



## EDUCATION SAFARI



**Activity:** Conservation, Community Participation & Education, Gap Year, Walking, Game Viewing, Wildlife, Child Friendly, Safari, Photography, Walking, Wildlife

**Location:** Kenya

**Duration:** 12 Days

### **COSTS**

#### **Private Departures**

2 people - £2066.00

3 people - £1645.00

4 people - £1610.00

5 People - £1323.00

Single Room Supplement £280

#### **Group Departures**

6 Participants+ 1 FOC: £1325.00

12 Participants+ 2 FOC £1270.00

18 Participants+ 3 FOC: £1236.00

Single room supplement £ 280.00

**1 person free with every 6 paying persons**

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### **Day 1 Nairobi**

You will be met and transferred to a local hotel  
1 overnight Boulevard Hotel (B&B)

### **Day 2: Taita Discovery Centre**

You will be transferred to the Varan Bus to make the journey to Maungu Village. At Maungu a representative from the Taita Discovery Centre will greet you and transfer you the short distance, off-road, to the Centre on the Kasigau Trustlands After settling in you will be introduced to the team and encouraged to take part in an informal discussion on the Taita/Rukinga Conservancy and surround including a demonstration of the 'Do's and

Don'ts of the Wilderness', 'Emergency Procedures' and 'Social Etiquette'. Leigh Ecclestone, Director will present an overview of the Tsavo ecosystem and nearby Taita Hills and some of the history of the local area, both tribal and colonial and the effect on today's communities.

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Days 3&4 Ecology, Flora & Fauna Days**

You spend the next two days using various ecological sampling methods to learn more about this harsh environment. This will include the testing of black cotton, red laterite and sandy soils for organic matter and water as well as examining the soil profile. The vegetation occurring on these soil types will be analysed and the effects of over-grazing and fire will be investigated. Ongoing projects in which you can participate include: setting a pit trap line for invertebrates, identifying and releasing them; setting static baited traps for butterflies, identifying and releasing them and learning various vegetation and animal sampling techniques. At the end of the second day you will be invited to participate in a discussion with the research and field assistants and other students to identify the most important aspects and impact of this multi-layered web of life.

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Day 5: Community Service Day**

The success of any conservation programme depends on the stewards of the wilderness: the local people. At TDC we ensure that they benefit from the conservancy via our Community Service Projects. This also provides a genuine cross-cultural interaction between students and Kenyans. Projects vary according to the priorities of the local communities but can include: the setting up and husbandry of self funding tree nurseries; rebuilding roads, water pipelines, bridges; joining in the labour on school buildings & supporting women's groups construction efforts; sharing computer literacy skills or showing and discussing wildlife Videos to local schools

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Day 6: Human/Wildlife Conflict**

Today you go out to visit some of the community initiatives to fend off elephant damage to crops and other wildlife threats to this rural existence. Discussions and participations in daily village life give an insight into the threat posed by wildlife to the people of Kasigau and the importance of micro-enterprise as an alternative to poaching. Debate over the pro's and cons of wildlife tourism will be led by your guide for the day.

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Day 7: Environmental Utilisation Day**

Today we hope to answer and demonstrate how sustainable use of our resources can justify and support the existence of the wildlife conservancy. We will investigate the possibilities for non-consumptive commercial utilisation of our environment, exploring our butterfly and silk moth rearing, beehives and community conservation programmes - and making paper from Elephant Dung and jewellery and other artifacts from dried dung. Other potential resources include the development of edible and useful plants of the bush; herbal remedies & essential oils; apiculture micro enterprise

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Day 8: Craft & Culture Day**

Today we examine the cultures of Taita-Taveta District and beyond, many of which are vanishing or have already disappeared. We shall attempt to recapture these skills as local people guide us in making traditional African crafts such as carvings and bead-work. In the afternoon we will visit a traditional Maasai village where we will be transformed into Maasai warriors, elders and the like, as the Maasai plait our hair and adorn us with their beaded jewellery and bright red shukas. We will then join with our hosts for traditional songs and dances.

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Day 9: Security & Survival Day**

An outward bound day when you are encouraged to get 'bush-wise' to enjoy wilderness in a safe and responsible manner. Our topics include traditional methods of fire-making and emergency survival techniques; a map reading exercise and in-depth tuition of the skills of game tracking by our Anti-Poaching Unit. Fly camping, rock-climbing and abseiling options available.

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Day 10: The Cloud Forests of Kasigau**

You take a full day to visit and climb Kasigau Mountain. This fascinating outcrop hosts endemic bird and insect species and an enviable range of mature hard-wood trees, protected by their location in this cloud/rainforest which begins half way up the incline, protected from foresters by the rocky cliffs at the base. This is a tough walk or a mild climb with wonderful bird and insect life under the lush canopy of trees. The walk starts and ends with a 'baraza' (meeting) in the local village under a giant baobab tree and an insight into the important role this mountain has played in the development of the Kasigau communities.

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Day 11: Tsavo Elephant Day**

Tsavo and elephants are inseparable. Tsavo provides an interesting case study on the management of elephants as in the 50's debates raged on whether or not to cull the rapidly expanding population. In the 1980's it was also the scene of mass poaching of elephant and rhino. We spend the day with an experienced elephant research assistant in Tsavo National Park learning research techniques and participating in the Centre's ongoing research project into elephant behaviour patterns. We visit the Kenya Wildlife Service anti-poaching headquarters to hear their approach and experiences and view the stores housing the skulls of numerous poaching victims. We shall spend a good part of the day tracking, identifying and monitoring the Tsavo Elephant movement inside the park

1 overnight Taita Discovery Centre (FB)

### **Day 12 Depart**

After saying farewell to the team you are transferred to meet the Varun Bus at Maungu and depart for Nairobi, arriving mid-afternoon.