

OPERATING BESPOKE SAFARIS SINCE 1919

“Cottar’s Safari Camp is sublime: pure Out of Africa. The golden age of safari is recreated in a heady cocktail of marquee tents, antique furnishings and liveried staff.”

*Harpers Abroad*



*The wonderful honeymoon tent at Cottar’s.*

*Stevie Mann*

## COTTAR’S 1920s MARA SAFARI CAMP

**The award-winning Cottar’s 1920s Safari Camp is located in the famous ‘seventh’ natural wonder of the world, the Maasai Mara in Kenya. The camp is owned by the oldest established and continuing safari family in Africa and provides genuinely stunning wildlife and wilderness experiences to discerning, experiential travellers.**

Extending an era of luxury and quality, Cottar’s 1920s Safari Camp returns to the original spirit and essence of ‘safari’: an abundance of wildlife, a guarantee of privacy, and the highest standards of professional guiding in a luxurious and authentic camping environment.

Cottar’s 1920s Safari Camp provides the romance of safari under cream canvas tents, the style of the bygone era of the twenties with butler-delivered silver service, while at the same time supplying the amenities required by today’s modern world travellers and professional guides whose qualifications are the highest in Africa.

Winners of numerous accolades, including ‘Best Tented Camp in the World’, Best small to medium enterprise in Africa and recipient of the Green Globe award for environmental practices, Cottar’s 1920s Safari Camp and the new Cottar’s private homestead offer discerning travellers authentic and unique lifetime safari experiences.







Magnificent Mess Tent at Cottar's 1920s tented camp, Maasai Mara, Kenya

Michael Poliza

# ABOUT COTTAR'S 1920s SAFARI CAMP

Calvin and Louise Cottar established Cottar’s 1920s Safari Camp in the mid-nineties. The camp is situated in a timelessly unspoiled setting with sunset views stretching to distant horizons of the Maasai Mara and the Serengeti plains covered in boundless game.

The Camp has its own 6,000 acre private conservancy and is situated one kilometre from the Maasai Mara game reserve. The location provides for easy access for day and night game drives to the Maasai Mara game reserve and the conservancy, game walks, and cultural interactions with the Maasai community.

The camp has 10 tents in total (one unique honeymoon tent, five double tents and four family suites), all with en suite bathrooms. The family tents have living rooms with

fireplaces. The entire camp is situated to ensure that tents are private and quiet whether for honeymooners or families with young children.

The camp has two main mess tent areas for fine dining, drinking, reading and relaxing. An exciting new addition is an amazing pool and spa area where guests can relax after a game drive. Guests can also enjoy a safari bath or safari shower, specifically set up in the savannah should they wish for a genuinely unique way of bathing!



Service with a smile Brent Stirton



Enjoy far-reaching views across the Mara as you chill out in the heat of the day Stevie Mann

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On Drab Felt .....17/6



Lady's White Shikar.  
On Green Felt .....12/6



Lady's Pith.  
Covered White or Drab Felt .....14/6



Family tent living area

Brent Stirton



One of the tented bedrooms

Stevie Mann



Family tent bedroom

Stevie Mann

# YOUR OWN PRIVATE HOMESTEAD



## The absolute privacy of your own home

Cottar's Private House has a breathtaking view onto the savannah plains that carry the great annual wildebeest migration, and is set amidst a backdrop of the Olentoroto Masai Hills. For those that want absolute privacy in the Maasai Mara, combined with dedicated and discrete staff, award-winning guides, and an abundance of wildlife, Cottar's Private House offers the only private luxury home in the Maasai Mara. Cottar's Mara private homestead can be rented only on an exclusive basis and comes with a dedicated staff of eight.

The homestead has a large living room, a dining room, a magnificent viewing deck and five en suite bedrooms, all with stunning views. Dedicated game vehicle(s) and guides are also provided to guests throughout their stay. The whole house may be rented for a minimum period of three days.



Private house images by Brent Stirton





# COTTARS' HISTORY

Charles Cottar came to Africa in 1909 from the USA after reading President Theodore Roosevelt's exhilarating accounts of his big game hunting expedition of 1906. Charles quickly established himself amongst the first professional hunters in East Africa, and in 1915, brought his entire family back to Kenya to settle for good.

In 1919, together with his sons, Mike, Bud and Ted, Charles established 'Cottar's Safari Service', one of the very first registered safari companies offering superior big game hunting and film safaris outfitting throughout Africa, India and Indochina.

Charles Cottar survived elephant, buffalo, and three leopard attacks in his life, finally succumbing in 1939, at age 66, to a deadly rhino charge in the Mara region. Mike and Bud carried on the safari business guiding for the Duke and Duchess of York, Woolworth Donahue and Martin and Osa Johnson, amongst others. Mike Cottar was friends with many of the famous characters from 'Out of Africa' and was Beryl Markham's first flying passenger.



Filming lion in the Mara, 1919

Put a "two-c" in your pocket.

It fits.

The 2C KODAK Jr.

For pictures of the somewhat elongated post-card shape, but just a trifle smaller,—2 3/4 x 4 3/4 inches. And this elongated shape in the picture makes possible a slim, thin camera, that fits the pocket.

The 2C Autographic Kodak Junior has a capacity of ten exposures without reloading. It has the Kodak Full Fluting shutter with cable release, working at speeds of 1/25, 1/50 and 1/100 of a second and of course the usual "bulb" and time actions. The camera has a fixed reversible finder, two tripod sockets, black leather bellows, is covered with fine grain leather, is well made and beautifully finished. It is autographic, of course, and is extremely simple to use. Furnished with a choice of fine equipment as listed below:

Kit, 2C Autographic Kodak Jr., minimum accessories, lens,	\$12.00
Kit, with Rapid Reversing lens,	14.00
Kit, with Kodak Autographic lens, F3.5,	18.00

All Dealers.

EASTMAN KODAK CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y., The Kodak City



The Cottar family then... (1920s)

The family was renown amongst the British administration for being rebellious and anti-establishment, preferring long stints with African tribes in wildest Africa. The Cottars were the first to import American vehicles for safaris, the first to reach new areas such as Lake Paradise, the first to obtain never before seen wildlife footage. In this family it was normal to have lions, leopards, wild dogs and chimpanzees as family pets.

Mike's son Glen, with his wife Pat, continued the family business and pioneered hunting and explorations expeditions into remote parts of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Zaire and Botswana. Glen and Pat pioneered

the photographic safari, setting up the first established tented camp just for photographic safaris in the early sixties in Tsavo National Park; Cottar's Mara Camp in the Maasai Mara in the seventies and Cottar's Kimana and Cottars Busstops in the eighties. Glen passed away in 1996 and Pat in 2010.

Glen's son Calvin, together with his wife Louise, began Cottar's 1920s Safari Camp in the Maasai Mara in the mid-nineties and continues to this day to represent the Cottar family safari heritage. It is hoped that some of their kids, (Danni, Jasper, Charlie and Ella) will continue the safari legacy into the future! 🌿



"The Cottar clan is referred to as the First Family of the safari business. If you want to track the safari bloodline you go to Cottars."

Travel and Leisure

...and the Cottar family now (2012).

...for those who find themselves hooked on AFRICA, there comes a time when they want something different, something lonelier and wilder....

Not everyone can take you there.... but CALVIN COTTAR and his 1920s safaris come with the kind of pedigree and promise that is hard to resist.

🌿 London Financial Times 🌿



"Nobody knows the bush better or can guide you more safely... Not only were we able to see places of astonishing beauty to which more regular safari outfits never go, but Calvin was able to educate us by sharing his unprecedented knowledge of animal behavior."

Tatler Travel Guide



The magnificent Mara migration

# SAFARI EXPERIENCE

Cottar's Safari Service is a family business that has, over the last 90 years, guided safaris with understated elegance and in the timeless style of our forefathers, descriptions of which are in many classic and contemporary Africana and safari history books. We are in the business of making lifelong memories for our guests, providing just the right mix of adventure and adrenaline and comfort. We are both proud and honoured to have taken generations of families on safari.



Abundant wildlife surrounds Cottar's.

The Cottar family have for the last 80 years focused on a very special part of Africa in the country of Kenya, in a unique wilderness area adjacent to the Serengeti National Park of Tanzania and the Maasai Mara National Reserve of Kenya. This area is home to the largest concentration of terrestrial wildlife on earth - the immense wildebeest, zebra and plains game migration that numbers over to 2.5 million animals.

## SOME OF THE HIGHEST SUCCESS RATES OF BIG FIVE SIGHTINGS IN THE BUSINESS

The landscape is high altitude (6000 ft) rolling savannah, with no fences or man made structures to corrupt the wilderness, and with pure wildlife that has not been trans located or manipulated by man. We have some of the highest success rates of big five sightings in the business - although our focus is never on 'ticking off' the check list of species; rather we focus on the quality of the viewing, the interpretation and 'capturing the moment.' We have access to a genuinely wild part of the Maasai Mara reserve, and we work hard to keep it that way! 🌿





“If you ask old Africa hands to name the best guides, Cottar appears at the top of every list.”

Condé Nast Traveler

# GUIDING QUALITY

Our guiding style is different from other safari operators in that we emphasize the quality not the quantity of the wilderness and wildlife, the emotional intelligence of the guide to become your friend in a short time, and to have our guests appreciate and join the pace of the wilderness. This is why we have invested in the best guides in the country; every one of them carefully handpicked by Calvin Cottar. We have the highest number of gold professional standard guides within one camp and all of our guides are chosen for their unique skill set, great personalities and a full understanding of the Cottar’s guiding ethos.

Since Chas Cottar’s days, the quality of safaris in Kenya has changed as tour companies sacrifice adventure for convenience, becoming over-itinerized and limited to congested big name parks with no room for the flexibility that always was the vital essence of the original safari. Calvin and Louise and the Cottar’s team work hard to keep the vital essence of safari alive, evoking the light, the sounds and the unchanging atmosphere of Africa.

Our promise to you – on our family honour – is to give you a life changing and wonderful safari experience, and ask only that you enter our world with openness, oceans of patience and willingness to trust our expert guides.




Cottar children walking with a representative of the Maasai community



Cottars game drives.





EST. 1919

## COTTAR’S SAFARI SERVICE

For the last eighty years, Cottar’s Safari Service has been organizing and providing tailor made safaris to discerning African specialist travel agents and travelers to Africa.

The service provides advice on where to go, develops personalized itineraries, organizing expeditions to far flung places and providing award winning accompanying guides.

We can organize a breadth of African experience - from month long remote adventure expeditions to unexplored South Sudan to honeymoon safari and surf trips to family eco-lodge and cultural visits. All with just the right amount of adventure and comfort.

# CONSERVATION, CULTURE, COMMERCE, COMMUNITY



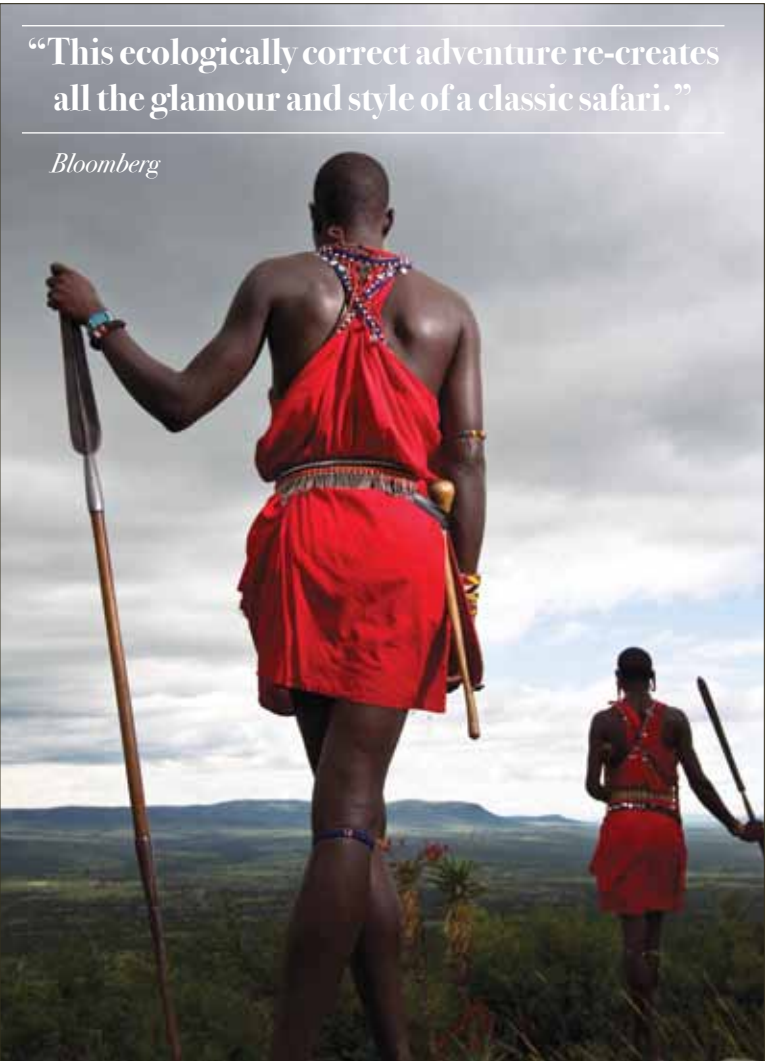
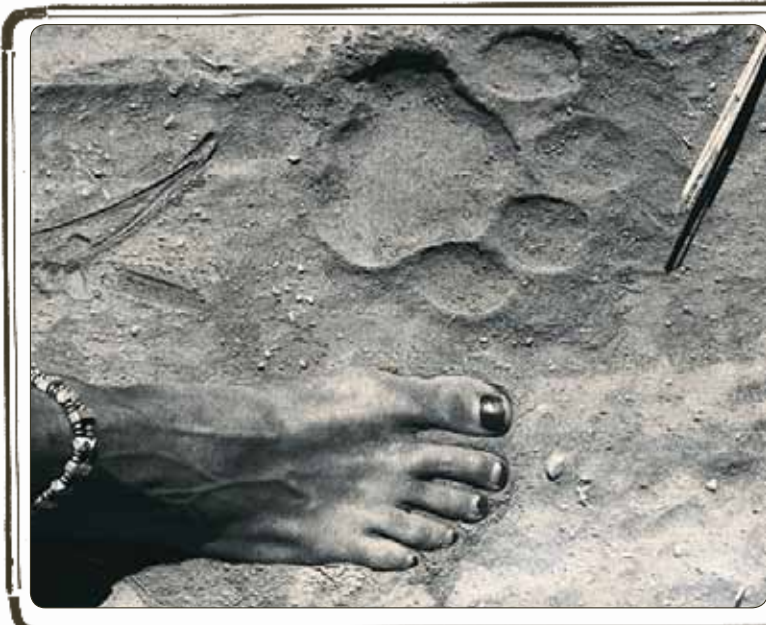
No-one knows the area better than our team

Brent Stirton

Cottar’s 1920s Safari Camp is unique in that we do not own the land we are on, but rather manage it on behalf of, and at the request of the Olderekesi Maasai community numbering some 3,000 families.

The Cottar family works in partnership with the Maasai towards sustainable ecosystem management through conservation. Our safari business also finances the 6,000 acre Olderekesi wildlife conservancy and employs members of the Maasai community. The proceeds of the conservancy support sustainable development through numerous initiatives managed through the Cottar’s Wildlife and Conservation Trust including schools medical facilities, water supply and ambulance service.

At Cottar’s, every attempt is made to minimize our environmental footprint: the camp and private homestead use wind, solar and other forms of power, we make our own tents and grow our own organic vegetables.

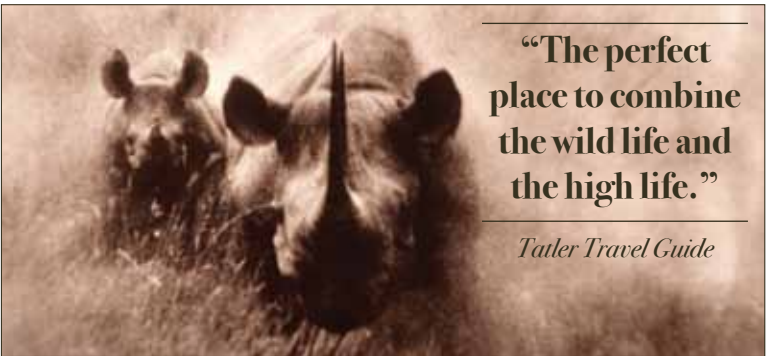


“This ecologically correct adventure re-creates all the glamour and style of a classic safari.”

Bloomberg

The Cottar - Maasai partnership

Brent Stirton



“The perfect place to combine the wild life and the high life.”

Tatler Travel Guide

## ANNOUNCING THE CONSERVANCY

We are very honoured to announce that the many years of foundation work by Cottar’s Wildlife Conservation Trust (CWCT) is bearing fruit as the Olderikesi committee and 3000 + members implement their 6000 acre Olderikesi Wildlife Conservancy pilot project on the boundary of the Maasai Mara National Reserve and the Serengeti National Park. This is a Private Public Partnership between Olderikesi and CWCT to test some innovative and ground breaking ways for wildlife to pay for human development and sustainable living for the people, and to secure the future of this key wildlife migration corridor.



# INFORMATION ABOUT COTTAR'S



“Although there are a few luxury safari outfits, this is easily the most atmospheric. It harks back to the era of hunters such as Denys Finch Hatton, when safaris were undertaken in grand style.”

*Vogue*

## LOCATION

Olderikesi Group Ranch, South East  
Maasai Mara, Kenya, East Africa

## AWARDS

**Best Tented Camp in the world**  
*Tatler Magazine*

**Top Guides of Africa**  
*Condé Nast Traveller*

**No. 1 in the Mara**  
*Trip Advisor*

**Best Safari Camp**  
*Harpers & Queen*

**Best Guides**  
*Harpers Bazaar*

**101 Best Hotels**  
*Tatler Travel Guide*

**The 50 Best Camp Sites**  
*The Independent*

**Eco-rated**  
*Ecotourism Society of Kenya*

**World Travel Market**  
*Green Globe Award by*

## MEAL POLICY

Communal dining is encouraged; we can also do private dinners on request

Mealtimes are set to meet the guests' requirements.

The camp has a daily set menu. Please advise on dietary requirements prior to arrival.

## ACTIVITIES

Day & Night  
Game Drives

Guided Bush Walks

Bush Meals

Sundowners

Cultural Visits

Swimming pool

River Swimming  
& Fishing

Massage

Shop

## ACCOMMODATION

5 1920s style en suite white tents  
– 4 doubles and 1 twin tent

4 Family Tented Suites (Each suite consists of 2 en suite bedrooms with a shared sitting / dining room)

1 honeymoon tent

1 private house which can accommodate 10 guests

## MALARIA

Cottar's 1920s Camp is higher than 4000 ft and is considered malaria free.

## COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Internet: Guests can access wireless Internet in certain limited locations at camp.

Mobile phones: There is no phone signal until 1km out of camp.

A satellite phone is also available at charge in the office.

## WHAT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN AT COTTAR'S?

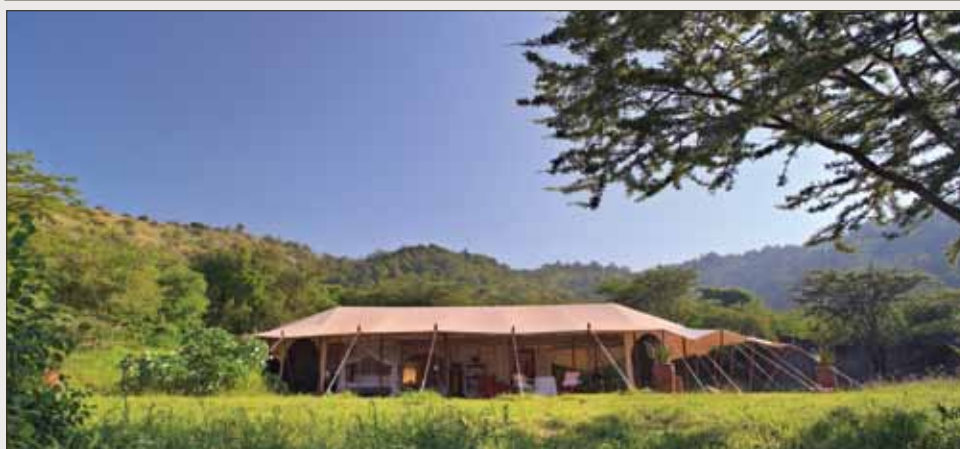
All our guides speak English and Kiswahili, and we have one guide who is fluent in Spanish.

## WHAT VEHICLES DO COTTAR'S HAVE?

Cottar's have eight 4x4 Vehicles. All vehicles are open, with covers that can fold down in bad weather. Vehicles have fridges, leather seat covers, rechargeable ports,

and fold-down windscreens. When necessary, guests may have to share their vehicle with others, unless 'Exclusive Use of Vehicle' has been paid for.

## HOW TO GET TO COTTAR'S



*The honeymoon tent*

*Stevie Mann*

Twice daily scheduled air service from Nairobi to the Maasai Mara and returning (landing at Keekorok airstrip)

Once daily scheduled flight from Samburu / Lewa and Nanyuki to the Maasai Mara

Once daily scheduled flight departing Mombasa and Amboseli to the Maasai Mara

Keekorok airstrip is a 1 to 2-hour drive from camp – There is a fee per vehicle per transfer from Keekorok – Cottar's and Cottar's - Keekorok

Cottar's private airstrip is 10 minutes drive from camp

Private charters from anywhere for small aircraft such as Caravans.

## MASAI MARA CLIMATE

Altitude: 5,500 – 6,400 feet

Rainfall: Approximately 30" per year

Warm, dry days, and cool nights, no humidity