

Kenya Expedition 2026

This expedition is for members of the Hatters who will be explorer age in September 2024 (*anyone turning 18 before the 1st September will not meet the criteria and will be eligible by invite only to be part of our leader team – if you turn 18 between the 1st September 2024 and the expedition in 2026 you should still sign up by completing this form). You will have to be an active member of the explorer unit during the signing up period and it will be expected that this continues. Please see terms set out at the end of the document – [click here](#).

This form outlines the expedition details, [fundraising](#) and finance and [contains a section that you must complete and return](#) with [terms](#) and a [declaration that you have read and accepted those terms](#).

Expedition Details

Where: Kenya

Dates: approx. 25th July – 10th August *this will vary depending on cost and availability of flights – the expedition length will be 11-14 days.*

Purpose: There will be 4 objectives of this expedition that fall under the overall one aim; to provide a once in a lifetime experience for young people in our Explorer Unit. The four objectives are to make a significant difference to conservation work being undertaken in buffer zones around the perimeter of the Maasai Mara Game Reserve. The focus in these areas known as the Maasai Mara Conservancy Area is to reduce conflict between animals and humans, our role will be to support scientists with research. The beauty of this is that it ties into the second objective, which is to give the young people an opportunity to witness and track large predators in a way that wouldn't be possible on Safari.

The third objective is showing the young people different areas of Kenya so that we can experience the diverse landscape, scenery, urbanisation and Game Reserves. We will be meeting with local Scouts as we travel. Finally, to experience the cultural differences between, live within and get to know the Maasai and see the world through a different lens.

Partners: trekMountains

Programme:

Note that this is not a final programme, we are potentially spending a day with a local Scout Group in Nairobi that Dan is in touch with at the start of the expedition, which will mean an extra day camping near to Nairobi. We are looking at some other wildlife conservation options, too.

Kenya 2026: Draft Itinerary 3		
Day	Activities	Overnight Accommodation
1	Arrive Nairobi, transfer to camp, safari briefing.	Camp, Nairobi
2	Drive 3 hours to Nyeri - visit Baden Powell home, memorial park and museum.	Kaiyaba Scouts Centre - camp
3	Hike on the slopes of Mt Kenya. (1 hour drive from Kaiyaba)	Kaiyaba Scouts Centre - camp
4	Drive 2½ hours to the Elsamare Conservation Centre at Lake Naivasha, continuing the work of Joy Adamson (of Born Free fame). Groups rotate between conservation project activities - conservation talk / birds of prey rehab centre / tree planting / Mt Longonot hike.	Elsamare Conservation Centre - dormitories

5	Elsamare Conservation Centre at Lake Naivasha Groups rotate between conservation project activities - conservation talk / birds of prey rehab centre / tree planting / Mt Longonot hike.	Elsamare Conservation Centre - dormitories
6	Drive 4 hours to Masai Mara Conservancy, set up camp at the project site. Learn about the work of the Predator Conservation Team.	Elsamare Conservation Centre - dormitories
7	Masai Mara Conservancy Project Day with the Predator Conservation Team Groups rotate between conservation project activities: Painting eyes on cattle / herbivore & predator observation of behaviour and collection of data.	Masai Mara Conservancy - camp
8	Masai Mara Conservancy Project Day Groups rotate between conservation project activities: Painting eyes on cattle / herbivore & predator observation of behaviour and collection of data.	Masai Mara Conservancy - camp
9	Masai Mara Game Reserve - full day game drive on safari.	Masai Mara Conservancy - camp
10	Drive to Nairobi, camp	Camp, Nairobi
11	Visit Kenya Wildlife Service Animal Elephant Orphanage Centre and Giraffe Centre where you can feed giraffe by hand (these activities depend on flight departure time). Transfer to the airport, depart	

The main voluntary projects on this occasion are not human focused, although in the case of the Maasai Mara Conservancy, focus on the pressures between animals and humans. There are now probably fewer wild lions in the world than rhinos, their numbers have halved in the last 20 years. These are the current activities which the conservation project is currently undertaking, we will be involved in most, if not all:

- **Painting eyes on cattle** – this is great fun! Basically, it is thought that lions don't chase things that are looking at them. So why not paint eyes on the backsides of the cows that belong to the Maasai herdsman to stop them becoming a lion's lunch? It's a conservation project which has been trialed in Botswana, and is now being introduced in Kenya. What's not to like about doing this?
- **Herbivore observation and collection of data** – this is so interesting to do. Not only do you get to go on safari, but you learn patterns in the behaviour of the herbivores – the grass grazing animals. You learn why they eat in certain areas, how they choose where to rest and sleep, how to tell a male from a female of various species (it can be harder than you might think).
- **Collection of data of grasses** growing in the area and the consequent reasons why animals graze in particular areas.
- **Predator observation** – this is the big stuff! Where the grass grazers are munching lunch, the big cats aren't far behind! Look out for predators such as lions, cheetah and jackals, and learn why they are where they are, and where they choose to spend their time sleeping. Discover how the rangers use EarthRanger to monitor the movement of lions.
- **Setting camera traps** and collecting data from them to record the movement of animals in the area.



Transport: Flying to Nairobi, using buses and coaches for transport in-country.

Accommodation: Combination of hotels, guest houses and camping (all addresses and details to be included in Nights Away Information forms).

Cost: £3,000 please see Finance Details in the following section - [click here](#). It is possible that this will cost as little as £150 of your own money, if you are willing to work hard enough to raise the rest.

Fundraising: It is expected that everyone will fundraise around half of the total cost, and you may choose to fundraise most of it.

Everyone will be working towards personal fundraising goals, but we will be working together and recognising effort and contribution.

[More details here.](#)

Deadline: 31st October 2024 (extension for those joining the Hatters in September which will be communicated).

Finance

We are committed to a principle that **nobody should ever miss out on an experience due to a factor such as cost**. Should the deposit value be a problem at this present time, please contact Dan to discuss further, this will not prevent you from having a place. Nobody should consider missing this opportunity due to the cost. We will all work together to raise as much money as possible, it is likely that you will be able to raise your entire amount without paying anything beyond the deposit and there is money available in scouting to help those who may be less able to pay (some means tested, some not).

Please don't hesitate to contact Dan at either hatters.esu@gmail.com or 07977 185981
Once your place has been confirmed, you will be asked to pay a deposit of £150 if you can afford to ([note on deposits to be found here](#)):

Bank Details:

Southgate District Scout Council - Hatters Explorer Scout Unit,

Bank sort code: 20-98-21,

Account Number: 03387119

If you cannot make a payment online and need to another way, please contact Dan to discuss.



Terms and conditions:

Deposits

Deposits are non-refundable unless circumstances considered by the leader team are deemed unavoidable on the part of the person pulling out of the trip. Factors would include a change in health, major injury, bereavement, retaking exams, the event being cancelled or other reasons outside of the control of the individual that the leadership team consider case by case.

Fundraising

At least half of your fee should be fundraised. Apart from the deposit, you can fundraise the entire amount should you choose to. We realise that not everyone will want to do that but to ensure that everyone is working as hard as possible towards our combined goal, it is expected that everyone raise at least half of the funds required without payment instalments.

This will be achieved by:

- Supporting, promoting and organising group events that we run as an Explorer Unit
- Organising other events as smaller groups or individuals
- Getting personal sponsorship
- Getting donations for services or things that you can make/sell
- Applying for grants made available to individuals via local councils
- Requesting donations from schools
- Support group efforts like bag packing, Christmas Tree selling etc
- And lots more... there are separate fundraising letter, resources and google drive

Throughout the process, there will inevitably be some money raised that cannot be allocated to individual fundraising and we will keep you updated on how much sits in that pot (restricted to this expedition). The greater the sum in that pot, the more flexibility we may have nearer the departure date.

Everyone's individual commitment

The expectation is that every participant and leader on this expedition has the right attitude. Providing that is the case, everyone will be able to stay involved and attend. This is the criteria and measure that is more important than any £ paid or raised.

As an Explorer Unit, we only ever ask that you remember the Scout Law and Promise, that you "be nice", you try your best and that you treat everyone else with respect. These expeditions are a test and as long as everyone looks out for each other we'll have an amazing time. It is really important that from the start to end, we're together and supportive of everyone.

All participants and leaders will be expected to support group events, fundraising, training and socials where possible and regardless of your own fundraising strategy (for example, if you raise £1,000 on your own without the need to rely on group events, we still expect you to attend and contribute to some because if you don't you will not gel and be a part of the group – group events are only successful if everyone supports them as best they can, so please help those who can't raise funds in other ways by supporting these events).

Payment Instalments

We will be in touch with all of you at the start of a payment month to tell you how much you've raised so far and what you've paid in. If your fundraising is going really well, we won't insist on

payments being made to cover the difference between what you've raised and the combined target at that point – although you may choose to do so and avoid risk of a bigger deficit later on. For example, if you have raised £500 by the end of March 2025, there will be no need for an instalment. Those raising around the minimum target level will be expected to pay the instalments on top unless you expect to raise large sums with your own fundraising activities later down the line. If you are only finding time to raise the minimum and are struggling to make payments that cover the other half then we will source funding for you. If you are falling behind on minimum fundraising amounts, we'll let you know.

		Fundraising Target for the end of each payment period	Maximum Payments Due	Running Payments Total	Total amount per person
<i>Deposit</i>	Oct-24	£0.00	£150.00	£150	£150
	Mar-25	£250.00	£250.00	£400	£650
	Jun-25	£500.00	£250.00	£650	£1150
	Oct-25	£750.00	£250.00	£900	£1650
	Jan-26	£1,000.00	£250.00	£1150	£2150
	Apr-26	£1,250.00	£250.00	£1400	£2650
	Jun-26	£1,500.00	£100.00	£1500	£3000
Total		£1,500.00	£1,500.00		
					£3,000.00

Criteria to remain part of the expedition and grounds for removal

For those who will still be under 18 years old at the conclusion of the expedition it is a minimum requirement that you will still be an active member of the Hatters throughout the period leading up to the expedition. There will be times when exams, other commitments and schoolwork will have to take priority but you will still be expected to contribute and be a part of the Hatters.

Every person attending will have to complete their first response first aid qualification so that we are all in a position to help one another. Alice and Dan will run courses as often as we can, so this won't be a problem.

Should anyone find themselves removed from the Hatters Explorer Scout Unit for unacceptable behaviour between now and the expedition, they will not be able to attend the event and the deposit will remain non-refundable.

For those who will turn 18 years old before we travel to Kenya, we have a process in place for you to attend as participants who are DBS checked adult volunteers in scouting. We will guide you through that process and it may differ from person to person but in order to go we will arrange for you to have appointments (most as occasional helpers with Southgate District which is an adult role requiring the absolute minimal level of training) and be DBS checked. We will organise all of this with you.

For those who will turn 18 during the course or close to the date that we travel, we can organise the appointment and DBS process up to 3 months before your 18th birthday, so you don't have to worry.



Kenya Expedition 2026

Declaration

Full Name (including middle names as per passport):

I have read, understood and accept the terms outlined in this document.

Signature of young person:

Date of signature:

Name of parent/guardian:

Signature of parent/guardian:

Date of signature: