



# MAASAI COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

During a stay at Mahali Mzuri, visit one of the nearby Maasai villages, just a short drive from camp, to get a flavour for daily life in the Mara, meet the community and learn more about the local Maasai tribe.

## ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

The local village is a 10 minute drive from Mahali Mzuri, and your Guide will take you on a tour, introduce you to some of the families, and explain local cultures and traditions.

The best time to go is first thing in the morning when you can help milk the cattle, or in the evening when the cattle, goats and sheep are being herded back to their enclosures for the night.

You're also welcome to visit the local school, attended by Maasai children aged 3-15 years old, just let your Guide know in advance. It's a five minute drive from the village.

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

- Learn how the houses are built (by the women of the village) and how responsibilities are divided amongst families.
- Have a guided tour of a traditional house and the all-important holding area for the cattle.
- Pet any new-born lamb and goats (seasonal) - popular amongst the little warriors (that's the kids!).
- Help milk the cattle if you're visiting at dawn. At dusk you can watch the men herd the cattle, goats and sheep into the safety of the enclosure overnight.
- Watch the family prepare a traditional Maasai lunch over the fire inside one of their houses. In Maasai culture it is seen as a blessing to have many people in your home so guests are joined by others including the matriarch of the community and some of the children.
- Have a basic lesson in Maa (the Maasai language).
- Visit the market (thursdays).
- An insight into the camping activities of the young Maasai men (also known as morans) during the initiation period into adulthood. They camp in the bush for around 3 weeks, feeding on meat and blood and are treated with beef soup infused with traditional herbs. The elders also take them through a series of life teachings.
- A game of traditional bow and arrow, wrestling and jumping like a warrior.

## MEETING THE COMMUNITY

The locals love welcoming guests to their village and enjoy seeing themselves on camera, so feel free to take photos but of course please do be sensitive to those who shy away from the camera. We also ask guests not to take photos of children who are not fully dressed or of the elderly, unless your Guide has got their permission.

The kids are mostly comfortable with guests but the younger kids (under 4 years) can be a little scared, so please be mindful and avoid picking them up. They often play games and enjoy asking guests to join in the fun. If you would like to bring a gift for them, we recommend crayons, markers, note pads, deflated footballs and skipping ropes so that everyone can share and play together. Whilst we all have a bit of a sweet tooth, we kindly advise guests not to bring any sweets and chocolate for the children due to lack of access to dental services.

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

As this is a traditional community we ask that guests take a more conservative approach when it comes to outfits, covering your midriff, shoulders and legs.

## BOOKING

We can book in your visit either before the afternoon game drive or at the end of the morning drive. Alternatively it can be an activity on its own! The length of the visit is partially up to you, but typically guests will spend between one to two hours in the village.

### Rates

\$50 per adult

\$25 per child

*All proceeds go directly to the community itself. Minimum numbers may apply but please check when booking or speak to the Lodge Manager on property.*

### Get in touch

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