

### **Kenya's Eco lodge recognized among top world's best.**

Top world's travel magazine has rated a Kenyan lodge among "Top 25 Best Eco lodges in the world".

Eagle View, Mara Naboisho was recently named in the most read worldwide travel magazine –National Geographical Traveler Magazine 2013.

Located in the Rift valley province of Kenya, Narok County, within the Mara Naboisho conservancy, bordering the famous Maasai Mara National Reserve, rich in biodiversity, famous for the wildebeest migration is Kenya's jewel of pride, which has obtained an international recognition for its contribution towards sustainable tourism.

Housed among a Maasai community known for their unique culture and pastoralist nature .They are among Kenya's forty two tribes who have managed to preserve an outstanding culture which attracts the whole world. Beaded outfits, bald heads by their beautiful women, morans with hair decorated with red oak ,*Manyattas* –Temporary Maasai houses made of cow dung and mud are also a common attraction to tourists. Families keep large herds of livestock which they believe is a symbol of wealth.

Silimilarly ,at Eagle View , Mara Naboisho , guests get to experience one of the most adventurous encounters that satisfies them .No one misses to learn the maasai greeting " *supai* ", a simple word that everyone learns first. Through camp walks , game drives they are able to view savannah landscapes, nature trails and an array of different species of wildlife . On a game drive , gazelles, impalas, ostriches, Zebras, Giraffes, , Big cats and the Big Five( Rhino, Elephant, Lion, Buffalo and Leopard) cannot miss ones attention. Eagle View Mara Naboisho can be accessed from Nairobi by air 30 -45 min and by road 3-5 hours drive.Olseki Airstrip serves those who wish to fly into the conservancy. The nature trails with indigenous tree species leads one to the tented lodges where all staff are dressed in traditional Maasai regalia of beaded bracelets, necklaces and earrings , bright coloured *shukas*(*pieces of clothe worn by Maasai* )with shades of red are part of the staffs uniform. I get curious about the red shade of colour on

every outfit, iam told by one of the driver giude , that red colour scares away wild animals who may be on a mission to attack.” Here in the villages we believe it’s the best way to scare lions” he says. The conservancy boasts of having the largest lion population in the Mara ecosystem. People and wildlife interact freely, maasai people have lived with animals , no fence exists apart from the fences for the livestock enclosures to keep lions away from attacking livestock. Every structure is tented and decorated with relaxing chairs and facilities which offer any guest comfort.

*All* tents are built in a way they overlook the Koiyaki river which flows through the conservancy. *The* nine tents all furnished with wooden and leather materials all beaded in maasai style dot the spacious rooms. The tents are well shielded with indigenous trees to allow privacy at all times. Wooden floors , large beds , hot shower and nice lounges give one a spectacular view of the savanna .There are two shower systems , one inside the tent and the other outside , the outside one is meant to give a view of the sky as birds fly around and a general view of the conservancy . Water is heated by Solar power and LED lamps are used in the camp to conserve energy.

Beaded maasai art are displayed at the reception, anyone interested in buying is advised on how to get even a customized one according to their preferred style. Maasai women are good at bead work and therefore its easy to get any beaded material in the area.

Food is served Alar Carte to guest dietary requirements –Guests get to choose from a variety of delicacies as per their preference. According to Abeid Seif, Camp Manager, “we offer authentic safari adventures - Walking Safari, . Game drives, evening sundowners and Camp fire during evening .The camp fire offers a unique experience through story telling by a local guide while the guests get to hear lion roars and hyena laughs which are very interesting to listen to. Also they get to understand more of the maasai culture by asking questions and having a friendly interaction and sharing of experiences as they enjoy the entire evening.

The Mara Naboisho conservancy which houses Eagle View , Mara Naboisho , Neighboring Maasai Mara National Reserve has a unique concept that envisions bringing tourism revenues to local communities while helping them preserve wildlife ,

Eagle View, Mara Naboisho exists as a result of community land that has been leased to Base Camp Explorers who manage the Mara Naboisho conservancy and in return pay the community for the land on a monthly basis. Naboisho means – coming together in maasai language .The maasai community have signed a 15 years lease of land , 25,000 acres piece which offers them income and at the same time conserving their wildlife. About 500 landowners were part of this project. Due to vulnerability of the Mara Ecosystem, through climate change and land practices, Oleseri and Nkoilale maasai community came in agreement by leasing their land for wildlife conservation.” We saw the need to conserve our wildlife and at the same time we get money every month, this has empowered us economically, we no longer rely on livestock as our sole source of livelihood.” says Ole panin, a villager who has leased part of his land.

Since 2010, when the conservancy was initiated, one of the largest lion population concentrations has been recorded. For some time, lion population in Kenya has been decreasing at an alarming rate. Mara Naboisho has been participating in monitoring and protection of, lions and elephants with other conservation partners .”We are very keen on monitoring these animals especially the elephants which face poaching threats for their tusks;

By encouraging activities that have a positive impact to the environment and people , Mara Naboisho conservancy stands unique in mitigating on climate change effects. They have managed to reduce on carbon footprints brought in by guests through increasing tree cover and encouraging their guests to be environmental conscious. This has secured them an international recognition.

By showcasing sustainable development through responsible tourism, Eagle view, Mara Naboisho was the only Eco Lodge selected in Kenya, during a recent competition which placed them number three in Africa by National Geographical Magazine. The selection process was looking out for most authentic and sustainable lodges, that offer great service and comfort in spectacular location, support local communities, connect their guests to cultures on an authentic level, create impactful conservation initiatives , and increasingly place adventure at the centre of the experience , capture the spirit of exploration and commitment to the environment. Petronilla Gichimu, Sales and Marketing Manager, Basecamp explorer, “ We are very humbled and honored to be recognized on international platform because of our efforts towards conservation that is geared towards sustainable development.” She further adds, they believe in giving their guests a memorable authentic safari experience.

Basecamp Explorer , manages Eagle View , Mara Naboisho, Dorobo Bush Camp and Basecamp Masai Mara.

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