



Batian's View Experiential Education Center
Service Learning in Kenya (SLIK) www.slikenya.com
Trip Information for 2021

Fred Roberts, Batian's View Co-Director and SLIK Trip Leader

Location: Naro Moru, Kenya. While in Kenya students will be staying at Batian's View Experiential Education Center. To see Batian's View please visit www.batiansview.com.

Dates: June 16 – July 9, 2020. Students will depart the US on June 15 and return on July 10.

Tuition: \$4,300.00. A non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 is due March 10, 2020.

*Tuition does not include airfare, which last year was between \$2,200.00 and \$2,400.00.

Please review this information carefully. If you have any questions or wish to make a deposit to reserve a space, please contact Fred Roberts at frob5350@gmail.com or 520-591-1816. The group size is limited to 16 participants and will fill on a first come first serve basis.

What to Expect

Volunteer teaching. Serve as a volunteer teacher at a public primary school near the town of Naro Moru. Responsibilities include lesson planning, classroom teaching, and assisting with extra curricular activities with the Kenyan students.

Community Service. The Americans will spend at least two days actively assisting in a school improvement project. Past projects have included mixing cement for new classroom floors, painting the interior and exterior of classrooms, and the construction of new classrooms. Be prepared for physical labor!

Cultural interaction. Students will spend the bulk of their day interacting with Kenyan teachers and students. Students will also have an opportunity to visit the homes of Kenyans living in a rural area and gain a first-hand understanding of their lifestyle. Students will also meet with elders who were part of Kenya's struggle for independence in the 1950s.

Learning. The students will be presented with a variety of evening classes related to Kenya's history, natural history, and language, Kiswahili.

Wildlife safari. A three-day safari to Samburu Game Reserve where the group will camp and see the wildlife for which this area is famous.

Experiential education. A day will be spent with intensive leadership and team building activities on the high and low challenge course at Batian's View. High school aged Kenyans from local schools may also be a part of this activity.

Mt. Kenya Hike: A four-day hike from the lower forests of Mt. Kenya up to the mountain's higher peaks. Porters will assist in carrying the group gear and food to lighten the American's loads for a more enjoyable hiking experience. Average hiking time each day is five hours, covering four to seven miles.

Service Learning in Kenya

The trip to Kenya involves American students assisting with the teaching responsibilities at a primary school near Batian's View in Naro Moru, Kenya. To help begin the process, the students will have classes about Kenya's education system from the headmasters of the schools they will be volunteering. Kenyan teachers will assist the students in lesson planning, teaching techniques, and classroom

management strategies. The students will eventually prepare their own lessons and teach in the classroom as well.

The school day begins at 7:45 and ends at 3:00 PM. The Kenyan students are then required to remain at school until 5:00 PM for tutoring, club meetings, attending athletic or drama practices, or assisting with school maintenance projects. The American students will be involved in this part of the school day too. This will be an opportunity for the students to focus on an area that interests them most. This will be the best opportunity for the Americans to work with the Kenyan students in small groups or in one on one tutoring sessions. At the end of the school day the students will either walk back to Batian's View or be picked up by vehicle.

While at Batian's View the students will assist with meal preparation and clean up. The evenings will be reserved for informal classes in Kiswahili, Kenyan history, or to hear a local elder speak of Kenya's past. Other speakers may include the chief of the Naro Moru area, the Head Warden of Mt. Kenya National Park, and local elders who lived in the area during the colonial era.

Expected Student Outcomes of the SLIK Experience.

- To become functional in basic Kiswahili.*
- To gain an understanding of the third world economy and the difficulties in moving past this status.
- To experience teaching in a government primary school in rural Kenya.
- To be a responsible and aware international traveler.
- To experience the daily life of a rural Kenyan family.
- To realize the challenges of maintaining tourism based on wildlife and a growing population.
- To understand the impact of tourism on the economy of a developing country.
- To become familiar with the cultural geography of Kenya.
- To visit one of Kenya's unique game parks and witness the wildlife of East Africa.
- To understand the specific and long lasting impact of colonialism on Kenya.
- To be a part of a significant primary school community service project.

*Enrolled students will have access to an on-line Kiswahili language training. Even a simple understanding of the language will go a very long way in one's interactions with the Kenyans he or she will meet.

Other Possible Activities While in Kenya.

Throughout the trip the students will hear presentations about Kenya's history, economy, and language taught by the faculty at Batian's View. There will also be time for long walks along the Naro Moru River and visits to the local market. In fact, every few days the students will be responsible for buying the group's vegetables and fruit at the village market. Batian's View is located at 7,000' on the slopes of Mt. Kenya and only 5 miles from the Mt. Kenya National Park boundary. Time allowing, the group will take a day-hike on the mountain, following animal trails and possibly seeing colobus monkey and bushbuck.

One day may be spent at Sweetwaters Game Reserve, a one-hour drive from Batian's View. Here the students may see giraffe, zebra, cape buffalo, hippo, elephant and lion. Within Sweetwaters is a chimpanzee refuge, one of three that were begun by Jane Goodall. This refuge holds roughly 25 chimps, some of which were rescued from shop owners that kept the chimps in cages to attract buyers. Now there are second-generation chimps that are learning how to live in the wild.

On this same day the group might visit the town of Nanyuki, which lies on the equator. Here there are

larger shopping markets for personal purchases and an opportunity to buy souvenirs. The students will have time to explore the town and have lunch in one of the many small cafes.

The group will have a three-day safari to *Samburu Game Reserve, one of Kenya's premier locations for seeing the wildlife for which the country is famous. This park is three hours north of Batian's View and located along the Ewaso Nigro River. The group will stay in one of the group campsites near the river. A typical day begins before sunrise with the group slowly driving along the river or across the savannah viewing animals. The pace is slow and conducive to closely watching the animals' behaviors and for careful photography. As the sun climbs and the day becomes warm, the animals are typically less active and the group returns to camp for a late breakfast. The afternoons are for classes about the local ecosystem, the Samburu (the dominant tribe of the area), or Kiswahili practice. In the late afternoon the animals become active again and this brings a long afternoon game drive, returning to camp before dark.

*Should for some reason we don't go to Samburu Game Reserve we will spend the same amount of time at a comparable game park.

Batian's View Experiential Education Center

Batian's View served as the East Africa branch of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS East Africa) from 1976 to early 2003. The facility consists of three large buildings for the office, library, display area, equipment storage, kitchen and food preparation area, dining area, first aid room, and plenty of places for the students to relax, study and 'hang-out'. There are two self-contained homes on the property and four other multi-room cabins that serve as faculty and student housing; room for up to 30 people. The property is located on eight acres of land next to the Naro Moru River. The elevation is '7,000 and there is a dense forest along the river. Across the river is national forest land with endless opportunities for long walks or trail runs.

Mr. Roberts, Batian's View Co-Director and SLIK trip leader worked at the NOLS East Africa branch from 1986 to 1999 as a field instructor and branch director. In March of 2003, however, NOLS announced the closure of the NOLS East Africa branch. Mr. Roberts, and his wife, Elizabeth Goodwin, having very close ties to the facility and community, made a proposal to NOLS to purchase the NOLS East Africa property with a commitment to use it as an experiential education center for East Africans. NOLS accepted the offer and today Mr. Roberts and Ms. Goodwin own the facility and are assisted in its maintenance by two long time friends and colleagues, Peter Kafuna and Mary Wairimu. Having lived in Kenya for so long, Mr. Roberts developed many strong relationships with the people living near Batian's View and the other locations that are part of the SLIK trip. This will allow the American students to be embraced and introduced to the Kenyan culture as few other visitors would.

Faculty

Fred Roberts, Batian's View Co-Director and SLIK trip leader

Mr. Roberts began his career in education in 1983 as a NOLS instructor, right after graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University. He led NOLS courses in many remote areas in Wyoming, Utah, and Washington that included wilderness hiking, caving, winter skiing, rock climbing, and mountaineering. After returning to the US in 1999 he was the Dean of Students at The Gregory School in Tucson, Arizona from 2000 to 2013. He spent the next year running his own team building and leadership development program before entering Prescott College to earn a Masters Degree in Experiential Education, which he completed in May of 2016. Along with teaching at the high school level, he spent

a year teaching middle school and is now the science teacher for a K-5 elementary school in Tucson.

Elizabeth Goodwin, Batian's View Co-Director

Ms. Goodwin is the Co-Founder and is an accomplished gender and community development practitioner, with vast experience in Africa. Ms. Goodwin first came to Kenya in 1987 as a NOLS East Africa student. She returned in 1990 to join Mr. Roberts and for the next five years split her time between Naro Moru and Lake Baringo in northern Kenya, where she was a consultant for a land rehabilitation program. She went on to earn her Masters Degree from the University of London studying the role of women and rural development in Naro Moru. Ms. Goodwin is the CFO of Batian's View, overseeing finances, human resources, and setting policies and procedures for the efficient operations of Batian's View.

Peter Kafuna, Batian's View Co-Manager

Mr. Kafuna was a field instructor with NOLS for 11 years instructing students in Kenya and Wyoming. At the NOLS East Africa branch Mr. Kafuna served as Operations Manager for three years. Mr. Kafuna currently chairs the Mt. Kenya Tour Operators Association, a group that promotes activities around Mt. Kenya while also supporting wilderness conservation and wise land management policy. Mr. Kafuna oversees the curriculum at Batian's View Experiential Education Center and supervises the high and low challenge course.

Mary Wairimu, Batian's View Co-Manager

Ms. Wairimu is a graduate of the NOLS East Africa semester course in 1988. She began working at NOLS East Africa in 1990 and became the Issue Room manager in 1995. Ms. Wairimu also spent two summers working in the equipment departments of the NOLS Rocky Mountain and NOLS Alaska branches. Ms. Wairimu oversees the Batian's View facility and staff. Mr. Kafuna and Ms. Wairimu co-manage Batian's View and live on the property with their three children.

Student responsibilities

Students are expected to come ready for a very new experience, to adapt to a group living situation, and to be open to new cultures and customs. Experiencing a foreign country requires flexibility, an open mind, and the maturity to accept responsibility for yourself and others. Failure to follow policies regarding tobacco, illegal drug, and alcohol use, as well as the expectations set by Mr. Roberts, could result in expulsion from the trip.

Medical assistance

In the event that a member of the trip needs medical assistance, there are several options for treatment. While not all hospitals in Kenya are as well equipped as in the U.S.A., there are two primary medical facilities with which Mr. Roberts had much experience while with NOLS East Africa. The first is Nairobi Hospital. This is a private, well-run, well-equipped hospital with expert staff. In his experience Mr. Roberts found the care provided to the students of NOLS East Africa to be quite comparable to what would be found in the States.

Closer to Batian's View is Nanyuki Cottage Hospital. This is a small private hospital capable of running lab tests and taking x-rays. Only 30 minutes from Batian's View, this would be the initial care provider in case of an illness or injury. If necessary the student or faculty member would then be taken to Nairobi Hospital. Fred Roberts and Peter Kafuna are Wilderness First Aid Responder trained and experienced in handling medical emergencies. There is a well-equipped first aid kit at Batian's View

for cuts, scrapes, and mild illness.

Communications

There are several options for communications between home and Kenya during the trip. They include:

1. Letters. Allow 14 days for delivery. The address in Kenya is:

Batian's View
Student's Name
P. O. Box 159
Naro Moru, Kenya 10105

2. Cell phone. Fred Roberts will have a cell phone with him the entire time in Kenya. That number is 254-712-146903. The cell phone number for Mary Wairimu, Co-manager at Batian's View is 254-722-292998. The Batian's View office cell phone number is 254-727-860287. Kenya is 10 hours ahead of the Mountain Time Zone, so if it is noon in this time zone it is 10 PM in Kenya. Please check your time zone and be sure to call before 6 PM Kenya time. To access an international line press 011 first, followed by Kenya's country code (254), the three digit area code, and the six digit number.

3. Personal cell phones. It is fine if a student brings his or her own cell phone. Please check with your carrier on additional fees while calling the US from Kenya. Limited wifi is available at Batian's View for texting and making phone calls over the internet.

4. E-mail. Students will have access to a computer and wifi at Batian's View to send and receive email. The internet service, however, is not as fast or as reliable as we are used to in America and at times extreme patience is required.

5. Daily Dispatch from Kenya. Each day a student will write the Daily Dispatch that will be posted on a public website and sent by email to the families and friends. We try to do this daily, but due to our schedule or lack of wifi we may miss a day here and there. In the past these dispatches have been a lot of fun for the readers and have provided great insight to the writer's experience in Kenya.

Be aware that the communication system in Kenya is not as reliable as it is in the US. Cell towers may be down, there may be computer problems, or there simply may be no electricity for e-mail.

Passport

You will need a valid passport for the duration of your stay and that does not expire within six months of the departure date. The passport must also have at least two blank pages for travel. If you do not have a passport, get one immediately. Keep a photocopy of your passport I.D. page in a separate place, but bring this to Kenya. This will speed up the reissue process if your passport is lost or stolen.

Your passport must be valid for at least six months AFTER your return from Kenya, which for the 2020 trip is January 17, 2021. Double check the expiration date now!

Travel visa for Kenya

A visa is required to visit Kenya and may be acquired on-line at <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>. Below are instructions copied from the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya website.

HOW DO I APPLY

1. Go to www.evisa.go.ke and click on create eVisa account
2. Once Logged in, Select Department of Immigration services.
3. Select submit Application.
4. Select Kenyan Visa.
5. Select the type of Visa and read the Instructions Carefully.
6. Fill in the application form. There will be fields for your name, address, and passport number. You will also need to provide information shown below about the reason for entry and contact information in Kenya.

SELECT A POINT OF ENTRY BY AIR: Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi

REASON FOR ENTRY: Tourism

FULL NAMES AND PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

Batian's View Experiential Education Center

P. O. Box 150

Naro Moru, Kenya

EMAIL – info@batiansview.com

Documents to be scanned and uploaded:

1. Photo page of your passport.
2. Other documents; a plane ticket or communication from the travel agent that you have a confirmed booking on a flight.
3. Two passport photos.

Once the application is complete you pay \$51.00. After a couple of days the visa will be sent to you by email for you to print and put in your passport.

7. Pay Using visa card, Mastercard and other debit cards.
8. Await approval via email, then download and print the eVisa from your eCitizen account.
9. Present your printed eVisa to the immigration officer at the port of entry.

Dress in Kenya and Naro Moru

Your dress and composure will affect how you are perceived in Kenya. Kenyan dress standards are much more conservative than in the United States, particularly for women. While traveling from Tucson to Nairobi wear clothing that is comfortable and presentable. At Batian's View it is fine to wear long shorts and t-shirts, probably with a sweatshirt close by as it tends to be cold. What is not acceptable is an exposed mid-drift, sagging, short shorts, or tank tops. There are many people working at Batian's View and such attire would be considered rude.

During the internship women should wear a dress that extends just below the knees and a shirt that covers the shoulders. Nice looking pants are also acceptable. Men will be required to wear long pants and a collared shirt. Athletic shoes or dress shoes are acceptable. Sandals or Tevas are not acceptable while teaching at the schools. This is partly to maintain a professional appearance but some of the schools have dirt floors, and long exposure to dust and dirt may invite infection or skin irritation.

Valuables and personal safety

International travel and living in a different country require a greater awareness to one's personal safety and personal belongings. Being organized, self-contained and minimizing the amount of your personal effects will help make the trip a smooth one. Personal valuables such as plane tickets, extra cash and valuable jewelry may be left in the safe at Batian's View. It is not recommended to bring expensive watches or jewelry.

While at Batian's View there will be adult supervision at all times. Throughout the night a security officer watches over the compound. This is not so much to make sure our students remain in their cabins after a specific hour, but more for the overall security of Batian's View. There are a few simple guidelines for the students to follow while at Batian's View, such as not leaving the compound after dark, not leaving the compound alone, and when leaving the compound in small groups always informing an adult of the destination and time of return. These, and other guidelines, will be covered in more detail when the group reaches Batian's View.

There will be times when the students will not have direct supervision, such as during visits to the town of Naro Moru. The purpose of these visits are to explore the open air market, have a meal at a local restaurant, explore the small shops, and experience the hustle and bustle of this rural, urban center. While a SLIK faculty member will be nearby at all times, and the students will have direct instructions on when and where to meet at the end of the visit, the students will also have a lot of freedom. Some of the shops sell alcohol, and most owners are more than happy to sell their goods to a tourist, regardless of his or her age. The purchasing and use of alcohol at Batian's View is prohibited. This not only puts the individual consuming alcohol at risk, but others as well who may be affected by the poor decision making of others. This includes each and every person associated with SLIK; the students, the trip leaders, and the Kenyan employees supporting the program. Students found in the possession of alcohol or who have consumed alcohol will face consequences that may include expulsion from the program.

Personal expenses and money exchange

While in Kenya all meals, transport, park entry fees, and accommodation are covered by the student tuition. Additional expenses such as gifts, personal purchases, and extra food or beverage items at restaurants will be the student's responsibility. There is also a small shop at Batian's View that sells notebooks, pens, candy bars, and soda.

Assuming a student will want to purchase a few gifts and take home a couple of moderately priced souvenirs, \$250.00 of spending money should be adequate. Each student, however, knows his or her own tastes and should budget accordingly. It is recommended to take traveler's checks or cash in denominations of \$100. Upon arrival in Nairobi change \$200.00 into Kenyan shillings. Keep some US dollars for the trip home. All valuables may be stored in a locked safe at Batian's View, so the cash will be safe and only accessed when needed. American Express and Visa are widely accepted in Kenya. There is also an ATM machine at the Barclay's Bank in Nanyuki, roughly 40 minutes from Batian's View. Cash gift cards purchased in the US are not accepted in Kenya.

Vaccinations and medical information

Regulations and recommendations for vaccinations for international travel can change. A reliable source of information for current requirements and recommendations is the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/travel/eafrica.htm. This site focuses on travel in East Africa. Another site with very good information is www.kenyatourism.org/heath.htm.

To guard against infection while traveling in a foreign country routine immunizations should be current. These would include tetanus and diphtheria, measles, mumps and rubella, and polio. In addition, vaccinations may be recommended or required for illness not commonly experienced in the U.S. Currently there are no inoculations required for travel between Kenya and the U.S.A.; however, consult with your physician if you have any questions after reviewing the two websites listed above.

Inoculations should be recorded in the official document, "International Certificate of Vaccination," available from the U.S. Public Health Service (Health and Welfare in Canada) or from your doctor. If you wear eyeglasses, record your prescription in the booklet as well. The same is true if you have any specific medical problems such as diabetes, allergies, etc. A letter from your physician describing personal prescription medications may be helpful. If you have unique personal medications, eyeglasses etc., bring spares.

Malaria Prophylaxis: Malaria is caused by a parasite transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. As in equatorial regions around the world, malaria exists in East Africa. There is a lower risk of malaria in the highlands and Mt. Kenya, which is where we will be spending most of our time. Batian's View is located at 7,000' on the west side of Mt. Kenya and the evening temperatures are in the high 40s or low 50s. We will, however, be spending time in the warmer environment of Samburu Game Reserve, where malaria may be found. It is not required that a traveler to Kenya take a malaria prophylaxis, but before making this decision it is advisable to do your own research and talk with your primary care physician.

Some tropical diseases you may be exposed to in Kenya could take a few weeks (or rarely even a few months or years) before producing noticeable signs and symptoms. A post trip check up with your primary physician may be appropriate.

Mt. Kenya Trek

The SLIK experience includes a four-day hike to one of Kenya's most amazing locations, Mt. Kenya. Reaching an elevation of 17,055', Mt. Kenya is the second highest mountain in Africa. The group follow the popular Naro Moru track to slowly ascend the mountain. To keep backpack weight to a minimum, the group sleeps in huts and has the support of porters to carry the group's communal gear. The pace of the hike is slow so each hiker may become accustomed to the physical work at a higher elevation. The ultimate goal is reaching the summit of Pt. Lenana at 16,355', the highest point one can reach without technical climbing gear. This is a challenging hike as the group begins in the mountain's forest and moves through several distinct ecological zones before reaching the upper region of rock and ice. No previous hiking experience is necessary but participants must be ready for long days on the trail and the possibility of rain and cold weather. No special gear is needed and Batian's View is able to provide the necessary clothing, sleeping bag, and sleeping pad. It is highly recommended that students bring their own boots that they have already broken in and are comfortable wearing for long hikes.