



Building Manyattas with The Maasai

Highlights

Building Manyattas is a cultural tour in the Magical Kenya Signature Experience Collection – curated, unique, authentic and exceptional once-in-a-lifetime Kenyan travel experiences accredited by the Kenya Tourist Board (KTB)

Ever built a hut before?! Well, you will find out how to do just that on this tour, picking up tips from the Maasai masters themselves. You will spend the day in the beautiful Kenyan countryside, getting to know some of the friendly members as they teach you how to build manyattas; mud and thatched homesteads usually surrounding a cattle enclosure. All built by female family members.

What's Included

- Air conditioned hotel transfers
- A light lunch
- Unlimited fruit, tea, coffee and water.
- A handmade Maasai wrist band
- One Horizon staff with you every step of the way.

What's Excluded

- Gratuities (Optional)

Blackout Days

- Easter Friday
- Xmas Day

1 Day
Tour

9 Max
Passengers

Pick Up
@ 9:00 am
from the hotel

Drop Off
@ 4:30pm
to the hotel

A traditional lunch is included on the tour, which will offer another chance to chat to your hosts and compare life stories. This is a unique opportunity to spend a day immersed with the Maasai and a cultural tour where you are part of village life and old traditional cultural practices and rituals.

Tour Itinerary

Build a home the Maasai way

Your One Horizon guide will pick you up from your hotel for a scenic hour-long journey to a Maasai village in the hills around Kiserian, a settlement in the Great Rift Valley southwest of Nairobi.

You will be introduced to the elder Maasai women who will be supervising the day's events and will also meet the women of the family whose home you will be helping to build. Over a cup of delicious Kenyan tea, they will share with you what it's like to live in a village, Maasai tribal values and how the Maasai manage their environment.



Once we're all acquainted, it's time to get stuck into your project for the day—building a manyatta. You'll be shown all the skills that are required including how to replicate the intricate weave of the branches, sticks, and thatch, and make walls and ceilings out of mud. These instructions are very special as you will see and take part in traditional home-making skills that have survived for centuries and are passed down through generations.

After also building up an appetite, enjoy a hearty lunch of local ugali, (a maize flour porridge), vegetables and fruit, eaten with your hosts, giving you more time to get to know them and find out more about their way of life and how it might compare to your own. The afternoon continues with the building of the manyattas, and while a home like this can take up to three weeks to build to wait for the materials to properly dry out, you helping the women can reduce this time significantly. Before returning to Nairobi, they will dress you in traditional Maasai-style in a red shuka cloth or 'African blanket' and you will be treated to an infectious display of singing and dancing.