



## **Kruger to coast volunteer tour**

The Kruger to Coast Volunteer Tour will take you through some of the best that southern Africa has to offer in terms of wildlife, culture and beaches. Begin in Eswatini where you will get involved in grassroots community projects and make an active contribution to improve the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children or contribute to active conservation efforts in the Savannah. Embark on a 5-day camping safari through the world-famous Kruger National Park to spot big game.

Venture to tropical Mozambique where you spend time on world-class Indian Ocean beaches. Not only will you have the amazing opportunity to see some of Africa's most incredible wildlife, snorkel with Whale Sharks and paddle to tropical palm-fringed islands but you will also have the opportunity to participate in an important community development projects.

### **Accommodation & meals**

During your stay, you will be accommodated in a variety of lodges as you tour Southern Africa, but your home base will be the award-winning Lidwala Lodge in Ezulwini Valley. Three meals a day will also be provided, some on a self-serve basis and others cooked for you.

### **Project start dates**

The start day for this project is the first Monday of the month throughout the year, with the exception of December when the project is closed. (Please ensure that your flight arrives BEFORE 1:00 pm)

## INCLUDED IN THE COST

- Comprehensive 24 hours, 7 days a week support from the NGO
- Volunteer projects specifically designed to enable you to make an active contribution During your stay
- Support of volunteer project coordinators who are experts in their fields which ensure the volunteer experience is rewarding & impactful
- Comprehensive orientation to the country, its culture and your role As a volunteer, upon arrival
- All food and accommodation throughout your stay
- Tour guide for the duration of your tours

## Volunteer role

There are 3 distinct parts to this travel experience each with its own interesting flavor:

In Kruger, you will be joining a camping safari holiday. Here your days will be spent on game drives searching for the incredibly diverse wildlife that this world-renowned national park has to offer, while at night you will be camped out under the African stars, sitting around a crackling campfire listening to tales of the African bush.

While In Kruger, your guide will teach you about the animals and plants of the African Savannah and how important it is to protect this beautiful but fragile Eco-system. When you arrive in the beautiful mountainous Kingdom of Eswatini your role will switch to volunteer as you get involved in projects that aim to uplift the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children.

Volunteers have the option of choosing the following projects:

- **Childcare** which involves assisting the teachers at our Neighbourhood Care Points (NCP's), which act as pre-schools for orphaned and vulnerable children (6-week option only)
- **Building** which involves projects such as laying bricks for new classrooms or maintaining the gardens at our NCP's
- **Sports** which includes assisting with running sporting activities with our NCP children including swimming, dancing and other fun games!
- **NEW! Savannah & Wildlife Conservation** this project involves conducting multiple types of research with different species. Some of the conservation activities are conducted at specific times of the year whilst others are conducted all year round. Our coordinating project scientists will teach you how to assist with data collection throughout your project duration. The final week of your experience is spent on the beautiful golden sand beaches of sunny Mozambique. After two weeks of hard work in Eswatini it'll be time to relax in this tropical

climate and swim the blue waters of the warm and inviting Indian Ocean. Mozambique is a colorful and vibrant African country like no other and it is here that you will get to spend the last days of your trip -a wonderful finale to an inspiring tour.

## **Day in the life of a volunteer**

- 7:00 Wake up to see the sunshine, jump in a hot shower and get yourself started for the day with breakfast!
- 8:00 Travel to your placement and get ready to begin your day.
- 8:30 Participate in your volunteer project assisting with fun activities.
- 13:00 Time to either return to your accommodation for lunch, or eat the packed lunch you made that morning!
- 14:00 Begin your afternoon's work with a full stomach & enthusiasm
- 16:30 Return back to your accommodation and share your day's adventures with other volunteers, maybe even a quick swim in the pool!
- 18:30 Enjoy a delicious evening meal & relax.....

## **ITINERARY FOR YOUR EXPERIENCE**

**Day 1** Fly into OR Tambo Airport, Johannesburg where you will be met by the NGO staff members who will transfer you by road from Johannesburg to the Kingdom of Eswatini. It is approximately a 5-hour journey from the airport to you to your accommodation in the Ezulwini Valley.

**Day 2** The second day begins with an informative presentation that will brief you on all you need to know about the culture and country, how to effectively contribute during your volunteer experience and what to expect on the tours.

In the afternoon you will embark on a Cultural Tour where you will visit the museum to learn about Swazi history and culture and then will walk around a real Swazi village to experience day-to-day life in Eswatini. The tour finishes with a local culinary delight – a traditional Swazi braai!

**Day 3-7** Big 5 Safari, Kruger National Park, South Africa Kruger National Park is probably Africa's most famous Conservation area. Spanning nearly 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> it covers a vast array of habitats and associated wildlife. It has an aura of ancient times and offers some best opportunities to view Africa's big game. We venture on a 5-day tour into the heart of Kruger Park including four nights camping in the park and unlimited game drives exploring the vast wilderness with the expert guidance of one of our wildlife guides.

Previous groups have had great sightings of lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo, leopard, wild dog, giraffe, zebra to name just a few animals! There is an abundance of wildlife and birds to be spotted on your Kruger safari. You will also have the exciting opportunity to

take part in a guided Bushwalk (optional extra) as well as experience a night drive where you'll go in search of nocturnal wildlife.

**Day 7** you will depart Kruger for the beautiful Eswatini.

**Day 8-20** Volunteer Projects, Eswatini You will spend the next 10 days volunteering on your selected project (Childcare/Building/Sports Development/Savannah & Wildlife Conservation).

As a volunteer, the activities you might be involved in may include\*:

- Teaching basic English and maths to children
- Organizing creative games & craft classes to stimulate minds
- Organizing sports days for exercise and fun
- Participating in swimming and other sports
- Making clay bricks and preparing land for structures
- Building structures including roofing
- Fencing and developing gardens to provide vegetables for the children
- Fitting radio-transmitters to track animals & determine their home range, distribution and movements
- Use birds counts, acoustic bat monitoring, small mammal trapping, vegetation surveys and camera traps to investigate environmental change
- Monitor & ID giraffe as well as recording other ecological information to determine behaviours & effects on vegetation in the area

During this time you will also be supported to obtain your visa to enter Mozambique (the cost of a visa is not included in the program cost) and will also visit the Mantenga Cultural Village where you will have the chance to experience traditional Swazi culture and lifestyle as well as witness traditional dancing and singing. You will also be invited to participate in learning the local dance moves!

**Day 21-26** Mozambique Beach & Whale Shark Tour Mozambique is world-famous for its idyllic tropical beaches on the Indian Ocean. As a former Portuguese colony that has come out of a prolonged civil war, it is now booming as quite possibly Africa's top beach destination. Tofo is a laid-back beach village in southern Mozambique and offers some of the best opportunities in the world to snorkel in the wild with the world's biggest fish – the Whale Shark. With diverse coral reefs, Whales, Manta Rays, dolphins and nesting turtles Tofo is a marine paradise and yet it is relatively close to the vibrant historic trading port of Inhambane.

We venture on a 7-day tour to Tofo where you will experience the laid-back beach lifestyle of this colorful and vibrant country. You will take an ocean safari to snorkel with the magnificent Whale Shark and also have a full day kayak trip across the blue waters to the palm-fringed islands in the Inhambane Bay. If you are a certified diver you will have the opportunity of exploring the spectacular fish life of the coral reefs! There is also the option to take part in an Internationally Accredited Open Water or Advanced Dive Course (extra cost) should you wish to dive. Here you'll have the opportunity of exploring the spectacular fish life of the coral reefs and the chance to find the "Tofo Big 5" – Whale Sharks, Manta Rays, turtles, dolphins and Humpback Whales.

**Day 27** Travel back to Eswatini.

**Day 28** Ezulwini, Eswatini You will have a full day to relax, pack up and make preparations for your departure the following day (4-week volunteers).

### **4 Week Option**

**Day 29** Return home Sadly all great adventures must come to an end and on your final day you will transfer by road to Johannesburg to catch your flight.

## **Accommodation**

### **South Africa**





**Mozambique**





**Eswatini**



## Optional extras

You can also add one of the following to your adventure of a lifetime prior to or upon arrival:

- Internationally recognized PADI Dive Course
- Bushwalk in Kruger, to see some of the smaller creatures that reside in Kruger up-close and personal
- Zip lining weekend through the mountains, waterfalls and gorges of Malolotja Nature Reserve

## Not included in the fee

- Medical/Travel Insurance
- All Flights & Visa