Welcome to World Youth International’s ‘Safari of the Soul’ Program in Kenya.

Safari of the Soul is an adventure to western Kenya for men and women aged 40 to 60 years who are looking for a unique and challenging experience. It will be a life-changing journey that will change your perspective of the world and the people of Kenya.

We trust that your queries will be covered in this document but if there are further questions, please email us at admin@worldyouth.org.au or call our office on 08 8340 1266.

For information on fees and dates, please visit our website at www.worldyouth.org.au.
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Kenya Country Information

Kenya is located on the East Coast of Africa with the Equator running almost straight through the middle of the country. It is a sovereign state, having achieved political independence from British rule on 12 December 1963 and become a fully-fledged Republic within the Commonwealth of Nations one year later on 12 December 1964. The country shares common borders with Somalia (north east), Ethiopia (north), Sudan (north-west), Uganda (west) and Tanzania (south). To the south east lies the Great Indian Ocean, making the country the marine gateway to East Africa.

Kenya is a land of scenic splendours, magnificent fauna and flora, enjoyable climatic conditions and rich cultural values. It is blessed with a great variety of natural wonders: from the azure blue waters of the Indian Ocean, to the sun-drenched silver sand beaches, through the wild Savanna woodlands to the deserts of Northern Province, and the Montane forests of central Kenya right across to the shores of the second largest freshwater lake in the world, Lake Victoria. Kenya also hosts the second highest snow-capped mountain in Africa, Mt. Kenya, which rises to 5,199 metres and is the only location in the world where snow can be found on the Equator.

Kenya is a multi-racial society with more than 40 indigenous tribes and other ethnic communities. While no ethnic group constitutes a majority of Kenya’s citizens, the five largest tribal groups – Kikuyu, Luo, Luhya, Kamba and Kalenjin – account for about 70 per cent of the population.

Kenya is a very conservative country with regards to socially acceptable behaviours, dress and presentation. The majority of Kenyans identify as Christian though there is also a strong Islamic following, particularly in the coastal regions. Many different denominations of Christianity exist in Kenya and people take their faith very seriously. Tribal beliefs are slowly petering out and very few traditional tribes continue to reside in the country today.

The state of health in Kenya requires significant improvement. Infectious respiratory diseases and malaria account for the majority of illnesses and deaths in the country, while tuberculosis, dysentery, and parasitic and venereal diseases are common occurrences. HIV/AIDS continues to have a devastating impact with three in five people infected with the HIV virus in many rural locations.

Many illnesses in Kenya are transmitted by insects and animals, and by the use of contaminated water for washing and drinking. The situation is compounded by a lack of understanding of sanitary principles, by malnutrition and by HIV/AIDS. Despite major achievements in the health sector, there is still a lot to be desired. Weak policies, inadequately trained health workers, weak management and poor leadership in most public health facilities are largely to blame.

Gender inequality is a stark reality in Kenya. Simply put, women are generally perceived as second-rate citizens with fewer rights and freedoms than men. The traditional belief that women exist to serve, procreate, cook and clean runs deep, even among women and the younger generations. It is not unusual to hear of, or see, women being abused by their husbands, and male infidelity is a common occurrence. Progress is slowly being made, however, as groups supporting women’s empowerment and self-sufficiency are being established around Kenya every day.
Program Inclusions and Exclusions

Your program fee includes:

- Accommodation
- Meals
- One-way flight from Nairobi to Kisumu
- An orientation and sightseeing program held in Nairobi and Kisumu
- All costs relating to materials and local labour hire for community development projects
- Transport throughout your program
- Sightseeing activities throughout program
- Language lessons
- Cooking and dancing lessons
- A three-day rest and relaxation package midway between village placements at Kiboko Bay Resort
- 3 day all-inclusive Masai Mara safari
- Farewell Party
- Guidance and support provided by an experienced Australian Team Leader and local staff
- WYI polo shirt and WYI book ‘You Are Amazing’
- Contribution towards the sustainable growth of WYI which supports our work in developing countries

Your program fee does not include:
(all costs listed are a guideline only)

Air Travel, Taxes and Travel Insurance
You are required to organise your own airfares to the nominated destination point. Travel insurance is compulsory for all programs. Contact WYI for our recommended travel agent and insurance company.

Vaccinations
As WYI is not a registered medical organisation, we can only direct you to www.tmvc.com.au (Travel Doctor) or www.drsref.com.au/travel.html for country-specific advice and general travel health tips.

Visas
You are required to enter Kenya on a tourist visa. WYI will provide you with the necessary forms and guide you through the process.

Police Check
You are required to provide a current National Police Clearance Certificate. Please visit your local police station and request the appropriate forms.

Medical Examination
With the assistance of your regular doctor, you are required to complete and submit our medical examination form prior to your departure.

Personal Items
You must supply your own clothing, travel equipment, toiletries and personal entertainment (eg. books, iPod, magazines, etc.)

Spending Money
You will require personal spending money for souvenirs, phones and SIM cards, toiletries you may require, and any snacks or drinks outside of what WYI provides (eg. chocolate bars, energy/alcoholic drinks, junk food, etc.)

First Aid Kit
A First Aid Kit will be supplied to your team throughout the program, however antibiotics and other medications will not be provided. We encourage you to visit a Travel Doctor or GP to fill your own First Aid Kit with personal medications to suit you.
Program Overview

Participants are required to arrange their own flights to and from Nairobi, and to communicate these with the Safari of the Soul Program Coordinator in the lead up to their departure. Participants are required to arrive in Nairobi on the advertised start date of the program. Return flights can be booked from the advertised completion date of the program. Of course, participants may wish to make their own personal travel arrangements before or after these dates.

To ensure the best possible experience in Kenya, WYI accepts up to 12 participants on the Safari of the Soul program. Although the group will vary in many ways, it is likely that the members of your team will be quite like-minded and have similar reasons for coming on the trip. Past Safari of the Soul participants have found this program to be a life-changing experience from which they have formed rich friendships and a whole new perspective on their life.

In the lead up to the program, WYI will conduct a Skype training session. During this time, project options, the community in which you will be based and Kenya in general will all be discussed in detail. We will also be on hand to address any questions that you may have.

This is a fully inclusive package from the moment participants touch down in Nairobi; there are no hidden costs. Airfares to and from Nairobi, insurance and visas will be at your own expense.

Program Itinerary

Day 1
Arrive at Nairobi International Airport, where you will be met by your Team Leader and spend the day in Nairobi adjusting to your surroundings.

Day 2
Orientation will commence with a group introduction and an overview of WYI safety and security procedures. Enjoy a tour of Nairobi, taste local cuisines and experience the Giraffe Park where you can hand feed the local giraffes.

You will return to Nairobi Airport in the afternoon and fly 45 minutes north-west to Kisumu. You will be met at Kisumu airport by World Youth International’s Kenyan in-country staff who will oversee your program and help to run your orientation.

Day 3
Your Team Leader will show you around Kisumu and help you to organise a mobile phone (if required), sim card, adaptors, money, snacks and anything else you may need. Although you will be based in a remote part of Kenya, you will have mobile reception and can remain in contact with loved ones at home.

You will have lunch in Kisumu, where your Team Leader will discuss cultural issues and street safety before your departure for Odede, the village community where you will be based.

The afternoon will be spent settling into your accommodation and meeting local members of the community! The coming weeks will be an amazing opportunity for you to build some great friendships.

Day 4
You will spend the day experiencing an orientation of Odede, where you will learn about the community groups and the spirit of the people. You will then be shown all the placement options available to you so that you can start to plan where you would like to work.

Day 5 - 8
Throughout the next four days, you will settle into your projects and experience Kenyan life. You will develop friendships with village members and learn about their day-to-day activities. You will receive language training, be shown Kenyan cooking techniques and learn how to dance, Kenyan style!

Day 9 - 11
It’s time for a break and what better way to do so than to stay in a beautiful, all-inclusive resort on the edge of Lake Victoria for two nights. Kiboko Bay has beautiful accommodation in permanent tents with ensuites, a pool overlooking the lake, great food and best of all, hot showers! You will have free time to re-group and reflect on your experiences as well as prepare for the second half of your program. This will be a great opportunity for you to check your emails and let your loved ones at home know how you’re going. Optional travel tours will also be conducted each day, including a sunrise boat tour on Lake Victoria to see the local hippos. You will return back to Odede on the afternoon of Day 11.

Day 12 - 18
You will continue with your placements and immerse yourself in the community. On the last day of your stay, WYI will arrange a farewell celebration with the community so that you can celebrate and reflect upon your achievements and the friendships you have made. This is likely to be a moving and emotional experience for you.

You will transfer to Kisumu late in the afternoon and spend a night there before heading off on your safari.
Day 19 - 21
You will be collected by the safari company and commence your 3 day adventure. The journey will be very bumpy and take up to five or six hours. Many roads in Kenya are not quite what we’re used to in Australia!

You will travel through the Great Rift Valley and onto the Masai Mara where you will experience wildlife that will take your breath away. Each day you will head off on a different adventure to a different part of the park in search of wild African animals. Your vehicle will be an eight-seater van with a pop-top roof so you can stand up, take photos and see animals within metres of the vehicle. The evenings will be spent back at the base, where you can share your wonderful photos and stories of the day. Your safari will complete in Nairobi on the afternoon of day 21.

You will have your final debrief and celebration dinner in Nairobi in the evening. This will be a chance for you to debrief your program, reflect on your achievements and celebrate your extraordinary journey together.

Day 22
After breakfast, you will be transferred back to Nairobi International Airport for your return flight home.

Placement Options
There is generally a large network of placements available to volunteers in Odede, although they can vary from month to month.

Your team will have a set project that you will work on as a group. This will be finalised closer to your program start date once the skill base of your group has been identified, and information given to you prior to your departure. Examples of projects include the construction of mud huts, computer rooms and tailoring academies. Any additional funds we can add to the project budget through participant fundraising will enable your team to take on more significant projects!

The following individual project options are currently running in Odede. These are subject to change and may or may not be available in future years.
Adventure Activities

Fantastic 3 day Maasai Mara safari adventure, animals and culture.

WYI works in conjunction with a qualified safari agent to offer you a fantastic three-day Maasai Mara Game Park Safari. Your WYI Team Leader will accompany you throughout the safari and ensure that all WYI safety and security measures are met. The SOS Program will be intense, challenging, rewarding and satisfying so having time out at the end to experience a safari is a must!

Your safari package will include:
- Transport and collection
- Park entrance fees
- Accommodation
- Transport with an experienced guide
- All meals

Fundraising

Do you want to participate on the SOS Program but are restricted financially?

Perhaps you should consider fundraising! Gather a group of your friends and organise an event like a movie night or garage sale. Alternatively, you could ask local businesses or Service Clubs for donations. All money you raise can then be put towards your program fee or project. This method has been very successful in the past with some participants managing to fundraise their entire program fee, plus more. If you choose to fundraise, WYI will provide you with a full Fundraising Kit including tax deductible receipts, ideas, terms and conditions, an authorisation card, plus handy hints and tips!

Alternatively, you could direct all of your fundraised money into your team project so we can make it bigger and better.

Tax Deductible Donations:
Any donations that are made through your fundraising efforts are fully tax deductible. WYI will provide you with a receipt book so you can issue tax deductible receipts. Rally your friends, corporate groups, work colleges, and contacts to make a donation to your campaign!

Please note: ‘donation’ means the donor receives nothing in return - for example, if you are selling tickets to an event, this is not tax deductible.

Please contact the office on (08) 8340 1266 for more information on how you could fundraise your program fee!
Frequently Asked Questions

How old do I need to be?
As this program is designed for women and men ready to take on a change in their lives and tackle a unique experience, we have introduced a minimum and maximum age of 40 - 60 years. If you are just under or over the cut off age, give WYI a call to discuss your situation and we may be able to accommodate you.

Do I need any qualifications?
There are no formal qualifications required to participate on the Safari of the Soul.

What is the selection criteria?
WYI looks for flexible and resilient participants to take part on these programs. They must have good communication skills and be able to live and work in a team environment. A good level of health and physical fitness is also important. Applicants will be notified of their suitability at the conclusion of a phone interview, during which time suitability is assessed and the finer details of the program discussed. If your application is unsuccessful, WYI will refund your application fee.

What will my living arrangements be?
During your orientation, you will stay with your team in a basic hotel in Nairobi and when in Kisumu, you will stay in a central hotel. All hotel accommodation is based on a twin share arrangement. During your village placement, you will be living in sharehouse accommodation within the community. This will be very basic, furnished accommodation with few facilities. As you are living in a rural village, it is likely that your home will have minimal electricity and no running water. Although this will take time to adjust to, living in the heart of a community is far better than living in a hotel and commuting daily to your project. On all other occasions, you will be based in either campsites or hotels.

What areas of Kenya do I travel to?
Your program will involve travel to both Nairobi and western Kenya. After your program has commenced in Nairobi, you will fly to Kisumu which is Kenya’s third largest city. Kisumu is located in north-western Kenya on the banks of Lake Victoria and has supermarkets, department stores, banks, internet cafes and a range of restaurants. You will then travel two hours to the remote village of Odede where you will be based.

What sort of food will I be eating?
During your orientation, you will be eating most meals at local cafes and restaurants in Nairobi and Kisumu. While in the villages, WYI will shop locally at the markets and hire a cook to prepare your meals. Although predominantly your diet will be vegetarian, you will enjoy fish, goat and chicken from local farms.
When should I apply for a position on the SOS?
As programs fill quickly, WYI recommends that you apply at least 6 – 9 months prior to the commencement date of the program. The payment of your program fee may take time to accumulate and therefore advanced planning is strongly recommended. Applications will be accepted up to 60 days prior to the commencement of the program, provided that there are still places available on the program.

Is my program tax deductible?
WYI supports thousands of people across the globe and continues to expand the number of people and communities it impacts. As a not for profit organisation, we are always in need of support to allow us to continue doing the great work we do. By choosing our program and making a contribution to WYI, your donation will contribute to global development and poverty reduction. In return for your donation WYI will gladly offer you an overseas adventure, allowing you the opportunity to experience the outcomes of our work first-hand. ATO tax legislation stipulates that DGR status does not extend to our participants. Any contributions that come from yourself, your family members, or money raised through general fundraising activities where donors receive goods or services in return for their contributions, such as trivia nights, chocolate drives, raffles or movie nights are not tax deductible. All other contributions are tax deductible.

How many other people will accompany me on the Safari of the Soul?
You will be accompanied by up to eleven other men and women (maximum 12 participants). A minimum number of six participants is required to run a program.

How does WYI select its SOS projects & what kind of projects will I be working on?
All projects selected by WYI are community driven, sustainable development projects. Applications from within the community are submitted to WYI for review and appraisal. If proposals are in alignment with our Development model, we will proceed with the project. For a project to be considered, it must fall in the fields of income generation, environmental, education and health care. Project reviews are completed over the following year to ensure the ongoing success of the project.

How safe am I in Kenya? Are there risks I should be aware of?
WYI has been working in Kenya since 1992 and has sent thousands of people to work in a range of communities in western Kenya. Our approach to your placement ensures that any risk to you is minimised. Nairobi and the majority of cities within Kenya are considered to be quite dangerous and we aim to avoid these areas as much as possible. Major tourist cities including Mombasa are considered to be high risk destinations and travel within north-eastern Kenya is strictly forbidden. Although many villages do not have electricity or basic services, they all have mobile phone coverage. You can purchase a cheap handset, sim card and top up phone cards on arrival. Family, friends and WYI will be able to keep in regular contact with you and you won’t need international roaming as you will have a local number. It is essential that you carry your phone with you at all times in case of an emergency.

Why choose World Youth International?
WYI has been offering placements since 1988 and is proudly a not for profit, non religious and non political Australian-based organisation. We have sent thousands of participants around the world and can proudly declare that we have had no major injuries, accidents or deaths on any of our programs. WYI is an approved charity, a signatory to ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) and AusAID approved. We have flourished as an organisation through ‘word of mouth’ and we rely on our participants to share their experiences and outcomes with their peers.

Will you do anything to help me prepare?
You will receive a great deal of information about your program during the initial interview. You will then be sent a manual on Kenya which will have details on everything you need to know about preparing for your program. WYI will conduct a Skype training session in the lead up to your departure to help prepare you for the adventure ahead and address any last minute questions. Office staff will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have.
Application Procedure

You can reserve a spot on one of our programs by applying online now at www.worldyouth.org.au, or by downloading an application form and posting it to our office at:

World Youth International
PO Box 25
Hindmarsh SA 5007

Our staff will contact you by phone within 72 hours to set up either a face-to-face interview (if you are based in Adelaide) or a phone interview. Prior to the interview, you will be required to submit a short online interview. Our Safari of the Soul Program Coordinator will then spend around 45 minutes discussing the program with you. If you have any questions before submitting your application, please do not hesitate to contact us at the office on 08 8340 1266 or admin@worldyouth.org.au.

We look forward to working with you to create an incredible adventure and a meaningful program!

Helpful Links

Kenyan High Commission:
www.kenya.asn.au

Official Kenya Tourist Website:
www.magicalkenya.com

Country Specific Information:
www.kenya-information-guide.com
www.allafrica.com/kenya

Maasai Mara:
www.maasaimara.com

Local News Sites:
www.nation.co.ke

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
www.dfat.gov.au

First Aid and Medical Sites:
www.tmvc.com.au
www.stjohn.org.au

Currency:
www.oanda.com/currency/converter
www.travelex.com.au

World Youth International Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4753488502