



Nakavango
Conservation Programme

AN AFRICAN EXPERIENCE WITH HEART

WILDLIFE. CONSERVATION. COMMUNITY.

About us

Nakavango Conservation Programme -

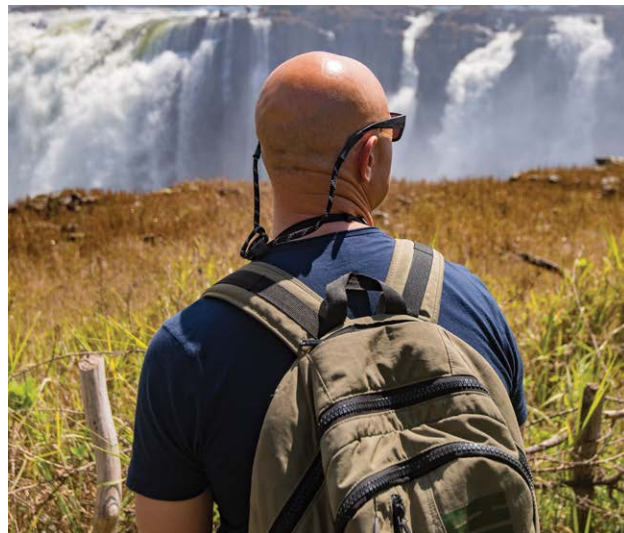
The chance to encounter Africa's iconic wildlife, while actively participating in the conservation of Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve and the development of the nearby Woodlands community.

Visitors engage in 'behind the scenes' conservation and game reserve management activities, wildlife research, and community development initiatives, as well as the maintenance of Nakavango Conservation Centre and its sustainable green operations.

Mission

Our aim is to provide educational experiences for volunteers to inspire the support of the world's fragile wilderness and communities reliant on them, while they develop skills and experiences which they can use to enhance their own careers and life goals.

'Voluntourism' combines travel with leaving a "heartprint" on local spaces and communities. ►





Location

Zimbabwe is undoubtedly one of the most gorgeous and welcoming countries in the world, known for its untapped natural beauty and the forever loving and friendly spirit of its people.

Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve (VFPGR) in Zimbabwe 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. The reserve includes diverse habitats across grasslands, teak forests, and the Masuwe and Nakavango rivers.

Despite the seeming remoteness, Victoria Falls town is just a 10-minute drive away, offering a taste of Zimbabwean culture and a world-class adventure-tourism scene. ►



Did you know?

Victoria Falls is roughly twice the height of North America's Niagara Falls and well over twice the width of Horseshoe Falls. In height and width Victoria Falls is rivalled only by South America's Iguazu Falls.



Partners

MORE | FAMILY COLLECTION

MORE Family Collection (MFC) is a fourth-generation family business, which owns and manages a private group of award-winning, luxury safari lodges, boutique hotels, and private residences, set within some of Southern Africa's finest locations – Cape Town, Kruger National Park, and Zimbabwe.

The Nakavango Conservation Programme is owned and managed by MORE Family Collection.

more.co.za ►



STANLEY & LIVINGSTONE

BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Part of the MORE Family Collection, Stanley & Livingstone is Victoria Falls' first luxury boutique hotel, and an ideal base from which to explore or enjoy a quiet retreat.

The 16-room colonial style hotel is surrounded by the tranquillity of natural reserve and located 15 minutes from the falls. The restaurant 1871@Stanley&Livingstone offers excellent food and is a destination in its own right.

more.co.za/stanleyandlivingstone ►

Partners



More Community Foundation (MCF) is a non-profit organisation that manages the sustainability journey of MORE Family Collection and helps deliver on their corporate, social and environmental responsibilities in Southern Africa. All community projects for social development are self-sustainable, to ensure they are kept alive into the future. Socially inclusive conservation is critical to biological diversity and MCF strives to achieve community collaboration and custodianship within all projects.

morecommunityfoundation.org ►



VICTORIA FALLS PRIVATE GAME RESERVE | ZIMBABWE

The 4 000ha Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve established in 1996, is a conservation success story, founded on a vision to sustain and support the area's rich natural heritage. In 2000 the reserve became a designated rhino Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) with a monitoring and breeding programme, as well as Anti-Poaching Unit & Ranger Training Facility. Along with once-in-a-lifetime black rhino encounters, visitors have a chance of viewing the rest of the Big Five, and other iconic game – including rare sable antelope – and an abundance of thriving bird species.

victoriafallsprivategamereserve.com ►

Overview

There are two core pillars to the Nakavango Conservation Programme:



Conservation



Community

Choose one focus area or combine Conservation and Community. We will advise the best choice of programme suited to skills, knowledge, values, and goals, and are flexible onsite.

We have a general daily activity plan for each, but are dependent on the weather and wildlife behaviour, and sometimes shift activities accordingly. 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 2 and 12 weeks.

Our programmes are suited to anyone from gap year traveller's and backpackers who can stay at our volunteer accommodation, to families wanting to enjoy a safari who decide to stay at the beautiful and luxurious Stanley and Livingstone Boutique Hotel. ►



Volunteers must be:
18 years or older, fluent in English, and have a clear background check.



Key attribute: A commitment to positive action and making a difference

Did you know?

Zimbabwe is home to the world's fourth-largest black rhino population after South Africa, Namibia and Kenya, making the country an important frontier for conserving this Critically Endangered species.



Conservation Programme

This exclusive hands-on experience offers volunteers the chance to really make a difference in protecting endangered wildlife, as well as the wild spaces in which they thrive.

There is a dedicated team of conservationists on the ground who are all professionals and experts in their field, providing the opportunity to learn and assist in conservation related tasks as well as assist in the collection of data for this biodiversity rich area.

Wildlife Monitoring

Daily activities include reserve maintenance and the tracking and monitoring of wildlife, such as elephant, lion, buffalo, hyena, leopard and black rhino. Volunteers support:

- Vital data collection of all species found on the reserve.
- Record data such as GPS location, group composition and behaviour of target species
- Photo ID of animals and groups to develop identikits for individual animals
- Maintenance of identikits
- Road transects and game counts to determine carrying capacities





Training and skills development

Volunteers will be taught through practical tuition in several research and conservation skills while in the field.

These include:

- The use of hand-held GPS devices
- How to produce animal identification kits
- How to set up and use camera traps to monitor certain endangered species
- How to track animals using traditional methods like the identification and following of animal spoor and other animal presence signs
- Collection of animal behaviour data, data management, and how this data is used to inform and enhance management objectives as well as anti -poaching methods on the reserves
- A firm understanding of conservation issues facing endangered species and habitat loss across Africa and in particular Zimbabwe

Camp activities

Conservation volunteers will be exposed to several presentations during the hot times of the day that may include:

- Methods and strategies used to combat poaching
 - Reserve management and maintenance
 - Habitat destruction and endangered species
 - Snake handling
 - Vets in the wild
 - Co-existence of communities and natural protected areas
- Disease brought to the wild from domestic animals and how to control this





Farm Duties

Farm to table - we use the vegetables in our hotel kitchen as well as the Nakavango kitchen. Volunteers assist with the following work:

- Weeding of the vegetable gardens and bed preparation
- Picking and washing of vegetables
- Collecting eggs and feeding chickens
- Cleaning out the chicken run and laying fresh bedding
- Slashing the grass around the farm fence
- Feeding the fish
- Cutting, drying, bagging, and storage of lucerne



Did you know?

We tend to the lucerne beds on the reserve to supplement feed for animals when grazing is limited, and animals are struggling to find food.



Extra VIP Conservation Experience

Please note: The below activities occur strictly when the need arises, are not guaranteed, and may incur additional costs.

Depending on the time of year, and length of stay, volunteers may also be part of the following activities:

- Darting, trapping and radio collaring of various animal species
- The relocation and re-introduction of game
- Setting and data capture of camera traps
- Game counts, bird ringing, and alien plant control.
- Rodent trapping and identification
- Frogging (catching and identifying frog species)
- Translocation of animals
- De snaring and assisting with injured animals.
- Zimbabwe Game counts in different national parks (Space dependent and at extra cost)
- Dehorning and ear notching of Black Rhino (Limited space and is a VIP event with an EXTRA SURCHARGE applicable)

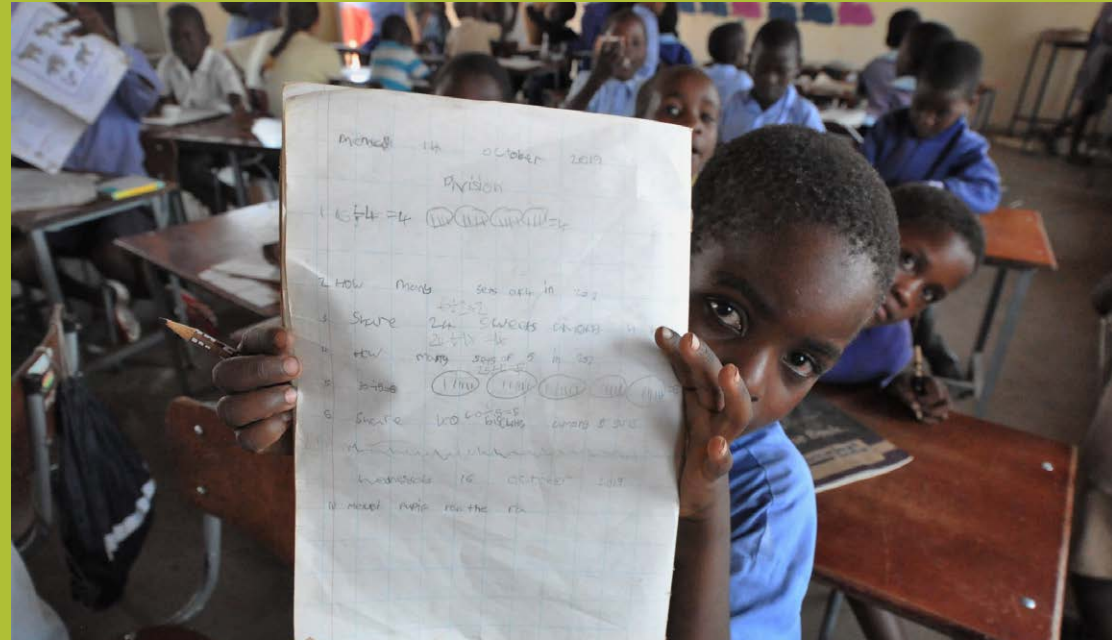


Community Programme

Our community efforts are focused on the Woodlands Community, primarily working with Masuwe Primary School, which is under resourced, lacking in basics such as notebooks, pens, pencils, and even desks.

In some cases, children of differing ages will be mixed in one classroom and reliant on one teacher affecting their learning capabilities which often this leaves some children behind in key areas such as literacy. Teachers struggle to provide children with the specialised attention that they need to thrive.

Please remember that when it comes to helping children in Africa, longer stays are recommended - anything from 4-6 weeks and longer. This will make for greater impact on the children the school, the community, and the participant.





Teaching tasks

As an extra pair of hands, ears, and eyes, volunteers support teachers and caregivers. In this role volunteers will:

- Teach basic English and create lesson plans
- Early childhood development themes through games, fun activities, and lessons
- Encourage children to practice better hygiene like washing hands and brushing teeth properly
- Encouraging children to pick up litter and educating them on the importance of the environment in which they live
- Assist in the conservation club and conservation activities
Monitor children's development by filling in feedback report books

Community support

Volunteers also have a chance to contribute effectively towards the renovating of the classrooms and other buildings that make the learning environment a brighter, happier, and more welcoming space. Duties:

- Assist with basic renovations like painting classrooms and murals; and new and old building repair and maintenance
- Assist with day care or supervise the elder children during play time and meals
- Assist in the school garden and preparation of meals
- Join the children on Friday for game drives in and around the surrounding protected areas



Team



Griffiths Mpuche
Nakavango Operations
Manager & Wildlife Guide

Griff has extensive field guide experience and has travelled eastern and Southern Africa with an overland company for three years as host and guide. Passionate about wildlife and education, he joined the Nakavango team in 2017. Griff grew up in large family that have all chosen tourism and guiding as a career.



Picket Chabwedzeeka
Anti-poaching Warden
Wildlife Manager

With 15 years of experience in specialist anti-poaching training, Picket also happens to be a renowned field guide, ecologist, and wildlife manager. Anyone who has spent time with him will know they will learn an incredible amount from knowledge of nature and the ecosystem as a whole.



Hope Kowo
Guide and Assistant
Administrator

Hope's skill set is diverse and includes being a chef at a hotel, and camp manager at the VFGR, before joining Nakavango in 2018 where he 'hopes' to make a difference. He is a passionate conservationist and loves to impart his knowledge to guests.

Accommodation - Camp Life

Accommodation is in 20 private rooms– each with a single bed (bedding provided), built-in cupboard, and desk. Separate men and women's bathrooms include a shower that is shared between two to three people.

The main centre features a kitchen, a chill-out room, a library, and an entertainment area with a patio, barbeque facilities and pool, overlooking an oxbow in the Masuwe River.

Access to Wi-Fi and mobile connectivity, and sim cards available in town. Should budget allow, volunteers can stay at the Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel, from where they will be collected each day. ►

Programme Cost*

Includes:

- Accommodation
- Game drives as part of the programme
- Three wholesome meals* a day
- Weekly laundry service

Excludes:

- Flights
- Visa Costs
- Dining out
- Excursions
- Surcharge to stay at Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel

**Rates on enquiry _____*



Excursions

Time off to Explore...

Volunteers are kept busy from Monday to Friday, with evenings and weekends spent at leisure. This is an ideal opportunity to relax in and explore one of the world's favourite destinations.

Safaris are offered on the reserve, trips into town offer a chance to experience Zimbabwean culture, and adrenaline activities 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. ►



Canopy Tour / Ziplining

Helicopter or Microlight Flights

Excursions/Activities available include:*



bungee Jumping



Zambezi River Sunset Cruises



Segway Tours



Bike Tours

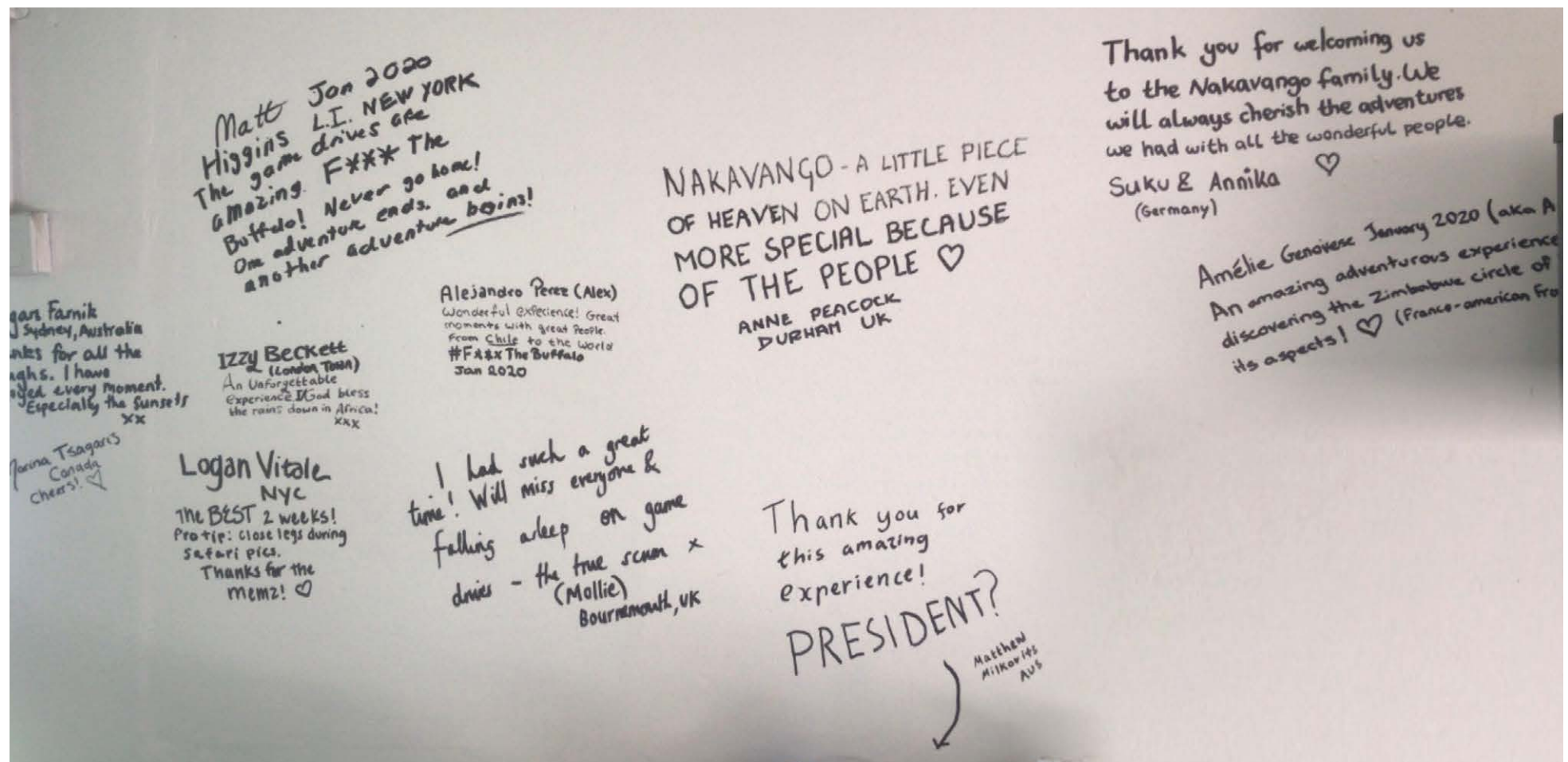


Half or full day walking safaris



White Water Rafting

**All excursions and activities are for volunteers' own account.*



“ This is the real way to see Africa – sweat on your face, dust in your boots; admiring the work you have done as nature happens all around you. I honestly cannot think of one task I would not happily do again, and every day's work was spurred on by laughter. ”

– *Daniel Borley*

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