

# Kenya Project

## Information Packet

**Location:** Kiutine, Kenya

**Project Dates:** July 25 - August 8, 2018

**Total Fee:** \$1,315

(Participation fee of \$950 and excursion fee of \$390)

**Children 12 and under:** \$1,165

(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 drill water wells and construct churches, school classrooms, dorms, and dining facilities.

## Project Overview

Volunteers on this project will build new block buildings for the Kiutine Seventh-day Adventist School, located approximately an hour northeast of Meru, Kenya. The students at this secondary school live in less than adequate conditions. The dormitories are small and cramped with dirt floors. The walls have holes where bugs, mice, and snakes can easily enter. The showers are open to the elements, only enclosed by a fence, and the floor is mud and rocks. There is no running water, and students use buckets to bathe.

Maranatha has committed to building new boys and girls dormitories, new bathroom buildings, and a kitchen and dining hall, as well as drilling a water well on the campus. Several Maranatha groups will be working at



## Project Schedule

**Wednesday, July 25**

Evening arrivals and overnight in Nairobi

**Thursday, July 26**

Travel to Kiutine and orientation

**Friday, July 27**

First work day

**Saturday, July 28**

Worship with the local congregations

**Sunday, July 29 - Thursday, August 2**

Work days

**Friday, August 3**

Half work day and dedication

**Saturday, August 4**

Worship with the local congregations

**Sunday, August 5**

Safari at Samburu National Reserve

**Monday, August 6**

Travel to Nairobi

**Tuesday, August 7**

Safari at Nairobi National Park

**Wednesday, August 8**

Giraffe and Elephant Centers. Local Shopping. Evening departures from Nairobi

this campus in the summer and fall of 2018. Volunteers on this project will be constructing one of the buildings. The exact building assignment is still to be determined based on the current construction progress up to that point.

During the project, volunteers will also visit and worship with Adventist congregations of 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 them 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.

This area of Kenya is relatively poor and would also be greatly impacted by outreach activities, such as children's programs and medical and dental clinics. If we have enough volunteers, we would like to offer these programs to the community. If you are interested in leading or helping with 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. Most of the rooms are set up in groups of four, with roommates sharing one bathroom with hot water.

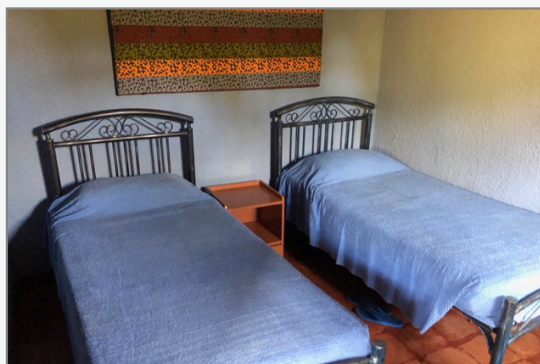
### NEW HOUSING!

During the project, the group will stay at the iKweta Country Inn in Maua, Kenya, about 40 minutes from the school construction site. After a visit to the area a new contract was made and we were able to switch accommodations to this hotel which is an upgrade from where the group was originally planning on staying.

The rooms are nicely decorated and comfortably furnished with either two twins or one queen bed. Linens and mosquito nets are provided. Washcloths are not commonly provided in Kenya, so plan on bringing your own. Each room has a private bathroom with hot water. The rooms do not have AC, but the weather in Maua does not often get above 75 in the summer. If you are worried about the heat, you may consider bringing a portable fan. The rooms are located amongst open air patios and beautiful flower gardens. WiFi is available in the conference rooms and the lobby.

The group will meet together for a buffet breakfast and dinner at the hotel. Sack lunches will be taken with the group in the morning. We will use one of the conference rooms for worships. Each day, the group will travel to the Kiutine school by private buses.

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 prior to the final deadline of the project (June 11). At this time, single occupancy is not available. If you would like to stay in a single occupancy room, a few single rooms are available for an additional cost of \$245 per person. Please contact Maranatha at [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org) or (916) 774-7700 to let us know if you are planning on single-occupancy as soon as possible. You will need to make the additional payment by the final deadline.





## Excursions

At the end of the project, volunteers will experience some of the wildlife of Kenya by taking two safaris at Samburu National Reserve and Nairobi National Park.

On Sunday morning volunteers will travel by bus to Samburu National Reserve. This 103 square mile reserve is known for its arid climate and it's hot temperatures. The park is famous for its abundance of some of the rare northern species of animals such as the Grevy Zebra, Somali Ostrich, and Reticulated Giraffe. The reserve is also known for its large population of African Elephants and chances to see some of the larger predators such as lions, leopards, and cheetahs.

Then on Monday the group will travel back to Nairobi where they'll spend the night at the ECD campus. The next morning, the group will do a full-day safari drive at Nairobi National Park. Nestled just 4 miles outside of the business district of downtown Nairobi, this park gives visitors the unique opportunity to see four of the "Big Five" in wide open grass plains in front of a backdrop of city skyscrapers. The park has over 100 mammal species including buffalo, giraffe, lion, leopard, baboon, zebra, wildebeest, rhinoceros, and cheetah.

On Wednesday, 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. Have you ever wanted to feed an elephant or get licked by a giraffe? Now's your chance! Afterwards, the volunteers will stop at a local shopping bazaar before heading back to the ECD for dinner. Volunteers will depart that evening from Nairobi.

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 fee paid to Maranatha.

## Leadership

**Vickie and Bernie Wiedmann** | Project Coordinator and Construction Superintendent

Vickie and Bernie have enjoyed volunteering with Maranatha projects for the past 22 years. When not on a mission trip, they own and run a small electrical business in Washington. Through the years, Vickie has led Maranatha's Ultimate Workout, open team volunteer groups, and the Christmas Family Project. When Bernie can join her, he leads in construction with the building, painting, and electrical work. Vickie will be leading the group as the overall project coordinator, and Bernie will lead the masonry construction at the school.



## Expenses

The total fee of \$1,315 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, excursions, short-term travel insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. For accounting purposes, this fee is broken down into a participation fee of \$925 (which is tax-deductible) and an excursion fee of \$390 (which is not tax-deductible).

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by June 11 due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

All prices are listed in US Dollars. Payments can be made by cash or check sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include your name and "Kenya Project – July 2018") 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 either have them sent 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 - \$1,500
- **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 city of Nairobi. If you arrive or depart outside the posted time frames, you may have long wait times at the airport or may be responsible for paying the additional transportation for your individual airport transfer. It may also result in missed portions of the project experience.

Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Together volunteers will travel together by bus to the project location.

### Flights

**Arrival** | Please plan to arrive in Nairobi, Kenya (airport code NBO), between 6 p.m.\* and 10 p.m. in the evening of Wednesday, July 25.

\*There is a flight on Ethiopian Airlines that gets in around 2 p.m. You are more than welcome to book this flight, but you may need to wait at the airport until we can send someone to meet you during the scheduled flight arrival window.

**Departure** | Please plan to depart from Nairobi (NBO) anytime after 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 8.



### 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

## Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Kenya has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than July 25 or stay beyond August 8 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, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

## Travel Resources

**CI Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle Dpenha or Azumano Team at [corporatetravel@ciazumano.com](mailto:corporatetravel@ciazumano.com).

**Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at [nathan@butlertravel.com](mailto:nathan@butlertravel.com) or with Ellen at [ellen@butlertravel.com](mailto:ellen@butlertravel.com).

**Kayak:** [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com)

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, make sure you 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 (February 9, 2019). 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](http://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 May to complete this process. Currently, U.S. and Canadian visitors are also able to get visas upon arrival in Nairobi, but 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.

## 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 [www.maranatha.org/resources](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 Vickie Wiedmann, Maranatha's project coordinator for the Summer Family Project.

## 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.

You may already have some of these vaccinations and they may still be good for this trip. Others you may deem unnecessary for this trip. Maranatha recommends that you schedule a consultation with your physician or a travel clinic to discuss 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 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 their 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](http://Maranatha.org) or over the phone.

## Contact Information

**Phone:** (916) 774-7700

**Fax:** (916) 774-7701

**Email:** [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org)

**Website:** [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org)

**Mailing Address:**

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



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