



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 VICTORIA FALLS

Work hands-on with Lion Cubs on a Game Reserve near Victoria Falls. This base is 5 miles from the magnificent Falls, which is one of the world's greatest natural spectacles. It is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, and has also been declared a World Heritage Site.

The Falls and the town lie within a 23,4 square km National Park that neighbours the 573 square km Zambezi National Park..

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.**

2A Caravelle House, 17/19 Goring Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 4AP, UK
Tel: UK +44 (0)1903 502595, USA: 1-603-574-4935. Email: info@travellersworldwide.com

TravelQuest Ltd t/a Travellers, registered in England & Wales, Registered Office: 7 Mulberry Close, Ferring, West Sussex, BN12 5HY, Reg. No. 3072191, VAT Registration: 786540201

Prices: From **£1,420** 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

- Join the conservation education team in local schools giving you a wonderful insight into the community, as well as giving you a chance to help save the future of the Zimbabwean environment by educating the local children.
- Enjoy the many adventure activities available from white water rafting on the mighty Zambezi River; bungee jumping from the Victoria Falls Bridge or taking to the air for a helicopter flight over the Falls giving a bird's eye view of this natural wonder.



Work Content

Your primary task whilst on placement will be to assist management and the 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.

You may also be involved in research work, but this is dependent upon what is required at the time and can be seasonal. This may involve collecting data not only on the development of the lions, but also joining our research team in the Zambezi & Victoria Falls National Parks.

You will also help us 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:

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

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.

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. 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.



Work in the National Park. There is a vast amount to do to keep a National Park ecosystem healthy, and this project is blessed by having two unique parks right on its doorstep. As a volunteer you will work with the research team and National Park rangers on any number of conservation activities that may include some or all of the following, based on National Parks needs at the time of your placement:

- Assisting in the development of a new waterhole (please note that this is dependent on funding).
- Carry out snare sweeps to remove the wires set by poachers to illegally catch the animals that inhabit the reserve.
- Work with local communities to mitigate lion/human conflict.
- Victoria Falls Rain Forrest: Volunteers will be involved in the removal of Invasive Alien Plant species as and when required by the Park Warden.

***Please note:** Research activities will be conducted on a case by case basis in collaboration with the National Parks team and their needs at the time as well as seasonality and accessibility to the bush based on the time of year. Please understand that whilst we have made every effort to be as accurate as possible in our explanation of what conservation and research activities you will be involved in during your placement, it is essential that you are flexible and accommodating during your project visit, and that you understand that our team on the ground will make every effort possible to maximise your involvement in these areas.

Teach a conservation class. Volunteers will join our 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 and adapted to Zimbabwe by The Curriculum Unit of the Zimbabwe Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture. Lesson plans are 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 Zimbabwe.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VICTORIA FALLS VOLUNTEER...

Every day is different as animals rarely operate to our schedule. Here is an example of a typical day on the project, as a guideline only:

- 6:15am: You will be collected by your project manager and driven out to the lion project base at Masuwe lodge located within the Zambezi National Park. This is approximately a 10 minute drive.
- 6:30 – 9:00am: Meet your guide and their clients and join them for a lion walk, taking cubs from 4 months to 18 months out into the bush. Watch and take data capture recordings as the cubs practice their hunting skills on the many game species they encounter.
- 9:00 – 10:00am: Breakfast.
- 10.00- 12.00pm: One group might head off to nearby Chamabondo School to begin the day's Conservation Education classes – sometimes there are up to 60 kids in a class! Chaotic but fun! The other group will be cleaning or feeding the cubs, or driving into the National Park to conduct a game census.
- 12:30 – 2:00pm: Lunch back in Victoria Falls town at our volunteer base.
- 2.30 – 5:00pm: Your afternoon duties could include updating the species inventory in the Victoria Falls National Park or a lion walk at Masuwe.
- 6.45pm: Briefing by your project manager about the following days activities.
- Evening: The volunteers socialize at dinner at 7.00pm at cosy Hunters Lodge. On some nights volunteers venture off into Victoria Falls town to experience the night life of this tourist Mecca. For others you may be camping out at a water hole to watch the African Bush come alive at night – you may spot the rarely seen Aardvark, known as the "earth pig".

“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

“I had an amazing time and it is truly a wonderful experience! I would recommend it to everyone and everyone at home is very jealous! The whole time I was there it was well organised and all the staff were so friendly and brilliant, especially when I unfortunately became ill. From beginning to end, it has been a worthwhile and fulfilling adventure that I will never forget so thank you to Travellers and to the guys in Victoria Falls!”

Lisa Deathe

ACCOMMODATION

You'll live in a Guest House which is situated a short 15 minute walk from the beautiful town of Victoria Falls. The premises have a lovely braai (barbeque) and pool area for you to relax and chill out in on hot summer days!!

You'll share this lovely Guest House with your fellow participants. There are 5 Rooms, 4 of which have en suite bathrooms as well as two outside toilets and two showers. You will be sharing a room with 1 – 4 other volunteers on the project. The dining and lounge areas are really comfortable and spacious, perfect for relaxing after a day with the cubs by either playing a game of cards or watching a DVD. We hope that you will be able to make this a home away from home, which is the goal.

If you are travelling with a friend, family member, or a partner, please make sure that we are aware whether you want to share a room with them so that we can make the necessary arrangements. We will do our best to accommodate these requests, availability permitting, but cannot always guarantee these arrangements, especially couple-only rooms.



FOOD:

You'll receive 3 meals a day, although this may be a packed meal depending on what activity you are taking part in on any given day. Generally, breakfasts and lunches will be enjoyed out at the park (where our lions are based) and volunteers can relax with a hot dinner back in town at Guest House when you return at the end of the working day.

Please note that Zimbabwe is facing an economic crisis and some food supplies are scarce. We will make sure that volunteers are well provided for, so please expect your meals to be simple yet plentiful!

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

S

“Everything is great, food, accommodation, laundry, with mostly comfortable temperatures. It is hot for a couple of hours a day but that is easy to bear. Everyone is waiting for rain, so that will be interesting.”

Neil Munro

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.

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

THE VICTORIA FALLS LOCATION

At Victoria Falls, the project takes place in 3,000 acres of state-owned land next door to the Zambezi National Park. This unfenced game reserve has been classified as a Big 5 area (Big 5 comprises Lions, Leopards, Elephant, Buffalo and Rhino). The local wildlife also includes kudu, waterbuck, zebra, impala, wildebeest, eland, duiker, steenbuck, warthog, baboons and monkeys.

Victoria Falls claims the title of “Adrenaline Capital of Africa”, where it has a seemingly endless variety of adventure sports such as one of the world’s highest Bungee jumps (from a railway bridge) and Africa’s premier white water rafting through the Batoka Gorge downstream of the falls (said to be the world’s most exciting stretch of rafting). However, the most spectacular thing about Victoria Falls is not just the picturesque town, but the immense sight of the falls themselves.

The locals have forever revered the awesome spectacle of the mist that the falls produce, and of which can be seen from as far away as 15 kilometres. They look upon this sight and proudly call it MUSI OA TUNYA – The Smoke That Thunders. The body of water that then flows downstream from the falls continues on as the Zambezi - Africa’s fourth largest River system (after the Nile, Zaire and Niger Rivers).

The Zambezi runs through six countries on its journey from central Africa to the Indian Ocean. Along the way the Zambezi serves as the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe when it thunders over the Victoria Falls and through the narrow, steadily deepening Batoka Gorge, which flattens out at the broad Gwembe Valley; a breathtaking sight to experience.

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

During your stay, 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. These trips are also a great time for volunteers to interact and get to know each other better.

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!

www.travellersworldwide.com

www.travelersworldwide.org