



ACKLAM GRANGE SCHOOL AFRICA EXPEDITION 2014



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ITINERARY

Friday 15 August:

Meet in Acklam Grange School at 1115.
Travel by coach to Manchester Airport.
Depart Manchester at 1605 on Flight TK 1996.
Arrive Istanbul at 2155 (local time).



Saturday 16 August:

Depart Istanbul at 0050 on Flight TK 609.
Arrive Nairobi at 0725.
Drive to Nakuru.
Market shopping.
Afternoon game drive in Lake Nakuru National Park.
Overnight camp at the Wildlife Club of Kenya Camp, Lake Nakuru National Park.

Sunday 17 August:

Pre-breakfast game drive in Lake Nakuru National Park.
Drive to Naivasha.
Afternoon at Fish Eagle campsite.
Overnight at Fish Eagle Camp, Lake Naivasha.

Monday 18 August:

Hell's Gate National Park walking safari, and gorge walk.
Drive to Crater Lake Sanctuary.
Afternoon guided walk through Crater Lake Sanctuary.
Night-time game drive.
Overnight at Crater Lake Sanctuary Tented Camp, Naivasha.



Tuesday 19 August:

Morning game drive and walk in Crater Lake Sanctuary.
Visit Longonot DEB Primary School.
Drive to Nairobi.
Overnight at Indaba Camp, Nairobi.

Wednesday 20 August:

Drive to Meserani, Arusha, crossing the border into Tanzania.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.



Thursday 21 August:

Day at Meserani Snakepark.
Visit Lesiraa Primary School and
Meserani Juu Primary School.
Visit Einoti Secondary School.
Shopping at the Maasai Market,
Arusha.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.



Friday 22 August:

Day at Meserani Snakepark, or visit Arusha.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.
Optional extra:
Visit Meserani Chini School.

Saturday 23 August:

For the eight people staying at Meserani Snakepark.
Visit the Snakepark, Medical Centre and Orphanage.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.
For the nineteen going on safari:
Drive to Tarangire National Park.
Game drive in Tarangire National Park.
Visit Tarangire Safari Lodge.
Overnight bush camp in Tarangire National Park.

Sunday 24 August:

For the eight people at Meserani Snakepark:
The option to get a local bus into Arusha, or visit local
homes, Medical Centre, Snakepark, Orphanage, take a
camel ride, or visit the weekly market at Monduli.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.
For the nineteen on safari:
Pre-breakfast game drive in Tarangire National Park.
Drive to Karatu.
Camp at Kudu Lodge.



Monday 25 August:

For the eight people at Meserani Snakepark:
The option to get local bus into Arusha, or visit local homes, the local livestock
market, Medical Centre, Snakepark, Orphanage, or take a camel ride.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.
For the nineteen on safari:
Morning game drive in the Ngorongoro Crater.
Drive back to Meserani.

Tuesday 26 August:

Activities at Meserani Snake Park.
Visit Meserani Market.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.
Optional to visit Moita School and Kipok School.



Wednesday 27 August:

Visit sponsored pupils in their homes.
Take some of them to Arusha.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.
Option to:
Buy a goat at Kisongo Market.
Goat barbecue and spend a night sleeping
in an actual Maasai boma.



Thursday 28 August:

Activities at Meserani Snake Park or visit Arusha.
Overnight at Meserani Snakepark.
Option to:
Hold a Sports Day for Lesiraa Primary School, Meserani Juu Primary School
and Meserani Chini Primary School.
Optional evening barbecue at Meserani Snakepark.

Friday 29 August:

Drive to Nairobi.
Overnight at Indaba Campsite, Nairobi.



Saturday 30 August:

Option to visit the Giraffe Sanctuary.
Visit St. Secilia School, in the Kibera Slum.
Option to visit the Safari Park Hotel for a meal and live stage show.
Drive to Indaba from the Safari Park Hotel, pick our bags up and then drive to
the airport.

Sunday 31 August:

Depart from Nairobi at 0210 on Flight TK 608.
Arrive Istanbul at 0835 (local time).
Depart Istanbul at 1250 on Flight TK 1995.
Arrive Manchester at 1505 (local time).
Coach transfer to Acklam Grange School.

CAMPING & COOKING



You will be expected to share in general camp duties, and will be responsible for keeping your tents clean and tidy.

Most evenings we will be staying at recognised campsites, and although they are in scenic and beautiful situations, they will sometimes have only basic amenities, (cold showers, pit latrines). On two evenings we will be camping in the “bush” where there will be no amenities at all, with only a sheet of canvas between you and the wildlife.

An African cook will be travelling with us for the duration of the trip, and is responsible for all meals. However, there will be a duty rota for various duties that need to be undertaken. On any particular day each person may be involved in either:

- Shopping for food.
- Preparing food.
- Assisting with the cooking.
- Washing up.
- Cleaning the Safari Truck.

Group One	Group Two
Laura Whaley	Gemma Foster
Michael Lee	Andrew Lee
Beverley Fallowfield	Debra Fallowfield
Claire Lancefield	Laliesha Ali
Julie Cook	Adam Drinkel
Elizabeth Mitchell	Julie Delany
Richard Asquith	
Group Three	Group Four
Ruth Delany	Sarah Naylor
Sarah Dodgson	David Delany
Graeme Fallowfield	Stuart Fallowfield
Elizabeth Alderton	Natalie Hulse
Karen Lavender	Karen Mitchell
Jonathan Lee	Julie Hatton



GREAT RIFT VALLEY

The Great Rift Valley is one of the wonders of the world, as the valley forms a wide trench down the length of Africa, even visible from the moon. Mostly known in Kenya as the East African Rift Valley, it was formed between two and seven million years ago. It is the longest rift on the surface of the earth. The Great Rift Valley is approximately 4,000 miles long and 35 miles wide. There are a number of lakes in the floor of the Rift Valley, and we visit two of them as we head north out of Nairobi.

LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

North of Lake Naivasha is Nakuru, the fourth largest town in Kenya. This agriculturally oriented area is home to Lake Nakuru, one of the Rift Valley soda lakes. The lake is internationally known for its Lesser and Greater



Flamingos. Ornithologists often describe Lake Nakuru as "the most fabulous bird spectacle in the world". The Lesser flamingo can be distinguished by its deep red carmine bill and pink plumage unlike the greater, which has a bill with a black tip. The Lesser flamingos are ones that are commonly pictured in documentaries mainly because they are large in number. There are estimated to be over a million Lesser flamingos.

Lake Nakuru National Park is also shared with the white pelicans and the ever-snorting hippos. Nakuru in Kiswahili means "Waterbuck Haven". Lake Nakuru National Park, close to Nakuru town, was established in 1961. It has unusual but beautiful vegetation. The forest vegetation is covered with Euphorbia, tall cactus like trees and acacia woodland. The forest region is a host to over 400 migratory bird species from around the world.





Other wildlife in the Lake Nakuru National Park include: The famous black and white rhinos. The black rhinos have been slowly multiplying over the years, and are well protected, thanks partially to the government of South Africa. Lake Nakuru National Park also boasts an increase in white rhinos. There are plenty of

waterbucks, impalas, dik-diks, grants gazelles, lions and leopards. In 1977, the Rothschild giraffe was introduced to the Park. The park also has large sized python snakes that inhabit the dense woodlands, and can often be seen crossing the roads or dangling from trees.

In 2007 and 2011 we were fortunate to come across tree-climbing lions, and in 2009 we came across this leopard – a rare and fortunate sighting.



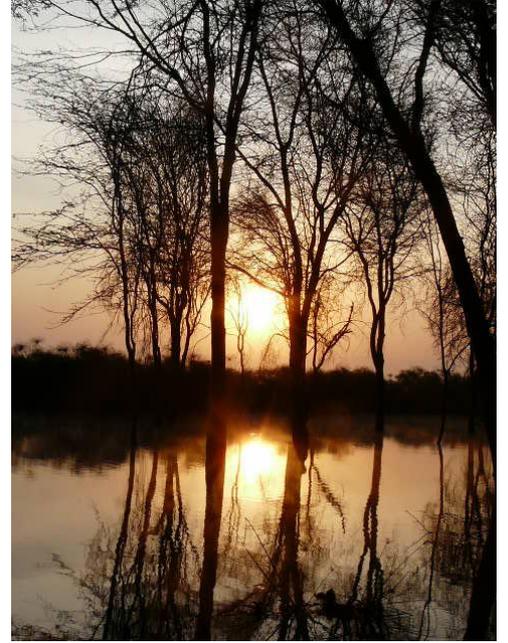
We spend one night within the actual game park as guests of the Wildlife Club of Kenya, who have a camp close to Lake Nakuru, and right amongst the wildlife.



In Nakuru town itself, there is an opportunity to barter for handmade African jewellery in the local market.

LAKE NAIVASHA

Lake Naivasha is situated in central Kenya and is part of a chain of lakes dotted along the eastern Rift Valley. At 1,890m., (6,000 feet), it is the highest of all the Rift Valley lakes and unusual in remaining fresh. The vegetation of Naivasha is directly affected by the lake levels. Much of the shore is currently infringed with dense stands of feathery papyrus, *Papyrus Cyperus*, with floating mats of water hyacinth on the open water.



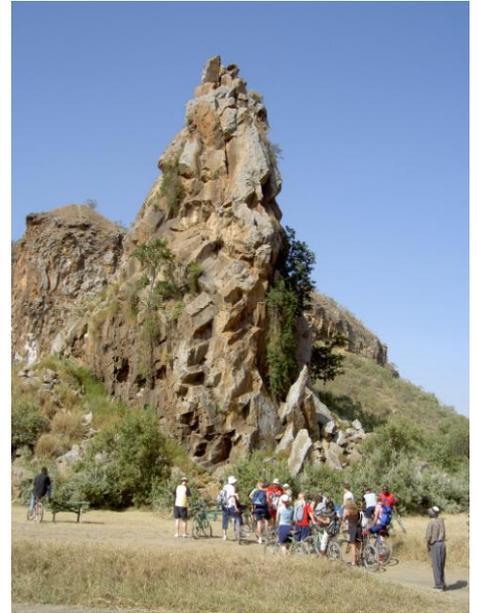
Naivasha supports a very diverse bird fauna; 80-90 species of water birds are regularly recorded during annual censuses and another 300 or so species have been sighted in the surrounding areas. The Acacia woodlands surrounding the lake are particularly rich. Hippos are abundant in the lake and emerge to graze around its shores in the evenings.

Our campsite tonight is at Fish Eagle Inn, right on the shores of the lake, and the hippos can be heard right throughout the night.

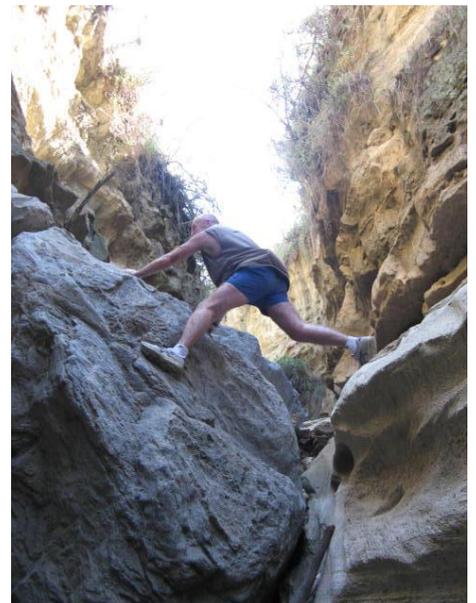


HELLS' GATE NATIONAL PARK

Situated about four miles from our campsite at Lake Naivasha, this relatively small national park is unique in that walking safaris are allowed along the main tracks within the park, and this is an excellent way to get up close to the wildlife.



After our walking safari through the game park there is the option to explore the Lower Gorge by foot. This gorge is within the park, (it is Naivasha's former outflow), and is spectacular and beautiful, with towering 120 metre high columnar cliffs and two impressive volcanic plugs that stand as towers. The vegetation in the park is a mix of grassland, woodland and scrub, and a variety of large mammals inhabit the area.



CRATER LAKE SANCTUARY



The Crater Lake Sanctuary is a little-known private game reserve a short drive from Lake Naivasha. It is another rare opportunity to actually walk amongst the wildlife. There are several species of antelope that will be seen, although the highlight will be the giraffes. It is quite liberating to walk among the giraffe, buffalo and zebra with no fences or barriers between you and the wildlife.



As part of our walking safari we will ascend the rim of an extinct volcanic crater, and then walk down from the crater rim to the crater floor, which is filled by a lake – the only volcano in Africa that has its entire crater floor filled by a lake.



Tonight we stay at Crater Lake Tented Camp inside the actual game sanctuary, and this evening we will actually be going on a night-time game drive within the sanctuary.



MESERANI SNAKE PARK

Meserani Snake Park is located some 20 km to the west of Arusha Town, just off the tar road that leads towards the world famous Serengeti National Park, and with views of Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro. At the Snakepark there is a collection of snakes and other reptiles - some of the most fascinating animals of Africa. The Snakepark has provided a new attraction for visitors on the northern Tanzania tourist circuit and building the park was quite an adventure.



The park is "home" to a variety of snakes common in Eastern and Southern Africa, from the Black Mamba to the black and red spitting cobras and the African Python. Other reptiles include monitor lizards, chameleons and crocodiles. There are also a few species of birds that are orphaned or injured for whom a temporary home is provided at the park.

The owners of the campsite, Lynne Bale, ("Ma"), and Barry Bale, ("BJ"), are legendary for the work that they have done with the local Maasai people. They provide a medical centre, orphanage and education centre free of charge, and they pay themselves for all snake-bite treatment that is needed by the local people. They also provide employment for many of the local Maasai population through their campsite, Maasai market, Maasai Culture Museum and Jewellery workshop. BJ and Ma have been instrumental in the work that Acklam Grange School have undertaken throughout the Meserani region – without their help, The Meserani Project would never have got off the ground.



The campsite will be our home for nine nights whilst we work on The Meserani Project, and there will be opportunities to visit the Maasai Museum, the Medical Centre, the Orphanage, the Education Centre, and we can even go for a ride on one of BJ's camels.

EINOTI SECONDARY SCHOOL



Einoti Secondary School was the first school that the Meserani Project sponsored pupils to attend, and altogether thirty-six pupils have attended the school via The Meserani Project. It is the nearest secondary school to the Meserani region, and is only attended by pupils whose families can afford the fees, or pupils who are sponsored by local organisations or charities such as the Meserani Project.



We will be spending some time at Einoti School, meeting the nine pupils currently being sponsored by our project, hosting a traditional Barn Dance and perhaps playing their school volleyball team. We also hope to visit some of the pupils' homes close to the school.

The school's Head Boy for last year, Paulo Meseyeki, is being sponsored by The Meserani Project, and is due to start his A' Level studies this year.



TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

The Tarangire National Park is one of Tanzania's lesser-known game parks, and as such it has a much more authentic feel to it for those who wish to share this environment with the animals rather than hordes of tourists.



It is famous for its herds of elephants, its giraffes, and the huge baobab trees that dominate the landscape. In July it is the dry season, and the wildlife tend to congregate on the banks of the Tarangire River, making this a popular spot for our game drives.



We camp overnight at a 'bush camp' within the park, with only the tent walls between us and the wildlife.



In our 2009 visit we were fortunate enough to come across a pride of eight lions out hunting.



NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA



The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is located between the Serengeti and Lake Manyara. It is home to the famous volcanic Ngorongoro Crater, which is the largest unbroken caldera in the world. The



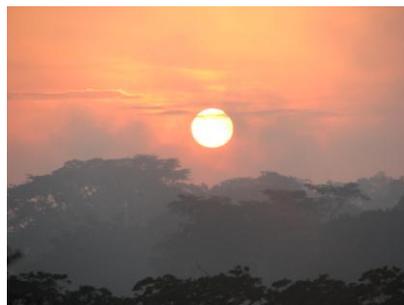
crater (610 metres deep and 260 km square) is a microcosm of East African scenery and game. Scenic grandeur and stunning views are the hallmark of this wonder of the world, recently appointed as a Unesco World Heritage Site.



There are 25,000 larger animals within the crater itself, mostly zebra and wildebeest. However, this is one of the best places to see black rhino in Tanzania as well as prides of lion that include the magnificent black-maned males.



There are lots of colourful flamingos and a variety of other water birds around the soda lake on the crater floor. More than a 100 species of bird not found in the Serengeti have been found in the crater. Other game: leopard, cheetah, hyena, elephants, warthog, impala, buffalo, hartebeest, eland and lots of other members of the antelope family and smaller mammals of sorts.



We stay overnight at Kudu Lodge campsite, Karatu, and early next morning we descend into the crater by landrover for an all-day game drive.



MOITA BOYS SECONDARY BOARDING SCHOOL

Moita Boys Secondary Boarding School is remotely situated, an hour's drive through the bush from the road between Arusha and Meserani. There are currently 58 boys at this school being sponsored by The Meserani Project.



We have already provided the school with two water tanks, many text books, a laptop an overhead projector and a whiteboard.

As well as visiting the pupils in their lessons, we may play volleyball against them.



KIPOK GIRLS SECONDARY BOARDING SCHOOL



Kipok Girls Secondary Boarding School is equally remotely situated – about 30 minutes drive through the bush from Moita School. There are currently 42 girls at the school being sponsored by The Meserani Project.

We have already provided the school with five water tanks, many text books, and solar power to all dormitories, classrooms and teachers' houses.



As well as visiting the pupils in their lessons, we may well play volleyball and netball against them.



LESIRAA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lesiraa School is situated in the Meserani region, near Arusha, in Tanzania. It is the first school that Acklam Grange have taken to their hearts, and for who we decided to raise funds in order to improve conditions at the school.



Before Acklam Grange became involved, Lesiraa School had two classrooms that were literally falling apart. There were no blackboards, and not enough benches and desks for the pupils. The images above show the situation as we saw it in 2004.

Since then Acklam Grange has raised enough money to replace these two classrooms with four brick built classrooms, fully furnished and decorated. The images below show the results of our efforts. We have also provided educational resources, sports equipment, sports clothing, cooking equipment and we have piped in water for their garden.



MESERANI JUU PRIMARY SCHOOL

Meserani Juu Primary School is situated in the Meserani region, near Arusha, in Tanzania. It is the second school that Acklam Grange have taken to their hearts, and for who we decided to raise funds in order to improve conditions at the school.



Before Acklam Grange became involved, Meserani School was incredibly overcrowded, with over 100 pupils crammed into classrooms that were segregated with corrugated tin sheets. The images here show the situation as we saw it in 2007.

Since then Acklam Grange has raised enough money to build four brick built classrooms, fully furnished and decorated. The images below show the results of our efforts. We have also provided educational resources, sports equipment and sports clothing.



During our visit to Meserani Juu School, we will be working with the pupils in their lessons. We are taking with us pens and exercise books for the pupils, and text books for the teachers. We also intend to provide wall posters for the four classrooms that we have funded.



MESERANI CHINI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Meserani Chini School is the most desperate school that we visit in Tanzania, and is a key area of concern for The Meserani Project. Their Head Teacher, Mr. Prosper Tesha, is extremely resilient and resourceful, but his school is situated in an incredibly remote area, and he has difficulty recruiting teachers.



So far we have built him two new classrooms, provided text books for every subject in every year group, provided four water tanks, and have completely refurbished the teachers' homes, in an effort to attract teachers to work there.



SPORTS DAY



There is the option to be involved in hosting a traditional Sports Day for all the pupils at Lesiraa Primary School, Meserani Chini Primary School and Meserani Juu Primary School.



We will be organising the events ourselves, providing the necessary equipment, and presenting the prizes.



MAASAI BOMA VISIT

A somewhat uncomfortable experience, but probably one that will last a lifetime – there is the option to experience traditional Maasai life with one of the Meserani families in their bomas, (mud hut compounds).



A previous visit to the Kisongo livestock market will have given us the opportunity to buy our own goat. After feeding and tending to this goat for a couple of days, we walk through the bush to the boma of a Maasai family, and the local Maasai warriors will kill the goat and prepare it for our evening barbecue, (witnessing the kill, drinking the blood and eating the bone marrow are all optional).



Following the goat barbecue we spend the night in the bandas, (traditional mud huts), within the boma compound.



KIBERA



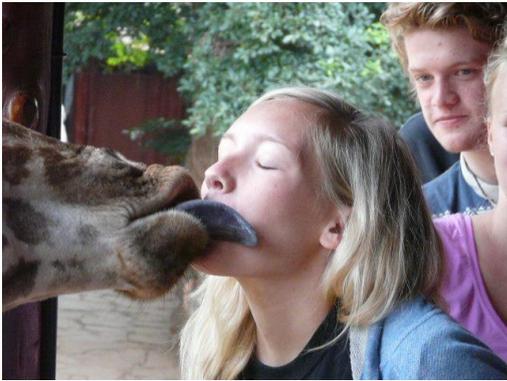
Our final full day in Africa is spent in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. In the morning we hope to pay a visit to St. Secilia School, which is on the edge of the Kibera Slum, and provide them with further educational resources and gifts.



Kibera is Africa's largest slum, and is the second largest slum in the world. Up to one million people live in one square mile, and the conditions are appalling.



THE AFEW GIRAFFE SANCTUARY



Before visiting Kibera there will hopefully be an opportunity to visit the AFEW Giraffe Centre where protected species of giraffe can be fed at head height from feeding platforms.

NYAMA CHOMA RANCH

For our final evening in Africa, we have booked a table at the Nyama Choma Ranch, at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. *Nyama Choma* is Kiswahili for *Barbecue*, and our meal is a spectacular open-air eat-as-much-as-you-can barbecue, where the meat is served up on skewers as and when you want it. There is a starter, and desserts are included, and there are also vegetarian options.



After the meal we are treated to a stage performance by the renowned *Safari Cats* Dancers and Acrobats.

NOTES



