



Kenya Open Team 2017

Information Packet

Location: Kisii - Kenya

Project Dates: June 28 – July 12, 2017

Participation Fee: \$1,060

Excursion Fee: \$535



Flight to Nairobi is not included in the participation fee

Maranatha in Kenya

Maranatha's first volunteer project in Africa took place in 2008, during a major construction effort in Mozambique. Since then, Maranatha has expanded to several other African countries including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Angola, and Ghana. In 2016, Maranatha kicked off a new effort in Kenya, with plans to construct 15 school classrooms, 70 churches and water wells.

Project Overview

Maranatha has received a large request for schools and dormitories throughout the country of Kenya. Volunteers on this project will have the opportunity to work at the Getare Seventh-day Adventist School near the town of Kisii. This elementary school was established twenty years ago, and now it is known for its quality Christian education. More than 600 students fill the classrooms each day.

However, the campus has a problem. The classrooms are made of mud, and the walls are literally falling apart around the students. Holes allow water and insects to enter the rooms and crumbling mud expose the wood rods that form the structure of the classrooms.

Volunteers will answer this immediate and urgent need by building 12 One-Day School classrooms as well as offices and bathrooms for the school on their two-acre property.



In addition to the construction of the Getare classrooms, the volunteers on this project will also reach out into the surrounding community through outreach activities, including medical clinics. Medical services are a great need in this region. If you are a medical professional interested in helping with medical clinics or donating for supplies, please contact Maranatha.

Project Schedule

Wednesday, June 28

Arrival in Nairobi

Thursday, June 29

Travel to Kisii and orientation

Friday, June 30

Work day

Saturday, July 1

**Worship with the Local Congregations.
Afternoon Excursion to Local Waterfalls**

Sunday, July 2 – Friday, July 7

Work Days

Saturday, July 8

**Worship with the Local Congregations
and Dedication**

Sunday, July 9

Drive to Masai Mara. Afternoon Safari.

Monday, July 10

Full Day Safari

Tuesday, July 11

Drive to Nairobi and Spend the Night

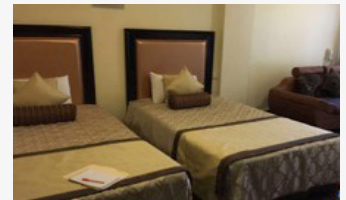
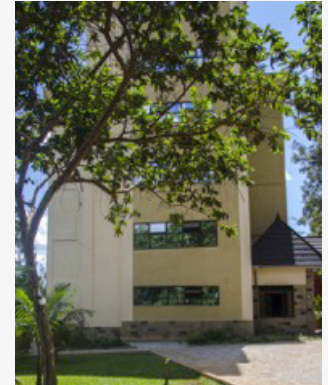
Wednesday, July 12

Elephant and Giraffe Centers, Local Shopping, Evening Departures from Nairobi

Accommodations

The group will spend the first and last nights in Nairobi. We will stay at the East Central African Division of Seventh-day Adventists in the guesthouses on campus. The accommodations are clean and nice. You can expect double occupancy rooms with bedding and mosquito nets and private bathrooms with hot water. Some of the rooms are set up as apartments with several rooms sharing one bathroom.

During the project, the group will stay at the Ufanisi Resort in Kisii, Kenya. The rooms are very comfortable with a mixture of twin and queen beds. You can expect double occupancy rooms with private bathrooms. All bedding, mosquito nets, and towels are provided; however, washcloths are not commonly provided in Kenya, so you should plan on bringing your own. The hotel has hot water, Wi-Fi, and a pool to enjoy after a hard day of work. The rooms do not have air conditioning; however, average temperatures for this region average in the mid to upper 70's during July, so it is not typically needed. Fans can be acquired if necessary. The group will have meals at the hotel and will meet in one of the conference rooms for worships. Together, the group will travel to the Getare school by private bus each day.



Volunteers should plan on staying in double occupancy rooms with a roommate. If you would like to room with someone in particular, please let us know. During the project, there may be some single occupancy rooms available for an extra cost of \$250 per person. If you are interested in a single occupancy room, please email volunteer@maranatha.org or call (916) 774-7700. At this time single occupancy is not available on the excursion.

Excursion: Masai Mara and Nairobi: \$535

At the end of the project, volunteers will experience the Masai Mara, one of the largest national parks in Kenya. On Sunday, volunteers will depart from Kisii and drive approximately three hours to the Masai Mara.

Within a few hours of being at the reserve, it is possible to see the “Big Five” (lion, leopard, water buffalo, rhinoceros, and elephant) as well as many other wild animals including zebras, giraffes, hippopotamuses, wildebeests, cheetahs, antelope, vultures, hyenas, and much more! The group will arrive in the afternoon and enjoy an afternoon and evening safari drive. They will spend the night at the beautiful Sopa Lodge in the game park. The following day, the group will have an all day safari with a break for lunch at the hotel.

On the 11th, volunteers will return to Nairobi and spend the night. The following morning the group will visit two of Nairobi's most popular attractions: The David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage and the Giraffe Centre. Both of these attractions give opportunities for up close and personal interactions with the animals. Ever wanted to feed an elephant or get licked by a giraffe? Now's your chance! After, the volunteers will stop at a local shopping bazaar before heading to the airport for their flights home.

The excursion is considered part of the entire project. The excursion portion of the fee \$535 will cover all hotels, food, transportation, activities, and park entrances during the excursion days.

Leadership

Susan Bushnell | Project Coordinator

Susan and her husband, Stuart, join the group from Fair Oaks, California where Susan works for Maranatha as vice president of finance. She has also had the joy of leading and participating in several volunteer trips to locations such as the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, India, Peru, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Susan and Stuart have two grown sons, and when they aren't involved with all things Maranatha, they enjoy spending time with their new grandson.



Karen Godfrey | Project Coordinator

Karen and her family reside in Gold River, California, where she works for Maranatha as vice president of advancement. She has led numerous Maranatha projects; her most recent trips were to Namibia, northern Brazil, India, Zambia, and Kenya. She is excited to share this experience with Maranatha volunteers in Kenya!



Expenses

The total participation fee of \$1,595 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, local excursions, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. For accounting purposes, this fee is broken down into a participation fee of \$1,060 and an excursion fee of \$535.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by May 29, due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

Maranatha participation fees are tax-deductible. For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Association (address located at the end of this information packet). For U.S. tax-deductible receipts, payments can be made by cash, check, or credit/debit cards.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have supporters send money directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount of your participation fee before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- **Flight to Nairobi:** \$850 - 1500
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Visa:** \$51 + service charge
- **Malaria Medication:** \$50 - \$100

About Kenya

Kenya is located in Eastern Africa with its westernmost point at Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa, and the easternmost point at the coastline of the Indian Ocean. This beautiful country is a little smaller than the state of Texas in the United States and boasts a range of landscapes. There are plains, dense forests, wetlands, snow-capped mountains, desolate deserts, and white-sand beaches.

But it isn't just the geography of Kenya that is diverse. Kenya is also home to more than 40 people groups, including the famous Maasai people. Each of these groups has their own culture and way of life, including elaborate and colorful dress, jewelry, dances, music, and language.

Some of the original inhabitants of the region were herders who took care of their animals and farmed the region. The Swahili people built the city of Mombassa into a major port city and established trade links that reached into Arabia, Persia, and India. The area was largely colonized by England by way of the Imperial British East Africa Company in 1888, and in 1920, the colony was renamed Kenya after the highest mountain in the region. In the early part of the 20th century, many European farmers, who became wealthy producing coffee and tea, settled the highlands. Kenya eventually received its independence in 1964.



Facts and Figures

Capital:
Nairobi

Population:
45.9 million

Language:
Kiswahili, English, and indigenous languages

Climate:
Tropical along coast. Arid inland

Religion:
Christian 83%, Muslim 11%

Currency:
Kenyan Shilling

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the capital city of Nairobi (see below). The group will spend one night in Nairobi before traveling by chartered bus to the Kisii region. Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project.

Flights

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Nairobi, Kenya (airport code NBO), between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on the evening of Wednesday, June 28.

Departure | Please plan to depart from Nairobi (NBO) anytime after 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12. If you depart any earlier, you risk missing some of the attractions in Nairobi.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Kenya has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than June 28 or stay beyond July 12 to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside of the Maranatha project dates. If you have any questions, please call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

- **Azumano Travel:** 800-777-5149 or by email with Erle or Azumano Team at corporatetravel@ciazumano.com
- **Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.
- **Kayak:** www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, be sure to mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (January 13, 2018). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

Tourist Visa | In addition to a passport, travelers must also have a valid tourist visa for the country of Kenya before traveling. A document with complete visa requirements and a travel itinerary with project addresses will be sent to you with your confirmation. The Kenyan visa is done online and is good for three months from date of issue, so Maranatha recommends waiting until the end of April. Currently, U.S. and Canadian visitors are also able to get visas upon arrival in Nairobi; however, Maranatha recommends processing the visa ahead of time to be sure that you won't be denied entrance when you get there.

Minors ages 16 and under do not need a Kenyan tourist visa according to the Kenyan Department of Immigration Services.

If you are from a country other than the U.S. or Canada, please check with the Kenyan Embassy in your region for the most up-to-date entrance requirements.

Traveling With Minors

If you are traveling with a legal minor (under the age of 18 on the date you depart), both parents or legal guardians must travel with the minor. Otherwise, you must have two parental consent forms notarized. This provides government entities with evidence that both guardians have consented to their child leaving the country with the other guardian and Maranatha. One original must be mailed to Maranatha, and the other original must stay with you while you travel. If a parent is divorced, the missing parent still needs to sign the form unless the parent traveling with the minor has sole legal custody. In that case, a copy of the divorce paperwork, indicating sole custody, must also be included. If a parent has died, a copy of the death certificate must be included.

You can download a PDF of the Parental Consent Form at <http://www.maranatha.org/resources>. This form will ask for two people as appointees of the minor. The first appointee will be the guardian traveling with the child. The other will be Karen Godfrey, Maranatha's co-project coordinator.

Staying Healthy

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current **tetanus** vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommend vaccines for hepatitis A and B, typhoid, yellow fever, and an oral antimalarial medication other than chloroquine.

Some of these you may already have and some of them you may deem unnecessary for this trip. You should schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Kenya and the ways to minimize them.

Malaria, Yellow Fever, and Mosquitos

Malaria and yellow fever are both life-threatening diseases, transmitted primarily by mosquitos. Malaria transmission is known to take place throughout the entire country, and yellow fever is present in all areas except for the coastline. Maranatha suggests you speak with a medical professional regarding malaria and yellow fever prevention options. Malaria is prevented through several different oral medications. Each has different side effects and dosages, so speak with a travel clinic doctor before making a decision on whether to take a certain medication. When considering preventative medications for malaria, keep in mind that chloroquine is NOT effective in Kenya. The malaria strain present in the country is considered to be chloroquine-resistant. Yellow fever is typically prevented by a vaccination.

How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online or over the phone or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do our best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable, and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at Maranatha.org or over the phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International

990 Reserve Drive

Suite 100

Roseville, CA 95678

Canadian Payments Only:

Maranatha Volunteers International

Association

c/o V06494C

PO Box 6494, Station Terminal

Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

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2017 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



This 50/50 blend of polyester and cotton is an ultra-soft, ultra-comfy unisex T-shirt that feels like you've owned it for years. Represent Maranatha anywhere you go!

CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home.

HARD HAT \$11



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

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*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.

