

Kenya Project

Information Packet

Location: Kisii, Kenya

Project Dates: August 22 - September 5, 2018

Total Fee: \$1,425*

(participation fee of \$750 and excursion fee of \$675)

Children 12 and under: \$1,275

(Age determined on the start date of the project)



Flight to Nairobi is not included in the participation fee

*Participation fee subject to slight change.
See expenses section for more information.

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

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 Gucha Adventist Preparatory School about 45 minutes east of the town of Kisii. The school currently has 250 students in kindergarten through third grade. They have dreams of expanding the school to a full eight grades. Gucha is prized throughout the region for the quality education that the children receive and that makes this project a high priority for the local Adventist leadership.

Currently, the students are learning in classrooms that are made of mud and wood. They are quite deteriorated and falling apart. In addition, the interior of the classrooms are dark and not ideal for teaching and learning. Volunteers on this project will help by building new classrooms for Gucha.

Volunteers will also have opportunities to reach the community with health education programs or Vacation Bible School. Those who would rather not be on the construction site all day can work

Project Schedule

Wednesday, August 22
Arrival in Nairobi

Thursday, August 23
Travel to Kisii

Friday, August 24
Orientation and first work day

Saturday, August 25
Worship with the local congregations

Sunday - Friday, August 26 - 31
Work days

Saturday, September 1
Worship with the local congregations

Sunday, September 2
Travel to the Masai Mara

Monday, September 3
Full day safari game drive

Tuesday, September 4
Travel to Nairobi

Wednesday, September 5
Giraffe Centre, elephant orphanage,
and evening departures

on these and other outreach activities. If you are interested in leading any of the outreach opportunities, please also let us know as soon as possible so we can coordinate with you directly.

Accommodations

In Nairobi, the group will stay in guesthouses at headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Central Africa. The accommodations are nice and clean. You can expect double occupancy rooms with bedding and mosquito nets. Most of the guesthouses are set up in groups of four rooms sharing one bathroom with hot water.

During the project, volunteers 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 70s during this time of year. Fans can be acquired if necessary. The group will have meals and worship at the hotel. Everyone will travel to the work site by private bus.

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 as soon as possible. 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

At the end of the project, volunteers will experience some of Kenya's extraordinary wildlife. On Sunday morning, the volunteers will depart from Kisii and drive approximately four hours to the Masai Mara, one of the largest national parks in Kenya and one of the top 10 African safari destinations. 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 4th, 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 people to interact with the animals. After the elephant and giraffe encounters, 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. All hotels, food, transportation, activities, and park entrances during the excursion days are covered by the excursion fee paid to Maranatha.

Leadership

Valeree Krueger | Project Coordinator

Valeree and Rick Krueger call Lincoln, Nebraska, home. Valeree attended Union College and spent the majority of her career teaching nursing at the college. Now she, along with her husband and three adult children, helps with the family land development, construction, and property management businesses. Valeree was introduced to Maranatha by Rick, and while their children were growing up, the family often went on Maranatha mission trips. Today, Valeree is one of Maranatha's board members. Rick's parents, Calvin and Sue Krueger, are also longtime supporters of Maranatha, and this project will be honoring their commitment to missions.



Peter Thomas | Construction Superintendent

Peter joins the group from Fort Worth, Texas, where he works as a home builder and land developer. He was born in Kenya and lived as a missionary's kid in Zimbabwe and Tanzania during the 1960s. He has a deep love of mission service, and he is excited to be serving on this project. Peter also serves as one of Maranatha's board members.



Expenses

The total fee of \$1,425 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, local 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 \$750 (which is tax-deductible) and an excursion fee of \$675 (which is not tax-deductible).

*Instead of driving, Maranatha is considering having this group fly to Kisii on August 23. This would save the group several hours of travel by bus, which can be grueling. If we are able to secure a chartered flight for the group, the cost could be raised by approximately \$200 per person. We will be sure to notify all registered volunteers as soon as that change is complete.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by July 23, 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 – August 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 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 Mombasa 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 December 1963.

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 additional transportation fees for your individual airport transfer.

Please complete the online registration and wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Volunteers will travel together by bus to the project location.

Flights

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Nairobi (airport code NBO), between 6 p.m.* and 10 p.m. in the evening of Wednesday, August 22.

**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 will 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, September 5.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Kenya has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than August 22 or stay beyond September 5 to explore the country on your own. The Maranatha dates are firm and any extra travel must coincide with the arrival and departure windows above. 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.



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 Resources

- **CI Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle Dpenha 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, 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 (March 5, 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. 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 June. 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.

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. 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 Valeree Krueger, Maranatha's project coordinator for this Kenya 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. 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 mosquitoes. Malaria transmission is known to take place throughout the entire country (including Kisii), 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 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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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 \$13



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.