

Building Bridges Worldwide Tanzania 2016 Itinerary

Wednesday July 13: Depart for Tanzania

Volunteers will depart the US for Kilimanjaro airport (JRO) in Northeast Tanzania. 1-2 stops in route should be expected. In July Tanzania will be 8 hours ahead of Austin CDT time, 7 hours ahead of EDT. Flights should be schedule to arrive at JRO no later than the evening of July 14.

Thursday July 14: Arrive in Tanzania; dinner with all volunteers; overnight at hotel in Arusha

All volunteers must arrive by July 14 evening. Volunteers will be picked up at the airport by BBW/MAP trip leaders. We will enjoy a group dinner at a restaurant in Arusha that evening where we will start getting to know one another as well as reviewing the trip itinerary and preparing for the week. Volunteers will overnight at The Outpost Lodge (<http://www.outpost-lodge.com/>) a hotel in Arusha that is popular with safari-goers and Kili-climbers.

Friday July 15: Depart for Safari; overnight in Ngorongoro Crater Lodge

After breakfast at our hotel, volunteers will depart in vehicles provided by our Safari partner for the 2.5-3 hour drive to Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge where we will drop our bags prior to descending into the crater to see all manner of wildlife: elephants, lions, hippos, wildebeest, zebras, ostrich and, if lucky, rhinos. After a pleasant day of safari, including a brown-bag lunch, we'll return to the hotel for dinner and opportunity to reflect on our first 24 hours in Tanzania.

Saturday July 16: Ngorongoro Crater visit; depart for Tarangire National Park

After breakfast at the Lodge we'll spend the morning with additional wildlife viewing in the Crater before returning for lunch and driving to Tarangire National Park for afternoon wildlife viewing. We'll have dinner, enjoy some team-building exercises after dinner and then overnight at a Tarangire hotel.

Sunday July 17: Tarangire National Park; drive to village

We'll eat breakfast at hotel, check out and then tour the highlights of Tarangire. Following lunch we'll conclude our safari and depart for the village of Simanjiro to begin the volunteer portion of the trip. We'll arrive just prior to dinner, get settled in our accommodations and enjoy a welcome ceremony and local food.

Monday July 18: Work in Simanjiro at school site

Volunteers will rise around 7am for a brief breakfast and preparation for a day on the worksite with a target of arriving around 8:30am. We will walk to the worksite, meet the project head and local workers and begin receiving instruction for the week. Volunteers are encouraged to try all construction tasks and other jobs. Enthusiasm and a good attitude more than compensates for lack of experience; the local villagers helping out with the project enjoy teaching volunteers how to help out. We will break for an hour or a bit more for lunch and relaxation before resuming work until 4-4:30pm.

Upon returning to our accommodations volunteers will have time to wash up and change out of their work clothes into clean attire. We'll have dinner with villagers and likely have opportunity to play with local children before and after dinner. The above daily schedule will be roughly followed each full day in the village.

Tuesday July 19: Work in Simanjiro at school site

On Day 2 at the work site volunteers will get a chance to rotate and work in different pairings or groups. This is when a lot of volunteers really get to learn about one another, as you alternate turns with a pick axe or shovel. Putting sweat equity into a project together is the quickest way to feel camaraderie with your fellow students. You will also come to know the local workers better. Volunteers may have an opportunity to briefly teach in school during the work day or lunch break.

Wednesday July 20: Work in Simanjiro at school site; teach in school

As the week wears on, students will sense how their efforts on the work site have begun to earn the respect of the skilled laborers on site. We often tell them to view themselves as interns on a week-long assignment, and that the full-time crew may view their help with skepticism. Without fail the volunteers do feel a sense of kinship, not unlike a class of interns, as they get more and more comfortable on the work site and see the tangible process of their efforts. They will also feel a greater bond with the community, as the local people realize the hard work they are contributing to better their village and openly express their gratitude. Some volunteers form a particular bond with a worker or local student; the magic of technology allows us to keep in contact even after the trip has finished.

As Wednesday night will be our last in the village there may be a special dinner and ceremony for us.

Thursday July 21: Work half-day in Simanjiro at school site; depart for Arusha

On our final day in the village volunteers will spend some morning hours on final construction tasks. Parts of the day will be spent snapping photos, exchanging contact information with the villagers, and be filled with lots of hugs and handshakes. The collective gratitude of the village can be an emotional experience for the students as they realize how much their efforts have meant to the local people. It is a powerful feeling of accomplishment for individuals and for the group as a whole.

We will depart after lunch and final good-byes for the drive back to Arusha and our hotel. There students will enjoy the comforts of a first hot shower in 4 days. We will gather for a final group dinner where will celebrate the conclusion of the trip and reflect on how the experience has influenced each person. Students will relish their first sleep in a real bed after 4 nights in more challenging village accommodations.

Friday July 22: Breakfast, lunch and shopping in Arusha; travel to airport and depart for US

Volunteers will have the morning and early afternoon to do as they please: eat, read, shop and so on. Departing flights will most likely be that evening with overnight before arriving in a connecting city.

Saturday July 23: Travel day and arrive in US

Volunteers will continue to travel home and likely arrive the afternoon or early evening of Saturday. Total door-to-door travel time will be in the 25-30 hour range.