



December 21 to 28, 2020



Wilshire Boulevard Temple Tikkun Olam Mission 2020





Bead with mamas

Connect with mamas as they share their traditional craft of beading with you. Learn how beading is empowering them to earn a sustainable income to support themselves and their families.



Meet the students of the Mara

Visit Kisaruni and meet the girls who are benefiting from empowering curriculum which gives them the skills and opportunities to excel.

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Visit Baraka Hospital

Witness the positive impact of WE's Baraka Hospital, which began as a health clinic in 2010 and has now grown into an expanded hospital serving the Maasai and Kipsigis communities.





Second Annual Trip to Africa!

Changing Lives with Rabbi Joel Nickerson

Co-Chairs Ron Nasch and Chip Goodman

Dear friends,

“Our morning prayers offer thanks to God for opening the eyes of the blind, clothing the naked, and giving strength to the weary. It’s one thing to offer those blessings from the comfort of our sanctuaries and homes here in Los Angeles; it’s quite another to offer them through meaningful action and loving embrace. Join me for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to find deeper personal purpose through acts of service to others. Explore a part of the world we tend to ignore and together, let’s embody our tradition’s command to ‘love the stranger, for you too were strangers in a foreign land’.”

Rabbi Joel Nickerson, Group Leader Africa 2020

Kenya Itinerary

December 21 - 28, 2020

Day 1

Arrive in Nairobi

Collect your luggage and proceed through customs, where you will be welcomed by your in-country facilitator in the arrivals hall. Enjoy a comfortable ride to your boutique hotel.

Check-in to The Sheraton, Nairobi

The Sheraton, Nairobi offers a comfortable and exquisite place to settle in and relax. Enjoy the peace of fresh, spacious rooms in a city renowned for its vibrant culture. Rest for the evening and night to start your ME to WE adventure the next day. Evening snack and dinner are out-of-pocket tonight.



Day 2

Morning at Leisure

Relax at the hotel and enjoy the amenities such as rooftop pool, gym, bar and spa.

After lunch, fly from Nairobi to the Maasai Mara

From Wilson Airport in Nairobi, take a short flight that will descend into the Great Rift Valley. As you fly over the Maasai Mara, watch for circular shapes that characterize Maasai *bomas* (traditional houses), and look for herds of local wildlife and cattle.

Arrive at Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp

Settle into your new lodgings at Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp. The bespoke cottages and tents are a serene place to relax and reflect. Each accommodation is complete with hot and cold running water, flush toilets and comfortable beds, and is furnished with unique African fabrics and art.



Day 3

Introduction and welcome

Walk Bogani's winding paths under yellow acacia groves, and get acquainted with the camp, learning some Swahili along the way. Enjoy lunch on the veranda overlooking the savanna.

Learn about the WE Villages model

Learn about the WE Villages international development model, which works with rural villages and regional governments to support, teach and empower people within five Pillars of Impact: Education, Water, Health, Food, and Opportunity.

Community water walk

Join the mamas at Emori Joi for a special walk through the community. Learn more about how the Kipsigis organize their homes and lives. Fetch water with the mamas, a task the women perform daily.

Lunch with the mamas

Share a meal and participate in a discussion with the mamas about changes taking place regarding gender and culture in the community.

School-building

Roll up your sleeves and grab some tools to work alongside Maasai and Kipsigis community members as you help to build a classroom or other school building.



Day 4

Special Program on Food Security

Visit the WE Farm and learn from our WE Village team about food production in the Maasai Mara. Tour the Agricultural innovations that WE has brought to the Mara to improve crop yield and quality.

Visit Enlerai Primary School

Experience a guided walking tour of the of a WE Villages primary school in Enlerai, and see the difference between an old school structure, and a new working school.

Visit to Kisaruni Girls Secondary School: Milimani Campus

Go on a guided tour of the first WE Villages secondary school in Kenya. Kisaruni focuses on community, and provides empowering curriculum that gives girls the skills and opportunities to excel. Kisaruni serves to build on cultural values, promote leadership, value diversity and encourage active learning.

Visit Baraka Hospital and Medicinal Garden

Visit one of WE Village's newest projects, the Baraka Hospital, which serves over 30,000 community members, promoting healthy living and providing preventative, curative and rehabilitative services to the most vulnerable segments of the Kenyan population with our newly opened surgical wing. These services enable individuals and communities to enhance their health. Next, learn about the medicinal plants grown in the shamba (garden), including moringa, aloe vera, thyme, spider plant and many more. This shamba supplements the lunch program in WE Villages schools, as well as helps to decrease malnutrition in the communities by providing supplements to both pregnant mothers and their children.



Day 5

Beading at the Women's Empowerment Center

Spend the afternoon beading with the mamas at the Women's Empowerment Center. Learn more about the artisans and how their work ties into the Opportunity Pillar of the We Villages model.

Visit to Kisaruni Girls Secondary School: Oleleshwa Campus

Meet students and learn about their experiences at school. Take a tour of the nearby Oleleshwa farm, which provides school meals at the secondary school and community primary schools.

School-building

Meet and connect with local community members as you work alongside them on a school-building site.

Special Program-Family Bonding

Day 6

Revisit the Community of Enosoito

Revisit the community that the group visited in 2018, learn about the changes that has taken place in the last 2 years. Visit a few old friends and meet some new ones!



Day 7

School-building

Spend your morning finishing up your volunteer project and say goodbye to the new friends that you've made.

Medicine walk and Maasai Warrior training

Embark on a leisurely hike as you learn about medicinal herbs from a local Maasai warrior and master the art of Maasai weaponry. Afterwards, enjoy a hot cup of chai or a glass of wine on the hillside, overlooking the beautiful region.

Say Kwaheri to the community

Wish your new friends in the community farewell and debrief on your Immersive Volunteer Trip and community experience with your facilitators.

Enjoy Nyama Choma dinner

Indulge in a traditional *Nyama Choma* dinner, Kenya's barbecue, on your final day of your trip as you relax and reflect on your experience.



Day 8

Depart Bogani for Nairobi

Fly back to Nairobi over the Maasai Mara, landing at Wilson Airport in Nairobi.

Check-in to the Four Points Sheraton, Nairobi

Conveniently located within the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport Complex, the Four Points by Sheraton Nairobi Airport hotel is the ideal stopover to take some time to rest and relax before your international flight home!

Farewell Lunch in Nairobi

Enjoy a farewell lunch at your hotel.

Drive to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your flight home

Kwaherinina safari jemama!

OR

Begin your customized extension



Memories to cherish forever!

Explore a new culture and place through the people who call it home. See life on the beaten path.

Please note that this itinerary is subject to change. Details of specific trip inclusions/exclusions are listed after the itinerary with costing. Accommodations may change subject to availability.

Trip costs

\$6,450

USD PP

Shared accommodation

\$500

USD PP

Single supplement

\$750

USD PP

To upgrade to Bogani Cottages: minimum of 3 guests

Inclusions

- ME to WE professional facilitator
- Ground transportation throughout the duration of the trip
- Hotel accommodation in Nairobi (one night)
- Meals as indicated in Nairobi
- Return airfare from Nairobi to the Maasai Mara
- Accommodation at Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp (six nights)
- All meals and drinks at Bogani, including purified water, sodas, beer and wine
- All activities as outlined in the itinerary
- Access to a day room on the final day of the trip
- Flying doctors insurance (evacuation in-country)

Exclusions

- International airfare to and from Nairobi
- Kenya entry visa: This must be obtained prior to travel at a cost of \$50 USD per person (cost subject to change)
- Evening snack in Nairobi upon arrival
- Additional alcoholic beverages at Hemingways Brasserie on final night of trip
- Travel insurance: out-of-country medical, trip cancellation & interruption insurance
- Gratuities are not expected but appreciated, and are shared among all staff.
- We humbly suggest \$10-15 per adult per day

Please note that arrival and departure transfers are included in your trip cost. Pick-up time at the airport begins at 2:30 p.m. on your arrival day, to accommodate check-in at the hotel, which begins at 3:00 p.m. Should you decide to extend your stay by arriving earlier or departing later than the scheduled times of your ME to WE Immersive Volunteer Trip, airport pick-up and drop-offs can be arranged at an additional cost.

Bogani Cottages

A property designed with authentic African décor set in the heart of the Maasai Mara, Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp offers relaxing spaces to recharge and refresh after a day of volunteering.

360 Bogani Tour

After a full day of exploring, escape to your home away from home. Cottages offer a variety of Mara-inspired spaces, including fireplaces, bedrooms, and gathering spaces for you and your family to recharge and refresh.



- All accommodations offer modern conveniences including hot water, power and en suite washrooms.
- Enjoy family style meals prepared fresh daily by expert chefs on our al fresco dining platform.
- We have a 17-year record of travel safety for our guests.

Bogani Tented Camp



360 Bogani Tour

After a full day of exploring, return to your peaceful accommodations. Bogani tents offer understated luxury in the Maasai Mara, and are a perfect place to unwind in after a busy day.



Safari extension

Transfer to/from safari property

- Three nights full board accommodation
- Twice daily game drives (six game drives)
- All meals
- Conservation fees

Optional upgrades

- Exclusive use of vehicle
- Scenic flights
- Hot air balloon safari
- Lengthen or shorten stay
- Private guide

If you'd like to extend/shorten your stay, please ask for more details.

Kichwa Tembo Safari Camp

Located where the Riverine forest meets the sweeping plains in the path of the awe-inspiring Great Migration, the camp provides an authentic dose of African wildlife, delivered with legendary Kenyan hospitality. Simple yet contemporary, the Maasai-inspired suites are elegant and timeless, firmly entrenching Kichwa Tembo as a luxury tented camp of its size in the greater Mara.

Includes transfer from Bogani, laundry service, all drinks including selected house spirits. Excludes optional activities as well as champagne and premium spirits.

www.kichwatembo.com



FROM
\$2,495
USD PP
Based on double occupancy

Little Governors' Camp

Little Governors' Camp is a luxury safari camp located on the edge of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. The camp is approached by a boat ride across the Mara River, then an escorted walk through the riverine forest. Vehicles are left on the far river bank, and the camp is therefore quiet and undisturbed. Guests may need to make way for elephants, which sometimes visit the camp at lunchtime.

Includes transfer from Bogani, laundry service. Excludes optional activities as well as alcoholic beverages.

www.littlegovernors.com



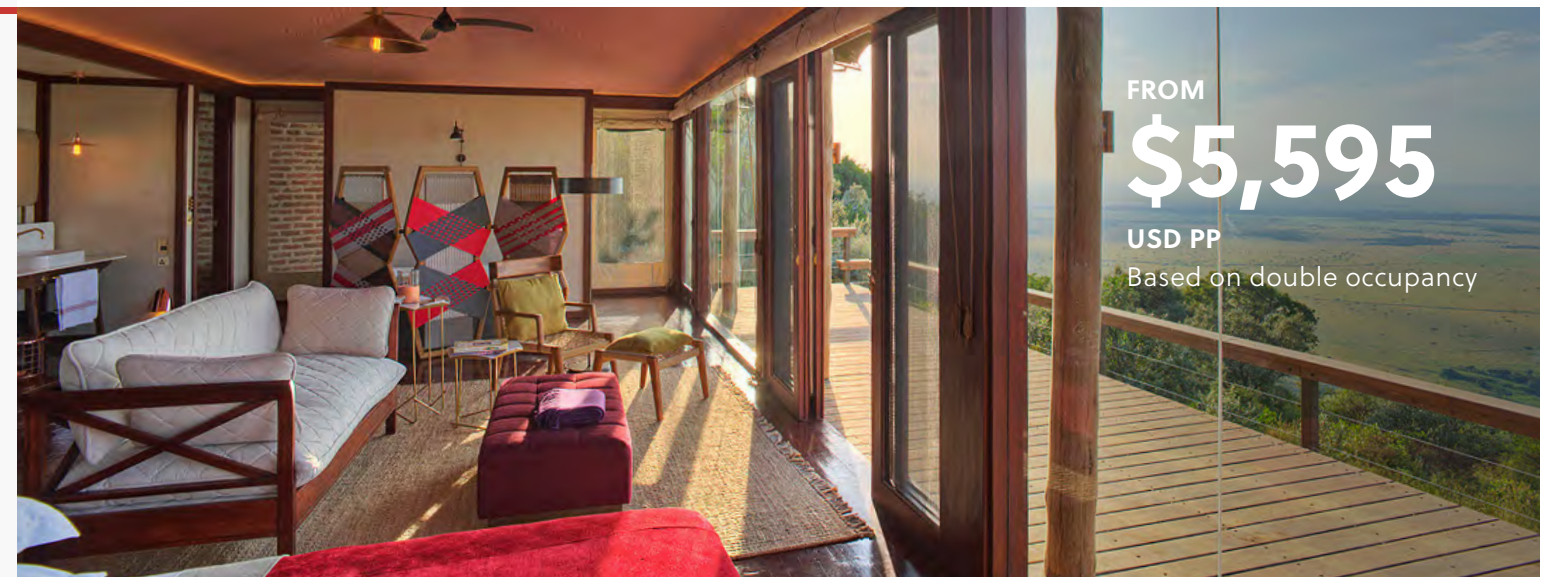
FROM
\$3,395
USD PP
Based on double occupancy

Angama Mara

Welcome to Angama Mara, a remarkable owner-run safari lodge inspired by the Swahili word for "suspended in mid-air." Located high above the floor of Africa's Great Rift Valley, Angama Mara overlooks Kenya's Maasai Mara, considered by many as the loveliest game reserve on the continent. Here guests will find a lodge where everything is as it ought to be: two intimate camps of just 15 tented suites each, a private airfield and access to the Mara below, tailor-made safari days and a famously warm Kenyan welcome.

Includes alcoholic drinks, soft drinks, beers, house wines, and selected house spirits, laundry, childminding (6-10 p.m.). Excludes champagne, premium spirits and cellar wines.

www.angama.com



FROM
\$5,595
USD PP
Based on double occupancy

Toriana extension

Inclusions

- Accommodation at Toriana Beach House (three nights)
- Domestic airfare (Mara to the Coast & back to Nairobi)
- All activities as identified in the itinerary
- All meals

Exclusions

- Optional activities while at Toriana
- Beverages at Toriana
- Gratuities are not expected but appreciated, and are shared among all staff. We humbly suggest \$10-15 per adult per day

If you'd like to extend/shorten your stay, please ask for more details.

Day 1

Depart for Kilifi from the Maasai Mara

Fly from an airstrip near Bogani and make your way to the beautiful Kenyan coast.

Check-in to Toriana

Graceful arches and authentic detailing welcome you home to Toriana after a short drive from the Vipingo Airstrip. Discover Swahili culture and history from the comfort of our coastal beach house. Situated on four waterfront acres near Kilifi, we encourage you to enjoy fresh meals served on the vast terraces, inspiring Swahili and Moroccan architecture, and the white sand and blue waters of Bofa Beach footsteps away.

Sunset stroll

Walk along the beach to take in the breeze and experience a sunset over the Indian Ocean.

Beach-side welcome

Warm yourself by our beachside firepit under the stars as you enjoy a complimentary drink.

Day 2

Recharge or discovery day

Continue to relax by the pool, explore the coastline and indulge in the serenity of Toriana. Or, if you are craving some more action, take a look at some of our optional activities and discover all that coastal Kenya has to offer, from scuba diving to golfing nearby.

Relax and recharge

As the local people say, "There's no rush while you're in paradise." Reward yourself after a week of volunteering and spend the afternoon unwinding on a breezy lanai terrace or exploring the beach.

Day 3

Yoga beats

Take some time to treat your body and mind with a private yoga class. Whether it's early morning by the beach or on the rooftop patio at sun set, our instructor will lead you through a fun and casual session to invigorate your body! From beginner to advanced, all levels are welcome.

Dhow boat excursion

The best way to experience Kenya's beautiful coast is from the deck of a dhow boat. These traditional sailing vessels have been used for hundreds of years to transport goods up and down the coast, and on your excursion they will grant you access to a unique view of the coast and the beautiful wildlife that surrounds you.

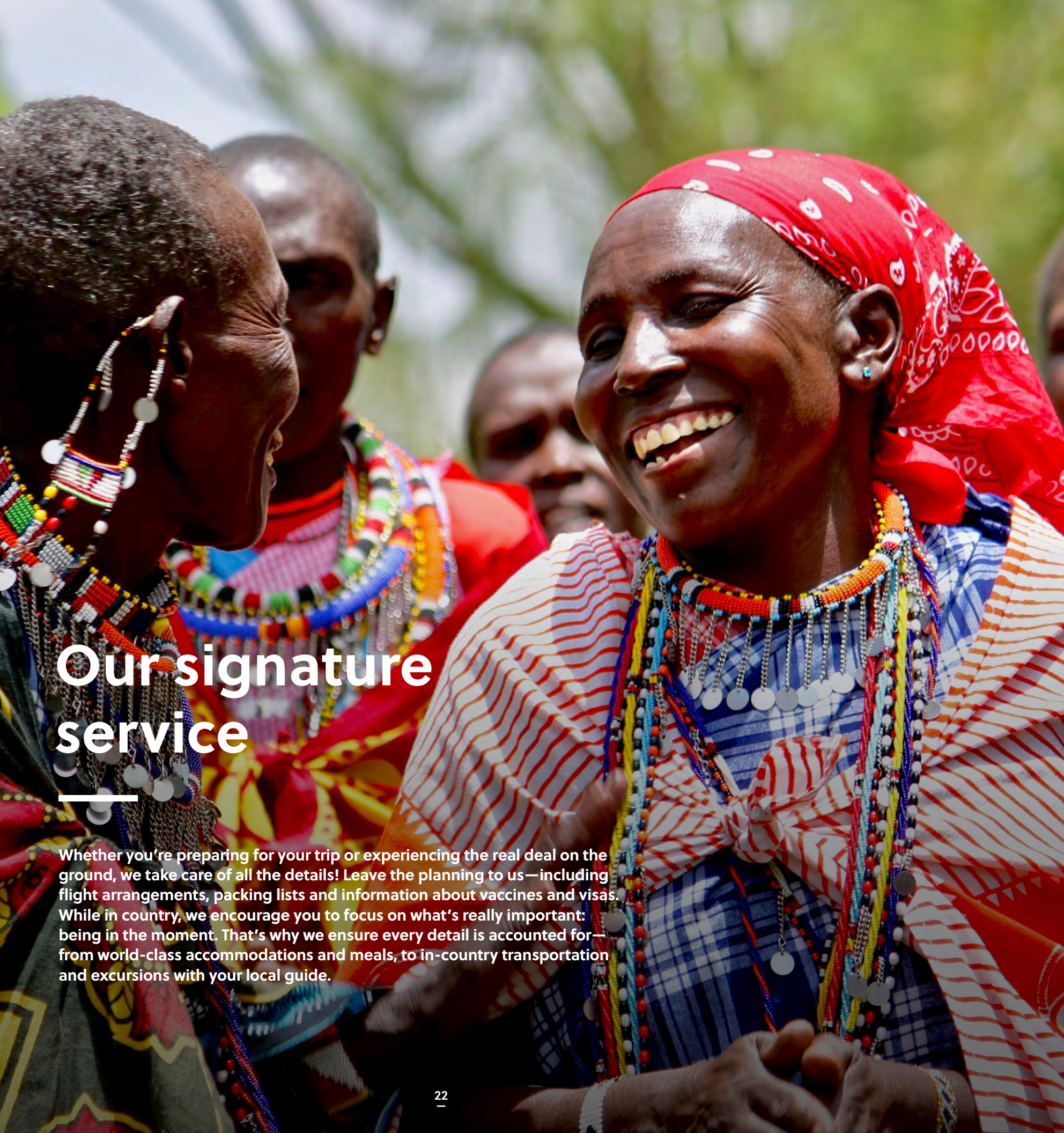
Farewell dinner

Spend your last night of the trip watching the sun set over the ocean.



FROM
\$1,895
USD PP
Based on double occupancy





Our signature service

Whether you're preparing for your trip or experiencing the real deal on the ground, we take care of all the details! Leave the planning to us—including flight arrangements, packing lists and information about vaccines and visas. While in country, we encourage you to focus on what's really important: being in the moment. That's why we ensure every detail is accounted for—from world-class accommodations and meals, to in-country transportation and excursions with your local guide.



Don't worry about the details, our team is on call to provide:

International and domestic flights on world-class airlines

Our ME to WE Travel Team members are experts at buying the best flights and finding you the top sales on international airfare. Whether you want to fly first class, or snag the most cost-effective deal, our team can book your travel from door-to-door.

Travel insurance

Whether it is medical, cancellation or lost baggage (or any combination of the above), we are able to create and purchase the plan that will give you and your family peace of mind.

Passport and visa information

If you are unsure about what is needed to enter Kenya, we will walk you through any and all special requirements and make sure you have everything you need to begin your journey worry-free!

Immunization information

At ME to WE, our participants' health is our top priority. We always recommend visiting a travel doctor a minimum of six weeks before your departure date. If you live in the Greater Toronto Area, we are happy to recommend a travel doctor that is familiar with ME to WE Trips.

On-ground transportation and local guide

Once you arrive in Kenya, we take care of all your transportation, so you can sit back and enjoy the vast rolling plains of the Mara unfolding in front of you. Your experienced local guide will welcome you into the communities and be an invaluable resource for in-depth information about the places and people you visit.

Travel recommendations

From the Mara, you are at the perfect gateway to explore either safari or sand options—both of which we are more than happy to arrange for you. Whatever you choose, we are more than happy to arrange the next leg of your journey!

Health & safety

Your safety is our top priority! We take care of all the details to ensure you stay safe and healthy throughout your trip including:

- Airport arrival assistance
- 24-hour security staff
- Filtered water available at all times

“The water we will drink is filtered. The food is prepared by their own kitchen, their own chef. We have these wonderful facilitators around us that are fountains of knowledge, but they also make sure that everything is seamless.”

Donna MacFarlane
ME to WE Immersive
Volunteer Trip, 2013



Right: 2018 WBTLA Trip participants Vicky and Chip Goodman



Frequently asked questions

Q: What time zone is Kenya in?

A: Kenya is on EAT (East African Time), and is 7 or 8 hours ahead of EST (Eastern Standard Time).

Q: Can I bring gifts for the kids?

A: We ask that you do not, as we work in solidarity with our partner communities. Put simply, your gift is your presence. We ask that our trip participants do not bring candy, toys or presents for community members, as we would like to promote fairness for all children. A portion of your trip cost goes to in-country communities to help support their basic needs.

Q: What should I wear while in the Maasai Mara?

A: Dress will be casual for the majority of the time. There will be laundry service available during your trip, so there is no need to bring along more than the necessities. Kenyan nights can be cool (in the mid-50s °F / 10 °C), so bring a lightweight jacket and heavy wool sweater with you. We have found that 100% cotton clothes are the coolest and most comfortable.

Q: Is there filtered water?

A: We provide filtered water for our guests to drink. We bring jugs full of clean drinking water to our camps and then recycle them after each trip. We recommend bringing along a good water bottle that you can fill up as you head from our camp for your day trips to the community.

Q: What is the weather like in Kenya?

Because Kenya has a tropical climate, you can expect hot temperatures all year round. In December, temperatures tend to be between around 24°C (75°F) and 27°C (81°F) at higher altitudes and 30°C (86°F) at lower altitudes. In the summer, it's dry season in Kenya so temperatures are around 23°C (73°F) at higher altitudes, such as the Maasai Mara, and 28°C (82°F) at lower altitudes.

Q: Can I bring a laptop, iPod, expensive camera etc.?

A: We suggest travelling as lightly as possible to minimize the risk of damage to or loss of your possessions. For essential items, Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp provides a small safe in every tent and cottage.

Q: Will I have access to phone and internet while in Kenya?

A: Both phone and email communication is easily accessible in Nairobi. Cell phone service is intermittently available while you are staying at Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp. If you would like to have access to the Internet while staying in the Maasai Mara, we suggest getting in touch with your network provider to purchase a data plan.

Q: Will there be electricity while at Bogani and what is the voltage?

A: Power at Bogani is generally available throughout the day from the local grid. At times, we rely on backup generator which would run between 6-11 p.m. only. During this time, you can charge your camera batteries and iPods. The voltage in Kenya is 240 V, and the electrical plugs are British-style with two flat blades and one flat grounding blade. Please make sure to bring a converter with you. We also provide a hair dryer (compatible with 240V) in each cottage and tent for your convenience.

Q: Is there a minimum age for the trip participants going to Kenya?

A: No. We welcome guests of all ages! Whether young or old there is something for everyone. Parents of a young one? You're in luck. Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp happily offers daycare service for your little one upon request.

Q: Are toiletries provided at Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp?

A: Yes, shampoo, conditioner and soap will be provided.

Q: How is the food and water at Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp?

A: Filtered water is always available. Food is prepared fresh daily by our chefs and adheres to the highest safety standards. We are able to accommodate all dietary requirements at Bogani, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and food allergies.



Join Us!

“Volunteering in Africa together with 11 other congregates gave me a new understanding of my own blessed life and how much I could do to change the lives of others for the better. Africa is also the lushest, most colorful, vibrant, challenged, music and dance-filled place on earth. A place of beautiful, welcoming people who need our help to build better lives for themselves and their children. This is far more than a vacation; it is an opportunity to change the destiny of an entire village with your hands and your heart and an opportunity to change your life forever.”

Rabbi Steve Leder

Left: 2018 WBTLA Trip participants Rabbi Steve Leder and wife Betsy.



Ron and Debbie Nasch

"We went on the Temple's first trip to Africa and invite you to join Rabbi Joel Nickerson on an important Wilshire Boulevard Temple "Tikkun Olam" project to help one special Masai village in Kenya. When we arrived in the village, over 100 villagers, young and old, greeted our small group of 11 with jubilant song and dance because we just came to say hello. We saw firsthand how much just a little time and money can do, and to appreciate our very blessed life. Finally, it was an opportunity to see a fascinating part of the world and to do it as part of what became our extended Wilshire Boulevard Temple family."

Chip Goodman and Ron Nasch, Africa 2018

Left: 2018 WBTLA Trip participants Debbie and Ron Nasch

Join us!

ME to WE Trips

Kai Xue

Manager of Special Experiences

 1.647.887.0692

 SPECIALEXPERIENCES@WE.ORG