

FACT SHEET 2019

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About us

Nakavango is an environment and community conservation arm of MORE. Our programme integrates education, conservation, and welfare to preserve Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve (VFPGR) and develop the nearby Woodlands villages. We share with volunteers the importance of supporting fragile wildernesses and the communities who rely on them. By giving volunteers a hands-on experience, we hope to inspire their love of this place and its people, and enable them to make a real difference here.

MORE is a fourth-generation family-owned collection of seven luxury safari lodges in four uniquely different nature reserves and three boutique hotels within the vicinity of two Natural Wonders. MORE uses sustainable tourism to promote and protect Southern Africa's last wild places and uplift local communities, while bringing visitors here to share in life-enriching experiences.

The Nakavango Experience

Volunteers from around the world are afforded the life-changing experience of getting to know the other side of Africa, the candid Africa. At the same time, they learn about and make personal contributions to: conservation management and research on the reserve, community development projects, and the maintenance of Nakavango Conservation Centre and its sustainable green operations.

Our Team

Volunteers are under the mentorship of our passionate nature ambassadors and well taken care of by our dedicated hospitality staff:

- Ian du Preez, Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve Manager
- Justine McGregor, Operations Manager
- Dean McGregor, Volunteer Pro Guide
- Hope Kowo, Guide
- Davison Risinamhodzi, Head Chef
- Ndabezinhle Dube, Chef
- Lisbon Mwanza, Chef
- Lemia Sibanda, Housekeeper
- Noel Ndlovu, Housekeeper
- Cornelius Mathwasa, Housekeeper

We are close-knit group whose family extends to the recruits we welcome every month.

Location

VFPGR is the only privately-owned reserve within the immediate vicinity of the Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, ideally placing volunteers for a wild and wonderful experience! The reserve protects 4 000ha of the area's rich natural heritage and is a sanctuary for Africa's iconic game - including the critically endangered black rhino, with it being a designated Intensive Protection Zone for the species. Volunteers are treated to game drives each morning and late afternoon on their way to and from work. Despite the seeming remoteness, Victoria Falls town is just a 10-minute drive away, also offering a taste of Zimbabwean culture and a world-class adventure-tourism scene.

More about the programme

Our programme runs throughout the year and inductions* take place on the first and third Mondays of every month. Volunteers can choose to participate for periods* between two and 12 weeks - though many wish never to leave! New volunteers are always being welcomed into the fold and become a close crew, bonded by their shared love of environmentalism and humanitarianism.

**Subject to meeting all volunteer requirements*

**We recommend a volunteer period of a minimum two weeks*



Nakavango volunteers engage in 'behind the scenes' conservation and game reserve management activities, wildlife research, and community development initiatives.

About 80% of the volunteers' working time (±7-9 hours per week day) is spent on the reserve and 20% in the local community.

Conservation Activities

The tasks volunteers assist with are vital to the success of the game reserve and include, but are not limited to:

- Alien vegetation removal
- Soil erosion control
- Fence patrols
- Anti-poaching snare sweeps
- Waterhole digging, maintenance, and monitoring
- Game census
- Road maintenance
- Reserve clean-ups

Community Work

Volunteers team up with students from Masuwe Primary School to assist the school and its Woodlands community with:

- Planting and tending the school vegetable garden
- Watering the fruit trees planted by Nakavango
- Digging foundations for additions to the school
- Any other tasks Masuwe needs assistance with
- Community clean-ups
- Fundraising initiatives for development projects
- Spreading environmental awareness

Sustainability Projects

Nakavango and all other facilities on the reserve are committed to green operations, and volunteers help out with:

- Vegetable garden upkeep
- Tending to the indigenous tree nursery
- Composting
- Installation of solar pumps and waterholes

Detailed programme

	06:30	16:00
Monday	1st week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First orientation game drive 2nd week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road transect (group 1) and tracking on foot (group 2) 	1st week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second orientation game drive 2nd week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road transect (group 2) and game drive (group 1)
Tuesday	Day of work on the reserve, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alien Plant removal • Road maintenance • Creation of sneak roads • Soil erosion prevention • Bridge repairs 	Maintenance at NCP, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tending the vegetable garden • Turning the compost site • Cleaning up the tool room • Fixing tents
Wednesday	Day of work (and fun) at Masuwe Primary School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing any tasks that are required around the school • Playtime with the children during breaks 	Work or relax on the reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish relocation • Sundowners by the water
Thursday	Day of work on the reserve, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alien Plant removal • Road maintenance • Creation of sneak roads • Soil erosion prevention • Bridge repairs 	Camp out on the reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitching tents • Dinner • Relaxing around the fire
Friday	Taking down camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee and pack up • Bush walk or game drive • Unpack the gear back at the centre 	Work on the reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lantana removal

Volunteer Requirements

- A commitment to positive action and making a difference
- A volunteer must be 18 years or older at the start of their programme
- Each volunteer must present a recent criminal background check
- A volunteer must be fluent in English to participate in the programme

Accommodation

Volunteers are hosted at our Nakavango Conservation Centre on VFPGR. Accommodation is in 20 private rooms and comfortable – each with a single bed (bedding provided), built-in cupboard, and desk. Men's' and women's' bathrooms, including a shower, are each shared between two to three volunteers.

The main centre also features a chill-out room with library, a kitchen, and an entertainment area with a patio, barbeque facilities and pool, overlooking an oxbow in the Masuwe River. Volunteers have access to Wi-Fi and mobile connectivity too, with sim cards available in town.

We provide three wholesome meals* a day, but volunteers have the option of eating out (on their own account) at the weekends. There is also a weekly laundry service included. We aim to host our volunteers as comfortably as possible and ensure that they feel at home in Victoria Falls.

**Any dietary requirements must be specified on booking and will be catered for*

Time off (to Explore)

Volunteers are kept busy from Monday to Friday, with evenings and weekends spent at leisure – affording them the opportunity to relax in and explore one of the world's favourite destinations. Trips into town offer a chance to experience Zimbabwean culture and adrenaline adventures centre on the awesome Victoria Falls. Our managers can assist volunteers with booking and put them in touch with preferred operators, offering discounted rates to our volunteers.

**Leisure activities are for volunteers' own accounts*