



Chance Of a Lifetime Travel

**COLT** are proud partners of African Impact, on-the-ground leaders in African volunteering and winners of the 2011 Invelo Award for Responsible Tourism

# Victoria Falls Orphan Care & Teaching Project

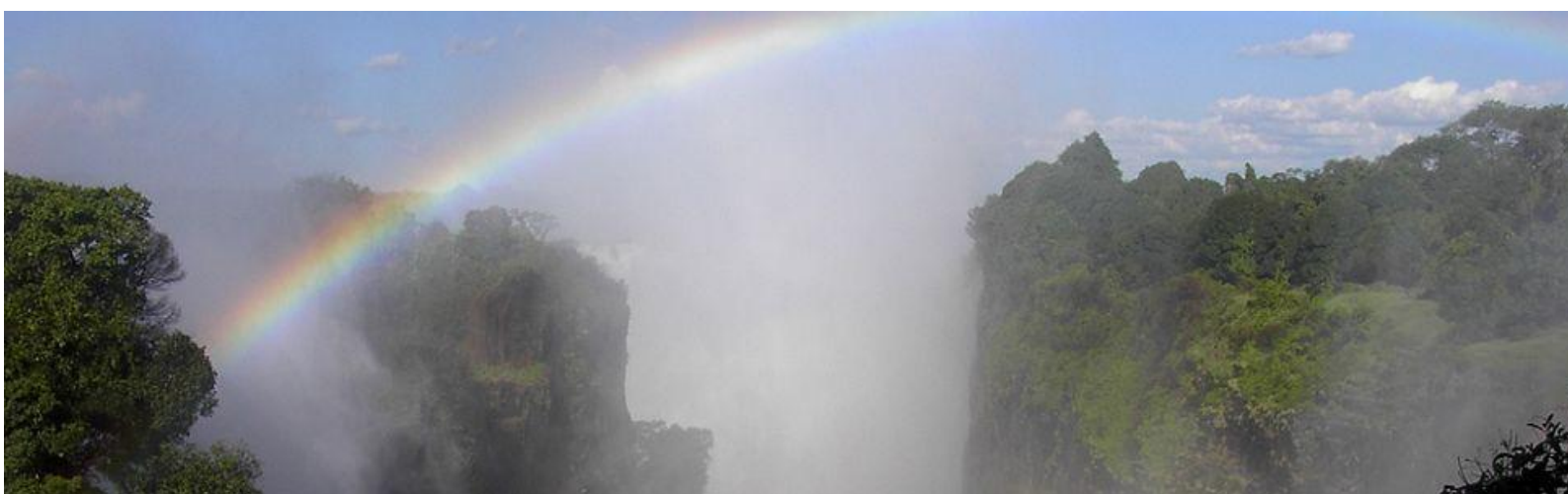
## Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



*At African Impact, we see ourselves as the on-the-ground AFRICAN SPECIALISTS in volunteering. Founded in 2004, we have so far hosted over 6000 volunteers on our exciting Conservation and Community Volunteer Projects in Africa.*

*We are also immensely proud to have been nominated as Finalists for the following Responsible Tourism Awards in 2009: The **World Travel Awards**; The **British Youth Travel Awards** and the prestigious South African **Imvelo Responsible Tourism Awards**. In 2010 we were once again nominated for a World Travel Award and were proud **Winners of an Africa-wide Imvelo Responsible Tourism Award**. An accolade awarded in 2009 to Sir Richard Branson's Ulusaba Eco-Lodge in South Africa. In 2011 so far we are nominated for a World Travel Award and are entrants once again in the Imvelo Awards, British Youth Travel Awards and Virgin Responsible Tourism Award.*

*Our head office is in Cape Town, South Africa, with supporting operations offices in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia. We are determined to make a difference in the amazing communities and conservation areas in which we work. And so can you...*



**The majestic Victoria Falls, one of the seven natural Wonders of the World, will be the backdrop to your volunteer placement. In this impressive setting, we offer you the opportunity to gain a unique insight into the Zimbabwean culture and lifestyle, and to make a positive impact in the local community through our specially structured Orphan Care and Teaching Programme.**

**The Orphans in the local home are in much need of love and attention - Volunteer assistance in this spirited community would be gratefully accepted!**

***Interact with orphans and local children and be part of making a positive impact on Zimbabwe's youth. You will also have to opportunity to help the community and the orphanage with their vegetable garden, implemented with the aim of creating sustainable development and helping those living with HIV/AIDS.***

***You will also be introduced to our Lion Rehabilitation Programme, and get the opportunity to walk with these amazing creatures! There are opportunities aplenty to enjoy the wide range of adventure activities available around the Falls, which is one of Africa's adrenaline capitals!***

**Location:** Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

**Age Limit:** Minimum 17 years, maximum decided on potential participants' health

**Required Experience:** For this project, no specific experience is required, just a love of children and passion for humanitarian efforts!

### **Highlights:**

- Make a positive impact in the lives of orphaned and abused children
- Give one and one attention to the children at the orphanage and assist with much needed life skills development
- Get involved with fun sporting activities and teaching assistance at the local school
- Help create sustainable initiatives for the disadvantaged community
- Play a role in the conservation efforts in the Victoria Falls area through conservation education
- Immerse yourself in local Zimbabwean culture
- Make friends for life

## Further Information on the Orphan Care & Teaching Programme:

Through this project and volunteer involvement, we are making a real impact in the Victoria Falls community! The spirit of Zimbabwe is indescribable, its people never faltering, and ever passionate towards a brighter future! It is the most underprivileged and vulnerable that have suffered most during the turmoil of recent years. As this inspiring nation grows, you can be a part of making a difference in these people's lives, come and help rebuild this beautiful country!

***You can expect to get involved in the following Orphan Care and Teaching initiatives, on this exciting and diverse programme!***



### **Orphanage**

This will be the main focus of your volunteer placement in Victoria Falls. The Orphanage was founded in 2007 by a local woman looking to make a positive impact in her community after the turmoil of recent years.

The Orphanage focuses on protecting, caring for, and supporting children of the Victoria Falls community. People of all backgrounds are welcomed, especially those who require economic and psychosocial support due to homelessness, disease, physical disabilities, sexual abuse, parental mortality, and poverty. HIV-positive children in particular, educated and treated at the Orphanage, are encouraged to integrate into the community of local children to remove the stigma of the disease.

The mission is to improve the quality of life of the children, families, and caregivers living in the broader communities of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. The orphanage aims to sustain this improvement by emphasizing the importance of education. By showing these children the doors that education can open, we encourage them to continue to work hard to achieve their potential.

Children at orphanage vary in age from very small babies to around 16 years old. You will visit the orphans on a daily basis to interact with the children, provide extra lessons, play games with the babies and give the children that one on one love and attention they so deserve. You will also have a chance to go out with them and introduce activities such as soccer and netball, and organise other fun games to improve their quality of life.

Volunteer assistance on this project is greatly appreciated, and we hope you can join us in making a difference in these Children's lives. In addition, you will also have the opportunity to get involved with general maintenance of the orphanage, with regards to infrastructure, and the day to day running of the facility.

### **Monde Primary School**

This is a school run by a very dedicated group of local staff members who do their best to provide for the children but are sadly lacking staff, resources, and funding. Volunteers will assist in the classrooms with teachers and provide one on one attention to the eager learners.

Help teachers in their classes and contribute fresh new ideas, added support as well as much needed love and care with a view to improving the lives of the future generation of Zimbabwe.

You will also have the opportunity to introduce fun sporting activities to the local students, and spend time playing games with them.

In partnership with the ALERT Communities Trust ([www.lionalert.org](http://www.lionalert.org)) African Impact has established a variety of development programs within the communities in and around Victoria Falls. These programs form part of a holistic approach to wildlife conservation whereby local people receive benefits through development programs which form part of this project and thus build support for conservation in the area.



As part of your experience whilst at the project you will have a chance to learn more about the broader work that ALERT conducts within the region including visits to the ***African Lion Rehabilitation & Release into the Wild Program*** where you will have the opportunity to walk with lions as they undertake their pre-release training.

#### **Project Cost Includes:**

- Project Fee: The project fee entails financing that goes directly back into the project that you are involved with. It facilitates funding for items such as resources for the school lessons, building and farming materials, etc,
- All transfers to and from Victoria Falls Airport upon your arrival and departure
- Orientation program
- Full board and lodging which includes 3 meals a day
- Unlimited tea, coffee and juice throughout the day
- Laundry service during your stay
- The service of a cleaner to attend to your room each day

#### **Project Cost Excludes:**

- All items of a personal nature, such as curios, gifts, clothing (work and other)
- Flights to Victoria Falls International Airport
- Email and telephone calls made during your placement (charged out at cost)
- Any excursions over and above your planned itinerary in Zimbabwe e.g. visit to the Victoria Falls
- Personal insurance cover for the duration of your placement, which must include cover for repatriation

#### **Project Orientation**

On arrival at the Victoria Falls project, the following orientation will take place:

- You will receive your volunteer's manual which includes information that will help with your integration into the project, as well as give you further tips for your involvement at the Victoria Falls programme
- Introduction to all senior project staff and heads of department
- Familiarization of the work areas
- Familiarization with all duties you will be involved in



### **Project Support**

Throughout your stay at your placement you will have the support and guidance of experienced field-workers and coordinators. They are part of our greater African Impact support team, and will provide you with competent 24-hour field support and assistance.

### **Project Accommodation:**

You will be staying at Pamusha Guest House exclusively with your fellow volunteers, ideally situated a short 15 minute walk from the beautiful town of Victoria Falls. The premises have a lovely braai (barbeque) and pool area for you to relax and chill out in on hot summer days!

You will be sharing this lovely Guest House with your fellow participants and there are 5 Rooms, 4 of which have en suite bathrooms as well as two outside toilets and two showers. You will be sharing a room with 1 – 4 other volunteers on the project. The dining and lounge areas are very comfortable and spacious, perfect for relaxing after a day with the cubs by either playing a game of cards or watching a DVD. We hope that you will be able to make this a home away from home!

The premises are very secure with 24 hour security patrols and you will have to sign any visitors in at the entrance, however NO visitors will not be able to stay over - security will ensure this.

If you are travelling with a friend, family member, or a partner, please make sure that we are aware whether you want to share a room with them so that we can make the necessary arrangements. We will do our best to accommodate these requests, availability permitting, but cannot always guarantee these arrangements. The accommodation is simple and rustic but comfortable and completely suited to your needs.

Breakfasts and lunches will be enjoyed out at the Masuwe concession (where our lions are based) and volunteers can relax with a hot dinner back in town at Pamusha Guest House when you return at the end of the working day.

### **Project Getting There... *We will meet you at the airport!***

Arrive into Victoria Falls International Airport where one of our project staff will greet you and transfer you to the volunteer base at Hunters Lodge.

### **Project Travel Highlights...**

There are a huge number of optional activities and trips that are available to you, at additional cost, whilst on your placement. Here are just a few ideas:

On your time off why not take advantage of the multitude of activities available at Victoria Falls itself, Africa's "adrenaline capital"; there are helicopter or microlight flights over the Falls; bungee jumping; white water rafting; horse rides; elephant rides; game drives; gorge jumps; skydiving; canoeing and a host of other options. There are also day and weekend trips available to neighboring Botswana.



During your stay in Victoria Falls you may have the opportunity to **enjoy an excursion to some of the other spectacular spots that the region has to offer.**

Trip itinerary: (subject to slight alterations)

- Day 1: Leave Victoria Falls after breakfast for Miombo Safari Lodge in Hwange National Park; the largest national park in Zimbabwe. You will get the opportunity to go on a game drive where you could get up close and personal with a herd of elephant, buffalo, a pride of lion, pack of hyena and many more.
- Day 2: Leave after breakfast for Granite Ridge in Motobo (aka Matopos) National Park. Enjoy a half day scenic drive in this spectacular park, and if you are lucky enough to see one of the white rhinos you will be able to get out the vehicle with the guide for a close encounter. Time permitting, you will also visit a cave to view some of the remarkable local cave paintings.
- Day 3 & 4: Leave after breakfast from Granite Ridge for Antelope Park, home of our lion rehabilitation program. You can enjoy a lion walk as well as a tour of the lion breeding centre to meet the adult lions. You will also have the opportunity to ride or even swim on the back of elephants and horses (swimming is seasonal), take a leisurely carriage ride or enjoy a sunset cruise. You can also meet our young cubs.
- Day 5: Depart for the 8 hour journey back to Victoria Falls.

*Please note: This trip only operates with sufficient volunteer interest and is only available to volunteers joining the project for a minimum of 3 weeks.*

### Our Partners

**[The Happy Africa Foundation www.happyafricafoundation.org](http://www.happyafricafoundation.org)**

African Impact is proud to have been instrumental in the establishment of The Happy Africa Foundation in 2007 and continues to be one of the Foundations major supporters. UK Registered Charity Number: 1123529.

The mission of The Happy Africa Foundation is to empower the African people through the support of community and conservation based initiatives that operate at grass roots level.

We are proudly affiliated to the UK-based **Know Before You Go** campaign that promotes education and knowledge-sharing amongst travellers.

African Impact is delighted to have been nominated as a **2009 World Travel Awards Finalist** and see this as exciting recognition of our position as African specialists in Volunteering, with over 5 years experience in sharing Africa with travellers who have a passion for making a difference.

We look forward to welcoming you for a unique, rewarding and unforgettable experience!

