



I LORA  
RETREATS

HANDBOOK

# THE CONCEPT

Ilora is born from rain and sunshine — a meeting of elements that shape life on the Mara plains. Here, the landscape sets the pace. Wide skies, whispering grass, and the quiet movement of wildlife create a natural rhythm that guests slip into effortlessly. Tented suites rest lightly on the land, spacious and serene, crafted with warm textures and timeless detail.

Days unfold slowly — dawn light over open horizons, shared meals in the open air, unhurried encounters with the wild. Evenings bring soft glow, deep silence, and a sense of belonging to place rather than passing through it. Ilora is a retreat where comfort feels intuitive, service is discreet, and connection to nature is restored.



# WHERE WE ARE

Ilora Retreats is set within the Masai Mara National Reserve, in a secluded forested pocket between the Olare Orok and Talek rivers. The setting offers privacy, natural shade, and immediate access to prime wildlife territory.

## Access

- 45-minute flight from Nairobi, followed by a 10-minute transfer from Olkiombo Airstrip
- Approximately 6 hours by road from Nairobi
- 40 minutes from Talek and Musiara gates
- 1 hour from Sekenani gate

## Wildlife Proximity

- Located within the main reserve, minutes from key migration crossing points
- Home range of the Topi Pride — the largest lion pride in the Mara
- Three cheetah families and multiple resident leopards within a 5 km radius
- Consistently high game density year-round



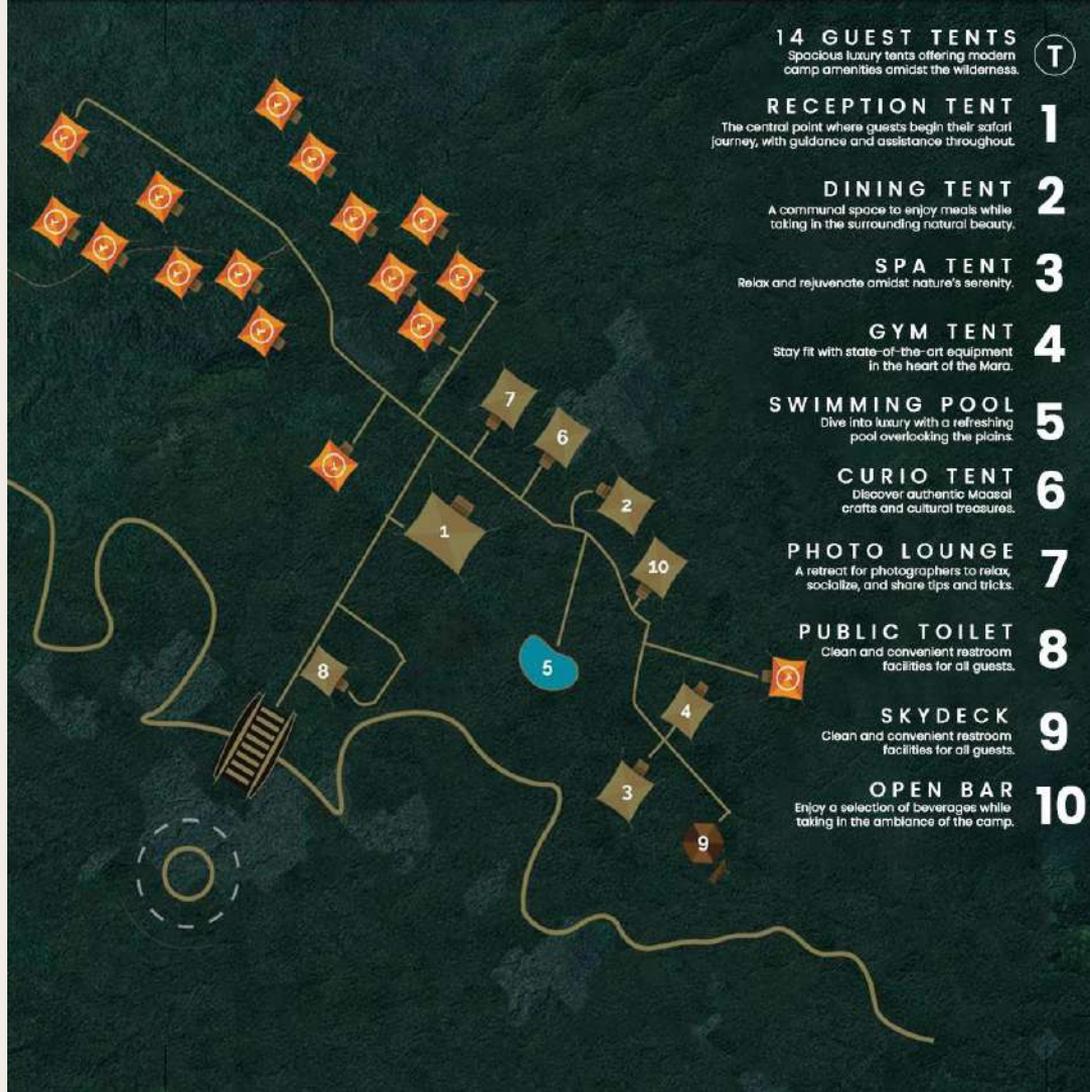
# WHAT WE ARE

Ilora is an intimate tented retreat set within a preserved forest landscape of the Masai Mara. Across thirty acres of wilderness, only four acres are gently built upon, allowing space, privacy, and uninterrupted views.

Fourteen spacious tented suites rest on raised wooden decks, accompanied by discreet shared spaces — a reception lounge, dining pavilion, sky deck, and swimming pool — designed to feel open to the landscape rather than enclosed by walls.

The retreat operates entirely on solar energy, with its own borehole and water purification system providing clean water throughout. Structures are light on the land, using canvas, wood, and natural materials.

Additional spaces include a curio boutique, photo lounge, spa, gym, open bar, and dedicated settings for bush dining under the stars.



# ACCOMMODATION

Fourteen tented suites, each over 600 square feet, offer space, privacy, and uninterrupted views of the surrounding wilderness. Raised wooden decks and canvas walls allow the landscape to remain ever-present — light, breeze, and birdsong moving freely through the space.

Interiors blend vintage character with contemporary comfort: curated artworks, handcrafted furniture, warm textures, and open balconies facing the bush. Ensuite bathrooms feature deep bathtubs, multi-jet rain showers, and natural wood finishes.

Each suite is thoughtfully equipped with discreet modern conveniences — private Wi-Fi router, vintage-style intercom, in-room refreshments, binoculars, bathrobes, secure storage, and a silent refrigerator. Snacks and drinks may be served in-suite at any time.



# TENT AMENITIES

Private Veranda Yes	Twin Bed Option On Demand
Sun Beds Yes	Extra Bed On Demand
Personal Locker Yes	Bathtub Yes
WC Yes	Telephone Yes
Internet access Yes	Hairdryer Yes
In-room safe Yes	Bathrobe Yes
Safari Poncho Yes	Binoculars Yes
Personal care amenities Yes	Beverages Yes
Indoor shower Yes	Refrigerator Electricity Free
Air Conditioning No	Charger/Plug Type 220 volts. Universal plug with USB charging
Ceiling Fan Yes	Wheel Chair On Demand
Child Cot On Demand	Mosquito Net No



# DINING CONCEPTS

## Classic Safari Dinner

Evening dining in the semi-open pavilion, inspired by traditional safari camps.

## Nyama Choma Bush Dinner

A Maasai-led barbecue evening with open-fire cooking and shared tables.

## Koroga Experience

A Kenyan communal dining tradition, with live cooking around a central fire.

## Farm-to-Table

Seasonal menus using produce from Ilora's organic garden.

## Bush Breakfast

Morning meals served in the reserve during game drives.

## Sundowner

Drinks and light bites at sunset, set against open savannah views.

## Private Bush Dining

Secluded settings arranged on request.



# DINING VENUES

## Dining Pavilion

A semi-open dining space set among trees, where meals are served slowly and views remain part of the experience.

## Bush Dinner

Tables set under open skies, lantern light, and the sounds of the Mara. Occasional cultural performances by the local Maasai community.

## Sky Deck

An elevated platform for breakfast, sundowners, or private dinners, overlooking wide savannah horizons.

## Poolside

Informal meals beside the pool and nearby creek, shaded and serene.

## In the Reserve

Picnic breakfasts and lunches served within the park during game drives.

## Private Settings

In-suite dining or secluded bush locations arranged on request.



# SAFARI EXPERIENCES

## Game Drives

Guided drives across the Masai Mara, led by experienced naturalists and trackers.

## Guided Walks

Morning walks exploring the smaller details of the landscape — flora, tracks, and birdlife.

## Hot Air Ballooning

Sunrise flights over the Mara plains, followed by breakfast in the bush.

## Photography Safaris

Drives paced for photographers, with guides attuned to positioning, light, and wildlife behavior.

## Birding

Early morning excursions with specialist guides and binoculars.



# WELLNESS

## Yoga

Sessions on the sky deck or in private settings, guided by resident instructors and open to the surrounding landscape.

## Spa

Treatments offered in open-sided pavilions or in-suite, accompanied by views, breeze, and birdsong.

## Gym

A fully equipped fitness space with outlooks onto forest and savannah.

## Pool

A calm swimming pool set beside a natural creek, shaded and secluded.



# EXPERIENCES

## Photo Shoot

A dedicated in-house photographer now captures guests' safari moments through complimentary photo sessions.

## Stargazing

Guided night-sky sessions using high-resolution telescopes and live sky projection, allowing guests to observe planets, and deep-sky objects in real time.

## Star Beds

Private outdoor sleeping setups for nights spent under open skies.

## Jungle Juniors

Gentle nature-based activities for young explorers — storytelling, clay work, and simple bushcraft.

## Terra Talks

Evening conversations with guides and conservation partners, offering insight into wildlife and community initiatives.

## Open Air Cinema

Open-air film screenings beneath the stars.



# CONCIERGE

A discreet travel desk at reception assists with planning and reservations before and during a guest's stay.

## Hot Air Ballooning

Sunrise flights over the Mara plains, with transfers arranged.

## Nairobi Flights

Scheduled air connections between Nairobi and Olkiombo airstrip, with luggage handling coordinated.

## Road Transfers

Road and airstrip transfers arranged on request.

## Community Visits

Guided visits to nearby Maasai villages, offering respectful cultural exchange.



# SUSTAINABILITY

- Ilora operates entirely on solar energy, with internal systems for water purification and waste treatment. Drinking-quality water is produced on-site and used throughout the retreat, including in-suite bathrooms.
- Single-use plastics are not used at Ilora. Any plastic brought in by guests is responsibly collected and disposed of. Organic fruits, vegetables, and herbs are grown in our garden, while breads, juices, and yogurts are prepared fresh in-house.
- Construction is light on the land, using local stone, wood, and canvas. Over ninety-five percent of the site remains forested, with built structures occupying only a small footprint.
- Eco-friendly detergents, chemical-free toiletries, and energy-efficient in-room refrigeration further reduce environmental impact.



# FOOTPRINTS

Ilora is shaped around conservation, habitat protection, and respectful partnership with local communities. These efforts run quietly in the background of the guest experience, for those who wish to engage more deeply.

## Green Legacy

Guests may participate in tree planting and biodiversity projects, contributing to long-term restoration of the landscape.

## Conservation Encounters

Opportunities to learn about ongoing wildlife initiatives, including cheetah and predator monitoring programs, guided by field teams.

## Community Exchange

Visits and interactions that support local education initiatives and Maasai artisans.



# CLIMATE & HIGHLIGHTS

- The Masai Mara offers consistently strong wildlife viewing throughout the year
- Resident game remains abundant & consistent across all seasons
- Seasonal changes are felt more in landscape, light, and rainfall than in game density

## **June – October | Cooler & Drier Months**

- Daytime temperatures around 12°C to 25°C
- Cooler mornings and evenings
- Dry conditions and open plains
- Migration crossings may occur during this period

## **November – March | Warmer Months & Short Rains**

- Daytime temperatures around 16°C to 27°C
- Warmer days, mild nights
- Short rains in November and December
- Calving season begins in November–December
- Excellent birdlife

## **April – May | Long Rains**

- Daytime temperatures around 16°C to 27°C
- Long rainy season and lush landscapes
- Calving continues for many species
- Preferential rates, low rush



# A TYPICAL DAY AT ILORA

## Early Morning

- Morning game drive in the Masai Mara
- Alternatively: sunrise yoga on the sky deck or a bush walk
- Bush breakfast in the reserve or breakfast at camp

## Mid-Morning

- Nature-based activities for children
- Communal cooking experience
- Maasai cultural conversation
- Photography orientation in the Photo Lounge

## Lunch

## Afternoon

- Leisure time at camp — pool, spa, gym, or village visit

## Late Afternoon

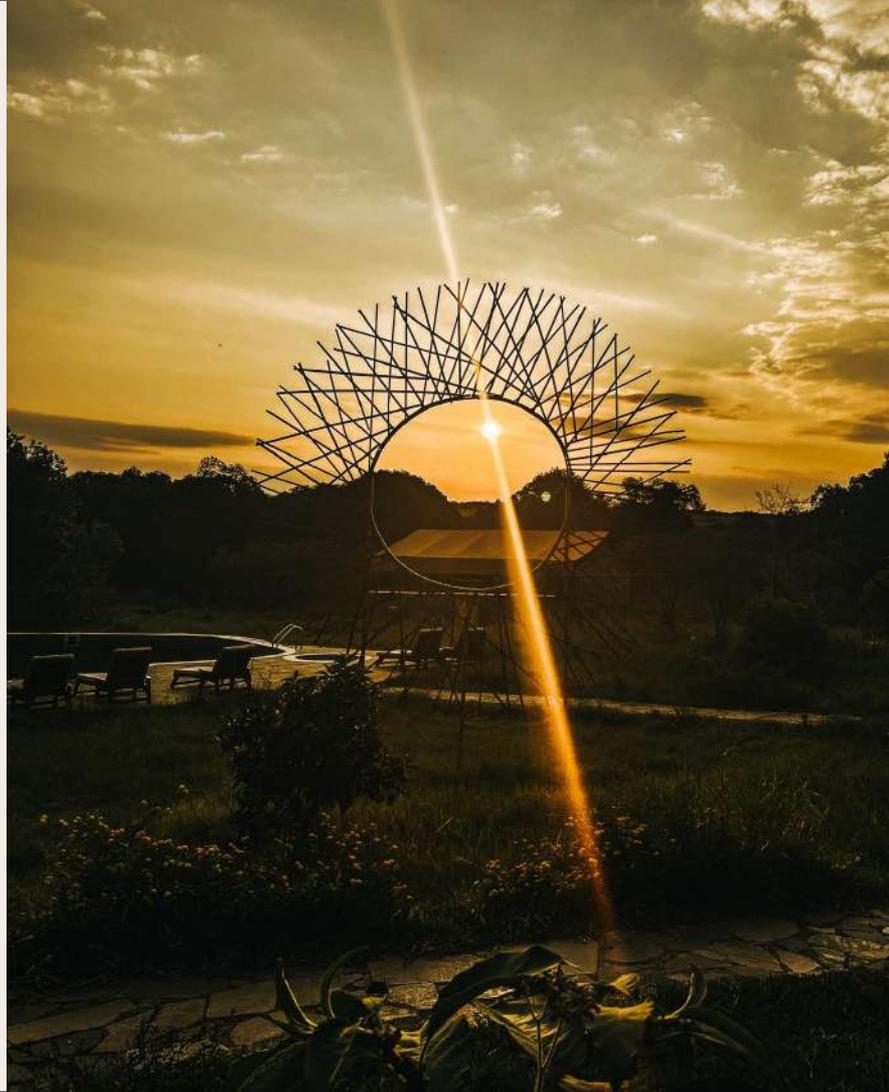
- High tea at camp
- Afternoon game drive in the reserve

## Evening

- Sundowner on the deck or in the reserve
- Conservation or ranger talk by the fire
- Alternate evenings: open-air cinema

## Night

- Dinner in the chosen dining setting
- Guided stargazing
- Optional overnight sleep under open skies



# YOUR STAY INCLUDES

## FULL STAY

- Accommodation in a tented suite
- All meals
- Filtered drinking water, tea, and coffee
- Use of gym and swimming pool
- Access to all camp-based activities
- Wi-Fi throughout the retreat
- Evening childminding (6:00 PM – 10:00 PM)

## SAFARI STAY

- Includes all Full Stay services, plus:
- Scheduled game drives in shared Land Cruisers
- Certified English-speaking guides
- Sundowner and bush breakfast (on minimum three-night stay)
- Unlimited in-house drinks
- 5 pieces of laundry per person per day
- Return transfers to and from Olkiombo Airstrip



# FOUNDER



Ilora was conceived by **Alankar Chandra**, whose lifelong engagement with travel, exploration, and photography shaped its vision. A natural history photographer and conservation advocate with an Ivy League MBA, his intention is to create a retreat that offers genuine immersion in the wilderness, guided by comfort, discretion, and respect for nature.

# CORE TEAM



## **Harrison Nampaso | General Manager**

With seventeen years in hospitality and over a decade managing established safari camps in the Masai Mara, including Governor's, Harrison brings deep operational experience and an intuitive understanding of guest expectations in the region.



## **Daniel Ndambuki | Director of Sales**

With more than ten years in hospitality sales, Dan has led market expansion, strengthened trade partnerships, and built enduring client relationships across key territories.

# FACT SHEET

## CAMP

Maximum number of guests	35
Number of tents	14
Family accommodation	Available
Pilot/Guide accommodation	Available
Room type	Tent (700 Sq feet)
Distance between tents	70 Feet
Check In/Check Out	1 pm/11 am

## FACILITIES

Power	24 Hour power (Solar)
Internet access	Yes, WiFi throughout
Wine store or cellar	Yes
Bush dinner	Yes
Bar	Yes
Interactive kitchen	Yes
Swimming pool	Yes
Wellness offering	Yes
Gym	Yes
Photography lounge	Yes
Wheelchair access	Yes
Complimentary laundry Service	Yes (on safari stays)

## DINING

Food/Dietary Option	Most dietary options available, consult beforehand for kosher
Private butler service	Yes
Plated service	Yes
Private dining	Yes
Service type	Multi course meals plated service

## OTHERS

Vehicle Type	Landcruiser
Private 4x4 safari vehicle	Available for supplement



# FAQs

## **What driver accommodation is available?**

Four separate driver tents with twin occupancy, attached washrooms, and a dedicated mess.

## **What payment methods are accepted?**

All major debit and credit cards, and M-Pesa. Cash payments are not accepted.

## **What wildlife can be seen?**

Lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, giraffes, the wildebeest migration, and over 450 bird species.

## **What time zone is the Masai Mara in?**

East Africa Time (EAT), UTC +3.

## **Is English spoken in the Masai Mara?**

English is widely spoken, particularly in tourism areas.

## **Can Masai Mara be reached by flight?**

Yes, flights from Nairobi take approximately 45 minutes. Reservations can be arranged through your travel agent or our travel desk.

## **More FAQs here :**

<https://ilora-retreats.com/mara/faq/>



