

people and places

offering a service of integrity to thinking people - people who want to use their skills and experience to make a difference and know **where** and **how** their money is spent



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RESPONSIBLE TOURISM AWARDS

Justin Francis

Director, Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards

people and places is a new style of volunteering organisation that seeks to address the current issues in the volunteering sector. It offers a high degree of transparency in terms of where volunteer money is going. In addition, all the projects are driven by a real local need and there is a systematic approach to gaining feedback from the local communities. All these things are essential for 'responsible' volunteering.

A few years ago three travellers met by chance in a Gambian garden. Professor Harold Goodwin, Sallie Grayson and Kate Stefanko were there for different, yet related, reasons - Harold was advising the government on its national tourism guidelines; Sallie was using her business skills in a volunteer placement; Kate was designing a holiday for a newspaper readers' offer.

Discussions rapidly centred on volunteer travel, with one overwhelming and recurring theme - how to address the extant chasm between the marketing and the reality of so many volunteer offers.

The initial idea was to 'name & shame' through targeted campaigning, but then there was a better idea - to achieve a positive and long-term change, a new model for ethical volunteering was needed, whereby all parties would be best-served. It was decided that a community driven, responsible and transparent model could and would work.

Thus, in the winter of 2005, **people and places** was born, and the first volunteer was placed in April 2006.



*truly accountable,
ethical, responsible,
sustainable
volunteer travel*

“Responsible
volunteers do it
with respect”

Harold Goodwin
Professor of Responsible
Tourism Management

we **customise** each and every
placement - matching **volunteer
skills** to local **community needs**

placements are **worthwhile** and
safe experiences - both for
communities and for volunteers

volunteers work **with** local people
not instead of them

volunteers are **not subsidised** by
economically poor communities

we provide **unique
economic transparency**

**rewarding, challenging
and safe experiences
for volunteers and
local people alike ...**

*your skills teamed
with our integrity
WILL make a
difference*

**... where at least
80% of volunteers'
funds are spent in
the host country**



we are

looking for

some skills we need now ... in Africa and Asia

gardeners and growers

business and IT professionals

health practitioners

media and marketing skills

builders and craftspeople

counsellors and social workers

life skills

educators and trainers

administration and accountancy skills

talk with us about your skills

from a retired teacher age 79 to a computer whizz age 21

our volunteers are using their experience and skills

communities NEED you!



questions to ask ... of **any** volunteer organisation ...

what does the work involve?

who decides what I'll be doing?

who runs the projects?

is there support?

how is my money spent?

can I talk with previous volunteers?

is there any continuity?

can I talk with local people before I go?

... we'll give you **full** and **honest** answers!

your skills will be individually matched to the community's needs

you - in discussion with the local management team and community

local people

24/7 locally and in the UK - from registration to return

you receive a full explanation of how and where it is spent

of course - we expect you to, and we encourage it!

yes - we never match volunteers unless we are sure

of course - we expect you to, and we encourage it!

people and places

**Highly Commended, "Best Volunteering Organisation"
Responsible Tourism Awards**

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what people say about us

We've been impressed with the organisation, honesty and integrity of your programme, both in the U.K. and in South Africa. We particularly appreciate all the planning that has gone into making our time in the school valuable to the teachers and principal (and of course, ultimately the learners).

the Kugler family, volunteers

It's very difficult to put into words how significant the volunteer programme is. The community has seen positive changes and thanks you for the contribution that volunteers are making to our rural community.

Peter Mabasa, village elder

Our family feels a strong connection with the friends that we made there. Your travel service is really wonderful for connecting people from all over the world!

Mike, volunteer

*One organisation that works tirelessly to match volunteers with a suitable placement is **people and places** .. offers a bespoke service for responsible volunteering ..*

Oryx Magazine

... the most worthwhile projects originate within the destination where the local people have sought out specific help ... the best organisations focus on the environmental and developmental benefits of their work rather than on providing volunteers with a glorified holiday in the sun.

Richard Hammond, recommending people and places in The Guardian

Thank you, thank you and good luck. You are enabling incredible work and development in communities and in the hearts of people who travel there.

Danielle, volunteer

*We are part of a global community and we all need to help and learn from each other ... **people and places** enables us to do that.*

Nigel, volunteer



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