

Information to voluntary doctors

Rotary Doctor Sweden

General information to jeepdoctors

1. Ticket and other preparations

Your ticket is booked by a travel agency and you will receive it electronically to your e-mail address. Always check your ticket when you receive it, especially that your name has exactly the same spelling as in your passport. Do also read carefully the agent's instructions. Sometimes you will get a so-called Raptimticket with higher baggage weight than usual. You will receive a raptim certificate before your departure. You can re-book your ticket directly with the agency if you want to combine your mission with a private trip. You will have to pay for any additional costs.

Date of your mission. Your arrival and departure dates are carefully planned. The schedule will allow one day of overlap with the departing physician. Equally important is your departure date to overlap with the incoming doctor. Unforeseen events (illness, etc.) may make it necessary to change travel dates. In that case contact the office.

Depending on price we book a ticket all the way to the final destination, or we book two tickets, one to Nairobi and one domestic ticket in Kenya. If you have two tickets you might have to pay for extra luggage on the domestic flight, but Rotary Doctors will in that case cover those costs. We only book that sort of tickets if they are cheaper also when including the costs for the extra luggage.

It can happen that luggage goes astray. A photo of your suitcase can facilitate the tracking. Do also take photocopies of the first pages of your passport, driving licenses, credit cards and Certificate of Good Standing and other important papers. It may be helpful if the documents are stolen.

Do always pick your luggage at the airport in Nairobi, take it through custom and check it in on the domestic flight if you are going further to Kisumu or Eldoret. Do this even if airline staff says something else (Kisumu and Eldoret airports are called International Airport but do not function as such).

2. Vaccination

We recommend that you contact the nearest vaccination centre, the office do not give advice. Do though remember to take malaria prophylaxis and you do not need vaccination for Yellow Fever, if you do not travel from a country where this disease is present. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own vaccinations.

3. To take with you

It might be good to have some cash in USD or EURO at arrival. However, now you can withdraw local currency from ATM at the airport as well as in small towns.

It might be good to bring a basic calculator, favorite pillow, flashlight, binoculars (for possible safari), all around knife, sunscreen, mosquito protection ointment (e.g Mygga) needle and thread. Perhaps earplugs against excessive early morning roosters and calls for early morning prayers! A laptop can be useful. Adapter is important, Kenya has power outlets of English type with 3 large rectangular pins. Do not forget to bring your own stethoscope and your own working clothes.

You may want to bring photos from home, map and postcard that reflect your home country. A small mini-album with photos of family, home, pets can make valuable contacts.

Get in touch with colleagues who recently returned from where you are going. You will receive information from the office about who it is. Ask if there is something special that you should bring. In the last dispatch from the office, you will get one or more reports from earlier colleagues.

4. Pre-reading

Preparatory readings: A good way to get acquainted with what is going on is to get information on the Internet, here are some suggestions:

Health related:

www.who.int

- UN health organization

www.cdc.gov

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.msf.org

- Doctors Without Borders

Africa related:

www.allafrica.com

- Articles from African newspapers.

www.nai.se

- The Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala

www.amref.se

- African medical and research foundation

www.irinnews.org

- UN humanitarian efforts

In the doctor's house there are usually a lot of medical literature as well as fiction. There is for example a good book about "Skin diseases on black skin" that is very good since this might be partly new to European doctors. Maps and travel guides are usually available in the country at a decent price.

5. Per diem/allowance

Per diem is 2 400 Kenyan Shilling per day.

The Board of Rotary Doctors Sweden has decided that the per diem/allowance should be based on the cost of living in Kenya and a sum for preparatory costs. A good and reasonable amount for paying for food (western standard), phone and internet connection as well as the fee for private drives has been calculated. In addition an add-up of approximately 20% has been made for costs in Sweden (or your home country).

The amount will be adjusted once a year, or more often if there is an extra ordinary situation. We do inform the tax office that you have received this allowance but it is not taxable.

6. Insurance

Rotary Doctors Sweden has an agreement with the insurance company "Länsförsäkringar" for all Nordic medical staff sent on mission. This consists of a travel insurance, a liability insurance and a legal expenses insurance. In short your insurance covers:

- If you yourself suffer from illness or accident during the mission, cost of treatment and if needed transport home. The policy does not apply if the symptoms come after you have returned home, then your usual protection from the social insurance (Försäkringskassan) will be valid.

- Theft, loss of luggage and in some circumstances also for delays in travel.

- Liability in a situation of an accident with injury of another person or another vehicle (not in your professional role).

- Legal expenses insurance in your professional role.

More detailed information is available in the second mailing. Staff travel insurance is valid only for only three vacation days that you take in connection with your mission. For longer vacation, you will need to have your own insurance.

7. Arrival

If you are delayed and will miss your connection to Kisumu or Eldoret do contact Daniel, the coordinator in Kisumu (see below). You might need to get a new ticket for your Nairobi-Kisumu or Nairobi-Eldoret. Upon arrival in Nairobi you will not be met, but you should transfer to the domestic airport together with your luggage (it will never be sent directly even if marked directly to Kisumu or Eldoret, see above) At Kisumu or Eldoret airport you will be met by somebody carrying a Rotary Doctor sign.

If you are staying in Nairobi privately it can be good to know that the distance between the airport in Nairobi and the downtown area is about 25 km which means a journey of approximately 30 min depending on the traffic. Do always agree on the price with a taxi driver before the journey. Tipping to the taxi driver is not customary, but give 50 KES to the carrier at hotel and tip at meals in the hotels and restaurants. If you would like to stay overnight in Nairobi you can book a hotel or hostel according to the list you will be provided. Note that any stay in Nairobi you will need to pay for yourself. Do also read the security advice on the website: <http://www.rotarydoctors.se/om-lakarbanken/du-som-ar-lakare/infor-uppdraget/information-om-uppdraget/>

8. Accommodation and private guests

You will live in the so-called "Doctor's House" with employed staff where basic equipment such as sheets, towels, household equipment, is available. The staff takes care of cleaning, laundry, shopping and cooking. An extra room is available for guests. However, always notify the office if you will have guests during your stay. This has to do with the local transport and living arrangements, etc. If your visitors do not arrive at the same time as yourself, you will have to arrange pick-up yourself. Payment for extra guests in the doctors' house - see separate information! There is electricity and warm water in the houses. However infrastructure in Kenya is not totally reliable and it can be interruptions, this is part of working in a country like Kenya.

9. Private driving

You may also use the jeep privately for short trips/safaris during leisure time. The cost for private use is 4 USD/10 km including petrol. Note the mileage in the car's mileage book. You report and pay for your private mileage to the coordinator in Kisumu at departure, when reporting about the payment for the clinics. To drive you need to have an international driving license in addition to the one from your own country, in Sweden you order that from <http://www.motormannen.se/Resan/internationellt-korkort/index.html>.

Avoid driving in the dark and drive carefully. Always use seat belts. Traffic accidents are among the biggest risk to a Westerner in Kenya. The roads are generally in poor conditions, as are most vehicles and a lot of people and animals are walking on the roads. You are not allowed to have more than five people in the car, one driver and four passengers. Do not take up hitchhikers. The jeeps have four-wheel drive. All doctors might not be used to drive these under tough conditions.

During an accident in which another vehicle and/or person is injured it might be a disadvantage or even risky to be a Westerner. Discussion and accusation of negligence occurs rapidly at the site. There is always a risk that people take matters into their own hands. Measures in case of an accident:

Contact Daniel 0722 45 06 00. Avoid on-the-site discussions on the cause of the accident. Go to the nearest police station. Read more about how to act in the Security Regulations.

If there is an accident during the private use of the car, if you drive yourself or a driver drives, you who have borrowed the car will be responsible for any damages up to the limit of the self risk of the insurance. This is up to 15 000 KES. If you use the car privately you have accepted this responsibility.

10. Telephony and internet

Now the mobile telephone and internet connection is well developed in Kenya. It is best to have a local scratch card that is loaded in advance with specific airtime. You pay yourself for these cards. There is a mobile phone for each of the jeep lines with a scratch card that you will need to refill. You might also want to have your own private number if so check that your own mobile phone is not blocked for other operators than your own. Ask your operator if it is possible to use a local Kenyan SIM card or if the setting can be changed. Often you just need to use a code to reset your mobile. Roaming is available, but check the prices with your operator at home. In the houses there is now a wifi arrangement, ask the staff about information. Cards with airtime for internet are easily accessible. Do though remember that internet might not be working as at home, there are interruptions, sometimes it is slow or maybe not at all.

11. Dress code and working clothes

The dress code is somewhat formal, do not dress too relaxed or provocative. Easy-fitting cotton clothing is most comfortable. Even if it is hot during the day it can be cooler in the nights. A hat of cotton can be nice and it is cheap to buy locally. You do bring your own working clothes.

12. Photos, video, etc.

It has become more and more important to inform about and promote the activities in the field towards people and especially Rotary Clubs in Sweden. After your mission you will sometimes be asked to talk about your experiences. It may therefore be useful to take photos, videos and record sound during your mission. Do this with great respect and ask if people agree to be photographed.

You can also:

- Write letters from your mission that we can publish on the websites.
- Write a blog, but remember that you will be seen as a representative of the organization when you write about your mission - even if it is on your own blog.
- Please, after your mission, send us your 5-10 best pictures to: info@doctorbank.se

13. Support fundraising after your mission

Rotary Doctors Sweden is dependent on the funds that are raised in Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs or among the general public or other organizations. You as a doctor and volunteer can be a great support in raising these much needed funds by talking about your experience in Kenya at a Rotary Club that is close to your home. Rotary Clubs do usually have a 20 min presentation at their meetings. If you want to get in contact with a club after your assignment in Kenya please contact the office and if you need travel support (reseersättning) you should also inform the Swedish office before your visit to a club. We might also ask you if you can visit a Rotary Club and share your experiences.

All funds raised during such meetings should be sent to Rotary Doctors Sweden through the "90-kontot".

14. Projects and gifts

In Africa you will meet distress and poverty. It is therefore close at hand to help people you meet. We would though like to stress that the best help is what you give in form of your voluntary work as a professional. Your greatest gift is yourself! Small things can though be brought for example reading glasses to give to patients at the clinics and some doctors/dentists have brought toothbrushes. Pens for schoolchildren are a popular gift.

During your mission, you represent the Rotary Doctors and you do not have permission to start new projects or make promises about funding even in your own name to private persons, people involved in Rotarys Doctors or any other organization. There is always a risk that funds are not used as intended. To support projects a good assessment, planning and monitoring are needed. You will always be seen as a representative for the organization, even if you say that you act on your own.

Handing out gifts or money to the staff might give mutual satisfaction in the short run, but ultimately creates a dependency and expectation that the next doctor should do the same, which he/she might not be able to. Our coordinators in Kenya also reports that one of their biggest challenges with staff is that doctors give private gifts to different staff persons. This develops into jealousy and conflicts within the staff group.

Of course you can give small gifts of appreciation to local employees if they are of low value, provided that no employee is favored. Do also note that all the employees have access to special loans for the school fees of their children. The salaries, even if lower than in Europe are competitive on the market.

The doctors' reimbursement for cost of living is high in relation to health care staff's salaries. Please be discreet and do not talk unnecessarily about what you have in per diem. From a European perspective one can think that the employment benefits for the local staff are poor. However, we advise that you as a doctor to not enter into discussion about these issues. A discussion can be easily understood as a promise to act in the matter.

15. Public holidays in Kenya.

On these days the staff and doctors will not visit the clinics.

New year's day	1st January
Easter	Universal
Labourday	1st may
Madaraka day	1st June
Mashujaa day	20th October
Jamuhuri day	12th December

16. Rotary Doctors Coordinator in Kenya

Community Nursing Service (CNS) is our coordinator in Kenya, led by Daniel Muruka and Jacinta Karimi. You can contact them mobile phone or e-mail if you need help or have questions.

cnursingservice@yahoo.com

Daniel: + 254 (0) 722 460 600
Jacinta: + 254 (0) 729 673 828