



**IF YOU THINK YOU CAN'T
MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
THEN THINK AGAIN!**

Mount Meru Community Volunteer Project

Project Location: *This project is located in the small village of Mlangarini, a rural community in the northern highlands of Tanzania whose inhabitants depend largely on small scale subsistence agriculture.*

Towering over the village is the majestic Mt Meru (4566m) & the flat plains of Masaai-land are a stones throw away. These can be seen from the hills surrounding the village. Nearby Arusha sits in lush countryside near the foot of Mt Meru & is the main gateway to the famous northern parks circuit, as such it is the safari capital of Tanzania.

For the more adventurous, it offers the ideal starting point for climbing neighboring Mt Meru & nearby Mt Kilimanjaro.

Project Age Limit: Minimum age of 18 years with no specific maximum age limit.

Tanzania

Tanzania, with its magnificent world famous National parks, tropical beaches, warm hearted friendly people & rich culture is an extremely popular holiday destination for travelers from across the globe.

While Tanzanians in general are well nourished, most live on very low incomes & the infrastructure is very poor indeed.

Despite primary education being compulsory & widespread, education facilities are very limited or non existent in many cases.



The Volunteer Project

The volunteer project will focus on one of three primary schools or the secondary school all of which are located in or around Mlangarini village. Volunteer activities will include teaching English as a foreign language to students of varying ages (7 – 14 years for Primary students & 14 – 18 years for secondary students) as well as teaching physical education & sports lessons in the afternoons. The sports lessons could consist of football, netball or volleyball.

Given that Tanzania, like the rest of Africa is heavily affected by HIV/AIDS, volunteers will also be provided with the opportunity to teach sex education & HIV/AIDS awareness education through the program.

There will be Swahili lessons available to volunteers 3 afternoons a week.

A substantial donation will be provided to the school as part of the cost of participating & each volunteer will decide to a large extent how such donation will be utilized. Typical examples are: construction of classrooms, teachers housing, desks etc or purchase of books & other teaching aids.

By participating in the project, volunteers will soon realize that what may seem a small effort on their part can make such a significant improvement to the community as a whole.



School Holidays

Since the project will focus on school work, it is important to schedule the project dates to coincide with the school terms. In Tanzania there are 2 school terms each year, the dates of which vary from year to year. A

general guideline for school holidays would be:

- 1 week mid-term in mid March
- 4 weeks from early June to early July
- 1 week mid-term in mid September
- 5 weeks from early December to mid January

During mid term holidays there are always activities that can be pursued around Arusha & surrounding areas.

A typical day in the program.

A typical weekday (Mon – Fri) in the village would be:

- 06:00 - Wake up, eat breakfast and prepare for the day ahead.
- 06:45 - Begin 5 minute walk to the school.
- 07:00 - Prepare for various lessons of the day.
- 08:00 - Start teaching.
- 12:30 - Take a break for lunch.
- 13:30 - Start afternoon lessons & activities.
- 16:00 - End of school day.
- 19:00 - Dinner at your accommodation.

Weekends & public holidays can be spent however participants would prefer.



Project Support

There will be project coordinators and a support team, all of whom reside within the area that the project is located, who will provide any support or assistance you may require during your stay in Tanzania. You will be provided with their contact details together with a 24 hour emergency contact number for one of our project representatives in the UK before you depart for Tanzania.

Project Orientation

One of our project coordinators will provide you with an orientation upon arrival in Arusha, this will include:

- Introduction to the surrounding area with highlights on a few useful or essential locations in & around Arusha.
- Introduction to a few basic Swahili language skills.
- An overview of local cultures & values as well as general ethics of the workplace & local community.
- Health & safety issues.
- Tips on how best to manage issues concerning transport, money etc.
- Worthwhile activities & areas to visit in your spare time.



Accommodation & Meals

You will be living in a 3 bedroom house located a convenient walking distance from your workplace, which you will be sharing with other volunteers. The house has a reliable supply of running water but it must be noted that Mlangarini is a rural community & electricity is non-existent. Although basic by western standards your accommodation can be considered luxurious compared to the rest of the area. The house will afford security & privacy

for the volunteers & is a great opportunity to meet some of the local villagers who regularly come to collect water from a stand pipe next to the house.

Laundry & housekeeping will be organized by the support team but volunteers will be expected to assist in keeping the house generally tidy.

All meals will be provided while you are in the village. Breakfast & dinner will be served at the house, while lunches during the week will be served at your workplace. However during weekends & public holidays lunch will be served at the house. You will be required to inform the cook if you intend to spend any time away from the village, in which case you will be expected to provide your own meals.

Communications

There will be a mobile telephone available at the house for which top-up credit is easily available locally. You will however, be required to travel to Arusha in order to access internet & e-mail facilities from any of the numerous internet cafes available there.

Free Time

Mainly consisting of weekends & public holidays, your free time can be spent either relaxing & soaking up the local village atmosphere.

Alternatively, you can take the approximately 40 minute bus ride to Arusha & enjoy everything it has to offer. Arusha is the tourist capital of Tanzania & there are numerous activities available. These include restaurants, bars, night-clubs, visits to markets, sightseeing & walking safaris etc. You may also choose to



take a day or weekend safari to one the national parks literally on Arushas doorstep. Most of these activities can be easily arranged through your project coordinator.

Tanzania, being the magnificent tourist destination it is, has numerous opportunities to offer including safaris of longer duration (4 – 14 days), mountain expeditions, visits to Dar, the Indian Ocean coastline & Zanzibar etc. While all these activities can be arranged while in Tanzania, our project staff can organize any of these activities in advance. Additionally, we can provide more information on any of these activities to enable you to organize them yourself in advance.

Getting There

You will be required to arrange your own flights to Kilimanjaro International Airport, where you will be met, upon arrival, by your project coordinator who will arrange transfers to Arusha & subsequently to your project location.

Alternatively, you may arrange flights to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi. However, your project coordinator will be unable to meet you at the airport. We will arrange alternative transfer to Arusha where you will be met by your project coordinator

Project Cost

4 weeks -	£ 799
6 weeks -	£1049
8 weeks -	£1199
12 weeks -	£1499
16 weeks -	£1799

Project cost includes:

- Accommodation throughout your project.
- All meals while at your project location.
- Airport transfer fees.
- Project orientation upon arrival.
- Full time assistance & support from your project coordinator.
- 24 hour emergency contact number for the UK.

A substantial percentage of the project cost will include a donation to the school at which you volunteer.

Project cost does not include:

- All flights.
- Visas. ^[1]
- Travel insurance. ^[2]
- Internet & phone use.
- Personal items (gifts, clothing etc.)
- Additional beverages.
- Any safaris, expeditions or travel not included in your itinerary.

^[1] Check with your nearest Tanzania High Commission for travel requirements to Tanzania.

^[2] It is recommended that your insurance should cover medical evacuation.

**For further information or to book a place on the project,
Please e-mail us at info@mountmerumagic.org**