



# Opportunity Education

*October 2015*

"Educating Children Around the World"



## Travel through Opportunity Education to Tanzania July 13 - 26, 2016

### **Opportunity Education: Providing an education to children of the world**

Simply put, that is our mission: making quality education accessible to children in developing nations so they can improve their standards of living and work towards a brighter future.

Too many areas of the world lack educational opportunities and resources. Our goal is to help as many children as possible achieve a meaningful education. We provide the essential support, from learning materials and curricula to televisions and teachers' guides, that is so critical to these schools.

We are also committed to helping teachers in the developing world by introducing effective teaching methods and providing tools for quality instruction and assessment. Through our Sister School Program, we connect teachers and students around the world, encouraging cultural awareness throughout the global community. As we live out that mission, in 2016 we are excited to invite you to travel through Opportunity Education to Tanzania, East Africa.

### **Why You May Need to Go**

This trip is an amazing opportunity for people like you to have a broadening awareness of the world through a short-term, life-changing educational opportunity abroad. In 2016 we are excited to host a transformational trip to Sumbawanga in the Rukwa Region of Tanzania.

The educational benefits of immersive travel are well documented. Travelers gain new and unique perspectives on a variety of global issues and grow as individuals. A few reasons for you to consider sharing this trip:

- **Bring joy to your life and the life of others** - Research has shown that one of the best ways to foster happiness is to give to others. Service learning and volunteer trips are a wonderful way to give back to your global community. Participating on an impactful learning project abroad will not only bring you joy, it will also benefit those you help and the entire community you interact with.
- **It's Good For The Soul** - We're all overworked and underpaid and falling into a rut of uninspiring daily routines can take a toll on your creativity, passion, and adaptability. Traveling abroad can reinvigorate your soul and feed your willingness to try new things and seek new challenges. Inaction breeds fatigue. Get out and go!
- **Invest In Your Career** - Traveling in the developing world is a phenomenal way to grow as an educator and inspire yourself to teach creatively. Teaching in the field and partnering with Tanzanian educators is great for your professional development. Experiential learning activities thousands of miles away from your classroom walls will only enhance your skills once you return to school.

So get out and explore your world. Your soul, your career, and your happiness will thank you!

### Who is welcome?

As we prepare for this once-in-a-life time journey, we welcome all who would like to engage in a meaningful experience with Tanzania educators and students. Are you a teacher? We will put your skills to work using resources and materials provided by Opportunity Education. Are you not a teacher by profession? Do not worry, you are absolutely welcome and we are eager to explore ways in which you can make a difference.

### What will I do as a Teacher?

You will be assigned an elementary school for the week. In that week build relationships with your new friends as well model good teaching strategies and practice English. We will reach out to the school to ascertain what lessons in various grades are scheduled to be taught that week. We will equip you with OE lessons and you will pre-communicate with US teachers that have gone on OE trips so that you are prepared. A key benefit for local teachers and students is you dialoguing in English. English is the official language of the country yet it the third language after local dialect and then Kiswahili. Hearing you teach and converse in English is a main benefit of this week for students and teachers.

### What does the trip include?

While we will primarily spend our days in schools located in the trip will expose travelers to multiple cultures and geographies as we travel in Tanzania. The trip includes a one-day safari in Katavi National Park and visits to the Kallambo Water Falls along the border of Zambia, rural villages and the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Due to the distances and remoteness, we are less able to control events. Support systems along the way, such as medical care, vehicle repair, and road maintenance, are extremely limited. Travelers must expect the unexpected and be ready to accept whatever comes graciously.

## Where is Sumbawanga, Tanzania?

You are going to probably need to get your map out to find Sumbawanga, Tanzania. While people do not always make the engaging capital of the Rukwa region a destination in itself, those who do travel to Sumbawanga thoroughly enjoy their time here.

The people of Sumbawanga are what make this area near Lake Tanganyika so special. The name of the town literally translates as "throw away your witchcraft", thought to be a warning from local spiritual "healers" to any bringing in superstitions and practices relating to spiritual healers from other areas; there are still some healers who practice both in town and in the surrounding smaller villages on the plateau.

The surrounding Ufipa Plateau is home to an ecologically important mix of forest and montane grassland, with many endemic plants. BirdLife International has also declared it an 'Important Bird Area'.

## Our Hosts

Opportunity Education is actively working with several primary schools in and around Sumbawanga. Together with our wonderful Opportunity Education staff, four schools in Sumbawanga are serving as our hosts. Learn more about each of these Sumbawanga schools on our website: [www.opportunityeducation.org](http://www.opportunityeducation.org)

- Hillcrest Junior Academy
- Kalambo English Medium School
- St. Mathias English Medium Pre & Primary School
- Ufipa Pre & Primary English Medium School

## Cost

The approximate cost is \$4,325 per person. This cost covers airfare from Omaha, visa, ground transportation, internal Tanzania airfare, all lodging and meals. You will be responsible for securing your passport (if necessary) and inoculations and oral anti-malarial medication taken during the trip. You are of course responsible for souvenirs. Tipping is done very modestly, so figure about \$2 per day. All trip costs are based on best current information and are subject to change. The trip payment schedule is as follows:

- \$300 - due now to Opportunity Education to reserve your spot on the trip (deposit is non-refundable)
- \$1,725 due to Opportunity Education by April 29, 2016
- You will book your international flight directly with the airlines early in 2016. Flight Information will be provided. Delta flight from Omaha, along with KLM flight from Amsterdam, to Dar es Salaam cost \$2,300. Your air cost could be more or less depending your departure city. Trip participants are responsible for any increase in airline taxes, fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

## Air Transport

Omaha travelers will fly on Delta Airlines to Amsterdam. If your trip originates other than Omaha, select a flight to Amsterdam. As a group we'll meet in Amsterdam and then fly together KLM Airlines directly to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. OE staff will assist you in those air arrangements.

## Accommodations & Ground Transportation

Much of the time we will stay in modest motel-like facilities. Rooms are self-contained, each with its own private bathroom. Throughout the trip we will travel in landrovers equipped for more rugged roads.

## Schedule

Our days in Tanzania will be full and rich. This two-week adventure provides you with a wonderful introduction to life in a developing country through serving in schools and visiting local villages. Our safari will be to Katavi National Park.

<b>Wednesday, July 13</b>	Depart US
<b>Thursday, July 14</b>	Arrive Dar es Salaam - Upon arrival check into Dar es Salaam hotel.
<b>Friday, July 15</b>	Travel to Sumbawanga - Early morning flight from Dar es Salaam to Mbeya followed by a drive from Mbeya to Sumbawanga
<b>Saturday, July 16</b>	Visits to Kalambu Water Falls, Lake Tanganyika and local villages
<b>Sunday, July 17</b>	Optional opportunity to worship in local churches and/or tour Sumbawanga. An afternoon orientation will be hosted for all trip participants and area school leaders.
<b>Monday, July 18</b>	Teach in Schools
<b>Tuesday, July 19</b>	Teach in Schools
<b>Wednesday, July 20</b>	Teach in Schools
<b>Thursday, July 21</b>	Teach in Schools
<b>Friday, July 22</b>	Teach in Schools
<b>Saturday, July 23</b>	Drive from Sumbawanga to Mpanda with occasional stops to visit local villages and attractions.
<b>Sunday, July 24</b>	Full day game drive in Katavi National Park followed by a drive back to Sumbawanga.
<b>Monday, July 25</b>	Travel from Sumbawanga to Dar es Salaam to catch evening flights to the United States.
<b>Tuesday, July 26</b>	Arrive in US

## Environment

Tanzania is a desperately poor country with a limited infrastructure. Healthcare is nowhere near American standards. If you have health concerns, you will need to assess that risk. This trip is not very accessible for those with physical disabilities.

## Attitude

Tanzania is not the USA and this is not a commercial tour. Despite comprehensive planning, we know there will be surprises, breakdowns, delays, disconnects, and mysteries. That is just how Africa is...and really, who would want it any other way? But it does mean that trip participants need to understand and accept this and adopt the African attitude. If a monkey should take your hat, you are expected to say "

*hakuna shida*"... no problem! We can't have fun-if you are not fun!

## Healthcare

Your health is paramount and proper health preparations for the Tanzania trip are your responsibility. Contact a traveler's clinic or your local physician about what kind of shots, etc... that you need. There are several things travelers can do to be well prepared:

1. Be up to date on routine immunizations. This includes: (1) Tetanus-diphtheria within 10 years; (2) for those born 1957 and later who did not have measles, 2 measles-mumps-rubella shots; (3) either a history of chickenpox in the individual, a history of exposure to chickenpox without getting sick, or the chickenpox vaccine; (4) for some people in special situations, other routine immunizations are needed. For example, those 65 and over (or with certain medical conditions) need pneumococcal vaccine.
2. Have protection against diseases that spread through contaminated food and water. This includes: (1) a polio booster as an adult (because recent cases of polio in Africa could be a problem); (2) Hepatitis A vaccine; (3) consider typhoid vaccine. This trip is not particularly high risk, but the typhoid experts in the US are recommending more use of the vaccine.
3. Yellow fever vaccine - is not required
4. In addition to mosquito avoidance measures (like insect repellent), medicine to prevent malaria. The choices are doxycycline, mefloquine (Lariam), and atovaquone-proguanil (Malarone). The choice will vary from person to person. Some people have medical conditions that prevent them from taking some medicines. Also, for those who pay for their malaria medications out of pocket and have no prescription drug coverage, the cost of malaria medications can vary tremendously from one to the next. In addition, some medicines are more convenient to take than others. Bed nets are provided in Tanzania, when and where required.
5. Bring loperamide (Imodium AD) to take in case someone gets mild diarrhea. Also, consider a prescription for Levofloxacin or Cipro to take in case of severe diarrhea.

## Passport

If you do not have a valid United States passport, please secure one now. For those who have a passport, make sure your passport does not expire within 6 months of the trip.

## Insurance

Travel and medical insurance is the responsibility of the traveler. There is no insurance automatically provided for you. Make sure you have adequate health insurance coverage for this trip abroad and that your coverage includes medical evacuations. If your policy does not cover you overseas you may need to purchase supplemental traveler's insurance. Reasons to obtain insurance include protecting yourself from trip interruption/cancellation, baggage loss, and providing for medical evacuation and care. Your insurance representative or your local travel agency can be very helpful with travel and medical insurance.

## Registration

To register, send a \$300 per person deposit (make checks payable to the "Opportunity Education Foundation" and write "2016 Sister School Trip" in memo line) with the enclosed reservation form to:

Opportunity Education  
ATTN: 2016 Sister School Trip  
10156 L Street  
Omaha, NE 68127

## Questions or Inquiries

If you wish to learn more about this transformational trip to Tanzania, please contact:

**Jim Ricketts**  
**402.614.5381**

[jimricketts@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:jimricketts@opportunityeducation.org)

## Final Word

This trip is a tremendous opportunity to make a difference in the educational life of people whose lives are very different from our own, particularly in terms of material resources. Our hosts in Tanzania welcome us to share what little they have with a spirit of hospitality that is both unfamiliar to most of us and simply astonishing for those open to receiving it.

***Give us a call today!***

## Reservation Form

### 2016 Sister School Trip

Name (as it appears on your passport):

---

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Housing - Rooms are typically one person per room. Double rooms can often be arranged.

**YES NO** We are interested in a double room. Double occupancy does not reduce cost.

Special Needs or Requests:

---

---

Please return this completed form and \$300 non-refundable deposit to:

Opportunity Education  
ATTN: 2016 Sister School Trip  
10156 L Street  
Omaha, NE 68127

(Make checks payable to "Opportunity Education Foundation" and note "2016 Sister School Trip" in the memo line)

STAY CONNECTED

