



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of  
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships  
and Cultural Courses Abroad

# ZAMBIA



## WALK WITH LIONS: THE LION RESEARCH, REHABILITATION AND RELEASE PROJECT IN LIVINGSTONE

The alarming rate at which the number of lions in Africa is decreasing is heart breaking. Current patterns indicate that there will soon be no lions left on the Continent. This programme enables you to assist in research and rehabilitation, and to have **extremely** close encounters with lions!

You can take lions for a walk through a Game Reserve - an unbelievable experience!

Your work will assist in helping this project to continue and, over the long term, will also hopefully contribute to preventing the decrease in the lion population in Africa

***.Thank you for your interest in volunteering on this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. You can volunteer whether you're taking a gap year, on a career break, retired, or on a holiday with a purpose. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!***

## WHAT DO YOU GET?

### SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of helping lions in Africa and knowing that you made a difference to them.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

### AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Africa and the Zambian culture! And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience.**

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**Prices:** From **£1,395** excluding flights.

Please see Full [Price List Online](#).

**Duration:** From 2 weeks to 4 weeks, subject to visa requirements.

**Start Dates:** All year round - you choose your start and finish dates. Projects start every other Monday

**Requirements:** No qualifications needed. You should be willing to muck in with anything.

**NOTE:** You must be a **minimum of 1.55 metres (5 feet 1 inch) tall** to participate on this project. Minimum age 17.

**What's Included:**

- ▶ Arranging your Programme,
- ▶ Payment Protection insurance
- ▶ Certificate of Completion
- ▶ Food
- ▶ 24-hr emergency support.
- ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport/station
- ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance,
- ▶ Accommodation
- ▶ Transfer to your accommodation
- ▶ Local in-country team support and backup
- ▶ Return transfer to the airport

**What Not Included:** Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visa

## SUMMARY

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### WORK CONTENT:

This outstanding project where you'll work hands-on with lion cubs takes place in Livingstone, Zambia. The involvement of volunteers on the project is paramount to achieving our aims on all fronts. You can expect days to be long, but you will also be able to end each day knowing that you have given something back to Africa; having made a difference to the animals and people that you come into contact with.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Walk alongside lions as part of the pride and enjoy the exhilaration of being part of a hunt as the young cubs learn to stalk their prey.
- Work on the world's leading programme for the release of lions back into the wild.
- Experience the African bush in a very special way as you spend time out in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. You will be actively involved in a number of conservation activities.
- Immerse yourself in local Zambian culture.
- Make friends for life with the other international volunteers on the programme.
- Join the conservation education team in local schools giving you a wonderful insight into the community.
- Optional adventure activities, from white water rafting on the mighty Zambezi River; bungee jumping from the Victoria Falls Bridge or a helicopter flight over the Falls.
- Optional trips to spectacular wildlife areas in neighbouring Botswana or Zimbabwe, including the enormous Hwange National Park, Chobe National Park, walk with Rhino at Matopos National Park and the Lion Programme at Gweru Park.



Your primary task whilst on placement will be to assist management and their team of guides, handlers and scouts in all aspects of care for the animals in their charge; giving them the opportunities to develop their natural instincts in preparation for their release into the next stage of the program.

Research is a significant part of your role; collecting data not only on the development of the lions, but also joining the elephant monitoring team in the National Park.



You will also help them with our various community programs that may include conservation or health education as well as a number of other projects that you will be told about on arrival. To give you an idea of how your time will be split between the different aspects of the program, the following should be taken as an approximation:

- Lion Rehabilitation & Release into the Wild Program 75%
- Conservation work within the National Park 20%
- Conservation Education & Community Development 5%

## YOUR DAILY TASKS MAY INCLUDE:

**Lion Walks:** Spending time with the lions in the wild each day is an essential part of the cubs' upbringing. If the cubs are to be successfully released it is important that they spend time out in a natural environment. They need to adapt to it, learn from it, understand, observe, feel and smell the wild.

Since the start of this intensive lion walking programme, they have noted a marked increase in the lions' awareness of their natural surroundings, as well as an improvement in their hunting skills. The larger cubs are now able to take down smaller game species whilst out on walks, and these abilities are being enhanced each day whilst under the supervision of volunteers. These are invaluable discoveries, which have earned us further support for our world first endeavours.

Alongside the walks you will be involved in the care of the animals which overnight in enclosures. They need feeding, cleaning, and occasionally will need veterinary care to ensure that they are kept in the best of health.

Join the team of professional guides and other dedicated volunteers, gain a deeper understanding of the King of Beasts and assist us in gathering vital information that will facilitate their eventual release back into the wild.

**Research:** As part of the program they conduct a number of research activities to better understand lion behaviour and ecology. The lion walks offer unique opportunities to observe lions close up in their natural environment with the data collected assisting us to make the best decisions for the animal's welfare and eventual release. Volunteers will assist the research technician in gathering and analysing this vital data. The research studies being undertaken whilst on your placement will vary depending on the needs of the project at the time but may include looking at hunting development, character traits, spoor sizes or mane growth. You will receive all the training you need in order to ensure that you are able to provide valuable input to this program regardless of previous experience.

**Elephant Monitoring:** Conflict with humans is a major issue for elephants in the region, but understanding how to mitigate the conflict first requires an understanding of the ecology of the species within the National Park. Volunteers will join the research team to identify individual elephants, to track seasonal changes, score body condition, record location and group sizes; all so that these data can be correlated to crop raiding incidents. Through this program they hope to be able to find patterns in elephant use of the Park to understand why the conflicts arise and therefore be able to provide reasonable solutions to reduce the conflict.

**Conservation Education:** Volunteers will join the ACT conservation education program visiting local schools to garner support for conservation through education. The syllabus was originally devised under the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) "We Care!" project with lesson plans designed to offer children a full understanding of their environment and to build an appreciation for the need to conserve what remains of the wild areas of Zambia. Each lesson may focus on a specific species or introduce conservation methods. Learning is achieved through a mixture of classroom-based talks and discussion as well as involving the children in smaller groups and practical activities such as visits to the lion programme, or Victoria Falls themselves.

A few days prior to each lesson you will work with the team and other volunteers to prepare the lesson plans whilst also receiving training on how best to teach the children that you will meet.



**Community Development:** During your placement you will have the opportunity to be involved in a number of community programs which may include health education, training in the sustainable use of natural resources or reading classes. The nature of the programs operating at the time of your placement will be given to you on arrival.

## START DATES

The start dates for **2015** are:

- May: 11th and 25th
- Jun: 8th and 22nd
- Jul: 6th and 20th
- Aug: 3rd , 17th and 31st
- Sep: 14th and 28th
- Oct: 12th and 26th
- Nov: 9th and 23rd
- Dec: 7th and 21st

## THE AIM OF THE PROJECT IN LIVINGSTONE:

To contribute to the welfare and rehabilitation of the cubs as they undertake pre-release training in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park; take part in a research program to better understand the ecology of elephants in the Park and join our conservation education and community programs to involve communities in conservation as part of our holistic approach. Enjoy time spent walking with the lions along the banks of the mighty and beautiful Zambezi river, with the potential of witnessing them chasing down game in the National Park as well as getting involved in important tasks related to the conservation and preservation of this noble beast.



*“I enjoyed every minute of my time there and would recommend it in a second to anybody who has a passion for wildlife and conservation of some of the most amazing and precious animal species on the planet.”*

**Peta Sutherland**

*“Nothing can describe what it is like to get up and be with lions every single day for a month. It was amazing to have the lions get to know you and come up to the fence to try and greet you.”*

**Rachel Stuck**

## ACCOMMODATION

You'll stay at the volunteer house in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park a stone's throw from the lion enclosures and the mighty Zambezi River.

You will share a room with up to 3 others although we try and make sure you do not share a room with more than 2 other volunteers. We can also arrange for couples or groups of friends to share rooms. The accommodation is simple but comfortable and completely suited to your needs.

The house has running hot and cold water and electricity although this is Africa so there are occasional lapses of both!

### FOOD:

Food is included on this project. All your meals, unless you happen to take a packed breakfast into the park on a long lion walk, will be served at the house and are prepared by our chefs.



## WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers
- Excellent support! And 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, during and after your trip of a lifetime!
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

## HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

Donations to **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ✓ Accommodation and Food                   | ✓ UK administration   |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support               | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ Meeting you at the airport               | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection  |
| ✓ Transport to the placement site          | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment  |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Donations to worthwhile project   |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline                  |   |

***"Travellers provided the infrastructure, safe accommodation and very friendly UK and local staff that made the difference, especially to someone like myself travelling on their own."***

*Janice Imrie*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### MORE ABOUT THE LION BREEDING PROGRAM:

The aim of the Lion breeding program is "To secure and, where possible, restore sustainable lion populations throughout their present and potential range within Eastern and Southern Africa, recognizing their potential to provide substantial ecological, social, cultural and economic benefits." The project plans to do this by completing the following stages:

#### STAGE 1a

Young cubs born to female lions in breeding programs spend as many daylight hours in the wild, accompanied by trained lion handlers. Guides and volunteers contribute valuable data and observations. This exercise is being carried out in Livingstone, and it is remarkable to observe the development of the natural hunting instincts of the young lions. At 18 months, these lions are able to successfully stalk and bring down a diversity of prey species.

#### STAGE 1b (only at Gweru Park in Zimbabwe)

Once sub-adult lions have demonstrated hunting skills, they are released into large (approximately 1000 acres) enclosures stocked with prey species. Release periods are planned to be from 3 to 5 days (but currently only a few hours a day), and while the lions are still monitored carefully, their periods of activity and hunting are no longer determined by handlers. At present the Gweru park is periodically releasing 18 month old lions into this enclosure (called 'Night Lion Orientation'), and results have shown an almost 100% stalk and kill rate with wild antelope.



## STAGE 2

From stage 1b, lions now used to hunt entirely for themselves will be translocated to fenced mini-ecosystems where:

1. There are no other lions except for simultaneously introduced, opposite sex groups to promote breeding;
2. There are no resident human beings;
3. There is a sufficient diversity of prey species for the lions to hunt;
4. There is sufficient space (5,000 to 10,000 acres) within fenced areas to maintain the lions – such areas will be sourced in various African countries.

## STAGE 3

The offspring of lions born to Stage 2 lions and therefore raised in a totally natural environment, can be slowly introduced into appropriate protected areas. With the economic situation of many African countries in a stage of revival, there is a desire to restore and reconstruct wildlife areas to vitally contribute to national economies. The Lion Encounter has already received many requests to assist in lion reintroduction.

As heart-breaking as it is, the lions of Africa are decreasing at an alarming rate. Current patterns indicate that within a very short time there will be no lions left on this continent. Factors that affect the decreasing number of lions include rampant poaching, uncontrolled (and "canned") hunting and diminishing natural habitats. Diseases such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), which leads to lions contracting Bovine Tuberculosis, are another killer of these wonderful animals. A recent headline in the South African Sunday Times read 'Kruger lions dying like flies'. The cause - incurable bovine tuberculosis. Of 33 lions tranquilized and tested, 32 lions were TB positive. Forecasts are that it is possible that within 5 years, 95% of the Kruger lions will have died from TB.

The project leaders who own these projects feel passionately about the state of the lion population in Africa. As a result they run a Lion Breeding Programme with the express objectives of preserving the African lions by producing a quality gene pool and rebuilding the diminishing numbers of lions, and also reintroducing the offspring back into the wild in environments where they will have the best possible opportunity for survival and a good quality of life.

Having started with just six lions and run-down, only partially fenced facilities, they have built the programme into a magnificent Game Reserve and Lion Breeding facility. Since 1987 new bloodlines have been imported from Tanzania and various other captive breeding units in Zimbabwe and a strictly monitored breeding programme was commenced to ensure that no in-breeding took place. DNA and TB tests were carried out with the assistance of a veterinarian attached to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the lions are regularly vaccinated against Rabies.

There are currently around 50 lions of various ages within the Gweru park in Zimbabwe. The aim is to build up a gene-pool for other breeding programmes in Africa and the rest of the world, and in 1999 alone, over 20 lions were exported to a similar facility in South Africa, a step in the direction of fighting to ensure the survival of these Kings of the Jungle. The owners firmly believe that controlled re-introduction of the offspring of captive bred lions into the wild can succeed and enable them to live in their natural environment

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure! Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home.

The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Fact file, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget. As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity! This is a truly awesome, elegant and beautiful country.

# THINGS TO DO IN ZAMBIA

## LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

**All our projects take place in Livingstone town, a quaint but lively area very close to Victoria Falls.** You'll have plenty of opportunities to participate in the multitude of activities that surround the Falls, from white-water rafting and canoeing on the magnificent Zambezi River to bungy-jumping or game spotting in the Reserve.

## LIVINGSTONE

**Livingstone is a fun town where tourists come for adventure, sports and an adrenalin kick. It's very close to the awesome Victoria Falls and the powerful Zambezi River. Water sports are everywhere!**

Livingstone is the capital of the Southern Province and is situated just north of the Zambezi River, which forms the border with Zimbabwe. It is a major tourist centre serving visitors to the Falls, but the main streets of this colonial town, Mosi-oa-Tunya, are lined with classic colonial buildings, with Victorian tin roofed houses and wooden verandas.

The spectacular Victoria Falls Bridge is only about 10km away from Livingstone, and the area surrounding the Falls and Livingstone town have given it the name of '**adrenaline capital of the world**'.

Local attractions include not only the impressive Victoria Falls, but also Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, located adjacent to Victoria Falls, and Livingstone Game Park. Livingstone Museum has displays of historical African artefacts and memorabilia related to Scottish missionary David Livingstone and his exploration of the region in the 1850s.



## THINGS YOU CAN DO - ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

Zambia encompasses everything magnificent about Africa - wildlife, birds, safaris, lakes, rivers, culture and adventure sports!

### White water rafting is a must!

If you are keen for the ultimate thrill then a multi-day trip along the Zambezi is it! The Zambezi provides the best rafting trip on the planet! You'll crash through some of the biggest commercially run rapids in the world. Batoka Gorge provides one of the most intense sensory thrills imaginable. Its twenty three white-water rapids and striking scenery deep within the sheer black cliffs afford the adrenaline junkie a wild roller coaster ride along a route carved over millennia by the Great Zambezi.

### Bungee Jumping for the very brave:

The highest commercial bridge jump in the world in the most spectacular setting over the Zambezi River! This must be the ultimate adrenaline rush. It's an indescribable feeling that will probably change your life!

### And more:

You can do river boarding, abseiling, kayaking, canoeing, walking safaris, elephant back safaris, fishing, and flights over Victoria Falls, quad biking, golf and scuba diving. This is a real adventure playground!

The terrain is mostly high plateau with some hills and mountains, and the flora in Zambia is amongst the best in the world. The great Zambezi River also forms a natural riverine boundary with Zimbabwe, making Zambia one of the most beautiful countries to visit.

Along the southern border of the country stretches Lake Kariba, the largest man-made lake in Africa and the second largest in the world. It is about 280kms long and 40kms across at its widest point.

## HOW TO BOOK

### TWO EASY WAYS ...

Complete a [booking form](#) online.

Telephone  
01903 502595 (UK)  
or  
1-603-574-4935 (USA)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!**

**We hope you'll join us!**

**Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.**

**We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!**

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