

The Swaziland Experience

BeAT

Buckwood education And Travel
(Photos taken from the 2017 trip)

philanthropy // a desire to improve the material welfare of humanity, especially through charitable activities 2. LOVE FOR ALL HUMANITY for, or benevolence towards, the mankind (formal) [Early 17thC. Via la





WORK HARD TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY-BUCKSWOOD PRINCIPAL
By Misoa Mkhali
Mkhali
BUCKSWOOD Principal Gibe Suttan has urged children in the country to work hard to ensure that Swaziland is well developed. Suttan and his wife, Victoria, visited the school in the Lubombo region, where they met students of the Buckswood 2017 project. The group of visitors to the school's project was Prince Sakhosho, who was joined by Precious Makhosi, Mwenzi, and Lando, Government staff and administration who joined the group.
GUESTS: Buckswood Principal Gibe Suttan and Mwenzi at Sultane Primary School in the Lubombo region of the Buckswood 2017 project. (Courtesy PFI)
ARTISTIC: Cassia from Kazakhstan was pictured painting at the school.

Sorting out the water pipes in the school

A group shot at the famous waterfall

Buckswood gift a bike to make the 7 mile trip to school better

Little and large

Meeting His Majesty

Painting the classroom

Making friends

Rations arriving from Government HQ

Helping at lunchtime

Buckswood Hearts and Smiles project

Children learning what it's like to have long hair

At the sugar factory

Aboard the A380

Hard at work in the garden

Changing planes

Helping at the local feeding centre

Put to work on the A380

Learning to sew

Providing food for the less fortunate

Water

White water rafting

Safari

Buckswood Lodge

In the hospital

Shabby Shirt, head of security

Learning to dance

Practical questions

Each year we take 20 – 30 young adventures to the little Kingdom of Swaziland, Africa to experience a world so different from our own.

If you have a little pot of money to invest in your child – this is the one trip that you should invest in, as this is truly an investment in your child's broader education.

It is the trip of a lifetime! We do not visit as tourists looking in on the less fortunate, as this trip is about getting your hands dirty and getting stuck in. We join a school (a different one each year) and learn with them and about them – and in turn they learn about us. One of the most rewarding things is to watch children learn from each other. Our children will teach lessons, fix and decorate classrooms, fix windows, plant gardens and provide water to our host school. In return, the Swazi children welcome us into their school and teach us about their culture (which includes a lot of dancing!). They show us where they live and how they live, and through this, our children can see and learn what it is like to live in poverty. The days are long and dry but at the end of the day we can return to our lodge and 'chillax' and discuss what we have seen and done. On many occasions we have become involved in local and some national events and situations. The trip can be a bit of an emotional rollercoaster, as we purposely go and see the very poor and needy in their grass huts, as well as visiting HIV/AIDS hospitals, but as we visit, we see, we touch, we ask questions and we give. Our giving is not out of pity or charity; it is out of thanks for letting us share the experience with our students. We offer hope, but that hope may be in the form of short-term relief by providing food and clothing. In the long-term, we want our students to be able to reflect upon these experiences and act upon what they have learnt in preparation for when they become the CEOs of the future.

As well as working, we spend a bit of time as tourists visiting local places of interest, the cultural village, the game park to see the lions and elephants, the sugar factory to learn about local industry where we cut sugar cane and follow the process to the sugar we put on our morning cereals! We have also, over the years, been very fortunate to meet the King of Swaziland and members of his family.

Each student has the opportunity to use this experience as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Diamond Award Challenge.

Naturally, the most important thing that we are there for is the sheer experience that your child will get out of helping others less fortunate than themselves and making new friends for life.

Each and every child that I have taken has returned a 'changed' person, having grown up; having matured (if you would like another parent's opinion then do ask for contact details).

Giles Sutton, Headmaster

Where do you stay?

Buckswood owns its own lodge (house) that can accommodate 30 students and staff. All rooms are en-suite. It is located on the top of a hill overlooking the beautiful plains of Swaziland

What about food and laundry?

The house is fully staffed with a chef, cleaners and laundry staff. The chef is fantastic and the food is very fresh. There is a fantastic supermarket in the town (and in case of emergencies there is a pizza oven which proves a really fun activity for all).

Is it secure?

The house has 24-hour security and as we are guests of His Majesty, while we are in the Kingdom, we are always given a police escort wherever we go. I have never felt unsafe in the Kingdom and I am more than happy for the students to walk around the local town freely. The school name is well respected in the Kingdom.

Is there internet connectivity & phone signal there?

Yes and no! We have a phone at the house and there is internet, but we do not have the internet on while there. Phone usage is limited. We prefer to leave all of the technology behind and just enjoy the experience. Sitting around the fire in the evening chatting is much more fun than playing on iphones!

What is included in the cost?

Transfers	Flights
Accommodation and food	Entrance fees

How much pocket money should they bring?

As little as possible so that they appreciate what it is to live comfortably but basically. £10-15 a day. However there is a cash machine in the town.

What is included in the program?

Each year we try always to include the following standard activities, but we are in the middle of Africa so the programme can be a little flexible, as one never knows what is around the corner!

However, we include the following as standard:

Royal Game Park	Cultural Village
Glass factory	Candle factory
The Royal Swazi Sugar Corp visit	
The Good Shepherd Hospital	
Swazi Trials adventure experience	

Who can join the trip?

The trip is open to those in Form 3 and above, and preferably those returning to the school the following year so that they can keep the project alive and sustainable.

How do we apply?

Please email admin@buckswood.co.uk before the end of October.

FOR MORE DETAILS
go to www.buckswood.co.uk/charity

The journey and adventure has 4 main aims:

- * Personal achievement
- * To learn about a different culture
- * To provide water and a garden to a community
- * To remind ourselves of the importance of humility