

YORK COLLEGE GOES TO KENYA & TANZANIA

15 days

Itinerary downloaded on: February 22, 2024

Day 1: *Departure from Washington*

Today we fly from Washington, Dulles and fly overnight to Nairobi (flight details TBA).

Day 2: *Arrive in Nairobi*

Today we arrive in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

Part of Maasai land when the British arrived, this modern capital grew with the development of the railway. Derived from a Maasai word meaning "Cold Water," Nairobi is a pleasant mix of colonial British with modern and traditional African influences.

Overnight in Nairobi. Mennonite Guesthouse.

Meal Plan: Dinner

Day 3: *Nairobi Area Sightseeing*

Today we have a full day touring in and around Nairobi, including the National Museum, the flagship museum of Kenya, housing celebrated collections of Kenya's history, nature, culture and contemporary art.

Next we visit the David Sheldrick Trust, which is particularly famous for their elephant orphanage and conservation projects. Our day also includes a stop at the former home of Karen Blixen. Baroness Karen Blixen-Finecke emigrated from Denmark to Kenya in 1918 and, in 1937, wrote under the pseudonym, Isaac Dineson, "Out of Africa." The novel tells the tale of the Baroness's experiences on a Kenyan farm. Her home is now a museum, restored to the style in which she maintained it.

We'll also visit Giraffe Manor. In 1974 Jock Leslie-Melville, grandson of a Scottish earl and his wife Betty, who also founded the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW), bought the manor. They then moved five babies of the highly endangered Rothschild giraffe to their property where they have been successfully reared and they now have their own babies. Visitors can feed and photograph the giraffes and warthogs at the manor, and also wander through the adjoining primeval forest to view bushbuck, dik dik, and more than 180 species of birds.

Overnight in Nairobi. Mennonite Guesthouse.

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4: *Local University/College & Orphanage*

Today we will visit a local educational institution and orphanage (details TBA).

Overnight in Nairobi. Mennonite Guesthouse.

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1-800-665-3998

United Kingdom
0114-247-3400

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 5: *Nairobi - Lake Nakuru National Park*

This morning we leave the city and travel by road to Lake Nakuru, a shallow soda lake in the Rift Valley. The Rift Valley was created millions of years ago under the strain of enormous volcanic eruptions, which resulted in a giant split in the earth's surface from Syria to Mozambique. Lava flowed into the valley, forming escarpments on either side of the gigantic trough which can be up to 80 km (50 miles) wide, big enough to be visible from space. At the lake, depending on the water levels, we may have the opportunity to see up to two million flamingos in addition to the over 340 species of birds that have been recorded in the Rift Valley! This is also one of the best places in Kenya to view the rare White Rhino as we explore the park on our afternoon game drive.

Overnight in Lake Nakuru National Park. Lion Hill Lodge.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 6: *Lake Nakuru - Maasai Mara*

Early this morning we depart from Lake Nakuru National Park and continue our journey through the Rift Valley, passing by Lake Naivasha and nearby Mount Longonot, a relatively young volcanic reminder of the Rift's violent past.

We arrive at our lodge (via a pretty bad road!) in the Maasai Mara National Reserve in time for lunch. The Maasai Mara is a natural extension of the Serengeti eco-system and has an amazing concentration of wildlife. The largest population of lions in Kenya is found here, along with large herds of plains game. The Maasai Mara may also be the best place in Kenya to view cheetah. Later this afternoon we enjoy a game drive.

Overnight in the Maasai Mara. Mara Sopa Lodge.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7: *Maasai Mara: Maasai Village & Game Drive*

The Maasai Mara National Reserve consists of rolling grassland and is located at the northern end of the Serengeti Plain. Considered the best of Kenya's parks, it is on the pathway of the yearly wildebeest migration, which comes north from Tanzania about the end of June and returns to Tanzania around the end of September. "The Mara" sustains all of the "Big Five" -- lion, elephant, leopard, rhinoceros and buffalo -- as well as an astonishing wealth of herding animals and other wildlife. You can see the stately Maasai men and youth along the road tending their cattle and goats. We'll visit a village today to gain insight into Maasai way of life and culture.

This afternoon we'll enjoy another game drive.

Overnight in the Maasai Mara. Mara Sopa Lodge.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8: *Maasai Mara, Kenya - Serengeti, Tanzania*

Today we cross the border into Tanzania and the Serengeti National Park.

The name "Serengeti" derives from a Maasai word meaning "Land-without-end." This is a land of superlatives, both in the vast landscape that surrounds you and the incredible biodiversity it supports. It is here that you have a chance to witness one of the most compelling natural dramas on earth -- the annual migration, a sight unparalleled anywhere in the natural world. Our afternoon game drive provides an excellent introduction to this fantastic landscape and the biodiversity it supports.

Overnight in the Northern Serengeti. Ikoma Tented Camp.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9: *Serengeti National Park*

Today we have a full day of game viewing on the Serengeti. We will visit the "kopjes," a series of low, incongruous hills dotting the open landscape that often provide a vantage point for hungry predators contemplating the endless stream of hoofed animals parading past them. Depending on the season and the timing of the rains, up to 1.5 million wildebeest and a half a million zebra embark on a single-minded and perilous quest for water and grazing land. Following this spectacle, of course, are the meat-eating opportunists, hoping to capitalize on the physical toll this journey exacts on the desperate grazers. Even outside of "migration" time, large herds are still seen as they bear their young and feed, gaining strength for their annual return to the park's northern reaches. Resident species that do not migrate make for rewarding animal viewing in any season.

Overnight in the Serengeti. Seronera Wildlife Lodge.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10: *Serengeti National Park*

We have another full day of game drives in the park.

Overnight in the Serengeti. Seronera Wildlife Lodge.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 11: *Serengeti - Olduvai Gorge - Ngorongoro Crater*

Travelling to Ngorongoro today we make a stop at Olduvai Gorge, site of the Leakey excavations in the 1960s and 70s that established this region as the prehistoric habitat of some of the earliest species of hominids with some finds dating back 1.8 million years. Experts in the life sciences have argued that the Olduvai contribution to the story of human origins remains unsurpassed by any other prehistoric site in the world. A small museum on site outlines the unique geological and human history of the area.

Called the 'eighth wonder of the world' and stretching across some 8300 sq km, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area boasts a blend of landscapes, wildlife, people and archaeology that is unsurpassed in Africa. The volcanoes, grasslands, waterfalls and mountain

forests are home to an abundance of animals and to the Maasai. Ngorongoro Crater is one of the world's greatest natural spectacles and its magical setting and abundant wildlife never fail to enthrall visitors.

Balance of the day at leisure to enjoy our lodge overlooking the crater.

Overnight in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Crater Forest Camp.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 12: Ngorongoro: Crater Rim Hike & Game Drive

Today we enjoy a guided crater rim walk / hike with great views and opportunities for bird-watching and stretching our legs.

We also descend the crater on a game drive in this incredible setting, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We explore the Ngorongoro Crater, 20 km (13 miles) wide and 700 m (2,300 feet) high where we may see the "Big Five" as well as many herbivores like wildebeest, gazelle, zebra and hippopotamus, as well as thousands of flamingos on Lake Magadi.

Overnight in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Crater Forest Camp. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 13: Ngorongoro - Karatu Area

Today we depart the crater area and descend onto the Ngorongoro Highlands in the vicinity of the town of Karatu. Here we'll visit a local school in order to experience a bit of rural Tanzania and observe first-hand the challenges facing education today.

In the past, the area around Karatu and Ol Deani was of great importance to the German colonial administration. The area's cool climate, verdant hills, and pleasing views made it popular with settlers and farmers. Vast and extensive fields cover the slopes of the volcano and the lands around town. Coffee was a main crop grown for export, and a few large farms that remained in private hands still cultivate the cash crop on the hills and small valleys outside of town.

Overnight in the Karatu area. Migunga Tented Camp.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 14: Ngorongoro Highlands - Arusha, Tanzania - Nairobi, Kenya - Depart

Today we travel back to Nairobi by road.

Our journey takes us to the edge of the Rift Valley with expansive views over Lake Manyara, one of the larger Rift Valley lakes, and the town of Mto Wa Mbu ('Mosquito Creek'), famous for its lively cosmopolitan atmosphere and red bananas, which taste the same as regular bananas but their skins are a startling bright red!

We arrive at Nairobi Airport in plenty of time to connect with our homeward flight.

SAFARI NJEMA!

Canada/USA
1-800-665-3998

United Kingdom
0114-247-3400

Meal Plan: Breakfast

Day 15: *Arrival in Washington*

Arrival back in Washington (flight details TBA).