



Braman
Foundation of Charities

African Retreat

Ruma National Park

EDITORIAL

Perhaps you have thought often: "I would very much enjoy a "get away" to visit Africa. Maybe you can even afford the trip but you really did not trust anyone to lead you on this trip. And you are a Christian and you really prefer to go with "like-minded" people.

We, at the Braman Foundation, BFC, understand your concern. This is why we have assembled a comprehensive "African Retreat" that begins with your decision to move forward thru the retreat flight and limo ride back to the Upstate NY region.

The BFC African Retreat is complete inclusive; hotels, airfare, limo and transportation, all meals and even the cost of your Visa to Kenya. BFC wants to earn your trust, so you are able to be completely free to enjoy your retreat.

We take you for your careful, and prayerful retreat. Please know that we are here to serve you. Exercise day, there is a place to do that. You can relax near the pool and worship the Lord on Thursday night in the "Open Worship Center".

We, at BFC, want to invite you to a trip of a lifetime. If you wish, you can even work with the local mission "Hope for Kenya" and spend time with the children.

What is The Braman Foundation of Charities?

BFC began as an organization to promote and help grow the mission Asapalli in Assam India. In addition the Foundation serves throughout the New York Correctional system. Its Prison Ministry began in 1985. Through the years additional programs have evolved. The Braman Foundation today is a 501c3 Non-for-profit New York State Public Charity. Since its inception BFC has grown in Africa with several orphanages and schools.

Our mission is carried through the direction of God's grace. We have tried to abandon our ego-self and allow God to work through us. In the Gospel of St. Matthew 25:36, "I was in prison and You came to me," really has called us to this ministry. Millions of persons today continue to suffer addictive behavior, depressed moods and behavioral problems which lead to destructive lifestyles. Our sole purpose is to provide an avenue in which God can use us through these principles to raise others from their myriad of difficulty.

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Have a question?

We'd be happy to answer any question you may have. Feel free to contact us by phone, email or our website.

Phone
(518) 636-5930

Email
info@bramanfoundation.org

Web
bramanfoundation.org

What is a retreat?

A time to get away from your worldly concourse, to get refreshed, to become quiet and reflect on your life. Why Africa? We feel you will enjoy this retreat as it is not at all commercialized. A completely natural environment that you can enjoy, admire and be at peace.

Of course, you can retreat in the U.S. for a lot less cost, etc. Why yes, but this is an African Retreat that you have thought of, but never have been able to “process” because it has been complicated to organize.

BFC allows you to pay for a “worry free” retreat. And we back this with a complete, 100% money refund if you are not satisfied and wouldn’t recommend this event to others.

Being refresh in the Lord through the presence of the Holy Spirit in Africa, this trip to recall for a lifetime. You spend time not only in reflection, but you enjoy Kenyan cooked meals, you are to attend a 3 day Christian seminar in the morning hours, travel to witness an African Safari and relax. The Village Resort provides a unique environment that is very authentic, protected and quiet. For those that wish to exercise day, there is a place to do that. You can relax near the pool and worship the Lord on Thursday night in the “Open Worship Center”.

We, at BFC, want to invite you to a trip of a lifetime. If you wish, you can even work with the local mission “Hope for Kenya” and spend time with the children.



The Queensbury Hotel

Located in the heart of downtown Glens Falls, New York, The Queensbury Hotel is a historic hotel built in 1926 with a gorgeous architecture, multiple meeting spaces, newly revitalized lobby and guest rooms, endless amenities including an heated indoor pool, restaurant, lounge, and more.

This is where we will begin and conclude the retreat. We will depart on day one at 3pm.

Hotel Information

Address: 88 Ridge St, Glens Falls, NY 12801

Hotel Direct: 518-792-1121

Reservations: 800-554-4526

ACCOMMODATIONS



The Village Resort

Located in Ndhiwa, Kenya, there mission is to provide an environment for physical, mental and spiritual restoration.

There are three room options to choose from. Single and double and twin rooms. This comes with a choice of full board, half-board or breakfast only for meals.

Enjoy well manicured grounds and our green scenery as you make happy memories with your friends and loved ones.

ACCOMMODATIONS

I INTERCONTINENTAL
NAIROBI



The InterContinental Nairbobi

The hotel was designed in the colonial style and built in 1998. Laundry, dry cleaning service and concierge service as well as a designated smoking place, an ATM and a lift are on hand. The property is located in Kilimani district, in vicinity of a tower, a parliament building and a mausoleum.

One of the great experiences for safari-goers in Kenya is a visit to the Maasai Market. At these open-air markets travelers can find curios, paintings, drawings, clothes and fabrics with East African prints, jewellery and wood-carvings, many hand-made in Kenya by local artisans. You can buy all your souvenirs and gifts in one-go.



THIMLICH OHINGA



Archaeological Site - Thimlich Ohinga

Built in the 14th century on a hill, Thimlich Ohinga is a complex surrounded by stone walls now partially covered under Savannah bush land. The site consists of six enclosures and is a rare example of the first settlements in the region. Its stone wall is unique; it appears not to have had mortar applied originally and ranges from 1.2-4.2 meters in height and 1-3 meters in width. The walls surround the remnants of the once bustling urban center, now marked only by a series of house pits and cattle enclosures.

Thimlich Ohinga is a rare, early example of defensive savanna architecture that led to this type of design becoming a traditional style across East Africa. It is a specimen of the stone walling practices and a communal, centralized system of control, which became prevalent in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya. Built as a fortified village, Thimlich Ohinga served defensive, economic, religious, and social functions.



Traditional Luo Dance

The Luo ethnic group has a strong tradition of music, that has always been the most practiced art by this population. Music is present at every hour of the day or night, it has always had a functional role to underline important events such as religious ceremonies, political events, festivals or sporting events.

Music is used at funerals to pay tribute to the missing person but also to console the bereaved relatives or to keep people awake at night to celebrate the ritual of waking, during which they demonstrate their anguish and suffering caused by the loss pain. It plays an important role during certain rituals that diviners and medicine men implement to drive away evil spirits, to invoke the rain, to heal the sick and during divination. Even during the festivities, such as the beer festival, or on the occasion of sporting events, music plays an important role; it is critical, as much as during the courting of a girl.

The Luo use numerous musical instruments, from percussions with drums and rattles to strings instruments similar to the harp and the violin, to wind instruments made from the horns of cattle. The dance is usually elegant and graceful, the Luo use traditional costumes and ornaments that are designed to improve and make more evident the movements rather than to beautify the wearer.

“Dramatic Valley of the Roan Antelope and Oribi”

Ruma National Park lies in Western Kenya, close to the shores of Lake Victoria. An island of wilderness in a sea of intense cultivation, the Park is situated in one of the most productive and populous regions in Kenya, and is one of the country’s more rewarding but less well known Parks.

A mosaic of landscapes, ranging from riverine woodland and rolling savannah to magnificent escarpments and towering cliffs, Ruma National Park promises undiscovered wildlife treasures and undisturbed peace. It is also Kenya’s last remaining sanctuary for the endangered roan antelope.

A Vivid and Varied Landscape

Ruma lies on the flat floor of the seasonally watered Lambwe River Valley. Bordered by the Kanyamwa Escarpment to the South-East, and by the Volcanic plugs of the Ruri Hills, to the North, the Park is a long, narrow corridor of land contained on a fist-shaped peninsular extending into Lake Victoria. The terrain is mainly rolling grassland, with tracts of open woodland thickets. The soils are largely “black cotton” clay (Oxisols).



The Last Refuge of the Roan Antelope

One of Africa's rarest antelopes and the third largest of Kenya's antelopes, the roan (or Korongo as it is known in Swahili) is a large, grey to rufous antelope with a distinctive black and white face, not unlike a tribal mask. Roans live in herds of up to 20 members, led by a bull.

The Oribi Antelope

The small and graceful oribi antelope (known as Taya in Swahili) has a conspicuous bare black glandular patch below the ears, a short black-tipped tail and black knee tufts. Living in strongly bonded pairs or small groups, oribi inhabit grassland and dense undergrowth.

Realm of rare birds

Ruma's birdlife is exceptional. The park is also the only protected area in Kenya where the globally threatened blue swallow, a scarce intra-African migrant, is regularly recorded. Blue swallows, which depend upon moist grassland for both feeding and roosting, arrive in Kenya from their breeding grounds in Southern Tanzania around April and depart again in September.

Flourishing Wildlife

Ruma offers visitors an opportunity to see various wildlife species including the Rothschild's giraffe, serval cat, hyena, impala, vervet monkey, roan antelope, oribi, bohor reedbuck, leopard, buffalo, and Jackson's hartebeest. Recently introduced and re-introduced species are Black rhino, White rhino, Burchell's zebra whose populations have adapted quite well. The roan antelope, Oribi and Jackson's hartebeest are easily spotted in Ruma than anywhere else in Kenya.

Rich in Reptiles

Ruma has an exceptional snake population. Easily spotted species include: The African spitting cobra, forest cobra, python, eastern green mamba, black-mouthed mamba and puff adder. The park also abounds in lizard, skink and gecko.

TRAVEL TIPS

Safety

Safety during our trips is a top priority. Team members will always travel with another team member. Phone service is available depending on your provider, we recommend using WhatsApp for calls and texting.

Technology

Internet service and wifi are not readily available. You will need an Kenya Type G adaptor for all your electronics.

Personal Items

Be careful not to bring any valuable items. Recommended to bring: Kleenex tissues (small packets), hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, suntan lotion, sun hat, bug spray (must be travel size if packed in your carry-on bag), ear plugs, small flash light, towel, anti-bacterial cream. Snacks, power bars are good to have.

Clothing

The dress code in Kenyan culture is conservative. Also, many Kenyans adhere to different cultural, religious and customary dress styles. Jeans and decent tops/blouses for ladies are perfect. Swimsuits are acceptable at the beach but not in public places. **Evening Wear:** Kenyans dress up for special occasions, especially when going out clubbing/dancing, to church, to sporting and other events or out to dinner. In some restaurants and clubs, you will probably be fine wearing shorts and a t-shirt, but if you are considering dining at one of the more up-scale restaurants or having a social night out, you may want to show off your nicer clothing and join the party!

Cautions and Do Not's

Do not eat raw food or drink any water unless purchased sealed (bottled water will be provided). Do not ask for ice or drink anything with ice in it. Do not brush teeth with water from the faucet. Use bottled water. Do not enter streams, rivers, or lakes. Do not leave the group without permission. Do not pet dogs or any other animals.

Spending Money

You may want to buy some souvenirs when you are there. You can exchange \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills that are in very good condition (no folds, tears or writing) and were printed from 2006 on. Any American money printed prior to 2006 will not be accepted due to excessive amounts of forgery.

**Pre-Planning Meeting**

What to can we expect? Make decisions.
What is BFC's role in ordering VISA's?

Day 1 | Thursday

Meeting at the Queensbury Hotel

Day 2 | Friday

Travel from Upstate NY down to JFK airport.
Flight from JFK to Kenya (14 hours).

Day 3 | Saturday

InterContinental Nairobi

Day 4 | Sunday

Travel through Rift Valley to The Village Resort (7 hours).

Day 5 | Monday

Retreat morning conference. Enjoy your afternoon to relax, followed by dinner. Worship in evening.

Day 6 | Tuesday

Retreat morning conference. Enjoy your afternoon to retreat. Dinner.

Day 7 | Wednesday

Travel to local mission Thimlich Ohinga.
Afternoon off. Cultural Night - Luo Tribe Traditional Dance, in the evening.

Day 8 | Thursday

Safari in Ruma National Park (All Day).

Day 9 | Friday

Back to Nairobi, staying at the InterContinental Nairobi

Day 10 | Saturday

Morning flight departing to JFK.

Day 11 | Sunday

Arrival to JFK and ride back upstate to The Queensbury Hotel

COST



ALL-INCLUSIVE KENYAN RETREAT

Round-Trip Travel

Queensbury Hotel to JFK

Ruma National Park

Safari

Round-Trip Airfare

JFK to Nairobi

Visa

Yellow Fever Shot

InterContinental Nairobi Hotel

2 Nights

Worship and Food

All meals covered

Round-Trip Travel

Nairobi to Village Resort

Conference

Topic: N/A

The Village Resort Hotel

4 Nights

Liaison Fee

Mark Otieno

TOTAL COST

Space limited to 10 couples. Retreats available up to 3 times per year.

Single | \$2,850

Couple | \$4,000



AFRICAN RETREAT
REGISTRATION

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

ADDRESS

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE

EMERGENCY CONTACT

RELATION

PHONE

OTHER INFORMATION WE SHOULD KNOW?

ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS?

PLEASE LIST ANY DIETARY NEEDS (vegetarian, lactose or gluten-free, allergies, etc.)

PLEASE NOTE: No registration is confirmed until we receive your registration form (with deposit where applicable).

ADDRESS

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CONTACT

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