

TEACHING PROJECTS

MOMBASA, KENYA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kenya is revered as the 'Cradle of Humanity'.

Think of Kenya and you think of ...

- Safaris,
- Elephant, lion, zebra, giraffe ...
- Children barefoot in the African dust,
- The Masai Mara stretching to infinity,
- Serengeti, the Great Rift Valley
- Nairobi, Robert Ruark,
- Masai resting under baobab trees

But Kenya is not just about big game - it also has beautiful, unspoilt beaches, thriving coral reefs with their glorious colours, memorable mountain vistas and ancient Swahili cities.



The people here are extremely friendly and their hospitality can sometimes be over whelming. Their culture and traditions date back for centuries, and with up to 70 different tribal communities you will find plenty to talk about.

Kenya is a popular tourist destination and thus quite cosmopolitan in outlook, especially in Nairobi and Mombasa, which are the two major cities.

"I usually spend the weekends with the other volunteers. We either travel around, seeing the sights, or we go to the beach ... idyllic – white sands, palm trees, clear blue sea. I've had some pretty amazing experiences so far, from seeing a whale and her calf, and snorkeling over a coral reef, to attending a "goat-party" (which involved slaughtering and skinning the goat before eating it!). Future plans include going on a safari to Lake Nakuru and the Masai Mara. I can't wait!!"

Olivia Raven on her placement with Travellers.

TEACHING PLACEMENTS:

We have teaching placements in Mombasa, and teaching can be anything from English to Mathematics, to sports. Travellers helps teach and guide students from 2 – 16 years of age, and your help is an important part of their development. Travellers have two types of teaching placements:

- Kindergarten, and Children to the age of 16 in a formal teaching environment.
- **Social care work** with street children, in schools and on the streets.

Many of the schools we work with are Council schools and private schools. In Kenya, unlike many other countries, the private schools are not rich – in fact, most of the schools we work with are very poor, which is why they are so grateful for help from our volunteers!

Schools can be both secondary and primary and you will generally be asked to help out with any age groups. You are, in fact, very likely to be in popular demand everywhere - in and out of the classroom.

At **Primary level**: Kiswahili, English language, and mathematics are compulsory.

At **Secondary school**, students undertake the compulsory subjects and then major or specialize in arts or sciences, or a combination of the two.



In most of the State schools English teaching is from standard 1-8 for primary children. However, in **Rural Areas** English teaching is only up to Standard 3. Over standard 4 the children's English is very good and thus all 11yr olds are conversant in written and spoken English. However, most of the children are very shy to speak English and it's in this area that the help of our volunteers is needed – to give the children to confidence to speak the language.

SCHOOLS IN MOMBASA:

Our teaching placements here are based on the Island of Mombasa within the suburbs. Situated on the coast, Mombasa is generally renowned for its laid back culture, but the schools offer a different contrast. They ask for your support to help push the childrens' education forward, and to help improve teaching techniques for the teachers.

You will teach in schools where the children range from 2½ years of age, up to about 16; and again, volunteers who would like to teach the younger children are really appreciated.



The schools themselves are quite small, making you feel immediately like part of their family. They generally range from 100 to 300 pupils at one given time. This means that class sizes are also fairly small and very manageable, normally ranging from 20 to 40, although occasionally you may have smaller classes.

Some of our schools are boarding schools and some are for orphaned children. Other schools we work with include day schools, privately funded schools, and some are even church schools. Again, many of the schools are in very underprivileged areas, with a lot of the children coming from a cross-section of backgrounds; mostly from the poorer communities.

One of the schools keeps chickens and goats so that the children can learn the important things in life, one of which is to respect and to take care of others.

Mombasa is a very friendly place and the schools are no exception. You will be inundated with questions from both the teachers and the children; which makes you feel very wanted.



TEACHING GENERAL

You will normally assist the Kenyan teachers to start with, but depending on your ability you may be given complete control of a particular class or group. You will receive a lot of help and support from the Kenya teachers and staff at the schools to help you prepare for your lessons and settle you into your role as teacher; and, like all Kenyans, they are very friendly and patient and are always willing to help.

You will be able to teach a specific subject of your choice if you wish to, such as mathematics or science. In addition, for those of you who enjoy **sports**, you will be glad to know that sports are also a very popular subject for the children, and they would love for you to help out with the game periods which the schools have. The facilities are poor, but football and volleyball have quite a following. Most sports are participated on at various times throughout the day. However, most are after 3pm for an hour or two. The level of education of the children does differ.

The children have a fantastic air about them, and you will be immediately welcomed in by groups of children running up to greet the new teacher. The children and teachers are so grateful of the help that it will be hard to stop them smiling!

On the whole the teachers and children will make you very welcome and you will spend a lot of your time visiting families and generally socialising.

SCHOOL TERM DATES:

First term 6th January – 4th April
Second term 5 May – 8th August
Third term 8th September – 28th November



During **school holidays**, there are opportunities to teach children. This will normally be based at the schools where we have our **social care work** where you will provide help to **street children**. This may either be within a school or, in fact, out on the street. You would mostly be playing games and generally interacting with the children. The teaching hours during the school holiday terms are fewer than normal and will most probably be from morning to mid-day.

TEACHING FOOTBALL

It is possible for volunteers to coach at various schools, orphanages, and with special arrangements it will also be possible to coach a local team.

Children in Kenya really are a joy to teach; their enthusiasm for sports really knows no bounds. Although for the vast majority coaching won't have a direct impact on their lives; indirectly it has immeasurable effects. Personality changes, health awareness, increased confidence and social skills are all benefits from the coaching they might otherwise fail to receive.



ACCOMMODATION

Your accommodation will vary, depending on which part of town you're placed, and at which school.

In **Mombasa** you accommodation will normally be in a host families accommodation, which are normally situated about 20 minutes from Mombasa's beautiful beaches.

The houses will have all of the basic facilities, with some coming equipped with TV and Radio, and a western style toilet. However, we must make clear that this is not for all of the accommodation we have.

The hosts are all very nice! They can even look after you so well, that when your placement finishes, you may feel like you are leaving home again.

Wherever you go, your school should be within walking distance, which will enable you to go home for lunch if you want to. If it is further than walking distance, you would take local transport or we may be able to organise a car ride to and from work. You would then take a packed lunch to school with you.

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KENYA – GENERAL INFORMATION

It is an independent republic which lies on the Indian Ocean coast and forms part of the East African Region. The capital city is Nairobi, and its' other major towns are Nakuru and Kisumu and the port of Mombasa.

Kenya is one of the most beautiful countries available to travel. It has rolling savannah, and diverse wildlife and Fauna. The people are extremely friendly, and you will be made to feel very welcome during your stay.

The cost of meals ranges from £1 (US\$2) at the bottom end to £20 (US\$30) at the top end. Cheap accommodation (communal shower and toilet) starts at around £3 (US\$4.50) and after that the sky's the limit!



NAIROBI

Nairobi is Kenya's principal economic, administrative, and cultural center and is one of the largest and fastest growing cities in Africa. Currently population is just over a million and a half.

The **Kenyatta International Conference Centre** is a symbol of modern progress in Nairobi, Kenya's capital city. Tourists can really take a walk on the wild side here. Right in the middle of the city is a 44-square mile park,

the **Nairobi National Park**, filled with rhinos, cheetahs and other wild animals! The Park is a major tourist attraction.

Other points of interest include the **National Museum of Kenya**, known for a display on early humans in Africa; the busy **Municipal Market** and nearby bazaar; the **Kenya National Theatre**; and **Sorsbie Art Gallery**. There are numerous supermarkets and several new shopping malls within the city centre as well as in the suburbs.

MOMBASA:

Mombasa is situated on the East coast of Kenya, and sprawls over Mombasa Island, which is connected to the mainland both north and south of the city.

Mombasa is a bustling city with a vibrant mixture of cultures, architecture and entertainment. Its' history stretches back to the 12th century, with the **Old Town** standing as a testament to its tumultuous era; filled with ornate wooden shop fronts and balconies.

This sultry area of Mombasa offers a variety of interests, ranging from: beaches to relax on, to beautiful nature reserves to visit. A string of great beaches dominates the coast just south and north of the town, and is ideal for those who like to snorkel and scuba dive. Bars, restaurants, and shops are widely available, so there will be plenty to do.



THE NEXT STEP

If you would like to join us on one of our exciting projects then please fill in either an online application form or one that is attached to our brochure. Once you have booked and confirmed your place we will send you detailed pack information regarding your placement and country.

I do hope you join us and please do call or email if you have any questions at all about this or any of our other projects – 01903 502595 or email info@travellersworldwide.com

If you would like to know more about Travellers in general, or about any of our other projects we run in over 18 countries worldwide, please visit our website at www.travellersworldwide.com



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