

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



Arrival and Departure

The programme begins on the first and third Monday of every month, and we ask that volunteers arrive in Victoria Falls for pick-up on the Sunday before their chosen start date.

Accommodation is provided from the Sunday before your start date through to (and including) the Friday night of your final week. You can then depart at any time on the Saturday. We collect from Victoria Falls International Airport on the Sunday between 2 and 3pm from the downstairs coffee shop or from Wild Horizons office (310 Parkway Avenue, Victoria Falls town) at 11am. Transfers by taxi (about US\$30) to the centre are for volunteers' own accounts.

Arriving by Flight

As soon as your flights are booked, please email us your flight details. Please note: it is important to specify your airline and flight number so that if your flight is delayed, our staff will be aware of changes to your arrival time. ***Should you miss any flights, please advise us as soon as possible.***

Arriving Overland

If you are traveling prior to joining the programme and plan to arrive in Victoria Falls by road, please be sure to arrive in Victoria Falls the Sunday before your start date. We collect from Wild Horizons office (310 Parkway Avenue, Victoria Falls town) at 11am.

Post Pickup

Once you have been picked up, you will be transported to the centre's accommodation (a 15-minute drive from the airport). The programme for the next few days will be explained with regards to meeting the staff and other volunteers, and your orientation.

Orientation

Orientation is hosted by our Victoria Falls team at the conservation centre. It begins on the morning of your chosen start date and covers everything you need to know about the volunteer programme – introduction to Victoria Falls and Zimbabwe, culture and customs, rules and expectations, safety, travel opportunities, introduction to the programme, and placement. Orientation will also give you a chance to meet the other volunteers and swap contact details for weekend travel and socialising.



Volunteer Week

Orientation is on the Monday after your arrival. The morning starts with an orientation game drive, departing at 6:30am and returning at 11am. The orientation debrief will then take place in the lounge for about 2 hours. Lunch is taken during the heat of the day and, after a short rest, you will be taken on another game drive to show you the balance of the reserve.

For the remainder of the programme, you will generally go out between 7am and 11am, or 8am and 12pm. After lunch and a rest during the heat of the day, work begins again from approximately 3pm to 7pm. There is no typical daily schedule, so a general guideline for summer is 6:30am start, back for lunch, go out again at 4pm; and for winter is 8am start, back for lunch, go out again at 3pm. Please note: during the summer rainy season, we may delay starts if it is raining hard.

Volunteer Weekends

There is no shortage of things to do in and around Victoria Falls town, with activities ranging from white-water rafting to sunset cruises. Victoria Falls is one of the largest and most spectacular waterfalls in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, situated within three separate national parks: Victoria Falls National Park (Zimbabwe), Zambezi National Park (Zimbabwe), and Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Zambia).

Nature enthusiasts and animal lovers will have the unique opportunity to see these areas on safari and guided tour, exploring rainforests that are home to many endangered species. The town of Victoria Falls offers many popular tourist spots for sampling Zimbabwean cuisine and buying handicrafts from local artisans. Extreme sports are also plentiful in Victoria Falls, with white-water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, zip lining, and gorge swinging on offer. Outdoor enthusiasts can take part in fishing, horseback riding, canoeing, and cycling – there is no shortage of options for adventure. Victoria Falls' advantageous location also allows volunteers to easily visit the neighbouring countries of Zambia and Botswana on the weekends. Volunteers staying in Zimbabwe after completing their programme and who wish to travel further afield, can explore the ruins of the Great Zimbabwe, check out the unusual rock formations in Matobo Hills National Park, or go diving in the cobalt-blue water of the Chinhoyi Caves. There is a wealth of national parks in Zimbabwe, too.