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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - KARISIA WALKING SAFARIS

1. Where is Karisia located?

80 kms from Nanyuki town on the boundary of Laikipia East and Isiolo County.

NO 27.194 E36 57.444

2. How do you get to the start of your walking safari?

There is a private charter flight to an airstrip within 45 minutes of most camps.

There is a scheduled flight to Nanyuki or Loisaba (2 hour drive).

The drive from Nairobi is a 6-7 hour drive.

3. How are camps moved?

The complete camp is moved with a camel train and team. This means you are able to travel to areas that vehicles cannot reach. The exception is if there are 2 nights where there is no water and require a water drop.

4. How many camels and men will you need to move the camp to a new location each day?

There is typically between seven and 15 Laikipia Masai and Samburu staff and 8 to 20 camels on any one safari.

5. Are camels bad natured and do they spit?

Camels like most animals are good natured, if they are not mistreated. The camels are treated very well and for that reason they do not have a bad attitude towards people or work. The camels are friendly and cuddly. Camels do not spit but will only regurgitate their cud when they are stressed. This happens rarely with the camels, typically only when they are getting medication or when a young one is in training. Camels are very sociable animals and like being around people. After being near the camels for a few days most people become quite attached, or at least pleasantly surprised by them.

6. How many riding camels will there be on each safari?

It depends on the number of guests and their ages.

With lots of children on safari there are more riding camels available, than if there were only two adults.

7. Do you need to carry your own water and snacks for the walk each day?

No, the riding camels will carry water, juice, snacks and these are easily accessible and you will stop often to keep hydrated. You can also put your daypack / camera on the camels when you have had enough of carrying them.

8. How far do we walk each day?

Typically you will walk between 8 and 20 km depending on the fitness level of the group and the terrain you cross.

Leaving camp between 6/7 am depending on the guests, weather etc, arriving at the next camp before lunch.

Usually walks are about 4 to 5 hours including stops for wildlife and refreshment stops.

9. How fit do you have to be?

All walks are designed every level of fitness. All trips are planned to include a lot of stops so that there is enough time to look at animals, insects and flowers.

10. If you would like a vehicle on standby is this possible?

Yes, especially in and around Tumaren.

If guests want to visit a market or if there are small children in the group and they are tired or if there is concern that there are elephants on the route. Older people may also request a vehicle to help them between camps around the Tumaren area.



11. If I'm allergic to horses will I also react to camels?

We do not know for sure but we can say that three guests who have been allergic to horses have found no problems around the camels.

12. What is the shortest walk?

Minimum of 3 nights on a mobile walking safari for a Luxury, Classic or Air BnC walking safari.

Minimum of 2 nights from a non mobile camp – Tumaren or Satellite Camp

13. What is the longest walk?

16 days - but longer walks can be arranged with resupplies.

14. What are average temperatures?

It is generally dry and hot during the day with temperatures reaching 26-30 C max.

The altitude is 5,000 feet and therefore it is always cool in the shade.

At night it can get quite chilly, with temperatures of about 14 C and it is suggested packing long trousers and a fleece.

15. What is the minimum age for the safaris?

Children as young as 4 years old and the walks are tailored suit to the family.

The oldest guest so far has been 84 years old.

16. Do we camp in a new place every night?

Typically trips are planned with moving to a new campsite each night but when there are children who might like the river or upon request we you can stay as many nights in one camp as you like. It is quite nice at the end of a trip to be in one camp for 2 nights and do activities from there.

17. What are the sleeping arrangements like?

Luxury Walking Safari and Tumaren Camp:

Luxury bedding with duvets, dressing gowns and feather pillows.

Beds available on the mobile safari on request.

Classic and Air BnC Camp:

Sheets and blankets and feather pillows

Comfortable king size / twin mattresses on the ground

18. Do you need to bring our own towels?

Towels are provided for you on safari

19. What are the toilets like?

The toilets are long drop style with a comfortable wooden seat inside a simple box tent.

They are freshly dug every day and outside each toilet there is a rinsing basin.

20. What are the shower facilities like?

The shower facilities are simple tents open at the top for a hung bucket shower.

The showers are supplied with hot water that is heated over the fire.

21. Is shampoo provided?

Soap is only provided on the walking safari, but not shampoo.

Tumaren Camp provides soap and shampoo.

22. Who are the guides on the safari?

The safaris are guided by either James Chris or Kerry Glen, the owners of Karisia Walking Safaris; or else by Gabriel Ewoi, Joseph Kamotho and Addan Narerio.

23. Are the guides trained in First Aid?

All guides are trained in Wilderness First Aid.



24. How do you communicate with the rest of the world?

Cellphones and radios are carried to speak to our security team as well as Satellite phones to contact emergency services should there ever be a need and there is no cell network.

25. Can you check our emails on safari?

This is only possible when you pass through areas with network, which is not guaranteed. If it is essential that someone needs to check emails, a plan can be made with the office and get the information on through.

26. What are the insects like?

The dry climate means there are very few insects that are noticeable. There are ticks at some times of the year in the grass but these can be easily spotted and controlled by spraying one's socks, shoes and legs with insect repellent.

27. Is there Malaria in your area?

No responsible operator in here in Kenya would ever say they did not have Malaria for fear of the off chance that a case appears among one of their guests. Residents living in Laikipia do not worry about malaria but those visiting other parts at a lower altitude should consider Malaria prophylactics.

28. What is the food like on safari?

All diets are catered for and everything is freshly baked and prepared each day with lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. The food is always tasty and delicious.

29. How do you fit a Karisia Walking Safaris into a larger itinerary?

This safari fits in well with a camp in Meru, Samburu, Lewa, Ol Pejeta area first and then coming on to Laikipia for a walking safari and then flying on to the Mara. If you want to escape winter for a week you can go on a walking safari and end up at a Laikipia Lodge or camp.

30. Is it ok for kids?

Kids love this safari, they are outdoors all day, riding camels, fishing, tracking, climbing rocks and learning from the Laikipia Masai trackers.

31. What extra activities apart from walking and camel riding are available?

Rock climbing - top rope with trained guides.

Market visits - Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

School Visits.

Manyatta visit.

Beading.

Tracking.

Baboon Research Visit, Mpala Research Centre Visit.

32. What will you see on safari?

Mammals:

Guenther's Dikdik, Steinbuck, Klipspringer, Thompson's Gazelle, Grant's Gazelle, Gerenuk, Impala, Highland Hartebeest, Beisa Oryx, Waterbuck, Eland, Bushbuck, Lesser Kudu, Reticulated Giraffe, Elephant, Common Zebra, Grevy's Zebra, Hippo, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Caracal, Serval Cat, Wildcat, Spotted Hyena, Striped hyena, Aardwolf, Wilddog, Black-backed Jackal, Bat-eared Fox, White-tailed Mongoose, Dwarf Mongoose, Slender-tailed Mongoose, Genet Cat, Bushbaby, Aardvark, Porcupine

Birds:

Ostrich, Kori Bustard, Von Der Decken's Hornbill, White-bellied Go-away Bird, Vitelline Masked Weaver, Spotted Thickknee, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Eastern Chantrelle Goshawk, Tawny Eagle, Bateleur Eagle, Marico Sunbird, Red-fronted Warbler, Rufous Chantrelle, D'Arnaud's Barbet

Reptiles and Amphibians:

Garmani Toad, Bubbling Kassina, Cryptotriton Sandfrog, Picturatus Dwarf Gecko, Brooks Gecko, Variable Skink, Red-headed Agama, Elementaita Agama, Long-tailed Lizard, Side-striped Chameleon.

