



Maji Moto to Maasai Mara Game Reserve

DAY 1 – Drive from Nairobi via Narok to our Maji-Moto camp, nestled at the northern foot of the Loita Hills. Maji-Moto means hot water in Kiswahili and true enough a pure, steaming spring pours out of the rocks. After watching the sunset from a hillside viewpoint you can bathe in the natural hot water as people have done for thousands of years before you. Around you are glassy volcanic flakes, used for making stone tools from before the times of iron.

Next, an evening meal cooked on wood fires under the stars and a campfire chat about the Maasai culture. You will then retire to your tent, protected through the night by Maasai warriors.

DAY 2 – After an early breakfast you walk with the Maasai to the top of the Loita Hills for 4 – 5 hours, bird watching, learning of healing herbs and the history of hills. This is a very remote part of Maasailand, seen by very few visitors. You will be introduced to the sounds, sights and smells of the bush – each plant, or bird, or insect has a story to tell. These will become familiar to you on future walks, and you'll feel a closeness to the land that no tourist in a minibus will ever understand.

You will return to the camp for lunch, followed by warrior training. You will see exhibitions and try your own hand at throwing spears and shooting arrows, practicing battle by throwing natural sisal at other “warriors in training”, making red ochre for marking your skin with natural stones and leaves. You will also see the traditional markings of leg and hand burning. You may also have a chance to learn about making fire from rubbing a stick and a wood, removing cow blood for drinking without killing, traditional dancing, goat slaughter, and other traditional activities of the Maasai.

Next you will visit a Maasai boma or homestead to be introduced to the work of the women and life of the children. There will be time for sitting in the shade and making the famous coloured beadwork jewellery – necklaces, earrings, bracelets – and if they don't come up to professional standards, you can buy beautifully crafted jewellery from the women of the village as souvenirs. You might also get a chance to try milking goats, fetching water or firewood with the women and kids, or cooking chapattis on the always-lit fire in the huts. The day ends with an evening meal and a chance to learn Maasai songs round the camp fire.



DAY 3 – After an early breakfast in camp, your walk is escorted by Maasai guides and porters who carry your luggage and basic camping equipment. Your effort will be rewarded with views of the magnificent landscape and the traditional Maasai people in the Loita Hill. Walking today and on subsequent days along the Savannah grassland, you may see zebra, gazelle, giraffe, gnu, wildebeest, hertbeest, baboon, many species of birds, and more. You will have lunch in the wilderness, and overnight camping at Ropile. You might hear the sounds or see the footprints of lions, hyena, or elephants, and watch the Maasai warriors dancing at night at the wilderness.

DAY 4 – Early breakfast before moving with the porters to arrive at Maasai Mara campground for lunch. You will rest in the afternoon, then experience an evening game drive. Camping overnight in the Maasai Mara campground.

Day 5/6 – Daily game drives in Maasai Mara in the morning and afternoon, taking meals at the campsite. The animals you may see include elephant, lion, rhino, leopard, buffalo, baboon, hippo, cheetah, a wide array of birds and more.

Final Day 6 or 7 – (depending on the length of trip you choose) – Break camp early and return to Nairobi.

General

Accommodation is camping in tents in the bush, which allows us greater access to wilder areas. All equipment is carried by local porters, you only carry a day-pack with personal gear. You are welcome to participate in camp chores if you wish but it is not required. We buy fresh produce and other food locally, and to ensure high standards of hygiene all food is prepared by our own staff. We can cater for special dietary requirements with advance notice, and there are no additional food charges during the trip.