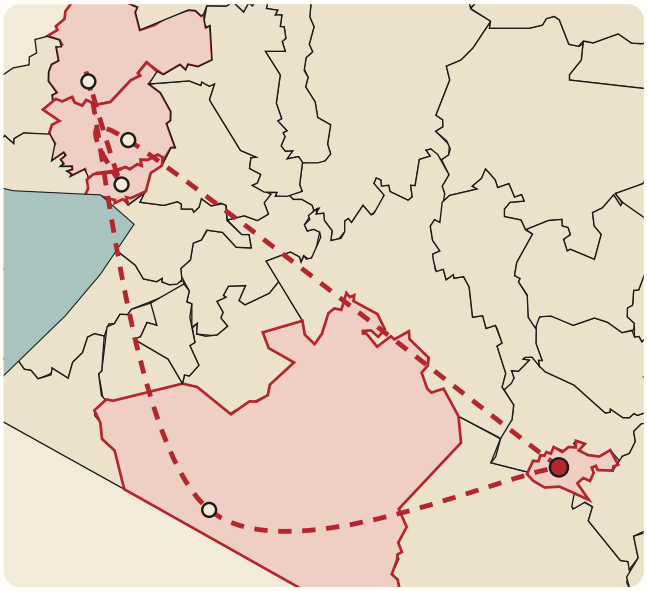
KENYA EXPERIENCE SUMMER CAMP ACADEMY 2027, 12 DAYS

Ngoma: The Rhythm of Community

Forest-edge communities around Kakamega, Isukha and Idakho performers, Vihiga households and youth, sugarcane, poultry and regional trade in Bungoma, then a Big Five safari in the Maasai Mara.



1 Nairobi, 2 Kakamega, 3 Vihiga, 4 Bungoma, 5 Maasai Mara

LENGTH	PRICE
12 days, 11 nights	$7,650 per student
REGION	**SAFARI**
Western Kenya and the Mara	Maasai Mara National Reserve
HOSTS	**DISTANCE**
Isukha, Idakho and other Abaluhya hosts; music, farming, forest and trade.	About 1,535 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.

Capstone: Preserving Our Rhythm

Develop a cultural heritage and biodiversity initiative.

Discover the Big Five

Maasai Mara National Reserve. 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, KAKAMEGA

Western Kenya community hosts

Morning: Transfer from Nairobi with regular breaks. Afternoon: Welcome and orientation with local educator; light language and history circle. Community: Join a host family for a conversation on daily routines, greetings and food preparation. Evening: Rest and journal: Regional learning questions. Overnight: Kakamega, Golf Hotel or an approved forest lodge. About 390 km of road and local travel.

DAY 3, KAKAMEGA

Forest-edge communities

Morning: Kakamega Forest guided biodiversity learning. Afternoon: Community nursery activity by invitation; discuss conservation income and forest knowledge. Community: Learn how forest-edge families manage household resources and safe nursery tasks. Evening: Rest and journal: Biodiversity log. Overnight: Kakamega, Golf Hotel or an approved forest lodge. About 45 km of road and local travel.

DAY 4, KAKAMEGA

Isukha and Idakho performers

Morning: Learn Isukuti rhythms, dance and cultural context with practitioners. Afternoon: Host-selected meal and discussion of music, family life and arts enterprise. Community: Practice percussion and dance with Isukha and Idakho instructors; discuss when performances are shared in community life. Evening: Rest and journal: Performance reflection. Overnight: Kakamega, Golf Hotel or an approved forest lodge. About 35 km of road and local travel.

DAY 5, BUNGOMA

Vihiga households and youth

Morning: Vihiga heritage and small enterprise exchange en route. Afternoon: Continue to Bungoma; practice host-selected craft or food preparation. Community: Help prepare a host-selected meal and meet a local church youth group to discuss mutual aid and family traditions. Evening: Rest and journal: Craft enterprise notes. Overnight: Bungoma, Siritamu Resort. About 105 km of road and local travel.

DAY 6, BUNGOMA

Sugarcane, poultry and regional trade

Morning: Join farmers for safe crop sorting and poultry care demonstrations. Afternoon: Visit local market; learn pricing, regional trade and household economics; school or church youth exchange by appointment. Community: Share host-selected food and discuss daily family responsibilities. Evening: Farm and trade value chain. Overnight: Bungoma, Siritamu Resort. About 55 km of road and local travel.

DAY 7, MAASAI MARA

Western Kenya to the Mara

Morning: Early departure for Mara via approved roads with regular rest and meal breaks. Afternoon: Continue to lodge, check in and rest; no scheduled evening game drive. Evening: Compare forest, farming and savanna landscapes. Overnight: Maasai Mara, Sarova Mara or Mara Sopa. About 420 km of road and local travel.

DAY 8, MAASAI MARA

Big Five safari: Maasai Mara

Morning: Guided morning game drive seeking lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and black rhino. Afternoon: Packed lunch and afternoon game drive; guide-led community conservation interpretation. Community: Learn how conservation and cultural enterprise support neighbouring households. Evening: Big Five field journal and cultural enterprise reflection. Overnight: Maasai Mara, Sarova Mara or Mara Sopa. About 100 km of road and local travel.

DAY 9, NAIROBI

Return and reflect

Morning: Return to Nairobi with scheduled breaks. Afternoon: Hotel check-in, rest and project preparation. Evening: Completed field portfolio. Overnight: Nairobi, Tamarind Tree or Sarova Stanley. About 270 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.
- Kakamega: Golf Hotel or an approved forest lodge, 3 nights.
- Bungoma: Siritamu Resort, 2 nights.
- Maasai Mara: Sarova Mara or Mara Sopa, 2 nights.
- 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/ngoma or write to njengalk@kenyaexperience.org