

Exploration-based education beyond classrooms; inspiring students and educators to explore their world and stay curious

Education meets adventure and exploration

We use adventure and exploration to advance critical thinking in education; by helping students to immerse themselves into the wonders of the natural world. Our active adventures and expeditions inspire students to challenge their limits, conquer their fears, break barriers, solve challenges, set new goals, and grow in confidence; and get to experience magical places and encounter with diverse peoples and remarkable cultures. And when educators lead their student groups, they too grow in countless ways; bringing back new insights and perspectives into their classrooms.

Our educational philosophy is simple: the best way to help students gain new perspectives and build skills for the future is through experiential learning. We work closely with educators to create educational programs that blend classroom and experiential learning for their students. Students use their academic inquiry abilities to investigate an issue or topic that inspires them; and reflect on what they've learned through a post-travel essay or joint project that could earn them academic credit.

Our educational interests are diverse; cutting across disciplines of natural history, geographical sciences, anthropology, and the creative arts; ranging from topics like species diversity and rainforest ecology to geology and climatology; wildlife and community conservation to environmental sustainability; and cultural anthropology to history and the creative arts.

Our trips are led by seasoned adventurers and travelers; and are curated by educators and subject matter experts who understand that compelling educational itineraries should be full of opportunities for exploration, experiential learning, and growth.

Our Guiding Philosophy

What makes our work and approach different is informed by a set of ideals

Education: We're an educational company before anything else. Educational adventures provide countless opportunities for discovery, creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking. We help educators to shape study programs for their students that help them deliver their curriculum in more exciting ways beyond classrooms.

Exploration: We're all born explorers. Children and young people are innate scientists, geographers, and explorers. To help young people bring out their curiosity, novelty, and endurance; to venture into the unknown and explore their world and their minds is our greatest commission.

Play: Nature is humanity's oldest playground. The trail, the woods, the fields, the cliffs, and the waters – all offer thrilling grounds to exercise both 'body and mind'. Play in nature is proven to have a positive impact on young people's social behavior, mental stability, emotional intelligence, and IQ.

Action for nature: Nature doesn't depend on people; people depend on nature. We believe that young people must get to experience and 'connect' with the natural world first before we can ask them to save it. By introducing young people to the magic of nature at an early age, we believe we're cultivating a new generation of conscious stewards for Mother Earth.

Our Programs

We have tailored adventures for all ages – the elementary kids, middle year students, and young college students

The Little Explorers Program (5-10 y/o)

This is our exploration-based learning program for the elementary children. Holidays and summer breaks provide perfect opportunities for children to venture out into the natural world; go camping, kayaking, gardening, create stuff at a makerspace, or explore the backcountry trails in the saddle. Plus, our outdoor activities are great for families; which creates an opportunity for strengthening family bonds and enabling parents and children to experience the joys of learning together and be inspired outside.

Educational Adventures for MYP & High School Students (11-18 y/o)

Our educational adventures for Middle Year Program students are designed for and in collaboration with schools. We work closely with educators to design adventure travel programs that meet curriculum needs for specific study disciplines and curate them to meet scientific inquiry requirements. But even more important, when young students go on our educational adventures, they expand their knowledge of the world around them, discover more about themselves, grow more confident and independent, and understand new people, places, and cultures.

Our educational adventures are led by seasoned adventurers and travelers and are curated by educators and subject matter experts who understand that compelling educational travel should be full of opportunities for experiential learning.

Educational Exchange Adventures for College Students (19-25 y/o)

Educational Exchange programs open a whole world of possibilities and opportunities for students; introducing them to a diversity of peoples and cultures and ushering them into new perspective about life and the world. And in an increasingly globalizing world, young people must interface with global challenges and opportunities soon enough for them to apply a global perspective in the pursuit of the solutions for big global challenges like ecological breakdown and climate change.

Our Educational Exchange Adventures are designed to achieve that and much more; helping students to explore magical places and encounter remarkable cultures, all the while inspiring them to broaden their horizons about global challenges and opportunities and achieve clarity about their career paths and individual interests. With our programs, students have the support of educators, adventure leaders, and subject matter experts; helping them to build critical thinking skills for an increasingly connected and rapidly changing world.

Benefits for Educators

Our educational adventures are impactful to teachers and chaperones – as educators, student leaders, and as individuals, too!

When educators and chaperones lead student groups, they too get to experience the magical places and encounter diverse peoples and remarkable cultures; and come back with invaluable insights and experiences both for their career development and personal growth.

And while teachers walk away from our adventures with many tangible rewards, the most important one is the life-changing impact they make on their students; helping them to prepare for the future by guiding them as they learn more about the world, themselves, and their place in the world.

For every 6 six students that enroll for our educational adventures, there is a free spot for a teacher/chaperone on the trip; giving more teachers the opportunity to explore their world and expand their knowledge and perspectives as well.

For Parents & School Administrators

We have many priorities, yes, but your children and students' safety comes first, always.

Our pledge to you is simple: your children and students' safety is our greatest priority, always. When students go to explore 'beyond classrooms', it brings education to life, unlocks new potential, and opens a world of possibilities. That's why we prioritize safety, value, and experiential learning that prepares students for *the future* in today's rapidly changing world.

And when your children or student groups go on an educational adventure with Nyanza Academy, everything from transportation, lodging, food, and field excursions are extremely pre-planned and highly controlled. Our full-time Trip Leader(s) and chaperones are with your group around the clock, taking care of individual safety and health needs, all the while handling all logistical needs. We do not take student groups to destinations we have not explored and are comfortable with the security situation and assess any potential hazards (and have mitigation measures in place, if any). Plus, we have an elaborate ground support network in all our destinations that would respond quickly in case of any emergency. [Learn more about our safety & privacy protocol](#)

Our People

A diverse team driven by a common creed – a passion for nature, exploration, and experiential education

We're a diverse team of people; from adventures and explorers to scientists and researchers; cultural anthropologists to natural historians; and educators to innovators and storytellers. But regardless of our diversity, we are all bound by a common creed – a passion for nature and the pursuit of wonder – and a desire and ability to tell stories that inspire and educate.

Meet our Team Lead & Explorer-in-Chief

Rusho is a Ugandan modern-day explorer, mountaineer, and a conservationist; who's passionate about nature, wild places, and exploration-based education for young people.

As a mountaineer, he has summited Africa's highest mountains; the Rwenzori, Kilimanjaro, Mt. Kenya, the Atlas, Mt. Elgon, and numerous peaks of the Virunga massif, among others. His other adventure expeditions have taken him to the vast frontiers of Africa; exploring some of the continent's finest magical places; from the impenetrable jungles of Bwindi and Nyungwe to the vast woodlands of the Miombo, the Albertine Rift to the Okavango Delta, the Nile to the Zambezi, the magical wilderness of Kidepo to vast plains of Mara and Serengeti, the Sahara to the Kalahari, and the pyramids of Giza to Great Zimbabwe, notable among other places.

He has led numerous student educational adventures and exchange programs in East Africa; experiences that have brought him great insights about young people and experiential education. He's now committed to further the exploration and understanding of Africa's natural world and cultures; and helping as many students and young people to experience the rich diversity of the continent he deeply loves and calls home.

Our Heritage

We descend from a rich pedigree!

In the center of the vast continent of Africa sits a huge mass of water, an immense body that, looking at it from space, dwarfs all other lakes. Into it flow copious rivers, and out of it the world's longest river – The Nile! This is Lake Nyanza (also known as Victoria), Africa's largest lake, the world's largest tropical lake, and world's second largest freshwater lake all by surface area. Together, with the numerous rift valley lakes (notably Nyasa, Tanganyika, Kivu, Rutanzige, Mwitanzige, and Turkana), they make the Great Lakes and after which the Great Lakes Region of Africa derives its name. Locally, in many parts of east and central Africa, the entire catchment is also known as the *Nyanza region* (the land of the lakes) – after which we derive our name.

Our work and love for the natural world is inspired by rich pedigree of Nyanza region; a place of great geological and biological diversity; from Africa's highest peaks of Kilimanjaro, Rwenzori, and Mt. Kenya with snow caps just above the equator to the vast plains of Mara and Serengeti that supports the world's largest gathering of large mammals; and from the impenetrable forest jungles of Bwindi where mountain gorillas still roam the natural world to blue ocean coastlines of the east coast; Nyanza region is both wild and wonderful. No wonder, it is the cradle of humankind.

May we never lose sight of the foot before us for the peak that is ever far.

Of people, may the trails always be empty; of summits, forever be covered in snow.

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