



International service trip opportunity

How it Works

Guided by Pam Carlson of Swazi Kids Society, we will bring your students on an experience of a life time. We will bring them into Eswatini, put them to work on a school or a local community center. They will work hard, they will sweat, they will laugh and they will leave changed. They will be, at times, emotionally drained and at others elated, sometimes all in one day. I will also keep them active, rested, well fed and most importantly, safe.



Students that I have guided have changed their career paths, gained empathy, been moved to do more for the disenfranchised at home, have their eyes opened and come back to their families changed forever. I will create for your students and school a customized program to fit the needs of your students and goals of your school.



Who would be guiding my students?

Jacaranda Journeys is the name of the travel business that has been spawned out of our work in Eswatini: Swazi Kids. You would be traveling with Jacaranda Journeys, however, the projects, experience and indeed local wisdom comes from 25 years of Swazi Kids' work in these rural areas with these students, their families, teachers and community members.



What would we be building?

Currently we are working on a secondary, elementary school and community centres in central Eswatini, in a desperately poor part of a developing country.

INCLUDED:

- **14 days on the ground**, not including travel time (add 3 days for travel)
- **all ground transportation** to/from the Johannesburg airport and throughout the 2 week stay
- **all accommodations**, all gender separated and in most cases with en-suite bathroom facilities
- **work-site preparation** in advance of your arrival, foundations down and cured, materials onsite, tools ready, inspections complete, builders ready to guide, local people ready to work alongside
- **all meals** except as noted in itinerary, including very healthy and hearty safely prepared meals served on the work site. All food allergies, sensitivities and food aversions can easily be accommodated
- **all activities**, including hikes, guides, horseback riding, visits to homesteads and orphanages
- **3 days on safari**, either in Eswatini or in Kruger National Park 2-3 days depending upon the wishes of the group leaders





Mission of Jacaranda Journeys

Our mission is to offer travelers a life altering, jaw dropping, customized, safe and wonderful trip. We aim for you to work hard, learn a lot, feel in touch with the local culture, connect with people whose lives are very far from your own, to give back and make a difference. While doing all of this, we will keep you well fed, comfortable and safe.

"Thank you for all of your work both pre, during and post Swazikids' service trip with our Brentwood Students. Your attention to every last detail created a magical and authentic experience for them. I appreciate your efforts and look forward to thanking you in person. You're a star and the impact you made of these Brentonians will last a lifetime."

*In awe, Bud Patel
Head of school for Brentwood College*



"Your attention to detail, passion to help others, empathy and flexibility helped to make this a trip of a lifetime. It was well beyond my expectations and we have you to thank for that. Your good nature and great sense of humour were an added bonus! I think I can speak for the group to say you inspired each one of us to do our best to make their lives a little bit brighter. There is so much to process about our experience at the halfway house and I hope to return one day with my daughter. Feeling very grateful for this journey and getting to know you better."

Lisa McLean



What we do to keep everyone safe and comfortable:

First off, Eswatini is a very safe country! It has never been at war, has no inherent racial issues, it has no real natural resources to exploit, as such it is a peaceful, pastoral, beautiful and safe place to visit.



For ground transportation: we hire a first world operator who purchases vehicles, maintains its' vehicles, trains drivers and insures to a first world standard. See link below to All Out Africa.



For water safety: we purchase bottled water and bottled drinks



For food safety: restaurants we visit are all highly utilized by travelers and ex-pats, food is prepared safely and in hygienic kitchens, when prepared by Jacaranda Journeys, this also applies.



Medical safety: We have guided over 170 people throughout Eswatini and South Africa, without incident. If such an unfortunate event were to occur, we are always within one hour of a first world medical facility.

Swazi Kids: swazikids.org

Hiking and parks: biggameparks.org/mlilwane take a look at activities, we will be in this park once or twice.

Ground transportation: alloutafrica.com this the company that will meet you at JNB int'l airport and transport you throughout the trip.

Our experience

We have been taking friends and families to Eswatini for 20 years, guiding about 200 people. We know the country intimately. Every place we would take your students and staff, we have been to and slept in ourselves. Every road we have driven, every establishment we have eaten it. These are now roads well traveled by Jacaranda Journeys.





Service-Safari-Hiking

Six or more days of hard work building a school, your students will be building a block of classrooms. These days will be intermixed with three days of hiking gorgeous green mountains in Eswatini and working with orphaned children in some of the most challenged communities.



We will cap off this two week adventure with three days on safari in Kruger National Park, South Africa, where your students could see: lions, leopards, cheetah, rhinos, giraffe, elephants, antelope, hippos, hyenas and much, much more.

Your students and teachers are guided by world class safari rangers and transported in open game viewing vehicles, such as Land Rovers. It is an experience of a lifetime.





"You are a dream guide/leader, I loved every portion of the trip."
Janis Chittick

What is Swazi Kids ?

Briefest history:

Swazi Kids Society has been helping children, young women and men in Eswatini , since the year 2000. We have funded 500 years of elementary, 600 years of secondary and 300 years of tertiary education. We have graduated 120 students from high school and 60 young adults from universities, colleges and trade schools.

There are two main magic aspects to our longevity and successful working formula in Eswatini . The first is that we devote more resources to fewer students. We come to know our students over time. We know their families, we know when they are in crisis and in need of extra support and we know when they are thriving. We help them as we can, and we celebrate in their successes. This, we feel is the key difference and a draw for our sponsors to become engaged in and stay with Swazi Kids.

The second difference is that the leaders within Swazi Kids travel and spend time in the country, in recent years the founder travels there for months at a time. So, we remain in constant and relevant contact with our projects and students.



For more information contact Pam Carlson, tour operator for Jacaranda Journeys and founder of Swazi Kids Society.

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