



Living the dream in Africa

At the Swedish School in Nairobi, students can explore Kenyan society and wildlife without missing out on their Swedish education. During their big African adventure, they will get fantastic memories and experiences and make friends for life.

By Malin Norman | Photos: Svenska Skolan i Nairobi

While Nairobi is a hectic city with more than three million inhabitants, the Swedish school is a peaceful sanctuary with 165 students this year, aged 18 months to 19 years old. It runs three educational programmes according to the Swedish curriculum: preschool, compulsory school and upper secondary school. Classes are in Swedish and taught by qualified teachers. This offers a safe base for the students to focus on their studies, explore the local culture, learn English and perhaps even some Swahili.

In addition, the school also arranges exchange programmes with guest students from Sweden at upper secondary level. This is an opportunity to experience a year abroad and the students can either choose to stay with a host family or at the boarding house provided by the school, which has room for 82 students. "Many appreciate the chance to spend a year abroad, to be part of the school and what East Africa has to offer," says headmas-

ter Rosie Lundgren. "For many this is a dream come true, and all students make friends for life."

An important part of the education is emphasising democratic values, as well as integration with the local society, to help increase knowledge and give insights into life in another part of the world. For the upper secondary students, three different profile courses are available: East African development with focus on the economy and development, East African wildlife with in-depth studies about nature and sustainability, and East African model United Nations (UN).

Students at all levels regularly go on study trips, day excursions in surrounding areas such as national parks, and longer excursion to for instance Mount Kenya, Mombasa and all the way to the mountain gorillas of Rwanda. "Living abroad changes the students. They leave a well-known environment in Europe and

get the chance to explore a developing country," says Lundgren. "It's fantastic to see how the children get new perspectives and grow during their time here."

The Swedish School in Nairobi works closely with other Swedish schools abroad. If interested, make sure not to miss the regular information meetings in Sweden.



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