

THOMPSON'S

EAST AFRICA

SMALL GROUP WALKING HOLIDAYS
EXPLORING THE AFRICAN BUSH
WITH LOCAL MAASAI PEOPLE



June —MASAI MARA RIVER SYSTEM
WALKS, MAASAI HOME STAY , SOCIAL
HISTORY AND LODGE STAY

The wildlife spectacle and sweeping vistas of the Maasai Mara and neighbouring Serengeti are rightly world-famous. Less well-known is that this area was the cradle of human evolution. Ever since this area has been shaped by generations of hunter-gatherer and cattle herders whose unique lifestyles survive to this day. The Maasai have lived alongside the wildlife of these areas over the last two-three centuries. Their traditional lifestyle has allowed these areas to maintain their rich wild game. The Maasai Mara as well as being part of a vast natural system including the cauldron of the Ngorongoro Crater and the heights of Kilimanjaro also reveals a glimpse of life before modernity intruded. This itinerary offers the chance to walk and talk with your Maasai guides, to learn how people live side-by-side with the animals, to take in game drives at your preferred pace, to seek out the Big Five (elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo) and to relax over pristine views with a cool sun-downer.

Having experienced the local environment and Maasai lifestyle first-hand, we then fly you on to the Indian Ocean coast to take in the Swahili culture, fresh sea air and great seafood. Here, you can choose between a range of relaxing and more strenuous pursuits, from sun-bathing to rainforest walks and scuba diving.

So come join us and gain a unique local insight to one of the world's most evocative destinations.



December — TO CHRISTMAS
— THIS HOLIDAY SHOWS YOU THE
MARA FROM A NEW AND UPLIFTING
PERSPECTIVE.

Based on twelve years working closely with the Maasai people in southern Kenya, we link you to a carefully chosen group of Maasai families that have lived adjacent to the Mara for generations.

The holiday allows you to see and share the Mara through their eyes. We have set up a meeting of cultures from the safety and comfort of a well organised base that allows you to explore the Maasai's more ancient way of life in a way that you are comfortable with. This holiday allows an exchange of experiences on an even footing that benefits both the local Maasai and you the visitor. This three night stay allows you to take part in a range of activities seeing the Mara as the traditional Maasai do. We finish off with a luxury Mara lodge stay in which you can compare the various viewpoints from which the Mara is experienced.

In the run up to Christmas, we then take you to one of the snow capped equatorial peaks, Mount Kenya or the Aberdares – you choose, to take in uplifting mountain air and forest wildlife before your trip home. Extensions possible over Christmas.

THOMPSON'S
EAST AFRICA

OFFERS ITINERARIES
DESIGNED TO:

Promote the art, culture and wildlife of areas moulded by local people over the centuries

Delight the senses, with truly memorable sights, sounds, and smells

Stimulate curiosity for a deeper understanding of a still wonderfully misunderstood continent

Take time on foot, as well as taking to the bush in a jeep. We talk to the local people, discovering how they live on the land and share their knowledge of the plants and animals found here

Our aim is to stimulate and satisfy your curiosity, engage your mind, your senses and your soul

Drawing on 20 years' experience, our guides will work hard to make your dreams come true. We would love to hear your ideas, complement them with some ideas of our own and create an itinerary that works perfectly for you

CONTACT US WITH YOUR
REQUIREMENTS - WE ARE ALWAYS
UP FOR A CHALLENGE !

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Experience — LUXURY LODGES,
FLY-CAMPING (WITHOUT PERMANENT
STRUCTURES), WALKING WITH MAASAI
GUIDES, CUISINE FROM BUSH-CRAFT TO
CLASSY BUSH DINNERS

See — CLASSIC EAST AFRICA GAME,
ALONG WITH SPECIAL INTEREST
SIDE TRIPS FOR BIRDS, MOTHS AND
BUTTERFLIES

Sense — AFRICA'S HEALING WISDOM,
ENJOY RELAXATION AT PLUNGE POOLS
AND THERMAL WATERS

Learn — THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE
RIFT VALLEY



GUIDES:



Mick Thompson:
Mick fell in love with the African continent in 1989 when a nine-month trip turned into 12 years of living and working in many of East and Southern Africa's National Parks. The five years spent working amongst the people of the Masai Mara in gaining his PhD instilled in Mick a passion for Kenya's wildlife and Maasai culture. A trip with Mick and his team of knowledgeable guides will allow you to delve that little bit deeper into the people's culture, flora, fauna and social history of this astonishing area. Mick will share his love and passion for Africa by allowing you to tailor-make trips to meet your interests at your pace.



David Ashby:
David comes from a fine travelling tradition. He has devoted most of his life to seeking out delightful places and wonderful people. David spent three years in Asia and Australia, climbing every mountain and volcano in sight, diving in every stretch of clear water and leading treks in the Himalayas. More recently, David has built up his own successful European travel business after having travelled to most corners of Europe working for the best travel companies available.



DO YOU KNOW ?

“The Maasai word for water is found in place names throughout Kenya?”

“What happened to the first people living in the parks you will visit (or that they still visit their sacred sites?)”

“The Maasai folk stories of how the people climbed out of the Rift Valley?”

“How the gazelle, zebra and wildebeeste work together?”

We'll explore as many of these and other questions as you can put to us on these trips - all in an atmosphere of friendship, learning, good food and good humour.

BUILD YOUR MEMORIES, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF EAST AFRICA.
CONTACT US VIA:

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PUT YOUR REQUEST TO OUR EXPERIENCED SAFARI PLANNERS.
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.