



Service Learning in Kenya (SLIK)

2024 Course Information

www.slikenya.com

Jambo, (Greetings)

Thank you for your interest in SLIK and I hope you will find the information below helpful in learning about all we offer for a unique experience in rural Kenya. This will be SLIK's 18th year and through the special relationships we have developed with all the Kenyans associated with the program I am confident you will see a side of Kenya that very few visitors experience. Should you have any questions please contact me at frob5350@gmail.com.

Kwa heri, (Goodbye)

Fred Roberts,

SLIK Course Leader and Batian's View Experiential Education Center Co-Director.

Location: Naro Moru, Kenya. While in Kenya students stay at Batian's View Experiential Education Center, a team building and leadership program serving a variety of groups in Kenya. To learn more about Batian's View please visit www.batiansview.com.

Dates: June 11 – July 7, 2024. These are also the departure and return dates.

Tuition: \$4,700.00. A non-refundable \$500.00 deposit is due April 1 and the tuition balance May 15.

*Tuition does not include airfare, which last year was between \$2,200.00 and \$2,800.00.

Group size: Maximum group size of 18 students and will fill on a first come first serve basis. SLIK is open for students entering their junior or senior year of high school and college age students.

What to Expect:

Volunteer teaching. Serve as a volunteer teacher in a primary school near the town of Naro Moru. Responsibilities include lesson planning, classroom teaching, and helping with extra-curricular activities.

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. SLIK Students will spend most of their days interacting with Kenyan teachers and young learners. 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.

Learning. Evening classes about Kenya's history, current events, and national language, Kiswahili.

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

Experiential education. A day will be spent on the high and low challenge course at Batian's View for intensive leadership and team building activities with a group of local high school aged Kenyans.

Mt. Kenya National Park: A four-day hike from the lower forests of Mt. Kenya up to the mountain's higher peaks. Porters carry the group gear and food to lighten the SLIK students' loads for a more enjoyable hiking experience. Average hiking time each day is five hours over four to seven miles.

Expected Student Outcomes of the SLIK Experience.

- * To be a responsible and aware international traveler.
- * To experience teaching in a primary school in rural Kenya and be a part of the school community.
- * To become familiar with the culture and lifestyle of rural Kenya.
- * To work with the local community on a significant school improvement project.
- * To visit one of Kenya's game parks to see the wildlife of East Africa.
- * To work as a team with the other SLIK students during a four day hike on Mt. Kenya.

Primary components of Service Learning In Kenya.

Teaching.

SLIK's focus is for American students to serve as volunteer teachers at a primary school near Batian's View Experiential Education Center in Naro Moru, Kenya. To begin the students will learn about Kenya's education system from the principals of the schools where 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 on their own.

The school day begins at 7:45 AM 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 can be involved in this part of the school day as well. This is 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 SLIK students either walk back to Batian's View or are picked up by vehicle. The evenings are reserved for informal classes in Kiswahili, Kenyan history, current events, or free time.

Safari.

The group spends three days in Samburu Game Reserve, one of Kenya's premier locations for seeing wildlife for which the country is famous. Samburu is three hours north of Batian's View and is located along the Ewaso Nigro River, where we stay in one of the park's lodges along the river. A typical day begins before sunrise with a slow drive along the river or across the savannah viewing animals. The pace is slow and conducive to closely watching animal behaviors and careful photography. As the sun climbs and the day becomes warm, the animals are typically less active and the group returns to the lodge for a late breakfast. The afternoons are for classes about the local ecosystem, the Samburu (the dominant tribe of the area), Kiswahili practice, or R&R by the pool. In the late afternoon when the animals become active again, we head back out for a long afternoon game drive before returning to camp at sundown.

Mt. Kenya.

A highlight of the SLIK experience is a four-day hike to one of Kenya's most amazing locations, Mt. Kenya, with an elevation of 17,055' and the second highest mountain in Africa. The group follows the popular Naro Moru track to slowly ascend the mountain. To keep backpack weight to a minimum, the group has the support of porters to carry the group's communal gear and food. The hiking pace is slow so each hiker may become accustomed to the physical work of a higher elevation with a goal of 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 and the possibility of rain and cold weather. No special gear is needed as Batian's View provides the necessary clothing, sleeping gear, and tents to insure everyone is comfortable. It is highly

recommended, however, that students bring their own boots that are comfortable for long hikes.

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 buildings for the office, equipment storage, kitchen and food preparation area, dining area, and plenty of space for the students to relax, study and 'hang-out'. SLIK students stay in any of the five multi-room cabins with communal bathroom and shower facilities and plenty of hot water. The property is located on ten acres of forested land at 7,000' next to the Naro Moru River and across the river is national forest land with endless opportunities for long walks or trail runs.

Fred Roberts worked at the NOLS East Africa branch from 1986 to 1999 as a field instructor and 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. 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 allows 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 Course 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 remote areas of Wyoming, Utah, and Washington that included wilderness hiking, caving, winter skiing, rock climbing, and mountaineering before going to the NOLS East Africa branch in 1986. 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 master's 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 since the fall of 2016 has been the science teacher for a K-5th grade 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 master's 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 other family members.

Student responsibilities

Students are expected to come ready for a very new adventure, adapt to a group living situation, and 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. Every day of the SLIK course is filled with new opportunities, and while at times this may push a student out of their comfort zone, day by day what was once uncomfortable becomes the norm. Through this process the SLIK students are rewarded with unforgettable experiences and significant personal growth.

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, only 30 minutes from Batian's View. This is a small private hospital capable of running lab tests, taking x-rays, and would be the initial care provider in case of an illness or injury. Fred Roberts and Peter Kafuna are Wilderness First Aid Responder trained and experienced in handling medical emergencies, along with treating minor cuts, scrapes, and mild illness. For this purpose, a well-stocked first aid kit is kept at Batian's View.

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 254-723-164347. 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 in the US, 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 Wi-Fi 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 Wi-Fi at Batian's View to send and receive email. The internet service, however, is not as fast or as reliable as 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 Wi-Fi 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.

Passport

You will need a valid passport for the duration of your stay **with an expiration date of six months after departure from Kenya after the SLIK course ends.** For the 2024 trip this is January 8, 2025 - double check the expiration date now! 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 and bring this to Kenya. This will speed up the reissue process if your passport is lost.

Travel visa for Kenya

A visa is required to visit Kenya and may be acquired on-line at <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>. Apply for the visa after April 8 so it does not expire before departure. 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 in the Foreign Nationals tab (For Nationals who require a visa to enter Kenya.)
2. Once Logged in, select Directorate of Immigration Services (New applications).
3. This takes you to a page titled Our Services. Click on eVisa application.
4. This takes you to a page titled Application Information and will take you through the steps (little green circles) to complete the application. The type of visa you need is SINGLE ENTRY VISA.
5. 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 159

Naro Moru, Kenya 10105

EMAIL – info@batiansview.com

Telephone number: 254-727-860287

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. You will be provided with a reservation confirmation from Batian's View Experiential Education Center to include as well.

3. Two passport photos.

After a couple of days, the visa will be sent to you by email for you to print and put in your passport.

6. Once the application is complete you pay \$51.00 by credit card. *Applicants under the age of 16 are exempt from the visa payment, but still need a visa.

7. Await approval via email, then download and print the eVisa from your eCitizen account.

8. 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 or short shorts, or tank tops.

During the internship women should wear nice looking pants or a dress that extends just below the knees and a shirt that covers the shoulders. 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 mainly to maintain a professional appearance but some of the schools have dirt floors, and long exposure to dust and dirt may invite 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 be a smooth one. Personal valuables such as plane tickets, extra cash and valuable jewelry will be kept in the safe at Batian's View during the students' stay. It is not recommended to bring expensive watches or jewelry.

While the students are at Batian's View there will be always adult supervision. Throughout the night a Batian's View employee is present for the overall security of the compound. 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 is 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 always nearby, 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 also others who may be affected by the poor decision making of others. This includes 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 course tuition. Additional expenses such as gifts, personal purchases, and extra food or beverage items at restaurants will be the student's responsibility.

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 cash in denominations of \$50.00 or \$100.00. Upon arrival in Nairobi change \$200.00 into Kenyan shillings and keep some US dollars for the trip home. Once at Batian's View all valuables will be stored in a locked safe and only accessed when needed. American Express and Visa are widely accepted in Kenya, even in roadside curio shops! There are also ATMs the students will have access to as another option to get funds. There is also an ATM at the bank in Nanyuki, roughly 40 minutes from Batian's View. Visa 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/health.htm.

To guard against infection while traveling in a foreign country, routine immunizations should be current. These 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 medications may be helpful if the prescription needs to be refilled while in Kenya. 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, 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 do your own research and talk with your primary care physician.