Passport for Life

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

— Nelson Mandela

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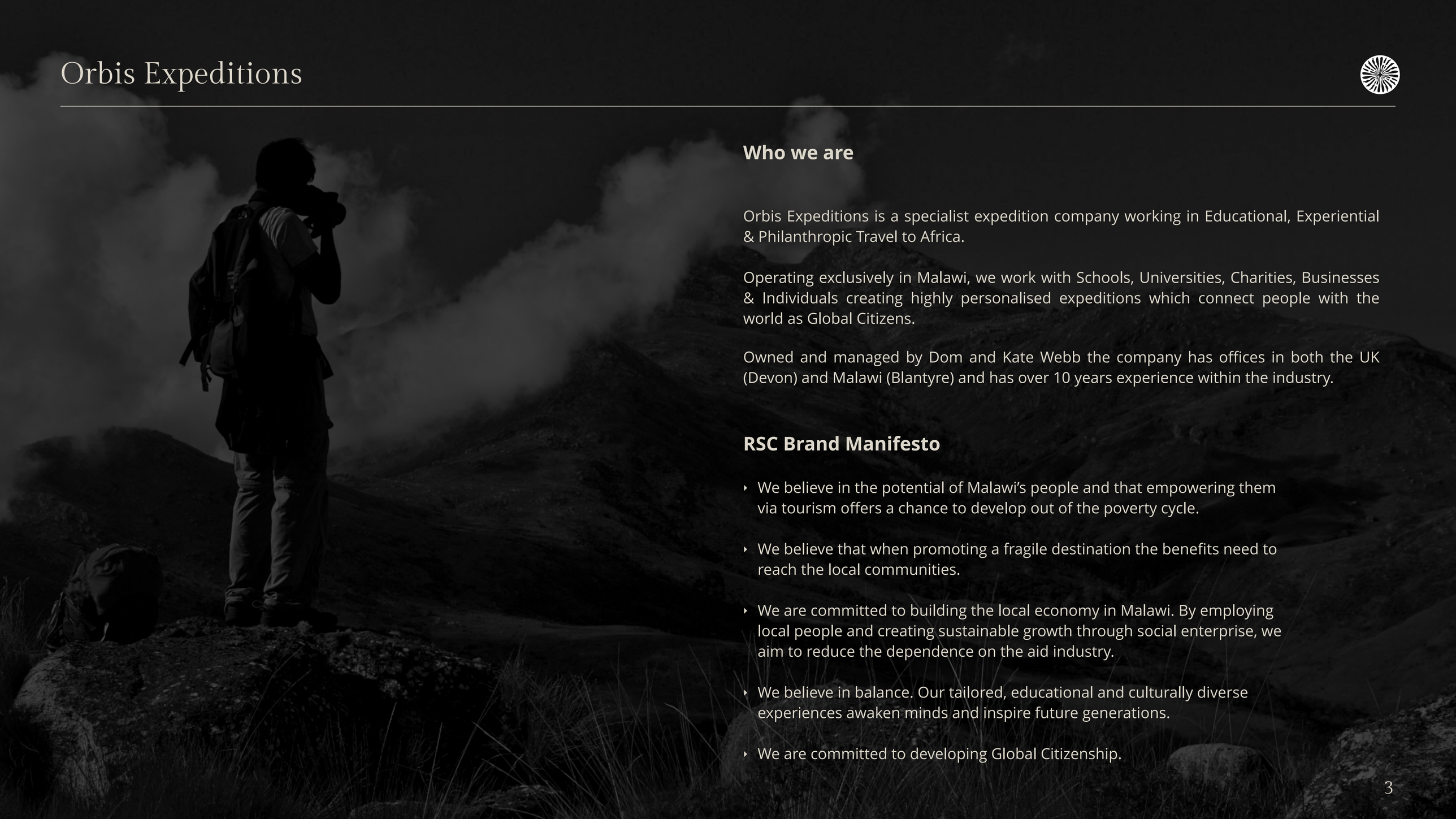
Orbis Expeditions



Who we are

Orbis Expeditions is a specialist expedition company working in Educational, Experiential & Philanthropic Travel to Africa.

Operating exclusively in Malawi, we work with Schools, Universities, Charities, Businesses & Individuals creating highly personalised expeditions which connect people with the world as Global Citizens.

Owned and managed by Dom and Kate Webb the company has offices in both the UK (Devon) and Malawi (Blantyre) and has over 10 years experience within the industry.

RSC Brand Manifesto

- We believe in the potential of Malawi's people and that empowering them via tourism offers a chance to develop out of the poverty cycle.
- We believe that when promoting a fragile destination the benefits need to reach the local communities.
- We are committed to building the local economy in Malawi. By employing local people and creating sustainable growth through social enterprise, we aim to reduce the dependence on the aid industry.
- We believe in balance. Our tailored, educational and culturally diverse experiences awaken minds and inspire future generations.
- We are committed to developing Global Citizenship.

Destination: Malawi

Overview

Malawi is Africa at its purest, offering unique and extraordinary travels. From its undulating mountains to the shores of its stunning lake, that Malawi has traditionally been overlooked as a mainstream destination means that you will find hidden gems at every turn. Supporting a diversity of landscapes, ecosystems and famously friendly people, Malawi has the well deserved title as ‘The Warm Heart of Africa’.

Educational Group Travel

A peaceful, welcoming slice of Africa, Malawi is ideal for group travel and taking on an adventure challenge. The country boasts a wide diversity of landscape, offering multi disciplinary challenge itineraries from hiking, cycling and kayaking on Lake Malawi to rural communities rich in cultural heritage, offering a real glimpse of behind the scenes Africa. Malawi is the home of our company and all our local guides and international Management will be with you every step of the way.

Population:
16,700,000 (UN 2014)

Size:
118,480 km

Average Annual Income
(per capita):
$314.5 per annum (UN 2013)

Life Expectancy:
61 years (World Bank 2013)

Religion:
Christian 82%,
Muslim 13.9%,
Other 1.9%, None 2.5%

Rated Africa’s
happiest country!

"This was without doubt the best school trip I have been on (averaging 1 per year over 29 years)!"

Group Teacher
Kingussie School Group

Passport For Life

Overview:
The Passport for Life Experience has been designed to help educate students on vital issues affecting the world today, prior to taking their place as global citizens.

Our programmes provide an all-encompassing overview of development, encouraging students to actively learn and develop life-skills including communication, adaptability and leadership. By linking groups together with on-the-ground 'agents of change', we're able to dissipate myths, widen horizons and promote transformational learning that sets students up to become successful and responsible citizens in today's widening society.

How we achieve this:
- Each Trip is tailor made to work for your group. Our consultants work with you from the outset to ensure your itinerary suits your groups interests, objectives, budget and time frame.
- Our local guides accompany every Trip, enhancing the students immersive learning experience, providing support throughout your time in Malawi and becoming an integral part of the group.
- Each Workshop/Group activity takes place in an environment which is hands-on and participatory. Based in Malawi, we have the local knowledge and links to match groups to inspirational community initiatives that promote sustainability and transformational learning for the students and community participants involved.

Objective:
- To provide students with practical examples of global development challenges offering maximum learning potential and as much hands on experience as possible.

Our links with Local Community Partners.
Our ground partner has been based in Malawi for over 8 years and have linked with community organisations, partner schools and charities to offer sustainable immersive learning experiences.

"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn..."

Benjamin Franklin

Expedition Objectives

Education

- Gain a basic understanding of the key developmental challenges facing rural communities in Malawi.
- Develop an understanding of cultural identity and how this influences sustainable development.
- Possess the skills and confidence to teach others about global sustainability issues.

Outside The Classroom

- Kayak to a Robinson Crusoe Island on Lake Malawi
- Wildlife safari, rising at dawn to track protected black rhinos.
- Experience Malawian culture and cuisine on a homestay initiative.
- Build lifelong cross cultural connections with your local guide.

Experiential Learning

Widens horizons and promotes transformational learning, leading to improved skills such as communication, adaptability and leadership.

THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

We support #GlobalGoals in Malawi.

Goal 8
Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

How can my school get involved in Malawi

Partner a Malawian School

Aim: To form long lasting links with a partner Malawian school.

Benefits:

- Annual or Biennial School Visits
- Cross Cultural Links
- Pre Travel and Post Travel Correspondence

Village Youth Community Project

Aim: To immerse students in village life and development activities.

Benefits:

- Cross Cultural friendships with inspiring youth members.
- Immersive learning village environment.

Global Development Workshops

Aim: To take part in workshops on global development challenges.

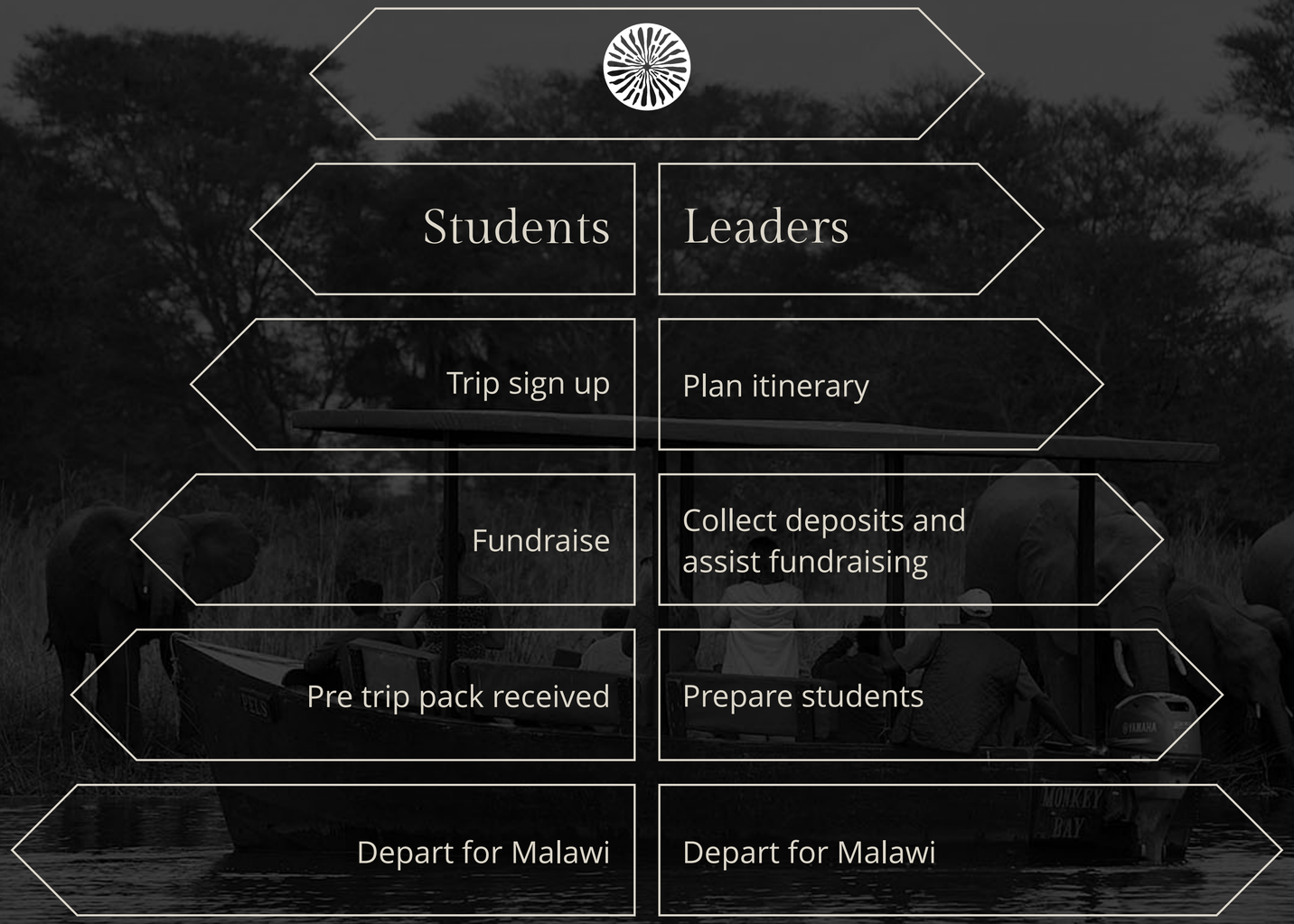
Benefits:

- Engage in an overview of global development challenges
- Cross Curricular Study Links
- Variety of locations and projects.

"On behalf of the Royal Holloway Geography Society, thank you so much for providing us with such an amazing experience which will not be forgotten by any of us students who went!"

Royal Holloway University

How it works…


Students
Leaders
Trip sign up
Plan itinerary
Fundraise
Collect deposits and assist fundraising
Pre trip pack received
Prepare students
Depart for Malawi
Depart for Malawi

School Trips to Malawi

All our trips are tailored to each group. Please see the below examples of what your school can get involved with in Malawi.

Local School Partnerships

Aim
For schools to partner with a local Malawian school and create long lasting links for future years. To offer cross cultural and cross curriculum opportunities for students and teachers.

How can we link with a local Malawian school?

- We can help you find a partner school from within our linked communities or we can put you in touch with our school organisation that can match your school.
- We can arrange for teachers to visit Malawi on a recce trip to meet your school or arrange for an interactive Skype meeting.

What activities will we do with our partner school?

- Curriculum Links and Teaching: Students can take part in lessons, assist teachers, create resources.
- Sports and Drama: After school sports and drama activities can be arrange to help students bond with their fellow pupils.
- Building and Renovating: We can support basic building and renovating projects at your linked school.

What support will we have when we are there?

- We're based in Malawi and offer 24 hr support to visiting school groups.
- A trained local guide will be with your group every step of the way.
- We have international insurance policies and offer specially designed evacuation cover.

How can we stay in touch with our partner school?

- Our home is Malawi. We will help you stay in contact with your school once you return home. We can facilitate further support, future trips, and encourage students to stay in contact through social media and Internet Skype sessions.
- **92% of school travelling with us return for future trips to visit their partner schools.**

Kingussie High School (KHS)

"18 pupils and 3 staff journeyed from Kingussie High School to Malawi. During the trip we visited our partner school, Muloza Community Day School and experienced their school day. We spent a good amount of time joining in classes and helping them to expand their knowledge of English. Part of our work while we were there was to help with a Sustainability project which both KHS and Muloza Community Day School have been working on over the past year. Throughout the day we organised several sports games and different activities that the pupils could take part in."

In 2017 KHS will travel to Malawi for their 4th visit to their partner school.

Local School Partnerships — Sample Itinerary

Day 1

Your first day in Malawi. Meet your Guide and travel to your linked school. A welcome reception will kick start your experience and you will join the school in singing and dancing to celebrate your arrival- Malawi style! Spend the day acclimatising at the school and meeting the teachers and pupils. Accommodation is in a nearby hostel (BB)

Day 2

Arrive at the school after breakfast and get started on your planned activities. Assist the teachers with their lessons, run drama and craft workshops, take part in afternoon activities. Return to your hostel for supper with your RSC Guide. (BB)

Day 3

School Based Activities.

- Assistant Teaching
- Playing Sport
- Drama and Art

Day 4

School Based Activities.

- Assistant Teaching
- Playing Sport
- Drama and Art

Day 5

School Based Activities.

- Assistant Teaching
- Playing Sport
- Drama and Art

Day 6

School Based Activities.

- Assistant Teaching
- Playing Sport
- Drama and Art

Day 7

Travel to Liwonde National Park for a day safari on the Shire River & in 4x4 vehicles. After your safari you will drive on to Lake Malawi arriving in the late afternoon. Spend the evening on the Lake of Stars with supper on the beach. (BB)

Local School Partnerships — Sample Itinerary

Day 8

A day spent on the shores of Lake Malawi. Chill on the beach in a hammock, or head out on a boat trip or kayak to a nearby island for a picnic lunch. Life on Lake Malawi moves a little slower and is ideal for some much needed rest and relaxation whilst soaking up the local culture (BB)

Day 9

Arrive back at your linked school and continue your prepared activities. A fun afternoon activity might be a mini olympics competition- a great way to get the whole school involved!

Day 10

School Based Activities.

- Assistant Teaching
- Playing Sport
- Drama and Art

Day 11

School Based Activities.

- Assistant Teaching
- Playing Sport
- Drama and Art

Day 12

School Based Activities.

- Assistant Teaching
- Playing Sport
- Drama and Art

Day 13

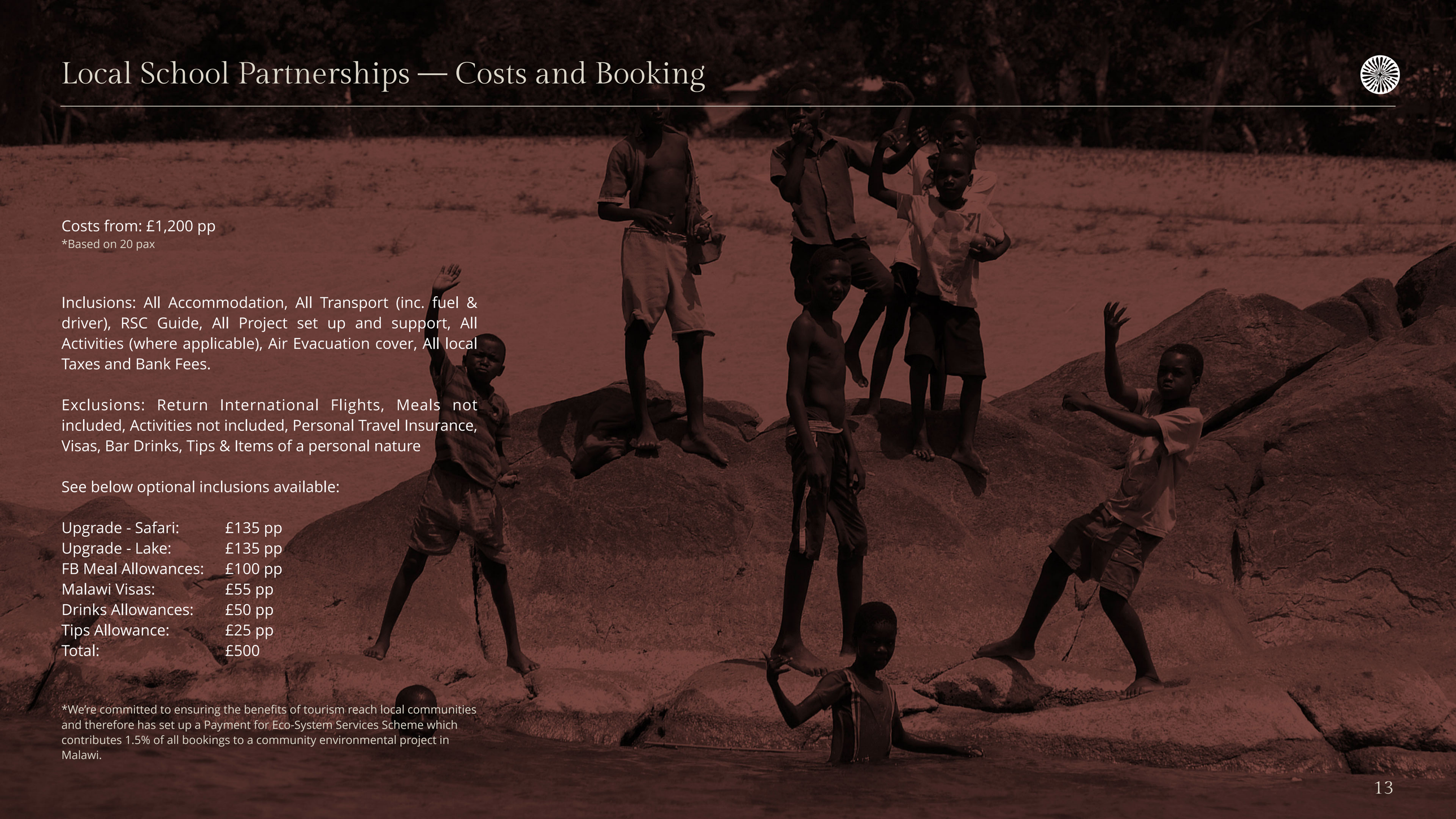
School Based Activities.

- Assistant Teaching
- Playing Sport
- Drama and Art

Day 14

Your last day with your linked school. An end of trip party is a lovely way to finish the trip off. Your school will want to say thank you and it is great excuse to have some local Malawian food and learn how to dance with your fellow students- Malawi style!

Local School Partnerships — Costs and Booking



Costs from: £1,200 pp
*Based on 20 pax

Inclusions: All Accommodation, All Transport (inc. fuel & driver), RSC Guide, All Project set up and support, All Activities (where applicable), Air Evacuation cover, All local Taxes and Bank Fees.

Exclusions: Return International Flights, Meals not included, Activities not included, Personal Travel Insurance, Visas, Bar Drinks, Tips & Items of a personal nature

See below optional inclusions available:

Upgrade - Safari:	£135 pp
Upgrade - Lake:	£135 pp
FB Meal Allowances:	£100 pp
Malawi Visas:	£55 pp
Drinks Allowances:	£50 pp
Tips Allowance:	£25 pp
Total:	£500

*We're committed to ensuring the benefits of tourism reach local communities and therefore has set up a Payment for Eco-System Services Scheme which contributes 1.5% of all bookings to a community environmental project in Malawi.

Village Youth Community Project

Aim
To link your group with a local youth community initiative and to immerse students in village life and development activities.

How can we link and what are the benefits?

- RSC has linked with 3 inspiring local initiatives and worked side by side each project for 7 years. We have a dedicated community coordinator who will work with your group to forge links and get your students involved in their project planning before you travel and while you are in Malawi.
- Linking with a community youth project gives students the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in village life. Cross cultural experiences, life long friendships and incredible learning opportunities come from spending days interacting with passionate young Malawians who are trying to develop their communities.
- A village environment offers a range of activities and examples of development for students to take part in- a cross curricular, cross cultural immersive learning environment.

What activities can we take part in?

- Join the youth group in motivating young people in the community as they provide key healthcare education in the form of drama workshops, seminars and music.
- Building and Renovating: RSC can support basic building and renovating projects within your host village.
- Homestay: Your group can spend 1-2 nights staying with local families on a village homestay initiative.

What support will we have when we are there?

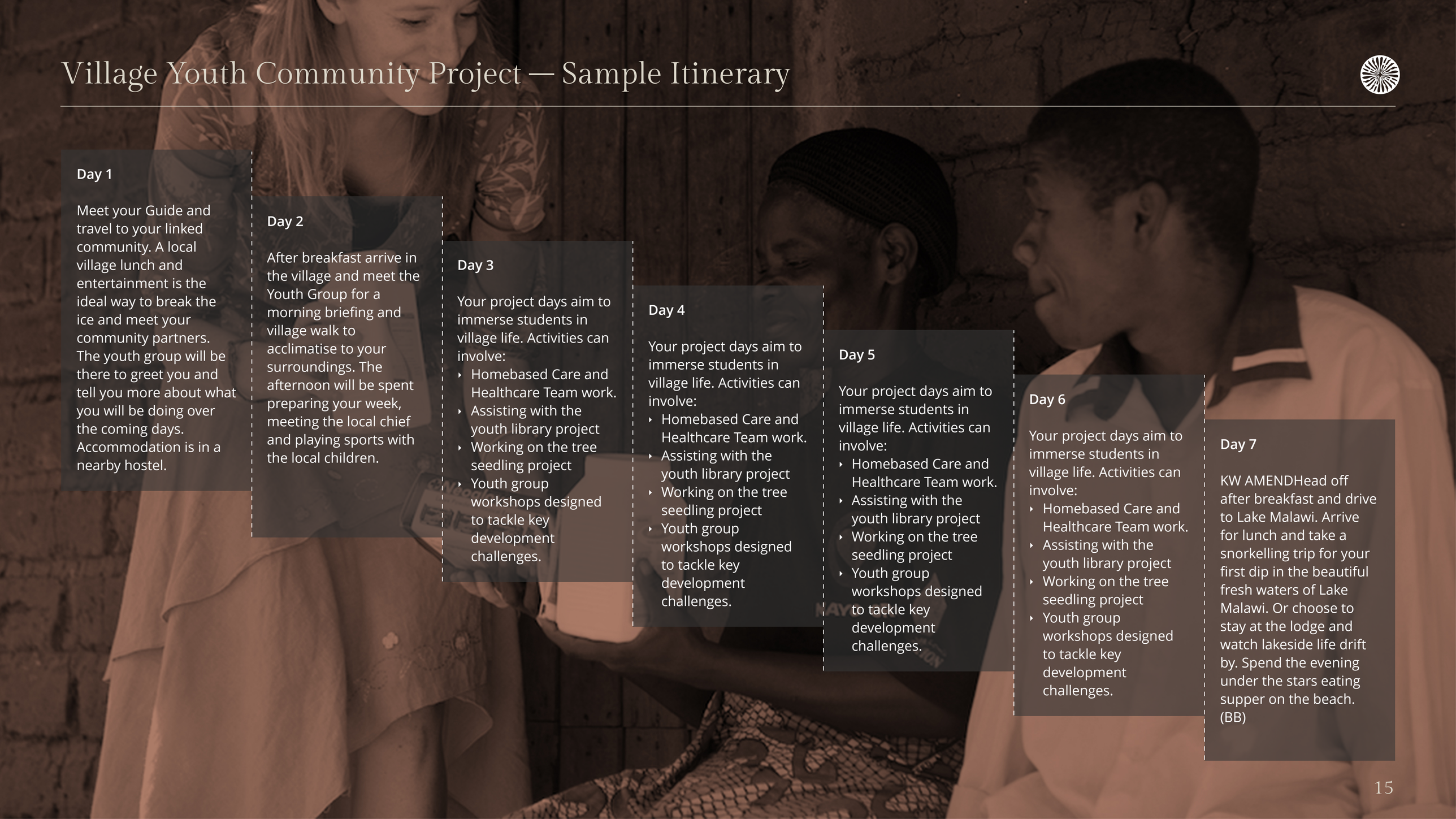
- RSC is based in Malawi and offers 24 hr support to visiting school groups.
- A trained local RSC guide will be with your group every step of the way.
- RSC has international insurance policies and offers specially designed evacuation cover.

Dunoon Grammar School (DGS)

"Based in Scotland 24 students from Dunoon Grammar School spent 18 months fundraising for their trip to Malawi. Managing to raise over $9,000 they chose to work alongside Lakeside Youth Group CISER. CISER is run by inspirational Malawian Joseph Makwakwa. Impressed with Joseph's determination and passion for sustainable tourism The Responsible Safari Co. linked Dunoon with CISER to support the work they are doing in the lakeside villages close to Mangochi Town."

DGS built a village clinic in 2013 and supported the creation of a Secondary School in 2015.

Village Youth Community Project — Sample Itinerary



Day 1

Meet your Guide and travel to your linked community. A local village lunch and entertainment is the ideal way to break the ice and meet your community partners. The youth group will be there to greet you and tell you more about what you will be doing over the coming days. Accommodation is in a nearby hostel.

Day 2

After breakfast arrive in the village and meet the Youth Group for a morning briefing and village walk to acclimatise to your surroundings. The afternoon will be spent preparing your week, meeting the local chief and playing sports with the local children.

Day 3

Your project days aim to immerse students in village life. Activities can involve:

- Homebased Care and Healthcare Team work.
- Assisting with the youth library project
- Working on the tree seedling project
- Youth group workshops designed to tackle key development challenges.

Day 4

Your project days aim to immerse students in village life. Activities can involve:

- Homebased Care and Healthcare Team work.
- Assisting with the youth library project
- Working on the tree seedling project
- Youth group workshops designed to tackle key development challenges.

Day 5

Your project days aim to immerse students in village life. Activities can involve:

- Homebased Care and Healthcare Team work.
- Assisting with the youth library project
- Working on the tree seedling project
- Youth group workshops designed to tackle key development challenges.

Day 6

Your project days aim to immerse students in village life. Activities can involve:

- Homebased Care and Healthcare Team work.
- Assisting with the youth library project
- Working on the tree seedling project
- Youth group workshops designed to tackle key development challenges.

Day 7

KW AMENDHead off after breakfast and drive to Lake Malawi. Arrive for lunch and take a snorkelling trip for your first dip in the beautiful fresh waters of Lake Malawi. Or choose to stay at the lodge and watch lakeside life drift by. Spend the evening under the stars eating supper on the beach. (BB)

Village Youth Community Project — Sample Itinerary

Day 8

A day spent on the shores of Lake Malawi. Chill on the beach in a hammock, or head out on a boat trip or kayak to a nearby island for a picnic lunch. Life on Lake Malawi moves a little slower and is ideal for some much needed rest and relaxation whilst soaking up the local culture (BB)

Day 9

Arrive back at your community and settle back into village life. You might decide to join the youth group in preparing a day of workshops and drama at the local village school.

Day 10

Your project days aim to immerse students in village life. Activities can involve:

- Homebased Care and Healthcare Team work.
- Assisting with the youth library project
- Working on the tree seedling project
- Youth group workshops designed to tackle key development challenges.

Day 11

Your project days aim to immerse students in village life. Activities can involve:

- Homebased Care and Healthcare Team work.
- Assisting with the youth library project
- Working on the tree seedling project
- Youth group workshops designed to tackle key development challenges.

Day 12

Your project days aim to immerse students in village life. Activities can involve:

- Homebased Care and Healthcare Team work.
- Assisting with the youth library project
- Working on the tree seedling project
- Youth group workshops designed to tackle key development challenges.

Day 13

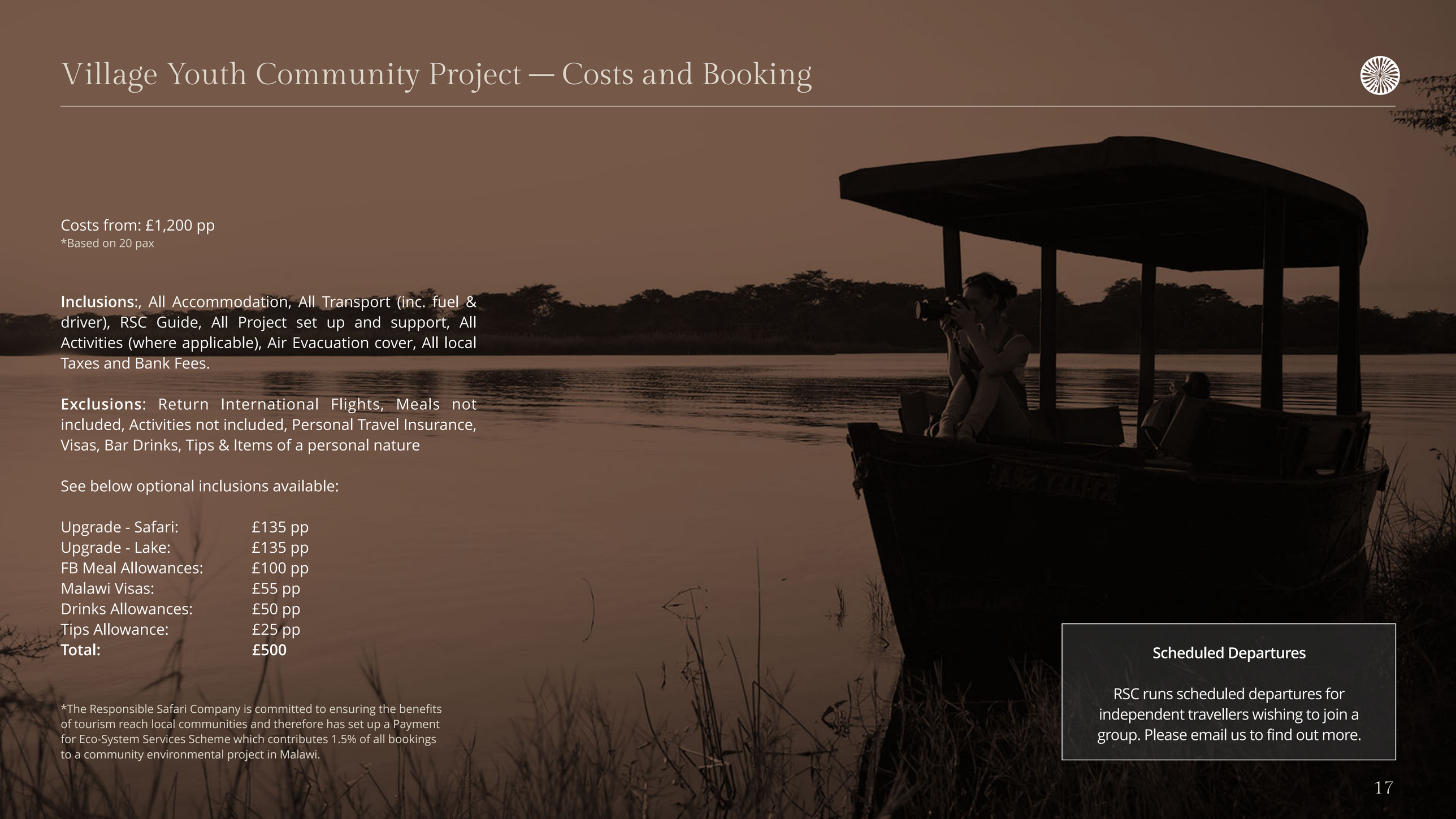
Your project days aim to immerse students in village life. Activities can involve:

- Homebased Care and Healthcare Team work.
- Assisting with the youth library project
- Working on the tree seedling project
- Youth group workshops designed to tackle key development challenges.

Day 14

Your last day with the youth group. A great way to finish the experience is a village party- learn to cook local Malawian food and your local youth group partners can teach you how to dance- Malawi style! It is a wonderful way to complete your stay and cement your new friendships.

Village Youth Community Project — Costs and Booking



Costs from: £1,200 pp
*Based on 20 pax

Inclusions:, All Accommodation, All Transport (inc. fuel & driver), RSC Guide, All Project set up and support, All Activities (where applicable), Air Evacuation cover, All local Taxes and Bank Fees.

Exclusions: Return International Flights, Meals not included, Activities not included, Personal Travel Insurance, Visas, Bar Drinks, Tips & Items of a personal nature

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Tips Allowance:	£25 pp
Total:	**£500**

*The Responsible Safari Company is committed to ensuring the benefits of tourism reach local communities and therefore has set up a Payment for Eco-System Services Scheme which contributes 1.5% of all bookings to a community environmental project in Malawi.

Scheduled Departures

RSC runs scheduled departures for independent travellers wishing to join a group. Please email us to find out more.

Global Development Workshops

Aim
To take part in a series of workshops designed to highlight global development challenges. To offer students a participatory learning environment to gain basic knowledge in key sustainability issues.

Overview:
RSC's Global Development Workshops (GDW), have been designed to educate and engage on vital issues affecting the world today. Groups can choose an all-encompassing overview of development or an in-depth focus on one or two areas.

How we achieve this:
- Each workshop has three main elements; background information given in a seminar format, a practical learning session where students actively participate in the initiative and follow up worksheet/seminar session.
- Workshops take place in an environment which is hands-on and participatory. Experiential learning and shared experiences not only promote a fresh attitude and new perspective, it widens horizons and promotes transformational learning, leading to improved skills such as communication, adaptability and leadership.

What workshops can our group take part in?
- Healthcare and Village Homebased Care
- Education and learning in the village environment
- Environment and Climate Change
- Business and Social Entrepreneurship
- Water and Sanitation
- Cultural Village Homestay

What support will we have when we are there?
- RSC is based in Malawi and offers 24 hr support to visiting school groups.
- A trained local RSC guide will be with your group every step of the way.
- RSC has international insurance policies and offers specially designed evacuation cover.

"We have the ability to achieve, if we master the necessary goodwill, a common global society blessed with a shared culture of peace that is nourished by the ethnic, national and local diversities that enrich our lives."

Mahnaz Afkhami
(Iranian-American Human rights activist; b. 1941)

Global Development Workshops — Sample Itinerary

Day 1

Meet your RSC Guide and transfer to your Blantyre based hotel. Evening orientation briefing over dinner. (BB)

Day 2

Transfer to Mulanje Mountain (1 hour south of Blantyre). Spend the following day learning about climate change challenges, deforestation and wildlife on the reserve, including hiking to a nearby waterfall for a refreshing swim. (BB)

Day 3

After breakfast transfer 1 hr to the beautiful tea estates of Thyolo for a day of workshops and interactive learning on the sustainable practices and fair trade methods of Malawi's first Fair Trade Tea Estate (try out their huge selection of specialist teas!) (SC)

Day 4

Today you will visit a working sugar estate to learn about fair trade methods of Malawi's leading sugar producer. Spend lunch at their local wildlife reserve before arriving at your safari lodge for an evening game drive. (FB)

Global Development Workshops — Sample Itinerary

Day 5

Rise early to the sounds of the bush. Take a safari drive through Majete Wildlife Reserve with a talk on conservation activities in Malawi, with a focus on deforestation, the Black Rhino & poaching. (FB)

Day 6

Homestay 1: Visit one of our community based organisations to volunteer in a project and take part in painting a classroom, renovating a hut or similar activities depending on the project's needs assessments at the time. Stay with a local family and take part in their daily lives learning about their cultural traditions. (FB)

Day 7

Homestay 2: Visit one of our community based organisations to volunteer in a project and take part in painting a classroom, renovating a hut or similar activities depending on the project's needs assessments at the time. Stay with a local family and take part in their daily lives learning about their cultural traditions. (FB)

Day 8

After a village breakfast and Malawian farewell- plenty of dancing! Head back to Blantyre for a final meal with your guide and summary workshop of your trip at the RSC Travel Barn. A chance to pick up some curios for your family and visit the local market. (BB)

Day 9

A farewell breakfast with your RSC Guide before heading to the airport and connecting with your international flight.

Global Development Workshops — Costs and Booking

Costs from: £1,095 pp
*Based on 10 pax

Inclusions: All Accommodation, All Transport (inc. fuel & driver), RSC Guide, All Project set up and support, All Activities (where applicable), Air Evacuation cover, All local Taxes and Bank Fees.

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*The Responsible Safari Company is committed to ensuring the benefits of tourism reach local communities and therefore has set up a Payment for Eco-System Services Scheme which contributes 1.5% of all bookings to a community environmental project in Malawi.

Scheduled Departures

RSC runs scheduled departures for independent travellers wishing to join a group. Please email us to find out more.

Adventure — Outside the Classroom…

Aim
To explore the wonderful diversity of Malawi. To take on a challenge by climbing Mount Mulanje, relax on the shores of Lake Malawi and rise early and watch herds of elephants drinking on the banks of The Shire River.

Hiking Mount Mulanje
- 1-3 day hike on Central Africa's highest free standing mountain rising at over 2,000 m.
- Reach one of Mulanje's 21 peaks. Ideal for a fundraising challenge!
- Overnight in one of the mountain huts cooking around the open fire and chatting with your mountain guide and porters.

Lake Malawi
- Kayak to one of Lake Malawi's islands for 1-3 nights Robinson Crusoe style!
- Cook locally caught fish, learn how to canoe Malawi style, scuba dive with hundreds of species of Cyclid Fish.
- Rest and relax- soak up the stunning views, chat with the fishermen and watch lakeside life drift by.

Safari Time
- Take a boat safari on The Shire River. Watch herds of elephants come to the banks to drink.
- Head out on a night safari spotting the park's nocturnal wildlife!
- Spend 1-3 nights under canvas listening to the sounds of the wildlife around you.
- Rise early for a morning walk tracking rhinos.

Or The Malawi Challenge…
- Day 1: Hike Mount Mulanje
- Day 2: Bike through the tea fields of Southern Malawi
- Day 3: Kayak on Lake Malawi
- Day 4: Finish with a Malawi village welcome, dancing, food and celebration on the shores of Lake Malawi

"I have never been so well looked after. All the minutiae was dealt with promptly and personally – no "one size fits all." It felt as though we were the only people you were dealing with which is a rare thing…All you promised came to fruition."

Donovan Group
(June 2014- Returning May 2016)

Further Information

12 Month Student Development and support

Aim
To involve students in a year long Malawi programme. To extend your trip learning objectives across the curriculum and feed into all aspects of school life over a 12 month period.

Overview:
Your trip to Malawi is an opportunity for students to undertake a year of planning, learning, preparing for their expedition. RSC can assist in preparing resources that cross into varied areas of school life and enhance the cultural learning experience.

Fundraising:
- Get the whole school involved in fundraising initiatives.
- Students can run workshops with local businesses and community members to tell them about their trip and their objectives for going to Malawi.
- Be creative: Bake Sales, Fashion Shows, Car Wash, Play Productions, Fancy Dress...

Pre Travel Malawi Planning:
- Pre Travel Skype Calls with your Malawian partner project.
- Pen Pal Letters and Emails.
- Presentation by the students on their trip aims.
- Visit from RSC representative to speak with the students and parents.
- Resources and Pre Travel Packs from RSC.
- Preparation Malawi Weekend Away- organised through RSC.

What support will we have from RSC?
- RSC has a UK office and both Scottish and England representatives who can visit your school.
- We can work with you to create resources and find cross curricular links.
- RSC has worked with over 30 schools and understands the complexities of planning a trip to Africa. We are with you every step of the way

Health and Safety

Aim
We aim to support teachers and group leaders in ensuring health and safety is paramount during your trip to Malawi.

What Insurance Policies do we have?

- We hold comprehensive International Public Liability cover in both Africa & UK.
- International Passenger Liability on our 23 seater bus.
- Comprehensive Air Evacuation cover through Global Rescue.
- Fully bonded Financial Failure Insurance through The Travel Vault.

What additional insurance policies can RSC offer?

- We offer optional Travel Insurance through our partner World Nomads.

What about Risk Assessments?

- We have a number of Risk Assessments designed for Student groups as well as a Risk Assessment Management Plans (RAMP) which are updated annually.
- We also hold a professional Emergency Operating Manual compiled through an official Emergency Response organisation.

What measures has RSC taken to ensure the safety of our group in Malawi?

- A trained local RSC guide will be with your group every step of the way. Our guides have basic first aid training- updated annually.
- All RSC Vehicles have seat belts and are fully insured.

What support will we have from RSC in Malawi?

- RSC is based in Malawi and offers 24 hr support. Our British in country manager lives in Blantyre and is in contact with every group upon arrival and throughout your time in Malawi.
- A trained local RSC guide will be with your group every step of the way.
- Our guides have basic first aid training through St. John's Ambulance and is updated annually.
- All our Vehicles have seat belts and are fully insured.

Atta
AFRICAN TRAVEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Scotland Malawi Partnership

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COUNCIL
MEMBER

WE'RE A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
BUSINESS WHERE SOCIETY PROFITS
Certified Member of Social Enterprise UK

UK Pre Travel Support and Schools Representative

Aim
To offer support to group leaders prior to their travel to Malawi.

School Training & Expedition weekend
- We have a UK Office and can arrange for a representative to come to your school to discuss you trip and do a workshop with students/teachers/parents.
- We can help arrange a pre trip expedition warm up weekend to help groups know what to expect and get the team ready for their adventure and teach some basic Chichewa.

Fundraising Advice & Support
- Get the whole school involved in fundraising initiatives.
- Students can run workshops with local businesses and community members to tell them about their trip and their objectives for going to Malawi.
- Be creative: Bake Sales, Fashion Shows, Car Wash, Play Productions, Fancy Dress...

Pre Travel Information Pack
- Prior to travel, we'll send your group an information pack with advice on packing and detailed information about Malawi and your day to day itinerary.
- Your travel pack includes information on the history, politics, language and culture of Malawi.

Social Media and Website Resources
- We have a very active Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts and encourages groups to join the discussion #bepartofsomething It is also a great way to get to know your guide before you depart!
- Each group has a unique website account which gives them access to resources including packing lists, FAQ's and extensive background Malawi information.

Flights

Aim
We aim to make the booking process as easy as possible for group leaders. We offer a flight booking service which aims to find the cheapest, most flexible and best route option for your group.

How can we book our flights through?

- We work in partnership with a specialist student flight agent in order to secure the lowest fares and highest quality of service with the airlines. At confirmation of your itinerary, we'll go ahead and hold the group's flights directly with our flight partner who will then confirm all details directly with you and manage your booking up to your return home.

Will it save us money?

- For groups over 9 people it is not possible to book online so having a dedicated flight agent is the best way to get the lowest fares for your group booking.
- Group fares also provide flexible fare rules, including name changes and delayed payment deadlines (individual fares don't allow for any name changes, have heavy cancellation fees as well as require 100% payment at time of booking), so group fares offer much more flexible services.
- Expect to pay between £800 - £950 per person for return flights from Scotland, including the domestic legs.

How do we make payment for our group flights?

- A deposit of 20% is required to secure flights within 5 days of confirmation, with the 80% balance due along with confirmed names, 8-12 weeks prior to travel.

What are the best routes into Malawi?

- Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways & South African Airways all provide flights from UK to Malawi (via respective hubs; Addis Ababa, Nairobi & Johannesburg). Ethiopian Airlines tend to offer the lowest fares while South African Airways are generally more expensive. We endeavour to book groups on the lowest fares available at the time, so airlines & schedules will vary.

Booking and Payment Information

Aim
We aim to make the payment process as easy as possible for group leaders and try to be flexible in terms of dates for deposit and final balances as well as offer a variable cancellation/amendments policy.

Can we arrange a recce trip prior to confirming our booking?

- We're always happy to arrange a recce trip for trip leaders based on nett travel rates, available upon confirmation of your main group booking.

How do we pay for our group booking?

- A deposit of 20% is due to confirm your booking at time of confirmation.
- After your deposit has been received, a balance invoice is due 4 weeks prior to travel.

How is our money protected?

- We're fully bonded through Financial Failure Insurance, which means that in the unlikely event we become insolvent from the time you pay your holiday to the time you travel, your trip will be fully covered through our insurance provider.

What is the cancellation policy?

- If you want to change any part of your group trip arrangements after the invoice has been paid, we will do our very best to make any change where possible, however unfortunately we can't guarantee these.
- If for some unfortunately reason any cancellations need to be made, the following scale of charges may be applicable.
  - 61+ days: 20% deposit
  - 60-42: 30% of trip cost
  - 41-28: 60% of trip cost
  - 27-7: 90% of trip cost
  - -7 days: 100% of trip cost

When will we receive our travel documents?

- Approximately 7 days before departure you will receive your flight/ e- ticket together with an itinerary. However, in the case of late payment and/or late bookings, tickets may be handed to you at the airport on departure. Please ensure that you check the flight timings on your tickets carefully.

In-Country Logistics - Your support in Malawi

Aim
Our team in Malawi aims to offer group leaders 24 hr support during their time in Malawi. We want your group to concentrate on your educational experience and let us worry about the logistics!

What support will we have from RSC in Malawi?

- RSC is based in Malawi and offers 24 hr support to all our visiting groups. Our British in-country manager lives in Blantyre and is in contact with every group on arrival and throughout your time in Malawi.
- Your group will be accompanied by an RSC trained local guide who is in 24hr phone contact with our in-country manager.

Tell us more about our guide and vehicles?

- A trained local RSC guide will be with your group every step of the way. They will become an integral part of your team.
- RSC offers bi-annual guide training in basic first aid, advanced driving, basic mechanics & environmental awareness.
- All RSC guides take bi-annual exams to refresh their in country knowledge and RSC emergency procedures.
- All RSC Vehicles have seat belts and are fully insured with passenger liability insurance.

What type of accommodation can we expect for our group?

- Group accommodation ranges from basic dorm style to shared twin ensuite rooms (itinerary dependent).
- All accommodation is checked by an RSC representative every year.

What support do you offer if there is an emergency?

- Every RSC group package includes a Global Rescue Air Evacuation Insurance, along with a fully integrated Emergency Procedures Manual composed by Global Rescue International - please email us for more info.

Post Trip Support - what happens when you get home

Aim
Our team in Malawi aims to offer group leaders 24 hr support during their time in Malawi. We want your group to concentrate on your educational experience and let us worry about the logistics!

How can we stay in touch with our project upon returning home?

- RSC will keep your group updated with your linked RSC community initiative. If you have an independent project or school partner we will endeavour to assist in your ongoing correspondence where needed.
- If you wish to continue supporting your linked project RSC can act as a middle man, providing needs assessments for donations and impact assessments on the continued support.

How can we stay in touch with our RSC Guide?

- Your RSC Guide will become an integral part of your group and a friend to many!
- Our guides work full time for RSC and are a big part of our story and success. Many groups wish to send photos and letters to their guide and we can assist with this correspondence.
- If you wish to use the same guide for your return trip we will endeavour to organise this.

Social Media and The RSC Blog

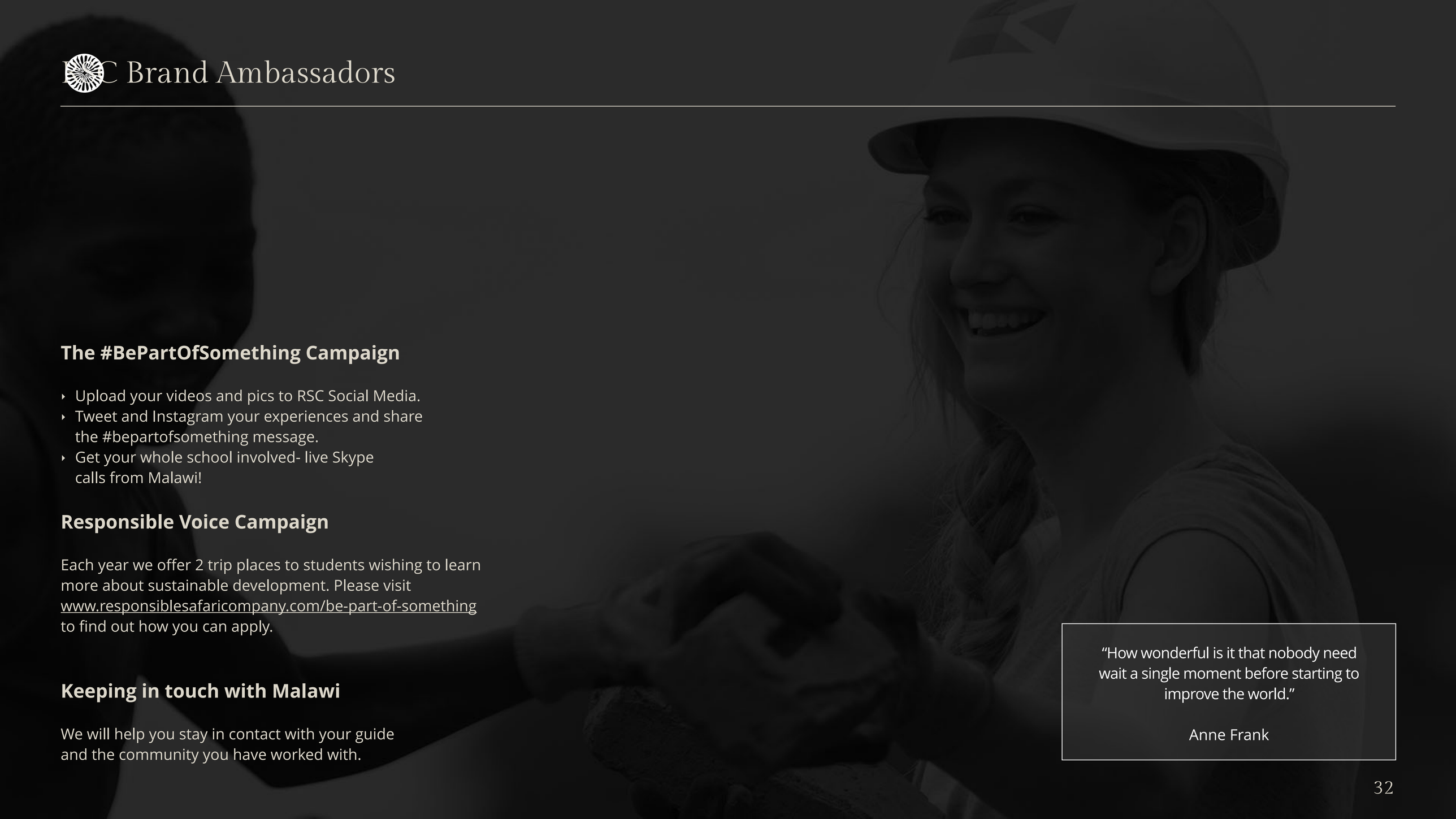
- RSC is active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. It is a great way to keep in touch with your guide and project. Please use #bepartofsomething when tagging pics of your trip.
- If any of your students would like to write a piece about their trip for our RSC Blog we welcome student articles and have a number of avenues where we can get these published.

How can we arrange a return trip?

- 9/10 of your school groups return annually or biennially to visit their linked community initiative.
- If you wish to return to a different African country RSC works with a number of local partners who can offer an ‘RSC Experience’ outside Malawi.

Useful Information

RSC Brand Ambassadors



The #BePartOfSomething Campaign

- Upload your videos and pics to RSC Social Media.
- Tweet and Instagram your experiences and share the #bepartofsomething message.
- Get your whole school involved- live Skype calls from Malawi!

Responsible Voice Campaign

Each year we offer 2 trip places to students wishing to learn more about sustainable development. Please visit www.responsiblesafaricompany.com/be-part-of-something to find out how you can apply.

Keeping in touch with Malawi

We will help you stay in contact with your guide and the community you have worked with.

"How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Anne Frank

Get In Touch

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