

## CHANGE LIVES AND VOLUNTEER IN KENYA 2010 - 2011



**Do you love working with children?**  
Come to Kenya and work with children. On this project you will be working in Mombasa with underprivileged children that need your help. This project is very fulfilling and will leave you feeling that not under has Kenya got under your skin, that you have understood the plight facing the street children and being able to make a difference.

## Highlights

- You will leave knowing you have made a difference in children's lives
- The experience of living and working in Mombasa
- Seeing and becoming immersed in Kenya's way of life

The street kids project in Mombasa, Kenya is a favourite with many of our volunteers, and Sarah Ashmore is no exception. Sarah, 40, from Orpington in Kent, volunteered at the educational centre for street children for two weeks. Teaching children aged between seven and seventeen can be a challenge, but it is also extremely fulfilling. It was amazing. ([read review](#))

# Volunteer in Kenya / General information for volunteers

## The project

This project has two different centres – the halfway house and the permanent home. Children come off the streets voluntarily and enter the halfway house where they are treated for any addictions that they may have. They also need time to get used to adults supporting them and a new way of life with a daily routine, perhaps for the first time in many years after being independent on the streets. Once settled, they can then choose to move on to a more permanent home where they are looked after and educated and hopefully, where possible, resettled with their families. Most volunteers will be working in the permanent home.

## Your role as a volunteer

As a volunteer in Mombasa, you will have a variety of things to do and choose from. Volunteers work on a shift rota, undertaking many activities. These will include general care and affection of the children, teaching (English, Maths, Health Education), and preparing meals. For the older children you can use your creativity to organise different arts and crafts, sports activities, plays etc. All the options are endless!

## Skills and experience

Specific skills and experience are not needed. Enthusiasm is a great thing to have where this project is involved, as even though working with children can be challenging, it is also lots of fun. This project is very flexible, so any skills you have will be much appreciated and come in useful. If you are creative, coming up with new ideas and organising activities will be great. If you are sports minded you can set up different sports activities and games.

## Overview

### On arrival

On arriving in Mombasa, an airport pick-up is available, so there will be someone there waiting for you at the airport when you arrive. The person that picks you up at the airport will take you to the volunteer house or project, whichever is more convenient on your day of arrival. Once you have been shown around and are settled, the local co-ordinator will explain how things work and whereabouts you will be volunteering.

### Local support

There is always a local co-ordinator on hand nearby, who is there whenever you may need them. They can help you with anything you are worried about or generally need help with. One of the project managers lives quite close to the volunteer house and can be often found popping in for a visit to see how everyone is getting along. In addition, you will not be the only volunteer although volunteer numbers vary throughout the year with peaks at Christmas, Easter and during June and July, there are usually between 5 and 10 volunteers.

### Accommodation included

Accommodation is included with this project. Volunteers stay in shared volunteer accommodation or with a local family home-stay style. The house is basic but comfortable by Western standards. Bedrooms are mainly dormitory style with two to four sharing.

### Food included

Kenyans make their food from locally sourced produce such as meat with rice. When staying in the volunteer accommodation, as part of your stay you will be provided with breakfast and dinner most days.

### Getting around

It is very easy to get around in Kenya. Transport is usually done by matutu, which to us is like a mini-bus. It is relatively easy to get to the centre of Mombasa and only takes up to 40 minutes to get there.

## Project resources and advice

The projects in Kenya have their own daily resources but you are welcome to bring extra stationery and different crafts and sports equipment to use during your stay. You can buy this beforehand, or if you wish, it can also be bought in Mombasa when you arrive. You may also want to bring gifts for the children and again are welcome to do this if you wish.

## Free time

At weekends volunteers are free to travel around. Most volunteers tend to head to the beaches or go shopping in Mombasa; sometimes going to cafes and emailing home. Also, volunteers organise themselves into groups to go exploring together; this way you are not alone and feel safe and can have fun with others. Trips and excursions can be easily arranged through the Mombasa Tourist Office after arrival. Typical trips and days out are made to the tropical island of Lamu and for weekend safaris.

## Local facilities

Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya, it is here where you will find local facilities, including several banks; including Barclays, Internet cafes and lots more amenities that you may need. Mombasa centre is an easy matutu ride from the volunteer house. There is also a local hospital nearby that is easy to get to should you need to see a doctor. Most volunteer stays are hassle free with stomach upsets due to the change in diet being the main concern in the first few days after arrival.

## What to take

Once you have applied and registered with Original Volunteers, you will receive an Information Pack via email that will have further details on the project in Kenya; in this email there will be a list of items to take and items that are best not to take.

## Not on your own

Most volunteers travel alone to the placements, but don't fret as it is very easy for you to get in contact with volunteers beforehand. You can get in touch with volunteers that have already been, who can give you a detailed overview on what it is like. You can also get in contact with volunteers that are travelling at a similar time as yourself; this way you can feel safe and secure knowing that you know the ins and outs of the project and will know people when you get there. Some volunteers even get in contact and end up flying out together.

## How to apply

It is quick and easy to register with Original Volunteers. You can either do it online via our website [www.originalvolunteers.co.uk](http://www.originalvolunteers.co.uk) or you can call us on 0800 345 75 82 and register over the phone. It costs £125 to register and this registration lasts a whole year; which means you can go to as many placements as you want within that year without having to pay the £125 again before any extra trip. The registration fee also instantly books and reserves your place in any month you choose. We are very flexible however and you can always change your mind. Just let us know if dates change and spaces permitting we can put you on another list.

## When to pay for this project

Kenya accommodation is paid on arrival. So when you arrive you pay the local co-ordinator the fee.



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# Volunteer in Kenya / General information for volunteers

## Things that you will need to organise yourself

- Flights to Kenya
- Travel insurance
- Visa can be obtained at the airport on arrival
- In-country transport (except your airport pickup on arrival)
- Tours, trips and add-ons – these are easy to organise. All you need to do is go to the local Tourist office and they can help you set them up.
- Any extra equipment
- Extra food and snacks on your days off

## Fast Facts

### Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 3 weeks - Max 12 weeks
- Project Costs: £75 per week
- Location of project: *Various locations within Mombasa,*
- Arrival Airport: *Mombasa (airport code MBA)*
- Activities: *Helping with teaching and providing general care and assistance in looking after the children. This will involve playing games, teaching English & Maths and basic life skills.*
- Working Hours: *Flexible; usually Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm or 08.30 until lunchtime, as required by the project, all other time is free.*
- Getting to the project: *Airport pick-up is available for all volunteers once we have received your flights to Mombasa*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 18*

### What's Included

- Accommodation: *Volunteers stay in a volunteer house in shared dormitory rooms or shared rooms with a family home-stay*
- Food: *Breakfast and dinner most days*
- Airport Pickup: *Airport pick up is available for when you arrive at the airport.*
- Training: *During your stay you will be trained informally via project staff in- and informal support from your fellow volunteers*

### What's not included

- *Flights*
- *Visas*
- *Insurance*
- *Return Airport transfer*
- *Local Transport around Mombasa*
- *Lunch is not provided*

### Climate

Kenya has a tropical climate. Kenya gets a lot of sunshine all year round; however it is usually cooler in the morning and evenings. The hottest period in Kenya is February to March and the coldest is July to August. April to June is the longest rain season. The highest temperature in Kenya is 30 degrees and the lowest is 22 degrees.

Most people visit Kenya in January to February or July to August as these are the most popular times for safaris.



### Kenya

Kenya is bordered by Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Sudan. The capital city is Nairobi. Kenya is named after Mount Kenya, which is the second among the highest peaks in Africa.

Kenya gained independence in 1963 and a key figure in Kenya's liberation was Jomo Kenyatta, the first president of the country.

### Mombasa

Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya. Mombasa is the centre of the coastal tourism industry. The name Mombasa means 'Island of War' and has been called this due to its many different ownerships. Kenya is a multilingual country, with its official languages being Swahili and English; although, up to 62 different languages are spoken around Kenya. Bantu languages are spoken in the centre and southeast, Nilotic languages are spoken in the west and Cushitic languages in the north-east.