

TANZANIA & KENYA TRIP

We were offered the opportunity two years ago to go to Tanzania and Kenya to do conservation work. It was most certainly the best thing we have ever done.

The trip lasted for 28 days, all of which were packed with challenge, success, beautiful scenery and incredible people. As a team of 25 in total (Springwood making up about 10 of the team), Team Papa set out to conquer all the challenges presented to us. We stayed at four camps, the first of which was Camp Tanga.

Camp Tanga is on the coast of Tanzania and is where we helped to construct a house in a local village and also learned to scuba dive. The camp itself was stunningly beautiful as we were right on the beach. Every morning required us to step out of our tents and admire the vista across the Indian Ocean. The local village we worked in was located a short (but incredibly bumpy) truck journey away. It was there that we helped to construct a house from sticks, rope and loads of mud. We then did a PADI diving course in which we learned how to dive with scuba equipment. After learning, Team Papa dived just off the coast of where our camp was to swim over a wonderful coral reef that was teeming with life. We ended our time at the camp with a culture day where Team Papa went to the village and were shown how to make mandazi and chapatti (which we could not stop eating).

The second camp Team Papa stayed at was Camp Mbokomu where we assisted a school by laying a cement step outside of a classroom and repairing the walls inside one of the classrooms. Later, we had a culture day in which we visited a tribe where we helped plant banana plants and learned how vital the banana is to the tribe. We also were shown and attempted to carry buckets of water from a stream on our heads which we concluded was easier said than done. Later, Team Papa played a football match against the school where we had been working where we won 3-0 despite the heat.

After Mbokomu, we went on a safari in Manyara where we were driven around the park in open top safari cars and saw elephants, lions, zebra, wildebeest, ostriches, monkeys and so much more.

Team Papa then travelled to Camp Tsavo in Kenya. Whilst there, we helped the community by deworming a lot of unruly goats. As well as this, we went to a tree nursery where Team Papa potted and seeded around 1300 seeds. These seeds will go on to be planted in the surrounding area. We were also told that with the number of trees that we planted, we had all removed our carbon footprint which was awesome.

The 28 days that Team Papa were out in Africa for were unforgettable for all of us and taught us so much. After the trip every one of us came back a changed person, all for the better. We all became more confident, harder working, and most importantly we learned Hakuna Matata. No worries.

