

Kenya Project

Information Packet

Location: Meru, Kenya

Project Dates: January 31 – February 14, 2018

Total Participation Fee: \$1,550

(project fee of \$950 and excursion fee of \$600)

Children 12 and under: \$1,400

(Age determined on the start date of the project)



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. One of the places in need is the Kiirua Seventh-day Adventist School, a campus with 132 primary and secondary students. For years, the residential students were living in old dormitories that were falling apart. Then in 2016, Maranatha volunteers constructed new living spaces for the students.

The latest need at Kiirua is for a new cafeteria. Volunteers on this project will build a new kitchen and dining hall with brick masonry construction. This will be the final stage of Maranatha projects at the school.

During the project, volunteers will also visit and worship with Adventist congregations in the Samburu tribe. Prior to Maranatha's work, these congregations met under trees for worship. Now, several congregations meet in One-Day Church structures, which not only protect people from the elements, but also provide a sense of permanence and purpose as they worship God. In these towns, you will have the rare opportunity to witness tribal life in Kenya.

Project Schedule

Wednesday, January 31
Evening arrivals and overnight in Nairobi.

Thursday, February 1
Travel to Meru and orientation

Friday, February 2
Work day

Saturday, February 3
Worship with the Samburu tribe

Sunday, February 4 – Friday, February 9
Work days

Saturday, February 10
Worship with the local congregations.

Sunday, February 11
Travel to the Nairobi; Giraffe Center and shopping

Monday, February 12
Travel to Masai Mara, afternoon safari

Tuesday, February 13
Full day safari at Masai Mara

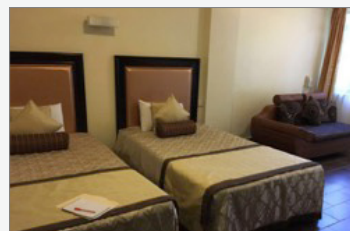
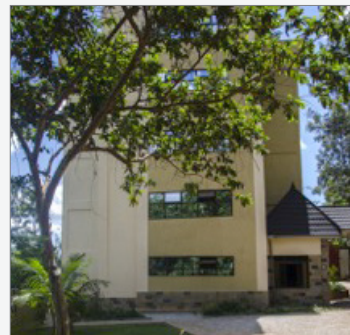
Wednesday, February 14
Return to Nairobi for evening departures.

Meru is a relatively poor area and would be greatly impacted by outreach activities, such as children's programs and medical and dental clinics. If we have enough volunteers skilled in these areas, we would like to offer these programs to the community. If you are interested in leading or helping to lead these activities, please contact Maranatha.

Accommodations

In Nairobi, the group will stay in guesthouses on the campus of the East Central African Division of Seventh-day Adventists (ECD). The accommodations are nice and clean. You can expect double occupancy rooms with bedding and mosquito nets and private bathrooms with hot water. Most of the rooms are set up as apartments with several rooms sharing one bathroom.

During the project, the group will stay at the Meru Slopes Hotel in Meru, Kenya, which is located 45 minutes from the construction site. The rooms are very comfortable with a mix of twin and queen beds. You can expect double occupancy rooms with private bathrooms. All bedding, mosquito nets, and towels are provided; washcloths are not commonly provided in Kenya, so plan on bringing your own. The hotel has air-conditioning, hot water, Wi-Fi, and a pool to enjoy after a hard day of work. The group will have meals at the hotel and meet in one of the conference rooms for worships. Each day, the group will travel to the Kiirua school by private bus. For more information and photos about the project hotel visit www.meruslopeshotel.com.

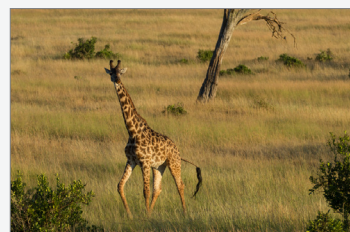


On the excursion, the group will stay at the beautiful Sopa Lodge at the Masai Mara. The gardens surrounding the lodge are lush and mature with many examples of local fauna. The hotel rooms are large with queen and king size beds, mosquito nets, hot water, Wi-Fi, and private bathrooms. For more information and photos of the Sopa Lodge visit www.sopalodges.com/masai-mara-sopa-lodge/overview

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 \$580 per person. If you are interested in a single occupancy room, please email us at volunteer@maranatha.org or call (916) 774-7700. At this time, single occupancy is not available on the excursion.

Excursion: Masai Mara and Nairobi

At the end of the project, volunteers will experience some of the wildlife of Kenya at the Masai Mara. On Sunday morning, the group will drive approximately six hours back to Nairobi. That afternoon, volunteers will visit one of Nairobi's most popular attractions: The Giraffe Centre. You'll be allowed to interact with giraffes and might even get licked! That evening, the group will spend the night back at the ECD campus.



The next morning, the group will travel another six hours to the Masai Mara, one of the largest national parks in Kenya. 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 sack lunch. On the 14th, volunteers will return to Nairobi for evening departures that night.

The excursion is considered part of the entire project. All hotels, food, transportation, activities, and park entrances during the excursion days are covered by the excursion fee paid to Maranatha.

Leadership

David Lopez | Project Coordinator

David's first interaction with Maranatha was on Ultimate Workout 6 to Panama when he was fourteen years old. Now, he is the director of volunteer projects at Maranatha and enjoys seeing lives being changed through service. He lives in Rocklin, California, with his wife Alisa and three sons, Crosby, Carter, and Garrison. When they're not traveling the world, the Lopez family enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with friends and family.



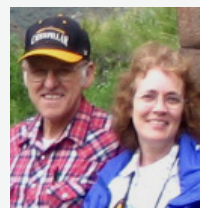
Merrill Zachary (Zack) | Assistant Project Coordinator

Merrill, who goes by Zack, is a Maranatha regular. Most recently, his Maranatha travels have taken him to Zimbabwe, Curacao, Ecuador, Brazil, and Panama. Zack is a retired farmer from Manitoba, Canada, and his positive attitude, warm heart, and extensive skills always promise a memorable mission experience.



George Alder | Construction Superintendent

George Alder joins the group from Palmer, Alaska. He is a Maranatha veteran volunteer who has participated on and led many projects. When not on a Maranatha project, George enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren. George will bring his expertise in construction as the construction superintendent. His wife Becky will also be on the project.



David Wright | Spiritual Coordinator

David and Elizabeth Wright join the group from North Carolina, where David pastors the Hendersonville Adventist Church. David has been active in short-term missions for much of his life, but he first joined Maranatha in 2012 when he led a group from his church to Ambato, Ecuador. Since then, he has continued to involve his church family with Maranatha projects. David and Elizabeth have four children, Lauren, Matthew, Maryanne, and James. When not on a Maranatha project, the Wright family enjoys traveling, backpacking, and anything outdoors. Elizabeth grew up in Africa, and David traveled there in college, and they are excited to share this experience of service with the whole family.



Expenses

The participation fee of \$1,550 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 \$950 (which is tax-deductible for U.S. volunteers) and an excursion fee of \$600 (which is not tax-deductible).

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by January 1, due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

All prices are listed in U.S. dollars. Payments can be made by cash or check, sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include your name and "Kenya Project – January") or by credit or debit card online or over the phone.

For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Volunteers International (Canada) Association (address located at the end of this information packet. At this time Maranatha cannot issue tax-deductible receipts for credit card payments.

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 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
- **Yellow Fever Vaccine:** \$75
- **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 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 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 attained wealth through coffee and tea production, settled the highlands. Kenya eventually received its independence in 1964.

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the capital city of Nairobi. The flight arrival and departure windows are listed below. If you arrive or depart outside the posted time frames, you may have long wait times at the airport or pay additional transportation fees for your individual airport transfer. It may also result in missed portions of the project experience.

The group will spend one night in Nairobi before traveling, by chartered bus, to the Meru 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, January 31, 2018.

Departure

Please plan to depart from Nairobi (NBO) any time after 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2018.

Arriving Early or Staying Late

Kenya has some beautiful travel destinations. You may choose to arrive earlier than January 31 or stay beyond February 14 to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside of the Maranatha project dates. For questions, please call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

Azumano Travel: 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at edpenha@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.



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

Entry Requirements

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (August 15, 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 avoid the extra paperwork and delays when you arrive in Kenya.

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.

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 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 Mosquitoes

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, 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 (Canada) 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!

HARD HAT \$11



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

MARANATHA.ORG

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



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OR CALL (916) 774-7700**

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

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.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



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