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PRESS RELEASE – May 08

COMMUNITY TRAVEL

Stand ICC A 048
Voluntours

“GO BEYOND THE BUS WINDOW ... EXPERIENCE LIFE AT THE GRASS-ROOT LEVEL”

Tired of the same old - same old voyeuristic holiday?

Heard of Community Travel? Explore our rich culture first hand ... by living in the community you visit!

WHY COMMUNITY TRAVEL?

More and more tourists are looking for something authentic. They want an enjoyable experience with meaningful connections with local people, thereby having a greater understanding of local cultural, social and environmental issues.

WHAT MAKES MAPOCH (Mabhoko) NDEBELE VILLAGE UNIQUE?

Mapoch is a “living” village. It is not purpose built for tourists ... but is a taste of authentic Ndebele life.

The Multi Centre & Accommodation Lodge are held in trust by the community and was built with funds after the community was forcibly evicted under Apartheid, as a poverty alleviation project.

The village inhabitants still live in a traditional manner and practice their time-old customs, despite the influence of modernisation. The village is relatively un-commercialised and guests will have the opportunity to immerse themselves and experience life from a unique perspective. Traditional ceremonies and events may coincide with your stay and you will have the opportunity to share in these events as a member of the community.

The houses and enclosures are painted with the colourful geometric patterns for which the Ndebele are famous, often incorporating modern aspects such as telephones and the SA flag. You may enjoy your meal either in the small conference centre/ restaurant or share it with a family in the traditional way.

BOKAMOSO BICYCLE PROJECT

The project was started when Nigel, a volunteer, recognised that local people were losing a lot of time in their day walking ... walking to town, walking to school, walking to work and walking to the shops.

Our bicycle project now provides important infra-structural, retail, small business and recreational support to the local rural communities. The project has evolved into a sustainable tourism component as well by offering guided cycle tours in the greater community.

During your stay you will be able to touch the communities whilst cycling through them on one of our guided cycle tours. Take in the local ambiance, enjoy our fauna and flora, stop off at a local tavern, visit the nearby meteorite crater, stay overnight at Mapoch Ndebele Village and so more.

EXPERIENCE IT !

We are looking for travellers that want to taste South Africa!

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Bokamoso Bicycle Project and Mapoch Ndebele Village are proudly supported by **VOLUNTOURS**.