Cat Photography Experience



On the first day of your Masai Mara big cat photo safari, you arrive at the airstrip or drive from Nairobi and are transferred directly to **Mara Plains Camp**, located in one of the Mara's prime predator areas within the Olare Motorogi Conservancy. Upon arrival, your photography-focused guides provide a detailed briefing, covering wildlife behavior, camera settings, and the best angles for photographing lions, leopards, and cheetahs. In the afternoon, you embark on your **first**

game drive, capturing lions lounging on termite mounds, leopards perched in acacia trees, and cheetahs scanning or sprinting across the plains. The golden hour provides stunning light for **wide-angle landscape shots**, with predators silhouetted against the savannah horizon. After returning to camp, you have time to review your photos, fine-tune your equipment, and prepare for an early morning photography session. Dinner under the starry Mara sky concludes an exciting and photo-rich first day.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
6 Hours

Day 2 : Sunrise Game Drive and Afternoon Big Cat Photography



Wake up before dawn to experience the Mara's **golden sunrise**, when the plains come alive with wildlife. After a light breakfast at **Mara Plains Camp**, your photography-focused guides take you on a **morning game drive**, moving quietly through the Olare Motorogi Conservancy to prime predator locations. This is the perfect time to photograph **lion prides stretching, grooming, and interacting**, leopards elegantly navigating acacia trees, and cheetahs scanning the horizon before

launching into their high-speed hunts. Your guides position the vehicle strategically for optimal angles, helping you frame close-ups and dramatic action shots.

Return to camp mid-morning for a **photo review and equipment check**, during which guides provide tips on composition, camera settings, and lighting techniques tailored to wildlife photography. After a leisurely lunch, enjoy some downtime on the camp's elevated platforms, taking **landscape shots of the rolling savannah** and its iconic termite mounds.

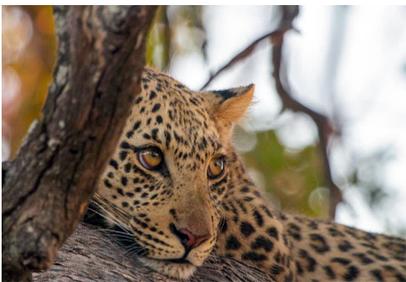
In the late afternoon, head out for an **afternoon game drive**, taking advantage of the golden hour to capture warm, soft light across the Mara plains. Focus on photographing **predators in silhouette against the sunset**, or a lioness prowling through tall grasses. You may also spot elephants, giraffes, and zebras interacting with the big cats, adding dynamic layers to your photographs.

Return to camp as dusk falls, where you can **review your day's shots with the guides**, discuss the next day's plan, and enjoy a gourmet dinner under the **star-filled Mara sky**. This full day ensures both action-packed and scenic photography, building your portfolio from the very start of the safari.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 3 : Full-Day Big Cat Photography Immersion



Start your day before dawn with a **hot cup of coffee or tea**, ready for a sunrise photography session. Today is dedicated to a **full day of predator-focused game drives** in the Mara's prime big cat territories. Your photography guides take you to areas where lions, leopards, and cheetahs are most active, helping you **anticipate wildlife behavior** to capture dynamic, action-filled shots.

During the **morning drive**, photograph lion prides stretching and playing among termite mounds, leopards stealthily moving through acacia trees, and cheetahs preparing for their high-speed chases. Your guides advise on camera settings, angles, and framing, ensuring you capture both close-ups and dramatic landscape compositions.

Return to **Mara Plains Camp** mid-morning for a short break and **photo review session**, where the guides provide feedback on composition, light, and timing. Enjoy lunch on the camp's deck while snapping **landscape shots of the Mara plains**, spotting zebras, giraffes, and other wildlife in the distance.

In the **afternoon**, embark on another extended game drive, timed to take advantage of the **golden hour light**. Focus on capturing predators silhouetted against the setting sun, lion cubs playing with their pride, or a cheetah sprinting across the open savannah. The quiet, low-traffic conservancy allows for **uninterrupted wildlife photography**.

Return to camp at dusk for dinner and a chance to **review and organize your images**. Tonight, you can enjoy the sounds of the Mara at night, reflecting on the day's photographic successes and preparing for another action-packed day of predator photography.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 4 : Early Morning Predator Action and Mara River Photography



Wake up before dawn for an **early morning game drive**, when the Mara's predators are at their most active. Today, your guides take you to strategic locations along the **Mara River and surrounding plains** to capture lions, leopards, and cheetahs in natural behavior. You may witness lions hunting, cheetahs stalking prey, or leopards elegantly navigating tree branches. The **soft morning light** enhances your shots, allowing you to capture sharp, vibrant images with dramatic shadows.

After a mid-morning **photo review session at camp**, enjoy a hearty breakfast and take some downtime to check your equipment. Your guides may also provide tips for capturing **wildlife interactions with their environment**, including herd dynamics, riverbank activity, and playful cubs.

In the afternoon, embark on a second photography-focused game drive. Head toward the **Mara River crossings**, where you can photograph predators near hippos and crocodiles or lions lounging by the water. The **golden hour** offers stunning opportunities to capture **silhouettes of big cats against the sunset** or action shots with rich, warm tones.

Return to camp in the evening to relax and enjoy a **gourmet dinner under the starry Mara sky**. Take time to organize your images, discuss the day's highlights with your guides, and plan your strategy for tomorrow's morning and afternoon drives. By the end of the day, you'll have accumulated a wealth of **high-quality predator and landscape photographs**, building an impressive start to your 9-day photo safari.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 5 : Full-Day Cheetah and Leopard Photography Excursion



Start the day with a pre-dawn wake-up to capture the **Mara plains bathed in golden light**. After a quick breakfast, head out on a **morning photography game drive**, focusing on the elusive leopards and the fast-moving cheetahs. Your guides know the territories where these predators hunt and rest, positioning your vehicle for optimal angles and uninterrupted photography opportunities. Capture **cheetahs sprinting across open grasslands**, leopards perched high in acacia trees, and lions in relaxed or playful poses.

Mid-morning, return to camp for a **photo review and equipment check**, during which your guides provide tips on shutter speed, framing, and lighting techniques to enhance action shots. Lunch at **Mara Plains Camp** offers panoramic views of the savannah, allowing you to **capture wide-angle landscape shots** with wildlife in the background.

In the afternoon, embark on a second game drive to explore different areas of the conservancy. Focus on **predator-prey interactions**, such as cheetah stalking gazelles or lions observing herds from termite mounds. The late afternoon **golden hour** provides warm, soft light that enhances both wildlife and landscape photography, perfect for creating dramatic silhouettes or detailed close-ups.

Return to camp in the evening for dinner and a relaxing night under the **Mara starry sky**. Use this time to organize your photos, reflect on the day's highlights, and plan for the next day, which will focus on **riverbank predator activity and group dynamics**.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 6 : Mara River Crossings and Predator-Prey Action



Wake up before dawn for an **early morning game drive**, taking advantage of the soft morning light to photograph predators in action. Today, your focus is on the **Mara River and surrounding plains**, a hotspot for lion, leopard, and cheetah activity. Capture lions lounging near the riverbanks, leopards stealthily moving through acacia trees, and cheetahs preparing for high-speed chases. The morning mist over the plains adds a magical atmosphere to your **wildlife and landscape shots**.

Return to camp mid-morning for a **photo review and lunch**, where your guides provide personalized tips on composition, lighting, and timing for action shots. Take advantage of the camp's elevated vantage points to **photograph the wide savannah landscape**, spotting herds of zebras, wildebeests, and elephants interacting with predators.

In the afternoon, set out for a second game drive along the **Mara River**, where dramatic predator-prey interactions often occur. Photograph lions hunting near hippos, cheetahs chasing gazelles, or leopards moving along riverbanks. The **golden hour light** enhances every shot, from silhouettes of stalking lions to cheetahs sprinting across the open plains.

Return to camp in the evening for dinner under the **star-filled Mara sky**. Spend time reviewing your photos, sharing highlights with your guides, and preparing your gear for the next day's early morning photography adventure, which promises more **big cat hunts and intimate wildlife encounters**.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 7 : Predator Behavior and Dramatic Mara Landscapes



Wake up before dawn to catch the **first light over the Mara plains**, perfect for photographing predators in action. After a light breakfast, embark on a **morning photography game drive** focusing on lions, leopards, and cheetahs. Your guides take you to areas where big cats are actively hunting, interacting, or resting, ensuring multiple opportunities for **close-up shots, action photography, and scenic compositions**.

Mid-morning, pause for a **photo review session at camp**, where guides provide advice on camera settings, composition, and capturing dynamic predator-prey interactions. Enjoy lunch while taking **wide-angle shots of the Mara's rolling plains** and spotting wildlife in the distance, from elephant herds to grazing zebra and wildebeest.

In the afternoon, set out for a second game drive along the **Mara River and adjacent plains**. Photograph lions lounging near water, leopards prowling along shaded banks, and cheetahs sprinting across open grasslands. The **golden hour** provides soft, warm light ideal for silhouettes, action shots, and dramatic landscape photography. Additionally, keep an eye out for **river crossings**, where predators may be

hunting or observing prey, offering one of the Mara's most photogenic wildlife scenes.

Return to camp at dusk for a **gourmet dinner under the starry sky**, review your best images of the day, and prepare for another early start tomorrow. By the end of the day, you will have captured a rich variety of **big cat behaviors, Mara landscapes, and golden hour action shots**, adding depth and diversity to your photography portfolio.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 8 : Sunrise Action and Hot Spot Predator Photography



Begin the day with a **pre-dawn wake-up** to capture the Mara plains in the soft, golden sunrise light. After a light breakfast, head out for a **morning photography game drive**, focusing on high-probability predator zones. Your guides will position the vehicle for optimal angles to photograph lions on termite mounds, leopards in acacia trees, and cheetahs preparing or executing sprints across the open savannah. This morning is ideal for **action shots and intimate wildlife portraits**.

Return to camp mid-morning for a **photo review session and equipment check**, where guides provide tips on shutter speed, composition, and lighting to enhance predator photography. Enjoy lunch while capturing **panoramic shots of the Mara landscape**, spotting herds of zebras, wildebeests, and giraffes that add context and depth to your wildlife images.

In the afternoon, embark on a second game drive to the **Mara River and surrounding plains**, a hotspot for predator-prey interactions. Photograph cheetahs chasing gazelles, lions surveying the plains, and leopards moving stealthily along shaded banks. The **golden hour before sunset** provides dramatic light for silhouettes, close-ups, and wide-angle compositions, giving your portfolio a variety of dynamic shots.

Return to camp in the evening for **dinner under the starry Mara sky**, and review the day's images with your guides. Take notes on new angles and techniques to try on your final day, ensuring you make the most of the last photography-focused drives. By the end of Day 8, you will have a comprehensive collection of **predator behavior, action sequences, and Mara landscape photographs**.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 9 : Final Sunrise Game Drive and Departure



Start your last day with a **pre-dawn wake-up** to capture the Mara plains in the soft morning light. After a light breakfast, embark on a **final morning photography game drive**, focusing on any predators you may have missed or want to capture from a new angle. This is the perfect opportunity for **last-minute action shots of lions, leopards, and cheetahs**, as well as scenic wide-angle photos of the savannah bathed in early sunlight.

Return to **camp mid-morning** to pack your equipment, review your photos, and enjoy a farewell brunch with panoramic views of the Mara landscape. Take a few final shots from the camp's vantage points, capturing the rolling plains, wildlife in the distance, and iconic acacia silhouettes.

After brunch, transfer to the **airstrip for your flight back to Nairobi** (or drive if preferred), reflecting on your 9 days of photography and wildlife immersion. Your guides may offer last-minute tips on organizing and enhancing your portfolio, ensuring you leave with a comprehensive collection of **big cat action, predator-prey interactions, and dramatic Mara landscapes**.

Arrive in Nairobi in the afternoon, marking the end of your unforgettable Masai Mara photo safari. By the end of this 9-day adventure, you will have captured a diverse and stunning portfolio of Africa's most iconic predators, enhanced by expert guidance, golden hour lighting, and exclusive access to prime wildlife areas.

Meals Included

LUNCH, BREAKFAST,

Duration

8 Hours