



## Voluncations: Giving back while on vacation in Mozambique

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One of the latest trends in travel is the dawn of the voluncaton (or volunteer vacation) where people can explore an area's surroundings while [giving back to the local community](#). These types of trips are popping up everywhere around the world, but are especially popular in the Caribbean, Africa, and developing nations in Latin America.

Natural disasters like hurricane Katrina, the earthquake in Haiti, and the recent earthquake in Japan spur peoples' sense of community and gratitude driving them to seek out this type of experience whether traveling alone or with their family. Hotel companies like Ritz-Carlton and Shangri-La even organize one-day programs for their guests to make it easy.

[Extraordinary Journeys](#) has created a host of itineraries that make it easy for travel "do-gooders" to combine the best of the world's unique destinations with pre-organized opportunities to engage with locals. This is often the most difficult part of organizing a voluncation since people often want to help a local organization, but do not know the best way to reach out to them. Extraordinary Journeys, a travel provider of luxury safaris and honeymoon getaways, has solved that difficulty for travelers to places like Malawi, Mozambique, Kenya, Namibia, Madagascar, and Zambia (many of which are among the world's poorest nations).

Sparkling beachfronts, swaying palm trees, and delicious seafood are all a part of these countries' mystique, but the friendly people are what visitors often remember the most. Take Mozambique, for example. A popular ten-day kayak safari through the beautiful Quirimbas island archipelago combines all of the above into one amazing adventure where people can explore their surroundings, relax, and help locals all at the same time.

EJ Africa's organized Mozambique trip begins with a few days of relaxation at a gorgeous island lodge to help visitors get acclimated to the time zone. Activities include snorkeling through coral reefs, bird watching, and nature walks. Guests travel between the islands by kayak (so pack light!) and have the opportunity to engage in community projects at each stop. Popular village tours allow interaction with locals while experiencing their daily way of life. Imagine being a part of a local soccer match with area kids or chatting with local fishermen about their business. These types of experiences are unmatched and help visitors to truly connect with a local destination. It's like a living museum where visitors actually interact with and understand first-hand the country.

One of the most popular stops along the way is the Guludo Beach Lodge, which has partnered in a big way with the community to help relieve poverty in the area through its sustainable tourism. The “pay it forward” attitude begins before guests arrive as they encouraged to host a fundraising event in their own home town for the village. Many people bring gifts for the villagers from their city to share and buy local Mozambican crafts to take back to their friends and family. Not only does this help the local economy, but it creates a conversation point for guests to interact with locals.

“Voluncations” take the guilt out of planning an exotic getaway especially at a time when the economic downturn has almost made it taboo to overindulge on the trip of a lifetime. EJ Africa is one of many companies that understands the need for creating lasting memories that go beyond simple snapshots of a monument or tour bus ride. Extraordinary Journeys is one of the region’s best facilitators for connecting tourists with locals in a safe, reliable, and meaningful way. This is the perfect eye-opening experience for families and couples who are searching for a unique way to spice up their travel plans.



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