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# TANZANIA SERVICE LEARNING



SUMMER 2014

**InterConnections 21**  
*Students & communities engaging in critical global issues.*



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# Tanzania Service Learning Trip Overview

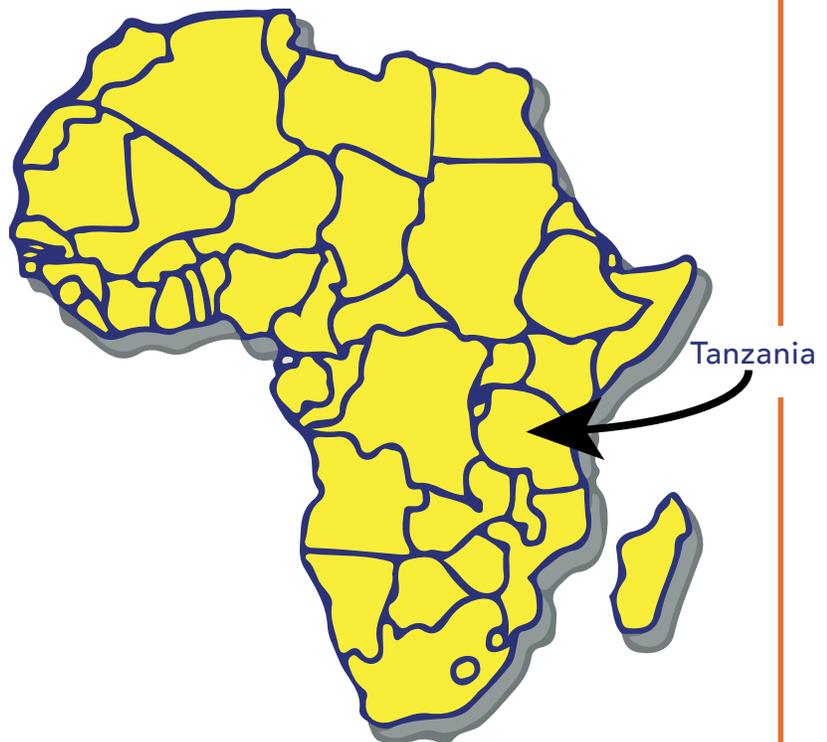
## Summary

InterConnections 21 and Arcadia Service Learning are proposing a service trip to northern Tanzania for up to 15 carefully selected high school students from July 28 - August 15, 2014. The purpose of this trip is to offer students an opportunity to engage in experiential learning about an African nation, its cultures and related critical global issues that most young Americans are not exposed to first-hand. The participants will be called upon to undertake community development projects and will experience the satisfaction of serving others. They will also do an independent study on a topic of their choice related to the trip. Upon their return to Jackson, they will make a public presentation about their studies so that our community can benefit from their experiences and they can further develop their leadership skills.

## About Tanzania

From the receding snows of Kilimanjaro to the ancient Maasai Steppe, to the wild Serengeti to the bright white beaches on the Indian Ocean, the mere mention of Tanzania conjures visions of wild and diverse Africa. To the Western world, Tanzania is famous for its impressive wildlife diversity, strong tribal traditions, and Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak. Tanzania is also the largest country in East Africa and home to a population of roughly 45 million people from over 130 tribes. Swahili is the country's national language; as a former British colony, Tanzania recognizes English, along with Swahili, as one of its two official languages.

In recent years, Tanzania has been able to boast of a reasonably stable government and growing economy and is considered one of the safest and most progressive countries on the continent. Nonetheless, Tanzania faces a multitude of challenges. Rural life is dependent on inconsistent rainfall and livestock that is vulnerable to the frequent water shortages. Families struggle with health crises, low income, and lack of access to quality education and sanitation. Poaching and mining threaten some of the most endangered species in the world, and ancient cultures push back against modernization and globalization.



## Who We Are

**InterConnections 21 (IC 21)** is a registered 501 c(3) non-profit organization operating out of Wilson, WY. Our mission is to help US schools and communities, particularly in the Northern Rockies, learn about critical world issues and take action. To this end, we have sponsored and led groups of Wyoming students on educational trips to Ecuador, France, Ghana, Mexico, Switzerland and various locations throughout the US. IC 21 is also the sponsoring organization behind Teton County Model UN, a co-sponsor of the UN Student Conference on Human Rights in NYC, the mentoring organization behind Students for Sustainability, and the sponsor of community events featuring speakers such as Ishmael Beah, Valentino Achak Deng, and Paul Farmer. More info is available at [www.ic21.org](http://www.ic21.org).

**Arcadia Service Learning** is a Wyoming-registered LLC. Our mission is to provide community service programming for students that integrates social-emotional learning, capacity for leadership, development of character, cultural awareness and empathy. We collaborate with some of the most remote and economically challenged communities in the world, designing and providing sustainable projects that foster meaningful connections for our students and our hosts. Mark Pommer and Yara Abad, the founders of the organization, have led Wyoming students on several service learning projects to Ghana and consulted on similar programming with multiple schools and organizations in the USA. For more information on the trip leaders' background, please see "Trip Leader Bios" on page 7.

## Safety

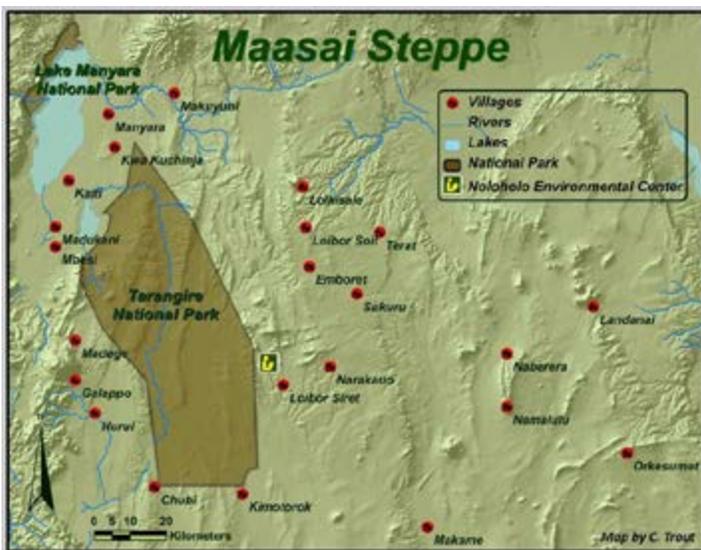
The utmost attention will be given to the safety within our host community, within Tanzania and during transit to and from Tanzania. Yara Abad, Evan Huggins, and Mark Pommer teamed up and led a group of Jackson students on a successful and safe trip to Ghana during spring break of 2012. Collectively they have experience leading nine different international student trips. They are all CPR and First Aid certified; and Evan Huggins is a certified Wilderness First Responder who has managed first aid on month-long wilderness trips for teenagers.

In the unlikely event of a medical emergency, there is an airstrip 10 minutes away from our host community; and Flying Doctors coverage, which provides reliable evacuation service, is included in the trip fees. Students will, however, be required to show proof of health insurance for Tanzania before departure or to purchase appropriate coverage.

Nonetheless, there are always inherent risks associated with travel abroad and with participation in a program of this type. These include but are not limited to dangers associated with public or private transportation, snake bites, carnivorous animals, accidents, crime, lack of on-the-spot health care, extreme weather events and global terrorism.

## Where We Will Live & Work

Our group will fly into Kilimanjaro International Airport and travel via the mid-sized city of Arusha to the African People and Wildlife Fund's (APW) Nolooho Environmental Center. We will stay in Nolooho, located in the Maasai Steppe of northern Tanzania (elevation approx. 4000 ft.), for the following two weeks. Living conditions at the Center are very basic with inconsistent access to electricity and running water. Drinking water will be properly treated for consumption. Local cooks will prepare the group's meals—featuring rice, pasta, chicken, fresh vegetables and fruit—with the help of our rotating student cooking crews (yes, you'll learn to cook).



In selecting this particular community service location, we have responded to an invitation from Laly Lichtenfeld, the founder of the APW ([www.afrpw.org](http://www.afrpw.org)). Our project will directly contribute to the overall stability and proven needs of APW and the surrounding rural communities. Within this incredible landscape lie key sites such as the Tarangarie National Park, Lake Manyara National Park, and the Simanjiro plains. Additionally, it is home to the ethnic Maasai people, considered to be one of the last great warrior tribes in the world.

Today, many of the Maasai, who are an integral part of the APW organization, continue to live as they did when they migrated from present day Sudan in the 15th century. The mission of the African People and Wildlife Fund is to address complicated issues related to village-based conservation. Specifically, the organization focuses on environmental and conservation education, human-wildlife conflict prevention, large carnivore conservation, and additional supportive efforts to help the surrounding Maasai communities.

## Overview of a Typical Weekday and the Service Learning Component

Weekdays will be spent working on projects alongside Maasai tribesmen from the village. Our projects will include helping with the construction of a library, teaching in the local primary school, and contributing to ongoing APW conservation efforts such as building "living walls" from local materials that protect community members and livestock from big cat predation. After the work day is done, students will have a chance to participate in a pick-up game of soccer, learn some Swahili, go for nature hikes (with guides only), and learn about various cultural and conservation themes from locals and APW employees. Afternoons may also include time for our independent projects.

Working alongside Maasai people, participants will build friendships and learn new skills. Students need not be skilled laborers to participate. However, they must have a strong work ethic; cooperate well with other students, community members, and trip leaders; and display a proven dedication to helping people in need. They must also exhibit sensitivity

toward others, a desire to learn from another culture, a sense of humor and adventure, and the ability to live very simply without regular access to electricity, running water, and many of the comforts of home.

Students will learn not only that global service is fun and educational, but that they can make a difference in the world at large. We will rise early and work throughout much of the day, with a little time for exploring and recreation in the late afternoon and evening. Each night the students will be expected to keep a personal journal about their experiences. Students should be aware that they are committing to service and hard work, not to a vacation.

### **Student Independent Projects/Jackson Presentations**

In addition to our community service work, trip participant will undertake independent projects while in Tanzania on topics they choose, spending time with local contacts, tribal leaders, teachers, craftspeople, soccer players, farmers, and others. Upon their returning to Jackson they will share their findings with the rest of the group and the community through formal presentations. The details of the independent projects are discussed below.

There is tremendous value in the cultural exchange that results from becoming a part of daily life in our host village, and the independent project is designed to reinforce that experience, facilitating students' awareness of and work on issues impacting Tanzania and East Africa. These projects will be student-led and student-driven, with support from the group leaders.

The initial research for the projects will begin while the students are in Jackson. Students will be expected to prepare themselves for this trip and their independent projects by doing research on Tanzania and East Africa. Their projects will examine critical global or local challenges and how the Tanzanian government, non-governmental organizations, and/or local people are making efforts to respond effectively.

Some examples of possible student independent projects include:

- Studying local conservation efforts and how the illegal elephant ivory trade is negatively impacting Tanzania tourism and decimating the African elephant population. Findings could be recorded through interviews, research, and multi-media avenues.
- Undertaking and documenting various service projects (past examples include: painting a school mural, designing and hosting children's sports clinics, creating visual dictionaries for the schools, etc.)
- Examining the impacts of carnivores on the livestock of local Maasai tribesmen and juxtaposing the issue with Wyoming's own wolf management debate.
- Exploring the deep traditions associated with the rich and historic Maasai culture.

The independent project portion of our program requires special commitment and maturity on the part of the students. Some topics will be difficult and will require both emotional maturity and independent drive to discover new information. Research and work will take place AFTER our daily work and will require persistence and considerable effort. Therefore, students must be creative, flexible, and enthusiastic about taking advantage of unforeseen opportunities, as well as being self-driven and inventive. Students will be expected to think on their feet and to independently push themselves.

During their time in country, students will make observations, ask questions, collect information, and work to shape what they've learned into a cohesive body of knowledge. Upon returning to Jackson, each student will create a multimedia presentation about his or her project in order to "pass on" his or her experience to fellow students and the community.

### **Excursions**

Our weekends will consist of exploration in the area immediately surrounding the Nolohero Center and working on our independent projects. Guides from APW will be on hand to take the group on hikes to local mountains, offering a good chance to walk and learn about the savannah environment. Students will visit the nearby villages of Loibor Siret and Narakauo where they will have the opportunity to see local markets in action, observe Maasai customs, and interact with students their own age from a radically different culture. Circumstances permitting and at the discretion of the group leaders, we may have the opportunity to visit Tarangire National Park where herds of elephants, wildebeest, zebra, buffalo, impala, gazelle, hartebeest and eland have existed in their natural ecosystem for thousands of years.

# Program Expenses

(per person based on a group of 15 students for 19 days)

While the price tag of this trip might initially be daunting, parents are encouraged to take a moment to consider the immense benefits of such a program – both to the Tanzanians we will serve and to their son or daughter who will likely gain an understanding of the world unattainable at home. A past trip participant said of his experience, “This trip has made me think about everything I do and how I look at the world. It will influence my career path, my friends, my choices, everything. It has made me realize how much bigger the world is.” Below is a breakdown of the costs.

Flight Jackson, WY to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania: \$2,300 - \$2,800

We have thoroughly investigated multiple flight options and are unable at this time to secure a group rate at a reasonable price. Group rates are preferable because they allow for more flexibility should a conflict arise down the road. We believe that if tickets are purchased at the individual rate, we should be able to secure airfare in the \$2500 range. However, once a family commits their child to this path, they would have to pay the full, non-refundable, cost of the ticket, . Should this be the case, IC 21 would request your approval, in writing, to purchase tickets up to a certain maximum price and a substantial down payment.

In-country expenses: \$1,900

Trip cost includes food, hired group chef, in-country transportation, building supplies, in-country accommodations, entertainment, liability insurance, limited travel insurance, Flying Doctors coverage, leader expenses and cultural programming led by our APW friends.

IC 21 administrative fee: \$200

Putting these trips together requires a tremendous amount of work. This fee is meant to offset some of the time, materials and services that contribute to making this trip possible, the other portion of which is cotributed by generous donors through Old Bill's and annual individual contributions.

**Estimated Total Cost: \$4,400 - \$4,900**

The price listed above does not include fees associated with obtaining a Tanzania entry visa, passport, immunizations, any major medical expenses, individual personal supplies and medications, etc. We estimate the cost of obtaining a visa, passport and immunizations to be in the \$350 - \$450 range, though this is dependent on several factors specific to each participant.

## Trip Leader Bios



**YARA ABAD:** Universidad del Azuay, Ecuador, Tourism & Hotel/Restaurant Management. Prescott College, Dual Immersion Education and Teacher Certification. Yara was born and raised in Cuenca, Ecuador where, from an early age, she enjoyed cultural and linguistic differences among people. Her love for travel and culture inspired her to study Tourism at the university level. Her studies led her to opportunities such as working for the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) where she helped create a sustainable program to prevent illegal fishing on the Galapagos Islands as well as working at the Charles Darwin Research Station. Prior to moving to the United States, Yara co-founded a paragliding school aimed at helping establish community-based tourism on the beaches of Ecuador. Yara has traveled extensively in South America, East Asia, and the United States; she also led and co-created the community service trip to Ghana in 2010 and 2012. She currently works at Jackson Elementary as a kindergarten teacher for the dual immersion program. She used her expertise to guide teams that designed the library and taught English at Trinity Yard School in Ghana where she currently sits on the Board of Directors. Additionally, she is a member of the Policy Council for the Headstart preschool program in Jackson, WY. In her free time, Yara enjoys hiking, climbing, mountain biking, dancing, and is currently studying Portuguese. She is fluent in Spanish and English and is CPR and First Aid certified.



**EVAN HUGGINS:** Colorado College, B.A, English Literature. Evan was raised in an alternative community in the flatlands of Fairfield, IA, which led him, against all odds, to the pursuit of adventure in the mountainous West and around the world. Before attending college, Evan took a gap year to participate in student travel opportunities in Italy and India. He also traveled independently throughout Western Europe and in Costa Rica. As an undergrad, Evan received a grant to pursue journalism and Buddhist studies in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos; studied architecture in Copenhagen; and traveled independently in New Zealand. After college, Evan lived in Argentina for seven months where he worked as an English teacher, volunteered with underserved youth and pursued rock climbing ventures in Patagonia. Evan has led month-long wilderness trips for teenagers in California and Oregon, as well as week-long, science focused trips in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. He is currently the Program Associate for InterConnections 21 and has led student groups from Jackson on trips to Ghana, New York City, and Pittsburgh. Evan is an avid outdoorsman and a certified Wilderness First Responder, including adult, child and infant CPR.



**MARK POMMER:** Butler University, B.A; Columbia University, Ed.M. Mark's love for travel began in high school when he spent a summer playing soccer in Europe against European teams. While at Butler, Mark tutored Latino students in inner city schools and served as leader of an after-school youth program, leading week-long backpacking trips through the Appalachian Mountains. He spent a semester studying literature in London and a summer studying Spanish in Mexico. At Columbia, Mark studied Child & Educational Psychology and provided psycho-educational consultation and therapy at a high school in Spanish Harlem, as well as consulting for a summer in the Costa Rican public schools. He has traveled extensively in Western Europe, New Zealand, Latin America, East Asia, and Africa. He is currently the school psychologist at Jackson Hole High School as well as the Key Club faculty advisor and assistant Alpine ski coach. Mark is an avid skier, mountain biker, backpacker, fly-fisherman, photographer, and adventure traveler. This will be Mark's seventh trip leading high school students abroad and his fourth student trip to Africa; the most recent trip he led was in 2012 with Yara Abad and Evan Huggins. He has led month-long community service programs for high school students in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana and a National Geographic Student program in Peru. Mark is fluent in Spanish and is CPR and First Aid certified. Mark also sits on the Board of Directors for the Trinity Yard School in Ghana.

# Medical Information

We don't pretend to be medical doctors and can't offer individual medical advice, but there are a few informational items we can pass along regarding immunizations while traveling in Tanzania. This document is meant to offer basic considerations before visiting your doctor.

1. You should always consult with a doctor who specializes in travel medicine to decide which vaccinations are most important and necessary for your child. Local doctors whom we are aware of and who specialize in travel medicine include Dr. Blue, Dr. Schlim, and Dr. Hayse. There may be others in town as well.
2. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has a very helpful website to help formulate questions for your doctor. Visit the site specific to health concerns in Tanzania at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/tanzania>; and the CDC malaria site here: [http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/country\\_table/t.html](http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/country_table/t.html).
3. Immunizations can get expensive, so it is worth calling around town to see who can give the best rates. For example, Public Health has the best rates for routine (non-exotic) vaccinations such as the hepatitis or tetanus vaccinations.
4. Consultation with a doctor is important because everyone has different medical histories and vaccinations and therefore you may need something that another participant does not. That is one of many reasons why we do not offer individual medical advice. However, there are two vaccinations/medications that are strongly encouraged if you are participating in this program:
  - Typhoid Fever vaccination - This vaccination is highly recommended by the CDC.
  - Malaria Pills – Again, a conversation to have with your doctor. The most common, Malarone, typically cost \$5 per pill (ugh!).
5. You should also discuss the following with your doctor:
  - Yellow Fever vaccination
  - Rabies vaccination
  - Up-to-date tetanus vaccination
  - Standard vaccinations, including but not limited to: mumps, measles, rubella, polio, and hepatitis
6. Please remember that vaccination costs are not included in your program cost.

## **Basic Trip Itinerary (revised 3.20.14)**

Intended to give an idea of trip activities (subject to change)

- July 29 (Day 1):** Depart Jackson
- July 30 (Day 2):** Arrive in Kilimanjaro, hit the road to Arusha (spend night in Arusha)
- July 31 (Day 3):** Morning: rise and shine, breakfast and orientation / Afternoon: travel to Nolooho Center
- Aug. 1 (Day 4):** Morning: Nolooho Center orientation/ Afternoon: begin service project
- Aug. 2 (Day 5):** Service project day (see daily schedule on pg. 10)
- Aug. 3 (Day 6):** Service project day
- Aug. 4 (Day 7):** Service project day
- Aug. 5 (Day 8):** Activities day: hike up local mountain Ngahari, birdwatching, medicinal plants walk, game drive, Maasai traditional dance, and/or cultural discussions.
- Aug. 6 (Day 9):** Morning: Loibor Siret Monday Market / Afternoon: Service project day
- Aug. 7 (Day 10):** Service project day (see daily schedule on pg. 10)
- Aug. 8 (Day 11):** Service project day
- Aug. 9 (Day 12):** Service project day
- Aug. 10 (Day 13):** Service project day
- Aug. 11 (Day 14):** Activities day: hike up local mountain Ngahari, birdwatching, medicinal plants walk, game drive, Maasai traditional dance, and/or cultural discussions.
- Aug. 12 (Day 15):** Morning: final Service project day / Afternoon: pack, clean / Night: final dinner, going-away party
- Aug. 13 (Day 16):** Depart for Tarangire National Park, see pg. 11 "Tarangire Safari Itinerary"
- Aug. 14 (Day 17):** Full day recreation and game viewing, see pg. 11 "Tarangire Safari Itinerary"
- Aug. 15 (Day 18):** Morning: game drive / Afternoon: travel to Arusha / Night: depart Tanzania from Kilimanjaro Airport, see pg. 11 "Tarangire Safari Itinerary"
- Aug. 16 (Day 19):** Arrive in Jackson...sleep!

## Service Project Daily Schedule

An example of the standard daily schedule

6:00am - 8:00am: Sunrise, personal time, journal

8:00am - 9:00am: Breakfast

9:00am - 10:30am: (Potential) Work Projects:

- Building Library
- Teaching English lessons in local primary schools
- Working with APW staff on living walls
- Other tasks at Nolohero that would benefit from helping hands

10:30am - 10:45am: Break

10:45am - 12:30am: Work Projects

12:30pm - 1:30pm: Lunch

1:30pm - 3:30pm: Work Projects

3:30pm - 4:00pm: Break

4:00pm – 7:00pm: Cultural activities, rest, and independent projects

- Traditional dancing
- Cross-cultural discussions with local youth
- Swahili lessons
- Lessons in traditional crafts
- Soccer games
- Hikes/nature walks (with guides)

7:00pm – 8:00pm: Dinner

8:00pm: Group Meetings, Daily Journal

9:30pm: Lights out, you'll be ready to sleep, guaranteed.

## Tarangire Safari Itinerary

*Prepared by*

KING OF TANZANIA SAFARIS LTD

Program for APW GROUP-19 pax

Three Days/ Two Nights

### **Day 1: Noloholo Village /Tarangire NP**

Will pick you up from the Noloholo at 10:00 AM and drive to Tarangire NP where you will begin your game viewing in the park including a picnic lunch. After lunch proceed with an afternoon game drive for the rest of the day. Stay at a public campsite inside the park for dinner and overnight.

Meal Plan: (L, D)

*Approx transit time: 1 hr*

### **Day 2: Full day in Taarangire NP**

After a leisurely breakfast, begin your full day game viewing in the park with hot lunch at the camp or lunch boxes, to enjoy the landscape, huge herds of Elephant and many species of animals and birds and the famous Baobab trees. End of the day return to the camp for dinner and overnight once more. Meal Plan: (B, L, D)

### **Day 3: Tarangire NP/Noloholo Village**

After breakfast, you have another game-drive in the park before departing for airport with a picnic lunch en route. We will be drop off at the Kilimanjaro International Airport in time for evening flight.

Meal Plan: (B, L)

*Approx transit time: 4 hr*

End of Service

### **Included In this packages:**

- All park entry fees
- Camping fees.
- Transportation in custom safari vehicles (3 Private 4WD Stretch Land cruisers) with pop-up roof ideal for game viewing and sightseeing.
- Services of 3 professional English speaking driver-guides.
- Every passenger is guaranteed a window seat.
- Services of 2 professional English speaking cooks.
- Services of 1 supply vehicle carrying all camping equipment. (tents/mattresses/pillows/chairs/cooking utensils etc)
- Full-board accommodation, Each day generally food includes Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner buffets consisting of both western and local dishes.
- 1.5 L mineral water per person per day.
- Picnic lunch boxes where applicable
- All government taxes, levies, and fees.
- First Aid Kit
- Binoculars.

### **Not included:**

- Sleeping bags (bring own sleeping bags)
- Domestic/International airfares and departures taxes.
- Accommodation and meals in Arusha before and after the safari are not included
- Personal communications charges for telephone calls, faxes, email, etc.
- Tips and gratuities for your driver-guides and cooks.
- Expenses of personal nature such as passport/border pass, travel/baggage insurance, laundry, beverages.

KTSL Safari itin Pg #2 King Solomon House (The Anglican Church Compound) 1st Floor, Room #1, Old Moshi Road P. O Box 16607 Arusha - Tanzania, Cell: +255 784 535343 & +255 754 686808, Email: info@kingsafaris.com, web: www.kingsafaris.com

# Trip Prep Timeline & Checklist

## How to apply

The list below outlines deadlines for paperwork and payment, and foreseen meetings. Dates and times for meetings, particular those that are several months out, are subject to change. If you have major conflicts with any of the planned dates, please email [evan@ic21.org](mailto:evan@ic21.org).

	Due Date	What's due?
	Thursday, March 20, 14	Meeting with trip participants & parents
	Tuesday, April 1, 14	Signed indemnification, emergency medical, medical disclosure, and permission to photograph forms due to IC 21
	Wednesday, April 23, 14	<b>6 PM, Location TBD</b> Student meeting - group dynamics/expectations/research
	Wednesday, April 30, 14	Copy of passport due to IC 21
	Wednesday, April 30, 14	<b>6 PM, Location TBD</b> Student meeting - present research/project brainstorm
	Thursday, May 15, 14	<b>Down payment due \$1000</b> , may be paid with fundraising.
	Thursday, May 15, 14	Fundraising meeting with Ann Smith for parents and students
	Wednesday, May 21, 14	<b>6 PM, Location TBD</b> Student meeting - present independent project ideas
	Sunday, June 1, 14	Embassy. <b>Do not apply earlier than May 16.</b> Visa instructions: <a href="http://ic21.org/tanzvisa">ic21.org/tanzvisa</a>
	Tuesday, July 1, 14	Copy of visa and yellow fever card due to IC 21
	Wednesday, July 2, 14	Big fundraiser w/ speaker
	Friday, July 11, 14	<b>FINAL PAYMENT DUE, \$1100</b> // deadline to fundraise through IC 21
	Monday, July 28, 14	Photographer Nick Brandt speaks at the Center--check out his portraits of African animals and exploration of poaching currently on display at the Wildlife Museum.
	Tuesday, July 29, 14	8 AM Group departs for Tanzania
	TBD	SUMMER STUDENT MEETINGS