

Kenya 2010

YFC Discovery Programme



The trip

- 7 days homestay in a remote mountain village called Kariara
- 12 young farmers
- 7th-15th August 2010
- Stayed in pairs with exchange families and met up in the group throughout the day for various activities.



**The family i stayed
with**

The Njeri family

**Their home (and
mine for a week)**



The main house and grain store



The Farm

- Baba Njeri farmed just 3 acres of land to make his family's living.
- Families are mostly self sufficient growing all the vegetables and some animals to feed themselves throughout the year.
- Most families in the area owned a "farm" even if only an acre big.



Produce



Plants

- Bananas
- Avacados
- Onions
- Pumpkins
- Sugar cane
- Tea
- Sweet potatoes
- Potatoes
- Kale
- maize
- Carrots
- Cabbage
- bamboo



Animals

- 2 Dairy Cows
- 2 calves
- 4 goats
- 3 sheep
- Chickens

Cattle

- The farmers don't have enough space to graze their livestock on their own land so they walk them to the national park nearby Monday to Friday.
- Baba Njeri hand milks twice a day and sells around 3-5 litres of milk a day at 20p a litre. This keeps his kids in school.





Animals were grazed on roadside verges



Trips

- The journey from tea leaves to tea.
- Fly fishing
- Safari
- Local Pub
- Local schools
- Health Centre





Giraffes,

On Safari!



Zebra

On safari



Wart hogs

On safari



Beautiful Scenery

On safari

The children...

- Start work at a very young age
- Still get caned for getting late to school (7 to 5 school day with an hour walk there and back)
- Help with carrying Water, with the farm and cooking.



Culture

- The women and men divide is still quite strong.
- The women always stay at home cooking and looking after their many children (my mother had 10 children- that was considered normal..)
- The men believe they are superior and women don't have as many opportunities in life.
- They also have to dress very conservatively.
- Most women also pick tea



Culture

- All the villagers were extremely religious and went to Anglican churches each Sunday.
- They all cover their heads for religious reasons.
- They are encouraged to marry early and start a family (and obtain a dowry of course)
- Their walk in walk out church services last 3 hours



Culture

- The women performed a traditional Kenyan dance for us on the last night.
- They sacrifice animals for big occasions
- On the last night they sacrificed a sheep for us- mutton meat was a little tough! They even made us eat “Kenyan Sausage” – mutton intestine...



The experience

- I would honestly recommend the discovery programme to every single young farmer in NFYFC. I had an amazing experience that makes me look at life a lot differently now, plus I met a group of great like minded young farmers that I know I will keep in contact with (and which will hopefully will get me invited to lots of county balls!)

WOULD YOU?

- If you have ever considered travelling, doing it with yfc is a brilliantly easy, safe and organised way to travel with other young people to lots of exotic places. Go on, what have you got to lose??!

