

Experience Kenya

An International Service Learning Program

May 30-June 15 2010



Program Highlights

- 2 ½ weeks of total cultural immersion
- Exotic cross- country scenic/educational tours
- Teaching/engaging with elementary school children
- A week long home stay with Kenyan hosts
- Construction/refurbishment of a village school library
- 3 day full package safari

Academic credit available through BAS 495, CI 496, SOCW 478, ANTH 495. Check with your advisor for other credit opportunities.

Cost: \$3650.00 covers airfare, room & board, 3 day safari.

To sign up, contact Dr Peter Gitau, at pgitau@siu.edu or 618-453-1254

Deadline: November 30th, 2009. Limited spots available; register now.

Program description

This program offers a comprehensive sampling of Kenyan culture and the vastness of its diversity. The program begins with several pre-departure orientation sessions that will introduce participants to the nation of Kenya, its peoples, language, geography etc in order to build some basic competencies. These sessions are mandatory for all participants. Participants will be expected to maintain reflective journals at all times.

The team will depart from St Louis International Airport. The itinerary begins with a gradual introduction to Kenya. Upon arrival in Nairobi, participants will begin by exploring the city and its many cultural, educational, historic and shopping attractions. We will be sure to visit the Bomas of Kenya mostly known for its non-stop traditional entertainment, the Mamba Village so named for its many crocodiles, the museum of Kenya while sampling local dishes.

Shopping in Africa is not just an exchange of money but a relationship building social experience that involves intimate conversations about life. The group will spend a significant portion of the day visiting the largest open air market in the country for premier shopping for items of personal interest. Participants will learn how to haggle over prices and make purchases as part of relationship building.

Buckle up for a three day tour of the exotic coastal province of Kenya by the Indian Ocean. This 3 day visit to Mombasa and Malindi will provide participants with an opportunity to enjoy the beaches, tour historic sites, sample coastal dishes and marvel at the marine wildlife. Be sure to bring your bathing suits and plenty of sunscreen.

This next step marks the beginning of the transition from the city to the village. The group will spend one week in a rural community in Kenya. During this week, participants will be hosted in Kenyan homes in groups of 5-8. The homes are in relative proximity and all meals and group briefings will take place at a central location. Local people will be hired to provide needed services such as meal preparation, laundry etc. This is a prime opportunity to really get to know Kenyan people, right where they live. The program Director and co-directors will be strategically assigned so as to coordinate and supervise this process.

A major component of our life in the village is participating in a community development project. This year's project will involve renovating several classrooms and turning one of these classrooms into a school community library. The project will involve a partnership

with local people who will work side by side with the American group. Participation in this kind of project provides an opportunity to give back to the community that will have hosted the group for an entire week, as well as cement bonds of cross-cultural friendship and understanding. There will also be ample opportunity to interact with students and teachers inside and outside the classroom. This group will participate in fund-raising efforts to realize funds needed for the project.

Religion is a strong part of Kenya culture and is intertwined with everyday life. To gain a better understanding and appreciation for faith as lived and expressed in an African context, the group will visit and take part (as appropriate) in an urban and rural worship experiences.

The program will conclude with a 3 day Safari to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, located about 4 hours from Nairobi. This is a transnational vastness that stretches into Tanzania (where it changes its name to Serengeti) and home to the ageless Maasai people. Participants will enjoy daily game drives, relax in self contained cottages right inside the Game Reserve and enjoy continental cuisines. The journey to and from the Maasai Mara cuts through the breathtaking Great Rift Valley with its vast richness of culture.

Assessment will include the pre departure sessions, the travel events and reflective journals that participants will be expected to keep throughout the trip.