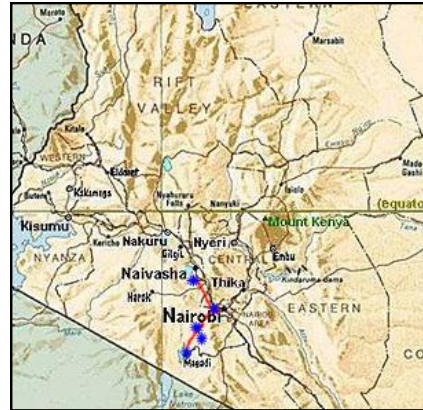


2012 Maasai Experience



Our itineraries may be updated from time to time for operational reasons. Although you will be notified of any significant changes please check this page from time to time prior to travelling for any minor amendments.

This version is dated February 2011.



Day 1

You will be met at Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta airport by our Kenyan team, where we will then transfer by 4x4 to a guest house nestling at the foot of the Ngong Hills famous as the setting for "Out of Africa".

Day 2

Following breakfast we will head up onto the top of the hills. Here a Maasai guide will introduce us to the many indigenous plants that are still used medicinally. From the summit of the ridge we will have a spectacular view looking down over the Rift Valley birth place of mankind and traditional home of the Maasai. In the afternoon we will look in more detail at the itinerary for the trip, answer any questions and our guides will introduce you to the Maa language, culture and people. Before our evening meal we will take a visit to a traditional Kenyan bar.

Day 3

After an early breakfast we will hit the road, heading for a remote Maasai manyatta, Imoshoro which will be our home for the next 8 nights. On route we will stop at the bustling town of Kiserian to purchase some provisions, which will give a good introduction to a typical African market.

We should arrive at Imoshoro by lunchtime. Here our tented village will have already been set up before

arrival. On arrival we will be introduced to our hosts. After lunch we will construct the traditional boma around the tents. This prickly acacia fence is designed to keep out unwanted wildlife and the villagers will show us how to construct it properly.

Day 4

We will have an early start as our hosts invite us to travel with them to collect water from the nearest spring some 7km away! This return journey will take up most of the morning. The afternoon will be free to allow us to get acquainted with the tribe and our environment.

Day 5

The whole day will be spent helping the villagers construct a traditional Maasai hut. First the framework of timber is built then smaller sticks are used to provide a support for the cladding made of mud, grass and cattle dung. Even with everyone helping out it will take the whole day and may not be finished even then.

Day 6

To recover from the hard work of the previous day we will take an excursion to Lake Magadi. Rarely visited by tourists this alkaline soda lake is the southernmost lake in the Kenyan Rift Valley. And close to the Tanzanian border. Home to flamingos and a myriad of other water birds it also hosts plenty of large

mammals as it lies between the Maasai Mara and Amboseli National Parks. We will lunch in Magadi town and return to Imoshoro before dusk.

Day 7

The morning will be focused on fire. We will accompany our hosts to collect firewood and then we will be given a demonstration of the traditional method that the Maasai use to light fire. Everyone will have the opportunity to have a go themselves. Today we will also put the finishing touches to the house we built and also look at any additional plant species that are used by the Maasai that we haven't already encountered.

Day 8

Today is a craft day where we focus on some of the traditional skills of the Maa people, particularly their bead and leather work. After being shown the skills everyone will have the chance to make something for themselves.

Day 9

Today is another excursion day. We will travel to the world renowned Ologersallie prehistoric site. Excavated by the Leakeys in 1942 the site boasts the largest collection of hominid hand axes and other tools ever discovered, some dating back over 500,000 years. We will look around the 52 acre site itself and the museum. The

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2012 Maasai Experience: Continued

area is also one of the best bird watching places in Kenya.

Day 10

Today is our last day in the village. Although the Maasai are pastoralists rather than hunters they still have a wealth of knowledge about the local fauna and we will spend the morning tracking and hopefully observing whatever wildlife we encounter. In the afternoon there will be the opportunity to buy some traditional Maasai souvenirs direct from our hosts. We then plan to engage in some light hearted competition with our hosts; with events like spear throwing, friction firelighting races and other activities just for a bit of fun. As night draws in we will feast with our hosts and celebrate our last night with some Maasai beer before being entertained by a spectacular dancing display. Be



prepared to join in!

Day 11

We will rise early and strike camp. After saying farewell to our hosts we will head north some 100km to Hell's Gate National Park. This was once the heart of the Maasai lands and is only one of two Kenyan National Parks where visitors can hike through the park. We will spend the day trekking through the spectacular scenery and hopefully observing the wildlife. We will camp in one of the park's public campsites.

Day 12

Before leaving the park we will finish by visiting the Oolok Karia Maasai cultural centre before heading back to Nairobi for our last night in a hotel before heading home.

Further details and kit list will be provided on booking or upon request.

Included in the cost:

All main meals
Tea/Coffee and some soft drinks
Water
Hotel on the first, second and last Evenings.

Not included:

Alcoholic drinks
Snacks
Tips
Flights
Additional accommodation
Personal Travel Insurance

The exact content of this trip is dependant on the situation at the locality at the time and is subject to change at the discretion of the guides. Although every attempt will be made to include the listed content certain circumstances that are beyond our control may necessitate unforeseen changes.

Desert Ways endeavours to follow a "Leave No Trace" approach on all its trips whenever possible. For details on our Environmental Policy and our terms and conditions go to our website @ www.desertways.co.uk

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