

# Sara's Signature Safaris

"Sourcebook for the Safari Enthusiast"

Kenya Edition 2020



A guide on how to plan and have the  
best safari experience

*By: Sara de Maine Kearns*



Travels with Sara  
introduces...  
Sara's Signature Safaris



A guide on how to plan and have the best safari experience. Sara's personal picks for the best safari guides and camps in the business from my own personal experiences.

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# Foreward

## Endorsed by Kenya Tourism Board

Telling a story from a personal experience is always a more authentic way of convincing your audience; it is real and believable. It is more so when the subject matter is about destination Kenya whose attractions, activities are ever thrilling and inviting.

As a tourist destination, Kenya has continued to receive visitors from all over the world courtesy of among other avenues, the testimonials from those with first hand information after their visit to the country.

A peep into Sara's guide gives a perfect example of experiential stories told from the traveler's eye. She highlights aspects such as mode of access to the destination, accommodation, cost among other essentials while on a safari. In the guide, she unpacks some of the magical experiences while on her tour to several tourist attractions spread across the country; From an opportunity to hand-feed giraffes and adopt elephants, to a moment of sampling the various trade artifacts as she interact with diverse cultures. She tells of a lifetime opportunity for a sampling of excellent safari camps that allows for a leisurely intake of Kenya's ambience against the backdrop of nature and the warmth of the Kenyan people.



*Travels with Sara has been endorsed by the Kenya  
Tourism Board.*

*Kenya is home to an authentic safari, a host of vibrant attractions with pristine beaches, resorts & spas, mountains, waterfalls, wildlife and cultures that gel together in the peoples inherent ability to be good hosts.*

*Indeed this edition is not an end to other platforms that the country leverages on to showcase her diversity in tourism offerings. The information carried in this guide is not exhaustive; there are more attractions, more accommodations across the country for you to sample.*

*We at KTB support all the platforms that serve to showcase the destination at its best with regards to tourism products.*

*To this end we endorse this edition of "Sara's Signature Safaris Guide Book" while commending Sara for her incisiveness. Enjoy the ride.*



# Preface

This book is important to me to ensure that you have the very best safari experience. It is of the utmost importance to have the best camp and guide to enhance your safari experience. This is the fifth edition on Kenya to be followed by other African Safari destinations.

Over the years that I have spent in travel - about forty-five dare I say, one of the things I have learnt is that a good guide is essential to your overall safari experience hence the reason this book was born.

My source book covers personal favorite camps and guides that I have come across in my travels.



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My history of travel goes way back. As the saying goes, "Where there's a will there's a way..." As a child my father regaled me with stories of the Dark Continent inhabited by wild animals and colorful people, places with strange sounding names; Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar. He told tales of journeys from Cairo to the Cape. The exotic animals and brightly plumaged birds filled my imagination, I was enthralled.



My dream came to life after I joined BOAC as a (multi lingual) stewardess, this was my ticket to the world and Africa was high on the long list of places I wanted to go. The journey began and I never looked back, in fact I married a foreign correspondent with CBS News who was an African expert. After several safaris and many miles of global travel I am doing what I love best, sharing my travel experiences with you. Thus in 2008 my business was born.

*"Travels with Sara"*

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## What to expect...

Before the trip I was deluged with information. Brochures, Pamphlets, Packing Lists....Would we really be sleeping in tents? Flying in single-engine planes and landing on grass fields / strips? It was all a bit daunting.

I read all the information twice, but as it turned out, nothing prepared me fully for the actual experience.



*You don't need to bring a lot of anything.....*

You really need very little, so my advice is to take half (or less) of what is suggested. The brochures make it clear that because you'll be flying in small planes between camps, you need to limit the weight of your luggage to 30 pounds and soft-sided duffel bags. Be prepared to pay if you have excess weight.

Every lodge and camp offers same day laundry, (except for underwear - soap provided) included in the price as well as all toiletries (except toothbrush and toothpaste).

In fact, you could get by with what you wear on the plane and two changes of clothes, period.

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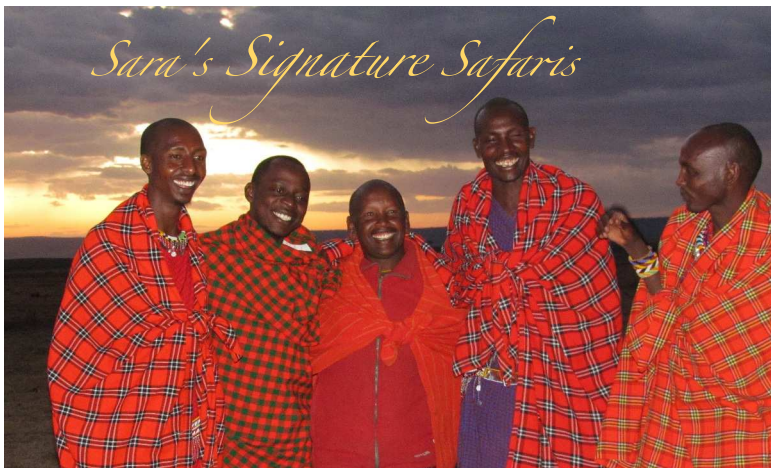
The size of the bag I take (pictured) is 20x10x8 and still in use today. Plus a back pack. A back-up camera is a good idea, in case one breaks, eg. ipad or iphone, batteries, lenses, memory cards, chargers and a universal plug/adaptor. Do, however, avoid bright colors (tsetse flies love blue for some reason). Khaki and tan (cotton / linen) are the way to go, even if they're not your colors. Wear your walking/hiking shoes on the plane and layer as much as possible, make sure to include a fleece! Guides will let you use their binoculars (one pair per vehicle) but suggest if you have a really good pair bring them.

*You'll get close to the animals...really close*

You'll sometimes be mere feet away from elephants, zebras, lions and other game. That's what a safari is all about. Do not get out of your safari vehicle to get any closer. The animals won't like it....neither will your guides.

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## *Sara's Signature Safaris*



*Travels with Sara has been making dreams come true with her Signature Safaris since 2009.*

*"Tell me your dreams and I will make them come true!"*

*I go the extra mile to ensure that every detail is taken care of from meet and greet plane side, to help with arrival formalities, private vehicle to hotel, car and driver in Nairobi for the day, transfers to hotel to Wilson airport for internal flights, maasai guides to welcome you at air strip and drive to camp. If you are celebrating a special event we will roll out the red carpet!*

*Safaris are perceived as trips of a life time and they are! Do not under estimate the power of such a trip. They are addictive! For those of you looking for an awesome family vacation go on safari, your children will thank you.*

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*An ideal safari is up to you and your wallet...*

*I specialize in giving excellent value for money.*

*My truthful answer on cost... It depends if you want simple or over the top luxury. Somewhere in-between a realistic budget starting at \$750 per person per day will give you an excellent safari experience (hotels, transfers, internal air, camps, park fees and taxes).*

*Extras; insurance, tips and visas.*

*Most camps are inclusive of: All meals (all fresh), drinks, sundowners, bush walks, game drives, laundry and basic toiletries.*

*For those wanting to really open up the wallet, a private professional guide is the ultimate safari extra. They run about \$1,000 per day.*

*In my opinion, to have the best experience and value is to stay put. Use one camp a superb guide and a private vehicle. You will have the best experience....  
go slowly and enjoy!*

*A safari can be planned months out or last minute. With my excellent connections anything is possible.*



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# Getting to Kenya

*Kenya Airways* has the only direct flight to Kenya from JFK saving lots of time.

Best airlines I have used with one-stop to Nairobi:

KLM  
British Airways  
Air France  
Lufthansa  
Turkish  
Swiss  
Emirates  
Qatar

Once there you can either drive or fly to camp. Safari Link, Governor's Aviation, Air Kenya or private charter are my choices



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# Nairobi Hotels

*Hemingways (Hemingways-Nairobi.com)*

A full five star hotel offering world class service, superb accommodations with a spa and exquisite dining. A fantastic hotel to spend a few days and get spoiled!

*Giraffe Manor (giraffemanor.com)*

Four star hotel with the ultimate breakfast experience.

*The Norfolk (fairmont.com/norfolk-hotel-nairobi)*

Four star hotel "Nairobi's gem" with its historical charm. Located downtown.

*Aero Club (aeroclubea.com)*

A great simple convenient hotel if arriving at night. Located at Wilson Airport for early flights out next day.

*Ole Sereni (ole-sereni.com)*

Close to JKIA (NBO) great convenient hotel if arriving after midnight. A great stop for dinner on your last night. It overlooks Nairobi game park.

*Four Points by Sheraton Nairobi Airport  
(Marriott.com)*

Four star hotel located at JKIA (NBO), conveniently located with 3 restaurants and pool. Great day room accommodations.

*Tamarind Tree Hotel (Tamarindtree-hotels.com)*

Located halfway between JKIA and Wilson Airports. Modern and clean with pool and gym.

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# Sara's Best Camps in Kenya

## Laikipia Plateau

Offbeat Safaris

Sosian Lodge

Ekorian's Mugie

Elewana

Loisaba

Kifaru House

Governor's Collection

Mugie House

Kicheche

Ol Pejeta

Safari Collection

Solio Lodge

Lewa Conservancy

Lewa Wilderness

Segera Retreat

Sirikoi

Borana

## Meru National Park

Elewana

Elsa's Kopje

## Samburu National Reserve

Douglas Hamilton

Elephant Watch

Saruni

Saruni Rhino

Saruni Samburu

Safari Collection

Sasaab

Namunyak Conservancy

Sarara Camp

Reteti Elephant Sanctuary

## Amboseli & Chyulu Hills

Elewana

Tortilis

Amboseli Region

Zebra Plains

Chyula Hills

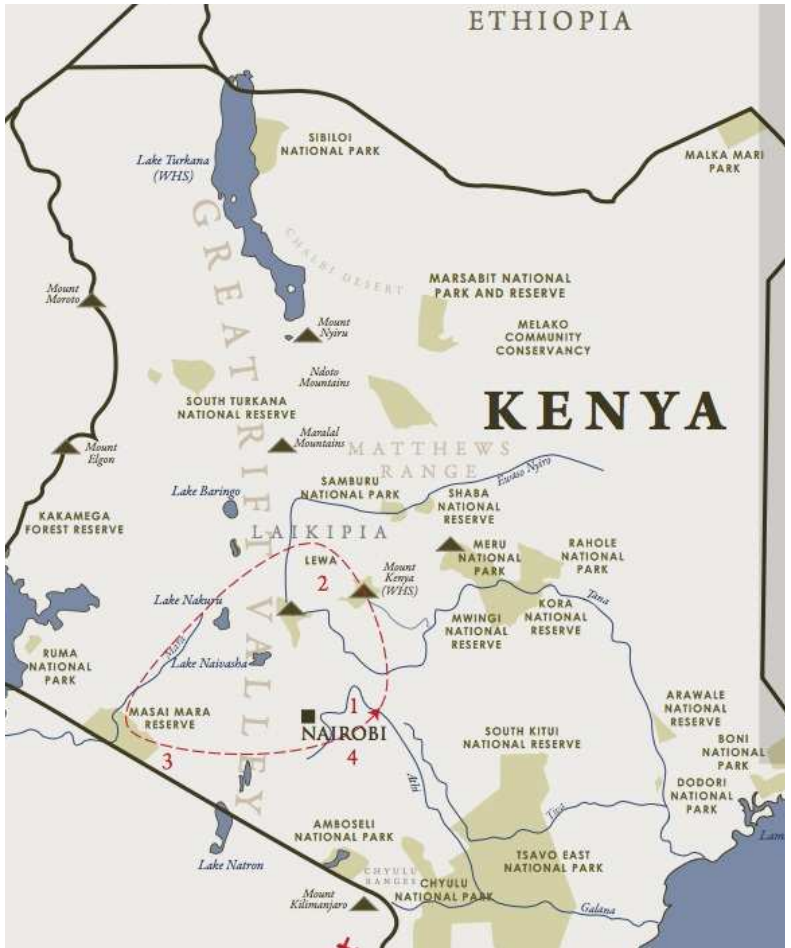
Campi ya Kanzi

Great Plains

Ol Donyo Lodge

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# National Parks of Kenya



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# Maasai Mara

<i>Offbeat Safaris:</i>	Mara Camp, Mobile Riding Safaris, Spirit of the Mara
<i>Alex Walker's:</i>	Serian, Ngare Serian, Nkorombo Mobile Camp
<i>Asilia:</i>	Rekero, Naboisho
<i>Kicheche:</i>	Bush, Mara, Kicheche Valley
<i>Elewana:</i>	Elephant Pepper, Sand River
<i>Great Plains:</i>	Mara Plains, Mara Expedition, Nyika
<i>Cottar Family:</i>	Cottar's 1920 Camp
<i>Roberts Safaris:</i>	Richard's Camp
<i>Peter Twycross:</i>	Sentinel
<i>Angama Camps:</i>	Angama Mara, Angama Tented Camp
<i>Bushtops:</i>	Mara Bushtops
<i>Safari Collection:</i>	Sala's Camp
<i>Governor's:</i>	Main Camp, Little Governor's (balloon), Il Moran, Private Camp
<i>Jackson Looseyia:</i>	Tangulia Mara Camp
<i>Alfred Korir:</i>	Zebra Camp
<i>Mara:</i>	Karen Blixen Camp

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# Mara Conservancies



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# Safari Guides

*My experience and affiliation with the camps, owners, managers and guides will be the key to your successful African Safari Trip. All guides are very knowledgeable and well trained. Each guides reputation precedes them. The ones I am recommending are held in the highest regard*

## *Kicheche Guides:*

*Charles Wandero  
James Nampaso  
Nelson Kasoe  
Patrick Koriata  
Andrew Obaga  
Benjamin Kaluena  
David Nchoe  
Francis Sunkuli  
George Nampaso  
Jimmy Tinka  
Joseph Sengeny  
Mika Kaleku  
Bernard Soi*

## *Offbeat Guides:*

*Stanley Nkoito  
Joseph Leposa Njapit  
David Yiampoi Njapit  
Josphat Ole Rinka  
Simon Kenyon  
Ambrose Lochilia*

## *Elewana Guides:*

*Samuel Brown  
Joseph Chege \*  
Philip Ndungu \*  
Newton Kongo  
Francis Mburugu  
Ole Kirokor Sosio*

## *Lewa Wilderness Guide:*

*Johnson Gilisho  
Nglia Johnson*



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*Cottar's Guides:*

Calvin Cottar \*  
Douglas Nagi \*  
Geoffrey Mako  
Kenneth Kinoti  
Enoch Sayagie

*Angama Mara*

Fred Ole Sinoni  
Kenneth Tanui  
Alice Lendani  
Wilson Naitoi  
Ericson Lemaalo  
John Githinji  
Dan Ouma  
Sophie Sadera  
Geoffrey Njoroge

*Sentinel Guides:*

Dominic Maitai

*Asilia Guides:*

Dickson Nabaala  
Roelof Schutte  
Martin Kasaine

*Bushtop Guides:*

Peter Carpenter \*  
Charles Mwaniki

*Sirikoi Guide:*

Johnson Ngila

*Segera Guide:*

Paul Kasaine  
Bashir Hussain

*Private Kenyan guides  
that will go to any camp:*

Paul Kirui \*  
Onesmus Irungu

\* Gold Rated Guides

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# The Ultimate African Experience



*SkySafari by Elewana goes to some of my favorite hotels and camps in Kenya, flying in your own private 9 seater executive class caravan over the african savannah. They offer a lovely all inclusive 8 day safari package to die for..... luxury at its finest!*

*In a world where time is the most precious commodity, SkySafari makes this adventure of a lifetime possible.*



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# What to do in Nairobi

If you have any free time, here are a few things of interest you should consider.

*Giraffe Manor* - Want a great experience, go to the Giraffe Center and hand feed the Giraffe's.

*Elephant Orphanage* - Spend a wonderful morning cozying up to baby elephants. In the afternoon you can Adopt your own.

*Matbronze Art Gallery and Foundry* - Visit this beautiful gallery and see amazing bronze work.

*Karen Blixen Cafe and Museum* - Out of Africa author, great place for lunch and beautiful surroundings.

*Anna Trzebinski* - Fashion designer extraordinaire. Boutique located at Hemingways Hotel.

*Bomas of Kenya* - Great market with local handicrafts.

*Talisman Restaurant* - Located in Langata, one of my favorite places to dine outdoors.



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# Kenya Beaches

*Last but not least is a trip to the beach. Kenya has some of the finest beaches on the African coast. The deep sea fishing and snorkeling are spectacular. These are my favorites:*



*Lamu  
Hotel Peponi  
The Majlis  
Manda Bay*

*Malindi  
Driftwood Beach Club  
Best golf in Kenya - Vipingo  
Ridge*



*Watamu  
Hemingways Resort*

*Diani Beach  
Diani Reef Beach Resort and Spa  
Leopard Beach Resort and Spa*

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*Accomplishments: I was honored at the 2019 Women in Business summit for my contribution to women in business.*

## **SARA'S SIGNATURE SAFARIS**



Sara is the entrepreneurial founder and leading force behind her 10-year old company.

[2019 WOMENINBUSINESS.ORG HONOREE](http://2019WOMENINBUSINESS.ORG)

### **"Travel with a Traveler"**

- Sara is a worldwide traveler who specializes in African Safaris. Sara provides personal, customized service at a reasonable price and offers highly regarded private safaris. She personally escorts several trips a year to Africa.
- At the SUMMIT Podium this afternoon: much more about Sara and all of her many different work-life experiences.

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*Dreaming of returning to my beloved Kenya  
someday...*

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# Book with confidence



For more information regarding  
Sara's Signature Safaris contact

## *Travels with Sara*

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