

2019

**Learn, Serve, Enjoy
East Africa**



Tanzania

10 July – 1 August 2019



Hello,

So...what is this opportunity about?

We call it “Learn, Serve, Enjoy” because that’s what it’s all about. Another way we describe it is ‘ “learning and service opportunity”. The purpose is to learn about another culture by living with the population, learning from them but also providing them with our skills. It’s very hands on. We learn about development by meeting people at different levels of government and then by noticing how this matches up to our own lived experience in the community. And we have safaris and relaxation thrown in.

This trip is mainly about experiencing the life of the Tanzanian Maasai and providing practical assistance to an active grass-roots organisation, Naserian, who help Maasai widows. It is about learning from the Maasai people, their attitude to life, nature, environment and learning about their medicine, including walking through the forest where they gather natural remedies. This opportunity is for those who would enjoy the experience of visiting the cities, towns and villages in Tanzania, and the challenges involved in living in these environments. After a short stay in the district of Arusha, we will spend most of our time in the villages, living with the Maasai in their traditional huts.

This is a unique opportunity to be of service to the local inhabitants by joining the local Maasai and work with them on a local project. We built one centre for widows during one trip, using their traditional methods. Now we will visit this centre to see if there are any improvements that can be made. We are also hoping to renovate a medical clinic in Lendikenya, the village in which we will be staying. We hope to help in the following areas: creation of e-book with stories collected from the widows; Naserian needs to become a social enterprise, managing to be self-financing and the Naserian Coordinator needs assistance in creating business plans to make this happen in addition to writing funding proposals for seed funding; taking photos and using the website as a route to market for their produce; refurbishing the kindergarten they have built; teaching the children; renovating the local medical centre. Whatever skills or talents you have, these will be of service to them too.

We will visit: the World Heritage Ngorongoro Crater & Conservation Area and other wildlife areas for a Safari with expert Maasai guides and will camp under the stars close to the National Park; the headquarters of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda & former Yougoslavia, now called the Residual Mechanism.

We will meet with local non-governmental organisations and learn about their work. We will visit the headquarters of the East African Community (EAC). EAC is the regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan & the United Republic of Tanzania.

There will be an opportunity to give a presentation on international legal instruments and other topics that may be of use to the local NGOs and a chance to share your learning.

At the end of the trip, we will travel to the paradise island of Zanzibar for a short break and to experience the attractions of this spice island, the turquoise warm sea, white sandy beaches, snorkelling in a coral reef and if we are lucky, swim with wild dolphins!

Interested? Read more....





What is Naserian

Naserian is a charity working for and with the local Maasai widows in Tanzania. It was founded with our help in 2010 in response to the needs of the women in various villages and was initially established in three villages. Naserian was named by the widows. It means “Grace of God” in Maasai language. In 2013, Naserian was registered as a charity in Tanzania and is now active in over ten villages. There are more than 700 widows who currently benefit from Naserian. It is run by the widows themselves with coordination from a local Maasai warrior.

Polygamy is practiced in the Maasai culture, so when a husband dies he may leave behind a number of widows. This means that their children are also left without a male supporter. According to the Maasai tradition, in order to protect the widows, they are inherited by a male relative. Naserian works to help the communities understand that in some cases the widows may prefer to have the support to have independent lives and keep their property and control over their children.

The widows decide what they would like their organisation to do, how to raise money and how to spend it. They have developed their own fund and have a number of projects including: a goat herd; chickens; making & selling soap, candles, jewellery; and training in FGM and human rights. The widows who have been trained, pass on their knowledge to the whole of the community and so by helping the widows, the whole community benefits. In one village the widows have been given basic training in running education for children and this is the only education the children receive as there is insufficient money to send the children to school.

Naserian has helped widows gain rights over their own property, has raised the status of widows in the whole community, and with the generous donations received has built a kindergarten, latrines, rain-water harvesting for the kindergarten and managed to send a number of girls to secondary school.

The community leaders have given land to Naserian to build a centre for widows in each village, but there have been insufficient funds to build them. This learning & service project will enable us to raise funds for the building materials and the chance to build the centre with the local Maasai. So, by the end of the trip, they will have another centre in one of the villages. For more information you can go to www.naserian.org





Proposed Programme *

Arrival in Tanzania
Transfer to Arusha & check in hotel

Tour of Arusha
Safari to Arusha National Park
Visit to East African (EAC) Community HQ

Visit to the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
Travel to Naserian villages

Meeting with Widows of Naserian
Prepare for service projects
Service activities in different villages
Safari in Ngorongoro National Park

() The itinerary is subject to variation*

Return to villages for service activities

Meeting with the local NGOs & community leaders to share learning & achievements

Flight to the Island of Zanzibar
Three nights stay in Zanzibar
Visit to a spice farm
Traditional boat ride to a remote island and snorkelling

Return flight to UK





About us

Since 2005 we have taken young women and men to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. We have also accompanied and facilitated the accreditation of young people to attend the UN Human Rights Council and CEDAW in Geneva. Young people have given presentations at a variety of UN processes and been fully engaged in NGO work there. Many have been enabled to give presentations at the Houses of Parliament in London and at various events around Europe.

We are continuing to work with young people to enable them to participate in sustainable development, learn about cultures by experiencing things first hand, be of service and enjoy the wonders of different countries. Learning opportunity trips have taken place in Africa and are planned for India, Nepal, Romania, Madagascar and Western Samoa. These are organised with organisations working for women and girls and equality. They are all embedded in the community and are true civil society organisations. We have worked with them for many years and are well acquainted with their work for women and girls.

The purpose of the learning and service opportunity trips is to provide life-enhancing experiences, an opportunity to live within a community thereby getting to know people well, to learn from them and to offer our skills and talents to the local community. The trips also help us support these civil society organisations by bringing them outside finance, and offering them our skills and expertise.

Whilst we are keen to provide such opportunities for young people, we have also found that an inter-generational approach is highly beneficial to the group. The trips are predominantly for those willing to have an adventure and live in traditional spaces, we are also able to offer trips with a more expensive level of accommodation.





What next

This opportunity is for undergraduates, students on their gap year or in the 6th form – all those interested in learning and service. Past trips have included a range of ages that participants have found to be a positive dynamic. The trip is also a wonderful opportunity for team building and family celebrations. For more information contact us by phone or by email.

We would love as many people as possible to have access to this learning opportunity. However, for practical reasons, places on this trip are limited to only 15 and the participants will be decided based on a selection process through a telephone/Skype interview.

The trip is not a 'jolly' and the participants can expect a balanced mix of service, learning and recreation.

If you would like to participate, please email us at info@serenecommunications.com with your name, year at school/university (if applicable) and why you would like to join this trip. The deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday, 19 April 2019**. Places are offered on a first come first served basis, after the skype conversation. A non-returnable deposit of 200 pounds will confirm a place. The cost of the trip starts at £3,950 inclusive of flights, accommodation, food, gate fees, service project costs.



'realising the potential and releasing the power of people...'

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