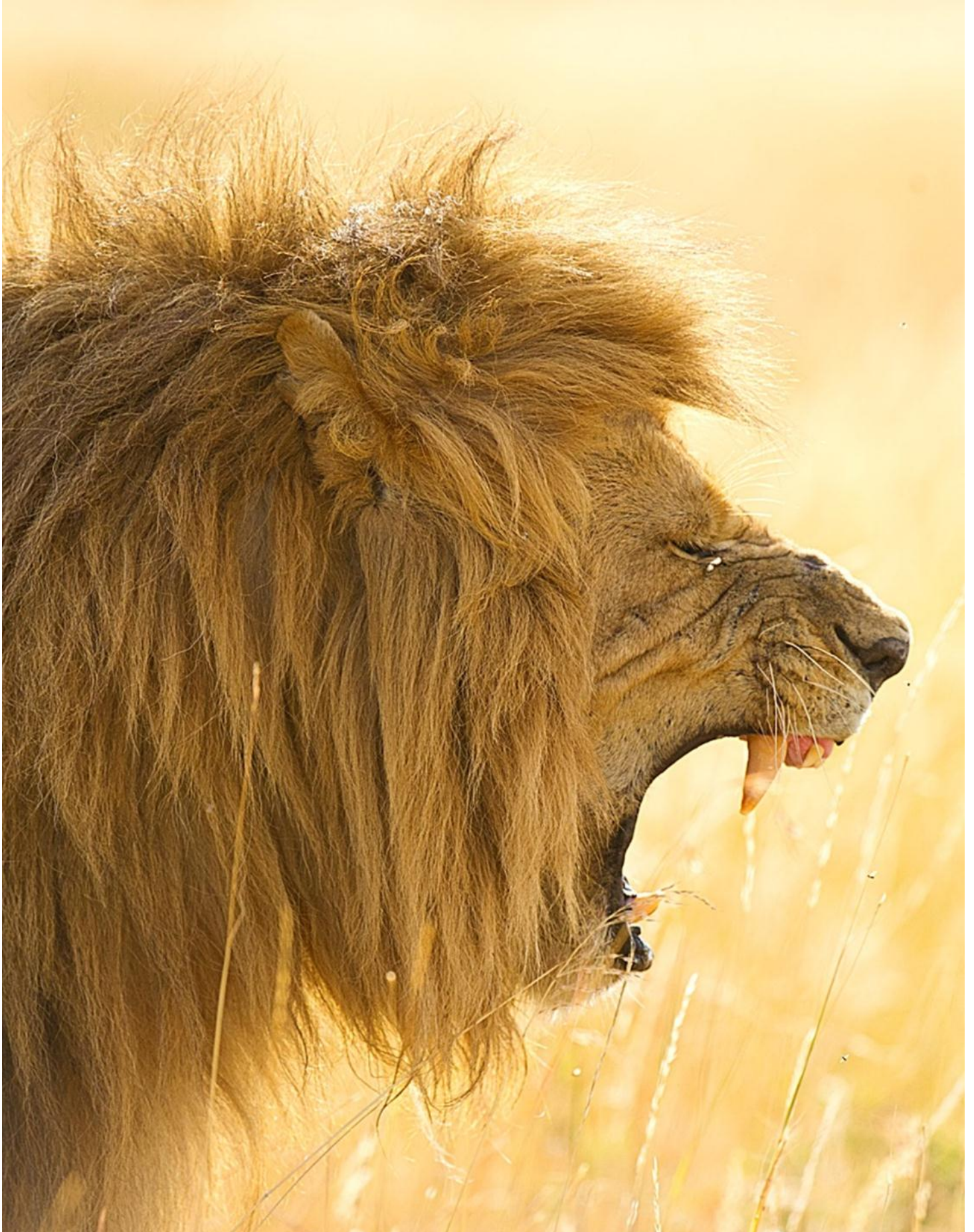




**BASECAMP  
EXPLORER™**

**WRITE & TRAVEL:  
A WRITING SAFARI IN KENYA WITH  
KRISTIN FLOOD AND MERLE LEVIN**

*5 Nights / 6 days Package at  
the Savannah*



*INSPIRATION TO TRAVEL*

**A WRITING  
SAFARI EXPERIENCE**

**WITH  
KRISTIN FLOOD**

**&**

**MERLE LEVIN**

KRISTIN FLOOD and MERLE LEVIN, both writers, have had a dream about creating a Writing Safari Experience. After 15 years of facilitating more than one hundred workshops and retreats their dream has come true and they have managed to create a special offer for a reasonable price. [www.kristinflood.com](http://www.kristinflood.com). [www.merlelevin.com](http://www.merlelevin.com).

SVEIN WILHELMSEN, founded the company Basecamp Explorer in 1998, following a life-changing meeting with an old Maasai, Chief Ole Taek. The goal has been to create an enabling environment for community wealth creation, ecotourism investments and conservation. Basecamp Explorer has grown to incorporate nine unique tourist destinations spread across three countries – Kenya, France and Norway. [www.basecampexplorer.com](http://www.basecampexplorer.com)



## 5 NIGHTS/6 DAYS SPECIAL WRITING WORKSHOP PACKAGE TO THE SAVANNAH NOK 23.590 PER ADULT SHARING A DBL/TWIN ROOM

### TRAVEL PERIOD

25 February – 02 March, 2018

### DURATION

6 days

### MINIMUM

10 persons Maximum: 20 persons

### INCLUDED

*WORKSHOP: 4 hours daily teaching, 5 days.*

*Pick up and drop off from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, three nights full board accommodation (breakfast, lunch and dinner) at Basecamp Masai Mara, two nights full board accommodation at Eagle View (lunch, dinner and breakfast), Airstrip transfers in Mara, Unlimited shared game drives in open sided 4x4 Safari Land Cruiser, Masai Mara Park fees and Naboisho Conservancy fees, Night game drives in Naboisho Conservancy, Sunset Sundowner at a Scenic point in Naboisho Conservancy, Free WI-FI both at Basecamp and Eagle View, Bird walks at Basecamp Masai Mara, Guided walking safari at Naboisho conservancy, Tea and Coffee in own tent if desired, and Visit to see our various Community projects.*

### NOT INCLUDED

*International tickets, visa fees, drinks at both camps, bush activities e.g. bush dinner, bush breakfast and balloon safari, tips, telephone calls and any other incidental charges.*

### SUBSCRIPTION

*For subscription and further information write to Merle Levin, [merle@merlelevin.com](mailto:merle@merlelevin.com)  
Deposit fee NOK 2.500. Please subscribe at the latest, 01 December 2017.*

# ITINERARY

— *Your journey begins here*

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## DAY 1:

### HIGHLIGHTS

- *Game drives*
- *Camp fire*
- *Overnight*

At 7 am depart from Nairobi by road through the great Rift valley. You will arrive at Basecamp Maasai Mara - our very own cradle of mankind - for lunch, freshly prepared by our trained team of Maasai chefs. After lunch at 3 pm Kristin Flood & Merle Levin will present the Safari Writing Workshop.

At 5pm meet your driver guide to explore new dimensions of the Savannah during your Afternoon Game Drive. Return to BCMM in time for a mouth-watering three-course dinner, followed by story sharing and stargazing around the fireplace. When you are ready, retire to your tent and be lulled to sleep by the sounds of the savannah.

*Dinner and Overnight at Basecamp Masai Mara*

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## DAY 2:

### HIGHLIGHTS

- *Game drive*
- *Camp Walk to see*
- *Various community project*
- *Basecamp Sundowner*

Wake up to the magnificent 'wake up call' of BCMM's astonishing birdlife. After breakfast, at 9 am gather with Kristin Flood and Merle Levin for Writing Workshop activities. At 12 pm meet your Naturalist Maasai Guide for a one hour Camp Walk around the camp compound. During your walk you will be introduced to some of the operational elements that have made Basecamp a leading pioneer in responsible tourism. Complete your Camp Walk by planting a tree in our Tree Plantation, just like the Obama family. After a freshly prepared lunch, served underneath the trees overlooking the Maasai Mara National Reserve, stroll across our private suspension bridge to

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join your Maasai Guide for an Afternoon Game Drive. Finish your Game Drive with a traditional Basecamp Sundowner under an Acacia Tree. Return to BCMM at 6.30 am for one hour workshop activities. Dinner at 8 am is followed by story sharing and stargazing around the fireplace.

*Dinner and Overnight at Basecamp Masai Mara*



### DAY 3:

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Game drives
- Community projects
- Camp fire

Early Morning Game Drive with your driver guide with bush breakfast included during the game drive. Greet those wildebeest fortunate enough to survive the night; congratulate the lions happily feasting on freshly killed prey. Back to Basecamp at 10 am and gather with Kristin Flood & Merle Levin for Writing workshop activities until lunch at 1 pm. At 3.30 pm gather for Writing workshop activities until 5 pm. Afternoon game drive and dinner at 8 pm.

*Dinner and Overnight at Basecamp Masai Mara*



### DAY 4:

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Game drives
- Stay Eagle View

Rise with the sun and gather at 7.30 am for two hours of Writing workshop activities. At 9.30 breakfast. After breakfast at BCMM, you will collect your things and prepare to continue your journey through the Basecamp Circuit. Your next destination is Eagle View Camp, which in 2013 made the National Geographic Travellers Magazine's list of the twenty-five top eco-lodges in the world– the only one in Kenya. At 3 pm gather for Writing workshop activities. At 4 pm meet your Maasai Guide for your Afternoon Game Drive. Eagle View is situated inside Naboisho Wildlife Conservancy, a 20,000 hectare (50,000 acres) large nature conservancy leased directly from more than 500 Maasai families. Inside Naboisho the number of vehicles

permitted is strictly limited. This has the double advantage of attracting a wide array of species as well as creating a more exclusive viewing experience for tourists. Inside Naboisho you will encounter the Northern Migration of wildebeest, the not-so-distant relative of the wildebeest migrating from the Serengeti that you meet in the National Reserve. The wildebeest of the Northern Migration walk down from the Lloita Plains in the North in search of fresh grass and water, exactly like their southern relatives. As you drive, enjoy the varied landscape of Naboisho, presently offering the highest density of lions on the planet.

*Dinner and overnight at Eagle View*

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#### **DAY 5:**

##### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- *Writing & Meditation*
- *Stories & Maasai*
- *Chanting*

Early morning Walking Safari. Breakfast will be served at 9 am. After breakfast gather with Kristin Flood & Merle Levin for Writing workshop activities until lunch at 1 pm. At 4 pm gather for workshop activities for two hours followed by optional Afternoon Game Drive. As your day comes to an end in the evening, you will gather together around the fireplace to enjoy a well-deserved dinner, stories about the wilderness, and Maasai chanting.

*Dinner and Overnight at Eagle View*

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#### **DAY 6:**

##### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- *Walking Safari or*
- *Game drive*
- *Depart*

After breakfast served at 9 am gather for Writing workshop activities and closure of the workshop. At 11 am gather your things and say your goodbyes. Following one last Game Drive enroute, transfer to Nkoilale Shopping Centre. Meet up with your driver guide and proceed on your safari to Nairobi in a minibus with a stop-over in Narok. You will be taken directly to Nairobi airport, arrival at approximately 5 pm. Please book your flight according to the minibus arrival time.

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# RECOMMENDED PACKING LIST

7 / 9

## — *The top must-have items*

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### **PACK IN A SOLID, SOFT BAG**

*Easier to stack in safari jeeps and small airplanes. Remember max. 15kg limit for Domestic flights.*

### **SUN HAT & SUNGLASSES**

*Protection from the strong African sun.*

### **SUN SCREEN**

*To avoid being burned by the sun.*

### **BINOCULARS**

*Make sure to not miss a thing!*

### **COMFORTABLE SAFARI CLOTHES**

*Avoid white because of the dust from the savannah.*

### **SWEATER/FLEECE JACKET**

*For chilly nights around the campfire.*

### **WIND JACKET/RAIN COAT**

*For the cold mornings.*

### **CAMERA**

*To capture the memories.*

### **FOOTWEAR**

*Comfortable footwear for walking safaris (gym shoes/hiking boots) and sandals for in the camp.*

### **SMALL BACKPACK**

*For your water bottle, binoculars and camera while on safari*

### **A GOOD BOOK**

*For relaxation between the adventures*

### **HEAD LIGHT**

*It's always great to have – African nights are dark!*

### **MOSQUITO REPELLANT**

*Protection for in the evenings/mornings*

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

8 / 9

## – *Things to know before departure*

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### **BASECAMP MASAI MARA**

Basecamp Masai Mara – fittingly referred to as the ‘mother of all camps’ - is where our story started. Lovingly run by our Maasai staff – BCMM is as much a home as it is a tourism destination. Here guests become more than visitors, they become part of the Maasai community. Basecamp has planted more than 70 000 indigenous trees around the Talek River. Consequently, BCMM has turned into a tree lover’s paradise and a haven for birdlife. Each morning a symphony of birdsong will wake you up as the sun rises over the world-renowned Maasai Mara National Park, home to the greatest gathering of wild animals on the planet. Maasai Mara is only a short walk away across our private suspension bridge.

### **EAGLE VIEW**

Perched atop a natural hilltop, Eagle View is an astonishing luxury eco-camp is located within Naboisho Conservancy – a highly acclaimed model for nature conservation management. The minimalist design perfectly complements the overwhelming surroundings, allowing your imagination to soar as you gaze across the vastness of the African savannah. Eagle View overlooks a natural waterhole where wild animals such as elephants, giraffes and antelopes frequent throughout the day. With more than 70 identified lions, Naboisho has one of the highest population of lion in Africa, making the odds for spotting a lion practically unmatchable.

### **WILDERNESS CAMP**

Wilderness is our nostalgic tribute to the safari of the early explorers and safari pioneers. Free from artificial luxury and modern disturbances – Wilderness is Safari as it was meant to be. Tugged away deep inside the incomparable Saddle Valley, it is you, the Maasai, the wildlife, and the stars – absolutely no unnecessary distractions. With only five tents, each fitted with a private bathroom and ‘safari-shower’, we offer the privilege of ultimate seclusion, perfectly enjoyed alongside a selection of first-class food and drinks.

### **GAME DRIVE**

Our game drive safaris are conducted in open 4x4 Land Rovers, sure to give you that classical safari feeling. While driving into the wilderness, our knowledgeable Maasai guides will introduce you to the life on the savannah and share their infinite knowledge about the African wildlife. The Masai Mara Eco-system is renowned for its variety and richness; nowhere else on the planet will you experience such an abundance of wildlife!

### **WALKING SAFARI**

By removing every boundary between yourself and the wilderness, a safari by foot provides you with a different feel for the savannah. During your walk, your Maasai guides will teach you how to interpret tracks and subtle signs of the wildlife. As you walk together you will experience first-hand how the Maasai possess a complete understanding of the savannah. Walking Safaris have an age restriction of 16 years.



**VACCINATION**

We advise anyone planning a trip to Kenya to contact their general practitioner or travel doctor in their area. Normally, you need vaccination for typhoid, hepatitis and polio as well as getting a prescription for malaria medicine. In principle, there are no compulsory vaccinations required for entry to Kenya unless you come from an area with yellow fever, in which case a Certificate of Inoculation is needed for travellers older than one year. Make sure to bring mosquito repellent and wear long sleeves and pants in the evening/morning as prevention against being bitten.

**PASSPORT**

Note that your passport must have at least 6 months left before the expiry date and 2 blank pages left for visa.

**VISA**

Visa to Kenya are obtained online since 1st September 2015. You need to register online, fill in the application form and pay using Visa Card, Master Card, or any other debit cards. Currently the Visa fee is USD 50. The approval will be provided via email. Once downloaded, please print copy of the eVisa. Note it takes at least 2 working days to get your eVisa.

**PACKING**

Soft bags are easier to stall than solid suitcases in safari vehicles and small airplanes. If you are flying to the Mara, be aware that the weight limit is 15 kg per person. For other packing tips, see the packing list.

**SAFETY**

Your safety is our highest priority and upon arrival at our camps you will be briefed about do's and don'ts by our experienced safari guides. Kenya is generally safe for tourists; however, you should use the same travel precautions as you would in other parts of the world. It is advisable to not carry large sums of cash or wear expensive-looking jewellery or watches on the streets.

**PAYMENTS**

Usually when booking a trip with Basecamp Explorer most activities are included in the price. Tips, shopping and additional activities are extras. At our camps in the Mara you can use Visa and MasterCard's at a surcharge of 6 %. It is however good to have some cash in Kenyan Shillings for tipping and shopping. If so, a couple of thousand Kenyan Shillings (approx. USD 20) per day is enough.

**TIPPING**

Tipping is normal in Kenya - if you are satisfied, say around 10%. At our camps, we kindly ask you to use the tip box at the reception and not do individual tipping of the staff members, except if you want to tip your guide. At Basecamp we encourage team work, hence the shared tip amongst all the staff, not only those who work closely with our guests.

**SPECIAL DIETS**

Basecamp prides itself on its personalized services. Please let us know if you have any special requests, dietary requirements, allergies or medical conditions we should be aware.