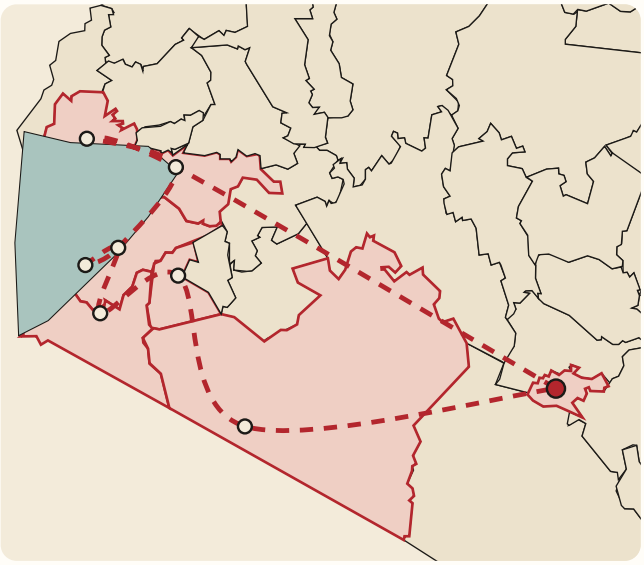
KENYA EXPERIENCE SUMMER CAMP ACADEMY 2027, 14 DAYS

Ziwa: Life Around the Lake

Lakeside educators, a fishing cooperative, water and public health educators and Luo boatbuilders around Kisumu, lakeshore families in Homa Bay, Abagusii artisans in Kisii, tea growers on the way to the Mara, then a Big Five safari.



1 Nairobi, 2 Kisumu, 3 Siaya, 4 Homa Bay, 5 Ruma, 6 Thimlich Ohinga, 7 Kisii, 8 Maasai Mara

LENGTH	PRICE
14 days, 13 nights	$8,900 per student
REGION	**SAFARI**
Lake Victoria and the Mara	Maasai Mara National Reserve
HOSTS	**DISTANCE**
Luo, Abagusii and other lakeside hosts; fishing, health, craft and agriculture.	About 1,670 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: The Living Lake

Propose a practical community health or sustainable fisheries 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, KISUMU

Lakeside community educators

Morning: Transfer from Nairobi with regular breaks. Afternoon: Welcome and lakeside livelihoods introduction; light reflection. Community: Learn lakeside greetings and daily household routines with invited hosts. Evening: Rest and journal: Lake learning questions. Overnight: Kisumu, Acacia Premier or Grand Royal Swiss. About 350 km of road and local travel.

DAY 3, KISUMU

Fishing cooperative

Morning: Observe fish landing, net repair and safe sorting from shore. Afternoon: Discuss fish preservation, pricing and household income with traders. Community: Help prepare demonstration nets or sort fish safely; discuss fishing schedules and family livelihoods. Evening: Rest and journal: Fish value chain. Overnight: Kisumu, Acacia Premier or Grand Royal Swiss. About 30 km of road and local travel.

DAY 4, KISUMU

Water and public health educators

Morning: Proposed fisheries research or university learning session. Afternoon: Community-led water and sanitation education; school peer exchange. Community: Meet a local school to exchange ideas on clean water, sanitation and daily health routines. Evening: Rest and journal: Water and health case. Overnight: Kisumu, Acacia Premier or Grand Royal Swiss. About 30 km of road and local travel.

DAY 5, KISUMU

Luo cultural and boatbuilding hosts

Morning: Siaya/Kit Mikayi cultural excursion with invited educators. Afternoon: Observe boatbuilding or repair; host-selected food and storytelling workshop. Community: Discuss Luo storytelling, boatbuilding apprenticeships and the daily lives of lakeside families. Evening: Rest and journal: Consented cultural notes. Overnight: Kisumu, Acacia Premier or Grand Royal Swiss. About 150 km of road and local travel.

DAY 6, HOMA BAY

Lakeshore families

Morning: Transfer to Homa Bay; meet local hosts. Afternoon: Learn fish preparation and preservation; discuss food security and market access. Community: Prepare a host-selected fish or vegetable meal; meet a local church youth group for a community-care dialogue. Evening: Rest and journal: Household food worksheet. Overnight: Homa Bay, Grand Duke Hotel. About 105 km of road and local travel.

DAY 7, HOMA BAY

Conservation neighbors

Morning: Ruma National Park educational safari. Afternoon: Meet community conservation educator; explore wildlife, farming and local enterprise. Community: Discuss how local households balance conservation, food production and work. Evening: Rest and journal: Conservation case study. Overnight: Homa Bay, Grand Duke Hotel. About 100 km of road and local travel.

DAY 8, KISII

Heritage and Abagusii artisans

Morning: Visit Thimlich Ohinga with a heritage educator, subject to access. Afternoon: Continue to Kisii; meet soapstone artisans for a safe craft demonstration and host-selected meal if time permits. Community: Discuss household livelihoods, regional history and craft enterprise. Evening: Heritage and craft case study. Overnight: Kisii, Ufanisi Resort. About 190 km of road and local travel.

DAY 9, MAASAI MARA

Tea growers and the Mara corridor

Morning: Meet a Kisii-area tea or agricultural cooperative; school or church youth exchange by arrangement. Afternoon: Transfer to Mara area with rest stops; check in and rest. Community: Learn seasonal farm tasks, tea sorting and household enterprise. Evening: Compare lake, agricultural and pastoral livelihoods. Overnight: Maasai Mara, Sarova Mara or Mara Sopa. About 230 km of road and local travel.

DAY 10, MAASAI MARA

Big Five safari: Maasai Mara

Morning: Full morning game drive seeking lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and black rhino. Afternoon: Packed lunch and afternoon wildlife observation; discuss water systems and conservation with guide. Community: Learn how wildlife, water and community health are connected. Evening: Big Five field journal and Living Lake project reflection. Overnight: Maasai Mara, Sarova Mara or Mara Sopa. About 100 km of road and local travel.

DAY 11, NAIROBI

Return and reflect

Morning: Road transfer to Nairobi with meal and rest breaks. Afternoon: Check in, rest and prepare student projects. Evening: Completed field portfolio. Overnight: Nairobi, Tamarind Tree or Sarova Stanley. About 270 km of road and local travel.

DAY 12, 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 13, 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 14, 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.
- Kisumu: Acacia Premier or Grand Royal Swiss, 4 nights.
- Homa Bay: Grand Duke Hotel, 2 nights.
- Kisii: Ufanisi Resort, 1 night.
- 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/ziwa or write to njengalk@kenyaexperience.org