



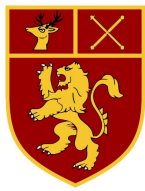
Camps International - Kenya and Tanzania 2023

17 Year 11 and 12 students travelled to Kenya and Tanzania for 4 weeks over the summer holidays. The students had been fundraising for the past two years to support them on this trip of a lifetime! I had the opportunity to accompany them on the incredible trip alongside Miss Frost.

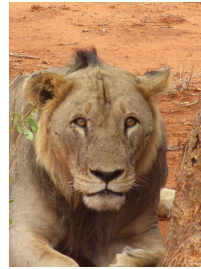
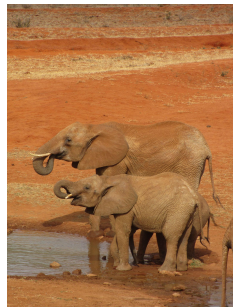
The trip consisted of two weeks in Kenya and two weeks in Tanzania, where we stayed at different camps across the countries. We were joined by Trevor and Anna, leaders from Camp International, who travelled with us on our month-long adventure. During the first week, we stayed at The Wildlife Foundation (TWF) camp, located just outside Nairobi National Park, Kenya. Throughout the week students participated in projects, such as wildlife monitoring, setting up camera traps throughout the park, picking up litter and bolting animal deterrent lights on the local farmers' chicken huts. During the week, we were treated to an educational walk from national park rangers, who were also leaders of the local tribe. Here, we learned about the native flora and fauna that span across the park. To finish the week, we celebrated two birthdays - what a place to turn 16!

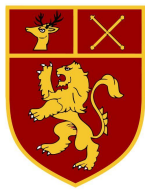


Week 2 started with the relocation to our second camp in Kenya, Camp Tsavo, located in southern Kenya in the Tsavo East National park. This week focused on humanitarian work. We spent several days completing projects at the local primary school. Some of these jobs included painting the walls, making bricks to be used to build a new classroom and building ramps for the students to use. We were lucky to meet some of the students at the school, who were all so welcoming and loved helping us out on the tasks.



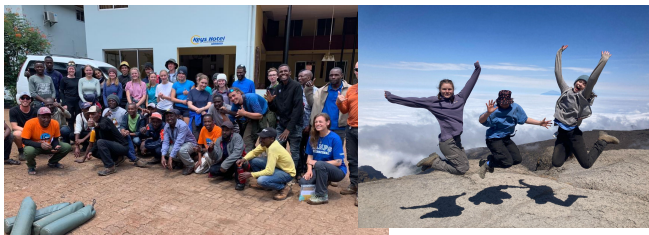
On the other days, we helped with building elephant deterrent fencing and assisted in goat deworming. We were honoured to receive an invitation to visit with the local women's group, where everyone was able to show off their dance moves! We were also privileged to spend time with the Masai trip, who showed us their way of living. On the last day at the camp, we embarked on safari, which proved to be the highlight for many! We were lucky enough to see elephants, zebras, giraffes, warthogs and lions!



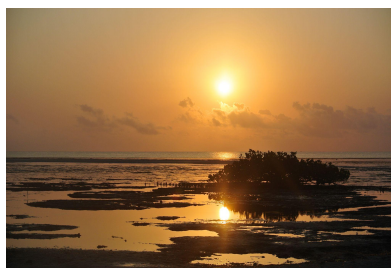


During week 3, the team undertook the massive challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. It is the highest free standing mountain in the world and the highest point in Africa. Each day consisted of walking for 4-8 hours a day on very rocky terrain. Everyone made it to

the base camp, which is at a whopping 4670m above sea level! Nine students made it to the summit, where they stood at 5895m. This was an amazing experience, and the views were incredible. Despite the difficult trek, the students were absolutely fantastic! The team worked together and motivated each other to keep going when the trail ahead seemed difficult - especially when we couldn't shower during the week!



Week 4, our last and final camp of this trip, was on the stunning Tanzanian coastline overlooking the Indian ocean. We had a few days of well deserved R&R, where we spent our time lying on the beach and swimming in the ocean. The water was so clear and warm - much needed after the chilly air up on the mountain! While at camp, we completed some more projects. We helped make a mud hut for local villagers and made water hut foundations for the local school. Here, we used old flip flops to create key rings in an effort to promote reusing equipment.





The Marlborough
Science Academy
'shaping futures'

After a long 14 hours of travelling (which included a 7 hour layover in Doha), we arrived back in the UK. I think I can speak for all the students when I say that this adventure was one of the best experiences! We laughed, we cried and we had the best time together. This trip of a lifetime is one that I will never forget.

Madelaine Smith 12HA

“Our Camps International trip to Kenya and Tanzania was life changing and will be something that any of us will ever forget. From seeing a lion 2 metres away, to summiting Mount Kilimanjaro...I enjoyed every minute of the month. All of us have said how much we want to go back and do more to help the communities we were living in. If you get the chance to go, just do it!”