



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

ZIMBABWE



WALK WITH LIONS: LION CONSERVATION, RESEARCH, REHABILITATION AND RELEASE ON A GAME RESERVE NEAR GWERU

Work hands-on with Lion Cubs on a Game Reserve near Gweru. The Gweru location is a 3,000 acre Game Reserve and tourist spot about 10 kilometres from Gweru. The main camp facility - made up of thatched African rondavels and buildings - rests on the shores of a beautiful lake and is a Game Reserve with many species of wildlife and bird-life.

There are no predators in the Game Reserve, making it an idyllic location in which to take the lion cubs for a walk in order to monitor their behaviour. If you can ride a horse, it's also delightful to spend some of your free time exploring the Reserve on horseback. It's quite an experience riding up to some Giraffes and finding yourself close to their head height, with their disconcerting brown eyes gazing at you in curiosity!

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 a threatened wildlife 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 Zimbabwe culture! And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience.**

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Prices: From **£1,545**, 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.
Please see [Start Dates](#) on our website.

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

What Not Included: Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visa

SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the African bush in a very special way on this private reserve. Explore the savannah grasslands either on horseback or whilst riding on African Elephants
- 1. Bottle feed and help take care of younger lion cubs, should there be any in camp at the time
- Undertake important research on the behaviour of the African Lion
- Assist with numerous activities related to the care of these majestic beasts
- Swim on the back of an African elephant
- Assist staff at our local orphanage to care for the many children in their care.

Work Content:

Some of the work on this project is quite unusual, to say the least. (Where else would you take lions for a walk every day to exercise them and to familiarise them with a game reserve environment!). On the walks, the lions are 'free roaming' - no leashes - they romp, they play and they stalk, and you may frequently be lucky enough to have a large cub sitting on your lap sucking your thumb.

Duties are fairly varied and you will be expected to turn your hands to whatever is required at the time you're there. Generally, your work would include some or all of the following:

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.

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.

Research. As part of the program we 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 our research technician in gathering and analysing this vital data.



Elephant. You will also have the opportunity to spend time with our orphaned African Elephants and their trainers. The elephants at the Park were saved from certain death during a severe drought that ravaged Zimbabwe's South Eastern Lowveld in 1991 and 1992.

Free Roaming Wildlife. The few remaining areas of wildlife sanctuary in Zimbabwe are extremely precious and must at all costs be protected. Part of your project will involve assistance with the wildlife management scheme such as finding and removing snares ('snare sweeps') within the game park and checking for holes or fence cuttings on the boundary fence ('Boundary Patrols') and repairing them. These activities are usually conducted on foot, within the Park and accompanied by one of our trained guides.

Other duties. You may also be asked to assist in any other duties at the game park such as: cleaning the lion enclosures; preparing meat for the lions; building and painting new lion enclosures; cutting and collecting firewood; daily schooling and exercising of horses; basic repairs and maintenance; fire brakes; any other wildlife or camp related activities that involve the assistance and development of the lion programme.

There is also an opportunity to visit children at a local orphanage and interact with them. They love to have the care and attention shown to them that they so richly deserve.

A day in the life of a volunteer...

Every day is different as animals rarely operate to our schedule. We ask that you remain flexible, but here is an example of a typical day on the project, as a guideline only:

- 6:30am – 8:00am Meet the guide and their clients and join them for a lion walk, taking cubs from 7 months to 18 months out into the bush. If there are no clients then volunteers and staff will be involved in taking the lions out for their walks. Observe and take data notes as the cubs practice their hunting skills. Or possibly spend the morning training the elephants and going on a ride.
- 8:30am – 9:30am Breakfast
- 9:30am - 12:30pm You could be involved in various duties including enclosure cleaning, cub walking, boundary patrols or meat preparation, snare sweeping, bush walks, enclosure maintenance.
- 12:30pm – 2:00pm Lunch
- 2:15pm - 4:00pm Your afternoon duties could include cub sitting, horse rides, cub descriptions, elephant herding, or more enclosure cleaning and maintenance if needed.
- 4:00pm – 5:30pm Take the cubs out into the 'bush' again for their afternoon walks.
- 6:45pm Briefing by your volunteer coordinator about the following day's activities. In winter months briefing meetings are held at 6.00pm and dinner is at 6.30pm.
- 7:00pm The volunteers socialize at dinner and around the cosy camp fire pit under the stars. On some nights we take out the larger cubs for a night hunt and watch as they stalk, chase and catch prey – a vital stage in their development and training for release.

NB. With the lion breeding programmes, you'll also take part in meat preparation, stuffing the raw meat with vitamins and minerals to feed to the lions; this is a compulsory activity.



"I had an amazing time on my project and met some really great people who made my stay so much more special. Thanks for getting me out there and giving me an experience I'll never forget!"

Iain Robertson

"The local Zimbabweans blew me away with their intelligence, positivity, determination and devotion to the conservation cause... It is amazing to see and be a part of a project with such lofty goals and actually get to witness all the prerequisites and baby steps needed to actually achieve this larger goal."

Amanda Ginsburg

ACCOMMODATION

Gweru: The setting of your accommodation is not only very beautiful (with almost all the buildings thatched and very African), it's also very conveniently located just yards away from where you work, eat, swim and play.

You'll share a room with one or two other volunteers or young staff members. All the rooms are in small clusters, and are reasonably spacious. Some of the rooms form a square with a courtyard in the middle, with some grass, trees and shrubs - from time to time some of the very young lion cubs will be kept in the central courtyard ... which means that you could open your door in the morning and be greeted by a cute baby wanting to chew your shoelaces! And all this in the middle of Africa!

The dining area is beautiful - there's no other word for it. Again it is set under an open-sided thatched roof and overlooks the lake and the sweeping plains of the game reserve, as well as the beautifully kept grounds of the main camp.

There is also a lovely swimming pool on the lake shore that looks out over the lake and the game reserve.

Food:

You'll be eating the same food as is prepared for the tourists, and the quality and standard is very good. At Gweru there is an almost constant stream of overlanders camping on site and they have the choice of either barbecuing for themselves or having meals in the dining area. There are lots of socialising opportunities with the overlanders, which is great fun because they come from all over the world.

There are 3 meals a day and food is prepared and served by the cooks; this is based under an attractive open-sided thatched roof. There is a wide variety of meals and usually a choice of 2 or 3 for main meals.

Breakfast also offers a choice of cereals and cooked meals. Fruit is not abundant owing to scarcity and cost, but this is more than compensated by the variety of food generally.

All the furniture used in the accommodation, such as the tables and benches in the camp grounds, are also made on site by local villagers. There's a well-equipped workshop that employs local craftsmen - and the furniture is of solid wood and good quality.

There are plenty of opportunities to socialise with other volunteers and tourists.



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 | ✓ 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 | |
| ✓ Food | |

"I would definitely recommend this placement. The staff here are very supportive and helpful. Volunteers worked well as a team and made new volunteers feel very welcome"

Janice Imrie

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: 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.

THE GAME RESERVE AT GWERU

The Gweru location is a 3,000 acre Game Reserve and tourist spot about 10 kilometres from Gweru. The main camp facility - made up of thatched African rondavels and buildings rests on the shores of a beautiful lake and is a Game Reserve with many species of wildlife and bird-life.

The species in the reserve include non-predatory animals like Giraffe, Zebra, Wildebeest, Impala, Kudu, Warthog, Jackal, Duiker (and many other species of buck and antelope), as well as 150 species of birds. The 3 Km Lake in front of the camp is also host to an abundance of bird life, including the great African Fish Eagle.

Because the animals in the Reserve are all non-predatory, this makes it a safe place to explore and view game either on foot or on horseback, or even riding on an elephant or in a mule-drawn buggy. If you like jogging every day, what better place to run around than a reserve where you jog past zebra, wave to a curious giraffe, or watch a group of warthogs cavorting in the grass. And you're not short on modern facilities either. This is one of the only places where you have nearly all the modern facilities you could require and yet you still feel as though you're camping in the middle of the African bush.....

One minute you could be in the office surfing the Internet, the next you could walk outside, pour yourself a cup of coffee in an open-sided, thatched roof dining area and go and sit on the grass with a spectacular view of the lake in the forefront with swooping vultures, and the rolling expanse of the game reserve in the background.

To make sure that you're totally spoilt (!), there's also a lovely swimming pool on the lake shore where you can cool down and do some serious sunbathing while looking out at the magnificent view of the lake and the game reserve. This is paradise at its tranquil best.

On Arrival, your Introduction to the Country:

When you arrive, you'll be met at the airport and taken to the accommodation, where you'll be introduced to everyone. You'll be made to feel very welcome by all!

Your adventure has begun :-)

THINGS TO DO IN ZIMBABWE

LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

During your stay at the Park, you'll be able to enjoy an excursion to some of the other spectacular spots that Zimbabwe has to offer. Day trips are offered to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins as well as Granite Ridge in the beautiful Matobo National Park, and once a month a trip to the Victoria Falls is organised for those volunteers who are interested. These trips are also a great time for volunteers to interact and get to know each other better.

The expedition such as the one outlined below (to Victoria Falls) will cost you approximately US\$475 (this includes National Parks fees, transport, meals (excluding meals in Victoria Falls), and accommodation).

- Day 1: Leave after breakfast from Antelope Park for Miombo Safari Lodge (Hwange National Park); the largest national park in Zimbabwe. Enjoy a game drive in Big 5 territory where you could get up close and personal with a herd of elephant, buffalo, a pride of lion and many more.
- Day 2-4: Leave after breakfast from Miombo for Victoria Falls, adrenalin capital of Africa! You have the option to bungee jump, white water raft, visit the Falls, gorge swing across the Batoka Gorge below the Falls or just enjoy the great social atmosphere at this tourist hot-spot! Dinner at the amazing "Boma" Restaurant is included whilst at the Falls.
- Day 5: Depart early morning from Victoria Falls to return to Antelope Park

Please note: This trip only operates with sufficient volunteer interest and is only available to volunteers joining the project for a minimum of 3 weeks.

There is also the option of a day trip to Great Zimbabwe – the ancient founding city of modern day Zimbabwe or to Matopos – a National Park to go on a wild Rhino tracking safari. The costs of these trips are dependent on the number of people going. +/-USD125



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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