

Kenya

Awareness Trips



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Welcome

Awareness trip travelers describe the experience as rewarding, eye-opening, energizing, impactful and humbling. They say they've grown in awareness and that their perception of poverty has changed.

Whether it's to meet sponsored friends or simply experience the beauty of another culture, awareness trips offer an adventure like no other. During a trip we want to reach across borders, learn from one another and have fun. Travelers will see how contributions are used to support and empower families, and for most the highlight will be getting to meet their sponsored friends.

Trips are open to sponsors and non-sponsors. Some people travel solo, while others bring friends and family members to share the experience. Our travelers range in age from 6 to 70-plus. Families with children (6 and older), whether sponsors or not, are welcome.

Trip Dates

February 24-March 3, 2026 (visiting Nairobi and the surrounding area)

September 19-30, 2026 (visiting Nairobi and Kisumu)

Note: On sponsors will have the opportunity to meet their sponsored friends who live in Kenya on both trips, regardless of which Unbound Kenya program office (Nairobi, Kisumu or Meru) serves their friends. The February trip is shorter in length than the September trip.

Space is limited! Apply as soon as possible. Check our website or call us regarding availability. We are reserving some spaces for first-time travelers so they can experience Unbound firsthand.

Sample Itineraries

On your trip, you'll be welcomed by the local staff who will be your hosts for the week. You'll visit the homes and communities of sponsored friends and learn about their joys and challenges while experiencing the beauty of the people.

A detailed schedule will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure. Unbound will make every effort to offer the opportunity to attend Mass on Saturday night or Sunday.

FEBRUARY TRIP SAMPLE ITINERARY:

Day 1: Depart your home airport to travel to Nairobi, Kenya.

Day 2: Local Unbound staff will welcome you at the airport.

Days 3-4: Meet your Kenyan sponsored friends and spend a day and a half together. Visit a local tourist park together.

Days 5-6: Visit families that live in and near Nairobi. Witness the innovations of families and youth in the Unbound program. Meet empowered mothers collaborating in groups.

Day 7: Enjoy a morning safari at a Kenyan national park. Visit points of interest such as a Giraffe Centre and shopping at the Kazuri beads factory. Begin return trip home from Nairobi.

Day 8: Arrive home.

SEPTEMBER TRIP SAMPLE ITINERARY:

Day 1: Depart your home airport to travel to Nairobi, Kenya.

Day 2: Local staff will welcome you at the airport. They will be your hosts for the week.

Days 3-5: Meet your Nairobi and Meru sponsored friends and spend a day and a half together in Nairobi. Visit a local tourist park together. Visit families that live in and metro area Nairobi. Witness the innovation of families and youth. Meet empowered mothers collaborating in groups. Enjoy a morning safari at a Kenyan national park or conservation area.

Days 6-9: Travel to Kisumu. Spend time with your sponsored friends from Kisumu. See firsthand what the families and staff have accomplished with the support of sponsorship. Visit nearby communities and enjoy views of Lake Victoria.

Day 10: Attend Mass and return to Nairobi.

Day 11: Optional outing to points of interest in Nairobi such as a baby elephant conservancy, Giraffe Centre and shopping at the Kazuri beads factory. Begin your return trip home from Nairobi this evening.

Day 12: Arrive home.

Costs You'll Need To Cover

Fees other than those set by Unbound are subject to change.

- Unbound trip fee:
 - February (6 days) 2026 trip: **\$2,000**
 - September (10 days) 2026 trip: **\$3,200**
- Roundtrip airfare between your home airport and Nairobi, Kenya (NBO): **prices fluctuate**
 - Make your airline arrangements only after your registration is confirmed and you receive the trip coordinator's written instructions for scheduling your flight. You can research airfares online or through a travel agent.
- Passport book (must be valid for at least six months beyond the end of your intended stay, with a minimum of one blank (unstamped) passport page)
- Kenya single entry electronic Travel Authorization (eTA): **\$32.50*** plus bank and processing fees. *fee subject to change
 - A trip coordinator will provide instructions for applying for your eTA after you register. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you will need to research additional requirements for entering each country.
- Immunizations as recommended by physician: **costs vary**
- Travel cancelation insurance and health insurance: **costs vary**
- Personal expenses related to ending your trip following a COVID-19 diagnosis during the trip. For example, medical, lodging, food, and flight change expenses.

What We Provide

- The opportunity to meet your sponsored friend
- Lodging and transportation costs for your sponsored friend, chaperone and local staff
- Planned group activities
- In-country ground transportation
- Lodging. While in Kenya, you will enjoy simple accommodations, typically in a retreat center or hotel. Couples and/or families will be assigned rooms together. For those traveling individually, we will assign an adult roommate of the same sex, unless you indicate on your trip application that you would like to be contacted about the cost of a single room. While running water for showers is available, it might not always be heated. Some regions visited may not have traditional, Western style showers.
- Meals and bottled water. Since tap water is unsafe for drinking, we will provide ample bottled water throughout the trip. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip fee, but there may be occasions when you will have the opportunity to purchase them. Meals are eaten with the group and will be simple fare from the local cuisine.
- Interpreters. Unbound will provide interpreters throughout the trip.
- Memories that last a lifetime

Health & Mobility

Mobility: The ability to walk on uneven terrain, walk up and down hills, and climb and descend flights of stairs is necessary. In general, groups sometimes walk up to half of a mile at any one time, over uneven terrain. The uneven terrain may be muddy. Groups regularly encounter stairs without handrails. Most places of lodging will not have an elevator.

Altitude: Nairobi is located at an altitude of 5,500 feet. You should be aware of the risks of altitude illness and how altitude can affect certain medical conditions. Consult with your doctor to see if this will affect you. Please contact a trip coordinator with any concerns.

Motion sickness: This trip takes routes along winding, mountainous roads, which can cause motion sickness.

Immunizations

Consult your doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. Staff members of Unbound are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country-specific recommendations. You can also contact them by phone at (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). We recommend speaking with a medical professional as soon as possible, as some immunizations are time sensitive.

CDC recommendations may reference a specific area of a country or vary depending on the style of travel. An Unbound trip coordinator can answer questions about the areas of the country that might be visited, lodging and other factors that you and a medical professional may need to know.

Weather and Climate

Kenya's Central Highlands enjoy the most agreeable climate in the country. In February, Nairobi experiences lows in the 60s and highs in the 80s. You'll find in September, the climate in Kisumu and Nairobi has average lows in the 60s and highs in the low 80s. September is a relatively dry month in Nairobi, but there is a greater chance of rain while in Kisumu.

Safety While Traveling

Unbound cares about your safety, and the safety of your sponsored friends and our staff. Local Unbound staff members are your hosts during the awareness trip and accompany the group. Our local staff is from the destination country and lives there. Our social workers visit the neighborhoods, towns and countryside regularly and are aware of safety concerns. Because of their unique qualifications and background, our local staff is responsible for putting together the schedule of activities for your trip and choosing the locations you will visit. The members of the communities are excited to welcome sponsors.

Nobody can guarantee safety. International travel carries inherent risks, and we understand the realities in the countries where we work. We monitor current events, weather conditions, political situations, guidance offered by the U.S. State Department and other available resources. We're in regular communication with our local staff members and stay current on security matters. We've cancelled trips when we've deemed it prudent based on local conditions.

All Unbound travelers are expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct and other rules outlined in the Travel Agreement found in the registration materials.

Unbound is proud of our history of safe and enjoyable trips and we look forward to having you join us!

Kenya Traveler Comments

"Meeting your sponsored friend adds another layer of depth and connection to your relationship. It helps give you a clearer understanding of what their lives are really like. You see the beauty of the country and get a better understanding of the work of Unbound and its amazing staff!"

- Beth, sponsor for 9 years

"It matters. It's the best thing you can ever do with your time and money, a small sacrifice with lasting impact."

-Lisa P., sponsor for 1 year

"The trips are well organized, with a good balance of education, social time with families, and cultural awareness. The safari was awesome too!"

Lisa H., sponsor for 8 years

"There is no way I could have fully understood the great work Unbound is doing in the field, or how much my sponsorship is benefiting my beneficiary and her family without taking this trip!"

-Bill, sponsor for 7 years

How Do I Sign Up For A Trip?

There are two registration packets, one for travelers 18+ years old and one for those who are 17 and younger at the time of the trip. You can download a registration packet from our website at www.unbound.org/trips, call our (800) 875-6564 number or send an e-mail to trips@unbound.org to request that one be e-mailed or mailed to your home address.

Complete, step-by-step instructions on how to register are included in the registration packet.

Space is limited! Apply as soon as possible. Check our website or call us regarding availability. Keep in mind, summer trips and those that take place during school breaks fill up quickly.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What do you do on an awareness trip?

A. Our local staff meet travelers at the airport and host our group for the length of the trip. Sponsored members and their families welcome travelers into their communities and homes, and activities and celebrations demonstrate the impact of our program to families living in poverty. Travelers will see how contributions are used to support and empower families, but for most the highlight will be getting to meet their sponsored friends.

Whether it's to meet sponsored friends or simply experience the beauty of another culture, awareness trips offer an adventure like no other. Awareness trip travelers describe the experience as rewarding, eye-opening, energizing, impactful and humbling. They say they've grown in awareness and that their perception of poverty has changed.

Q. Will I meet my sponsored friend, and how much time will we spend together?

A. This is one of the primary reasons we offer trips, and we will do everything possible to make this happen! If you are a sponsor, you will spend a day during the trip with your sponsored friend, a member of their family and a staff member. Your sponsored friend will travel from their area to meet you, and your time is often spent at a park or recreation area. In extremely rare circumstances, the ability to travel, health or other unexpected situations prevent a visit from happening. For this reason, we cannot make guarantees.

Q. Who can go on an Unbound awareness trip?

A. Trips are open to both sponsors and non-sponsors, and our travelers range in age from 6 to 70-plus. Some people travel solo, while others bring friends and family members to share the experience. Families with children (6 and older), whether sponsors or not, are welcome.

Q. Is airfare included?

A. Airfare is not included.

Q. Should I bring my friend a gift?

A. Sponsored friends and their families greatly anticipate these visits, and your presence is a special gift. Exchanging gifts is common in many cultures. If you wish, you may bring simple gifts for your friend and for the family. Check the trip preparation guide included with your confirmation packet for gift ideas.

Q. I don't speak the language, is that an issue?

A. Don't worry, Unbound provides interpreters throughout the trip.

Q. How strenuous are the trips?

A. The days begin early and are filled with activities. The trip can be rigorous, as rest time is limited. You may travel long distances in a bus or van and may be gone all day visiting communities, sometimes in very warm weather. Participants should be able to climb stairs and walk on uneven terrain such as dirt paths or cobblestone. The amount of walking varies by trip. A trip coordinator would be happy to talk to you about any concerns you have about your ability to participate.

Q. What happens if a traveler tests positive for COVID-19 during the trip?

A. Travelers that test positive for COVID-19 during the awareness trip will not be allowed to continue to join trip activities and must end their participation in the trip. The traveler will be responsible for all additional expenses, which may include meals, additional transportation, medical expenses and lodging. Unbound strongly urges travelers to purchase trip cancelation insurance. Travelers should also budget for or purchase trip interruption insurance to help cover the costs resulting from early departure from a trip.

Note: Travelers cannot lodge at Unbound dormitories after testing positive for COVID-19. This is relevant to trips to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. Unbound will transport the individual to a hotel near the airport, which accepts COVID-19 diagnosed guests.

Q. Will my health insurance cover me in another country?

A. Consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. If your policy does not cover emergency expenses including a medical evacuation, we urge you to consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance. Many insurance plans, including Medicare, do not cover treatment outside of the U.S. You can obtain further information on travel insurance from a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

Unbound strongly urges travelers to have trip cancellation and trip interruption insurance to help cover the costs associated with isolation due to a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. You may email your questions to trips@unbound.org or call a trip coordinator during business hours at (800) 875-6564.