The world is only just beginning to uncover the treasures that Mozambique and its crystal waters have to offer.

On the South-east coast of Africa, just above South Africa, lies this former Portuguese colony. It’s coastal regions host stunning beaches, the occasional hippo, and world-renowned diving sites which are said to be one of the best places on earth to see the mighty whale shark – the biggest fish in the world. For adventure seekers, the Zambezi region in the north is considered one of Africa’s final frontiers.

After years of civil war, Mozambique has seen peace now since 1992 and while the economy is strengthening, it remains one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in the world. With low life expectancy and high infant mortality rates. Community projects in Mozambique are invaluable and make a real impact on the lives of the people here.

Your life outside the project

Whether you are based in Vilanculos or Tofo you will not be far away from a stunning beach. During evening times after work you can relax on the beautiful beach which is literally on your door step. At weekends there are plenty of things to do from Scuba Diving and sailing safaris to Bazaruto Island to deep sea fishing or horse back riding on the beach, there’s plenty to keep you occupied in your free time!

Weather

- Average Temperature: 28°C
- Wet Season: October - March
- Dry Season: April - September
- Hurricane Season: November - April
Mozambique

Marine, Whale Shark and Manta Ray Conservation including Padi Diving Course

African Marine and Wildlife Volunteer Adventure Tour
Marine, Whale Shark and Manta Ray Conservation including Padi Diving Course

The project
Volunteer in Mozambique on the Marine, Whale Shark and Manta Ray Marine Conservation Project and help with hands-on whale shark research, coral reef monitoring, humpbacked whale monitoring and turtle nest surveys. Explore one of Africa’s best scuba diving destinations with a PADI or SSI Dive Course, which is included in the project (project to decide on the course).

The Marine, Whale Shark and Manta Ray Conservation Project involves gathering field data on whale sharks, coral reefs, manta rays and other marine biodiversity to make recommendations for improving the conservation of marine life as well as creating general awareness about the marine environment. In recent months the number of whale shark sightings has dropped and it is essential that the monitoring and conservation of marine habitats and wildlife continues to try to establish the cause of this change in behaviour. The project collaborates with the a number of international marine research bodies including the Ecocean global whale shark database.

What are the benefits of volunteering
Whale sharks are the oceans biggest fish and although they are sharks, are harmless to people since they feed on plankton. Whale sharks are a threatened species and are relatively easy to monitor owing to their size (up to 20m long) and swimming next to them is an awe inspiring experience. With recent sightings having dropped, very little being known about the population dynamics and threats to whale sharks your help is needed.

The coral reefs that so much marine life is dependant on are under threat of exploitation, bleaching, alien invasive species and other ecological changes associated with tourism and other human activities. One of the components of the project is to monitor the condition of coral reefs in the Tofo area using methods based on the international reef check program. This involves doing scuba diving transects along the reefs and recording coral cover and indicator species of fish in one of Africa’s best diving destinations.

Role of the volunteer
As a volunteer on the Marine, Whale Shark and Manta Ray Conservation Project you will help carry out the marine research and monitoring activities for the project under the guidance of our project co-ordinator. You will join other volunteers on the project to collect the data via beach walks, boat surveys, swims and scuba dives off the coastline of Tofo in Mozambique. Volunteers are needed, not only to carry out the field activities, but also to help fund the project. For those of you who volunteer for 4 weeks or longer, you will have the opportunity to participate in a seahorse and biodiversity monitoring trip. You can expect an excellent diving, snorkelling and beach experience whilst gaining first hand marine research skills and contributing to a worthwhile project.

Skills required
In order to carry out these activities you will need to be a capable swimmer (swim 100m unassisted), snorkel and it would be advantageous if you are able to hold your breath to dive down. In order to carry out these activities you will need to be capable of equalising your ear pressure and willing to learn to scuba dive. A four day internationally recognized open water diving course (PADI or SSI) is provided as part of this project to train you to be able to carry out this Coral reef monitoring. If you already have this qualification you may do an advanced open water diving course instead or an equivalent number of extra research dives. Beginner divers need to volunteer for a minimum of 3 weeks to maximise their time spent on conservation volunteer activities.

Project location
You will be placed in T ofo beach, located on the eastern shores of Inhambane Peninsula and 22km outside Inhambane City. There is an array of marine life in Tofo and you may get the opportunity to see whale sharks, giant manta rays and turtles amongst the magnificent coral reefs so close to the beach, making snorkelling and scuba diving in Tofo a very popular activity.

Much of the entertainment here is based around the beautiful waters. So you can sail via Dhow safari to the Bazaruto Islands, or go deep sea fishing. During the evening time you can sample some of the beachfront seafood restaurants. The volunteer beach house is situated a 5 minute ride from the beach and local market. There are very basic shops, a few restaurants and bars and a number of beach activities available close-by.

To find out more about volunteering and the hundreds of project placements that Kaya can offer, visit www.KayaVolunteer.com or telephone 0161 870 6212 or 1.413.517.02.66.
African Marine and Wildlife Volunteer Adventure Tour

Overview

Have an incredible closeup experience traveling and seeing species in their natural habitats on this African Marine and Wildlife Volunteer Adventure Tour. You will learn about the underwater world and marine research in Mozambique and also gain an international diving qualification. In Kruger you will see the Big 5 and more such as the wild dog on a 5 day safari with field guides who share with you the challenges faced by endangered and captivating species. In Swaziland, you will experience the savanna, monitoring species such as guinea fowl, tortoises, birds of prey, bats and more. If you are studying marine biology, zoology, conservation or wildlife management or are just passionate about wildlife this tour is perfect for you. Join us for an adventure of a lifetime where you will make new friends, gain new skills and learn an incredible amount about wildlife.

Trip Itinerary

Supported by an experienced team of guides and working with qualified local experts you will get to see some of the best species that southern Africa has to offer on this incredible marine and wildlife volunteer tour. Not only will you have an amazing travel experience, you will also be able to contribute to regional wildlife conservation research and conservation efforts.

Week 1 - 4 Mozambique

Here you will gain an international diving certification and learn marine monitoring and data collection techniques. Your work will contribute to larger research initiatives. Weekends you can relax on the beach, learn to surf, go horse riding, explore the local market and more.

Week 5 - Swaziland and Kruger

In Swaziland you can participate in cultural activities and even hike the mountains or explore the valleys on quad bike or bicycle. If you need a taste of home go to the cinema or head for a local coffee shop! In Kruger you will have the opportunity to see lions, elephant, giraffes, buffalo, rhino, leopard and cheetah and meet species you have not seen before.

Week 6 - 9 Swaziland

You will spend 4 weeks camping on a nature reserve learning about the techniques and approaches to monitoring wildlife. Working alongside local interns and experts you will help clear habitats, record movements, photography species and more. You will learn about the ecosystem and the role that creatures play in the life cycle.

Project locations

Mozambique

One of Africa’s up-and-coming hot-spots, with stunning beaches, excellent diving and magical offshore islands. It’s one of Africa’s rising stars, with an upbeat atmosphere, overflowing markets and a 2500km coastline waiting to be discovered. Sunshine, blue skies and temperatures averaging between 24°C and 27°C along the coast are the norm, except during the rainy summer season from about December/January through to April when everything gets soggy and sticky, and temperatures exceed 30°C in some areas.

South Africa

In the middle of your trip, here you will embark on a 5-day, 4-night camping safari in the heart of South Africa’s Kruger National Park. This includes unlimited game drives to explore just some of the wildlife that the 20,000 km² Kruger National Park has to offer. With the help of a trained tour guide, you’ll be able to venture through the vast wilderness in search of Africa’s Big 5. From lions to elephants, rhinos, buffalos and leopards, Kruger has it all. During the tour, you will also have the opportunity to take part in either a sunset or a night drive round the park to seek out some nocturnal wildlife.

Swaziland

The smallest country in the entire southern hemisphere, but also one of the most interesting where you can be guaranteed some fun and adventure. Swaziland is a microcosm of Africa with strong traditions, vibrant cultural festivals and friendly laid-back people. It is a country of scenic beauty and huge possibility being strategically located between South Africa and Mozambique and having relatively well-developed infrastructure. If you are here in May you may be able to attend Bushfire Festival, a music and cultural festival not to be missed!

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Program Agreement Terms and Conditions

Thank you for choosing to apply for placement on a Kaya programme. We are committed to providing you with the best possible experience so you feel positive about the experience of a lifetime, which is why we have laid down the following terms and conditions. By checking the agreement of these terms and conditions you have accepted to abide by the rules laid down in this agreement. We suggest that you read the details carefully and speak to us if you require any further clarification. Please note there may be additional conditions that apply to individual placements.

Application Instructions


Upon receipt of the application and payment, successful applicants will be provided with a date of acceptance and will be allocated a Kaya project.

Refund Policy

The standard programme deposit is £180 ($315) per person, per programme. Some Kaya programmes have an additional deposit amount due to additional programme booking requirement. All deposits paid will be applied towards the total programme fee. The programme deposits are non-refundable for Participants who have been accepted into the programme. The programme deposit will be fully refundable to unsuccesful Participants. If the Participant cancels for any reason, the Participant must notify Kaya in writing. The cancellation will be effective upon receipt of the written notification by Kaya to info@kayavolunteer.com.

Temporary Programme Cancellations

If a programme as a whole is requested after your final payment deadline, the original payment deadline will remain the same, and changes will be considered on an individual basis and any changes will be subject to the administration charge of £40/70 - made payable at time of change. For project changes where the national project deposit is higher than £180, only £180 of your deposit will be transferable to your new project. Project Start and Completion Dates and What’s Included are specified on each project page of the Kaya website.

Late Payment

Total Fee Due

8 weeks prior to programme start unless otherwise specified for a particular project.

Late Payment

Payment deadlines are displayed on the website. It is important to meet these deadlines to secure your programme placement, and missing these deadlines may result in the cancellation of your placement. Where a payment extension is requested, this will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will incur a late payment fee of £35/60 and will incur a late payment fee of £35/60.

Refund Policy

By submitting this application form, the participant assumes all of these risks and agrees to accept responsibility for being adequately prepared, and to indemnify Kaya, its officers, directors and employees, for any liability that may arise in connection with participation in the Kaya Program. Kaya reserves the right to refuse any applicant or administrative actions in the event that the Participant does not meet the programme suitability, through the provision of a health certificate. This check shall be carried out from Kaya. Some placements require proof that volunteers are clear of certain medical conditions, and the Participant wishes to lodge a complaint in relation to their programme, they shall provide the coordinator with a written version on event prior to departure. If the coordinator is unable to resolve any serious complaint, they shall provide the Kaya placement advice team to escalate the issue. If the coordinator is unable to resolve any serious complaint, the Participant: Have a place maintained and paid for, until replacement can be found, which will be determined at the sole discretion of Kaya. Issues reported after the end of a programme which were not reported during the programme, giving the site team an opportunity to address the issue in question, shall not be eligible for any compensation. Participants agree that Kaya shall not be liable for damages or losses resulting from either party’s action regarding inconvenience, disappointment, or discomfort or loss of enjoyment.

Complaints

If a Participant wishes to lodge a complaint in relation to their programme, they shall provide the coordinator with a written version on event prior to departure. Issues reported after the end of a programme which were not reported during the programme, giving the site team an opportunity to address the issue in question, shall not be eligible for any compensation. Participants agree that Kaya shall not be liable for damages or losses resulting from either party’s action regarding inconvenience, disappointment, or discomfort or loss of enjoyment.

Date and Project Changes

Upon application you will receive an interview within which your programme and project dates will be finalised. We encourage you to stick to these in the plans around your participation. If you request a change in programme or start dates, and it is prior to your final payment deadline (before earlybird, but earlier for some placements) we can generally accommodate for this as there is no extra charge, subject to availability (programmes moving to the following year may be subject to programme price increases). After 2 changes have been accommodated for, any future changes made will be subject to an administration charge of £40/70 - made payable at time of change. If a programme as a whole is requested after your final payment deadline, the original payment deadline will remain the same, and changes will be considered on an individual basis and any changes will be subject to the administration charge of £40/70 - made payable at time of change. For project changes where the national project deposit is higher than £180, only £180 of your deposit will be transferable to your new project. Project Start and Completion Dates and What’s Included are specified on each project page of the Kaya website. Details shown on printed materials are subject to change. Projects prices are reviewed annually and bookings for the following year may differ from those listed. Payments may be made in GB£ or US$. We are able to provide you with a quote in either currency with an approximate conversion rate of $1.75.£1

Travel Documents and Insurance

All participants must possess a valid passport for their Kaya trip. Participants are responsible for any costs associated with visas, airport taxes, obtaining the proper travel documents for their trip, and changing flight times to accept their placement. All participants must possess valid, comprehensive health and travel insurance during the time of their programme covering risks associated with a ‘Force Majeure’ event, medical emergencies and repatriation. Details of insurance must be supplied by Kaya prior to commencement of any programme. Kaya reserves the right to refuse entry to programmes if insurance details are not supplied.

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