

Award winning ethical, responsible, sustainable volunteer travel



Editorial



It is with great sadness that I write about the passing of Marnie Heim-Stafford

I met and worked with Marnie her husband Jeremy and Pastor Peter in Mapoch South Africa and a more wonderful initiation into the joys of volunteering it would be impossible to find, not just because of the experience of working as a volunteer with the local community but I found out how important it is to have help and backup from local partners.

Marnie was a joy to be with, such passion, energy and commitment to her cause, I have Marnie to thank for the fact that I edit this newsletter and continue to volunteer she so inspired me how could I not!

I leave you with a quote from Marnie "I work to earn a giving not to earn a living"

Nigel Pegler

any comments and volunteer experiences welcome at newsletter@travel-peopleandplaces

NEW - we are working with The Gambia Experience - fully protected volunteer travel to The Gambia!



We are proud and excited to announce that we are now working in partnership with [The Gambia Experience](#) (GE) to offer fully ATOL protected (GE's ATOL No is 1866) volunteer travel to The Gambia.

We couldn't ask for better partners - GE is recognised for its commitment to responsible travel in The Gambia.

In 2003 The Gambia Experience was awarded 'Appointment to the Order of The Gambia', from the Gambian Government for longstanding commitment to the country within tourism. The Gambia Experience is also holder of AITO 5 star Sustainable Tourism status sustainable tourism, the highest level possible.

Volunteers will now be able to participate in our volunteer programme in The Gambia with the reassurance of having bought a fully protected package of flight, accommodation and the volunteer programme from one of the most respected travel operators in the UK.

Learn more about [The Gambia Volunteer Experience here](#).

How exciting!

how **"people and places responsible volunteering"** was born



placement director Kate
dancing with local partner
from The Gambia Adama

people and places and market leaders [The Gambia Experience](#) are working in partnership to enable people who want to volunteer The Gambia - [read more here](#).

Sallie recently wrote a piece for The Gambia Experience blog explaining how and why *people and places* was conceived - it has a lot to do with the Gambia! [here](#)

"people and places" was conceived in a garden in The Gambia – so The Gambia, and the work we do there, has a special place in our hearts. We couldn't ask for better partners to work with in our volunteer programme than The Gambia Experience; we know all at the Gambia Experience share our commitment to the warm and welcoming people of The Gambia.

Let me tell you how it all began for **people and places**... [here](#)

volunteer teachers needed – a plea from Amar Jyoti Nepal



Amar Jyoti School

While volunteers have been thinner on the ground this year, the primary school continues to make progress. Sarada and her colleagues report improved confidence and experience, thanks to the volunteers' sharing teaching methods and English language skills. Individual tin trunks in the classrooms have made the materials and teaching aids generously supported by the volunteers more accessible.

[To read more click here](#)

responsible volunteering – the devil is in the detail



Our volunteers say some lovely things about [people and places](#) ... but I'm not writing this piece as a self-congratulatory pat on the back for our professionalism ... What volunteers say about us reflects their appreciation of genuinely well-matched volunteer placements – our taking time to put the right people in the right places. My understanding of the phrase 'the devil is in the detail' is that it is often the small details which may be the most challenging part of a job.

Well – bring 'em on! I just LOVE the detail involved in preparing volunteers for placements where their skills and experience will be well-used ... of mutual benefit to volunteers as well as projects.

So, here are just a few appreciative remarks from volunteers who have worked in Africa recently: [here](#)

The Code - we think all volunteer organisations should make this important child protection commitment



We at [people and places](#) are proud and pleased to be finally supporting [The Code](#) officially.

The Code is an industry-driven initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

"The Code encourages the practice of responsible, sustainable tourism by tourism companies from around the world. By enacting responsible policies, members of The Code play an essential role in protecting children from the sexual exploitation that is particularly prevalent in this industry. In addition, The Code exists in order to inform travellers that child sex exploitation is never okay, no matter what country they visit."

[read more here](#)

people and places - volunteering is a social enterprise what does that mean?



"Social enterprises are businesses that trade to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances, or the environment. They make their money from selling goods and services in the open market, but they reinvest their profits back into the business or the local community. And so when they profit, society profits."

to read more click [here](#)

above and beyond - volunteer Michael celebrates his 50th year in style!



to read how [click here](#)

volunteers your project needs you

we love it when volunteers say nice things about us – seriously any previous volunteers who would be prepared to write reviews – it really really helps our profile – a huge thankyou to all who have taken the time to write reviews so far – please contact Kate if you are prepared to help us and she will explain where you can post.

These are our favourite sites ... so far ... you may know of others where reviews are genuine and trustworthy.

[Volunteer Forever](#) – and [Go Overseas](#)

But – and there is always a 'but' – the more reviews an organisation has, the more visible that organisation is on the website. Hence our earnest plea for volunteers to PLEASE write something about your trip.

Farewell Marnie – go well

Marnie died on Sunday 12 May 2013.

Marnie was our local partner in Gauteng South Africa -together with her husband Jeremy she worked closely with the Ndbele community in Mapoch - she loved and was loved by that community. It was a source of great sadness to her that her fight with cancer meant she had to stop working with us on the volunteer programme which supported the community that had become a second home to her.

We at people and places have great memories of working with Marnie - so here are a few - if you have a photo you would like to add to these please send it to sallie@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk - and we will add it [to this post](#).



Meet the people and places team [here](#)



volunteer Therese introduces Emmanuel community HIV project



A slide show from Therese who recently volunteered at Emmanuel Community click on the photo to take a look

For more information about this community health care project in South Africa [take a look here](#)

click on a picture to watch a video



What a way to say goodbye



Marvin talks about his time volunteering in The Gambia

volunteer videos and so much more, don` t miss all the great volunteer video interviews and stories

If you haven` t already spotted our YouTube channel it` s worth a look. There are video interviews from volunteers and if you have videos of your time volunteering or one of the talks you have done – we know many of you talk to groups on your return from volunteering – please send them to us so we can share them.

[Take a look at YouTube videos here](#)

[Take a look here at slideshare for slide shows from volunteers](#) – again if you have a slide show to share please do send it to us thanks so much to all the volunteers who have contributed to date.

Remember we are on facebook too - [follow us here](#) – in the blog and on facebook are where we tend to post our latest news.

If you like beautiful pictures and funny visuals we are also on [pinterest – follow us here](#)

and finally we are tweeting too – [follow us here](#)

phew – so there` s lots of info out there from us – please follow us where ever you choose.

Remember if you want notifications when a new story is posted on the blog you will need to register up in the top left hand corner

