



Rides Catalogue

"Pedal beyond. Ride untamed."

Outdoor Pursuits Programme

Purpose of Rides

These excursions take students on thrilling cross-country bike rides through remote and wildlife-populated areas, offering stunning views of the diverse Tanzanian landscapes. The routes are carefully chosen to avoid main roads as much as possible for safety reasons, allowing students to experience the natural beauty of Tanzania while minimising risks.

Throughout the programme, students will learn the fundamentals of group bike excursions, ensuring both safety and enjoyment. They will be taught essential biking techniques, including proper signaling, handling uphill and downhill terrain, and practicing road safety in varied environments. These skills are crucial for navigating the sometimes challenging, off-the-beaten-path routes.

In addition to riding skills, students will gain practical knowledge of bike maintenance. They will be introduced to the basics of bicycle mechanics, empowering them to fix common issues such as flat tires, brake cable breaks, and gear adjustments. This hands-on knowledge will give students confidence to handle unforeseen challenges during the trip, fostering independence and problem-solving skills in the process.

During the excursion, students will only carry their personal essentials, including water and snacks, ensuring they travel light and focus on the experience. All necessary camping equipment, such as tents and sleeping bags, will be transported separately to the campsite, allowing students to enjoy the ride without being burdened by heavy loads.

This combination of adventure, practical skill-building, and environmental exploration will not only enhance students' physical fitness but also instill a sense of teamwork and responsibility as they work together to navigate Tanzania's stunning landscapes.

Progression through the Rides levels

DISCOVERY > EXPLORATION > ADVENTURE > CHALLENGE

DISCOVERY TRIP - SIMBA FARM REGION

EXPLORATION TRIP - KING'ORI REGION

ADVENTURE TRIPS - NONE FOR 2025/26

CHALLENGE TRIP - NONE FOR 2025/26

Campcraft

In the UWC East Africa Outdoor Pursuits (OP) programme, campcraft refers to the essential skills and practices needed to live safely, efficiently, and respectfully in the outdoors. It includes setting up tents and shelters, cooking with stoves, packing and organising gear, appreciating Tanzanian culture and following Leave No Trace principles.

Campcraft is more than just technical knowledge - it promotes teamwork, independence, and environmental responsibility. As a foundation of all OP trips, it prepares students to confidently take part in future adventures while building a deep respect for the natural world and their role within it.

M1-M3 Discovery - Campcraft

Summary

Mandatory two days, one night trip for M1 students to introduce them to the fundamentals of outdoor education as we deliver it at UWC East Africa. The location varies. The trip includes activities related to the OP programmes with workshops on camping skills, cooking skills, OP equipment use, environment recognition, wildlife observation, orientation, and more.

M1 Mentors accompany students on this trip, along with OP Coordinators and OP Student-Leaders.

Mandatory for new M2 and M3 students, and optional for other M2-3 students.

School staff-student ratio = 1 for 8.

The ONLY 'free of charge' trip for MYP students.

Itinerary (subject to change based on group size / weather / safety)

Day 1

Packing the bus and departure to location. Set up the camp + workshops + games. Learning to cook OP-style. Various activities.

Day 2

Early wake up and breakfast preparation. Short hike and other workshops. Packing the camp and return to school before lunch.

Fitness requirement

None.

Minimum outdoor experience requirement

None.

D1 Discovery (Plains) - Campcraft

Summary

The D1 Outdoor Pursuits introduction trip to Mkuru is a two-day, one-night experience designed to welcome students into the outdoor education culture at UWC East Africa. Set against the backdrop of Mukuru's scenic landscapes, the trip includes a short hike to a remote campsite, group tent setup, and hands-on workshops in camping, cooking, first aid, and environmental awareness. Students also learn how to use outdoor equipment, observe local wildlife all while working together in teams and forming new connections with peers and staff.

This trip is more than just an overnight camp - it's the starting point for each student's OP journey. With a balance of fun, learning, and reflection, it helps build confidence, encourages collaboration, and introduces key values like resilience and respect for nature. Whether it's cooking over a camp stove, watching the sunrise during an early morning walk, or gathering around the campfire, students leave with a stronger sense of community and a clearer understanding of the adventure-based learning opportunities ahead.

School staff-student ratio = 1 for 8.

Itinerary (subject to change based on group size / weather / safety)

Day 1

Packing the bus and departure to location. Set up the camp + workshops + games. Learning to cook OP-style. Short hike.

Day 2

Early wake up and breakfast preparation. Short hike and other workshops. Packing the camp and return to school before lunch.

Fitness requirement

None.

Minimum outdoor experience requirement

None.

Discovery to Simba Farm

Summary

Situated in the West Kilimanjaro region, north of Sanya Juu, Simba Farm offers safe farm roads to initiate students to bike excursions. This location is gifted with some wildlife like birds, giraffes, elephants, zebras, wildebeests, baboons, etc. and impressive views of Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro when the clouds are out of the way.

School staff-student ratio = 1 for 8.
Local guide ratio = 1 for 10.
Vehicular support = 2 per group.

Fitness requirement

Attend and complete 1 OP rides training as instructed by an OP Coordinator. Minimum distance of 10km.

Itinerary (subject to change based on group size / weather / safety)

Day 1

Get to the Farm, establish the camp and go for a 10-km loop on the farm trails. Come back to camp and cook dinner.

Day 2

After an early wake up, camp packing and breakfast, the group will go for a 15 km excursion in the farm trails then exiting the farm to reach the school transport. Students will be back on campus for lunch.

Minimum outdoor experience requirement

Successful completion of 'Campcraft'.

Exploration to King'ori

Summary

This trip is an opportunity to mix landscape exploration and community connection. Pamoja Secondary School is a Maasai community school that has collaborated with UWC East Africa many times. The students will have the opportunity to meet this community and interact with them. The whole itinerary happens between Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro, offering gorgeous views. A hidden gem between Arusha and Moshi.

School staff-student ratio = 1 for 8.

Local guide ratio = 1 for 10.

Vehicular support = 2 per group.

Itinerary (subject to change based on group size / weather / safety)

Day 1

Start from Momella Gate (just outside Arusha National Park) and bike up to Pamoja Secondary School through the Maasai lands (20 km). Meet the Pamoja community and camp overnight.

Day 2

After breaking camp and eating breakfast, cycle from Pamoja Secondary School to Arise Community School (18 km). Camp overnight.

Day 3

After breaking camp and eating breakfast, cycle mostly downhill to King'ori through the villages (30 km), where the school transport will wait for the group. Students will be back to school for lunch.

Fitness requirement

Attend and complete 1 OP rides training as instructed by an OP Coordinator. Minimum distance of 10km.

Minimum outdoor experience requirement

1 OP trip completed of any of our OP programmes.

Adventure to Namalok

Summary

The students will now increase the number of kilometers per day and work their legs uphill a bit more (on the first day). The landscapes will change significantly, which is the beauty of traveling by bike, going from mountain ecosystems to the famous TPC sugar cane plantation through the Namalok Nature Reserve.

School staff-student ratio = 1 for 8.
Local guide ratio = 1 for 10.
Vehicular support = 2 per group.

Itinerary (subject to change based on group size / weather / safety)

Day 1

Start from Moshi campus, up to Umbwe Secondary School (40 km; 6-7 hours). Camp overnight.

Day 2

After breaking camp and eating breakfast, cycle from Umbwe down to the Namalok campsite, through the TPC plantation (60 km; 6-7 hours).

Day 3

After breaking camp and eating breakfast, cycle back to Moshi campus (40 km; 4-5 hours). Arusha students will be back to campus for dinner.

Fitness requirement

Currently not running this trip due to lower than expected number of participants in 2024/25. If participation increases drastically - then this trip will be reintroduced.

Minimum outdoor experience requirement

Currently not running this trip due to lower than expected number of participants in 2024/25. If participation increases drastically - then this trip will be reintroduced.

Adventure from Arusha to Moshi

Summary

The students will now increase the number of kilometers per day and work their legs uphill a bit more (on the first day). The landscapes will change significantly, which is the beauty of traveling by bike, leaving Mt Meru behind us with Mt Kilimanjaro firmly in our sites..

School staff-student ratio = 1 for 8.

Local guide ratio = 1 for 10.

Vehicular support = 2 per group.

Itinerary (subject to change based on group size / weather / safety)

Day 1

Start from Moshi campus, up to Umbwe Secondary School (40 km; 6-7 hours). Camp overnight.

Day 2

After breaking camp and eating breakfast, cycle from Umbwe down to the Namalok campsite, through the TPC plantation (60 km; 6-7 hours).

Day 3

After breaking camp and eating breakfast, cycle back to Moshi campus (40 km; 4-5 hours). Arusha students will be back to campus for dinner.

Fitness requirement

Currently not running this trip due to lower than expected number of participants in 2024/25. If participation increases drastically - then this trip will be reintroduced.

Minimum outdoor experience requirement

Currently not running this trip due to lower than expected number of participants in 2024/25. If participation increases drastically - then this trip will be reintroduced.

Challenge to Northern Usambara

Summary

The students will travel from Same (Pare Mountains) to Fish Eagle Point (Tanga) using the back road of the Usambara Mountains along the Kenyan border.

School staff-student ratio = 1 for 8.

Local guide ratio = 1 for 10.

Vehicular support = 2 per group.

Itinerary (subject to change based on group size / weather / safety)

Day 1

Drive to Same District Council. Ride to Mkomazi Hotels and Campsite (34 km, mostly downhill, 4 hours). Camp overnight.

Day 2

Break camp, eat breakfast, and ride to Mnazi (80 km; 7-8 hours).

Day 3

Break camp, eat breakfast, and ride to Makarima (90 km; 8-9 hours).

Day 4

Break camp, eat breakfast, and ride to Fish Eagle Point (95 km; 8-9 hours). Eat at Fish Eagle Point (seafood curry + packed lunch for bus ride).

Day 5

Pack the camp, drive back to school with Reefs schedule.

Fitness requirement

Currently not running this trip due to lower than expected number of participants in 2024/25. If participation increases drastically - then this trip will be reintroduced.

Minimum outdoor experience requirement

Currently not running this trip due to lower than expected number of participants in 2024/25. If participation increases drastically - then this trip will be reintroduced.

Expectations on all trips

At camp, everyone plays a key role, from pitching tents to organising gear. Setting up is a shared task, with each individual helping to prepare their area and ensure that the campsite is ready for the night/day ahead.

Cooking is a team effort, with everyone pitching in - whether it's chopping ingredients, stirring pots, or setting the table. After the meal, cleaning up becomes part of the routine. Washing dishes and tidying up the campsite may not be the most glamorous task, but it's essential for maintaining a clean and organised space. Everyone helps out. Camping-related chores also include packing away gear. These responsibilities are shared by all.

Additionally, environmental awareness and sustainability are key components of campsite etiquette. It's important to minimise waste, conserve water, and properly dispose of trash. Everyone is expected to follow the "leave no trace" principles, respecting the natural environment and preserving it for future campers. By staying mindful of our impact, we all contribute to making the camp a more sustainable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility for current D2 students who have planned their Outdoor Pursuits trips according to prior requirements will be reviewed on a case by case basis, and always with the student interest at the forefront of decision making.

New training requirements will be enforced however.

For new D1's and all MYP students the adjusted criteria will be applied.