



Rift Valley Explorations

KENYA AND TANZANIA



An opportunity for you to spend the most memorable three weeks of your life working,

- in conservation and learning new skills,
- amongst friendly, welcoming communities
- in spectacular, unspoilt landscapes, rich in animal and plant diversity
- to produce meaningful results under qualified guidance.

www.kenya-rift-lakes.org

What are we?

Rift Valley Explorations is a consortium of scientists of different disciplines, led by Dr David Harper of the University of Leicester, who conduct research in the lakes, savannahs and forests of the Rift.

Most are from universities, some are independent. They are from England, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Poland and the USA as well as partners in Kenya and Tanzania.



We work in and on the wet ecosystems in the Rift. We conduct research which tries to understand the scientific basis for their functioning, so that we can advise their communities and government agencies responsible for them how to look after them and to use them wisely.

- Full details of us are on www.kenya-rift-lakes.org/scientists.htm

What are the benefits of joining us?

We are one of the few university-led, field-based conservation expedition groups available for anybody to join. This gives you a guarantee of our professionalism and your learning.

You will join a group with 25 years of running research camps and projects in the Rift Valley; we have a smoothly-operating safari camp, transport and mobile laboratory which enable us to be based wherever we work – on the edge of a lake, wetland or river – in a secure location.

You will be part of a group with a high track record of outputs of our work in scientific books, journal articles, popular articles, combined with positive benefits to local communities where we work in schools, co-operatives and with government agencies.

- Full details of these are on www.kenya-rift-lakes.org/achievements.htm

What do we offer you?

Each 3-week team typically consists of 4-5 scientists and 12-15 students/trainees/volunteers. We work typically 4 days on, one day off.

Everybody has their own canvas tent for sleeping in, shares a shower tent and a toilet tent with 2-3 others. We have a communal mess tent for eating and teaching and a laboratory tent for scientific research work

Dedicated camp staff feed us, clean our tents, maintain the showers and generally make life very comfortable.

We travel in Land Cruisers that take us everywhere on land and inflatable dinghies that take us on lakes, both driven by long-standing, experienced staff.

We meet you at Nairobi, take you to the camp and return you on the last day

Everything we do is conducted to the same health, safety and security standards that apply to our home university work.

Everywhere we work has spectacular wildlife all around; also on the days off we can arrange National Park visits.

- To find out more about us and where we work, read the information at www.kenya-rift-lakes.org/lakes.htm

“ I would like to say a very big thank you for running the field trip to Kenya, I learnt so much from the experience it has made me rethink what I would like to do after I finish. I am now thinking about going into other areas such as ecology, conservation, sustainability, biodiversity and Earth observation. ”

Why should you join us?

Water is probably the most critical natural resource in our 21st Century society. Working with us will help you understand its ecology and sustainable use in a tropical environment.

If you come with us in order to achieve a university or college dissertation credits, you know that we have the experience and knowledge to supervise it.

If you come to us as part of a gap year adventure between school and university, you will appreciate working to a standard of investigative conservation science that you will soon become used to.



If you come to us on a career break gap, or a working holiday, you can have the confidence of 3 weeks in a completely different mental culture of conservation science, in a completely different social culture of people who live within their natural resources and need help to make their livelihoods sustainable.

What should you do next?

However you come to us, as student looking for a project, as employee looking for a working holiday, as agency or company director looking for a means of giving staff a complete break helping to save the planet, you have the reassurance of the quality of a university in Britain's top 20 and the World's top 200 to challenge your mind and stretch your problem-solving capacity.

Fill out the simple form overleaf (or just answer the questions) and send it to
 Dr David Harper
 Department of Biology
 University of Leicester
 Leicester LE1 7RH, UK

Telephone and sms +447919071701 or +254720276671
 Email: dmh@le.ac.uk or dmharper57@googlemail.com

Photographs

Front Cover: Collecting samples on the shore of Lake Bogoria

Clockwise from far left: Identifying specimens in early evening in the laboratory; Counting flamingos, Lake Bogoria; Maasai women greeting the team in 2007, the first research group ever in their village, Olkiramatian; Leaning about mist-netting and bird identification, Lake Baringo.



How much will it cost?

Price in 2009 is £1,350 per person, for a 3 week project, which is inclusive of food, accommodation, travel to camp from Nairobi (or Arusha if in Tanzania) on the first day and back to there on the last. It excludes your air fare in to the country, any alcohol/soft drinks and the costs of any day off excursions.

There are reductions for group bookings. The minimum group size is 8, maximum 24. If group size exceeds 16, then price per person is reduced to £950 for all.

“ This field trip was an amazing experience and has really opened my eyes to the importance of biodiversity and conservation in East Africa. ”

Applying for the field course

Fill out the simple form below and post it (or just answer the questions in an email) and send it to

Dr David Harper
 Department of Biology
 University of Leicester
 Leicester LE1 7RH, UK

Telephone and sms +447919071701 or +254720276671

Email: dmh@le.ac.uk or dmharper57@googlemail.com



Photographs

Clockwise from left: The camp, rainy season, Lake Bogoria; Upper right collecting fish fry in the shallows, Lake Baringo; Lower right – examining a sample net for insect life



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www.le.ac.uk

Name

Age and education.....

Address.....

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Tell us what you want to do.....

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Do you have a preference for what kind of work you do?

Do you have a preference for where you would like to work

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Or for when you would like to come out

