CHALLENGING AND REWARDING GROUP VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES
Our Story

African Adventures is an award-winning volunteer travel company that provides humanitarian and financial support to educational projects in Africa, whilst delivering eye-opening and rewarding volunteer experiences for groups of people from across the UK.

I first travelled to Kenya in 2007, where I volunteered at a community project called The Walk Centre. The project provided a free education and lunchtime meal for children living in slum areas on and around the nearby dumpsite. Without projects such as The Walk Centre, it is unlikely that these children would have attended school at all, due to the costs of items such as uniforms and textbooks that come with attending a government school. During my time in Kenya, I visited similar community projects in the same town, and met some inspirational leaders from the local community in the process.

I WAS ONLY IN KENYA FOR SIX WEEKS, BUT I KNEW I WOULD BE BACK

My experience at The Walk Centre, and in Kenya, helped me realise that I wanted to spend my professional life supporting similar projects, whilst offering other people from the UK the same life-changing opportunity that I had. Two years later, African Adventures was born, and in 2019 we were proud to celebrate our 10th anniversary.

Today, the company supports more than 22,000 children across our host destinations of Ghana, Kenya and Zanzibar, and over 6,000 volunteers from the UK have travelled with us.

AS A SIGNATORY TO THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT, WE ALIGN OUR WORK TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We commit to upholding the 10 Principles of the United Nations Global Compact - which focus on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption - and to helping to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in order to create a better and more sustainable future for all people and the planet. Our commitment (see page 5) is written into our company plan.

WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE WORK THAT WE DO, AND ABOUT IMPROVING LIVES IN THE UK AND AFRICA

You can help us make a lasting and tangible difference at our partner projects, and in the communities where we work. There is a lot more to achieve, and we are delighted that you are considering embarking on your own journey with us. We promise it will be worth it...

Dan Mew
Founder, African Adventures
"WE HAD THE MOST EYE-OPENING AND AMAZING EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA. I REALLY CANNOT PUT INTO WORDS THE LIFE LESSONS I HAVE LEARNT. I CAN’T WAIT TO PLAN THE NEXT SCHOOL TRIP!"
FAYE CHADWICK - TEACHER, LANDAU FORTE ACADEMY
ABOUT AFRICAN ADVENTURES

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

African Adventures is a Signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), which commits us to upholding the 10 Principles relating to human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption.

The UNGC represents a global call-to-action to companies to align their strategies with these principles, and take actions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to create a better future for all people and the planet by the year 2030.

African Adventures is actively working to advance 15 of the 17 SDGs through our work at our partner projects. With the help of our volunteers, we are helping to end poverty, increase access to education, reduce hunger, and take action against climate change.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

Our partner projects are community-based organisations that operate independently from African Adventures. We work in collaboration with them to help them grow, develop, and continue to provide the best possible support to their local communities.

Our partner projects provide us with a clear direction for their own development. We respond to their needs in the most effective way possible, by providing volunteers, capital, and resources for sustained and manageable growth.

I first attended The Walk Centre in 2005 and, thanks to Alex and Patricia, I received a full education. They have given me a life.

Eric Mwangi - Former Walk Centre Student

We encourage and support innovation, enterprise, and sustainability at our partner projects. Micro-finance initiatives (small local enterprises) help make projects sustainable and provide local community members with valuable employment skills. It is in everyone's interest to reduce reliance on grants and donations.

ENVIRONMENT

We recognise the responsibility we have towards the environment. We are committed to both minimising our carbon footprint at source, and offsetting the carbon emissions that are generated by our work.

In the UK, we operate a carbon-neutral office. We use eco-friendly office supplies where possible, and have adopted an Avoid, Reuse, Reduce, Recycle waste-management policy.

Where staff are required to travel by car, we offset our carbon emissions through a scheme that provides families in Ghana with energy-saving Gyapa stoves. These stoves require 50% less fuel than standard stoves, thereby cutting carbon emissions, protecting Ghana's forests, and reducing the fuel costs for local families.

Ultimately, we aim to offset all carbon emissions generated by volunteer flights through similar offsetting schemes. Please visit our website for more information.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

At African Adventures, we recognise the potential impacts - both positive and negative - that our trips can have, and the importance of responsible volunteering.

We have clear policies in place to protect the children at our partner projects, and take steps to educate our volunteers about responsible travel.

Our Human Rights and Modern Slavery Policy details our commitment to protecting human rights, whilst our Child Safeguarding Policy outlines our role in protecting the wellbeing of the vulnerable young people who attend our partner projects.

We educate our volunteers about our shared responsibility for the environment through our newsletters, via our website, and on our online portal - My African Adventure.

During our trips, volunteers witness first-hand the impacts of climate change through visits to the dumpsite in Kenya, to the beaches in Ghana, and on our Ocean Safari Day in Zanzibar.

We are acutely aware that international volunteering is not without criticism; if approached in the wrong way, we agree that it can do more harm than good. That is why we take our responsibility as the organiser seriously.

Rachel Northover - African Adventures, Marketing and Communications Manager

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Rachel Northover - African Adventures, Marketing and Communications Manager
African Adventures is an award-winning travel company that matches volunteers in the UK with one of the community projects we support in developing areas of Ghana, Kenya and Zanzibar. We provide these projects with the resources they need in order to grow, whilst organising the trips from start to finish for volunteers.

This means that we fulfil the dual role of tour operator and development agency, providing a high-quality service to our volunteers - who make everything happen - whilst working closely with each partner project to help them provide better outreach services to the communities they support.

We make no grand claims that we are going to change the world, but we know we are changing our partner projects for the better.

**THE EVIDENCE PROVES IT**

All project development is led by our project leaders in conjunction with our in-country teams. This ensures that the work our volunteers do is meaningful and sustainable, and that we only work in communities where our support has been actively requested.

Then, we prepare our volunteers with as much information as possible about their forthcoming experience. We advise them about our long-term development goals, whilst managing expectations of what can be achieved in a single trip.

We receive no external funding and exist thanks to our volunteers, so we strive to deliver the best possible experience for them, with an outstanding service.

We are not bothered about being the biggest - we are focused on trying to be the best.

**KEY FACTS**

- **MORE THAN 22000 CHILDREN SUPPORTED**
- **MORE THAN 6000 VOLUNTEERS**
- **47 IN-COUNTRY STAFF EMPLOYED AT PEAK TIMES**
- **26 ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS**

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African Adventures Foundation is a registered charity (1153361) that was set up in 2013 to provide additional resources and support to the community projects that African Adventures is partnered with.

Typically, the Foundation helps to fund vital infrastructure initiatives, school resources and equipment, and micro-finance initiatives to enable the projects to become self-sustainable in the future.

**SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED IN 2013, THE FOUNDATION HAS DONATED OVER £500,000 TO OUR PARTNER PROJECTS**

One example of an infrastructure initiative that the Foundation has helped to fund is the construction of a new, eight-classroom block at Dedzidi Community School in Ghana. Before this, lessons would often take place outside due to a lack of classroom space. The new building has provided Dedzidi’s students with shelter, and has reduced class sizes from 50 students to 40, improving the quality of education provided.

**100% OF DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO THE PROJECTS, 100% OF THE TIME**

African Adventures Ltd. covers any costs associated with running the charity, meaning that African Adventures Foundation can commit 100% of donations to supporting our partner projects in Africa.

Those travelling with African Adventures initially focus on raising the money for their trip - a portion of which is allocated to their partner project, to support the work they carry out. Once volunteers return home, many choose to donate to the Foundation, to provide ongoing financial support to the projects with which they have formed meaningful connections.

Over the years, African Adventures Foundation has held a variety of fundraising events and campaigns to support our partner projects. There have been several fantastic fundraising dinners, gruelling marathons, treks up Mount Kenya, skydives, and even a team cycling expedition from Nakuru to Dar es Salaam!

To find out more about our charity arm, please visit [aaf.african-adventures.co.uk](http://aaf.african-adventures.co.uk)
AKWAABA! LET THE BEATING DRUM OF GHANA WELCOME YOU TO THE HEART OF WEST AFRICA.
GHANA

The beating heart of West Africa, and one of the most vibrant, prosperous and safe travel destinations in all of Africa: it’s easy to see why Ghana is considered a ‘must-visit’ country for so many travellers.

GHANA IS A SMALL COUNTRY, BUT WHAT IT LACKS IN SIZE IT MORE THAN MAKES UP FOR IN PASSION, ENERGY, COLOUR AND CULTURE

Ghana has an exceptionally interesting history. The Ashanti Empire - located in present-day Ghana - was one of West Africa’s greatest empires. Boasting rich natural resources such as gold, cocoa and agricultural goods, Ghana was colonised by the British in the late 19th century, but subsequently went on to be the first African country to gain independence, in 1957.

Present-day Ghana is a colourful encapsulation of modern Africa. Its gold and cocoa bean exports have helped form the basis of a stable, trade-based economy. With a steady democracy and a thriving tourism industry, it’s easy to see why Ghana claims the title of ‘West Africa’s golden child’. Tourists can trek through lush rainforests, take in stunning coastline panoramas, and explore energetic urban cities.

AFRICAN ADVENTURES ESTABLISHED LINKS WITH PARTNER PROJECTS IN THE RURAL VOLTA REGION OF GHANA IN 2013

Since then, volunteers have contributed to development in some of the poorer areas of this region, where opportunities for young people are severely limited.

While areas such as the Greater Accra region have benefited from economic development, this has not filtered down into rural areas. The Volta region has seen poverty levels rise since 2006 (UNICEF), and many children work alongside their families to bring in an income, instead of attending school.

Our partner projects in Ghana are a combination of private and government schools, although all suffer from chronic underfunding, and few students can expect to fully complete their education. African Adventures aims to provide increased funding, improved facilities, and volunteer support with the aim of encouraging more students to start school earlier and stay in education longer.

A VIBRANT AND COLOURFUL ENCAPSULATION OF RURAL WEST AFRICA

BEST FOR:
- Traditional African culture
- Rural community volunteering
- Culture, wildlife and arts

PREPARE FOR:
- A tropical climate
- Rural poverty
- Government schools with a significant lack of funding
- Dancing and drumming
- No Wifi - don’t worry, you will survive without it!

DID YOU KNOW?
- The word Ghana means ‘Warrior King’
- Kejetia market, located in Kumasi, is West Africa’s largest
- The drum is Ghana’s national instrument - you’ll hear this everywhere you go!
- There are over 200 dialects spoken in Ghana
- Ghana has a literacy rate of 79% (UNESCO UIS) for over 15s

Ghana has always been my home and I look forward to welcoming you. Whilst here, you can experience our lush rainforests, picturesque beaches and vibrant culture. Of course, you’ll also be helping some of Ghana’s more deprived children. Ghana has a reputation as having the friendliest people in Africa; you’ll be greeted with a dance, a drum and a great big smile!

Siva Vordzorgbe - Ghana Director, African Adventures
JAMBO! SWEEPING SAVANNAHS, UNMISSABLE WILDLIFE AND UNPARALLELED NATURAL BEAUTY.
Kenya

Kenya is located on Africa's east coast, and is truly one of the continent’s gems. With its expansive savannahs, diverse wildlife, and friendly communities, it’s easy to see why Kenya has been such a popular tourist destination for decades.

A rich and colourful - but sometimes bloody - history defined Kenya’s pre-colonial and colonial era. Kenya finally gained independence from the British Empire in 1963. For many, this was the start of a new era of prosperity and freedom, and gave Kenya a chance to transform into one of Africa’s greatest success stories.

MODERN-DAY KENYA IS PERHAPS BEST KNOWN FOR ITS WILDLIFE, TOURISM, AND EXPORTS OF TEA, COFFEE AND FLOWERS

In addition, Kenya is world-famous for its sporting prowess, boasts beautiful national parks, and is home to Africa’s second-tallest mountain: Mount Kenya. In fact, Kenya is named after the mountain, rather than the other way around.

Nakuru, where African Adventures’ partner projects are based, is located in the Kenyan mid-West, within the prehistoric Rift Valley. Approximately 350,000 people live in Nakuru, making it Kenya’s fourth-largest city. Nakuru is a popular tourist destination due to its proximity to the Great Rift Valley, Lake Nakuru National Park and Mount Kenya.

Despite Kenya’s economic growth, 45% of the country’s population live below the poverty line, surviving on less than 80p per day. In Nakuru, a large number of families live on the periphery of the local dumpsite, and many of the children spend their days scavenging for food.

KENYA IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF AFRICAN ADVENTURES

We first partnered with The Walk Centre in 2009, and have since formed partnerships with a number of other community projects in Nakuru. These projects provide free schooling and food security for thousands of children, whose access to education would otherwise be severely limited due to the costs associated with attending government-run schools. By supporting these projects, we are helping to improve the quality of education that these children receive, giving them a brighter future and a route out of long-term poverty.

KENYA IS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY OF STARK CONTRASTS

53 million people live in Kenya
Kenya’s Great Rift Valley was formed 20 million years ago
There are over 70 different ethnic groups in Kenya
Kenya is roughly the same size as Texas: 362,000 square miles
Swahili and English are the most widely spoken languages

The support that African Adventures volunteers give to the children and the community through the local projects is quite enormous. Children who wouldn’t have been in school are now in school, and have access to better infrastructure than they ever have before. In some areas, the help even extends to their families, having an even greater impact. Words aren’t enough to describe the support - people need to come here and see how this work is changing lives in Africa.

Alex Maina - East Africa Director, African Adventures
Zanzibar

Historic, cultural and idyllic. Welcome to paradise.
Zanzibar

Zanzibar is home to pristine beaches, fascinating spice farms, rare ocean wildlife, and historic Stone Town - a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Zanzibar has played an important role in Africa’s history. In the late 19th century, the islands were used by Arab slave traders as a base from which to penetrate the African interior. Today, although it remains a part of Tanzania, Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous state (made up of two large islands - Pemba and Unguja - and several small islands) with devolved political powers.

This Tanzanian Archipelago, located just off the East African coast, has earned a reputation as an idyllic tourist destination. Tourists flock to the islands to enjoy the beautiful beaches, bustling marketplaces, historical sites and world-famous cuisine. Stone Town - Zanzibar’s historic port capital - maintains its reputation as one of the world’s most intriguing cities. Tourists can navigate the cobbled streets in search of history and fascinating architecture, which can be found around every corner.

Scratch just a little beneath the surface, however, and Zanzibar suffers from a host of problems that threaten to stifle its ongoing economic and social development. Both islands suffer from income inequality, and the vast majority of Zanzibaris still rely on small-scale agriculture to make ends meet. There is a significant lack of sufficient and suitable facilities in schools, which negatively impacts the quality of education available.

For these reasons, African Adventures partnered with established community projects on Unguja - the southern island, which is commonly known as Zanzibar.

These Projects Are Desperately Overcrowded and Underfunded

Classrooms typically contain upwards of 100 students, and volunteers can choose to support teachers in lessons to help tackle the issue of overcrowding. Alternatively, volunteers can assist with construction and renovation work in order to improve facilities and help our partner projects cope with the ever-increasing number of students.

Volunteering in Zanzibar, while challenging, provides an unparalleled opportunity to go beyond the tourist trail and immerse yourself in the local community of this fascinating destination.

The Spice Islands Await You

Best For:

- A mix of volunteering, and rest and relaxation
- A blend of Arabic and African cultures: 99% of the population of Zanzibar is Muslim
- East African culture and history
- Stunning architecture

Prepare For:

- Hot and tropical weather
- Overcrowded schools
- Bustling marketplaces and beautiful beaches

Did You Know?

- The population of Unguja and Pemba islands is 1.3m in total
- Queen frontman Freddie Mercury was born in Zanzibar
- The Zanzibar Archipelago is known as ‘The Spice Islands’
- The Anglo-Zanzibar war is the shortest ever recorded, lasting roughly 40 minutes
- The marine life surrounding the islands includes whales, dolphins, rays and frogfish

Zanzibar, my homeland, is simply the greatest place on earth. Our communities are vibrant and wholesome, our heritage is rich and the scenery is simply breathtaking. Zanzibar is a place that has to be experienced to be believed. Help us to make this wonderful place even better for so many underprivileged young people.

Samson Zuberi - Zanzibar Co-ordinator, African Adventures
“THIS WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS. THE RIPPLE EFFECTS WILL BE WIDELY FELT... THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING TRIP.”
SIAN NEWMAN - GROUP LEADER, ST EDMUND’S GIRLS’ SCHOOL
SCHOOLS

Educational, meaningful and affordable trips for students are hard to come by. Ideally, as a teacher, you’ll be looking for a trip that not only meets specific curriculum objectives, but also enhances your students’ educational and personal development. Well, look no further.

Having worked closely with teachers, students, and educational professionals, our school trips are specifically created with your students in mind. Our aim is to make the entire experience for you as a group leader as simple and easy to organise as possible. We take care of the admin, provide inclusive packages, and help students and teachers through every step of their trip journey so that you feel supported from start to finish.

For your students, the experience starts the moment they sign up. During the pre-departure stage, students gain invaluable life skills such as money management, independent decision-making and planning. So many of our volunteers return as more resilient, enterprising and flexible individuals, having learnt exactly what it takes to become a truly global citizen.

WHY SHOULD YOU TRAVEL WITH US?

1 SPECIALISED AND TRUSTED

African Adventures is an educational travel specialist, having organised successful volunteer experiences for thousands of students and hundreds of schools. We proudly hold a number of accreditations that should give you faith that you are travelling with a reputable and trusted company that is safely run, fully insured, and responsibly motivated.

2 STUDENT ENRICHMENT

We believe that students gain as much as they give before, during and after their volunteer trip. Leading to developed skills from resilience to leadership, we have seen volunteering bring the best out of so many.

3 EVERYTHING MADE EASY FOR YOU

We make the organisation of your trip as easy as possible. Our bespoke online platform - My African Adventure (see page 41) - holds all the tools and resources you and your group will need to prepare you for the journey ahead. Your dedicated Trip Co-ordinator will take care of your trip admin and make sure that your entire group is looked after, from launch through to your safe return to the UK.

4 EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY

Quite simply, we guarantee that you won’t find the same opportunity for less. Our packages include everything you need and our support tools make financing them as simple as possible (see page 34 for more information).

This trip should be basic life experience for every young person. It was the most eye-opening experience, and has truly helped my personal development.

Rosie - Student, Ely College

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

African Adventures’ Graduate Engagement Trips help your young people continue their development after their school or youth group programmes. Our tried and tested experiences offer young people the chance to make a meaningful difference at our partner projects, in a way that’s affordable for all.

MAINTAINING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

We offer an exciting and enriching way to keep young people engaged, enabling them to continue their journey with your organisation. Graduate Engagement Trips typically have a lead-in time of 6-18 months and consist of three challenging phases. At every stage, young people build on the invaluable life skills gained during youth programmes such as NCS, including money management and resilience.

Fundraising is a key part of the trip preparation process and ensures that the experience is accessible and affordable for all. Volunteers are supported throughout their fundraising by our friendly team. Our bespoke online portal - My African Adventure (see page 41) - is exclusively available to volunteers and provides all the resources they need to meet their fundraising targets and plan effectively for the experience.

We take care of every aspect of your trip, from initial launch to your group’s safe return. We organise your flights, transfers, accommodation, food, and more, and are always on hand for advice and support should you need it. For every 10 participants, African Adventures funds one staff place completely free of charge.

OUR GRADUATE ENGAGEMENT TRIPS:

- Help young people carry on developing and learning
- Offer a simple and rewarding way to keep young people engaged
- Give young people a deeper understanding of global issues
- Increase confidence, resilience and tolerance
- Make volunteering inclusive, regardless of background

I think every NCS provider should consider offering this to their graduates... a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity filled with incredible experiences.

Sam Lightfoot - Group Leader, Youth Fed
Universities

PGCE FOCUS

African Adventures organises unique teaching and learning experiences for trainee teachers and newly qualified teachers (NQTs). Trainee teachers can make a real impact by bringing their experiences and educational insights to our partner projects in Africa. Working in a very different environment, without many of the resources that teachers are accustomed to in the UK, trainees will be taken out of their comfort zones and encouraged to develop skills that can support their future teaching careers.

Trainees have the opportunity to gain real global awareness, and become more creative and adaptable teachers. They can teach at primary or secondary level in subjects such as English, mathematics and geography, and will be required to adapt their teaching style according to the resources available, and to meet the needs of the students.

Trainees are tasked with helping the students at our partner projects to work towards local curriculum goals and syllabus objectives, which may differ dramatically to those in the UK. Teaching will take place for up to six hours per day and these hours can count towards initial teacher training (ITT) hours.

We make the entire experience for you as a group leader as simple and easy to organise as possible. We take care of the admin, provide inclusive packages, and help students and teachers through every step of the trip journey so that you are supported throughout.

You will be giving your trainees a unique opportunity to become more well-rounded individuals, and better teachers, having contributed towards real development in some of Africa’s most deprived communities.

**HOW TRAINEES BENEFIT**

- Experience gained of teaching abroad
- Skills honed in terms of improvisation and managing with limited resources
- Fulfilment of ITT hours
- Knowledge gained of African curricula and varied teaching styles

"Trainees come back as more empathetic, creative, flexible and effective teachers."

Julie Reynolds - PGCE Tutor, University of Southampton

Colleges

Our affordable college expeditions give your students the chance to make a meaningful difference at our partner projects, whilst learning the importance of global citizenship and gaining crucial skills for later life.

The experience begins long before your young people depart for Africa. Fundraising is a fantastic opportunity to develop life skills such as organisation and money management, and the independence, confidence and resilience that your students gain through fundraising will help them prepare for their next steps in life.

We make organising a trip as simple as possible by providing inclusive trip packages that are excellent value for money. Our online portal - My African Adventure - contains everything you need to prepare for your trip, and our friendly staff will be on hand to support you from the moment you book, right up until your safe return to the UK.

**WHY SHOULD YOU TRAVEL WITH US?**

1 SPECIALISED AND TRUSTED

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2 EVERYTHING MADE EASY

Our bespoke online platform holds all the tools and resources you need for the exciting journey ahead, and your dedicated Trip Co-ordinator will take care of all your trip admin so that you can focus on preparing your group for the upcoming adventure.

3 AUTHENTIC AND MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Our unique, ethical and effective model of volunteering allows your young people to get the most out of their experience, whilst providing maximum benefit to our partner projects.

4 EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY

Quite simply, we guarantee that you won’t find the same opportunity for less. Our packages include everything you need, and our fundraising support tools (see page 34) make raising the money to travel as simple as possible, meaning that the opportunity is affordable for all.

"One of my responsibilities at the college is offsite trips all over the world. I know what educational trip providers do, and the good ones and the bad ones, and African Adventures is one of the great ones."

Lisa Humphries - Group Director of Student Services and Pastoral Support, Chichester College

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Colleges

Our affordable college expeditions give your students the chance to make a meaningful difference at our partner projects, whilst learning the importance of global citizenship and gaining crucial skills for later life.

The experience begins long before your young people depart for Africa. Fundraising is a fantastic opportunity to develop life skills such as organisation and money management, and the independence, confidence and resilience that your students gain through fundraising will help them prepare for their next steps in life.

We make organising a trip as simple as possible by providing inclusive trip packages that are excellent value for money. Our online portal - My African Adventure - contains everything you need to prepare for your trip, and our friendly staff will be on hand to support you from the moment you book, right up until your safe return to the UK.

**WHY SHOULD YOU TRAVEL WITH US?**

1 SPECIALISED AND TRUSTED

We are specialists in educational travel, having organised successful volunteer experiences for hundreds of students from colleges around the country. We proudly hold a number of accreditations that should give you faith that you are travelling with a reputable and trusted company.

2 EVERYTHING MADE EASY

Our bespoke online platform holds all the tools and resources you need for the exciting journey ahead, and your dedicated Trip Co-ordinator will take care of all your trip admin so that you can focus on preparing your group for the upcoming adventure.

3 AUTHENTIC AND MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Our unique, ethical and effective model of volunteering allows your young people to get the most out of their experience, whilst providing maximum benefit to our partner projects.

4 EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY

Quite simply, we guarantee that you won’t find the same opportunity for less. Our packages include everything you need, and our fundraising support tools (see page 34) make raising the money to travel as simple as possible, meaning that the opportunity is affordable for all.

"One of my responsibilities at the college is offsite trips all over the world. I know what educational trip providers do, and the good ones and the bad ones, and African Adventures is one of the great ones."

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GROUP ADVENTURES

THE PERFECT WAY TO FURTHER THE OBJECTIVES OF YOUR ORGANISATION

“I BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD EXPERIENCE THIS IN THEIR LIFE, AND I CAN’T RECOMMEND IT ENOUGH.”

JORGIE WALLACE - BURTON ALBION COMMUNITY TRUST
CHARITIES AND SPORTS TRUSTS

Join the many charities who have teamed up with African Adventures to offer their stakeholders a challenging and effective fundraising solution.

As a charity, you’ll know just how hard funding can be to come by, especially when you have your own large and ambitious projects which you can’t wait to get started on. African Adventures’ charity challenges provide not only a great experience, where supporters can fundraise either individually or as a team, but also the option of a beneficial, long-term partnership with African Adventures and a partner project in Africa.

DERBY COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST (DCCT)

- Has been travelling with us since 2012
- Now takes a group of around 70 volunteers per year, allowing an incredible impact to be made
- Fundraising Methods: Quiz nights, craft markets, football tournaments, fundraising dinners and cocktail nights

An effective partnership with African Adventures has enabled DCCT (2018 EFL Community Club of the Year) to raise vital funds for their own community projects, while boosting their profile both at home and abroad.

Organising a charity challenge can be a complicated and time-consuming process: not when you travel with us. We take care of everything, from the moment your team books until they return home. We’ll provide your charity with useful information on how to get the most from your challenge, whether you require help with fundraising, PR or volunteer support. All trip admin can be managed through our online portal, My African Adventure (see page 41 for more information), allowing you to focus on preparing for the adventure, with the help of your dedicated Trip Co-ordinator.

We understand that each charity is unique, and has specific fundraising objectives. That’s why every charity challenge is created as a bespoke package, to meet your individual needs and requirements.

Our African Adventure is a large part of our fundraising mix. It has increased in effectiveness for us year on year as people return annually. We have never seen this with another charity challenge event.

Paul Newman - Community Manager, DCCT

SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES

Our Scouts and Girl Guiding expeditions offer your section the chance to fulfil their Promise by impacting the lives of deprived young people in developing areas of Africa. Working alongside local staff and students, Scouts and Girlguides help to support project development by making the most of their existing skills whilst also gaining new ones.

Our promise to you is that we make the entire trip process as simple as possible, from launch to your safe return. Our accreditations and safety record give group leaders real peace of mind, and the experience we have gained from our many years of working with young people has helped us to create an outstanding yet simple expedition programme.

Your Scouts or Girlguides will work to improve lives in Africa and will, in the process, become better global citizens. Invaluable life skills, such as money management, decision-making, and planning are gained throughout.

AS A GROUP, YOUR SCOUTS OR GIRL GUIDES WILL BE PART OF A LONG-TERM MISSION TO HELP IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN IN AFRICA

Scouts and Girlguides will typically fundraise for their trip over a 9-18 month period. During this stage, your young people can gain a range of life skills and qualities including enterprise, organisation, and resilience.

WHY SHOULD YOU TRAVEL WITH US?

1 SPECIALISED AND TRUSTED

African Adventures is a specialist in youth travel, having organised successful volunteer experiences for thousands of young people and hundreds of groups. We proudly hold a number of accreditations that should give you faith that you are travelling with a reputable and trusted company that is safely run, fully insured, and responsibly motivated.

2 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

We believe that Scouts and Girlguides gain as much as they give before, during and after their volunteer trip. Helping young people to progress, develop new abilities and become global citizens are key objectives of any African Adventure. Leading to developed skills from resilience to leadership, we have seen volunteering bring the best out in so many.

3 EVERYTHING MADE EASY FOR YOU

We make the organisation of your trip as easy as possible. Our bespoke online platform holds all the tools and resources you and your group will need to prepare you for the journey ahead. Your dedicated Trip Co-ordinator will take care of trip admin and make sure that your entire group is looked after, from launch through to your safe return.

4 EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY

Quite simply, we guarantee that you won’t find the same opportunity for less. Our packages include everything you need and our support tools make financing them as simple as possible (see page 34 for more information on fundraising).
YOUR AFRICAN ADVENTURE

“A LIFE-CHANGING, THOUGHT-PROVOKING, ENRICHING EXPERIENCE.”
DANIELLE - NORTH LINDSEY COLLEGE
VOLUNTEER ROLES

The projects where volunteers work all face similar challenges: they are under-resourced, overcrowded, and in need of financial support to develop. Our partner projects are all run by members of the local community, who know what their project needs in order to increase its outreach. We work in partnership with the project leaders to identify these needs, and allocate financial and humanitarian support accordingly.

Volunteers can choose between two meaningful roles which have been identified by our in-country staff as crucial for project development. Volunteers work alongside skilled builders and teachers, and never replace them. We firmly believe that everyone - regardless of their skills or experience - has something to offer at our partner projects.

TEACHING & SPORTS COACHING

With this role, volunteers work alongside teachers to deliver lessons and introduce new activities to the children, creating a fun and engaging learning environment. Activities may include reading stories, helping to prepare meals, playing games, and running sports sessions. As classroom overcrowding is an issue at many of our partner projects, teachers appreciate assistance with delivering lessons. The children’s enthusiasm when it comes to learning and taking part in sport makes this role so rewarding.

BUILDING & RENOVATION

Volunteers who are keen to get stuck in may wish to take on this challenging and rewarding role, where the results of hard work are clear to see. Volunteers work alongside qualified builders to help construct or renovate vital school structures such as classrooms, toilets, and kitchens. Improved facilities are needed to accommodate growing numbers of students and create spaces more conducive to learning - something that is so important when encouraging children to engage. Tangible objectives and visible progress make this volunteering role so worthwhile for anyone who is driven and motivated to make a difference.

FUNDRAISING TRIP COSTS

Fundraising is a crucial part of any African Adventure. Not only does it give volunteers the chance to develop life skills - such as planning, money management, and budgeting - it also helps make a trip to Africa feasible for everyone. Raising your trip costs can seem daunting, but it is entirely achievable - we have a wide range of hints and tips that will get you on your way. What’s more, many volunteers have raised the entire trip cost through fundraising, showing what can be achieved with the right level of motivation and planning!

The first step we would advise is to set up an online fundraising page to get those donations coming in with relatively low effort.

With easyfundraising, you can raise money for your trip simply by shopping online! Register your trip for free, and ask friends and family to check out easyfundraising every time they make an online purchase. You’ll then receive a donation every time you, or your supporters, shop online with over 3,000 well-known retailers - at no extra cost to you or them!

Fundraising is entirely achievable - we have a wide range of hints and tips that will get you on your way. What’s more, many volunteers have raised the entire trip cost through fundraising, showing what can be achieved with the right level of motivation and planning!

FUNDRAISING RESOURCES

We have various documents and tools that can support you with your fundraising.

SPONSORSHIP

We have various documents and tools that can support you with your fundraising.
HOW IT WORKS

DECISIONS AND PREPARATION

First of all, you'll need to choose the right trip for your group - our destination pages and friendly staff can help you with this. Once you have selected your destination, departure date and the duration of your stay, the trip 'wheels' really are in motion!

A launch evening helps gauge interest in the trip, and all bookings can be made online - taking the work away from you. Our volunteer portal is a great source of information for all trip-related matters. Once booked, volunteers may decide to fundraise their trip costs - please see our fundraising pages for inspiration. Our staff are on hand every step of the way to support you.

YOUR TRIP IS HERE

After months of planning and preparation, the adventure is upon you. A life-changing experience awaits you in either Ghana, Kenya or Zanzibar and the best advice we can offer is to approach it with an open heart, an open mind, and bags of enthusiasm! The majority of your trip focuses on volunteering - with many life lessons learnt in the process - but there is always time for some sight-seeing and adventurous activities.

The whole experience is likely to involve a range of emotions; it is challenging, eye-opening and rewarding, and is sure to have an impact on all those involved. Skills will be learnt, friendships will be made, and many lives will be changed in the process.

IMPACT AND REFLECTION

Most volunteers don't want the experience to end - such is the impact of it. All volunteers are affected in some way by the journey they have been on, and many are forever changed as a result. Confidence, resilience and increased awareness are words that are often associated with an African Adventure.

Many volunteers are driven to continue their support of the projects they visited, either through our charity or by booking a return trip, leading to a long-term meaningful partnership (see page 36).

“The whole project is a journey of enterprise and brilliant new experiences that begin when pupils start fundraising.”

John Lomas - Head of Enterprise and Personal Development Learning, Springfield School

IMPACT

It's amazing what progress can be made through one trip, but also humbling to see the impact when a group returns year on year and forms a meaningful partnership.

EVERTON IN THE COMMUNITY

Everton in the Community, the official charity of Everton Football Club, first travelled to Kenya with us in 2019, with a 20-strong group of staff, supporters and NCS graduates. The impact made from just one trip was incredible - both for the volunteers and for our partner projects.

A notable achievement from their 10-day trip was the installation of a water tank at West End Destiny school. This development has made a significant difference, as it means that school staff no longer need to walk several miles a day for fresh water for the children.

“It has been an honour co-leading our first trip to Kenya. The whole trip was a huge success, made possible by this brilliant organisation.”

Adam Howard - Volunteer Manager, Everton FC

UDDINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Uddingston Grammar School has been travelling with us since 2015. The staff believe that the students gain a lot from the experience of volunteering, particularly in terms of personal development:

“Our trip with African Adventures provides our young people with life-changing opportunities. These experiences help our children grow as individuals and create lasting memories. It is always fantastic to return on a yearly basis to see the impact our help is having.”

Lee Thompson - Pupil Support Welfare Officer, Uddingston Grammar School

Over the years, the school has made a great impact at Aklorbordzi school - situated in the Volta Region in Ghana - by helping with the construction of school buildings, and supporting with teaching and sports coaching. In addition, Uddingston has independently fundraised for a new roof for Aklorbordzi - testament to its commitment to this partnership. Because the school returns year on year, the progress that has been made with their support is clear to see.
OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Our trips focus on the meaningful difference that our volunteers can make at our partner projects. That said, we understand that you want to experience as much of Africa as possible during your trip. Our adventure activities - which you can opt to add to your trip package - have been designed to showcase the best of what your destination has to offer. From breathtaking safari drives, to historical tours, tropical rainforest treks, and island-hopping experiences, there is something for everyone.

GHANA

Ghana is a beautiful and lively country, and our adventure activities give you the opportunity to experience this.

You may choose to travel to Cape Coast, where you will trek through Kakum National Park, learn about the slave trade at Cape Coast Castle, and stay in a picturesque beach resort. Or, stay local to where you’re volunteering with our Volta Adventure weekend, during which you will visit a monkey sanctuary and visit the highest waterfall in West Africa. Finally, for a more serene experience, our Keta Lagoon Retreat gives you the opportunity to stay the night in the most stunning of settings, in a hut built on stilts over the water.

KENYA

In Kenya, our adventure activities give you the opportunity to explore the stunning landscape, spectacular wildlife, and rich culture of the ancient Rift Valley, where our partner projects are based.

You can choose to spot The Big Five on safari, witness a unique science experiment at the Equator, enjoy a lesson in Swahili - East Africa’s mother tongue - or fly through the treetops of the Rift Valley on a zipwire. Alternatively, try your hand at cooking some traditional Kenyan food, visit the famous Maasai Mara tribe, or hike down Thomson Falls - one of the deepest waterfalls in the whole of East Africa.

ZANZIBAR

In Zanzibar, our adventure activities give you the chance to soak up your idyllic surroundings whilst exploring the varied history of the islands.

You could choose to go island-hopping on an African dhow boat, snorkel alongside vibrant tropical fish, or delve into the history of Prison Island as you get up close and personal with the giant tortoises who reside there. Alternatively, you could sample the local cuisine with a delicious meal of tropical fruits and fresh seafood, stimulate your senses with a tour of a spice farm, or explore the cobbled streets of historic Stone Town - a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Louise - Volunteer, Bedminster Down School

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on our adventure activities that you can include as part of your trip, please see our Optional Extras brochure, which includes:

- A list of activities available for each destination
- Itineraries, and how each activity can fit into your trip
- Prices per person
- What’s included with each adventure activity
“A FANTASTIC ORGANISATION, RUN BY FANTASTIC PEOPLE, DOING FANTASTIC WORK. IT’S A PLEASURE TO BE INVOLVED.”
PAUL NEWMAN - COMMUNITY MANAGER, DCCT
**MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES**

**EASY TO ORGANISE**
Our promise to you is that we make planning your trip as simple as possible. We take care of all your trip organisation - including your flights, accommodation, meals, in-country transport, and project work - and provide friendly and professional support from the moment you book, until your safe return to the UK.

**DEDICATED STAFF**
When you choose to travel with us, you’ll be looked after by a friendly and experienced Trip Co-ordinator, who will be on hand to provide support - and answer all your questions - in the months before you depart.

Once in Africa, you’ll be in the expert hands of our in-country teams, including your personal Trip Host. Our in-country staff are all local to the areas where we work, and know their communities far better than we ever could. For this reason, they are by far the best people for the job, and will be by your side throughout your trip to ensure you have the best experience possible.

**EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY**
Our trip packages include everything you need for an unforgettable experience in Africa, and our fundraising support tools are designed to help you raise the money you need to travel. Quite simply, we guarantee that you won’t find the same opportunity for less.

**DEDICATED VOLUNTEER RESOURCE AREA**
Our online portal - My African Adventure (My AA) - lets you manage your trip wherever and whenever, for your convenience. My AA contains everything volunteers need to plan and prepare for their trip, helping to ensure that everyone is ready for the adventure.

The portal is full of useful resources, including visa support, guidance for volunteering, information about your host destination, and essential documentation. As a group leader, you’ll be given an admin account that grants full access to both trip details and volunteer information; in contrast, your volunteers have access to a personal account containing their trip details.

![The portal is a really useful tool both for volunteers and for me as a group leader.](Siobhan McNamara - Burnley FC in the Community)

**AFRICAN ADVENTURES IS AN ORGANISATION THAT YOU CAN PUT YOUR TRUST IN**
Our expertise and high standards are reflected in our accreditations by key industry bodies, demonstrating our belief in doing things the right way to keep our volunteers safe. In addition, our success in recent industry awards demonstrates that others believe in us as a company, and in the work we are doing.

We continually strive to improve what we offer, in order to provide the very best service to our partner projects and volunteers. This focuses our work and is our key motivation, as we wouldn’t exist without either of them.

**ABTA**
We are a member of ABTA, the UK’s largest travel association representing travel agents and tour operators. They have been a trusted travel brand for more than 60 years, offering advice and guidance to the travelling public. They also lead the travel industry in supporting high service standards, working with members on health and safety, and promoting responsible tourism, both at home and abroad.

**ATOL (10639)**
We provide 100% financial protection to each and every volunteer. All our flight-inclusive trips are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay, you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please check through this to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed. For further information, please see our booking terms and conditions or visit: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

**LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**
Our trips provide high-quality, tangible educational outcomes.

The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom is the national voice for learning outside the classroom. They believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as it forms an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.

**OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER PROJECT 2016**
African Adventures was named runner-up at the Global Youth Travel Awards. The award categories acknowledge the outstanding performers within the youth and educational travel sector and act as a benchmark for excellence within the industry.

**BEST VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATION 2018**
African Adventures was awarded Best Volunteering Organisation at the 2018 British Youth Travel Awards. The award recognises UK-based organisations engaged in volunteer tourism that can demonstrate tangible benefits to the communities in which they work and the volunteers involved.

“I would highly recommend your company due to your staff, and their approach to supporting this trip from step one to the final arrival back in the UK.”

Bethan Ford - Teacher, Llanwern High School
YOUR SAFETY

Our friendly team of staff are experts at planning and delivering safe, enjoyable volunteer experiences. We have regional teams in Ghana, Kenya, the UK and Zanzibar, meaning that we benefit from both local and international expertise. Thanks to this vast international network, we are there with you from the moment you arrive until the moment you return. Since 2009, we have successfully organised trips for over 6,000 volunteers, and, over the years, we have developed a robust Safety Management System which underpins our entire operation.

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

According to the UK’s Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), an estimated 350,000 UK residents visit Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania each year and the vast majority of visits are trouble-free. Whether you’re travelling to London, Lima, Los Angeles or Lusaka, there are risks with any form of travel. A responsible provider will help to mitigate most of them, but none can claim to remove them altogether. Our group leaders travel confidently because we share our planning arrangements with them prior to departure.

In fact, our pre-departure information clearly defines the roles of volunteers and group leaders on our trips, and the accompanying Safety Management System details our approach to risk management in-country. This Safety Management System is independently audited on an annual basis by the School Travel Forum (STF), and we are subsequently awarded our Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge - one of only a few operators to achieve the award annually.

BS 8848

Our trips are delivered to the British Standard for adventurous activities outside the UK, known colloquially as BS 8848.

INSURANCE

We provide each traveller with a specialist insurance policy for volunteer travel, which covers all the different forms of project work we organise. It also includes cover for all the typical things you would expect whilst travelling abroad, including lost baggage, medical expenses and personal equipment.

This comprehensive insurance policy is included in the cost of our trip packages as standard.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US

MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

24-HOUR SUPPORT

Volunteers have access to 24-hour emergency support, in Africa and the UK. Our UK team is on call throughout the year, and volunteers have access to both emergency and non-emergency contacts.

CRITICAL INCIDENTS

In the unlikely event of a major incident, we have a critical incident plan, as outlined in our Safety Management System.

Our trained staff are on hand to help respond in an emergency, and we work with critical incident specialists Pharos Response.

VEHICLES AND TRANSPORT

All vehicles used on our trips are privately hired, have seatbelts and are regularly serviced. They may well be different to the ones you’re used to in the UK, but all must be fit for purpose to be used on our trips.

All drivers who work for African Adventures must adhere to a strict code of conduct whilst operating vehicles on our trips.

OUR TEAM

We employ the best people for the job. We are proud that all our in-country staff are Ghanaian, Kenyan and Tanzanian. Why? Because the last thing you want after travelling all that way is to have your trip led by a British expat who claims to know the area.

Who better to share a new community with you than someone who was born and raised there? Who better to share a new area by a British expat who claims to know the area.

IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT

As soon as volunteers arrive at their destination airport, they are met by their Trip Host, who will look after them from start to finish. Once a group has travelled to their accommodation to check in, our Trip Hosts deliver a comprehensive orientation that covers:

- Objectives for the trip
- Cultural expectations
- Volunteer expectations
- Volunteer support
- Information about the local area
- Forthcoming itinerary
- Travel tips and how to make the most of the trip

This is in addition to a pre-departure briefing that is delivered to your volunteers approximately two months before travel, by one of our UK staff. This briefing is intended to provide volunteers with all the information they require to feel prepared for their trip.

MEDICAL CARE

Whilst in Africa, our volunteers are never far from a 24-hour regional hospital, and usually no more than a 15-20 minute drive away.

For peace of mind, and as part of our pre-departure support, we provide information and contact details for the nearest regional hospital prior to travel.

We provide regular training for all our staff so they are equipped to respond as needed. Safety is our priority and we work hard to ensure that all angles are covered.

Leanne Coates - Office Manager, African Adventures
WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY

"The impact of this experience is too vast to capture in words; suffice to say that the young people who returned from their trip were vastly different from those who departed the UK... they are now more resilient, self-sufficient, and irrepressible!"
Alison Lowman - Head of Education, Argyle Community Trust

"This trip allowed our students to develop a wider view of the world and leave with a new sense of purpose."
Phil Hobbs - Geography Teacher, Chance2Kid's School

"All of the students want to return and I am sure many will. However, the benefit is longer term - all of them have started to understand what they can do rather than what they can't. I truly believe this experience will be the making of the team."
Mark Sirot Smith - Director of Sixth Form, Ely College

"The trip gave you a level of global awareness and personal development only achievable by first-hand experience."
Olivia Beynon - Student, Springfield School

"Although we taught the students a variety of academic subjects, they taught us so much more: the language of Kiswahili, the importance of friendships, and how to be grateful for everything we have."
Jasmine Ball, Llanwern High School

"Our experience in Africa, and the memories from our trip, are very positive. Without a doubt, this is the best school trip I've ever been on."
Simon Cliff - Teacher, Landau Forte Academy

"We were exceptionally well looked after and our volunteer team put every effort into their work which was definitely appreciated by the in-country team. All members of our team demonstrated resilience and were incredibly resourceful!"
Chiquita Henson - Head of Year, Cirencester Deer Park School

"Kenya, it's been amazing! One of the craziest and hardest experiences but also the most incredible! We've been so lucky to meet so many amazing people along the way, making it an experience I will never ever forget!"
Evie Baxter - Trainee Teacher, Nottingham Trent University

"The trip always has a massive impact on the students we take, always lives up to expectations, and we always want to go back!"
Ros Hyde - University of Southampton

"I will never forget how incredibly lucky I am and honoured to have been part of such an amazing adventure, watching the explorers grow in experience and maturity and being a part of such an awesome community. I can't wait to do it all again."
Jacqui Pratt - Leader, Staffordshire Scouts

"An amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I am proud to be part of."
Francis Enebeli - Teacher, Stoke Newington School

"I feel so blessed to be able to have spent my time in Kenya with such awe-inspiring and happy children. It has been eye opening and very emotional at times, but what an amazing experience and every volunteer on the trip has helped make this trip one I will never forget. I've had fun, learned a lot about myself and made friendships that will last a lifetime."
Sarah Rawson - Volunteer, DCCT

"Our Ghana trip is renowned at Uddingston Grammar as the one that everyone wants to go on!"
Nicola Henderson - Teacher, Uddingston Grammar School

"Thank you for the most amazing and fulfilling experience of my life, the best thing I have ever done. I cannot wait to return to Kenya to see the staff and children at The Walk Centre. Here's to many more years of amazing work!"
Lori Gallagher - Bespoke Group Volunteer

"This is a hugely enriching experience which closely follows the fundamentals of scouting - namely, to challenge our youngsters to try something new and learn by doing."
Jason Low - Leader, Surbiton South Explorer Scout Unit

"A great way to get "under the skin" of a country, with knowledgeable support provided by professional staff."
Alan Noake - Leader, Kent Scouts

"Watching our young people grow in maturity, empathy and confidence was amazing."
Frances Clements - Teacher, Springfield School

"All participants have expressed how this trip has benefited them - for example by increasing their confidence, making them appreciate life more, and creating friendships for life... This was, quite simply, the best experience I have ever had."
Adam Howard - Leader, Everton in the Community

"The trip was fantastic. It's a great feeling knowing that the work we did has had a direct benefit to a community in poverty, whilst also raising funds to support projects at home."
Matt Hargreaves - Education Development Manager, Burnley FC in the Community

"I have gained so much personal development since this trip, it has really opened my eyes to not only my world but the world around me."
Ashleigh Hurrell - Student, Derby College

"This trip has helped me to understand my place in the world and develop empathy. Inspirational."
Phil Loveday - Teacher, The Earl's High School
GET STARTED

Create your ideal volunteer experience today:
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