



GRACE
IN KENYA

Grace In Kenya Mission Trip

General Trip Information

Overview

Grace in Kenya

Grace In Kenya is our missions effort in Kenya, Africa. Since February 2009, we have been developing partnerships and personal relationships with the community of Kandaria and the town of Katito located in Nyanza Province in western Kenya, about a 45-minute drive from the city of Kisumu. Our partnership began with Kandaria in 2009 and expanded to Katito in 2012 through House of Hope, a ministry to widows and orphans. Katito is an area made up of 6 smaller communities including Kokal where the House of Hope ministry site is based.

The leadership at Grace Community Church works directly with the Kandaria Leadership Council and the House of Hope Board of Directors to cultivate and develop the partnership including planning and maintaining programs, trips, and future development.

Vision of Kandaria

The vision of Kandaria is to have a community with a reduced effect of sin, disease, poverty and ignorance through provision of an accelerated community development program for education, health, food security, water, etc.

Vision of House of Hope

In obedience to the Great Commission and in response to the Biblical mandate to orphans and widows, House of Hope exists to care for widows in their distress and mold and nurture orphaned children as they learn of the hope that they can have through Christ.

Vision of Grace In Kenya

The vision of Grace in Kenya is to share the love of Christ with the people of Kandaria, Katito, and surrounding areas and motivate them to develop their potential by using their resources to enhance development within the community to achieve community sustainability.

Purpose and Nature of Mission Trips

The purpose of these trips is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, encourage spiritual growth and development, and show love to others by serving them as Jesus would. The nature of the trip is primarily meeting spiritual needs by meeting physical needs. We encourage spiritual development and work with the Kenyans on activities and projects that have been identified as strategic priorities for both communities. Activities and projects may be evangelistic, medical, physical, and/or educational. Trip participants will have the opportunity to interact with local leaders, community members, and many children throughout the week. A detailed itinerary will be provided closer to the time of the trip. This will be a life-changing experience, serving and building relationships with the people of Kenya.

On the back end of the trip, participants will enjoy a safari day at a Kenyan national park where you will see a variety of animals while enjoying the Kenyan landscape.

Trip Participants

Due to travel logistics the team is usually limited to a maximum of 22 participants including 2 team leaders. If a trip is full (20 participants plus trip leaders), additional applicants will be placed on a waiting list.

Trip Dates

Generally, these trips are 12-day trips. Tentative trip dates will be given early in the planning process and will be solidified when the tickets are reserved. Tentative dates may be subject to change based upon airfare or other bookings.

The tentative trip dates are **June 23 – July 4.**

Trip Cost

The approximate cost of the trip is \$3500 based upon the price of airfare at the time of the trip. This includes airfare, accommodations, ground travel, safari, drinking water and meals in Africa. A deposit of \$250 is due at the time of registration.

Additional costs include immunizations (\$250-\$500), passport (approximately \$120), visa (\$50) passport photos, clearances (\$30) and food/meals during traveling. Additional monies (\$100+) may be needed for souvenirs, snacks, etc.

Raising Your Trip Funds

For many people the process of raising trip funds is the dark side of a mission trip. Some people dread sending out letters and meeting with potential donors far more than going to the local health department and getting stuck with a bunch of needles. However, raising trip funds can be a positive experience.

Raising financial support for your trip is not begging for money, nor is it asking someone else to pay for your trip so you don't have to. Raising support is the process of building ministry partnerships. The potential ministry partner has the opportunity to be involved in what God is doing in Kenya even though he/she may not be able to *physically* be involved in the trip. The potential partner is also given the opportunity to invest money that God has provided to them into Kingdom work that will yield eternal rewards. The receiver is blessed by having partners supporting and praying for him/her and is encouraged by being able to obey God's leading to participate in the trip. In the end, the result is joy and blessing for both the giver and receiver.

Trip Application and Registration

How Do I Apply?

Trip Applicants must submit a **Trip Application and Covenant along with \$250 Deposit online.**

Online Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/KenyaTrip2020>

When Do I Apply? Trip applications will be accepted beginning January 27 - February 16, 2020.

How Will I Know?

If you are new to mission trips at Grace, you may be asked to go through an interview process before being accepted to a trip. Trip Participants will be notified by email when you have secured a spot on the team or if you remain on the waiting list.

Dates and Times

A timeline of meetings and due dates will be provided. Team meetings are generally held monthly. Meetings will become more frequent as we get closer to the trip dates.

Requirements of All Participants:

- Regularly attend Grace Community Church. College students should regularly attend a local church in their area.
- Attend all team meetings. Absences may be excused due to work or school. Any participant should not miss more than 2 team meetings.
 - College students should make every effort to attend as many meetings as possible. If the student is not local, they should schedule appointments with the Director of Global Outreach during their breaks.
- Obtain a passport prior to the trip and obtain a visa prior to and upon entry in Kenya.
- Publicly share testimonies, devotionals, and pray with our team and with the Kenyans.
- Assume responsibility for all expenses not covered by donations.
- Sign a notarized medical release form. We will have a notary onsite at one of our meetings. If you cannot, attend that meeting, you will be responsible to get the form notarized elsewhere and incur any associated cost.

Additional Requirements for Participants 18 years and older:

- Obtain and submit the following clearances:
 - Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearances (CY113)
 - Pennsylvania Criminal Record Checks (SP4-164)
 - Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Criminal Background Check

Additional Requirements of Minor (under 18) Participants:

• 3 Letters of Recommendation

Due to the nature of this trip, minors are required to have three Letters of Recommendation that reflect the minor's maturity and character to participate in this endeavor. These letters should be submitted from:

- a guidance counselor or Dean of Students
- a teacher or coach
- a youth pastor or youth leader

These sources should **not be** family members and **should submit their letters by mail to:**

Grace Community Church
Attn: Global Outreach Director
9160 Marshall Rd.
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

OR

Submit by email to dana@mygcc.org.

- Must be at least 16 years or older at the time of travel to participate.
- Must be accompanied by parent or adult guardian such as another family member, small group leader, or close family friend.
- Must obtain **notarized** parental consent from both parents for Grace Community Church.

Frequently Asked Questions

Money and Registration

How do I submit my deposit? Your deposit can be submitted online with your registration by credit or debit card. If you are only able to submit cash or check, please send your request to Dana Kaltenberger at dana@mygcc.org.

What if I apply for the trip and do not secure a spot on the team? If you do not secure a spot on the team, we will refund your deposit.

Why are my trip deposit and trip donations non-refundable? Once you have secured your spot on the team, your deposit becomes non-refundable. Because trip funds are given as donations to Grace Community Church, they are tax-deductible and therefore by law, are non-refundable.

What if I secure a spot on the team, and then find out that I can't go? Your deposit and funds that have been raised to that point can either: be transferred to another team member of your choice, transferred to other team members who are struggling to raise funds, or be held for up to one year for a future trip.

Health and Safety

Will I be safe? We will do everything we can to keep you as safe as possible. Our Kenyan leader and bus driver are with us 24/7. We also carefully watch travel warnings and recommendations from the US Dept. of State. We encourage all team members to stay together in groups, be aware of your surroundings, and keep valuables hidden and secured.

What immunizations do I need? You will be provided with a list of recommended immunizations from the health department. Only the yellow fever immunization is required, but others are highly recommended. It is also recommended that you take malaria meds prescribed from your doctor.

What kind of physical activity is involved? The level of physical activity varies from trip to trip depending on the projects, but generally, there is a lot of walking and hiking involved. Kandaria is especially hilly and rocky with lots of trees. Katito is flat and hot with little shade.

Is the water safe to drink? No, you should not drink any tap water. We will provide you with all of the bottled water you need for drinking and brushing your teeth.

Travel and Packing

How long is the air travel to Kenya? Total travel time to Nairobi is approximately 24-32 hours including layovers. Generally, it consists of 3 flights.

How do we travel on the ground in Kenya? Once we land in Nairobi, a private bus will meet us at the airport and transport us to our hotel or directly to Kandaria and Katito. If we arrive late in the afternoon or evening, we will spend the night in Nairobi, and drive to Kandaria the next morning.

Where do we stay in Kenya? We normally stay in 3 hotels – our first night in Nairobi, then 7 nights in Kisumu, and 1 night at our safari hotel.

What do we eat? Breakfast and dinner will be served at our hotels. Lunches will be served in the communities. There are a couple of exceptions where you will need to pack lunch/snack food in lieu of lunch.

What is the climate/weather like? The climate is hot and tropical. This area of Kenya is located near Lake Victoria, very close to the equator.

What currency is used in Kenya? Kenya shillings are the main form of currency. Sometimes US dollars are accepted in higher denominations of crisp, newer bills (5 years or newer).

What language do they speak? Swahili and English are both the national languages of Kenya. However, many very young, very old, or un-educated people speak only their mother tongue. In this region, most people speak Luo. However, there are many people who do speak English. Translators are readily available to help you when needed.

What should I wear/pack? One of our team meetings will be totally dedicated to preparing you for packing. Each team member can bring one 50 lb. suitcase as well as a carry-on bag and a personal item (such as a purse, small backpack, or laptop bag).

Questions can be directed to Dana Kaltenberger at dana@mygcc.org or 724-779-7997 Ext. 309.

