

MAASAI COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE



INTRODUCTION

While you're staying at Mahali Mzuri you're welcome to visit one of the Maasai villages in the local area to get a flavour for daily life in the Mara.

The village is only 10 minutes' drive from Mahali Mzuri and the best times to go are 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.

The local school is a further 5 minute drive from the village. This is where the Maasai children aged 3-15 years attend. You are welcome to visit the school, please let your guide know in advanced of your trip.

Your Guides at Mahali Mzuri will take you on a tour and introduce you to their families while explaining some of the cultures and traditions.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

During your visit you can expect to:

- 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 – a favourite for any younger guests (seasonal)
- 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 house 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)



THE CHILDREN

Typically the local children love to follow behind the visiting group and there are ample opportunities to play and take pictures of them. They will often have toys with them such as homemade footballs and enjoy getting guests involved in their games. If you would like to bring a



gift for the children we recommend crayons, markers, note pads, deflated footballs and skipping ropes so that all the children can play together. Their favourite game is to jump around in front of the camera and then run over to see themselves on the screen. The children have not had a tremendous amount of exposure to outsiders and although most are comfortable some of the youngest children (under 4) can be a little scared and should not be picked up.

ADVICE FOR GUESTS

Guests are able to take as many pictures as they like and all the children, women and men enjoy seeing themselves on camera. Guests should however be sensitive to those who shy away from the camera and as a general rule we ask you not take pictures of any children who are not fully dressed or elderly people unless their guide asks their permission.

As this is a traditional community we ask that guests dress conservatively (men should not be shirtless and women are asked not to display their midriff or to wear very short shorts).

TIMINGS

Your visit can be either be scheduled 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 and two hours in the village.

COSTS

The cost for the community tour is \$25 per person for adults and \$15 per child, with all proceeds going directly to the community itself. Minimum numbers may apply but please ask when making your booking or speak to the lodge manager when you are at the camp.

