

KENYA

Land of Mystery and Marvels

Meet the Kikuyu tribe. While we may meet these folks in their "natural" habitat, the Kikuyu are THE most educated tribe in Kenya with over 130 professors and 5,600 Phds! The Kikuyu economy rests upon the cultivation of crops such as millet, peas, beans, sorghum, and sweet potatoes. The main cash crops are coffee, corn wattle (no, I don't know what that is, but can find out), and fruits and vegetables. They are also involved in animal husbandry. Now here's where they have a BIG problem with the Maasai. See, the Maasai believe ALL the cattle in the world belong to the Maasai! There have been rather ugly "mix ups" between the 2 tribes over cattle! The Kikuyu are the largest ethnic tribe in Kenya, making up 22% of the country's population.



Kikuyu houses are built with poles and lattices made from saplings and filled with mud, bushwood walls, and planked with hewn depending on the hut. The roofs are thatched with grass.

Excellent blacksmiths, they make knives and weapons from iron ore dug out of the ground and smelted.



FUN FACTS: They are the largest group in Kenya; they are highly concentrated in Central Kenya; they are shrewd business people; they had the largest influence from colonizers; they played a major role in the independence of Kenya; they've produced many prominent people (including 3 Kenyan presidents); they are communal and refer to each other as "a person of our house"; they have strong cultural beliefs; and they revere nature.



Here's a bit more information along with a bit of a re-cap!

SUNSCREEN!!!! We'll be around the Equator and the mid-day sun can be nasty! To quote our Tour Operator: "Think layers, peel them off like an onion. Mornings are brisk, once the sun comes up it is warm – hats and sunscreen absolutely a must! With rooftops open, the top of your head can burn quickly – regardless of how much hair you have!!! Evenings start to cool down again. Wear socks in the evening to keep mosquitoes away from ankles." (I've never seen one, but let's be safe.)

Average Temps:

Daily highs around 70F to 80F

Daily lows around 60F never below 57F.

More tips about clothing: "Emphasize cotton tops – easy to wash and quick to dry." **NOTHING** that requires dry-cleaning! ... undergarments cannot be sent out for laundry (religious reasons), so pack enough."

"Small beanie bags are very handy for steadying cameras." These can

be made by cutting off the legs of old jeans and sewing one end closed, and adding Velcro to the other. It was suggested the "bag" be filled with dry beans. At the end of the trip, you can give these bags to our drivers and they'll distribute them to those in need.



You never know what you may see along the way that tickles your fancy ... from the carvings, to the beadwork, to the jewelry, to the baskets, to the fabrics, there is something for everyone not to mention the PHOTOS!!! From amazing sunrises to amazing sunsets (it's hard to tell which is which!), there is a backdrop to excite your creative eyes ... just remember to have someone take YOUR photo in front of it!!!

It's time to start thinking seriously if you wish to join us. I need to have some sort of headcount by 01 September 2021 - that's this year - so I can firm up the land price. We now have an estimate of the air fare, but can't book that until later this year or early next year. The Group's name is "Mystery and Marvels" and that will be noted on our file.



Well, that's about it for this week ... keep your questions coming! I'm happy to answer them! It's good to hear how many of you are truly interested in being part of this safari. If you have ANY questions, please email me or call.

Kwa heri! Jeanie Mthies-Kurzrok

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