

Interview Scripts: Holiday Planning with Friends

Interview 1: Emmaculate Adhiambo

Screening Questions:

Name: Emmaculate Adhiambo

Occupation: Teacher

Age: 32

Location: Ugunja, Siaya

Frequency of holidays with friends: Once a year, usually Easter and December

Planning and Preparation:

Tell me about the last time you planned a holiday with friends. What was that process like?

Once we came up with the idea, we set up a WhatsApp group where we organized the project from. We came up with a budget and set a monthly contribution towards it. And when the time came, we went for the trip.

What challenges did you face when coordinating with your group?

Some friends were late with their monthly contributions. We even had to drop one. Also, settling on the itinerary was a challenge. We had to vote on the places to visit and when.

Budget and Expenses:

How do you and your friends usually handle shared expenses?

We usually come up with a budget that is then approved by all members in the WhatsApp group. Then we divide the budget amongst ourselves by having a set amount to contribute monthly towards the budget. One of us usually acts as the treasurer.

Have you ever experienced any tension related to money matters while on holiday with friends? If so, could you elaborate?

Yes, especially when having to deal with miscellaneous items that were not in the budget. We had to come up with a way of budgeting for miscellaneous items. Also, having everyone meet their share of the budget has been a challenge in the past.

Activities and Experiences:

Can you tell me about a particularly positive experience you've had while on holiday with friends?

The fact that we were able to organize as friends and go on holiday is a big deal in and of itself. Its hard sometimes. But going outside the country last year was an amazing experience because it was a trip I could not pull off myself.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy most when on holiday with friends?

I am a foodie. So sampling good food at different restaurants as a group is definitely a highlight. I also enjoy swimming a lot.

Have you ever felt pressured to participate in activities you weren't interested in? How did you handle that situation?

I remember convincing myself to go on a boat for the first time in Kisumu was a tough one. If it were not for my friends, I do not think I would have gathered the courage to go on the boat. I once had a fear of water.

Conflict Resolution:

How does your group handle conflicts?

Issues are usually raised in the WhatsApp group and people give feedback on what the best course of action is. If it is an issue that cannot be resolved unanimously, then we usually vote.

Can you describe a specific disagreement and its resolution?

There this time one of my friends was gossiping about one of us during a trip. Thankfully, we were able to fix it and come up with a way of reconciling the two.

Interview 2: Agnes Atieno

Screening Questions:

Name: Agnes Atieno

Occupation: Bank teller

Age: 27

Location: CarWash, Kisumu

Frequency of holidays with friends: Twice a year, usually Easter and December

Planning and Preparation:

Tell me about the last time you planned a holiday with friends. What was that process like?

Eish, it was a bit chaotic! We have this WhatsApp group where everyone was throwing ideas. Some wanted Diani, others Malindi. It took almost three weeks just to agree on the location.

What challenges did you face when coordinating with your group?

The biggest headache was getting everyone to commit to the dates. People kept changing their minds because of work schedules or family commitments. Also, some wanted to book early for discounts while others wanted to wait.

Budget and Expenses:

How do you and your friends usually handle shared expenses?

We use M-Pesa a lot. Someone volunteers to be the treasurer, then we send money to them before the trip. But you know Kenyans, some will delay until the last minute.

Have you ever experienced any tension related to money matters while on holiday with friends? If so, could you elaborate?

Yes, especially when some friends want to eat at fancy restaurants while others prefer local spots. Last time, two friends got into an argument because one wasn't contributing equally to the shared taxi costs.

Activities and Experiences:

Can you tell me about a particularly positive experience you've had while on holiday with friends?

Our trip to Watamu last Easter was amazing! We all agreed on activities beforehand and split into smaller groups when interests differed. No pressure.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy most when on holiday with friends?

We love beach activities, taking photos for Instagram. Sometimes we do boat rides, but mainly it's about relaxing and catching up over nyama choma.

Have you ever felt pressured to participate in activities you weren't interested in? How did you handle that situation?

Yes, once in Naivasha. Everyone wanted to do the boat ride but I'm scared of water. They kept insisting until I gave in. Didn't enjoy it at all.

Conflict Resolution:

How does your group handle conflicts?

Usually through the group admin. They mediate and try to find compromises. Sometimes we vote on WhatsApp to make decisions fair.

Can you describe a specific disagreement and its resolution?

Last December, we argued about sharing rooms to cut costs. Two friends wanted private rooms but wouldn't pay extra. We resolved it by having those who wanted privacy pay more while others shared.

Interview 3: James Odhiambo

Screening Questions:

Name: James Odhiambo

Occupation: Boda Boda operator

Age: 29

Location: Manyatta, Kisumu

Frequency of holidays with friends: Once a year, usually December

Planning and Preparation:

Tell me about the last time you planned a holiday with friends. What was that process like?

We just went to shags [upcountry] in Siaya! Nothing fancy but we enjoyed. Five of us contributed fuel money for my friend's Probox, packed some food, and drove there for the weekend.

What challenges did you face when coordinating with your group?

You know these Kisumu guys! Everyone was on "African time." Some were still sleeping when we planned to leave at 7 AM. Also, convincing everyone to contribute money before the trip was hard.

Budget and Expenses:

How do you and your friends usually handle shared expenses?

We keep it simple. Everyone contributes the same amount to a kitty before we leave. One of us manages the money since he's good with calculations.

Have you ever experienced any tension related to money matters while on holiday with friends? If so, could you elaborate?

Last time one guy came with half the agreed amount, claiming he'd send the rest later. We had to reduce our food budget because of him. It wasn't cool.

Activities and Experiences:

Can you tell me about a particularly positive experience you've had while on holiday with friends?

Last December we went to Got Alila hills. The hiking was tough but the view was nice. We carried some nyama choma and drinks. Simple but memorable.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy most when on holiday with friends?

We like local adventures - hiking, swimming in the rivers, visiting historical sites. Nothing expensive but we create our own fun.

Have you ever felt pressured to participate in activities you weren't interested in? How did you handle that situation?

My friends wanted to visit a snake park in Kakamega. I fear snakes so I sat that one out and waited at a nearby kibanda [food kiosk].

Conflict Resolution:

How does your group handle conflicts?

We're all childhood friends so we speak freely. If there's an issue, we call a "bura" [meeting], everyone speaks their mind, then we move on.

Can you describe a specific disagreement and its resolution?

Once we disagreed about accommodations in Kisii. Some wanted to sleep at a relative's place to save money, others wanted a guesthouse. We split into two groups and met up for activities during the day.

Interview 4: Florence Wanyonyi

Screening Questions:

Name: Florence Wanyonyi

Occupation: Primary school teacher

Age: 35

Location: Airport, Kisumu

Frequency of holidays with friends: Once a year during the long December school holidays

Planning and Preparation:

Tell me about the last time you planned a holiday with friends. What was that process like?

We teachers planned a trip to Kisumu Impala Sanctuary then Lake Victoria. Very simple - just packed snacks and went for a day trip.

What challenges did you face when coordinating with your group?

Everyone wanted to be in charge! Also, some colleagues wanted to bring their kids, others didn't. Took time to agree.

Budget and Expenses:

How do you and your friends usually handle shared expenses?

We contribute to an M-Pesa number for the group. Each person must pay before the trip. No exceptions!

Have you ever experienced any tension related to money matters while on holiday with friends? If so, could you elaborate?

Someone always tries to divert the budget towards things like photo sessions we hadn't budgeted on. We now agree on everything upfront to avoid issues.

Activities and Experiences:

Can you tell me about a particularly positive experience you've had while on holiday with friends?

We went to Rusinga Island by boat. Spent the whole day swimming, eating fish, telling stories. It was affordable and so much fun!

What kinds of activities do you enjoy most when on holiday with friends?

Sightseeing, taking photos, swimming if possible. Sometimes we just find a nice garden and have a picnic.

Have you ever felt pressured to participate in activities you weren't interested in? How did you handle that situation?

I once went out with the younger female teachers. They wanted me to do karaoke, but I'm too shy. I just watched and cheered them on instead.

Conflict Resolution:

How does your group handle conflicts?

As teachers, we're used to solving problems. We discuss everything openly and vote if necessary.

Can you describe a specific disagreement and its resolution?

We argued about whether to hire a tour guide or just explore on our own. Ended up googling information to save money.

Interview 5: Stephen Onyango

Screening Questions:

Name: Stephen Onyango

Occupation: Boutique shop owner

Age: 33

Location: Mamboleo, Kisumu

Frequency of holidays with friends: Twice yearly

Planning and Preparation:

Tell me about the last time you planned a holiday with friends. What was that process like?

We organized a trip to Naivasha during the Safari Rally. My cousin there helped us find cheap accommodation. Planning was mostly through WhatsApp.

What challenges did you face when coordinating with your group?

Aki, some people are so indecisive! They keep changing their minds until the last minute. Also, agreeing on transport was hard - public transport vs hiring a car.

Budget and Expenses:

How do you and your friends usually handle shared expenses?

Everyone sends money to me since I'm good with money. I keep proper records on my phone and share updates daily.

Have you ever experienced any tension related to money matters while on holiday with friends? If so, could you elaborate?

There was drama when one guy kept borrowing money throughout the trip, promising to pay later. We had to call his brother to send him cash!

Activities and Experiences:

Can you tell me about a particularly positive experience you've had while on holiday with friends?

During Christmas, we visited Kakamega Forest. Very peaceful. We had packed food from home, did nature walks, saw monkeys. Simple but sweet.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy most when on holiday with friends?

Visiting new places, trying local foods, and meeting people. We prefer going where regular wananchi [citizens] go, not expensive tourist spots.

Have you ever felt pressured to participate in activities you weren't interested in? How did you handle that situation?

My friends wanted to do zip lining but I'm not into such risky stuff. I told them straight up - hiyo ni yenu! [that's yours!].

Conflict Resolution:

How does your group handle conflicts?

We have a chairman who makes final decisions if we can't agree. Democracy but with leadership.

Can you describe a specific disagreement and its resolution?

Agreeing on dates since most of us have busy schedules. For example, for the Naivasha trip, some wanted to extend the trip by two days while others had work commitments. We solved it by having flexible return dates.

Interview 6: Victor Owino

Screening Questions:

Name: Victor Owino

Occupation: Hotel receptionist

Age: 31

Location: Kondele, Kisumu

Frequency of holidays with friends: Once or twice yearly

Planning and Preparation:

Tell me about the last time you planned a holiday with friends. What was that process like?

We planned a trip to Maasai Mara last August. Working in hospitality, I handled most bookings. Used my industry contacts to get good rates.

What challenges did you face when coordinating with your group?

Getting deposits from everyone was a nightmare. Also, some wanted luxury tents while others preferred basic camping. The price difference caused a lot of tension.

Budget and Expenses:

How do you and your friends usually handle shared expenses?

We use a mobile app to track expenses. Everyone must clear their share before the next activity. It's strict but prevents arguments.

Have you ever experienced any tension related to money matters while on holiday with friends? If so, could you elaborate?

Always! Especially when some friends order expensive drinks or want premium experiences but expect costs to be split equally.

Activities and Experiences:

Can you tell me about a particularly positive experience you've had while on holiday with friends?

Our Mombasa trip last year. Everyone was clear about their budgets and preferences from the start. No surprises.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy most when on holiday with friends?

Game drives, hiking, and cultural visits. I prefer active holidays where we learn something new.

Have you ever felt pressured to participate in activities you weren't interested in? How did you handle that situation?

Yes, particularly with adventure sports. Some friends wanted to do bungee jumping in Sagana. I declined despite the pressure.

Conflict Resolution:

How does your group typically handle conflicts or disagreements that arise during the holiday?

Working in hospitality taught me to be diplomatic. We discuss issues openly and try to find middle ground. Sometimes we split into smaller groups.

Can you describe a situation where there was disagreement within the group? How was it resolved?

Once we had an issue about departure times - some wanted to leave early, others late. We compromised by having two vehicles leaving at different times.