



Frequently Asked Questions

Where does my money go?

Your donation covers the cost of the plane ticket, in-country accommodations, food, bottled water, transportation, visas, weekend service excursions, and the main project. We don't just bring man-power to help build the schools; we also provide the supplies and materials.

Is everything tax-deductible?

World of Difference is a non-profit organization as described by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. World of Difference is set up so that volunteers can donate the amount of the expedition to the organization and in return, each person will receive a receipt for tax purposes for the full amount of the expedition. Any personal travel before and after the expedition is not tax deductible.

How long is the flight?

The flight time is approximately 22 hours, usually broken up by 2 layovers (one in the US, one in Europe). Since team members originate from all over the US, the team typically meets up in Europe, and travels the final leg to Africa together.

How can I raise money for the expedition?

This is left up to each volunteer individually, since everyone pays his/her own way. Many participants are able to raise the complete cost of the expedition through donations. Some corporations may offer donations on behalf of a volunteer or match donations that the volunteer has raised. We can write a letter for you verifying your participation in the expedition that you can send to family and friends asking for donations. You can hold a garage sale, car wash, 5K run in your community, or a host of other fundraising activities. Be creative and don't be afraid to ask for money. Any donations that you receive from others can be made to World of Difference (as long as they mark your name in the memo section of their check as a reference). Each donor will also receive a donation receipt for tax purposes (please include e-mail or mailing address for receipt delivery).

Do I need any spending money?

You will need spending money for all of the souvenirs you plan to purchase. Most people bring between \$100-200+ depending on how much they want to buy.

Spending money can also be used to buy sodas, treats, or other things that are not included in our daily meals.

What kind of souvenirs will I find in Africa?

You can buy things such as wood carvings, baskets, paintings, jewelry, picture frames, fabric/cloth, drums, soapstone, and a number of other “African” items. We shop in local markets and villages so we don’t have to pay tourist prices for souvenirs.

What kind of food will we eat?

The food in Africa is very mild. For breakfast there is bread, hot chocolate, eggs, sausage and we bring instant oatmeal as a supplement. For lunch we eat sandwiches and fruit (bananas, pineapple, apples) or MREs (camping meals). For dinner we eat a basic starch (rice, pasta, potatoes) with a vegetable (green beans, carrots, okra), soup, bread, and an optional meat such as beef, chicken or pork.

Should I bring any food?

You should bring snacks like trail mix, beef jerky, power bars, fruit snacks, granola bars, etc. that you may want during the day. We have some long days and days where we are traveling a lot, so it’s helpful to have your own extra food on hand. If you have any food allergies, please let team leaders know well ahead of time so we can accommodate your situation.

What type of transportation will we have?

We do not take public transportation for safety reasons. Instead, we have our own drivers and ride around in either a large bus that fits the whole team or in safari-type vans. Each van seats 8-9 people.

What will our accommodations be like?

Our accommodations are simple, but safe. We stay in a locally owned and operated hotel that consists of 2 beds and a bathroom in each room. We usually eat breakfast and dinner at the hotel.

Is it safe?

Yes, it is safe. We take special precautions to ensure the safety of our teams. We don’t take public transportation and have established relationships within the community to create a safe working environment. Drivers and team leaders will caution team members if there are any safety concerns. We also notify the US Embassy of our itinerary in case we need to be contacted or evacuated for any reason.

How often can I call or email home?

A cell phone will be available for the team to use. You can buy pay as you go credit (approximately \$5 for 30 minutes to call the US). Wifi is available at the hotel, though the connection is inconsistent.

Is the water safe to drink?

No. Because the water is not safe to drink, we provide bottled water for everyone. Everyone is encouraged to drink at least 2-3 L of water per day.

How do I exchange money?

Credit cards are not accepted most places. The best option for exchanging money is to use a debit card at an ATM in-country. You can also bring US dollars to exchange, but the ATMs will offer the best exchange rate.

Will I get sick?

Some people experience “Traveler’s diarrhea” for the first few days until their bodies adjust. Also, flu-like symptoms may occur if hands are not washed properly after interacting with all the children. Bring enough Immodium/Pepto Bismol and cold medicine just in case.

What vaccinations will I need?

The CDC recommends the following vaccinations for travel to Kenya:

Primary

- Hepatitis A
- Polio
- Typhoid

Secondary

- Hepatitis B
- Malaria
- Meningitis
- Rabies
- Yellow Fever
- Tetanus

Due to the nature of our trip, there is little exposure to contaminated water, wild animals, or rural areas. Vaccinations are elective; none are required. We do recommend at least taking Malaria prophylaxis.

Will I have free time?

Yes, there will be free time during the expedition. After we return from the project at the end of the day, participants will have time to eat dinner, shower, and have their own personal time.

What is the structure of a typical day during the project?

Breakfast is served at 7:30am. We have an informal team meeting each morning around 8am, and load into the vans at 8:15am to arrive at the project site at 9am. We immediately begin working on the project and take a 45 minute lunch break around 12:30pm. We leave the project site each day at 5pm, and get back to the hotel around 5:45pm. Dinner is served at 7pm. We encourage the team to eat together, but the evening is free time.

Are there any concerns for HIV/AIDS?

Some of the children with whom we are working are HIV positive. Because we don't know the details of every child, we ask volunteers to stay away from any blood contact whatsoever. If a child has a bloody nose or a skinned knee, we immediately refer the child to the teachers so they can take care of the situation.

Can I photograph anything I want?

We ask that you please be respectful of the local culture. Some tribes, mainly the Maasai, believe that taking a picture of them actually takes away a piece of their soul. Sometimes you can pay a small fee to compensate their invasion of privacy, but always ask for permission before taking pictures. You can also ask team leaders if you have any questions. Many times they have already made arrangements for photos to be taken.

What should I pack for the expedition?

Please see Expedition Packing List in the Expedition Agreement and on the Expeditions page of our website.

Will I have a place to do laundry?

Yes, you can have your laundry done at any of the hotels in which we stay. There is a small charge per item of clothing. You can also do your own laundry in the sink, and air dry on the clotheslines (don't forget soap). Your team leaders will have recommendations for you.

Do I need to have insurance?

Yes, World of Difference requires you to have your own medical insurance in case of emergency. Purchasing travel insurance is optional.