

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Each and every volunteer brings a different set of skills, knowledge and values to their programme, therefore the role you play in your volunteering placement will largely be decided when you reach the project after collaboration with Nakavango. We appreciate the time and money you have chosen to invest in this programme and we hope it is as rewarding and satisfying for you, as it will be for the people you will be helping. The placement will not always be easy. It will challenge and test you, but this is all part of the experience volunteering in a developing country.

While you are volunteering in Victoria Falls, remember that you are a representative for your family, your friends, your country, Nakavango, but most importantly, yourself. You are a guest in Victoria Falls and it is important to keep in mind that the people, traditions, culture and general way of life may be different from your home country. Do not try to force your way of life upon the people you will be working and living with, but instead be open minded and embrace the new cultures and ways of living that you will be exposed to (both the Zimbabwean culture and the cultures of your fellow international volunteers). This will allow you to gain a rich and authentic experience as a volunteer traveler in Zimbabwe.

Volunteer Requirements

- Volunteers must be over 18 years of age at the beginning of the programme.
- Volunteers must present a recent criminal background check to the Facility Manager at the Orientation.
- Fluency in English is required to participate on the Nakavango, Victoria Falls programme. The staff members at the conservation centre speak English; however the mother tongue of the local people is Ndebele. Volunteers will be able to easily communicate with staff; however they should be prepared to have some difficulty communicating in with locals who only speak Ndebele.

Criminal Background Check

To participate on the volunteer programme, all volunteers are required to provide a criminal background check at their programme orientation. A basic disclosure check from your local police is sufficient and can be obtained by visiting or contacting your local police department. Please ensure you allow sufficient time to acquire this document before you depart, as processing times vary. A background check is important to determine whether any serious criminal offence has been recorded against your name. The check must be issued within 12 months of your programme start date and is required to be presented in English. If your background check cannot be issued in English, a translated and verified copy will be accepted if presented along with the original. Anyone with a criminal record or caution for other offenses should also contact us before proceeding further.

Location of Programme & Placements

The programme is based in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Volunteers arrive at Victoria Falls International Airport (VFA) and are transported to the volunteer base on the Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve. Projects are located on the reserve and in rural areas surrounding the town of Victoria Falls.

Start & Duration of Programs

The Victoria Falls programme begins on the first and third Monday of every month. Please make sure that you arrive on the Sunday before your programme starts. Volunteers can choose to volunteer for periods ranging from 1 week to 24 weeks.

Accommodation

Volunteers are accommodated in single rooms on site at the conservation center. The conservation centre is situated on a private game reserve and it is not uncommon to see African wildlife grazing throughout the day!

The rooms are comfortable and each room is equipped with a single bed, a ceiling fan, desk, a chair and storage shelving. Bathrooms are shared among up to four volunteers of the same gender and offer western toilets and hot showers. In addition to the sleeping quarters, the accommodation also offers an open-air communal area with a swimming pool, braai (barbecue) and picnic tables where volunteers can socialize and enjoy meals.

Bed linens are provided and during the hot months, a sheet should be adequate cover in the evenings, as there is no air conditioning in the volunteer accommodation. During the cooler months, a duvet and a warm blanket are provided. Volunteers are asked to bring their own towels.

The conservation centre has a 24 hour security guard and a safe is available in the staff office for volunteers to store small valuables. As the reserve is a "Big 5" area (home to lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and Cape buffalo), the property is protected by an electric fence and volunteers are required to ask permission before leaving the facility.

On-site staff cleans the accommodation throughout the week; however volunteers are also required to keep these areas tidy. Laundry services are provided on a weekly basis.

Meals

Volunteers are served three meals a day except for weekends when Brunch and Dinner are served. Fruit, bread & cereal are available all day, and snacks on weekends, prepared by an on-site cook. All meals are a mix of western and traditional Zimbabwean food. Breakfast includes cereal, porridge, fruit and toast, accompanied by coffee & tea. Lunches will be a mix of sandwiches, quiches, burgers, salads and other similar foods. Dinners will commonly comprise of pastas, fish, meat, starches and/or vegetables. Snacks are typically muffins, pastries or biscuits.

The local staff are happy to accommodate special dietary requests (vegetarian, vegan, dairy or gluten free, etc.). Please let the Facility Manager know of any special dietary needs in advance.