



Karibu – Welcome in Swahili

We want to share a little bit about the Trust with you to help familiarize you with your surroundings.

The Olmalaika Trust consists of:

- The Olmalaika Home is a safe haven for girls under the age of 10 all the way down to newborns who have endured trauma in their lives. That can include female genital mutilation, childhood marriage, rape, incest, abuse of any kinds, abandonment etc.
- The Olmalaika Trust Dental Clinic which provides consultations, xrays, cleanings, fillings, root canals and extractions – free to all in need.
- The Olmalaika Days for Girls (DfG) – is where our staff sew fabric menstrual kits and sell them to raise funds for the Trust
- Our multipurpose building is used by DfG and as needed, to provide education/activities such as sewing classes, wildlife and computer education during school holidays.

The Trust is located on the very edge of the Maasai Mara National Reserve which is probably the most famous and most visited Reserve in Kenya. It offers breathtaking views (as seen in the film "Out of Africa", much of which was filmed here), an extraordinary density of animals including "the Big Five" (lions, leopard, elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros) and many varieties of plains game. An impressive feature is the annual migration of wildebeests, (over 1.5 million of them migrate) zebras and gazelles from the plains of the Serengeti that cross the Tanzanian border and rivers to reach the Mara's grasslands from late June, tracked by predators: lion, leopard, cheetah, and hyena, and circled by vultures as their journey unfolds. Their dramatic river crossings are a reality for tourists visiting in early July-October. Apart from the seasonal migration, game viewing is excellent year-round. Game includes elephant, black rhino, buffalo, plains zebra, giraffe and more plus the big cats. The rivers are home to hippo and crocodiles. 452 species of birds of which 53 of which are raptors.

It is not uncommon to hear hyenas laughing and lions roaring or grunting during the night. The birds and the chatter of the girls as they walk to school will become your morning wake up call. The Trust has been created as a place of healing and restoration for those that call it home and for all who visit. Our hope is that while here your heart will be refreshed, and that when you leave, your heart will always hold a part of Kenya in it.

Kim DeWitt

Co-Founder/Director of The Olmalaika Trust

Guest Coordinators:

Maxi – will help you with ANYTHING you need and check on you often. If she is on her leave either Maureen or Maggy will fill in for her. Maxi lives in the girls home and can be found there or at the DfG Education Building.

Simon – oversees the property and security. If there are any fresh herbs you would like please ask him. Let him know if you would like a fire in the evenings. Simon lives in the gate house and can be found there in the evenings or out working in the yard during the day

Lawrence – is the head gardener (also known as Uncle) – please ask him if there are any fruits or vegetables you might need. If they are available, we would be glad to share.

Francis – is our maintenance guy

Mr Pug & Lola – are our dogs - they are still young and a bit naughty. If you leave the door open, they are typically very quick to come in and make themselves at home. Please do not feed them ANYTHING or leave your food rubbish where they could get into it.

Kamunge – is a co-founder of the Trust and Administrator of the Girls Home. He is only here occasionally.

**The staff carry radios — if you need someone or something just ask any staff with a radio to help you out.*

Our Facilities:

We use ONLY solar:

Please do not use hair dryers, irons of any sort – including ones for your hair, heaters, transformers, or any items that have a heater component. Items you CAN charge are: Computers, phones, camera The power is 240

Drinking water:

Please use your own bottled water or the filtered water from the outdoor kitchen, multipurpose building or girls home kitchen – you can however brush your teeth with faucet water.

We recycle:

Please make sure you are putting the correct items in the correct containers – they are all labeled Put the buckets with the lids on outside your door anytime you would like them to be emptied.

Dish Soap:

There is a “wine” bottle near the sink that has dish soap. Please do not use it for washing clothes.

Laundry:

We do not provide laundry services. Clothes dry fairly quick on the line. There are outdoor sinks and buckets for you to use to wash clothes. (You will need your own laundry soap)

Hot shower:

The water is heated in a small tank outside the washroom. When you turn on the hot water the gas flame comes on and heats up the water as you use it. If you try to adjust the water with cold – the pressure could shut off the water heater, and you will just have cold showers. If it is too hot or not getting hot, please let us know so we can adjust it.

Doors:

Please keep screen doors closed to keep out unwanted “friends”.

SNAKES: Please be aware that there ARE snakes that live everywhere in Kenya and we ARE in Kenya. We do not kill ANYTHING here at the Trust other than flies and mosquitos. If you see a snake day or night, please keep at a safe distance and call for help. DO NOT GET CLOSE, DO NOT TRY TO CATCH IT – we do have spitting cobras. Some rooms have a whistle that you could blow, but most people don’t carry the whistle around outdoors – but if you yell loud enough someone should come. If you WOULD like to see a snake and we happen to catch one while you are here, we are more than glad to show you.

SAFARI ANTS/DRIVER ANTS: During certain seasons we have a lot of safari ants. They move in groups and there are thousands of them. As long as you do not disturb their path they simply keep moving. Once someone has disturbed it they spread everywhere and can climb up your leg very easily without you even knowing. They have big pinchers and seem to all once let you know their location on your body!

When you leave: Please make sure your dishes are washed. We can put them away. Leave the bedding, towels etc where they are – we will come and do all the cleaning. Please let us know if anything is broken -

SIGNS – please respect the “private” signs/areas on the compound/property

ACTIVITIES at the TRUST

Girls Home:

You are welcome to come to spend time with the girls and babies at the home anytime. Please note that the girls or babies should never leave the home area. The girls leave for school around 7:45am M-F and return home around 4:00pm.

Dinner for the girls is at 6pm

Worship every evening: Sun – Friday 7:00pm

Bedtime is at 8pm every night but Saturday

Make Chapatis: Friday at 4:45pm – you are welcome to join in

Days for Girls: We can always use your help in DfG – which could include sewing, cutting out fabric, packing up kits. They work Sun thru Friday 8am – 1pm and 2 – 5:45pm

Evening Fire

Please ask Simon or Mwangi if you would like a fire at your place of lodging or up at the outdoor kitchen and let them know what time you would like it. If it is our dry season weather wise and windy we might not be able to provide a fire due to a spark catching something extra on fire.

Massage

We do have our own massage therapist (Winny) and massage tent. If you would like one you can book it thru Kim or the office. The cost is \$50 for 1 hour. Each massage you book benefits the Trust.

Walking around at night:

Please always use your torch (flashlight) after sunset. When leaving during the day the worker at the gate will let us know when he opens it – just so we are aware you have gone out. You will not be allowed to walk outside the gate after dark – we do have buffalo, leopard, lion, elephants here.

Nite Sounds: Because of our proximity to the Maasai Mara National Reserve, we do have a lot of wild animals around us. Some smaller nocturnal animals frequent our property at night – you might see/hear them crunching on something from your window or the veranda: White-Tailed Mongoose, Silver-Backed Jackal, Genets etc and during the day occasionally a baboon might try his luck getting over the wall. When evening comes you will probably hear cows, dogs, people, hyena, jackal and possibly lion, jackals or elephants.

ENJOY YOUR TIME HERE WITH US –

Our Garden

We do not use pesticides in our garden. Our priority is the girls home and if we have extra we are glad to share. Keep in mind at times we might not have any of the below growing as we are replanting or have just harvested all of it.

Vegetables

Tomatoes
Onions
Green Onions
Springs Onions
Cucumbers
Celery
Sukuma (Kale)
Managu
Terere
Butternut Squash
Pumpkin
Eggplant
Cabbage
Carrots
Spinach
Baby Spinach
Sweet Bell Peppers
Chili Peppers
Potatoes
Avocado
Asparagus
Lettuce
Beets

Fruits

Loquats
Pink Guava
Strawberry Guava
Mango
Lime
Lemon
Tangerine
Oranges
Grapefruit
Plum
Grapes
Red Raspberries
Strawberries
Mulberries
Gooseberries
Blackberries
Rhubarb
Tree Tomatoes
Giant Granadillas
Sweet Purple Granadilla
Kiwi
Banana
Plantain
Finger/Sweet Banana
Dragon Fruit
Pineapple
Papaya

Herbs

Oregano
Parsley
Sage
Tarragon
Rosemary
Dill
Basil
Curry
Thyme
Mint
Chocolate Mint
Peppermint
English Lavendar
French Lavendar
Turmeric
Chives
Cilantro
Lemon Grass
Ginger
Garlic

Misc.

Coffee
Honey
Aloe

Things to take NOTE of:

***The Olmalaika Trust requests that any photos or videos taken of children that show their faces are not posted online. We take the privacy of each child in our care very seriously and ask that you respect this policy. If you are visiting, you may take pictures of and with the children for your personal use/memories. Thank you for your support!**

*We ask that when you spend time with the children, that you not allow them to handle personal items including your phone, hat, sunglasses etc. In fact, we would prefer that you put your phone away and just enjoy time with them.

*Please do not give them candy or gum etc.

*Please do not tip the staff – if you want to donate you can give a donation in the office which will help to cover costs at the Trust.

*We are a 501(c)(3) in the US – THE OLMALAIKA INC

PLASTIC BAGS ARE ILLEGAL IN KENYA and as of June 2020 there is a ban on Single Use Plastics in all Conservation areas.



Things to do outside of the Trust

Market Day every Tuesday in Sekenani where you can pick up all sorts of items. Its an open air market – with veges, fruits, clothes, shoes and all sorts of other random things for sale. You would need to have KSH to purchase items.

Beats of Beads -Beats of Beads' is a non-for-profit trust that built an art-center and a Beads Museum just next to Sekenani gate of Maasai-Mara. The art-center empowers Maasai women through beading and provides them with a friendly working environment. It's a great place to visit, have a cup of coffee/tea, make a bracelet, shop for bead work without being hassled. There is a cost for the museum.

The Village – is the best restaurant in Sekenani. They have a Texas Barbeque area, a pizza area, bar/lounge and snack time items, with milkshakes, smoothies, hot drinks etc – like a little coffee shop. They make deliveries if you would like. PH #0112636072

Visit a Maasai Home - we prefer for you to visit the “real” Maasai home not something that costs or is set up for tourists. Its always nice to bring some tea and sugar for those who live in the home you visit. Let us know if you would like to do that.

Safari -

We have our OWN safari company called African Springs Safaris Ltd and the Olmalaika Trust benefits each time you book via us. (www.africanspringssafaris.com) If you would like to do a safari while in Kenya or visit the Maasai Mara we can set it up for you. Currently Park fees for the Mara are \$100 per person (Jan – June) and \$200 per person (July – Dec) per day. Plus, vehicle and driver cost. Private vehicles are not allowed in the reserve. We are just like any other safari company – from start to finish all over Kenya.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED:

*We are a 501(c)(3) in the US – THE OLMALAIKA INC

We have several projects including “Foster an Angel” and “Save a Tooth” – the information

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