



## ZAMBIA: WALKING WITH LIONS

**Extremely close encounters with lions on this programme in Zambia. This is one of the only projects in the world where you can take lions for a walk through a Game Reserve - a unique and unbelievable experience!**

This magnificent country in the heart of Africa is a haven for wildlife and has some spectacular scenery and natural wonders. It is fast developing into a must-see destination and your time there is bound to be a memorable one.



### WHAT DO YOU GET?

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Africa and the Zambian culture.
- You'll learn a lot about genuine conservation of African Wildlife from experts in their field.
- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
- Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you **feel safe and never alone!**
- An in-depth Induction makes you **feel local straight away!**
- A unique insight into another culture – **see it from the inside** in a way you could never do as a tourist.
- An opportunity to **make lifelong friends from all over the world.**
- And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**



### SUMMARY FACTFILE

<b>Start Dates</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month - All year round.
<b>Duration</b>	From 2 weeks and up to 4 weeks, subject to visa requirements
<b>Requirements</b>	No qualifications needed, just a good dose of enthusiasm!
<b>Price</b>	For up-to-date prices, please check our website <a href="http://www.travellersworldwide.com">www.travellersworldwide.com</a>
<b>What's included</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Accommodation ▶ Food ▶ Meeting you at the Airport ▶ Transfer to your accommodation</li> <li>▶ Transport to and from your project ▶ Full pre-departure support ▶ Local in-country team support and backup ▶ 24-hr emergency support ▶ Transport to and from your project ▶ Return transfer to the airport</li> </ul>
<b>What's not included</b>	Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance).
<b>Who can do this Project?</b>	All projects are open to all nationalities. You need to be aged between 17 and 70+

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

**Walk alongside lions as part of the pride and enjoy the exhilaration of being part of a hunt as the young cubs learn to stalk their prey.**

### The Lion Breeding Programme

The lions of Africa are decreasing at an alarming rate. Current patterns indicate that within a very short time there will be no lions left on this continent. Factors that affect the decreasing number of lions include rampant poaching, uncontrolled (and "canned") hunting and diminishing natural habitats. Diseases such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), which leads to lions contracting Bovine Tuberculosis, are another killer of these wonderful animals. For example, a recent headline in the South African Sunday Times read 'Kruger lions dying like flies'. The cause - incurable bovine tuberculosis. Of 33 lions tranquillized and tested, 32 lions were TB positive. Forecasts are that it is possible that within 5 years, 95% of the Kruger lions will have died from TB.

The owners of the park feel passionately about Zambia and the state of the lion population in Africa. As a result they run a Lion Breeding Programme with the express objectives of preserving the African lion by producing a quality gene pool and rebuilding the diminishing numbers of lions, and also reintroducing the offspring back into the wild in environments where they will have the best possible opportunity for survival and a good quality of life.

Having started with just six lions and run-down and only partially fenced facilities, they have built the programme into a magnificent Game Reserve and Lion Breeding facility. Since 1987 new bloodlines have been imported from Tanzania and various other captive breeding units in Zimbabwe and a strictly monitored breeding programme was commenced to ensure that no in-breeding took place. DNA and TB tests were carried out with the assistance of a veterinarian attached to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the lions are regularly vaccinated against Rabies.

The aim is to build up a gene-pool for other breeding programmes in Africa and the rest of the world and in 1999 alone, over 20 lions were exported to a similar facility in South Africa, a step in the direction of fighting to ensure the survival of these Kings of the Jungle. The owners firmly believe that controlled re-introduction of the offspring of captive bred lions into the wild can succeed and enable them to live in their natural environment

The lion breeding program is mainly funded by the tourist facilities at the Park, such as the Lion Walk and working with elephants, etc. Without this funding the Lion Breeding Programme couldn't exist. Our volunteers' work assists in helping this project to continue and, over the long term, will also hopefully contribute to the helping to prevent the decrease in the lion population in Africa

The owners followed on from their experience at the Gweru Park and started the Lion Walking Project at Victoria Falls. The first commercial lion walks took place in March 2005. The programme was then expanded across the border on the outskirts of the Zambian town of **Livingstone**. The location is also ideal for tourism and as this is the main financial backer for the project it is an excellent location to draw additional funds and spread the word about the plight of the African Lion. Victoria Falls is also a superb location to translocate any lions to Zambia and other African countries when the time is right.

**NB. You have to be a minimum of 1.55 metres (5.1 feet) to participate on this project.**

### Work Content

As a volunteer you will contribute to the welfare and rehabilitation of the cubs as they undertake pre-release training in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park; take part in a research program to better understand the ecology of elephants in the Park and join the conservation education and community programs to involve communities in conservation as part of their holistic approach. Enjoy time spent walking with the lions along the banks of the mighty and beautiful Zambezi river, with the potential of witnessing them chasing down game in the National Park as well as getting involved in important tasks related to the conservation and preservation of this noble beast.



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The involvement of volunteers on the project is paramount to achieving our aims on all fronts. You can expect days to be long, but you will also be able to end each day knowing that you have given something back to Africa; having made a difference to the animals and people that you come into contact with.

Your primary task whilst on placement will be to assist management and their team of guides, handlers and scouts in all aspects of care for the animals in their charge; giving them the opportunities to develop their natural instincts in preparation for their release into the next stage of the program.

Research is a significant part of your role; collecting data not only on the development of the lions, but also joining our elephant monitoring team in the National Park.

You will also help them with our various community programs that may include conservation or health education as well as a number of other projects that you will be told about on arrival.

To give you an idea of how your time will be split between the different aspects of the program, the following should be taken as an approximation:

- 75 % Lion Rehabilitation & Release into the Wild Program
- 20 % Conservation work within the National Park
- 5 % Conservation Education & Community Development

**Lion Walks:** Spending time with the lions in the wild each day is an essential part of the cubs upbringing. If the cubs are to be successfully released it is important that they spend time out in a natural environment. They need to adapt to it, learn from it, understand, observe, feel and smell the wild.

**Research:** As part of the program they conduct a number of research activities to better understand lion behaviour and ecology. The lion walks offer unique opportunities to observe lions close up in their natural environment with the data collected assisting us to make the best decisions for the animal's welfare and eventual release. Volunteers will assist our research technician in gathering and analyzing this vital data.

**Elephant Monitoring:** Conflict with humans is a major issue for elephants in the region, but understanding how to mitigate the conflict first requires an understanding of the ecology of the species within the National Park. Volunteers will join the research team to identify individual elephants, to track seasonal changes, score body condition, record location and group sizes; all so that these data can be correlated to crop raiding incidents.

**Conservation Education:** Volunteers will join the conservation education program visiting local schools to garner support for conservation through education. The syllabus was originally devised under the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) "We Care!" project with lesson plans designed to offer children a full understanding of their environment and to build an appreciation for the need to conserve what remains of the wild areas of Zambia.

**Community Development:** During your placement you will have the opportunity to be involved in a number of community programs which may include health education, training in the sustainable use of natural resources or reading classes. The nature of the programs operating at the time of your placement will be given to you on arrival.

### A Typical Day

Every day is different as animals rarely operate to our schedule. We ask that you remain flexible, but here is an example of a typical day on the project, as a guideline only:

- 6:30 – 9:00am: Meet your guide and their clients and join them for a lion walk, taking cubs from 4 months to 18 months out into the bush. Watch and take data as the cubs practice their hunting skills on the many game species they encounter.



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- 9:00am – 10:00am: Breakfast.
- 10.00am – 12.00pm: One group might head off to a nearby school to begin the day's Conservation Education classes – sometimes there are up to 60 kids in a class! Chaotic but fun! The other group will be cleaning or feeding the cubs, or driving into the National Park to conduct elephant research.
- 12:30pm – 2:00pm: Lunch and a chance to relax during the hottest part of the day.
- 2.30pm – 6:00pm: Your afternoon duties could include a snare sweep before an afternoon lion walk.
- Evening: The volunteers socialize at dinner at 7.00pm at our volunteer base. On some nights volunteers venture off into Livingstone town to experience the night life of this tourist Mecca. For others you may sit out under the beautiful Southern skies and listen to the sounds of the African Bush as it comes alive at night.



## LOCATION:

**This outstanding project where you'll work hands-on with lion cubs takes place in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park in Livingstone, Zambia.**

Livingstone is a fun town where tourists come for adventure, sports and an adrenalin kick. It's very close to the awesome Victoria Falls and the powerful Zambezi River. Water sports are everywhere!

The quaint town of Livingstone was first documented by the explorer David Livingstone in 1855 and then founded in 1905, upon completion of the railway bridge across the Zambezi, when residents of an earlier riverside settlement called 'Old Drift' moved to the new site beside the rail line. Since the town has flourished and is now a major destination for Travellers to Africa, giving great opportunities to travel around this beautiful country and the amazing sights such as superb game reserves and picturesque landscapes. Livingstone is the capital of the Southern Province and is situated just north of the Zambezi River, which forms the border with Zimbabwe. It is a major tourist centre serving visitors to the falls, but the main street of this colonial town, Mosi-oa-Tunya, are lined with classic colonial buildings, with Victorian tin roofed houses and wooden verandas.



The spectacular Victoria Falls Bridge is only about 10km away from Livingstone, and the area surrounding the Falls and Livingstone town have given it the name of 'adrenaline capital of the world'.

Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park covers 66 km<sup>2</sup> from the Songwe Gorge below the falls in a north-west arc along about 20 km of the Zambian river bank. It forms the south-western boundary of the city of Livingstone and has two main sections, each with separate entrances: a wildlife park at its north-western end, and the land adjacent to the immense and awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, which in the rainy season is the world's largest curtain of falling water.

## ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

You will be staying at the project base in the Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park a stone's throw from the lions, the Zambezi River and in the heart of pristine African bush. Rooming will be either doubles or triples. It may be possible for us to arrange for couples or groups of friends to share rooms (if the project is notified in time - so let us know when you book).

The accommodation is basic but comfortable and completely suited to your needs with a shower and toilet to share with the other volunteers and running, hot water. The house is about a ten minute drive from the centre of Livingstone so getting into town for an



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evening if desired is possible.

The evenings are spent in the house and as they are surrounded by African bush with its interesting residents – such as elephant, buffalo and hippo! There are regular (daily) trips into town so if you need to go into Livingstone for any reason this is not a problem.

Volunteers are provided with 3 meals a day. The food is of good quality and will cover all your needs but should you wish to you can purchase extra items in town at one of the supermarkets. Volunteers have the chance to discuss their days' activities and plan for the next day over dinner.

### **VISAS:**

Visas are required for Zambia. We will liaise with you about your visa requirements, and make the visa process very easy.

### **FLIGHTS:**

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.

### **INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL:**

When you arrive, you will be welcomed at the airport by a Project Manager, who will take you to your accommodation. During your first few days you will be given an induction so that you can learn about Zambia and its culture and other useful information.

### **COSTS:**

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

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|--|---|
| ✓ Accommodation                            | ✓ UK administration   |
| ✓ Food                                     | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ Meeting you at the airport               | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection  |
| ✓ Return airport transfer                  | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment  |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects  |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline                  |   |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support               |   |

### **HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the [Bridge The Gap Foundation](#). This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

### **COUNTRY PROFILE:**

Until recently, Zambia has been overlooked by tourists, which was a pity because it has so much to offer tourists. Recently, however, the country has been gaining a reputation for being one of the greatest destinations to go to for a unique experience. On entering the country, you're instantly welcomed by generous locals and friendly faces. This will continue throughout your stay, either from a dozen school children running to greet you or a park ranger as he swerves the vehicle to get a better view of a lion! Zambia has such a diversity of activities and attractions that it is impossible to see everything unless you are there for a good amount of time.

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This magnificent country in the heart of Africa is a haven for wildlife and has some spectacular scenery and natural wonders. It is fast developing into a must-see destination.

Like most Africans, the people are very friendly and quick to flash their broad grins at you. The children, in particular, enjoy seeing foreigners and absolutely love getting your attention!

The terrain is mostly high plateau with some hills and mountains, and the flora in Zambia is amongst the best in the world. The great Zambezi River also forms a natural riverine boundary with Zimbabwe, making Zambia one of the most beautiful countries to visit.

Along the southern border of the country stretches Lake Kariba, the largest manmade lake in Africa and the second largest in the world. It is about 280kms long and 40kms across at its widest point.

Zambia has a population of 11,261,795, a total land area of 752,614 sq km (*land: 740,724 sq km, water: 11,890 sq km*), and 19 national parks. It borders Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Zambia has a fairly stable economy which is based around mining, transport, construction, foodstuffs, beverages, chemicals, and textiles, and has a British style parliamentary democracy with a president and national assembly.

**Climate:** The general height of the land gives Zambia a more pleasant climate than that experienced in most tropical countries. There are three seasons - cool and dry from May to August, hot and dry from September to November, warm and wet from December to April

## THINGS TO DO IN: ZAMBIA

- **The exciting viewing of Victoria Falls** "Thundering smoke" - that's what the local people of Zimbabwe call Victoria Falls. At the end of the rainy season, the immense amount of water thundering over the edge of the Falls literally forms an enormous cloud of thin spraying mist. You're absolutely drenched long before you reach the Falls themselves.
- **Extreme activities** at Victoria Falls, including bungee jumping, small plane flights over the Falls, and raft trips to the Boiling Pot at the base of the Falls where the water cascades down into the river. Victoria Falls is also the centre for some of the best safari and adventure opportunities in Africa. Canoe and kayaking safaris are available, offering one of the most exciting and memorable ways to experience both the Zambezi and the abundant game of Zambezi National Park.
- **Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park** covers an area of 66 square kilometers and is located in the southern province of Zambia near Livingstone town. It is home to the magnificent Victoria Falls and a wide variety of African wildlife, such as giraffe, white rhino, elephant, buffalo, impala, puku and warthog. The most frequently seen mammals include baboon and vervet monkeys.

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## **VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:**

*“The most brilliant part for me has been working with the lions in such a close-knit team. Not only have I learned more than I ever expected about the animals and their habitat, I’ve also made some brilliant friends and feel as though we’ve all helped to make a difference.”*

**Rachel Lonsdale**

## **HOW TO BOOK:**

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we’ll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

**We do hope you’ll join us and are confident that you’ll find this an incredible experience. Don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions - we’ll be happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!**

You may also be interested in other courses with Travellers – please visit our [website](#) for details of all our projects. In fact you can choose from over 300 projects in 19 countries!

## **Make a Difference – Get Involved!**



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