

Volunteering in Tanzania

AMANI HOSTEL organizes volunteer work stays in Tanzania directly in collaboration with project. Intern ships are also possible. Volunteering in Tanzania is a unique way to explore yourself, discover a country, its culture and people while doing a meaningful job.

You must be at least 18 years old, independent, outgoing and have a sincere desire to do volunteer work.

You should expect the unexpected, be adaptable, flexible and enthusiastic. These are probably the qualities that made you contact AMANI HOSTEL in the first place. This is not a holiday or a guided tour. It is a unique experience to learn, make new friends and also make a difference with your volunteer work.

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Programs start every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, with arrival Sunday prior to the program start at Kilimanjaro International Airport. Upon arrival you will be picked up at the airport and driven to your accommodation. During the first 1-3 days, you will get an orientation in town and some Swahili lessons, while the coordinator organizes your work permit.

Volunteer teaching in Tanzania

Children represent over 50% of the population, but in terms of budget allocations, children welfare is still relegated to the private sphere of the family, community and NGOs and remains politically marginalized from the mainstream concerns of the governance and economic policy.

There is significant economic growth in some sectors, particularly mining and tourism but very little growth in Agriculture sector on which most children and their families depend.

Opportunities missed in childhood, such as good nutrition and education, can cause irreversible harm and trap children in long term poverty. Poverty at household level and very low level of investment in basic infrastructure such as schools and health care facilities or transport for economic activities makes life hard for children in Tanzania.

The only way out of poverty is through education. This goes of course even more for orphans. Children are very much aware that being able to speak English is essential to their future prospects and they are eager to learn.

English is a common language in Tanzania because the country once was a British colony. However, there is a lack of quality English education. If you choose to teach, don't expect Western standards with premade educational materials, tight schedules

and so on. You must make it up as you go. You may also assist with sports, music, drawing lessons, games and other activities.

Public schools close during the following periods:

June 15th – July 27th

Sep 19th – Oct 10th

Dec 15th – Jan 1st

During these periods it is possible to teach at a private school or at an orphanage instead.

Food and accommodation during volunteering

Most volunteers prefer to stay at the “House for Volunteers” in Arusha with: TV-room, showers and sanitary facilities. There’s a guard and a cook who prepares 2-3 meals a day. Here it is possible to have more of a social life with other volunteers. The coordinator – who also arranges Safari Trips – has his office in the house. From here, you will be picked up and transported to and from work.

If you prefer more authentic surroundings, you can chose to live with a local host family instead, where you also will have 3 meals a day. Here you will share all facilities with the family members, of whom at least one speaks English.

Tanzanian food includes a little meat, chicken or fish with rice and some fruit. Showers do no not always have hot water. Don’t expect luxury!

Below you will find descriptions of the voluntary work places. Tasks and working hours differ from place to place.

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