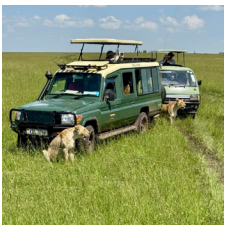




Meet the World. Do good.

KENYA: **BEYOND THE SAFARI** a journey into story, culture and shared lives MAY 4-18TH, 2026



SCHOOL: NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
TOUR REFERENCE: KENYA: BEYOND THE SAFARI
TOUR DURATION: 15 DAYS
TRAVEL DATES: MAY 4-18TH, 2026
FACULTY LEADS: JIM BENSLEY, LISA BLACKFORD,
TRICIA LINCOLN

ITINERARY
**BEYOND
THE
SAFARI**
a journey into
story, culture
and shared lives
MAY 4-18TH, 2026



MAY 4 AND 18
Travel Days

MAY 5

Arrival in Nairobi

Arrive at the Jomo Kanyatta International Airport in Nairobi. A special meet-and-greet service will usher you through customs and to your waiting in-country guides.

MAY 6:

Game Drive, Dinner

Adventure to Amboseli National Park for afternoon game drive and dinner at your lodge. In the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro, you'll spot huge herds of giant tuskers, elephants with the world's longest tusks as well as the rest of the Big 5.

Overnight: Amboseli Sopa Resort.

MAY 7:

Team Lioness, Traditional Village, Game Drive

Visit Team Lioness, the first all-women group of rangers in all of Africa, to learn about their patrols that manage poaching and human-wildlife conflicts and how their connections with-in villages have made their efforts a huge success. Visit to a traditional village. Afternoon game drive within the park.

Overnight: Amboseli Sopa Resort.

MAY 8

Elephant Orphanage, Giraffe Center

We see more wildlife on the way out of the park from our lodge. But more fun awaits. Private visit at Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Here, we learn about the elephant orphan rescue efforts started by the late Dame Daphne Sheldrick, see where rangers sleep with and feed the youngest babies and hear their stories. Then, we get up close for bonding and photo opps with these tiny elephants, even touching those amenable to that (well supervised by their keepers). At the Giraffe Center, learn how powerful these gentle creature actually are, and then feed a few.

Overnight, Ibis Styles Nairobi Westlands

MAY 9

Rhinos, Chimpanzees, Equator

Drive to Ol Pajeta wildlife sanctuary, home to the last two remaining Northern White Rhinos—the world's two rarest animals. Feed Barack, the blind rhino and visit a chimpanzee sanctuary founded by Jane Goodall. Our game drive features rhinos but also the rest of Africa's big mammals. Photo opp along the Equator.

Overnight, Amboseli Serena Lodge, a traditional tent camp circling a popular watering hole.

MAY 10:

Rest, Pink Flamingos, Free time

Relaxation and reflection day! We drive to Lake Naivasha for the chance to stroll to see the pink flamingos that nest here or enjoy free time by the pool.

Overnight, Lake Naivasha Sopa resort.

MAY 11

Bike & Hike Hell's Gate, Maasai Mara Welcome Dinner/Dancers

Travel to Hell's Gate National Park, where we'll cycle near resident wildlife like zebras, giraffes, and gazelles. Then, take a guided hike through a gorge and the park's other unique geological formations. Drive to the Maasai Mara for welcome dinner and bonfire with Maasai dancers.

Overnight, Kileleoni Mara Gateway Lodge

MAY 12

White Rhinos, Volunteer Project

Walking tour of Olchorro Conservancy, where you'll meet with women rangers who guard the last two remaining Southern White rhinos in the Mara, 24-7, and let you safely walk alongside rhinos Queen Elizabeth and Kofi Annan. They'll share how being a ranger has changed their role in a male-dominated society. Optional: Help to plant a sustainable garden (Volunteer project) with kids/women or partake in "Telling our stories" time lets us take techniques of essay writing, journalism and photography to jointly share our lives, challenges, cultural pride. Evening in a traditional village. Dinner at lodge

Overnight, Kileleoni Mara Gateway Lodge



MAY 13

Maasai School visit, Visit Local Family, Naming Ceremony

Visit to Mara Daima Academy, where we will tour the school but mainly interact with younger students, joining in soccer, jump ropes and playground games. More storytelling time with girls. At a traditional boma, join a local family for tea and see how beehives help solve human/wildlife conflict and provide economic and health value, both. Partake in a Maasai naming ceremony. Back to lodge for outdoor dinner

Overnight, Kileleoni Mara Gateway Lodge

MAY 14

Purchase Cow with Women's Collaborative, Market, Beadwork

Market Day! We'll join women of a cultural village for abused women and widows to buy cows through a new and society-changing collabora-

tive. More storytelling time with girls and at "Hope for a Girl" see how women are using traditional beadwork training to reduce teen pregnancy. Learn about the work of the Mara Elephant Project.

Overnight, Kileleoni Mara Gateway Lodge

MAY 15

Game Drive

Make the quick trip to the Maasai Mara National Reserve for a game drive across the most famous park in Kenya, and, depending on wildlife spotting, possibly get photos on the border of Tanzania.

Overnight: Mara Sopa lodge



MAY 16

Game Drive, Reflection

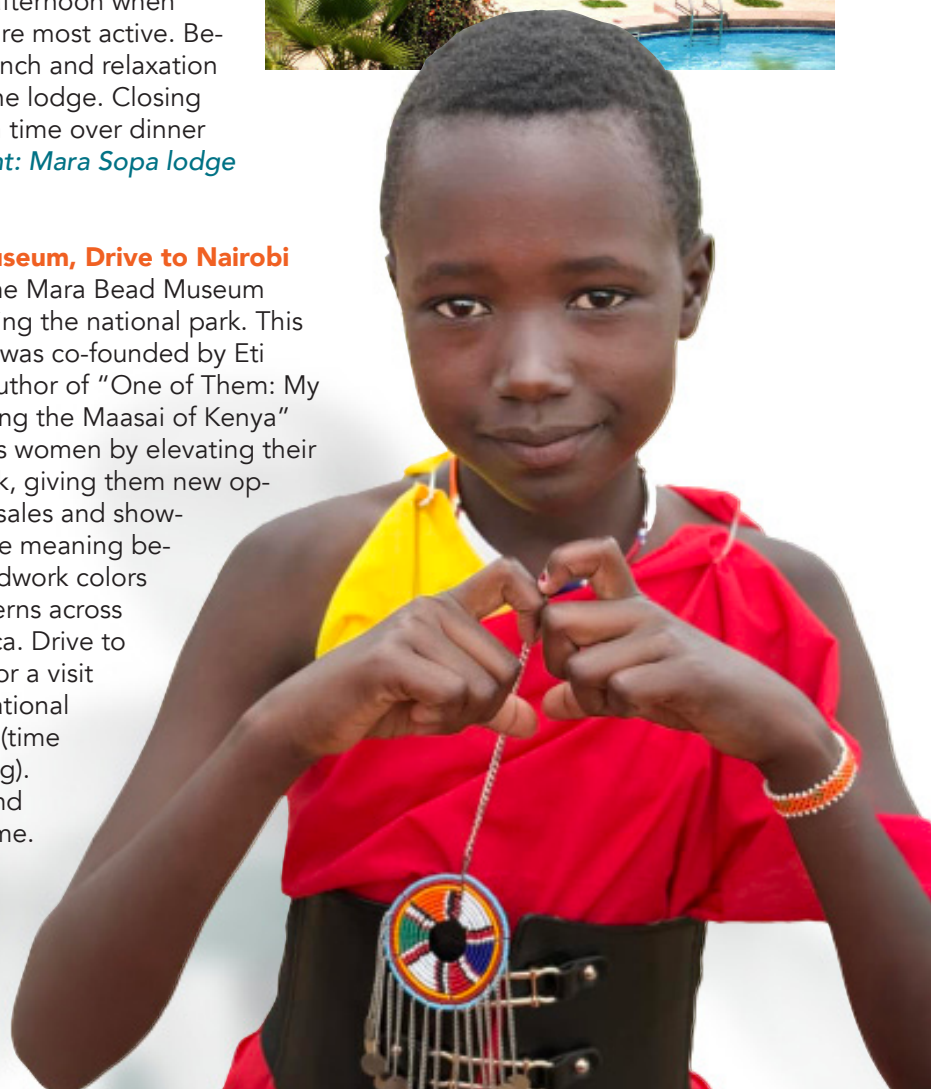
Game drives today in morning and afternoon when animals are most active. Between, lunch and relaxation time at the lodge. Closing reflection time over dinner

Overnight: Mara Sopa lodge

MAY 17

Bead Museum, Drive to Nairobi

Visit to the Mara Bead Museum after exiting the national park. This museum was co-founded by Eti Dayan, author of "One of Them: My Life Among the Maasai of Kenya" and helps women by elevating their beadwork, giving them new options for sales and showcasing the meaning behind beadwork colors and patterns across East Africa. Drive to Nairobi for a visit to the National Museum (time permitting). Dinner and flight home.





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