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## Eagle View: Basecamp Explorer's Hilltop Lodge In The Masai Mara

If you're a big city dweller from a place such as NYC, you're clearly used to crazy sounds in the wee hours outside of your house or apartment. But, as you wake around 4 or 5 a.m. from a deep jet lag-induced sleep in your [Eagle View](#) tent, it takes awhile to realize that the racket you hear outside emanates from a few elephants having a snack.



The hilltop vistas from Eagle View live up to the camp's name.

CREDIT: KEN GEIGER/BASECAMP EXPLORER

The nighttime serenade outside might even elevate to some trumpeting from the ellies. And then, there were the earlier myriad and sometimes spooky vocalizations of hyenas you heard in the distance. Relax. It's all part of the neighborhood and just your typical start to another day in southwest Kenya's Mara Naboisho Conservancy, adjacent to the Masai Mara National Reserve.

Eagle View sits on elevated terrain overlooking a vast expanse. Thus the name. Over a sundowner at the firepit, you might see a tawny eagle in a tree to go along with a great sunset. The camp is one hundred percent solar power generated, with baboons wandering in for waste management, you might say.

The nine comfy tents, with wooden plank floors, in-suite bathrooms with indoor/outdoor showers and private terraces, are spaced out to afford maximum privacy, with some facing sunrise, some sunset.



Just the sort of neighbors you'll have at Eagle View camp.

CREDIT: KEN GEIGER/BASECAMP EXPLORER

Here's a tip: The tents have superb zip-up blackout walls to keep you completely snug should the rains arrive, or if you're light sensitive, or simply nervous about sleeping essentially out in the wild; but, you should keep your tent unzipped so there's just the netting between you and the outdoors. Because, how often are you ever again going to see ellies right outside your room in the dawn light, in this, one of the planet's great animal ecosystems in which some forty percent of Africa's large mammals are estimated to remain.

You haven't even had breakfast yet, but at 5:30 a.m. as your Maasai security guard with spear in hand escorts you the few minutes down the windy dirt path to the reception/dining area you've already heard the lion roars in the distance from a kill. The male is somewhere down below camp your guard tells you, with the lioness somewhere in the bush to your left.





The Eagle View deck in the camp's public area.

CREDIT: KEN GEIGER/BASECAMP EXPLORER

Let's back up: Perhaps you weren't expecting immediate gratification the day before on your flight to the Mara's Naboisho Conservancy, but you really should have here in the East African savanna. Your thrilling animal viewing had actually started right from the airstrip as you landed on your [Safarilink](#) prop plane from Nairobi.

Actually, it even started from the air as you wondered about those zebras and wildebeest that you saw hanging out on the airstrip on the approach. For the record, if they don't vamoose, they get shooed away by ground crew, or more likely your guides who are waiting to take you to Eagle View or one of the [Basecamp Explorer](#) company's four other camps.

As soon as you jump into your 4x4 vehicle, you'll be shooting photos right and left. Again, relax. Over several days, you'll see more than enough magnificent creatures to fill a week-long slideshow.

On a 4 p.m. game drive, things start out very quiet as well. You might see a blue Rüppell's starling and crown plover bird, a jackal here or there, perhaps some buffalo grazing with oxpeckers sitting on them. You'll see some topi and hartebeest, both tall and hunky creatures in the antelope family. Then, by the light of day this time ellies are right in front of you, a few matriarchs perhaps with their daughters and some babies.

Before the sun comes up on day two, your guides drive you to a lion pride—the same ones perhaps that you heard the previous morning—who pass right by your vehicle in the dark, within feet of your still presence. By light, you see that a lone giraffe is looking out for the lions who are then chilling in the grass, the youngsters tussling a bit.



Nights are spectacular at Eagle View.

CREDIT: KEN GEIGER/BASECAMP EXPLORER

After you've enjoyed breakfast in the bush, you stop on the drive back to Eagle View to watch skittish zebras drinking in a waterhole, and looking down in a river you spot a few crocs and several hippos. Then, two male ellies are play fighting just thirty yards from your parked jeep as you watch in awe.

It's tiring taking in all of this stunning new natural world. You head back for a rest in your Eagle View tent and lie on the bed listening to birds and animal sounds, such as lowing wildebeest in the distance.

And then you happily head out in the afternoon with your guide to let it start all over again.

*Travel Notes:*

*For wildebeest viewing, Basecamp Explorer has [wildebeest migration packages](#) for the season which typically starts in mid-June and runs through November.*

*In the fall of 2018, [Kenya Airways](#) inaugurated the first ever non-stop flight between Nairobi and New York City. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner makes five flights a week based on seasonality, with a fourteen-hour westbound and fifteen-hour eastbound timeframe. On arrival in Kenya, visitors pay a visa fee of \$51.*

*From Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, travelers headed to Basecamp sites in the Masai Mara can break up their journey with an overnight stay in the ten-story [Villa Rosa Kempinski Nairobi](#) near the central business district and the National Museum. Among the property's many dining venues, the Levantine-themed Tambourin restaurant is designed to mimic the traditional Arabic Majilis style of reception rooms. Guests there enjoy shared dishes such as mezze platters, while a belly dancer performs daily.*

*In order to reach the Mara, Basecamp Explorer guests will transfer the next day to Nairobi Wilson airport for a charter flight in a [Safarilink](#) aviation company Cessna Caravan propeller plane to the Mara Naboisho airstrip.*

*In addition to the five Basecamp Explorer safari destinations in the Masai Mara, the company operates five camps on Spitsbergen island in the Svalbard Archipelago in the Norwegian Arctic, including [Basecamp Hotel](#) at Longyear dalen town, the [Nordenskiöld Lodge](#) and [Trapper's Station](#) with its teams of Alaskan huskies.*