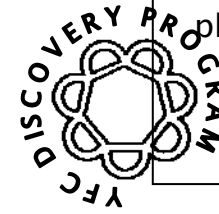




YFA TRAVEL DOCUMENT

Seeing the world with the YFC Discovery Programme

NAME: Joanna Willet
CLUB: Lichfield YFC
DESTINATION: Kenya
TYPE OF TRIP: Development
DURATION: 1 month
DATES OF TRAVEL: September 2001



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DESCRIPTION OF TRIP:

I was lucky enough to be selected to take part in a development exchange to Kenya in September 2001 with two members from Devon YFC, Andrew Lowe and Ben Pearse. The exchange included several stays around the country and a trip on safari to finish the tour off.

Nairobi was the starting point for the trip, staying in the YMCA in the city centre. From there we travelled to Nakuru and then to Kakamega. From Kakamega to Kitale, from Kitale to Eldoret and then back to Nairobi. We then went on safari to the Masai Mara Game Reserve and then returned to Nairobi to come home.

Kenya was a complete shock to the system as it is a developing country with a large population and many problems. The first thing to hit me was the transport. We were picked up from Nairobi airport in a car that had no door handles or headlights, which was very concerning considering that there were no streetlights either. In Kakamega my fears about transport safety were confirmed when the wheel of the vehicle we were travelling in came clean off the car. Luckily we were not going fast. We were warned about pick pockets and I was unfortunate enough to have some travellers cheques stolen, although this was remedied as they were replaced and I was able to collect them when I passed through Nairobi.

At every place visited we were met with a warm welcome. The Kenyan peoples are very friendly and are always keen to tell you about the area where they come from. During the tour we visited many places. These included a tea factory, a teacher training college, a university, a poultry farm, an orphanage and farm. We also saw traditional Kenyan dances being performed, and ate zebra, ostrich, and crocodile. The highlight of the tour had to be the trip to the Masai Mara Game Reserve. The wildlife was amazing with elephants, hippos, zebras, ostriches, cheetahs, lions and giraffes, all in their natural habitat. The lodge we stayed at was complete luxury and the food was incredible. Having spent several weeks sleeping in an assortment of beds and eating food that was often unidentifiable, this return to comfort was more than welcome.

The trip to Kenya has given me many memories and experiences which will stay with me for a long, long time and it has also enabled me to make several more friends. This is a trip for anyone who wants to rough it for a while, in the sense that you do not have access to your everyday luxuries that you take for granted at home, such as hot water or even clean water. It was a great break from normality and has let me come back home being able to appreciate all the little things we have, that others will simply never be able to afford.

Jo Willet