

THE  
RESPONSIBLE  
SAFARI  
COMPANY



# Passport For Life Malawi 2015





# About RSC and Malawi

## Who are we?

RSC are a Sustainable Travel Company, based in Malawi, Central Africa, specialising in Experiential Learning and Adventure Experiences to Educational and Corporate groups. Operating since 2008, 'RSC' provides expert planning and on-the-ground logistical support for School Expeditions, University Field Trips, Charity & Adventure Challenges, Donor groups, Corporate and CSR Groups as well as to Independent Travellers.

Whether visiting projects or taking part in a challenge, our core aim is to offer our visitors an insight into the 'real Malawi'.

## Why Malawi?

Malawi has recently been ranked as the poorest country in the world by The World Bank. The vast majority of the population are subsistence farmers, just 8% of Malawians have access to mainline electricity and 11% have HIV/AIDs.

Despite this, its accolade as 'The Warm Heart of Africa' couldn't be more accurate. The welcoming and hospitable culture of Malawi, the drive of so many Malawians to develop in an environmentally sustainable and responsible manner, alongside stunning landscapes from Lake Malawi to Central Africa's highest peak, makes it a destination for every traveller. Though we do admit to being more than slightly biased here at RSC, we believe there is no better place to learn, experience and be inspired. So, come and be part of something special in Malawi!

# About 'The Passport for Life'

'The Passport for Life (Pfl) Experience', has been designed to educate students on vital issues affecting the world today and is based on Future Earth's model of sustainable development and environmental conservation. It provides an all-encompassing overview of development that gives students a 'passport for life', including (though not limited to) workshops on Wildlife, Environmental Conservation, Healthcare, Education and Fair Trade.

The studies take place in an environment that is hands-on and participatory, encouraging students to actively learn and put their classroom lessons into a practical context. The experiences and knowledge gained will provide students with a passport to a wide variety of future careers alongside helping to develop the necessary skills to succeed, such as communication, adaptability and leadership. By linking groups together with on-the-ground 'agents of change' we promote transformational learning that sets students up to become successful and responsible citizens. Students will receive a certificate outlining what they have undertaken and achieved.

There is no set itinerary though we can make suggestions based on your interests, group age and size. Length of each workshop is variable and can be anything between half a day and a week. Please get in touch for more details on specific projects.

**Future Earth** is a cooperative, learning based research platform providing the knowledge and support to accelerate our transformations to a sustainable world and that collaborates with responsible companies like RSC. Click for more info on [Future Earth](#).

*'This is the creativity we need in our industry. Congratulations and wishing you success in these exciting programmes.'* Patricia Liabuba, Director of Tourism, Malawi



# Workshop Options

## Healthcare

- Learn about the health challenges Malawians face such as Malaria, Bilharzia and Malnutrition with a local NGO. Help them to raise awareness through arts projects with the community.
- Learn about the home-based care project at one of RSC's partner communities which helps locals with nutrition and sanitation issues.
- Learn about local HIV clinics, distribution of medicine and the action being taken to educate and avoid stigma of those living with HIV at a partner community of RSC.
- Learn about and visit a rural health clinic in the north of Malawi or Mulanje region.

## Education

- Learn about the logistical planning and nutritional care it takes to feed 740,000 school children every day in Malawi - and help do just that at one of their local feeding centres. Contrast this with a local operation in rural Blantyre.
- Learn about and assist efforts to turn daycare centres into educational nursery schools to give children the best start.
- Learn about efforts to use participatory and visual education methods to engage children in health issues.
- Learn about a school sponsorship programme and support the students with some peer-to-peer homework help.



# Workshop Options

## Agriculture

- Learn about sugar production, have a tour of Malawi's leading sugar producing estate, and the methods used here to ensure it is environmentally friendly, sustainable, and responsible to the people who live and work on the estate.
- Learn about a smaller, collective sugar cooperative of subsistence farmers working under a centralised irrigation system. Learn about this model and other agronomy techniques being trialed in this area.
- Learn about the coffee making process and fair trade practices.
- Learn about irrigation systems, soil erosion, soil conservation, and land use in the Lower Shire area from a leading development consultancy.
- Learn about small holding producers of tea, coffee, honey, fish and tobacco to learn about the smaller end of the production scale.

## Agriculture continued.

- Learn about deforestation on the highest mountain in Central Africa, efforts being made to stop it and replanting initiatives.
- Learn about a local effort to centralise irrigation and the co-operative farming group who work the land.
- Learn about sustainable crops, permaculture, nutrition and natural remedies at a social enterprise in Blantyre.



# Workshop Options

## Fair Trade and Sustainable Agriculture

- Learn about sugar production, have a tour of Malawi's leading sugar producing estate, and the methods used here to ensure it is environmentally friendly, sustainable, and responsible to the people who live and work on the estate.
- Learn about the fair trade process and sustainable practices used on this estate from one of the original colonial family members, how different tea is produced and put your knowledge to the test in tea tasting workshops.
- Learn about the coffee making process and fair trade practices.

## Local Economic Development

- Learn about local economic development through income generation such as paper-making, and rearing chickens.
- Learn about income generating projects at an RSC community partner, such as tailoring.
- Learn about the RSC model, why we support income generation rather than aid.

## Environment

- Learn from a local NGO on sustainable fishing practices and solutions such as Aquaculture fish ponds, fuel efficient stoves and tree planting.
- Learn about deforestation and forestry management on the highest mountain in Central Africa, and efforts being made to stop it and replanting initiatives.
- Learn about the impact of deforestation on water systems, soil erosion, soil conservation and land use in the Lower Shire area from a leading development consultancy.
- Learn about permaculture and sustainable fuel replacement at a wildlife reserve.
- Learn about a local tree saplings income generating project at an RSC community partner near Lake Malawi.



# Workshop Options

## Water and Sanitation

- Learn about irrigation systems, soil erosion and land use in the Lower Shire area from a leading development consultancy.
- Learn about deforestation on the highest mountain in Central Africa, efforts being made to stop it and replanting initiatives.
- Learn about waste management and sanitation in Blantyre with an international charity working with the government. For the strong stomached, take a toilet tour of Blantyre!
- Learn about the home-based care project at one of RSC's partner communities which helps locals with nutrition and sanitation issues.
- Learn about the Emergency response sanitation activities at an RSC community partner.

## Malawian Culture

- Learn about Malawian culture and history at a museum dedicated to preserving, recording and researching Chewa, Ngoni and Yao culture found in Malawi. Some of the best woodcarvings are found here.
- Learn about Malawian culture first hand by staying with a family at an RSC community project. Take part in their daily lives and traditions and become part of their family.
- Learn some conversational Chichewa, the local language, that will help you to get the most from your trip.
- Learn about local religious practices and attend a local church service in the north of Malawi.



# Workshop Options

## Women's Empowerment

- Learn about female banking and small business initiatives in one of our partner communities.
- Learn about health programmes targeting mothers and children, specifically centered on HIV.
- Learn about education initiatives focused on getting and keeping girls in education, rather than work and marriage.
- Learn about a female-run sewing initiative and other income generating activities run by women.
- Learn about a chicken project to empower women and create economic opportunities for them.

## Nutrition

- Learn about the logistical planning and nutritional care it takes to feed 740,000 children every day in Malawi - and help do just that at one of their local feeding centres. Contrast this with a local operation in rural Blantyre.
- Learn about the home-based care project at one of RSC's partner communities which helps locals with nutrition issues.
- Learn about sustainable crops, permaculture, nutrition and natural remedies at a social enterprise in Blantyre.

# Workshop Options



## Wildlife

- Learn about the Black Rhino and how it is being monitored and protected at one of Malawi's wildlife reserves.
- Learn about bat conservation, making trails and taking part in wildlife surveys at a wildlife reserve outside of Malawi's capital.
- Learn about running a wildlife reserve, anti-poaching methods and law enforcement and visit the waterholes to learn about conservation and relocation of wildlife.
- Learn about southern African birds, the impact of deforestation on birds and efforts being made to help the bird population. Take part in bird watches and surveys.
- Learn about endangered fish in Lake Malawi and efforts made to ensure the sustainability of fishing of these animals.

## Build project

- We can also arrange volunteering and project builds for those wanting a longer and more immersive experience. All our projects are led by the community and all build and volunteering programmes are run directly by the local Malawian managers, offering full ownership and a sustainable approach to their development.

This list is continually being extended as more organisations see the value in sharing knowledge and expertise.

If there is anything you are particularly interested in that does not appear on the list, please get in touch with [marketing@responsiblesafaricompany.com](mailto:marketing@responsiblesafaricompany.com) and we will do our best to find a suitable organisation.



# Sample Itinerary

## Day 1

Arrive into Blantyre Airport and transfer to your hotel. Evening orientation briefing over dinner.

## Day 2

Transfer to Mulanje Mountain (1 hour south of Blantyre). Spend the day learning about climate change challenges, deforestation and wildlife on the reserve (including hiking to a nearby waterfall for a refreshing swim).

## Day 3

Transfer to Thyolo (1 hour from Mulanje) for a day of intensive talks and presentations on the sustainable practices and fair trade methods of Malawi's first Fair Trade Tea Estate (and try out their huge selection of specialist teas!).

## Day 4

Transfer to Nchalo (1 hour from Thyolo) for a day of talks and presentations on the sustainable practices and Fair Trade methods of Malawi's leading sugar producer. Spend lunch at their local wildlife reserve.



# Sample Itinerary

## Day 5

Take a safari drive through Majete Wildlife Reserve with a talk on conservation activities in Malawi with a focus on deforestation, the Black Rhino and poaching.

## Day 6

Visit one of our community based organisation to volunteer in a project and take part in painting a classroom, renovating a hut or similar activities depending on the needs assessments at the time.

## Day 7

Stay with a local family and take part in their daily lives learning about their cultural, traditional and village life.

## Day 8

Transfer to Blantyre or Lilongwe for the flight home.

## Day 9

Return home knowledgeable of environmental and development challenges, and inspired to be a responsible global citizen



# RSC Community Projects

RSC works with 3 community-based organisations across Malawi, supporting them in a business-to-business partnership to run Ecotourism projects and by sending groups to visit and undertake volunteering and build projects. A number of the 'Passport for Life' workshops will take place at the Community Organisations, and there will be opportunities to take on a build project as an extension to the 'Passport for Life' itinerary. The three CBOs we work with are:

**Youth for Development and Productivity (YODEP)**, a non-profit making community based youth organisation found in Zomba. It was established in 1998 by a group of young people from the community to help address socio-economic conditions encountered by orphaned children, youth, elderly people and people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in their communities.

**Nancholi Youth Organisation (NAYO)**, situated about 5km from Blantyre NAYO works within the following areas: healthcare, education, orphan care, feeding programme, home-based care, and youth awareness. Nancholi has an approximate population of 42,000 of which 40% comprises of young people who are vibrant and vision minded when it comes to the development of their communities.

**Community Initiative for Self Reliance (CISER)**, is run by a local boat builder called Joseph. Concerned about the development of his local village and the amount of young people that finished secondary school and could not get jobs he set about forming a youth group. His aim was to occupy the young people and train them to go out into the communities and educate the local villagers in key issues such as HIV awareness and teenage pregnancies.

For more information on the specific projects linked to each organisation please see our [community project page online](#)



# Costs and Booking

Cost per person:

**\$1,750.00**

(min. number 10 pax)

*Includes:* 7 nights accommodation, 8 days private vehicle & driver, all fuel, 8 days RSC guide, RSC project support, all meals, pre & post travel links, all activities where stated, all taxes & bank fees.

*Excludes:* Return international flights, travel insurance, bar drinks, tips & items of a personal nature

For more information or to make a booking, please contact [info@responsiblesafaricompany.com](mailto:info@responsiblesafaricompany.com)

Malawi Office: +265 (0) 111 602 407

UK Office: +44 (0) 77176 88994

*\*The Responsible Safari Company is committed to ensuring the benefits of tourism reach local communities and therefore has set up a Payment for Eco-System Services Scheme which contributes 1.5% of all booking to a community environmental project in Malawi.*



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It Means To #BePartOfSomething