

**NZULEZO STILT VILLAGE, JUNGLES
& WATERFALLS WEEKEND TRIP**

WEEKEND OVERVIEW

Explore the diversity of Ghana's landscapes by spending time at a unique stilt village, walking through the dense rainforests in search of wildlife and staying at a hotel right on the beach (where nesting turtles frequent!) with swimming pool. Not only this, but you'll learn about Ghana's history and local traditions with many planned activities.

One of the main highlights is jumping onboard a local canoe as you head off through the mangroves towards Nzulezo Stilt Village – where en route you may see monkeys, crocodiles and even marine turtles. Rising out of Tandane Lake, you will walk along the boardwalks, stopping off at the community hall, church, shop and local bar. You will be able to spend time in the village, getting to know the 500 or so locals and see how they live.

Another major part of the weekend trip is to head into the dense Ankasa Rainforest. You will learn all about Ghana's only protected wildlife zone, which is home to varied fauna and flora as well as some exotic wildlife. Everyone will jump into for a swim under a waterfall within the jungle as well.

Each night will offer some exciting activities, based right on the beach at the accommodation where you will be staying.

During the sea turtle nesting season (October to May), you will be able to head off on a night beach patrol with a local guide in search of any nesting turtles coming ashore to nest. There is no experience that compares to seeing a large sea turtle right next to you!

You will also be able to learn to play the drums and dance like a local, with a traditional cultural session arranged to take place right on the beach around a bonfire.

On top of everything mentioned, you will also go

on a guided tour around Fort Apollonia to learn about the history of the fort as well as learn about local palm wine tapping – and maybe even try some yourself.

Our structured weekend trips will ensure you get the most out of your time and a member of our local team will accompany you throughout.

Each trip leaves on a Friday afternoon and returns on the Sunday evening. The cost to take part in the trip is just **£159 / \$239 per person**.

The following are included within the weekend trip fee:

- Transport throughout the whole trip
- Accommodation
- 3 meals per day
- Entrance tickets
- Sea turtle patrol
- Drumming and dancing session

START DATES

We will be running the Nzulezo Stilt Village and Wildlife weekend trip on the following dates:

26th January 2024 – 28th January 2024
23rd February 2024 – 25th February 2024
22nd March 2024 – 24th March 2024
26th April 2024 – 28th April 2024
24th May 2024 – 26th May 2024
21st June 2024 – 23rd June 2024
26th July 2024 – 28th July 2024
23rd August 2024 – 25th August 2024
27th September 2024 – 29th September 2024
25th October 2024 – 27th October 2024
22nd November 2024 – 24th November 2024
27th December 2024 – 29th December 2024

24th January 2025 – 26th January 2025
21st February 2025 – 23rd February 2025
21st March 2025 – 23rd March 2025
25th April 2025 – 27th April 2025
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24th October 2025 – 26th October 2025
21st November 2025 – 23rd November 2025
26th December 2025 – 28th December 2025

Additional start dates can be added if there are at least 4 participants looking to take part. Please feel free to ask within the TMR Ghana Facebook group to find other interested volunteers.

BOOKING YOUR PLACE

You can simply add this weekend trip when applying for any programme in Ghana under 'Optional Extras'.

If you have already signed up for one of our volunteer programmes in Ghana and would like to add this weekend, you can simply request this within your My Trip account.

Places on our weekend trips are non-refundable and non-transferable between volunteers.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 – TRAVELLING TO BEYIN, FORT APOLLONIA & SEA TURTLES

After your volunteering placement ends for the day, you will board the bus or private car to start the journey west to Beyin – around 2 hours.

Just before we arrive at our accommodation, we will stop off at Fort Apollonia. You will learn all about the history of the fort with a quick-guided tour. Named by a Portuguese explorer, the fort was used as a main trade post for slaves and most recently was bombarded by a British gun ship in 1873.

Afterwards, we will make the short trip to our accommodation, right on Beyin Beach! The

rest of the afternoon is free for you to enjoy the beach and watch the sunset.

As darkness falls, you will make your way along the nearby beaches with a local guide in search of nesting sea turtles.

During the peak-nesting season (October to May), you may stumble across a large sea turtle coming ashore to lay her eggs. Believe us when we say this is an experience like no other!

DAY 2 – NZULEZO STILT VILLAGE & DRUMMING

After a delicious breakfast right on the beach, we will head North to Nzulezo Stilt Village – a UNESCO World Heritage site.

One of the major highlights of the stilt village is actually the journey to get there! You will drive down an unpaved road, walk along the board walk and then hop onboard a traditional canoe.

The village is part of the Amasuri Wetland and the hour or so canoe ride will see you pass through narrow, lush channels, open plains and finally the wide expanse of Amasuri Lake.

The village consists of stilt-supported structures that seem to integrate seamlessly within the water dominated landscape.

There is one long pier called Main Street by the locals, with buildings constructed on either side. On one side of the street you will find the houses and on the other, many small shops and businesses.

As you head on a tour around the village, you will stop at the community hall, church, school and the pub.

You will get to learn all about how the 500 or so locals live here, as well as have plenty of time to enjoy a unique shopping trip or drink with the locals.



After a fascinating couple of hours, you will start making the way back to the beachside accommodation.

The action packed day is not over just yet! After an hour or two relaxing back on the beach at the accommodation and as the sun starts to set, we will have a traditional drumming and dancing cultural session.

Everyone will gather around the bonfire to enjoy the atmosphere and if you're feeling brave enough, even have a go yourself – the perfect way to end the day.

DAY 3 – ANKASA RAINFOREST & WATERFALLS

Today we will see another side to Ghana, some tropical rainforests! Ankasa Rainforest is found in south-western Ghana close to the border of Ivory Coast. The park occupies an estimated 509sq km of tropical rain forests, savannah grasslands and woodlands.

The extensive network of smaller streams and rivers supports a variety of plants, trees and several species of wildlife living in the riparian forests.

As you head on a guided walk around the rainforest, you will get to see some of the 800 species of plant and if lucky some wildlife that call the forest home. Although it is rumoured that elephants, bongos, monkeys and more roam the forest, these have not been seen for some time!

However, there are over 200 bird species and many monkeys that you will hopefully get to see as you trek through the jungle.

Depending on the route taken while there, you may get to enjoy seeing the bamboo cathedral

and rapids and the Tieghemella tree – one of the tallest trees in West Africa.

After an exciting (and hot!) few hours in the rainforest, we will stop off at some waterfalls to relax and go for a refreshing dip! After having a swim, everyone will start the journey back to Busua – just in time for dinner.

ACCOMMODATION

Throughout the weekend trip you will be staying right on Beyin Beach, where you can wake up to the waves crashing down in front of your feet.

The accommodation is called Vision Resort, which offers a swimming pool, the perfect place for everyone to gather in the evening to relax and have fun.

You will get to enjoy your time with other tourists, locals and volunteers on the beach, as everyone comes together each night to talk and party around the bonfire.

MEALS

You will be provided with three meals a day that will consist of many continental and local items such as omelettes, burgers and fish. Meals will be served at local restaurants or at the hotel you are staying at.

TRANSPORT

Where possible, transport will be provided by private car or minibus. There may also be times when taxis and public coaches are utilised. One of our local team members will accompany you throughout the trip.

If you want to take part on this amazing trip and the dates fall on your last weekend in Ghana, then you can still take part! Please



arrange your return flight from Ghana for the evening on Sunday or Monday to ensure you have sufficient time to get to the airport.

