

Sample itinerary – 14 days - Swaziland Adventure, Incl. Hlane Safari & Canopy Tour

Day 1

Depart

After all of your planning and hard work, departure day is finally here! Excitement builds knowing the much anticipated flight is just a few hours away. Try to get some rest ahead of the life changing journey that awaits, double-check you have everything you need, say goodbye to loved ones, and head to the airport for your long awaited expedition.

You will fly to Johannesburg to start your expedition.



Day 2

Travel Day

Today you will be picked up by your prearranged transport with All Out Africa (the In-Country Agents), and begin the 4 hour drive east to Swaziland. Crossing the border at Oshoek, it is a short way down to the beautiful Ezulwini Valley - Swaziland's 'valley of heaven' - where you will set up camp at your pre booked campsite and prepare for your expedition.



The tiny kingdom of Swaziland is the smallest country in the southern hemisphere and home to Africa's last absolute monarch. Rich in culture and tradition, it has a fertile landscape and stunning areas of wilderness, whilst being small enough to comprehensively explore in a short space of time.

Before you embark on your first phase, you will receive an orientation briefing from All Out Africa about your expedition and your project.

Day 3 - 6

Project phase

The community engagement phase of your expedition will offer a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in a community, giving an insight into a rich new culture. You will most likely be based either at a Neighbourhood Care Point (NCP) or at a school.



Swaziland has been greatly affected by HIV and AIDs. As a result of the HIV epidemic, there are 180,000 AIDS orphans in Swaziland. World Challenge works closely with Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) to support the growing number of orphaned and vulnerable children in Swaziland. They are places where children can come together and access various services; receive care and support, a meal for the day and some form of education.

Your project could involve tasks such as painting, construction, refurbishment, teaching, tree planting, conservation and agricultural work but there will be numerous opportunities to get involved in other activities too - from fetching water, to learning how to make maize meal, teaching English, running sports matches and helping out around the village.



The language, daily routine, activities, facilities and cultural sensitivities will all be new and different to what you are used to. Cultural exchange works both ways and, although you are guests for a short time, you will want to share your culture with your host community. So come prepared with photos of your school, community and your families as well as songs and dance routines. Be prepared to cook a meal for the community, invite them to a sports match or host a party. This will provide an opportunity for real interaction. The more you engage the greater the reward! Spend time getting to know your host community and learn as much as you can about their way of life.

Your team's financial contribution and un-skilled labour efforts will be appreciated by your community, but at the heart of the experience is the chance to learn new skills, share an experience and make new friends. Don't get downhearted if the task seems to big - instead ask what help is needed, work with the community and do your best. The work will continue long after you have returned home.

Before



After



There will be opportunities to spend time with local children and the wider community, which you can maximise by organising fun, active and educational activities such as teaching English. Play with children is important for their health and development. So get creative!

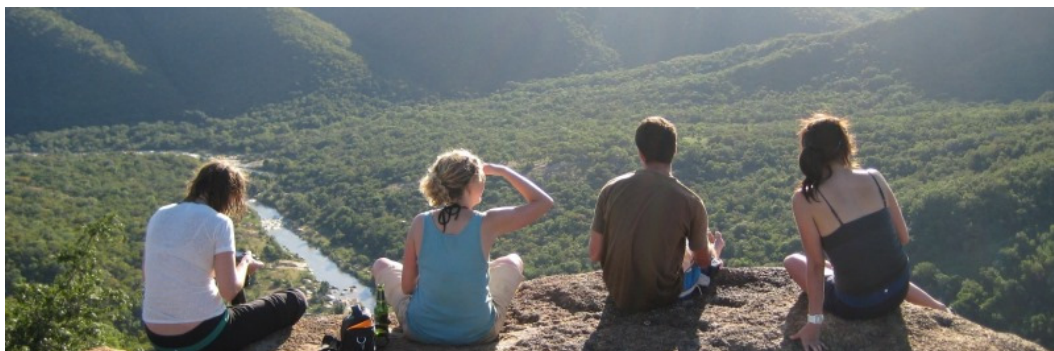
Here is a short video about an NCP Project where World Challenge teams worked in 2012 and 2013.

Day 7 - 10

Swaziland Adventure Trekking

This package comes with two trekking options that will be decided by the Expedition Planning Manager. Below are the details of each.

Trekking - Ngwempisi Gorge. This trekking phase of your expedition will be an exploration of the Ngwempisi Gorge - an impressive 500m deep rugged granite gorge in southern Swaziland.



You will wild camp for the first 2 nights and then trek to Rock Lodge which, is a spectacularly located lodge perched high above the gorge with incredible panoramic views. From here you can complete a radial day trek before heading back out of the gorge back to the road head on the final day.



Trekking – Malolotja

The Malolotja Nature Reserve is in the north-western corner of Swaziland, around 50km from the Ezulwini Valley. It's one of the most impressive areas of protected wildlife in Southern Africa and is managed by the Swaziland National Trust Commission on behalf of the Swazi King!



On arrival you'll need to discuss your pre-allocated route with the park guides. This is a great opportunity to experience Swaziland's stunning natural beauty and you'll find plenty of rugged bush land and rocky paths to explore. Whichever route you do you've a good chance of seeing herds of zebra, eland, antelope and wildebeest as you trek through the reserve. The team will spend the first night either at the camp site near the park HQ, or at the research cottage campsite (depending on your trek route) which has been pre booked by All Out Africa.



The Canopy Tour

Following either trek you will have the opportunity to take part in the Malotoja Canopy Tour. The Canopy Tour consists of 11 elevated forest platforms, 10 (zip wire) slides and a 50 metre long suspension bridge that crosses the Majolomba River. Teams usually find it best to do this on the first morning of the trek and begin their trek from the end of the tour (park transport will take you to the start point).

Day 11 – 12

Rest and relaxation - Hlane Royal National Park

Hlane Royal National Park is Swaziland's largest protected area, and home to some of Africa's most famous animals including: rhinos, lions, cheetahs, elephants, leopards and antelope.



You'll be camping at Ndlovu Camp and have the chance to take part in safari drives, village visits and guided walks over your two days here.



Day 13

Departure Day

Your African adventure has come to an end. Set off on the journey back to Johannesburg Airport. Once you've checked in you can sit back, relax and look forward to seeing your friends and family.



Why not use the flight to update your travel journal. Make sure you've captured the experience so that you can always look back on your time in Africa.

Day 14

Arrival Home

Getting off the plane back home, you've just experienced something incredible. You'll be bursting with stories and cherished moments to share with your favourite people back home – we'd love to hear them too! @weareworldchallenge



Please remember embarking on an expedition with World Challenge is not without risk. There are a number of factors to be aware of including variation in climate, the intensity and nature of the planned activities, health, personal safety, and security all of which may differ from what participants are used to. Our expeditions are not holidays, and the level of challenge should not be underestimated. The nature of travelling in the developing world is such that things don't always go according to plan and it's really important for each team to enter into their expedition expecting that things may need to change. During your itinerary you may have the opportunity to take part in approved Rest and Relaxation activities. These approved activities must be completed in accordance with World Challenge risk assessments and, unless otherwise specified in your expedition paperwork, may come at your own expense. Do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns about the nature of the expedition.