



# Kenya



HAVE FUN. HELP PEOPLE.



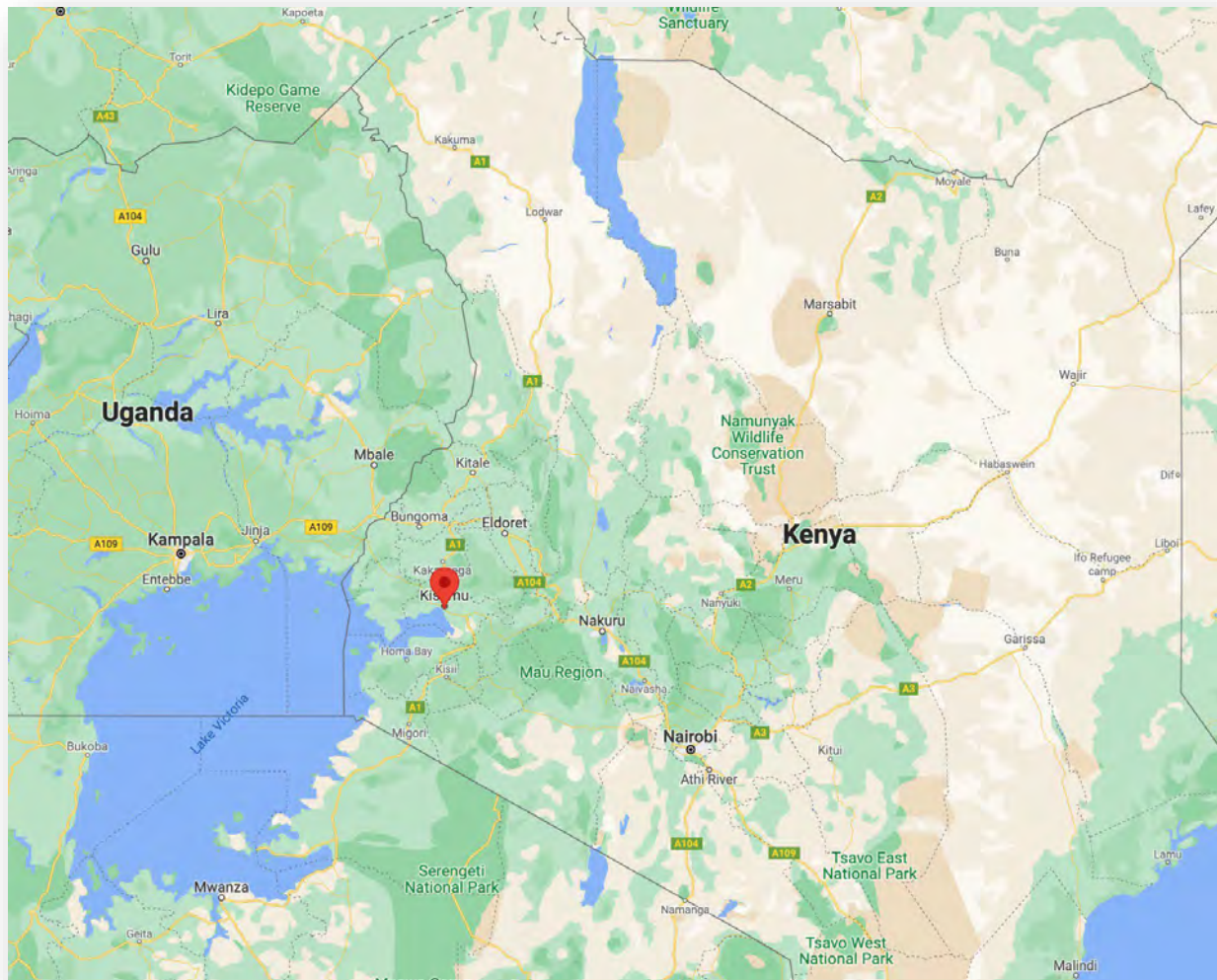
## Introduction to Kenya

Kenya boasts of beautiful landscapes, a complicated past and a natural psyche. This coastal region is awash with luxurious beaches, wild animals, national parks and lake fishing. You'll find yourself in the county of Kisumu, right next to Lake Victoria, in the small town of Muhoroni where you'll experience the kindness of the Kenyans.

Kenya is stepping into the future and you can help with this process by volunteering in one of the many projects available in the town of Muhoroni. Muhoroni lies 30 kilometers to the east of Kisumu city and is mostly inhabited by the Luo tribe. This area has a population of around 120,000 people who depend almost entirely on subsistence farming. There are three sugar factories that provide some jobs to the local community, but a lack of employment persists.

The people of Muhoroni are always warm and welcoming and the smiles on their faces tell it all. Muhoroni has warm weather of about 25 Celsius all year round.

As a volunteer, you will have the excitement to gain an even deeper understanding and appreciation of a foreign land and culture through humanitarian service, language and intercultural training, and exploration.



## Projects and Expectations

Globe Aware always looks first and foremost to the community to tell us which needs they have, and hence in Kenya Globe Aware works with well-established community members that help people and families needs through a variety of different avenues.

Please Remember that concepts of scheduling and organization are not universal. It is best to keep an open mind when visiting another country. Remember that your way of doing things may not be the best way here – the locals usually have a very good reason for completing a task in a certain way, and their priority may be different from ours.

We understand your desire to know as much as possible about the project you will be working on. It is important to understand that projects are often not set in place until about two weeks prior, as they are based on factors such as; what projects were finished by the last group, what supplies are available, and how many volunteers are in your group, weather conditions, the changing priorities of the community, etc. These can even change upon arrival, based on the interests and fitness levels of the specific volunteers. Volunteers can expect to work 5-6 hours per day on the weekdays, usually concentrated earlier in the day, and can expect to have free time in the evenings most days. There will be a variety of planned but optional leisure and cultural activities throughout the week.

### **Help build a home for a family in need.**

This program is the most popular in our community-based programs. Many families live in huts made of mud (soil) walls and have grass-thatched roofs. These weak structures can wear out easily with time, get blown away by winds, and leak

during the rainy season. Grass thatched huts are also generally single-roomed and shared with children as well as a cooking area. Even the privileged families with houses have rusted corrugated iron sheets which often leak. Many families suffer from diseases such as pneumonia and coughs due to cold nights. We work with such families to upgrade them from a grass-thatched shelter to iron-roofed homes with 3 large rooms comfortable enough to provide a family with simple privacy. Those with already worn out and eroded iron roofs are also upgraded to the modern type which does not rust nor corrode, even in rainy seasons.



### **Water for Life**

Clean and safe water is nearly impossible to find. Mothers search for it in vain and children gather dirty water when nothing else is available. As they do, hope is lost when inevitable sickness and poverty follow. Working closely with these communities, listening to their needs, and providing much-needed water solutions will be a fulfilling experience for a volunteer. Our desire is to see more schools and communities have access to clean and safe water. Borehole drilling is quite scientific, but volunteers are welcome to help with building waterways and lay

pipes with concrete to families who need water. They will do this with the help of local plumbers. Sponsoring a water project is easy. Every volunteer or donor is connected to a specific water project. No matter the number of donors, their help will leave a lasting smile on the faces of these schools and communities. We will provide GPS coordinates, and brief reports describing how they have helped a school or community long after the project has been completed.

### **School Refurbishing**

Many schools in our community are in deplorable conditions and they have long been neglected. Children must learn in classrooms with crumbling walls, floors with cracks, and stone seats due to a lack of desks. Be part of this community and help refurbish such schools and help keep the children safe while in school to enhance their learning atmosphere and chance for a better future.

Projects vary depending on the number of volunteers, which projects were finished (or not) with the prior group, what priorities have changed, weather conditions, which supplies are available, and often the interest and fitness level of the volunteers. For these reasons, specific projects are often not fixed until the week prior to your arrival and can even change upon arrival.

We hope that you will recognize and take advantage of this special opportunity!

### **Food and Lodging**

You will be settled together in a lovely, renovated guest house with hot running water, a flushing toilet, and WIFI. There are 12 bedrooms with twin beds so two people can stay in one room, and 24 people can stay in total at any given time. However, with a larger group, accommodation will be arranged at hotels that have capacities to accommodate larger groups. Information will be provided in such situations. Hotel rates will remain the same as those of the guest house.

Kenyan food is typically continental and comprised of chicken, eggs, pork, beef, vegetables, lentils, and beans and served with chapati, bread, rice, and Ugali. Breakfast and dinner will be served at your accommodations unless otherwise noted in the itinerary, and lunch will be served at the project site.



## Leisure Activities

You can enjoy a boat ride around Lake Victoria (30-minute drive from the project location) where you can see hippos swimming, and visit the Equator Line, Kisumu Museum, and Impala Sanctuary. Our guide will introduce you to the local culture of the Luo tribe as well as invite volunteers to participate in a church service. There is an opportunity to participate in local language and dance classes as well. Sports games with the local school are also easily arranged during volunteers' breaks or downtime.

### Safari to Maasai Mara Game Reserve

At the conclusion of the program, there is an exciting opportunity to embark on a safari to the expansive Masai Mara Game Reserve, renowned for its iconic Wildebeest Migration. We encourage volunteers to seize this chance to unwind, immerse themselves in Kenyan nature, and truly experience its wonders! Please note that the safari comes at an additional cost for those interested. Kindly inform us in advance of your interest so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Additionally, Kisumu town boasts numerous restaurants and bars where you can savor your leisure time. The 3 days/2 nights Masai Mara Safari incurs an extra cost of \$790 per person. It is not operated by Globe Aware, but we are more than happy to assist you in making the necessary bookings. Please note there is NO minimum age to participate in the safari.

### Safari to Maasai Mara Game Reserve itinerary

#### Day 1

After early breakfast, at around 6.30 am depart Ahero to the famous Maasai Mara and arrive at the Fig Tree Camp in time for lunch around 12pm. Spend your leisure time enjoying more wildlife adventures and game drives. Set inside Masai Mara National Reserve, the game camp blends perfectly with its surrounding landscapes. The accent here is on the Maasai people and the fabulous wealth of wildlife, birdlife, and natural flora to be found in the fabled Masai Mara Game Reserve. Enjoy the game drives! Head back to the camp at around 6 p.m. for dinner and rest.

#### Day 2:

Spend the day in Masai Mara, Kenya's most popular game reserve where you will have the best opportunity to spot the Big Five – lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino, and elephant, Game drives are flexible, with the option of going out with picnic lunch boxes to spend the entire day in the park, or you can choose to have early morning and late afternoon game drives. You will also have the option of visiting a local Masai village (at a cost of US\$25 per person charged separately and optional). The Great Wildebeest Migration is one of the "Seven New Wonders of the World". Nowhere in the world is there a movement of animals as immense as the wildebeest migration, over two million animals migrate from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to the greener pastures of the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya from July through to October. The migration has to cross the Mara River in the Masai Mara where crocodiles will prey on them.

#### Day 3 - Maasai Mara- Nairobi

Being the last morning in Masai Mara, we start with early morning game drives from 6 am and thereafter have breakfast at the camp at around 8:30 am and then embark on the return journey to Nairobi with lunch en-route arriving around 1600 hours' time with a drop off to the airport for flights back home.

End of Kenyan stay!

## Arrival into Kisumu

There are no direct flights to Kisumu International Airport, so you will have to land in JKIA- Nairobi, then connect and arrive in Kisumu in the morning/afternoon hours. This is perfect for pick-up. We meet the volunteers at the airport passenger arrivals and there we will hold a sign that reads Globe Aware.

All inland transportation will be provided to and from the program activities. It's about 20 minutes drive to the accommodations and depending on the work site, at most 30 minutes from the accommodation.

Return flights should be from JKIA-Nairobi if you do the Safari to Masai Mara, otherwise, you can book your return flight from Kisumu. If you choose to participate in the safari, transportation will be provided at the end of your stay to the Nairobi airport.

Please note that there is a Visa required to enter Kenya. A letter of invitation will be provided by Globe Aware that you will need to use for the e-visa portal when applying online. We highly recommend using the E-Visa to enter Kenya, as it will save you a considerable amount of time when transiting through Nairobi.

Please make sure you have communicated your arrival and meet-up information with the office. If we do not see you at the meet-up point, our first step is to check with the airline to see if your flight was delayed. If it was not, then our next call is to your emergency contact. If you should have any sort of change in your arrival, please make sure you call our 24-hour emergency On-Call number at (214) 824 4562.

DO NOT EMAIL US, our email is not attended 24 hours a day and our on-call number is. If you cannot reach us through our on-call number, please make sure you notify your emergency contact of any changes in your arrival, as this is the first person we will be contacting. We will do our best to contact you, but if we cannot contact you within about an hour's time of the meet-up, we will continue without you. Once you have made contact with either your emergency contact or our headquarters, we will try and work out arrangements to get you to your location, but it may be at your extra expense.

If you feel there is a problem with these arrangements, or cannot meet the time schedule, please contact us prior to your departure and we will try to resolve this as best we can.

However, because of certain limitations and strains on other volunteers, special arrangements or requests must be made within a fair amount of time (at least two weeks before the program date) and will be remedied at our discretion.

## Laundry

You should not need to do laundry on a week-long trip. If necessary, laundry facilities can be arranged through the hotel.

## Electricity, Phone, and Wi-Fi

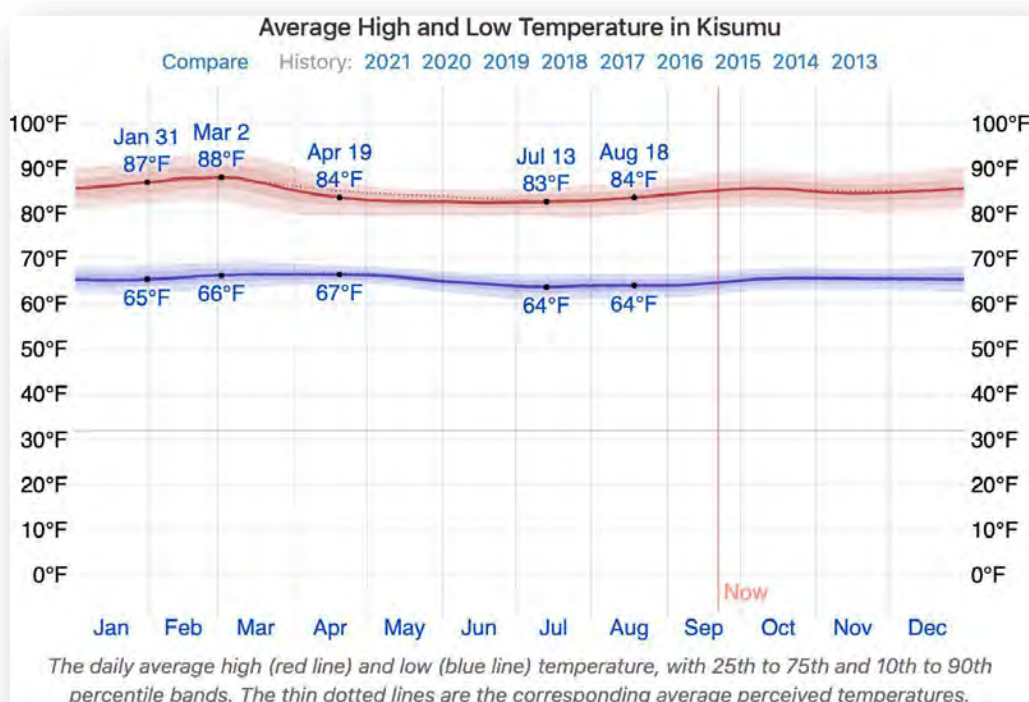
For Kenya, the associated plug type is G, which is the plug that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern. Kenya operates on a **240V supply voltage and 50Hz**. Wi-Fi is readily available throughout the hotel. Please do not plan to spend a lot of time on the phone or the internet during your short volunteer week. We will have a busy and short week to be immersed in the culture. Should you anticipate needing to make calls from Kenya, your cell phone will work, but remember to check with your provider before you go to purchase an international calling/data plan and make sure you know what is included or not included in it so you don't get any surprises when you come back.

Roaming charges, especially for data use, can be outrageous. You may consider renting a SIM card (for unlocked cell phones only) or a cell phone to use internationally - this should be done from the USA before you leave. Depending on how much you plan to use your phone or data plan, this can save you a lot of money.

Wireless internet is available at the bed and breakfast where you will be staying, though it may be much slower than you are used to.

## Weather

The climate in Kisumu is warm and overcast. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 64°F to 88°F and is rarely below 61°F or above 93°F.



## Money

**The Kenyan shilling (KES)** is the official currency of the Republic of Kenya. It is used in Kenya, the Sudan, and Somalia. The shilling is further divided into 100 cents. Prices often include the abbreviation KSh, as in “100 KSh” to refer to 100 shillings. About \$250 should be ample to cover the above expenses during the program week. Primary expenditures are for extras like fancy coffee, alcohol, extra excursions, or souvenirs.

**\*\*Also, a note for all program locations—It is a good idea that you call your bank and credit card companies before you depart and notify them of the country you will be traveling to and the dates of your travel so that they will allow charges and/or withdrawals internationally. \*\***

## Communication

You will be staying in a rural village and access to phone and internet is available in several locations though sometimes limited. In the case of an emergency, the coordinator will help you to be able to find a phone or computer to use.

There is usually cell phone reception at the program accommodations though the signal is not always strong.

## Packing Information

Make sure to pack enough clothes to be comfortable, considering that you may get dirty doing volunteer work. Volunteers can have their clothes washed by a local woman for a small fee.

This should keep you from having to worry about bringing too many clothes and is another way to support the community.

This packing list is meant as a guideline. There is no single item that you can't live without for one week. Pack what you think you will need to be comfortable, but do not get preoccupied about items that you didn't bring, weren't on the list, etc. Everyone has different opinions about essential items!

### **PACKING LIST**

- Clothes that are light which might not make them sweat in case the temperatures go up
- Hats/caps to shield them from the sun
- Sunscreen
- Work gloves and sunglasses
- In case of heavy rainfall, volunteers can purchase gum boots from the local market, each gum boot costs around \$5.00 USD
- Close-toed shoes are recommended for on-site activities
- Masai mara gets cold and windy so a jacket would be proper to pack
- Bug repellent.
- Simple first aid supplies (bandages, antibiotic cream)
- Over-the-counter painkiller and Dramamine2
- Ear plugs for light sleepers

***Please Note: Don't bring plastic bags, they are illegal***



## Your Coordinator - Pius

Pius has lived in the area around Kisumu his entire life and is well connected with the community. He has worked tirelessly on various humanitarian projects, raising awareness, and funding, and executing the final projects making a real difference. He is passionate about helping others and sharing his culture and language with volunteers. He has also worked extensively in the tourism sector, so please be sure to ask him any questions you may have! Pius is the lead pastor of the local church, and this has made me the focal point of the ministry and the communities that we serve. We know you will love him and are so grateful to have him as a part of the Globe Aware family.



You can reach Pius on WhatsApp at [+254 726 862113](https://www.whatsapp.com/chat?phone=254726862113)

Please wait until you are in the country to communicate with your coordinator. They are likely working with current volunteers prior to your arrival.

## Insurance

As part of your Globe Aware program, you are provided with insurance. This covers medical and even travel insurance in the event you need to cancel due to a medical-related issue. Insurance is purchased through a marketplace and will be emailed to you prior to your departure.

## Health

You should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. No special vaccines are required to travel to Kenya unless you are traveling from or through a country with a high prevalence of yellow fever. For additional information on travel health in Kenya, please refer to the CDC's website at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/kenya>

## eVisa

All passengers traveling to Kenya from countries that require visas to enter Kenya (including USA citizens.) shall be required to apply and obtain an e-visa before boarding an aircraft as no visas will be issued on arrival. A letter of invitation will be provided by Globe Aware that you MAY need to use for the e-visa portal when applying online, though they have turned that feature off and on. Do use the address for accommodations FROM THIS LETTER. The system will not let you apply until you are within 3 months of travel. It takes 3 days from when you submit the application. For purpose of travel, select "Tourism." Visa on arrival is no longer possible but there are exceptions when there has been a delay to issue the visa and that's when it can be issued on arrival in Kenya. Visa applications are processed through the new electronic visa processing system eVisa: <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en>

[Click here](#) to watch "How To Apply For Your Kenya Visa"

1. Valid passport that has over 6 months left before expiration
2. Roundtrip flight reservations

### For Tourist

#### Basic Requirements

1. Flight itinerary (Details about places to visit if going as a tourist).
2. Hotel bookings. We will email these to you as we approach the 3 months window

#### Identity Documents

1. Clear Passport biodata page.
2. A clear photograph

#### Photo requirements

- DO NOT take a photograph of or scan the photo in your passport.
- Must be taken within the past 6 months, showing your current appearance.
- Must be in color.
- Must show your full face, front view with a plain white or off-white background.
- Must show a full face, front view with a plain white or off-white background.
- Must be taken in normal street attire. Uniforms should NOT BE worn in photographs except religious attire that is worn daily.
- Do not wear a hat or headgear that obscures the hair or hairline.
- If you normally wear prescription glasses, a hearing device, a wig, or similar articles, they should be worn for your picture.
- Dark glasses or nonprescription glasses with tinted lenses are not acceptable unless you need them for medical reasons. A medical certificate may be required.

## How to apply

1. Fill out and submit application on website above
2. Pay using a Visa card, Mastercard, or other debit cards
3. Await approval via email, then download and print the eVisa
4. Present your printed eVisa to the immigration officer at the port of entry.

## Note

- Cost is now free
- Processing time is 72 hours
- Visas processing fee is nonrefundable.
- Incomplete applications will be rejected
- The possession of an eVisa is not the final authority to enter The Republic of Kenya.
- A visa is required prior to entry into the Republic of Kenya.
- The eVisa printout must be presented at the port of entry.

The official email address for the Directorate of Immigration Services is [evisa@immigration.go.ke](mailto:evisa@immigration.go.ke)

### Telephone: Monday to Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

+254 110 922 063

+254 110 922 064

### Weekends and after 5:00 pm

+254 112 620 512

+254 112 620 693

### For payment queries:

+254 110 922 062

They are no longer calling the authorization required for entry a “Visa.” All visitors get a “free visa” for 90 day stay. However everyone now needs instead what they call a “ Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA),” which requires a payment of about \$32.

This month, they have not been requiring an invitation letter, but they are still requiring:

- Digital photo of passport page
- Separate photo of traveler
- Hotel reservations
- Flight reservations

## Your Fellow Volunteers

You will receive a Fellow Volunteer Report attached to our “Ready, Set, Go!” email about 3 weeks before the program starts. It will include information on your fellow travelers, as well as their emails so that you can start to get acquainted with them before you leave.

## Safety and Security

No vaccinations are required but check with your personal physician prior to departure. The Aga Khan Hospital and the Nairobi Hospital are the private, major hospitals available in Kisumu. Volunteers are advised to stay together as a team and always consult us in case of any other needs/interests.

## Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program is a free service provided by the U.S. government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency, keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements, and help your friends and family get in touch with you in case of an emergency. The link to STEP is <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

## Global Entry

Is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. Due to sequestration, long lines have been reported at customs and immigration when coming back into the United States. Global Entry-approved travelers are able to use the automated kiosks at immigration to reduce wait times considerably. For more information, visit <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry>

United States Embassy

**Address:** US Embassy, United Nations Avenue, Off Limuru Rd, Nairobi, Kenya

**Phone:** +254 20 3636000

Globe Aware’s 24-hour phone line Please note our email is not attended all day every day so if you have an emergency, please use this phone number: (214) 824 4562

## Stay Involved

As you leave Kenya, you may be asking yourself, “how can I continue to help?”.

## Start planning your next volunteer vacation

Are you ready for your next volunteer vacation? Many of our volunteers are forever changed by the experience and can't wait for the next one, or to visit a new, exciting place. Maybe you fell so in love with the community you visited that you would like to go back. Get a group together, explore our different destinations on our website [www.globeaware.org](http://www.globeaware.org), or return to Kenya! All returning volunteers receive 10% of our program fees!

We love sharing YOUR Globe Aware experiences on our social media platforms! Click on the links below, follow or subscribe, and tag us **@GlobeAware!** We'll follow you back!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[TikTok \(@Globe Aware\)](#)

**Your photos & videos also have a chance to be featured in our monthly newsletter, or even win a prize from one of our yearly contests!**

Your posts help future volunteers decide which program is perfect for them, and what to expect.

Now's also the perfect time to subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#), and find all sorts of helpful tips such as how to fill out your Cuba visa form, what to expect from a public restroom abroad, packing and hacks, and more!

### **Have a blog or channel?**

You can e-mail us your website or channel, and we'll share your Globe Aware experiences!

### **\*Have large files and are unsure of how to send them?**

We suggest [WeTransfer.com](http://WeTransfer.com) (a free filesharing website). Another option is inviting us to your Drop Box folder or sharing your Google Photo Album.

If you have questions, links, or content, e-mail our Social Media Manager, [sikha@globeaware.com](mailto:sikha@globeaware.com).

## Fundraising

Start a fundraising campaign to support a program or project, fundraise towards your next volunteer trip, or even donate to other individuals fundraising so they can experience what you did!

## Communicate with us

Please call us at 1 877 588 4562 or email us at [office@globeaware.com](mailto:office@globeaware.com) to communicate any special needs you saw, project ideas, etc. to our office. We are always happy to hear from you!

## Share your photos

Send in your photos so we can share them with other people in the same program, or people interested in going to Kenya.



