

# Experience of a Lifetime

## Insight Trip to Kenya and Rwanda

October 10 – 17, 2010

### Kenya

Opportunity International invites you to join us as we discover how microfinance services empower people to provide food, housing, education and healthcare for their families and take leadership roles in strengthening their communities. Learn about the vision of Opportunity Kenya and attend Trust Group meetings to see how a small loan, savings, insurance and training can transform lives.

Each morning, put on your walking shoes to be inspired by the richness found in the life experiences of our clients, loan officers and staff as you explore their world. You will participate in a meaningful service project with children to give a better understanding of the challenges of being poor and the joy of giving back.

Through these experiences, you'll be able to envision a world where each and every person has fair access to economic opportunities, along with the inspiration to move beyond poverty. You'll also have a renewed sense of how you personally can help make that world a reality.

Jacinta Njoki operates the Wisdom Junior Educational Center. She started the school in 2001 with a \$375 loan and now has 150 kids and six teachers. The loan she received helped her to buy bunk beds, additional furniture in the office, tables, chairs, benches and books. Jacinta shared that when the school was new, operating it was very hard. The school has six rooms with a kitchen.

Jacinta also provides the kids with lunch everyday. 28 women called "United Mothers" have joined together to support 5 orphans in the school. Jacinta says that although things are not always easy, "We are happy here."



Diana has been supporting her family since her husband died when she was four months pregnant with her youngest child. She got a job cleaning houses, using any extra money to buy fabric from the Congo to sell in the market. Then a friend invited her into the Opportunity Trust Group "Let's Develop Ourselves," and her business took off.



Diana applied for a loan from Opportunity Rwanda to buy more fabric in bulk. With an additional loan, she was able to renovate three houses to rent, which enabled her to pay for school, transportation and books for her four children. Eventually, she was able to build a new home with electricity, which she says is "like heaven."

### Rwanda

In the "Land of a Thousand Hills," discover firsthand how Opportunity International's microfinance services can help bring reconciliation to people recovering from the 1994 genocide. Meet rural clients served by our new mobile bank, and learn about our plans for launching bank branches throughout Rwanda. Visit our newest branch in the Nyamata slum, which is helping displaced families work their way out of poverty. Open your own account at Opportunity Rwanda, the country's fastest-growing bank, where clients can save securely with an initial deposit of only \$.25.

Watch as our Trust Group clients receive training on business, social and health issues, including HIV/AIDS. Visit individual members' homes and places of business to learn how Opportunity's other financial services—loans, savings and insurance—help transform the lives of families and entire communities.

Conclude your trip with a hike up a mountainside to see the majestic silverback gorillas. Depart from Rwanda with new friends and a renewed vision of how you personally can help end global poverty.

# Itinerary

**Sunday, October 10:** Arrive in Nairobi. Local Opportunity staff will meet you upon your arrival and take you to the Nairobi Serena Hotel.

**Monday, October 11:** Sleep in and after a late breakfast, travel to Masai Market to see and shop for crafts made by the local Masai people. In the afternoon, discover the animals at the Nairobi National Park. Nairobi National Park is a unique ecosystem it is the only protected area in the world close to a capital city. Expect to see major wildlife as 400 species live in this park. Enjoy an early dinner and trip orientation.

**Tuesday, October 12:** After breakfast, head to Opportunity's branch to meet the CEO and staff participating in devotions. In the afternoon, grab your camera and head to the field to visit a couple of our inspirational loan officers and clients.

**Wednesday, October 13:** After breakfast, head into the field to join Trust Group meetings and visit individual Trust Groups. Hear their stories, learn about their businesses, and find out more about how they are working their way out of poverty. After lunch, visit a client's school for children where you will participate in fun activities throughout the day and fall in love with the children of Kenya.

**Thursday, October 14:** Early morning, fly to Rwanda. Check in to Kigali Serena Lodge then depart to Opportunity Rwanda and enjoy a presentation by local leadership. Enjoy another inspiring day with Trust Group Clients at their meeting and in their places of business. In the evening, depart for Ruenghiri and check into the Mountain Gorilla View Lodge. The lodge, situated in the foothills of the mighty Virungas, the chain of 15,000 ft. volcanoes stretching through Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with wonderful views of the volcanoes and the surrounding countryside.

**Friday, October 15:** Rise early to take a gorilla trek at Volcanoes National Park. Experience the viewing of silverback gorillas in their natural habitat.

**Saturday, October 16:** After breakfast, depart for a memorable tour of the National Genocide Museum - a must see when visiting Kigali. Check in to the Kigali Serena Hotel for a last night of reflection over the past week's adventure.

**Sunday, October 17:** Return home from this life-changing trip with lasting memories, new friends and a renewed vision for how you can help end global poverty.

## Spotlight on Kenya

**Location:** Eastern Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean between Somalia and Tanzania

**Climate:** Tropical, warm and dry along southeast coast

**Terrain:** Low plains rise to central highlands bisected by Great Rift Valley; fertile plateau in West

**Population:** 38,534,087

**Languages:** English (official), Kiswahili (official), numerous indigenous languages

**Gdp Per Capita:** \$1,700

## Spotlight on Rwanda

**Location:** Central Africa, east of Democratic Republic of Congo

**Climate:** Temperate: two raining seasons (February–April and November–January)

**Terrain:** Mostly grassy uplands and hills

**Population:** 9,720,694

**Language:** Official languages include English, French and African, including Kinyarwanda (universal), Bantu vernacular and Kiswahili used in commercial centers.

## Registration

Here is how to register for your Insight Trip:

1) Contact Lori Olson at [lolson@opportunity.org](mailto:lolson@opportunity.org) or Adele Nandan at [anandan@opportunity.org](mailto:anandan@opportunity.org) or 630.242.4147.

2) Go to [Opportunity.org/insight](http://Opportunity.org/insight)  
Complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place.

### Summary of costs:

\$3,857 payment to Opportunity  
(roundtrip air and hotel not included)

Does not include hotels in Nairobi or Kigali. Includes, Gorilla Trek safari and Gorilla hotel, all meals and beverages (excluding alcohol), intra-country airfare, gratuity, local transportation, airport transfers, translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, partner and staff costs, and all park entry fees.

\*Incidentals, shots, passports, visas, souvenirs and optional sightseeing are not included.

3) Make travel arrangements once all of the trip participants have registered. We strongly discourage booking before you hear from us. If you require booking assistance, contact Opportunity's preferred travel partner, Travel Inc., at 877-548-2995.

4) Prepare for departure.  
Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your intended departure date. Visit [www.vp2go.com](http://www.vp2go.com) for assistance in attaining a passport.  
Consult your doctor for any necessary immunizations and vaccines. For a traveler's health clinic near you, go to [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).

### Our primary focus is your safety and comfort

In our 20 years of conducting Insight Trips, we have always provided a safe and rewarding visit for our participants. Every trip is carefully planned in conjunction with local Opportunity staff and hospitality experts to ensure your safety and comfort. We will also offer you a guidebook that includes everything you need to know about traveling in that particular country.

To learn more, visit [opportunity.org](http://opportunity.org)

Opportunity International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.