



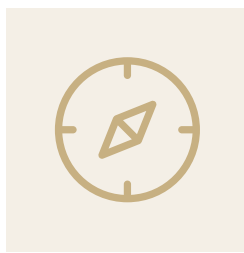
NOMAD
GUIDES

MAASAI MARA

Safarilink



DESTINATION
INTRO



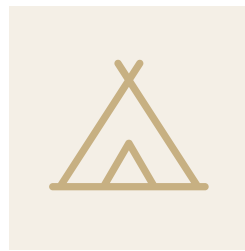
GETTING TO
MAASAI MARA



THINGS
TO DO



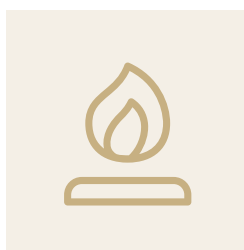
CONSERVATION
WORK



WHERE TO
STAY



GOOD TO
KNOW



EVENTS

A NOTE FROM THE CEO



This message shares exciting news about a partnership between Safarilink and Nomad Africa – a collaboration that promises to be a remarkable opportunity to showcase our unique destinations and provide an enriching experience for our valued customers.

The content Nomad Africa features will be focused on Safarilink's destinations, presenting captivating stories, insider tips, and breath-taking visuals that truly capture the essence of each location. This will undoubtedly serve as a valuable resource for our customers, inspiring them to explore new horizons and make unforgettable memories.

This partnership signifies a significant step forward for Safarilink, aligning our brand with a prestigious publication like Nomad Africa. It offers us a platform to strengthen our presence in the industry, reach a wider audience, and elevate the perception of our brand as a trusted provider of exceptional travel experiences.

I am confident that this partnership with Nomad Africa will open new avenues for growth, increase brand awareness, and inspire countless travelers to embark on incredible journeys with Safarilink.

Thank you once again for your unyielding support.

ALEX AVEDI

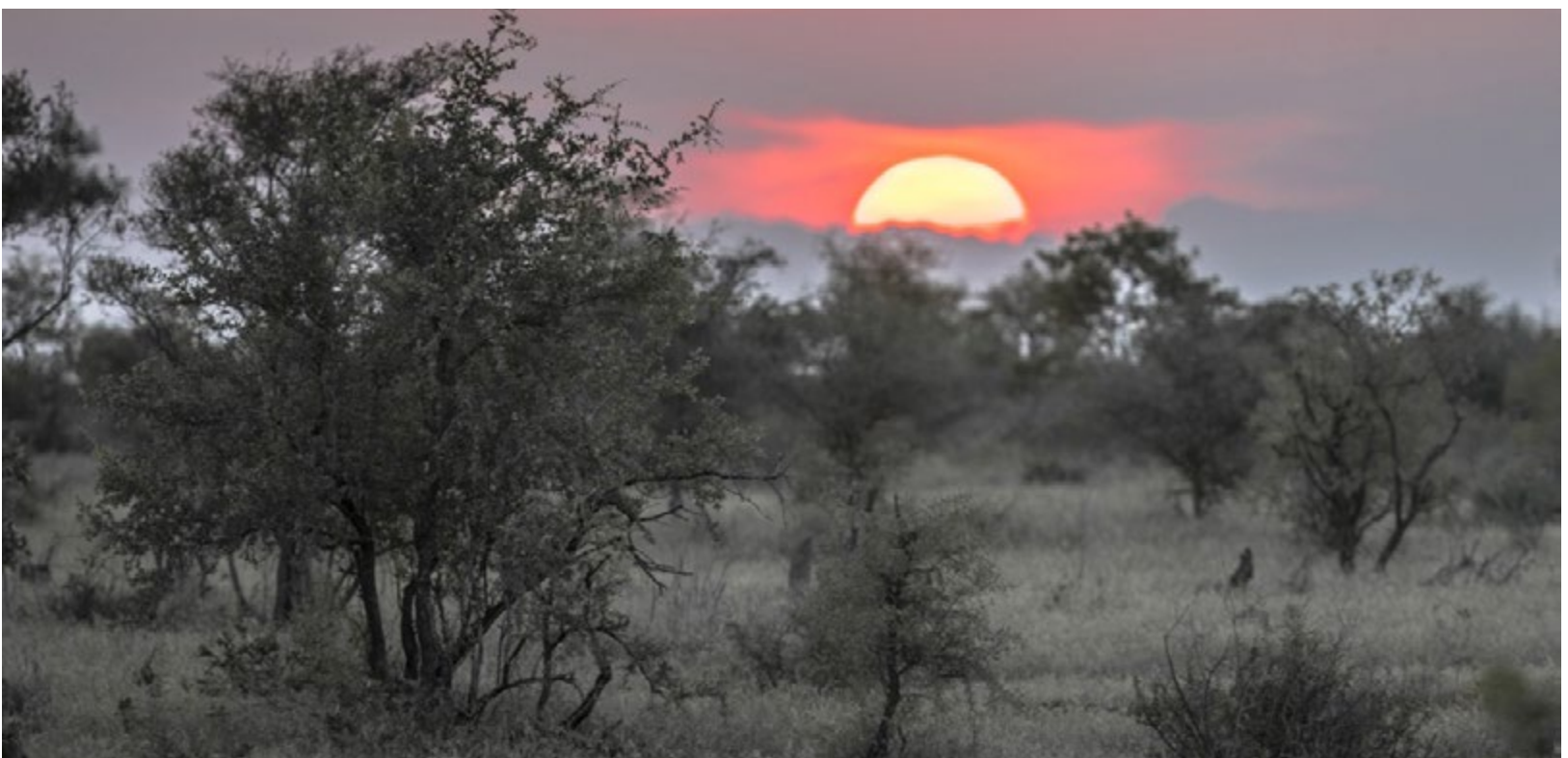
Chief Executive Officer, Safarilink

MAASAI MARA INTRO

The Maasai Mara stands out as an iconic safari destination, characterized by its expansive open plains and arid grasslands teeming with a diverse array of wildlife. Encompassing a modest 1,510km², the wildlife encounters here consistently leave a lasting impression, with the easily recognizable 'Big 5' often making appearances. In addition to these majestic creatures, the Maasai Mara National Reserve boasts a rich variety of other animal and bird species. And hold on tight, because the star of the show, the Great Migration, takes centre stage here too.

Accommodation options cater to various preferences, ranging from spacious lodge resorts to upscale safari camps, private bush homes, and budget-friendly camps and camping sites.

The addition of private conservancies around the Maasai Mara Reserve has totally expanded the playground for wildlife. Adhering to stringent guidelines concerning lodge development, tourist numbers, and vehicle usage has enabled a more harmonious environment for the resident wildlife, resulting in an elevated and more immersive experience for visitors seeking to connect with the natural wonders of the bush.



GETTING TO MAASAI MARA

By Air

From Nairobi, it's less than one hour by air to Maasai Mara, with twice-daily flights. Safarilink has direct flights from Nairobi's Wilson Airport to the Mara. The main Mara airstrips are Keekorok, Kichwa Tembo, Mara North, Musiara, Olkiombo and Serena. Several safari camps have their own private airstrips where individual charters can be organised.

By Road

By road, it's about four-five hours from Nairobi to the Mara, a distance of around 260km depending on which gate you enter the reserve from. The main gates are Musiara in the north-east; Talek and Sekenani on the eastern side; Oloomutiek in the south-east and Sand River gate by the Tanzania border (but rarely used).

The Nairobi-Narok-Mara road is tarmacked all the way. The roads in the reserve are murrum and generally well maintained. 4x4 vehicles or safari vans are recommended, for comfortable driving and good game viewing.



THINGS TO DO IN MAASAI MARA

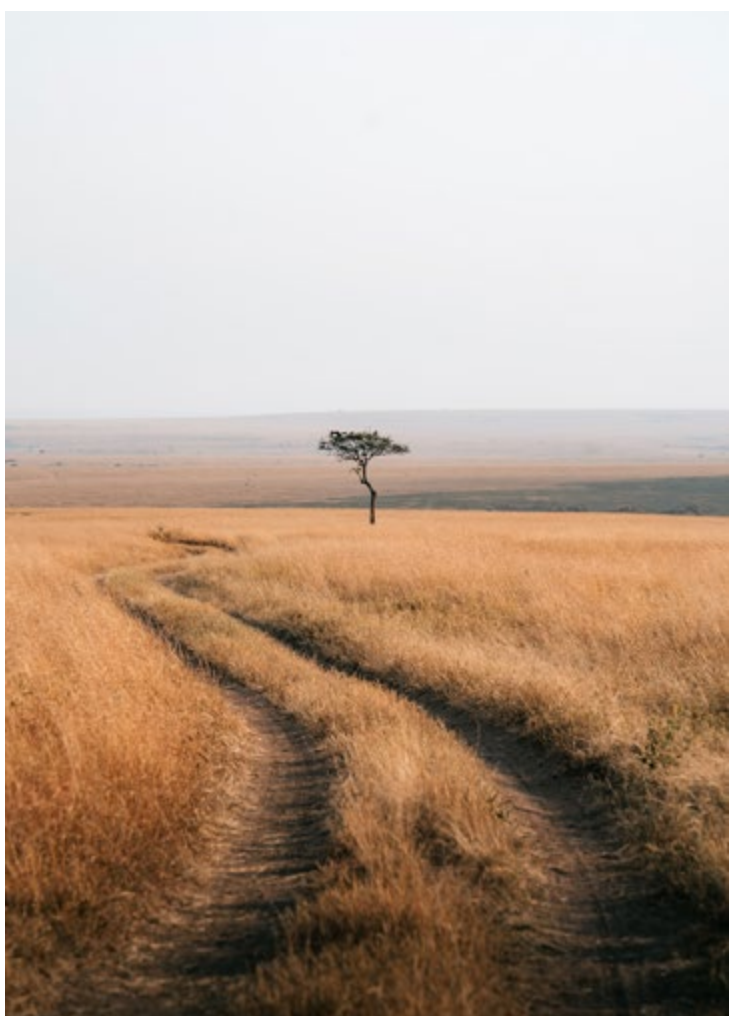


BALLOON SAFARI

For a totally different perspective of the bush, book a hot-air balloon ride over Maasai Mara. The ride lasts an hour or so, taking in the vast sweep of the reserve at dawn. The balloon rides along the currents and upon landing, a sumptuous breakfast awaits. Rides normally set off before sunrise. Ask Nomad Africa or the lodge to arrange. Average cost is around \$500 per person.

HORSE RIDING SAFARI

It's now possible to do short horseback riding safaris in Maasai Mara. For experienced riders, this is a thrilling experience, with the opportunity to gallop alongside animals at close range in a beautiful country. 'Ride Maasai Mara' offer morning or afternoon rides, lasting around two hours. Depending on where you're staying, your lodge might also have this as an activity so make sure to enquire!



GUIDED BUSH WALK

Little else tops getting out of a vehicle and wandering slowly through the bush. Accompanied by an experienced guide, it is a chance for safe encounters with wildlife and a different perspective of the wilderness. Along the way, learn about animal tracks, different plants and their uses, and smaller creatures rarely spotted from a car. Walking safaris are not permitted in the National Reserve, but can be arranged in the private conservancies. Contact Nomad Africa or your accommodation to arrange this.

SUNDOWNER

Head to a high point with your drink of choice to watch the sun slowly set over the Mara plains. Safari camps have regular spots they use for sundowners and usually supply some beverages and snacks. If you are self-driving, try Lookout Hill or any place with an unobstructed view facing west.



OLCHORRO RHINO SANTUARY VISIT

Situated within the Ol Chorro Conservancy, the Rhino Sanctuary is a project which has safeguarded white rhinos for two decades. The project is deeply integrated with the local community, employing its members as dedicated staff. The lush slopes of the mountain serve as the unfenced habitat for these majestic rhinos, and what sets this initiative apart is the exceptional opportunity to engage with these creatures on foot, accompanied by an experienced local ranger, ensuring absolute safety.

For a fee of \$30 per person, visitors can partake in this unique experience, the proceeds of which directly contribute to the community and the Sanctuary. These funds play a pivotal role in sustaining the tireless efforts to preserve and protect these endangered species.



CONSERVATION WORK

The story of the Maasai Mara's expansion is quite a journey. Initially, back in 1961, a portion of the Maasai Mara ecosystem was designated as a wildlife sanctuary, covering a mere 520 square kilometres. But in that very same year, the sanctuary's boundaries stretched to the east, growing to encompass the much larger size that we know today. This newfound territory was transformed into what we now call the Maasai Mara National Reserve, controlled by the Narok County Council (NCC), who took up the mantle of management.

Dotted around the Mara's Reserve are a bunch of conservancies that grow and strengthen the ecosystem for wildlife and livelihood improvement. All of these conservancies are a part of The Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA): a Kenyan commitment to conserve the Maasai Mara through a network of community-protected areas, ensuring the prosperity of biodiversity and wildlife, the regional Maasai population, population, recreation, tourism, and the nation of Kenya for generations to come.

Here's a list of all the conservancies in the area for you to check out:

- Mara North Conservancy
- Ol Chorro Oirouwa Conservancy
- Enonkishu
- Lemek Conservancy
- Mara Naboisho Conservancy
- Olare Motorogi Conservancy
- Nashulai Conservancy
- Ol Kinyei Conservancy
- Olderkesi Conservancy
- The Pardamat Conservation
- Siana Conservancy
- Mbokishi Mara Conservation
- The Olerai Conservancy
- Olarro North and South Conservancies
- Oloisukut Conservancy
- Enarau Conservancy
- Mount Suswa Conservancy
- Nyekweri Kiminte



MARA ELEPHANT PROJECT

The Mara Elephant Project is a conservation initiative founded in 2011, and was established with the goal of addressing the increasing threats faced by elephants in the Maasai Mara ecosystem and implementing strategies to ensure their protection and coexistence with local communities.

Recognizing the critical role that elephants play in maintaining the biodiversity of their habitat, the project employs a multi-faceted approach to mitigate human-elephant conflicts and counteract the threats posed by poaching and habitat loss.

The project's efforts include anti-poaching patrols, collaring and monitoring elephants to track their movements, and implementing community-based initiatives to foster coexistence between local communities and these gentle giants. By utilizing advanced technology, community engagement, and collaborations with local authorities, the Mara Elephant Project aims to secure a sustainable future for both elephants and the ecosystem they inhabit.

With a commitment to conservation, education, and community involvement, the Mara Elephant Project stands as a vital force in ensuring that future generations can continue to witness the awe-inspiring presence of elephants in the Maasai Mara, while also benefiting the livelihoods of the local communities that share their space.



WHERE TO STAY



Emboo River Camp



Asilia - Encounter Mara Camp



Cottar's Conservation



Cottar's 1920 Safari Camp



Cottar's Bush Villa

BOOK YOUR
NEXT STAY WITH
NOMAD AFRICA



+254 708 238 738



Asilia - Rekeru



Asilia - Naboisho



Elewana - Sand River



Elewana - Elephant
Pepper Camp



Safarilink

Book now with code 'NOMADAFRICA'
to get 10% off your next flights



www.flysafarilink.com

GOOD TO KNOW

Weather:

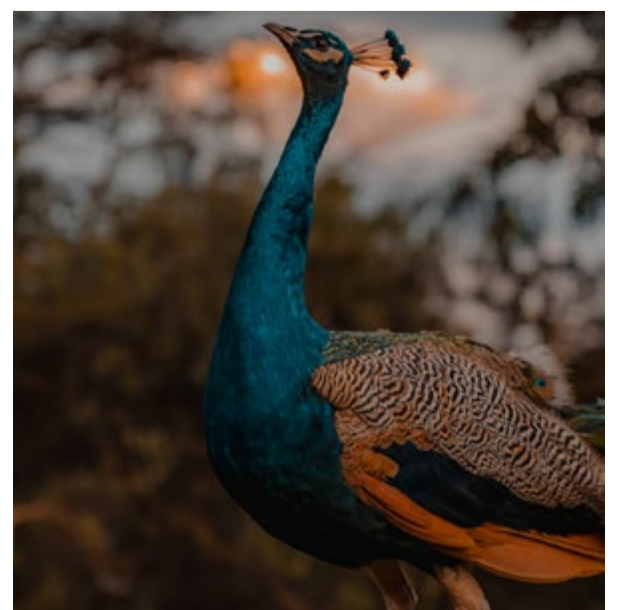
The Maasai Mara experiences pleasant weather with warm days almost all year round. Due to the elevation (over 1,500m/5,000ft above sea level) the nights and early mornings are cool. The best time for game drives is the early mornings and late afternoons given the cooler temperatures. This does however make it a bit chilly in the open-sided safari vehicles so pack a fleece coat or warm jacket.

The long rains take place from March to May, and the short rains between November and December.

Best Time to Visit:

The migration season, from July to October, has the added bonus of over 1 million wildebeest and zebra drawn by new grass after the rainy season. This annual wildlife bonanza is a 'circle of life' routine that occurs between Mara and the adjacent Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. Migration months are peak travel season so early bookings are strongly advised.

But even without the migration, a trip to Masai Mara at any time of year is always a great experience. Off-season months have the benefit of better lodge rates, fewer visitors and less vehicle crowding on drives. The conservancies, however, have far less of the madding crowd all year round.



EVENTS

MARA ULTRA MARATHON

Every year in early December, the Maasai Mara hosts the UltraMARATHon.

Started in 2020, the UltraMARATHon is a 50km single-day foot race through the conservancies of the Mara's northern ecosystem. The race, run either as an individual or as part of a relay team, takes participants through several conservancies giving them a unique sporting experience within one of Africa's jewels.



The proceeds from the event go directly to supporting initiatives in the region that are aimed at protecting both wildlife and the environment and enhancing the lives of the community members who live there. The current benefactors are the Mara Elephant Project, AMS Women's Health Centre, and the Rangers from the participating conservancies.

THE GREAT MIGRATION

Starting mid-July to early September, the annual Great Migration is often referred to as the greatest wildlife show in the world. Past migrations have seen up to 1.5 million wildebeest, close to a million zebra and gazelle move into the Maasai Mara Reserve from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. The Mara River crossing is the venue for this spectacular display of wildlife and a showdown between the herds of wildebeest and crocodiles is a must-see for every traveller.



NOMAD

A F R I C A

Nomad Africa is a premier travel company committed to a more respectful, conscious, and uplifting way of travel. Blending luxury and adventure, we specialize in crafting unique journeys that provide unmatched access to East Africa.

Led by a passionate group of intrepid female explorers on a mission to find unique hidden gems and create lasting impact through travel, our team shares a common vision of showcasing the wonders of East Africa, providing customers with exceptional service, personalized attention, and a passion for travel that is unparalleled.

CONTACT US TO PLAN YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME



Instagram

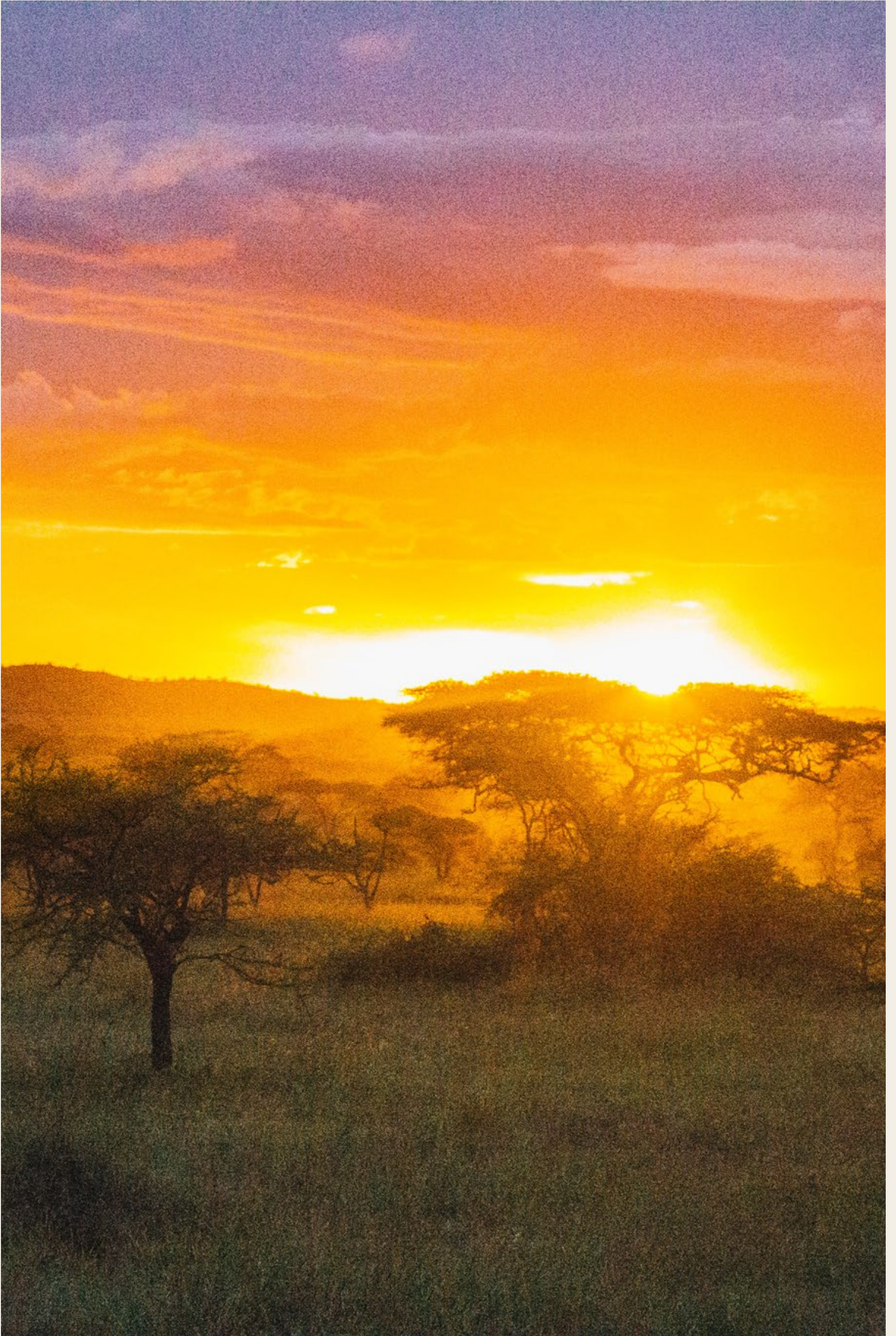


Facebook



Whatsapp

www.nomad.africa



NOMAD
AFRICA