

MENLO ABROAD

The logo for 'Menlo Abroad' features the words 'MENLO' and 'ABROAD' in a white, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' in 'ABROAD' is replaced by a stylized globe with green continents and blue oceans. A blue location pin icon is positioned above the globe, and a yellow paper airplane icon is positioned to the right of the globe. A blue dotted line curves under the text.

May 18-June 8, 2025



Menlo Abroad: Tanzania

May 18–June 8, 2025



IN BRIEF

Menlo Abroad offers transformative experiences through guided immersive travel in the global South. Emphasizing relationship-building through homestay and community engagement, students develop knowledge, skills, and a greater understanding of themselves and their world. They emerge with a renewed sense of purpose and a desire to serve.¹



Menlo Abroad: Tanzania is developed and offered in coordination with World Leadership School.

Dates: May 18-June 8, 2025

(Note that participants will be out of the country and unable to return for Commencement or related activities. June 8 is a required day of reflection and celebration on the Menlo campus.)

Enrollment Limits: 16 students

Enrollment Eligibility: Menlo students in grades 9-11. For medical questions or exemption requests contact the Menlo’s school nurse.

Trip Leaders: There will be two Menlo-affiliated trip leaders: Upper School Director John Schafer and Upper School Assistant Athletic Director Buffie Ward Williams and one or two leaders from World Leadership School.

All-Inclusive Fee²: \$6200. Financial aid may be available. Current financial aid recipients should contact Rose Garza (rose.garza@menloschool.org) for information.

¹ Menlo Abroad is an elective option for MTerm and is considered and assessed as an M Term course. But while other MTerm courses will end May 31, Menlo Abroad courses complete on the evening of June 9, 2024. Menlo Abroad service participation earns students 15 community engagement credits.

² Fee includes all flights • hotel accommodation • all meals • all surface transportation • museum, park, and temple entrance fees • course preparation manual and reading materials • donations to charitable causes in the host country • instructor and extra guide fees • on-site equipment rental where needed • comprehensive risk management systems and administrative support 24/7. The fee does not include trip cancellation insurance or expenses for petty cash expenditures (est. at \$200), travel medicine or immunization or obtaining passports and visas.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The largest country in East Africa, Tanzania is bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east and the great lakes of the Rift Valley to the west. Much of the central terrain is a high plateau that lies between the east and west branches of the Rift Valley, the birthplace of humankind. Tanzania is home to natural landmarks such as the Serengeti Plains, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro Crater, and Olduvai Gorge. Tanzania is notable for its political stability: tribal divisions that have ignited conflict in the region are largely absent in Tanzania's well-integrated population.

After an initial orientation on campus, our program begins in Moshu, TZ, where orientation continues in a spacious and comfortable guest house. After a hike on Mt. Kilimanjaro and visits to an art collective, banana plantation, and the city of Arusha for context, the group transfers to Karatu and the local high school at Banjika where students meet their host families. During the homestay portion of the trip, the heart of the program, students will convene to check in each morning, take Ki Swahili lessons and gather to work on one of several learning opportunities or community projects. These projects vary according to community need, but as an example, during Menlo's last visit Menlo students helped to install solar panels they had helped to design and build in the Whittaker Lab prior to the trip. Many of the community engagement activities are facilitated by local NGOs. In the late afternoons and evenings, students get to know their homestay family and communities, cooking, playing soccer, and hanging out, or reconvening for learning sessions designed to promote the understanding of global issues, leadership, and local culture.

The homestay period is broken up with a day retreat at a local hotel to relax and reflect, followed by a day trip to the Ngorongoro Crater. The trip ends with debriefing and transference activities, and a final day on Menlo campus.



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ITINERARY

(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

Friday, May 16	Menlo Campus 1:00-3:30 pm Tanzania orientation	3
Sunday, May 18	SFO (afternoon) Departure for Kilimanjaro airport (JRO) Tanzania	
Tuesday, May 20	Moshi Evening arrival at JRO Transfer to Moshi Local orientation Dinner and lodging at West Kili Lodge	
Wednesday, May 21	Moshi Late morning start Check in Buffet lunch Orientation (continued) Afternoon hike around local village	
Thursday, May 22	Kilimanjaro Full day hike near Mt. Kilimanjaro Lodging at West Kili Lodge	
Friday, May 23	Arusha Check in Morning transfer to Arusha Visit to Art Collective and Banana Plantation City Walking Tour of Arusha Overnight in Arusha	
Saturday, May 24	Karatu Check in Morning transfer to Karatu Lunch at Mto Wa Mbu Welcome and introduction to Banjika Secondary School Overnight at Crater Rim's View in Karatu	
Sunday, May 25	Banjika Check in Morning meet and greet with local homestay families Spend the afternoon with homestay families Dinner and lodging with homestay family	
Monday, May 26	Banjika Check in School Collaboration Morning: Classroom shadowing and community project Afternoon: Kiswahili classes Dinner and lodging with homestay family	
Tuesday, May 27	Banjika Check in School Collaboration Morning: Classroom shadowing and community project Afternoon: Kiswahili classes Dinner and lodging with homestay family All meals and overnight stay with homestay family	

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ITINERARY (cont.)

(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

Wednesday, May 28 - Banjika

School Partnership Collaboration, Day III (classroom shadowing & community project)
American cooking class at local lodge
Community Interviews with Tanzanian student partners
Stay and eat dinner with homestay family

Thursday, May 29 – Ngorongoro Crater

Full day safari in Ngorongoro Crater with Tanzanian student partners
Movie night at school
Stay and eat dinner with homestay family

Friday, May 30 - Karatu

Full day of reflection and relaxation at Eileen’s Tree Inn
Stay at Eileen’s Tree Inn

Saturday, May 31 - Banjika

Spend all day with homestay family
Stay and eat dinner with homestay family

Sunday, June 1 - Banjika

Full group visits to local NGO’s for student- selected small group internships (possible partners: Mwena, Feed His Children, Rift Valley Village, Kifaru Youth & Children’s Center)
Learning Session: Purpose Mapping
Stay and eat dinner with homestay family

Monday, June 2 - Banjika

Full day student- selected small group internships at local NGO’s, Day I
stay and eat dinner with homestay family

Tuesday, June 3 - Banjika

Full day student- selected small group internships at local NGO’s, Day II
Stay and eat dinner with homestay family

Wednesday, June 4 - Banjika

Full day student- selected small group internships at local NGO’s, Day III
Learning Session: Finding Your Inner Leader
Final night in homestay

Thursday, June 5- Karatu

Full day student- selected small group internships at local NGO’s, Day IV
Afternoon community celebration at Banjika Secondary School
Stay at Eileen’s Tree Inn

Friday, June 6 - Arusha

Morning transfer to Arusha
Candle Circle
Dinner in Arusha
Evening departure from JRO Airport (1 hour from Arusha)

Saturday, June 7 Transit to SFO

Sunday, June 8 Menlo Campus

Post-trip activities, project and reflection
Celebratory dinner with parents and guardians.³

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³ Students must attend the final day to receive full credit for the course..

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TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

January 10	Announcement of Menlo Abroad and Borderlands programs at upper school assembly
January 28	Applications due
February 5	Participants notified
February 11	Forms and Payment due by 3:00 pm
April 14, 6:00 pm	Pre-departure information night (Spieker Theater) for enrolled students and their parents (meeting is mandatory for student and at least one parent)
May 17, 1:00 pm	Menlo Abroad: Tanzania orientation on Menlo campus; evening departure for Tanzania
May 18-June 7	Menlo Abroad: Tanzania trip
June 8	Re-entry day on Menlo Campus and completion of final projects, reflections, celebration.

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⁴ Students must attend the final day to receive full credit for the course. The time and nature of the celebration is to be determined.



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PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Menlo Abroad: Tanzania is built around interrelated academic and experiential program components intended to create a holistic, immersive experience. Below is a list of these components as they relate to this program.

- 1. Survey of Development Issues:** Our program explores a range of development issues, from resource management and environmental impact to education to market- and community-oriented development. Students learn through their direct experiences, meetings with community members and leaders, and related activities.
- 2. Independent or Small-Group Study:** Menlo students will have the opportunity to investigate—individually or in small groups—a topic of particular interest, availing themselves of local knowledge and resources.
- 3. Language Study:** English is an official language of Tanzania but the local vernacular is Ki Swahili. We do not expect participants to come with Ki Swahili language skills; we do expect that students will want to interact with locals as closely as they can. Few things do more to empower participants and to facilitate ease of cultural understanding than frequent use of the local language.
- 4. Immersive Travel:** Traveling to traditional communities in developing countries requires students to get out of their comfort zones. In Menlo Abroad, students are travelers rather than tourists. They travel in a style that enables them to genuinely know the people of the countries they visit. For adaptable participants, it offers the most authentic experience and profound learning adventure. Students should expect to cope with cold water showers, basic infrastructure, and pit toilets in the rural areas.
- 5. Homestay:** Often the most challenging and fulfilling component, homestays take students to the core of their experience. Homestays are carefully set up with each student's individual personality in mind in order to provide the best experience in cultural and language immersion possible. In Banjika, homestays are coordinated through community leaders. Each student will be placed in a homestay, most likely together with another Menlo student. The cohort will gather most mornings to check in and to engage in group activities.
- 6. Community Engagement:** Students will learn about themselves and each other through their experiences working on community engagement projects of mutual interest and benefit.
- 7. Guided Reflection:** Students will regularly meet with Menlo and WLS leaders to investigate, monitor, problem solve, and reflect on events or issues particular to the individual students. Students will journal and blog frequently to communicate their experience with friends and family back home.

MENLO ABROAD ASPIRATIONS

1. **Knowledge and Global Competency**⁵: Menlo Abroad programs advance students' self-knowledge and global competencies, including intercultural capabilities, historical perspectives, and attentiveness to diversity. Through direct experience, students develop awareness of global systems and issues impacting their host communities.

2. **Dispositions of Global Engagement**⁶: Menlo Abroad programs cultivate internationally minded students who recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet and strive to create a better and more peaceful world. Among the many positive dispositions they develop are agency, leadership, confidence, empathy, compassion, humility, feelings of interconnection, and respect.

3. **Relationships**: Menlo Abroad programs build sustaining relationships between students and diverse, underserved foreign communities and individuals through shared common experiences of everyday life.

4. **Community Engagement**: Menlo Abroad programs contribute to solutions based on mutually beneficial work, apprenticeship, or study, in activities that at the same time support students' knowledge of, and appreciation for, local cultures and issues at hand.

5. **Transference**: Menlo Abroad programs generate sustaining interest and connections with Menlo curricula and programs.

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⁵ *Global competency* includes the ability to investigate the world beyond the immediate environment, the recognition of one's own and other perspectives, and the ability to communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences.

⁶ By *Global engagement*, we mean the dispositions necessary to be connected and of service to others, including those beyond national borders.





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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The program is being offered by Menlo School in conjunction with World Leadership School. In cases of programs offered in conjunction with other organizations, participants are required to complete forms, registration, waivers, and medical forms provided by both Menlo School and the third-party organization.

By February 11: To secure a place in the program each of the following must be submitted.

1. A check payment payable to Menlo School for **\$6200**. Financial aid recipients will be contacted by the financial aid with a revised program fee.
2. Completed and signed *Parent Permission and Waiver, Medical Release, Emergency and Medical Information Form - Overnight*
3. Completed and signed *Waiver and Release for Program within the United States*
4. Completed and signed Menlo School *Trip Contract*
5. Third party organization forms, waiver and release.

By April 14: Any remaining and required forms.

Equipment lists, air travel instructions, and further information about the program will be provided subsequently.

Our intention is to address the goals and curricular elements listed in the program description, but all participants are advised that course itineraries will likely change to incorporate participant goals and interests, to adjust to the health of members of the group, or in response to weather conditions, problems with transportation, political or social unrest or other unforeseen problems. Regardless of such changes, we will always work to structure and implement the course so that it stays true to the original intent.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Menlo encourages participants to consider the purchase of a travel insurance or trip cancellation insurance policy for the Borderlands trip. Check your primary medical insurance provider to assure your child will have medical coverage while traveling. If that is in question, travel insurance including medical coverage should be purchased.

If the participant is on financial aid, travel insurance purchases for this trip will be reimbursed at the rate of financial aid.

You might consider purchasing a travel insurance package through an organization such as InsureMyTrip to provide some financial protection against unforeseen circumstances or withdrawal. Menlo makes no recommendation regarding these options: Please read all policies carefully to ensure that your needs are met.

CANCELED TRIPS: A full refund will be made for canceled trips that arise out of insufficient registration, though Menlo is not responsible for other costs incurred by the student or family preparing for the trip. For trips canceled due to any other circumstance that is beyond Menlo's control, Menlo will refund all recoupable tuition. If Menlo decides to cancel the trip at its own discretion, Menlo will fully refund participants' payments.

REFUND POLICY: If Menlo does not cancel the trip but a participant chooses to withdraw, the participant must inform the Global Programs Director (pbrown@menloschool.org) and the Program Director of (erin@worldleadershipschool.com) in an email communication. Menlo will refund recoupable fees according to the following schedule: By 3/18, 50% refund. No refunds will be given for withdrawal after 3/18 or for participants departing the trip early.*

MEDICAL AND EVACUATION EXPENSES: It is the responsibility of the student and the student's family to understand the limits of any medical and evacuation policy, and to provide up-front payment of emergency services when required.

CELL PHONES: In order to maintain the integrity of the immersive experience, students will relinquish their cell phones to trip leaders upon entry into the target area. Cell phones will be returned to students when they are in the airport awaiting the return flight home.

VIOLATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS: If a participant acts in a way that is injurious to himself or herself, people of the host community, or other participants on the trip, or generally conducts himself or herself in a way that is disruptive to the trip, we reserve the right to send the participant home without refund or to require parental pickup at the travel site. Underage use of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs are cause for dismissal. Participants sent home early or who choose to return for any reason, including sickness, personal emergencies or injury, will be responsible for all medical costs and will absorb travel and related costs associated with an unscheduled departure.

*Recoupable fees do not include airline fees and deposits Menlo pays to travel organization on the student's behalf.

Please contact Peter Brown with any questions at 650.330.2001 ext. 2238 or email pbrown@menloschool.org.

READ THIS DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING FORMS.