Visitor Handbook
All the information you need for your stay at St Jude’s
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Introduction

Every year we welcome over 1,500 visitors to St Jude’s in Arusha, Tanzania. Visitors see first hand the impact that people from all over the world have achieved together and how that has resulted in a school of three highly resourced campuses that is changing the lives of 1,800 students, over 400 staff and their families. St Jude’s offers visitors safe, comfortable accommodation on site.

Our dedicated Visitor Team will assist with your personal itinerary and ensure that you have an experience like no other. A bonus of course is that Arusha is the gateway to some of the most amazing tourist destinations in the world including the Serengeti Plains, Zanzibar and Mt Kilimanjaro.
School activities

The School of St Jude has a lot to offer and the activities in this booklet are available for you to enjoy during your stay. Please contact our friendly visitors team to organise your trip.
1.1 Informational Talks

Q&A with Gemma
This is your opportunity to spend time with Gemma, the Founder, to learn more about her inspiration, motivation and future plans for the students and The School of St Jude.

Meeting with Beyond St Jude’s Team
An opportunity to hear more about the plans for students post Form 6—the community service program and higher education.

Meeting with Marketing Team
Meet with our marketing team and discuss how you might like to help us by ‘spreading the word’ about our fight against poverty through education.

Meeting with Sponsor Relations Team
Each year we welcome a brand new group of students into the St Jude’s family! This is your opportunity to learn more about our sponsorship programs.
1.2 General school activities

Debate
Join in or watch some of the students debate topics they have been learning about in class.

Talent and fashion show
Observe how talented our students are in singing, dancing, public speaking and performance.

Tours
A member of the visitor team will take you around the school, giving you a history of the school and explain the various buildings on campus. You will have the opportunity to ask questions that arise and see the school in action.

Class visits
The availability of class visits will vary from week to week, however these visits will give you the opportunity to observe our PE, Library, Computer, Art and Music classes and also have interaction with our students, where an appropriate moment arises. This is a great opportunity to see first-hand how our students are progressing.
2.3 Sisia Primary Campus, Moshono

Primary school music class

Tanzania has around 120 tribes each characterised by a unique culture. Our music lessons consist mostly of African drumming and dance. See the students perform a diversity of African cultural songs during their music lesson.

Primary assembly

only on Fridays

Experience a weekly assembly where you will share in the excitement as students receive awards for outstanding behavior and achievements. The fun and enjoyment is contagious as various classes entertain the audience with dancing and singing.

Extra curricular activities (ECAs)

only on Mondays

Every week students and teachers participate in extra-curricular activities that enrich our students’ academic curriculum. New skills such as knitting and juggling expand their minds and encourage creativity and teamwork outside the formal classroom environment.

Primary school art class

Get creative with our students while they immerse themselves in creating their unique artworks. Watch the vibrant colours come to life through their artistic expression. Join in the fun.

Interactive session

Interact with our energetic and enthusiastic junior students. Tell them your stories, background, inspire them, teach them songs or some new dance moves! They will love that and you will spot endless smiles on their faces. You may want to flood your album with photos as well.

Cooking lesson

only for cultural tours, school groups, graduation visitors and by special arrangement

Learn and participate to cook a traditional Tanzanian food dishes with the guidance of some of our students or interns! Ugali and Pilau will become your specialities!
1.4 Smith Secondary Campus, Usa River

Smith Secondary Campus at Usa River is our high school where you will get a chance to take a tour. Meet some of the older students who will tell you about their dreams and ambitions in the near future. You’ll be amazed at the artistic talent of these students when you visit the art room and a music class.

African drumming, cultural exchange and dance workshop

This is the most enjoyable and interactive part of the day, where our visitors will enjoy the lessons, presentations and various activities. First there will be explanations of different tribes found around Tanzania and deeply the tribes that are found around Arusha and Kilimanjaro. No better way to get into the African rhythms and soul than beating a drum or letting loose on the dance floor! Our St Jude’s teachers and students will have you all enjoying this experience in no time! It’s a great opportunity to learn.

Interactive session

It’s a great time for you to have your own interactive session with our Secondary students. You will be inspired to hear their passionate hopes and vision for their future. Listen to their stories and share your own. You will be amazed what you will learn!

Farm project

The farm project is the pinnacle of our goal of sustainability. We hope to be able to grow as many vegetables as we can for our students. In this way, we can reduce increasing food costs as well as provide a regular supply of fresh vegetables to our students. The school aims to grow spinach, carrots, cucumbers, onions, avocado, mango, guava, passionfruit, bananas and watermelon.

The farm covers 12 acres of our Smith Campus, and has been fully funded by incredibly generous donors. We have two greenhouses, a teaching area, and a large water pump that enables us to use drip irrigation to water the crops. This method saves water and allows us to precisely control the amount of water our plants need.

Students work on the farm on Saturdays, and have classes that teach them about modern agricultural methods. For example, during the construction of the farm, the students conducted soil testing and learnt about which chemicals they needed to buy to improve the soil.
1.5 Off-campus activities

**Bus ride**

only on Mondays from Sisia Primary Campus, Moshono

Hop on one of our brightly coloured school buses to enjoy a ride with the students as they get dropped home. It’s a round trip ride from the school that gives you the opportunity to see where some of our students live, sing songs and learn what they’ve been up to at school that day.

**Government schools**

only for cultural tours, school groups, graduation visitors or by special arrangement

Visit a local government school to see the reality of a school in Tanzania and the vast difference between St. Jude’s and the majority of schools in the Tanzania education system.

**Moivaro village walk**

only from Sisia Primary Campus, Moshono

Guided by a group of Upper Primary students you will take a short stroll around the Moshono village to see the local sights, greet the villagers, play with the local children and see the world surrounding St Jude’s.

Arriving at the Moivaro campus, the students will warmly welcome you into their boarding rooms and show you around the school farm and other attractions before inviting you to join them for dinner. After dinner, sit back and enjoy the entertainment that the students have prepared.

**Home visits**

If you sponsor a student they will take you to their home and introduce you to the family where you will experience the famous Tanzanian hospitality. Your curiosity about their life will be equal to their curiosity about yours, so be prepared to ask and answer lots of questions!

Please note: This opportunity is also available to non-sponsors. A visit offers a unique insight into the lives of our students and their families. If you are interested please let us know 48 hours in advance and we will arrange the home visit.
Cultural activities

Tanzania is a wonderful country with a diversity of tribes, languages, cuisine and art that makes for an unforgettable experience. You can enjoy different cultural activities while at St Jude’s, so make the most of it!
Cultural exchange

This is the most enjoyable and interactive part of the day, where our visitors will enjoy the lessons, presentations and various activities. First there will be explanations of different tribes found around Tanzania and deeply the tribes that are found around Arusha and Kilimanjaro including. Those are:

- Maasai
- Chagga
- Meru
- Haya
- Sukuma

Followed by traditional dances.

Maasai Choir

Meet a local Maasai choir to hear their unique style of singing and learn more about their culture. This is an insight into the traditions and culture of the Maasai people.

Swahili and cultural lesson

During the session you’ll get a chance to interact with the students and have a lot of fun whilst learning at the same time. The students will enjoy taking on the role of the teacher, no doubt being entertained as you try and twist your tongue around basic Swahili before sitting back and being taught some basic Tanzanian cultural facts.

Visit to the Maasai Craft Market

Hidden in the heart of Arusha is a wonderful little Maasai Craft market where you can purchase all of your souvenirs to take home. You will be welcomed by absolutely every store holder so this alone can turn into a half day experience if you have the patience and enjoy the bartering experience.

Cultural Heritage Center

The Cultural Heritage Center in Arusha presents crafts and artifacts from hundreds of tribes both local and from other parts of Africa. It sells everything from masks and traditional weapons to Tanzanite and wood carvings of all shapes and sizes.

Monduli Maasai market and Boma visit

only for cultural tours, school groups, graduation visitors or by special arrangement

Monduli is a small town located about an hour from the school. This is an authentic experience and an opportunity to interact with the locals, purchase colorful Maasai Fabrics and, if you are up for it, eat fresh barbequed goat!

From the markets, we will meet up with one of our Maasai Form 6 graduate, who will accompany us on a visit to his home (a traditional Maasai Boma or village) and visit their family. Meet members of an ancient tribe who are still living within their culture, even in today’s modern world.
Day trips

If you are in Arusha for a few days and wants to see things outside of St Jude’s, these day trips are an opportunity not to miss!
Explore Arusha

You will get the chance to explore Arusha town, buy a SIM card for your phone, a real coffee or a little snack and visit the Maasai craft and local markets. On arriving into town go to Clock Tower or Nakumat, the shopping mall in town. The Kilombero market is right across the street. Use this chance to get any personal items you may need and use this opportunity to experience local transport in Tanzania.

Coffee plantation tour

USD$35 per person [lunch and transport – included]

About 25 min from St Jude’s. At Nkoaranga you will meet your local guide and walk through the village to the Aranga Organic Coffee Nursery. One of the farmers in the group will explain how coffee is grown. After this visit you will walk down to the garden of Wild Tracks and enjoy a hot Tanzanian lunch. After this you will head to the coffee roasting factory to see how coffee is roasted, ground and packed.

Maji Moto (Hot Springs)

Transport to and from is US$100 per group
Entry fee is US$5 per person

A natural hot spring set in an oasis in a typically dry area near Mount Kilimanjaro. Maji Moto is the clearest blue water you will see anywhere, set among shady trees where you can relax on a blanket of dry leaves with a picnic and enjoy swimming in the fresh, clear blue waters.

Snake park

Entry fee is US$15 per person

The snake park is a special treasure of Arusha, a wonderful source of enjoyment and relaxation for locals and foreign visitors. Located 25km west of Arusha on the route to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater, the park provides various activities.

- Experience the thrill of holding a real live snake! Enjoy a guided tour to see some of the most dangerous snakes in the world, from the Black and Green Mamba, Egyptian Cobra, Puff Adders and many more.
- Watch Crocodiles at feeding time where you can touch a baby crocodile.
- Tour the spectacular Maasai Cultural Museum.
- Visit the Free Education Centre, where the local Maasai have the opportunity to learn how to read and write and further their education in many different ways.

Arusha waterfall

2-5 people is US$50 per person
6-10 is US $35 per person
10-20 is US $25 per person

A walking trip through trails, surrounded by beautiful forests and local villages. The walk becomes steeper as you move into picturesque rural surroundings and a gentle downhill stroll through the beautiful forest. At the end of the walk, the waterfall comes into view—an ideal place to relax, cool off and enjoy a picnic lunch. Walking time is estimated to be around 4-5 hours.
Food

Either local or international, there are a lot of dining options around Arusha to ensure you enjoy every single meal!
4.1 Nearby

School lunch
We’ll welcome you to have lunch with some of the staff and students. This is an excellent way to sample traditional Tanzanian food, such as ugali (maize porridge) and beans, or rice with vegetables.

The Waterhole
The Waterhole is a local bar just outside the school gate. It opened in 2004 and you will almost always find locals and volunteers gathering after work hours for a few drinks, karibu ('you’re welcome' in Swahili) anytime... don’t be afraid to grab a chair and join in the ever growing circle!

Adam’s Chips Mayai
For some quick local street food at a walking distance, Adam’s stand is the St Jude’s office’s go-to for chips mayai (literally ‘chips-eggs’) which is an omelette-like dish stuffed with chips and served with veggies on the side. There’s no signage—just ask one of the volunteers to walk you over.

World Garden
About a 10 minute walk from St Jude’s, World Garden is the closest place to get some local food including goat, chicken, pizza and chips. If there’s soccer on, be prepared to mingle amongst the locals grabbing a beer to watch the game.
4.2 Dining in Arusha - Local

**Khan’s**

Khan’s is a local establishment, otherwise known as “Chicken on the Bonnet”. It’s a mechanics shop by day-restaurant by night. They simply pull out the barbeques and roast chicken and serve a great variety of salads, Naan Bread and the Unique Zanzibar Pizza (nothing like a real Pizza!). It’s a popular and unique eating place in Arusha.

**2i**

2i serves a variety of grilled meats, roasted bananas and chips. Because it is a location frequented mostly by local Tanzanians, bring someone along who can order food in Kiswahili.

**CR pub**

Volunteers and locals alike go to CR pub for the pork, which is done really well here. If you decide to go to CR pub, bring someone from St Jude’s (who will happily join) since they don’t speak English.

**QX**

QX is known for its roasted goat and homemade pilipili (hot sauce), but also serves various other local dishes. If you’re feeling extra daring you can try a soup made from cow’s head. Some servers speak English, but bring someone from St Jude’s who can order in Kiswahili just in case.

**40/40**

40/40 serves a wide range of food including grilled or sizzled (which is sauce and vegetables with the meat) chicken, pork, goat and fish with all the sides of salad, chips, ugali and rice. It is an converted house where you can sit inside and out in the garden. The food is very delicious and the staff are friendly and speak English.

**Rippers**

Just down the road from Moshono campus, located next to a car wash, Rippers serves delicious grilled meats and traditional Tanzanian dishes with sides such as grilled banana, chips, and salad. Recently opened, you’ll find it crowded with many locals. The staff speak English.

**Grill House**

This modest restaurant is situated next to a lively pool hall in Njiro. It offers inexpensive and fast meals for those on the run. Choose from a selection of Indian inspired Tanzanian cuisine including shawarma, lamb and succulent boneless chicken, wraps, delicious cheesy chips and salad.

**Andrew’s**

Andrew’s is a family owned grill and bar with an inside sitting area, outdoor patio and garden. Recently opened, the restaurant attracts a diverse crowd. The barbequed meats are delicious and fresh.
4.3 Dining in Arusha - International

Spices & Herbs
Ethiopian
Spices & Herbs is perfect for groups. You'll be surprised at how full you can get with the delicious dips and curries served on top of the spongy injera bread. Choose between vegetarian combos or meat combos.

George's Tavern
Greek
If you're craving a large meal, George's Tavern serves delicious Greek food in some of the biggest portions you'll see around town. You can't go wrong with the endless options of salads, pizzas, and grilled meats.

Hot Plate/Hot Plate 2
Indian
Hot Plate is one of the only restaurants in Arusha to have two locations. One is located on Sokoine Rd by clocktower roundabout and Two is located on Simeon Road off impala roundabout. The wait can be long, but it's worth the generous portions. They have all kinds of mouth watering regional Indian food and many Indian-Tanzanians can be found dining here.

Taj
Indian
Taj is a go-to for authentic mouth watering Indian curries, naan, and vegetarian options.

Njiro Complex
Mixed
If you're travelling as a group and you can't decide on a restaurant, Njiro complex is the place to go. Sit out in the courtyard and wait for servers to come with menus from the surrounding restaurants. Here you have your choice of local, Chinese, Western, Indian, and specialty pizza. See a movie after dinner at the cinema attached, or pick up some snacks at the supermarket.

Blue Heron
Western/mixed
Blue Heron is perfect for a relaxing afternoon in the outdoor seating. In the backyard there's a playground and fountain. It's a great place to come for lunch with your choice of salads, shawarma, pasta, and vegetarian friendly options. There's even a small gift shop to pick out some souvenirs to bring back home.

Fifi's
Western/mixed
Aside from having the best bread in town, Fifi's is a great place for a quick breakfast, lunch or bite to eat. Here you'll have a selection of tasty salads, sandwiches, or hearty breakfasts. You'll see locals and ex-pats both working on their laptops with coffees and pastries in hand.

Mulberry
Western/mixed
Mulberry serves a variety of cocktails making it a great brunch destination. Enjoy some hors d'oeuvre and light platters in the outdoor seating or lounge back in the comfortable bean bags inside.
Picasso Café
Western/mixed

Picasso is known for its tasty wood-fired pizzas and sushi platters. The desserts are a must. Inside is a display filled with irresistible cakes. Go in the afternoon to enjoy a cup of coffee. The central location close to the impala roundabout makes it an easy choice.

Rivertrees
Western

Rivertrees lies nestled in the foothills of Mt Meru, in view of Mount Kilimanjaro. This peaceful country estate combines old-world ambience, African country elegance and excellent farm cuisine served beneath towering fichus trees in lush, tropical gardens.

Tanz Hand’s
Western

A favorite among many, Tanz Hand’s serves the best sandwiches, coffees, pastries, and bread in Usa River. Just a short drive from Smith Campus, it’s the perfect place to lounge and enjoy a cup of coffee. Revenue from the café and shop help to support the Usa River Center’s mission to support local Tanzanians with disabilities to live more independently.
If you wish to pay us a visit, ‘Karibu’ (welcome in Swahili).

Please contact our friendly visitors team here: info@schoolofstjude.co.tz