

# Kenya Project

## Information Packet

**Location:** Kajiado, Kenya

**Project Dates:** October 16 - 30, 2019

**Total Fee:** \$1,875\*

(participation fee of \$1,150 and excursion fee of \$725)

**Children 12 and under:** \$1,725

(Age determined on the start date of the project)



*\*All amounts listed in document are in U.S. dollars.*

*\*International flights are 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 work at the Kajiado Adventist School and Rescue Center about an hour and a half from the capital city of Nairobi. This school started in 2000 with the mission to empower the Maasai girls and give them a safe place to escape the culture that encourages child marriages and female genital mutilation. Many parents encourage this harmful culture because of the dowry they receive; if the young lady doesn't want this future, she has to run away. The girls who find the Kajiado Center essentially become orphans because their families do not want them to return, so the Center takes care of them until they graduate from secondary school, or in some cases, university. It is a sad reality for many girls in Kenya, but the Kajiado Center has provided hope and a better future for more than 2,000 women since its inauguration. On top of that, there are still 100 more girls on the waiting list.

The campus was comprised of 11 classrooms, a dining hall, and a girls dormitory. One of the classrooms was being used as a boys dorm. They had 92 girls and 22 boys at the elementary school. In addition, there were 34 girls away at high school and 17 girls at the university who return during school breaks. The school accepts boys because they have deemed it important for the girls to form healthy relationships with boys in the process of their education.

## Project Schedule

**Wednesday, October 16**  
Arrivals in Nairobi and travel to Kajiado

**Thursday - Friday, October 17-18**  
Orientation and first work days

**Saturday, October 19**  
Worship in a Maasai village,  
Game Night with Kajiado Girls

**Sunday - Tuesday, October 20-22**  
Work days

**Wednesday, October 23**  
Safari in Amboseli Game Park

**Thursday - Friday, October 24-25**  
Work days

**Saturday, October 26**  
Worship at the Kajiado Adventist  
Church, Drive to Nairobi, Visit  
Maranatha workshop

**Sunday, October 27**  
Travel to the Masai Mara, afternoon  
safari

**Monday, October 28**  
Full day safari

**Tuesday, October 29**  
Morning safari and return to Nairobi

**Wednesday, October 30**  
Elephant and Giraffe Centers,  
shopping, evening departures from  
Nairobi.

So far, Maranatha has been able to provide additional dormitories for this campus. The school is in desperate need of bathroom facilities for the dormitories. Volunteers on this project will start the masonry construction of these buildings.

During the project, volunteers will also have the opportunity to visit and worship with an Adventist congregation of the Maasai tribe. In this village, you will have the rare opportunity to witness tribal life in Kenya.

This area of Kenya would also be greatly impacted by outreach activities, such as children's programs, health education, 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

During the project, the group will stay at the Enchula Resort in Kajiado. It is approximately an hour and a half from Nairobi and only about 10 minutes to the job site at the Kajiado School.

The hotel is quite nice with clean rooms, comfortably furnished with either two twin beds or one queen. Each room has a private bathroom with hot water. Linens are provided, but washcloths are not commonly included in Kenya, so plan on bringing your own. The rooms do not have AC. Weather in Kajiado will range from the 60's to 80's during this time frame. If you know that you tend to be hot, you may consider bringing a battery-operated fan to use during the project. WiFi is available, but it will not be as fast of a connection as what you might expect at home.

The group will meet together for meals and worship at the hotel. Each day, the group will travel to the Kajiado School by private buses.

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](http://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 before the final deadline for the project (September 16). During the project, there may be some single occupancy rooms available for an extra cost of \$500 per person. Single occupancy rooms on the excursion have an additional cost of \$250 per person. If you are interested in a single occupancy room, please email [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org) or call (916) 774-7700.

## 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 Nairobi and drive approximately six 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 29th, 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

**Susan Woods | Project Coordinator**

**David Woods | Construction Superintendent**



## Expenses

***All amounts listed are in U.S. dollars.***

The total fee of \$1,875 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, local excursions, and short-term travel insurance. For accounting purposes, this fee is broken down into a participation fee of \$1,150 (which is tax- deductible) and an excursion fee of \$725 (which is not tax-deductible).

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by September 16 due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

Payments can be made by cash or check sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include your name and “Kenya Project – Oct 2019”) 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:** \$900 - \$1,500
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Visa:** \$51 + service charge
- **Yellow Fever Vaccine:** \$75-200

# 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.

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 the additional transportation 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. Together 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, October 16.

*\*There are flights that get in earlier in the day, and you are more than welcome to book these flights, 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, October 30.

### Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Kenya has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than October 16 or stay beyond October 30 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, feel free to 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](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 with [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

Below are the requirements for U.S. and Canadian citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please consult the Kenyan embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

**Passport** | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (April 30, 2020). 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 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.

## 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 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 (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 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

## Social Media

*Share your mission trip with family and friends! And be sure to tag us on social media!*



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@maranatha

Use our hashtag,  
**#maranathavolunteersinternational**  
when posting, so we can feature  
your trip!

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**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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