**Masaai Mara**

"Maasai" basically means people who speak "Maa", but it is also often seen written as "Masai", or "Massai". Many of the Maasai people can't read or write, so in reality whether it is spelt Masai or Massai or Maasai is of little consequence to them.  
  
The Maasai livelihood and social structures are based around the management of livestock. Maasai folklore is based around the belief that God or Nkai gave Maasai the responsibility to look after cattle. Traditionally, the roles of individuals in Maasai communities are determined by the "age-group" to which they belong.  
  
For Maasai males, the most celebrated age-group is the Morani, or warrior group, to which they are initiated and belong to for approximately 10 years, beginning in their late-teens or early twenties. Those who become warriors at the same time in the same geographic region are given a name, which they will be referred to for life. Erkorianga is the name of the current group of Maasai warriors in Northern Tanzania. The shared name provided to each warrior age-group signifies a mutual belonging. It is intended that warriors who share the same age-group will support each other even if they are from different villages and have never met before.  
  
The Maasai have stubbornly maintained their rich and dynamic culture over hundreds of years in the face of change and adversity. Over time, the Maasai have adapted to difficult changes - colonialism, war, independence, and unfriendly political agendas. Through these times, Maasai have been able to keep their culture and traditional way of life intact.

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