WALKING WITH THE MAASAI

Loita Hills, Kenya
Great Maasailand Trail

7 nights / 8 days

Maasai Trails is all about enhancing one's understanding of a different culture, exploration, and escaping into a world of breath-taking beauty. Walking along ancient trails left by the Maasai over hundreds of years, guests get to experience the African bush in a different and more fulfilling way than any other safari. Your guides, local Maasai from the Loita area, are eager to share their customs and culture, whilst teaching you the lore of the bush.
SAND RIVER – One night

A scheduled flight takes you out of Nairobi, heading south, towards the Kenyan and Tanzanian border.

Departing from the edge of the park you will have a gentle 2-hour (6km) walk to your first trail camp on the banks of Sand River.
Met on arrival by the Maasai Trails team, you'll make your way to your first camp on the trails, Sand River. Have a quiet, restful night, before the epic walking adventure begins in the morning.
After a delicious breakfast on the river banks, you will start preparations for the first day of the trail begin. The pack donkeys will be brought in from nearby enkangs on your first day walk; the equipment will be weighed, measured and packed in preparation for your foot safari. Once all the provisions and camp equipment have been packed, the donkey caravan will set off into the forest to set up the next camp. You will also set off with a donkey caravan but a much smaller one, which carries personal luggage and a packed lunch. Due to the altitude of the Loita area and the terrain that we traverse, we do not plan to walk for longer than 4-6 hours a day.

Within very short distances you can walk through very different ecosystems and habitats. So we normally walk for 3 hours in the morning, stop for a leisurely lunch then a further 3 hours in the afternoon. This is only a guideline though and we will adapt the length of the walk to your wishes.
ELAND CAMP – One night

Duration of walk: 6 hours
Difficulty level: gentle slopes

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast as you prepare for the first day on the trails. Walking through beautiful riverine forest, you climb out of the Olderkesi Valley onto the high plains. This is an easy walk with gentle slopes as you climb up the valley through some Maasai enkangs and game country. As you walk your local Maasai guides highlight the different flora and fauna on route as well as their traditional uses.
ROCK CAMP – One night

Duration of walk: 5-6 hours
Difficulty level: steep – gentle climbs

A beautiful start to the day, as you wake with sun streaming through the forest. Another stunning day of exploring and discovering this ancient landscape as you make your way to the next camp, Rock Camp. Witness as the scenery changes with outcrops of rock formations. At camp settle into the evening with cool drinks and hot showers.
NKORIENI CAMP – One night

Duration of walk: 4-8 hours
Difficulty level: gentle climbs

A hearty breakfast to start the day, todays walk passes a range of unique and varied landscapes. As you make your way out of a wooded valley and onto the high plains. You pass along the way granite kopjes and short grass plains. A longer walk, you can chose the pace, stopping for regular breaks if necessary.
NKIPANGASI CAMP – One night

Duration of walk: 6 hours
Difficulty level: easy-gentle climb

From Nkorieni, we continue heading east crossing the short grass plains. Today you will get your first glimpse of the Loita Hills as your trail slowly climbs up in altitude. From here we cross the high plains and head into the Olmesuite valley. A leisurely pace today to truly enjoy this untouched environment.
THREE RIVERS CAMP – One night
Duration of walk: 6 hours
Difficulty level: steep descent followed by a gentle walk

Another spectacular walk takes you down into a forested valley, passing through various enkangs and into a beautiful ‘Fever Tree’ forest as well as a Wild Date forest. Camp one night in this beautiful part of the valley glimpsing the occasional wildlife as well as the Maasai herdsman as they bring their cattle down into the salt licks in the valley.
VIEWPOINT CAMP – One night

Duration of walk: 6 hours

Difficulty level: gentle walk over rolling hills and steep climbs.

From this beautiful valley we will now start our climb up into the Loita hills passing through different habitats and eventually reaching Viewpoint at 2200m; here we can look back on our trail and into the Great Rift Valley. With expansive views of the plains towards the Maasai Mara and the Crater highlands in Tanzania, this is one stunning picnic spot.
An easy walk into Jan’s Camp, an intimate camp overlooking the forest. From here you will meet your vehicle to be transferred to your next destination or to the nearest airstrip for your internal flight.