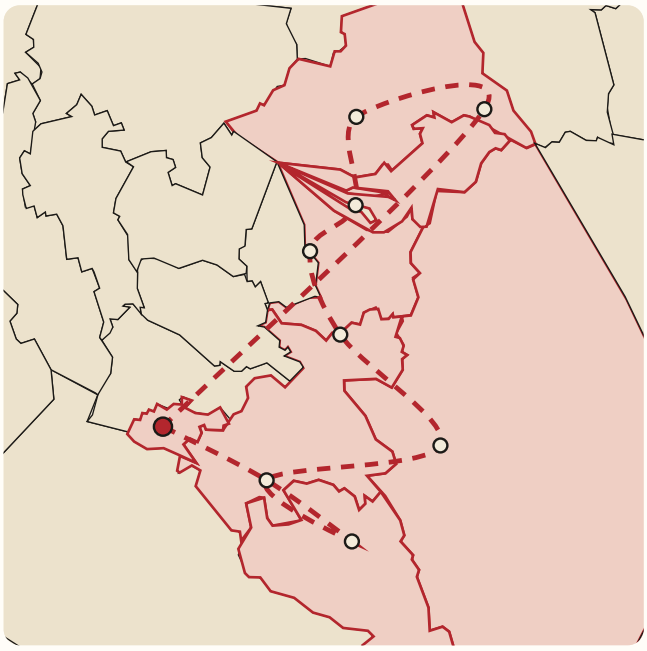
KENYA EXPERIENCE SUMMER CAMP ACADEMY 2027, 12 DAYS

Mizizi: The Art of Making a Living

Work alongside Akamba artisans, Makueni fruit farmers and Kitui basket weavers, learn water and energy innovation with Mbeere educators, farm with Aembu households, meet Tharaka and Ameru cultural hosts, then go on safari in Meru National Park.

LENGTH	PRICE
12 days, 11 nights	$7,650 per student
REGION	**SAFARI**
Ukambani, Embu and Meru	Meru National Park
HOSTS	**DISTANCE**
Akamba, Aembu, Mbeere, Tharaka and Ameru hosts; craft, farming and water innovation.	About 1,295 km by road

Hotels, hosts, school and church visits, park access, route distances and 2027 pricing are proposed and subject to confirmation. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. Religious participation is voluntary; equivalent learning is available. Full board, twin sharing, international airfare excluded. Proposed 2027 rate, subject to confirmation.



1 Nairobi, 2 Machakos, 3 Makueni, 4 Kitui, 5 Seven Forks, 6 Embu, 7 Tharaka-Nithi, 8 Meru, 9 Meru National Park

Capstone: Innovation from Our Roots

Develop a practical product or water-saving idea with host feedback.

Discover the Big Five

Meru National Park. Guided safari seeking lion, elephant, leopard, rhino and buffalo across the scheduled wildlife sites. Wild animal sightings are never guaranteed. Sanctuary and ranger access are subject to approval. All scheduled wildlife safaris include private 4x4 safari Land Cruisers and professional driver-guides.

Live the culture

Participate in safe household routines, traditional food preparation, language, oral histories, crafts and seasonal livelihoods. Hosts choose what to share; students rotate in small supervised groups.

Learn together

Proposed local school exchanges and church youth/community engagement; participation in religious activities is voluntary, with equivalent alternatives. Visits depend on calendars, consent and safeguarding approval.

Responsible engagement

Pay hosts fairly; do not replace local workers. No hazardous tasks, unsupervised wildlife contact or clinical work. Photography and recording require consent.

Full-board routine

Breakfast, host-prepared or packed lunch, and dinner. Evening rest, journals and preparation. Arrival and departure meals depend on flight times.

Graduation and recognition

Proposed university or partner venue, KESCA certificates, Tourism Ambassador induction and Kwaheri Night.

Day by day

DAY 1, NAIROBI

Karibu Kenya: orientation

Morning: JKIA airport pickup, supervised transfer and hotel check-in; rest according to flight arrival. Afternoon: Welcome by academy team; safety, safeguarding, cultural etiquette, Kiswahili greetings and learning briefing before regional departure. Evening: Rest and journal: Personal learning goals and signed group code of conduct. Overnight: Nairobi, Tamarind Tree or Sarova Stanley. About 25 km of road and local travel.

DAY 2, MACHAKOS

Akamba artisans

Morning: Transfer to Machakos; Wamunyu woodcarving demonstration. Afternoon: Practice safe finishing/design with artisans; learn pricing and cultural meaning. Community: Learn a safe craft-making step and discuss artisan household routines and how skills are taught. Evening: Rest and journal: Craft design and cost sheet. Overnight: Machakos, Gelian or Lukenya Getaway. About 100 km of road and local travel.

DAY 3, MACHAKOS

Makueni fruit farmers

Morning: Fruit orchard and seasonal sorting or processing demonstration. Afternoon: Meet women or youth entrepreneurs; discuss preservation and markets. Community: Help sort fruit and prepare a host-selected meal; compare household food preservation methods. Evening: Rest and journal: Fruit value chain. Overnight: Machakos, Gelian or Lukenya Getaway. About 180 km of road and local travel.

DAY 4, KITUI

Basket-weaving and dryland hosts

Morning: Transfer to Kitui; learn sisal preparation and weaving. Afternoon: Host-selected meal and dialogue on drought, family livelihoods and water storage. Community: Join basket weavers in a simple weaving exercise; discuss daily water and food needs with families. Evening: Rest and journal: Woven product prototype. Overnight: Kitui, An inspected group hotel, to be confirmed. About 110 km of road and local travel.

DAY 5, EMBU

Mbeere water and energy educators

Morning: Travel through approved Seven Forks corridor; energy learning by appointment. Afternoon: Meet dryland farmers on water harvesting and drought-resilient crops. Community: Meet a local school for a water-conservation learning exchange. Evening: Rest and journal: Water and energy diagram. Overnight: Embu, Izaak Walton Inn. About 170 km of road and local travel.

DAY 6, EMBU

Aembu farming households

Morning: Participate in safe coffee or crop sorting and food preparation. Afternoon: Visit school or cooperative; discuss agricultural markets and technology. Community: Prepare a host-selected dish with farming families; meet a local church youth group to discuss community care and local enterprise. Evening: Rest and journal: Farm enterprise worksheet. Overnight: Embu, Izaak Walton Inn. About 40 km of road and local travel.

DAY 7, MERU

Tharaka and Ameru cultural hosts

Morning: Transfer via Tharaka-Nithi/Chuka; oral history and local crop learning. Afternoon: Host-led cooking, language and community enterprise workshop. Community: Practice greetings and join hosts in cooking, storytelling and discussion of family traditions. Evening: Rest and journal: Consented heritage record. Overnight: Meru, Alba or Three Steers. About 120 km of road and local travel.

DAY 8, MERU NATIONAL PARK

Big Five safari: Meru National Park

Morning: Early transfer to Meru National Park; guided wildlife observation and rhino sanctuary learning if accessible. Afternoon: Packed lunch, further game drive and conservation discussion; stay near the park. Community: Discuss how farmers and neighbouring communities coexist with wildlife. Evening: Big Five journal and community innovation reflection. Overnight: Meru National Park, Ikweta Safari Camp or an approved park-area lodge. About 110 km of road and local travel.

DAY 9, NAIROBI

Return and reflect

Morning: Drive to Nairobi with meal and rest stops; allow a full transfer day. Afternoon: Hotel check-in and rest; project preparation when time permits. Evening: Completed field portfolio. Overnight: Nairobi, Tamarind Tree or Sarova Stanley. About 350 km of road and local travel.

DAY 10, NAIROBI

Made in Kenya: shopping and leisure

Morning: Guided shopping at selected artisan market or craft centre; learn fair pricing and buy directly where possible. Afternoon: Supervised leisure at a selected mall or recreation venue; graduation rehearsal and attire preparation. Evening: Rest and journal: Ethical purchasing reflection. Overnight: Nairobi, Tamarind Tree or Sarova Stanley. About 35 km of road and local travel.

DAY 11, NAIROBI

Graduation, ambassador induction and Kwaheri Night

Morning: Proposed university or partner venue: welcome, student presentations, invited educators and community-host recognition. Afternoon: KESCA certificate and tourism ambassador pledge, sash and pin; evening cultural gala, dinner, performances, awards and alumni induction; return to hotel. Evening: Final presentation and voluntary ambassador commitment. Overnight: Nairobi, Tamarind Tree or Sarova Stanley. About 30 km of road and local travel.

DAY 12, DEPARTURE

Kwaheri Kenya: departure

Morning: Breakfast, checkout and individual flight checks. Afternoon: Supervised JKIA transfer for scheduled international departures; packed meal if appropriate. Evening: Post-trip alumni action plan. About 25 km of road and local travel.

Where you stay, what is included and Kwaheri Night

- Nairobi: Tamarind Tree or Sarova Stanley, 4 nights.
- Machakos: Gelian or Lukenya Getaway, 2 nights.
- Kitui: An inspected group hotel, to be confirmed, 1 night.
- Embu: Izaak Walton Inn, 2 nights.
- Meru: Alba or Three Steers, 1 night.
- Meru National Park: Ikweta Safari Camp or an approved park-area lodge, 1 night.
- Included: Full-board breakfast, lunch and dinner, including host-prepared or packed meals where scheduled. Arrival/departure meals depend on flights. Airport transfers, scheduled private ground transport, dedicated guided Big Five wildlife safari and scheduled park admissions, community workshops, school and church exchanges, academic programming, supervision, graduation, Tourism Ambassador induction and Kwaheri Night.
- Not included: International airfare, passport and entry authorization, personal shopping, travel/medical insurance and optional unscheduled activities.
- 07:00: Full-board breakfast and graduation preparation.
- 09:30: Arrive at the graduation venue.
- 10:00: Welcome, invited institutional and community representatives.
- 11:00: Student capstone presentations and host recognition.
- 12:30: Networking lunch and student exchange.
- 14:00: Leadership dialogue and cultural showcase.
- 15:00: KESCA graduation and completion certificates.
- 16:00: Tourism Ambassador induction, pledge, sash, pin and photographs.
- 18:30: Kwaheri Night reception and cultural gala dinner.
- 20:00: Performances, testimonials, awards and alumni induction.
- 22:00: Supervised return to hotel.
- Ambassador pledge: I pledge to celebrate Kenya’s cultural diversity, respect its communities, promote responsible tourism and share my experiences with integrity. I will honor its natural and cultural heritage, encourage meaningful connections and act as a lifelong friend of Kenya.
- Recognition is issued by Kenya Experience. Participation in alumni publicity and advocacy is voluntary. No same-night international departure is planned.

Before you fly

1. **Passport.** Valid for at least six months from your arrival date, with at least one blank page (we suggest two).
2. **Kenya eTA.** Apply on etakenya.go.ke or the official app at least two weeks before you fly. Processing usually takes about three working days. Avoid look-alike sites.
3. **Health.** See a travel clinic six to eight weeks ahead and check the CDC page for Kenya for vaccines, malaria advice and current notices.
4. **STEP.** U.S. citizens: register the trip with the State Department so the embassy can reach you.

5. **Insurance.** Comprehensive travel insurance with medical cover. Keep the policy number on your phone.

Kenya eTA (official) etakenya.go.ke

CDC Travelers' Health: Kenya wwwnc.cdc.gov

U.S. State Department: Kenya travel.state.gov

STEP enrollment mytravel.state.gov

U.S. Embassy Nairobi ke.usembassy.gov

Kenya Wildlife Service kws.go.ke

Make it yours.

Plan this trip online: www.kenyaexperience.org/kesca/itineraries/mizizi or write to njengalk@kenyaexperience.org