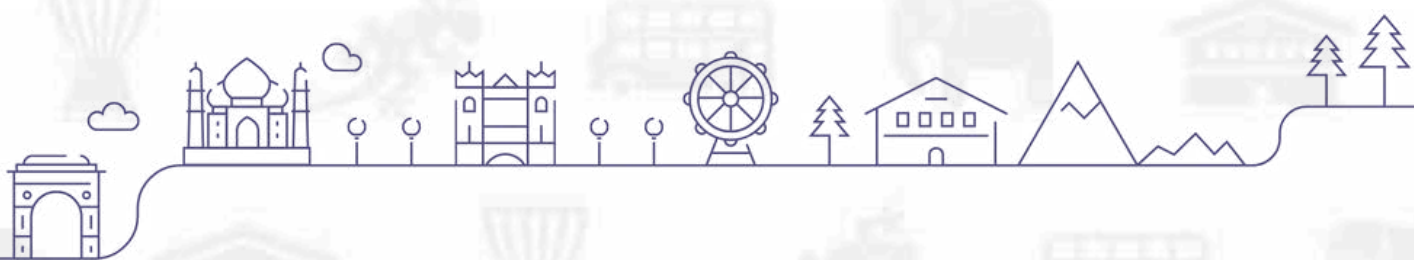




# WORLD CENTRES

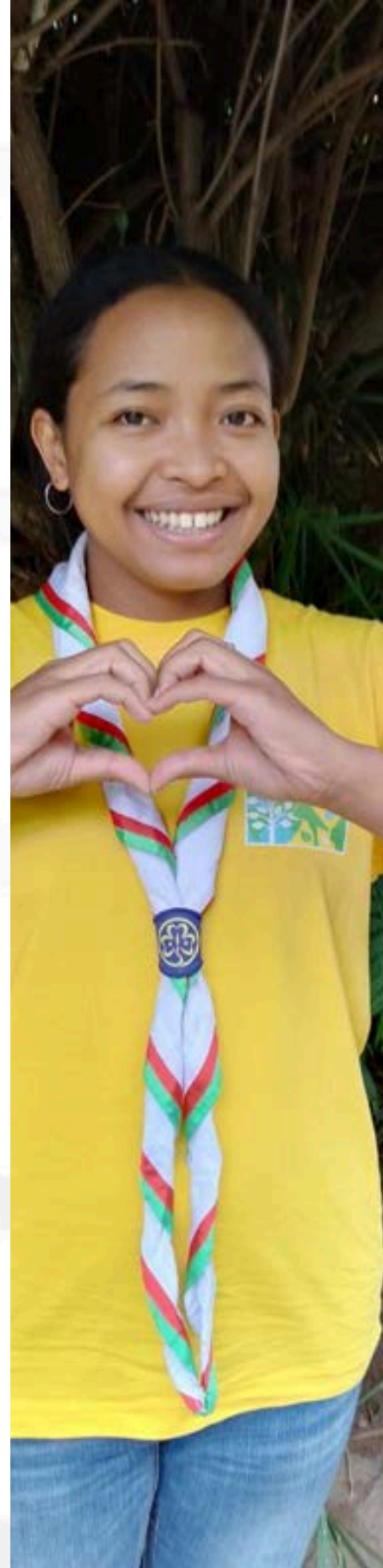
## ANNUAL REPORT 2024





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# WORLD CENTRES 2024 UPDATE

Our World Centres continue to play a pivotal role in empowering young women, fostering leadership, and promoting cultural exchange. Here are some key highlights from 2024:

- 6,000+ Girl Guides and Girl Scouts have visited our Centres.
- 100+ scholarships and travel grants have been awarded to young women, enabling them to gain invaluable experiences.
- 90 volunteers from over 30 countries have contributed their time and skills.
- 1,076 participants engaged in our STEM Discovery Day Programme.
- 49 events delivered across various Centres, connecting communities globally.

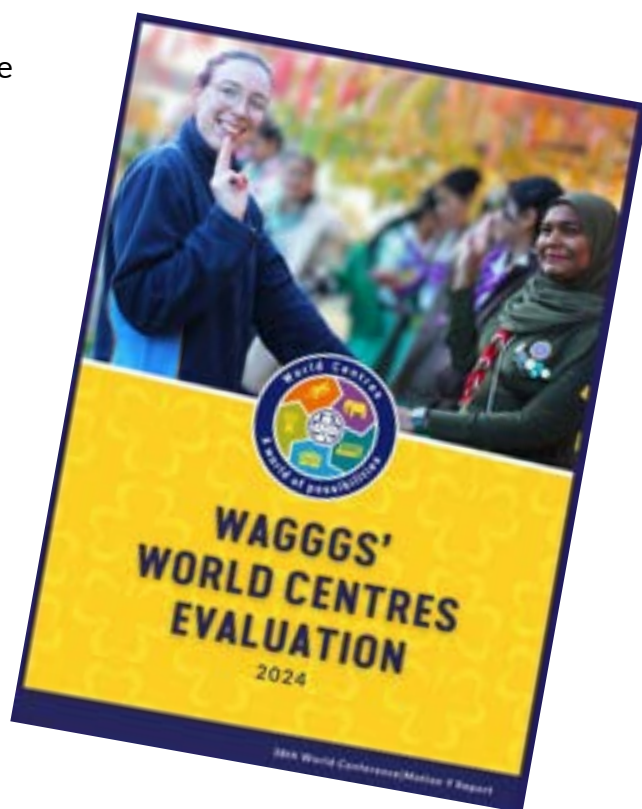
We've also seen impressive numbers in bookings across our Centres:

Bednights	Our Chalet	Pax Lodge	Sangam	Nuestra Cabaña	Kusafiri
2024 target	8,523	15,000	1,790	2100	N/A
2024 actual	8,800	17,569	3,997	2177	872

## World Centre Evaluation Report – December 2024

In December 2024, the World Centre Evaluation Report was released, offering critical insights into the impact and future direction of our Centres. The report highlights the profound effect our Centres have had on the lives of young women, fostering leadership skills, cross-cultural understanding, and a global sense of community. It also outlines areas for growth, including expanding outreach programmes and enhancing sustainability efforts across our facilities.

The full evaluation report can be accessed [here](#).



## Changing lives:

In 2024 we impacted the lives of many young women from across the world through our programme. Tella from Ghana shares how these experiences have shaped her life:

“

Pax Lodge has shaped me in countless ways. It's where I discovered my passions, honed my skills, and built lifelong friendships. It's where I grew into the person I am today—someone who is confident, compassionate, and committed to making a positive impact in the world. I will always be grateful for the time I spent at Pax Lodge and for the profound and lasting impact it has had on my life. Pax lodge is indeed a place where strangers soon become friends.

”



2024 was a greatly successful year for the World Centres, with markable growth and impact, thanks to the commitment of volunteers, participants, and supporters like the World Foundation. We look forward to continuing this journey together in 2025!

## What to Look Out for in 2025!

Exciting opportunities await at the WAGGGS World Centres in 2025!

Beloved events will continue, including Journey Through London at Pax Lodge and the Monarch Butterflies Experience at Nuestra Cabaña. We're also introducing STEMazing Guides at Pax Lodge, along with a brand-new event at Our Chalet—stay tuned for details!

Kusafiri, now in its second year being hosted by the Ghana Girl Guides Association, has an incredible line-up of events planned (see page 83 for more details). We will also be conducting an evaluation of the pilot programme, with findings shared with Member Organisations before the end of 2025.

At Nuestra Cabaña, we will reflect on its progress since reopening on 9th February 2023, assessing successes and challenges. A comprehensive evaluation report will be presented to the World Board to help shape its future direction.

In 2025, we will also prioritise enhancing risk management systems and strengthening capital investment plans for each World Centre, ensuring long-term sustainability and continued excellence in our global programmes.

We look forward to another year of growth, adventure, and meaningful experiences at our World Centres!



# OUR CHALET

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
BY TANYA TULLOCH



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# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



## GUIDING AND SCOUTING GUESTS

1,530 in 2024, 783 independent guests and 619 programme guests.

Representing 40 countries: Argentina, Australia, Burundi, Brazil, Bahamas, Canada, China Costa Rica, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Great Britain, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Poland, Philippine, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine, US, Venezuela.



## EVENTS DELIVERED IN 2024

16 events led by Our Chalet, plus one event co-led with USAGSO.



## VOLUNTEERS

53 full season volunteers from 30 different countries.



## DAY VISITORS

We also welcomed 2,181 day visitors for self-guided tours, guided tours, and pinning ceremonies.



# 02

## OUR PROGRAMMES



## EVENTS

Our Chalet runs challenging, fun, outdoor-focused youth programmes year round. Our programmes are designed to encourage girls and young women from around the world to connect with nature and their outdoor environment, develop their social and leadership skills, and try a wide range of active pursuits to find the one that sparks their interest. Due to school term times, June through to August is our peak season, with around 550 youth taking part across our eight summer events. Our summer programme features three events – Discover, Explore, and Adventure – designed to offer increasing levels of physically challenging outdoor activities for Guides and Scouts aged 11-18. This means our programme is open to all abilities and there is an option for progression for groups who would like to visit us more than once or stay for two events.

While these months are our busiest, December through to March is also a popular time for groups to take part in one of our programmes and experience the true magic of the Swiss Alps – the snowy season! Our ‘winter’ programmes are more flexible, offering opportunities for groups with younger and older members and families the opportunity to join us on an event. The focus on developing skills through outdoor activities remains the same and we head outside whatever the weather!

From sledding to kayaking in dry suits, we’ve also kept the focus on inclusive and exciting activities that encourage everyone to take on a new challenge. In 2024 Our Chalet delivered a total of 16 events, plus one event co-led with USAGSO. This reached over 600 Girls Guides and Girl Scouts.

March 2024 saw the post pandemic comeback of the Helen Storrow Seminar. This year the theme was Sustainable Outdoor Adventure and the planning team worked to make sure that the participants really got to experience what Switzerland has to offer in this area by visiting places like the Aletsch Glacier, the UN and botanical garden in Geneva and a kayaking adventure on lake Brienz. Through all of this they got to see sustainable recreation in action as they worked on their back home impact project plans. Thanks to your generous donations we were able to offer scholarships to young women, aged 18-25, from every WAGGGS region to take part.

**Busy New Year's Break:** This event is back to pre-pandemic numbers of guests. The mix of guests is from families with young children to groups of young people and older couples. The intergenerational group participated in outdoor and indoor activities and celebrated meeting people from around the world as they rang in the new year.



# VOLUNTEERS AT OUR CHALET

Our Chalet would not be the same without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Thanks to your generous donations we are able to support volunteers from all the WAGGGS regions to take part in our volunteer leadership placements. This year, we were lucky to have volunteers from 30 different countries around the world.

- 53 full-season volunteers helped us keep things running smoothly:**
- 39 General Volunteers: Helped with many different tasks, from supporting activities to maintaining the chalet.
  - 5 Guest Services Specialists: Focused on making sure our guests felt welcome and comfortable.
  - 5 Programme Specialists: Led and organized the activities for our visitors.
  - 3 Marketing & Communication Specialists: Helped us share our story with the world.
  - 1 Kitchen Specialist: Ensured everyone was well-fed with nutritious meals, and amazing cakes.
  - 3 short-term volunteers who provided additional support when we needed it the most.

**Countries Represented by Volunteers:**  
Our volunteers came from all over the world, representing the five WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) regions:

- Africa Region:
  - Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Asia Pacific Region:
  - Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka
- Europe Region:
  - Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, United Kingdom
- Western Hemisphere Region:
  - Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Paraguay, USA
- Arab Region:
  - Tunisia

Their enthusiasm and hard work have made a big difference in keeping Our Chalet a happy and welcoming place for everyone.





# 03

## OUR OPERATIONS

# STAFFING &

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Sandi, from Myanmar, joined us in April in the Office Coordinator role as Dawn moved on to new adventures.

In May, we switched from having a bookkeeper employed, to having a company contracted for the bookkeeping work.

**World Centre Programme Staff Enrichment:** Programme staff and World Centre Managers came to Our Chalet from the other centres so that we could receive training from the Core Mission Team on the WAGGS programme framework, discuss ideas and issues and share in the spirit of Guiding and Scouting at Our Chalet. This time together has given us some tools we can use to better explain the impact of our work in the future. We will work more on this remotely during the next 6 months.

**First Aid Training:** All staff received First Aid training to ensure we are ready to respond to any emergencies. In addition, three staff with more past first aid experience became first aid trainers. This was a great opportunity for staff development that will impact future teams at Our Chalet as we now can offer training to all staff and volunteers in the future.



# STAFFING &

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## A few other pieces of news:

**August 1st at KISC:** Three volunteers went to help out at Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) for the 1 August celebrations and World Scout Scarf Day and to promote Our Chalet with an activity booth for around 1800 Scouts/Guides.

**OCF (Our Chalet Foundation):** OCF welcomed new members this year in April and gave them a meeting they won't easily forget. Right as the meeting was supposed to be starting the power for the whole valley of Adelboden went out. This meant that all of the information stored online, the members who were planning to join by video chat, and the lights were all unavailable. Luckily, a few people had print outs and the meeting was able to proceed as there was a quorum present on-site. The Chalet staff quickly changed the food options for the day to no-cook options or things they could prepare on the BBQ and the meeting went on without any other issues.



# FACILITIES

**Path Resurfacing:** We resurfaced and widened the path to the kitchen and veranda, making it more easily and safely accessible for those using mobility equipment and strollers.

**Squirrel House:** A new shower was added to the lower bathroom in Squirrel House. Access to the bathroom was made from inside the house and both bathrooms had the flooring, walls, and finishings update. In addition, the area around the house was dug out and new drainage added to reduce standing water against the foundation.

**Storm Damage and Repair:** A storm caused some trees to fall down, but there was no damage to buildings. Staff and volunteers used the wood from the fallen trees to make new benches and create a new campfire circle.

**Ready, Steady, Go:** We hosted "Ready, Steady, Go" where 14 volunteers from the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Australia, Ireland, and Ukraine helped prepare Our Chalet for the busy season.

We aren't planning any really large project for 2025, but we will have the lightning protection on the buildings improved to meet new standards.

Also, we are excited to have the Ready Steady Go event come and help us with clearing brush on some of the property, paint some walls, chop some wood, sew some needed items, clean out the attics and more!





# 04

## 2025 AND BEYOND



# WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

Our Chalet is excited to host another Helen Storrow Seminar in February of 25 where 30 young women aged 18-25 from 30 different countries will experience leadership development, global connection and learning. This year's theme is Food Sustainability and the participants back home change projects that will cover topics like food waste reduction, alternative food packaging, or cooking classes for local and seasonal food. This event is also a great opportunity for Our Chalet to connect with our local community such as the local biogas centre and the town government.

This event is not possible without the team behind it. This year we have 1 x Lead Facilitator and 4 x Facilitators who are all aged 18-30 and together represent the five WAGGS regions. They are on their own learning journeys as part of the International Facilitation Training Programme, and this HSS event is an opportunity for them to practice their learning design and session delivery skills.

In addition to the team currently at Our Chalet, there is also a team of Mentors who will be supporting participants when they return home to carry out their change projects. As well as two Communications Volunteers who are working closely with the Our Chalet Marketing & Communications Intern to share all of the fun experiences participants are having during the event with the wider world.

New for 2025! International Friendship Week is so popular that we've added a second version, Spring Mini Friendship Week, in 2025. With three programme days and two free days, it's perfect for those who want to organise some adventures of their own while still experiencing an Our Chalet event!

We are planning to offer some Remote Programme Options again in 2025 so that members of the Movement from around the globe can have a taste of Our Chalet even if they aren't able to visit this year.

# Our Chalet

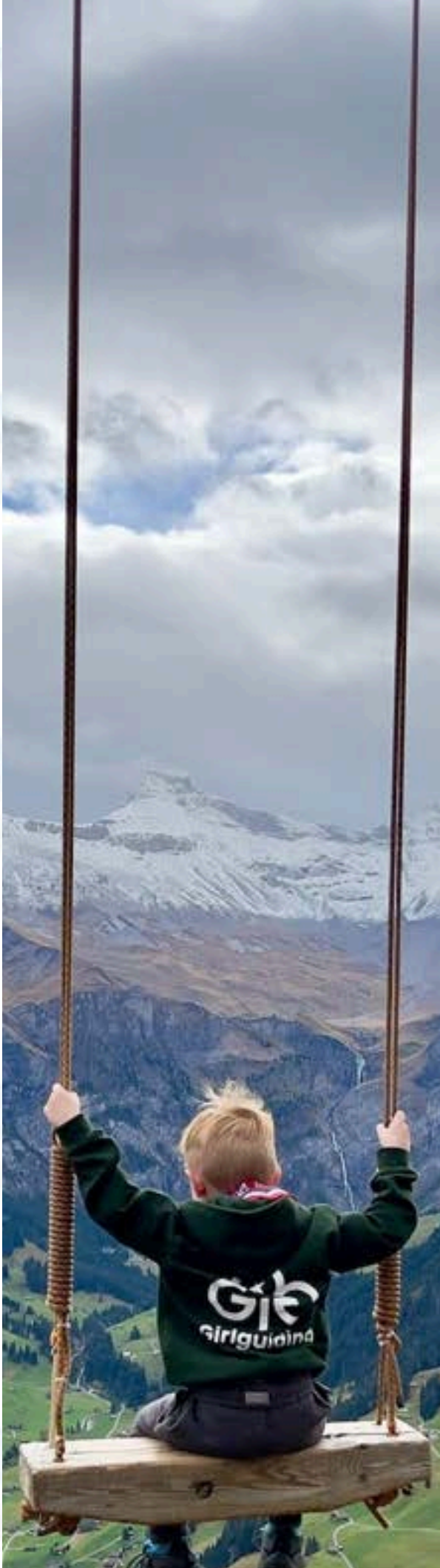
## 2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p>29 Dec-3 Jan New Year's Break 10-11 FIS Ski World Cup</p>	 <p>1-8 Helen Storrow Seminar 16-22 YUNGA Winter Adventure</p>	 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>	 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p>2-10 Ready Steady Go <b>FULLY BOOKED</b> 12-29 CLOSED</p>	 <p>14-20 Discover 1 21-27 Explore 1 <b>FEW ROOMS AVAILABLE</b> 29 Jun-5 Jul Adventure 1</p>	 <p>6-12 Discover 2 <b>FULLY BOOKED</b> 16-22 Explore 2 <b>CAMPSITE AVAILABLE</b> 23-29 Adventure 2 <b>FEW ROOMS AVAILABLE</b></p>	 <p>30 Jul-5 Aug Discover 3 9-15 Explore 3 <b>FULLY BOOKED</b> 16-22 Discover 4</p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p>6-13 Walking Week 6-13 Hiking Week 19-27 International Friendship Week <b>SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE</b></p>	 <p>26 Oct-1 Nov Autumn in the Alps <b>SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE</b></p>	 <p>CLOSED</p>	 <p>CLOSED TO 13 DEC 19 Dec-4 May Skiing at Our Chalet 29 Dec-5 Jan New Year's Break</p>

# Our Chalet

## 2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p><b>29 Dec-5 Jan New Year's</b>            -Winter Adventure            -Skiing at Our Chalet            -Weekend Breaks</p>	 <p><b>15-21 YUNGA Bagde</b>            -Winter Adventure            -Skiing at Our Chalet            -Weekend Breaks</p>	 <p><b>8-14 Winter Walking Week</b>  <b>31 Mar-7Apr Helen Storrow Seminar</b>            -Winter Adventure            -Weekend Breaks</p>	 <p><b>27 Mar -2 Apr Spring Friendship Week</b>            -Skiing at Our Chalet</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p><b>2-10 Ready Steady Go</b>  <b>1-4 Skiing at Our Chalet</b></p>	 <p><b>21-27 Discover 1</b>  <b>28 Jun-4 May Explore 1</b></p>	 <p><b>6-12 Adventure 1</b>  <b>13-19 Discover 2</b>  <b>23-29 Explore 2</b></p>	 <p><b>30 Jul-05 Aug Discover 3</b>  <b>9-15 Explore 3</b>  <b>16-22 Discover 4</b></p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p><b>6-13 Walking Week</b>  <b>6-13 Hiking Week</b>  <b>19-27 International Friendship Week</b></p>	 <p><b>26 Oct-1 Nov Autumn in the Alps</b>  <b>27 Sep-3 Oct Staff Reunion</b></p>	 <p><b>CLOSED</b></p>	 <p><b>CLOSED TO 13 DEC</b>  <b>29 Dec-5 Jan New Year's Break</b></p>



# 05

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

# THANK YOU

We are grateful for your continued support and friendship. Thanks to you, we are able to keep improving Our Chalet and offering meaningful experiences to everyone who visits. We look forward to welcoming you to Our Chalet in the future and sharing more unforgettable moments together.

Warm regards,

The Team at Our Chalet

## Get involved





# PAX LODGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
BY LIZ TRANTER



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# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



## GUIDING AND SCOUTING GUESTS

Pax Lodge had 2.706 Guiding and Scouting guests in 2024 from 14 countries.



## EVENTS DELIVERED IN 2024

The Pax Lodge programme team delivered 10 events in 2024 to 585 participants.



## VOLUNTEERS

Pax Lodge hosted 17 volunteers from 14 countries in 2024. All 17 received a travel bursary.



## DAY VISITORS

Pax Lodge hosted 1.921 day visitors in 2024.



# 02

## OUR PROGRAMMES

# EVENTS

## **CELEBRATING US: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

5th to 13th November 2023 (Bilingual English and Spanish) 36 participants (all 18+) including facilitators, interpreters and WAGGGS staff.

## **FRIENDS OF PAX LODGE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Saturday, 11 November 2023 from 11am-4pm. Raised over £600 for the Friends of Pax Lodge and included outside vendors, local Guiding units and crafts made by and on behalf of the Friends of Pax Lodge.

## **GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP EVENT**

26th November to 1st December 2023 15 participants from 3 Countries – USA, UK, and Pakistan all 18+

## **WORLD THINKING DAY**

24th and 25th February 2024 total of 311 participants across all the events, all from the UK Rainbows through to adults

## **INSPIRING SPRING**

11th – 14th April 2024 6 participants aged 18-30 from the UK.

## **JAMBROWNEE**

30th May to 2nd June 2024 30 participants aged 8-10 (with a few leaders too). 12 from Bharat Scouts and Guides (India). All others from the UK.





# EVENTS

## JOURNEY THROUGH LONDON

JTL 1 - 23rd to 28th June 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 36 participants all from GSUSA

JTL 2 - 30th June to 5th July 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 45 participants Canada and USA

JTL 3 - 7th to 12th July 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 44 participants Canada and USA

JTL 4 - 21st to 26th July 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 42 participants Canada and USA

JTL 5 - 4th to 9th August 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 43 participants Canada, USA, Korea, Faroe Isles, Scotland, Bahamas

JTL 6 - 18th to 23rd August 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader 32 participants Philippines, USA and Canada

## EF TOURS

Groups of GSUSA members led by external tour guide visit for 2 hours on various dates across June and July 2024

## INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURE DAY

Available throughout the year:

Friday 8th March – Middlesex East Trefoil Guild (24 participants)

Sunday 10th March - 5th Southgate Brownies (12 participants)

Sunday 14th April – Girlguiding Thrapwood Division (50 participants)

Tuesday 30th July – 3rd Bexley Brownies (15 participants))

# VOLUNTEERS

We would not be able to run Pax Lodge without the volunteers. During their time with us, they:

- Gain Leadership Skills
- Build Confidence
- Learn a variety of new things
- Make friends from around the world
- Grow as a Global Citizen

In 2024, we welcomed the following international volunteers:

- Sara (Canada) August 2023 to January 2024
- Tori (Australia) September 2023 to February 2024
- Sofi (Mexico) October 2023 to February 2024
- Sachika (Japan) September 2023 to January 2024
- Claudia (New Zealand) January to August 2024
- Shakira (Uganda) January to June 2024
- Lisa (Nigeria) February to July 2024
- Donatella (Ghana) February to July 2024
- Pearl (Canada) March to June 2024
- Kuke (Argentina) MCI May to October 2024
- Carol (Mexico) May to November 2024
- Karene (Uganda) June to November 2024
- Farah (Tunisia) June to November 2024
- Eshika (Bangladesh) July to September 2024
- Stacey (New Zealand) August to January 2025
- Jayill (Venezuela) September to November 2024
- Salina (Australia) September to December 2024
- Rezida (Azerbaijan) September to October 2024
- Abigail (Nigeria) October to February 2025
- Thayde (Venezuela) October to March 2025
- Tionge (Malawi) November to January 2025



# VOLUNTEER QUOTES

Pax Lodge is a location where you may give a little and get more, where you can witness the female donating their time to enjoy with various individuals for a few hours, or days but the impact lasts forever. (Amina, Tunisia)

"Volunteering at Pax Lodge was an incredible experience that placed me in a truly diverse environment, surrounded by volunteers and guests from all around the world. It reminded me that while I may not know every culture or country, being open-minded and adaptable is key. Respect always comes first, and in adjusting to others' needs, I also learned the importance of being kind to myself throughout the process." (Eshika, Bangladesh)

The whole team that makes up Pax Lodge is wonderful, it feels like a family. I will never forget everyone's effort to explain words I didn't understand or using Spanish; as I'm not a native English speaker this effort made me feel at home. I made great friends on this adventure that I hope will last forever. Living with different cultures and different customs even expressions can be a challenge but it felt great to share a little bit of my culture and my country with everyone else. (Jayill, Venezuela)

The friendships I made were priceless. From the staff's warm welcome to my roommate's constant care, I felt supported and valued. Swapping badges with Girl Guides from around the world was a daily highlight, and watching my first West End show was unforgettable. Volunteering at Pax Lodge has been a remarkable experience. I have learned, unlearned, and relearned so much, and I'm grateful for every moment. This experience has truly enriched my life. (Shakirah, Uganda)

Pax Lodge has shaped me in countless ways. It's where I discovered my passions, honed my skills, and built lifelong friendships. It's where I grew into the person I am today—someone who is confident, compassionate, and committed to making a positive impact in the world. I will always be grateful for the time I spent at Pax Lodge and for the profound and lasting impact it has had on my life. Pax lodge is indeed a place where strangers soon become friends. (Tella, Ghana)





# 03

## OUR OPERATIONS



# STAFFING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of September 2023, Vi was promoted from Front of House Coordinator to Operations Manager - filling a much needed gap. As she had already been working at Pax Lodge, her transition to this new role was a very smooth one.

In October 2023, we employed another full time Front of House Coordinator. Lily is a Girl Guide from Scotland and had been a short-term volunteer with us in Summer 2022. She soon fitted in with the Pax Lodge family and has proved herself to be a hard worker. Not only has she been an excellent member of the team, she has also taken on the Guide unit who meet here on Monday evenings.

At the end of December 2023, our weekend receptionist Loreta left us for a full time job.

At the end of June 2024, Chiska (Front of House Coordinator since January 2023) left to pursue work in the advocacy field. In March 2024, we were able to support her to be a WAGGGS Global Advocacy Champion for the Commission on the Status of Women for the United Nations in New York.

In October 2024, we were proud to support Lily to take part in the Juliette Low Seminar and attend the in-person event at Kusafiri World Centre.

At the end of September 2024, our long-term Front of House volunteer Jen made the decision to move on. She had been with us almost since our reopening in February 2022, first as a guest and later as a long-term volunteer. Whilst not herself a member of the movement, her dual nationality British and American made her a valuable asset to the team and her commitment to Pax Lodge was no less than any staff or volunteer who are themselves GG/GS members.

In January 2024, Amir, Vi and Liz travelled to Our Chalet World Centre alongside World Centre Managers and Programme teams from other World Centres to receive training from the Core Mission Team on the WAGGGS programme framework, discuss ideas and issues and share in the spirit of Guiding and Scouting at Our Chalet. This time together has given us some tools we can use to better explain the impact of our work in the future.

In March 2024, Amir, Vi and Liz took on additional Health and Safety training.

In July 2024, Amir and Liz travelled together to Sangam World Centre to participate in the Surf Smart 2.0 Summit Celebration: Empowering Generation Digital.

# FACILITIES

We continue to prioritise the maintenance and enhancement of the building's facilities to ensure safety, efficiency, and comfort for all occupants. Below is an overview of the recently completed upgrades and ongoing improvements:

- Rewired a faulty power line within the building to ensure reliable electrical functionality and enhance safety compliance.
- Safety water Isolation Valves Installation: Water isolation valves have been added to all basins, sinks, toilets, and radiators throughout the building. This upgrade allows us to isolate specific areas during repairs or leaks, significantly minimizing potential damage and eliminating the need to shut off the entire building's water supply.
- Bathroom Renovations: Three bathrooms have been fully renovated, modernizing their functionality and appearance.
- Security Floodlights Installation: Security floodlights have been installed around the building's exterior to enhance night-time safety and deter unauthorized access.
- Basement Flood Prevention: A new submarine pump has been installed in the basement, alongside a backup pump to ensure continued operation in the event of a main pump failure. This proactive measure prevents potential flooding and associated damage.
- Eco-Friendly Lighting Upgrades: All lights within Pax Lodge have been replaced with energy-efficient, eco-friendly LED lighting, aligning with our commitment to sustainability and reducing energy consumption.
- Technology Upgrades: All PCs and laptops have been upgraded, ensuring that our technology infrastructure remains reliable and capable of meeting current demands.

These enhancements demonstrate our ongoing dedication to maintaining a safe, functional, and modern environment for all building users.



# FACILITIES

Our dedication to sustainability continues to bear fruit. With the structural needs of Pax Lodge addressed, we turned our attention to enhancing the aesthetics of our space. These renovations create inviting spaces that reflect the guiding spirit, with themed decorations designed by our former MCI, Alice.

- New welcome mat with Pax Lodge logo
- Welcome boards outside and window sticker
- New washing machines and tumble dryers
- Small fridge for use by conference clients
- Transition to LED Lighting
- Motion security light installed in the back garden
- Additional CCTV cameras were installed in the main parking area and Pax Lodge entrance
- Installing Motion Sensors in the most common areas
- Planting a green wall alongside the front garden
- Eliminating Plastic Bags
- Introduction of Bamboo Pillows
- Eco-Friendly Products in Our Shop
- Replacing Paper Towels with Air Hand Dryers
- New bedside tables with bedside lamps equipped with USB&C charger.
- Painting the guest rooms and all communal areas – including updated pictures in guest rooms relating the area or country who sponsored the room and hand-painted decorations courtesy of Carol (volunteer from Mexico)
- Painting the Conference room thanks to money from the Friends of WAGGGS World Centres





# 04

## 2025 AND BEYOND



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

In 2025 Pax Lodge will celebrate it's 34th anniversary and there will be many ways that you can be involved and experience the place "where strangers soon are friends"

### **Events:**

From World Thinking Day to Inspiring spring, JamBrownee through our Summer Events, to STEMazing Guides and into our Global Friendship Event there's something for everyone.

Not able to make a full event? Then why not bring your group for an International Adventure Day or evening programme. Perhaps you'd rather take on the Pax Lodge Challenge and earn a badge?

We are excited to host two Friends of Pax Lodge meetings in 2025 plus the third annual Friends of Pax Lodge Christmas Bazaar.

### **Volunteers:**

It is always sad to have to say farewell to new friends, but always thrilling to welcome new volunteers to the Pax Lodge family. Our volunteers change each season (Spring, Summer and Autumn/Winter) and stay with us between 3 and 5 months bringing with them new energy, ideas and so much enthusiasm.

# Pax Lodge

## 2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>	 <p>22-23 World Thinking Day Activities</p>	 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>	 <p>17-20 Inspiring Spring</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p>29 May-1 Jun JamBrownee</p>	 <p>15-20 Journey Through London One 22-27 Journey Through London Two</p> <p><b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p>	 <p>6-11 Journey Through London Three 13-18 Journey Through London Four</p> <p><b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p>	 <p>27 Jul-1 Aug Journey Through London Five 3-8 Journey Through London Six</p> <p><b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>	 <p>30 Oct-2 Nov STEMazing Guides</p>	 <p>22 Friends of Pax Lodge Christmas Bazar 23-28 Global Friendship Event</p>	 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>

# Pax Lodge

## 2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p><b>Independent guest bookings available</b></p>	 <p>21-22 World Thinking Day Activities</p>	 <p><b>Independent guest bookings available</b></p>	 <p>19-24 Spring Friendship Event</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p>28-31 JamBrownee</p>	 <p>21-26 Journey Through London One <b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p> <p>28 Jul-3 Jul Journey Through London Two</p>	 <p>12-17 Journey Through London Three <b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p> <p>19-24 Journey Through London Four</p>	 <p>2-7 Journey Through London Five</p> <p>9-14 Journey Through London Six</p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p><b>Independent guest bookings available</b></p>	 <p>29 Oct-1 Nov STEMazing Guides</p>	 <p><b>Independent guest bookings available</b></p>	 <p><b>Independent guest bookings available</b></p>



# 05

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

# THANK YOU

We are grateful for your continued support and friendship. We are incredibly proud of the progress we have made and the goals we have achieved. These accomplishments would not have been possible without your generous support and belief in our mission.

Together, we are making Pax Lodge a source of inspiration and a welcoming home for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world. We look forward to welcoming you to London in the future and sharing more unforgettable moments together.

- The Pax Lodge Team

## Get involved





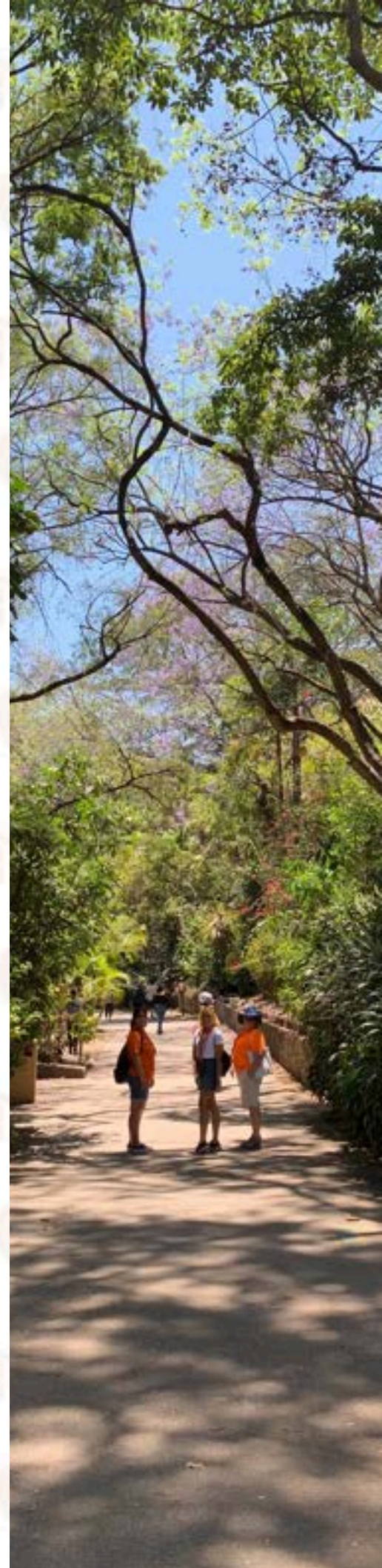
# NUESTRA CABAÑA

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
BY MARTHA CONCHA



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# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



## GUIDING AND SCOUTING GUESTS

527 Guiding and Scouting guests

207 Independent Guests, staying overnight but not taking part in an event

320 Event Guests



## EVENTS DELIVERED IN 2024

7 Events delivered with participation from 26 countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Chile, Curacao, Dominica, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela.



## VOLUNTEERS

12 full season volunteers from 11 different countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Germany, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Scotland, England, Sweden, Zimbabwe) and 2 remote volunteers from Argentina and Costa Rica.



## DAY VISITORS

24 Day guests for self-guided tours, guided tours, and pinning ceremonies.



# 02

## OUR PROGRAMMES



## 2024 EVENTS

### **LET'S CELEBRATE: FRIENDS OF NUESTRA CABAÑA ANNUAL GATHERING**

This event was held from 7th to 11th of February, there were 79 participants between Friends of Nuestra Cabaña, WAGGGS World Board, Western Hemisphere Board and Girl Scouts USA Board, including volunteers and staff of NC, there were 9 different countries in the event. During the event, there was a parallel programme offer, hosting activities in and outside the centre, such as presentations, committees work, tours, and fundraising activities. On February 9th, we celebrated the official reopening of the centre with a special programme.

### **WORLD THINKING DAY AT NUESTRA CABAÑA**

The week event was held from 19th to 26th February, there were 7 participants (3 leaders and 4 young girl guides) from New York USA. During the week event, participants visited the Monarch Sanctuary in Valle de Bravo. On their return to the centre, we hosted the World Thinking Day Celebration with multiple districts from Guías de México, the day pass had 77 participants from 5 different districts. During the WTD Celebration, we had programme for 3 age groups and the participants were awarded with the WTD 2024 Badge.

### **TASTE OF MÉXICO 1**

The event was held from 9th to 16th of March, there were 48 participants in total, from USA and Canada. The aim of the programme was to explore Mexican culture and learn about International Guiding and Scouting values through a mix of learning styles, highlighting a gastronomical and cooking experience. For this event, the centre had extra help from one WAGGGS staff member and one Local Girl Guide Volunteer.



## 2024 EVENTS

### **MEXICO ADVENTURE: SUMMER FRIENDSHIP 3**

This event was held from 3rd to 10th of August, there were 10 participants from Philadelphia USA (3 Leaders and 7 young Girl Scouts), the programme of this event was created especially for young leaders aiming to increase their knowledge in international Guiding and Scouting values and programmes while discovering sisterhood at the World Centres. During this event, we had sessions such as community service projects with our community partners (VAMOS) and visits to Downtown Cuernavaca, Tepoztlán and El Rollo Waterpark.

### **JULIETTE LOW SEMINAR 2024 NUESTRA CABAÑA EXPEDITION**

The event was held from 27th September to 5th October, there were 26 participants, 5 JLS facilitators, 1 WAGGGS Core Mission team and 3 WAGGGS Interpreters, together with volunteers and staff, there were 26 countries present. The space was diverse, with enriching and unique peace building spaces, the overall evaluation of the event was very good. It was the first time visiting the centre for approximately 80% of the participants, the event was facilitated in both English and Spanish. One of the highlights of the programme was the simultaneous community partners connection, were we connected and helped three different communities in Xoxocotla, Tepoztlán and Temixco.

# VOLUNTEERS AT NUESTRA CABAÑA

Nuestra Cabaña is currently hosting 5 volunteers for the autumn season on site (September to December) from UK, Scotland, Sweden, Germany and Panamá. In this season the centre has 2 Programme Volunteers, 2 Guest Services Volunteers and 1 Marketing and Communication Volunteer. Nuestra Cabaña has the support of 3 local Ranger Girl Guides Volunteers from Guías de México, 1 remote volunteer from Costa Rica working in Marketing and Communications and the Marketing and Communications Manager from Argentina.



During the Summer Season (May to September) we had one Programme Volunteer from Zimbabwe and during the Spring Season (starting in January) we had one Programme Volunteer from México staying till April, one Programme Volunteer from Paraguay staying till June and the first Kitchen Volunteer of the centre from Costa Rica staying till July. During the first months of the year (Jan-Feb) 4 volunteers of 2023 leave the centre, they were from Brazil, Argentina (continued remote), Australia and Scotland.

Nuestra Cabaña has an open application from offering volunteer positions for 2025 in 3 different areas: Marketing and Communications, Programme and Gest Services. The current seasons are Spring (Jan-May), Summer (Jun-Sept), Autumn (Sept-Dec), there are current efforts to open positions as Eventual Volunteers for Guides of Guías de México to support in specific events where more help is needed, these volunteer positions will last from 1.5 to 2 weeks.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Connections were established with 6 organizations in the community: San Vicente de Paul, Unidos, VAMOS, Fundación Comunidad, ECOCE, Casa Hogar Heredia López.

Some were previously known to the center, others were new.

## VAMOS

First meeting with Mercedes (Director of Vamos) and Rosario (Coordinator of Casa Tatic). Service project and donation of oral hygiene supplies from Nuestra Cabaña during Summer Friendship event. The last connection with them was during JLS, where a group of 15 participants, JLS facilitators and NC team spent a morning in the centre of elderly women in Temixco.

## UNIDOS

NC Volunteers as staff in a rally on inclusion and disabilities for high school students and as staff in a reforestation as a recreational activity for people with and without disabilities

## SAN VICENTE

Delivery of free food supplies in Loma Esmeralda Community and free breakfast in San Vicente HQ in Cuernavaca. Volunteers made meaningful connections with San Vicente volunteers. The last connection with them was during JLS, where a group of 15 participants, JLS Facilitators and NC team visited the HQ and then delivered packed lunches and different dynamics with around 200 children at a local elementary school in Tepoztlán.

## FUNDACIÓN COMUMIDAD

Nuestra Cabaña, along with other local NGO's, were invited to participate in the event "Redefining philanthropy from the perspective of social organization". The last connection with them was during JLS, where a group of 15 participants, JLS Facilitators and NC team visited a cultural centre preparing for a fair centred in the conservation of indigenous languages, in Xoxocotla.

## ECOCE

Monthly collection and weighing of materials for recycling with Ecoce. Till October 2024 we will turn 6 months following the separation programme.



# 03

## OUR OPERATIONS

# STAFFING

Full team is now in place:

- World Centres Manager - Martha
- Programme Manager - Veronica
- Programme intern - Enya
- Guest services Assistant - Danna - joined as an intern in July from Tec Milenio University to work during her business semester.
- Maintenance team x 3: Rodolfo, Gabriel and Sergio, who joined in May
- House keeping team x 2: Liliana and Sugey joined in July

- Kitchen x 2 : Mago and Mary who joined in August
- Night Guard x 1 , Roberto

After thoroughly reviewing the operation of Nuestra Cabaña, it was decided to hire temporary staff only to support when there are groups on-site. At this time, there is no need to hire more permanent staff.

**Training and development:** Martha and Veronica travelled to Our Chalet in Jan 2024 for programme training. All staff have had safeguarding training.





## FACILITY UPGRADES

1. The security booth was remodelled, providing more space for the guard, and security was reinforced. The Nuestra Cabaña sign was repainted.
2. Significant work has been done to upgrade the internet on the property, with key components replaced for optimal functionality. The security cameras were also reset, with cameras and cabling replaced for proper operation.
3. Bathrooms have been services and where necessary upgraded in all dormitories and private rooms.
4. The well, water pipes and drainage system all needed repairing and in some part completely renewing because tree roots were causing obstructions.
5. A termite treatment was applied to the last dormitory (which also needs a new door because the pest destroyed it) and to the workshop, where it was necessary to replace damaged drawers and rails.
6. Seven gas tanks were replaced
7. Extensive tree and lawn pruning was carried out throughout the year.
8. An extensive review of the property was done to locate and fix any roof leaks.
9. Lighting across the property was upgraded.
10. Fans have been installed in private rooms and dormitories.





# 04

## 2025 AND BEYOND



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

In 2025 Nuestra Cabaña will be enjoying its first year since the reopening and 68 years since the inauguration back in 1957, the year will be filled with adventure, celebration and of course a lot of guiding/scouting sisterhood! Here is what you cannot miss:

### **HER ROOTS, HER FUTURE, SUSTAINABILITY AT WORLD CENTRES**

Nuestra Cabaña is starting 2025 with a strong and vibrant sustainability programme as they start building its newest project: 'Her roots, her future'. The project, funded by Global Youth Mobilization, consists in the building of an urban garden on site, where local young guides and volunteers will create and deliver environmental and sustainability programmes to different communities of Morelos. Aiming to support vulnerable communities of the area, the garden will function as a laboratory to explore and learn all the ways we can take care of our community, environment and even ourselves.

The content of the programme will be supported by WAGGGS Global Programmes such as GLACC (Girl-led action for climate change) or the YUNGA (Youth and United Nations Global Alliance) Badges. This project is sponsored by GYM (Global Youth Mobilization) an initiative of the European Union Youth Empowerment Fund, the fund prioritized working with WAGGGS as it is recognized as one of the 'Big Six Organisations' thanks to our work with youth. Everyone participating in Nuestra Cabaña events will get a taste of the project with a session in the garden!





## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

### 2025 EVENTS

Nuestra Cabaña team has been working hard on mastering their programme delivery while participating in an event, the calendar for 2025 and 2026 is out and the offer is so good that soon they will be sold out! Don't miss the opportunity to explore the most iconic and significant parts and traditions of México while living the whole World Centre Experience with your guiding sisters. The centre offers different themed events to adapt to your perfect travel experience, from gastronomy with Taste of México, or traditions with Día de Muertos, to unique natural phenomena with Monarch Butterflies or Fireflies Forest. For our cherished young guides, events like World Thinking Day, Splash into spring or Summer Friendship will leave you lifelong learning and friendships, not easy to miss! Get together with your go-to travel group and start planning, check out Nuestra Cabaña web page and choose the event that is most appealing to you and book now.

### VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Every four months, new volunteers arrive to the centre to work in three different areas: Programme, Communications and Marketing and Guest Services. During their term, they get to know all the coordination, logistics and programmes of the centre, developing knowledge and experience in their areas while also incorporating their guiding and professional expertise to make it even better. This is a unique world centre immersive experience, they complete a programme to strengthen and further develop their leadership skills and while they do it, they get to know the culture of a truly amazing and diverse country as México. If you are someone that loves challenges, cultural exchange and volunteering and you also want to practice or improve your Spanish, this is your opportunity! Applications for summer and autumn 2025 seasons are opened!

# SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES

## TO CONTINUE IMPROVING THE FACILITY IN 2025

1. Finish installing at least two more cameras to cover the gardens and fire pit area.
2. In all rooms, dormitories, and private rooms: replace curtains, install missing mosquito screens, and repair damaged ones.
3. General carpentry for all the wood on the property: room doors, bathroom doors, lockers, closets, etc., and replace four lockers and two dressers lost to the termite infestation.
4. Replace old and outdated electrical outlets.
7. General maintenance of ironwork, such as doors and windows.
8. We have two kitchenettes, one in Noche Buena and one in Verna Orndorff, as well as two for volunteers. They are very old and in poor condition and need upgrading.



# Nuestra Cabaña

## 2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY



18-24 Taste of Mexico 1

FEBRUARY



5-9 Friends of Nuestra Cabaña Annual Gathering

24-25 World Thinking Day Activities

MARCH



1-8 Splash into Spring 1

15-22 Taste of Mexico 2

APRIL



6-13 Splash into Spring 2

19-26 Taste of Mexico 3

MAY



1-4 Climate Action Summit

JUNE



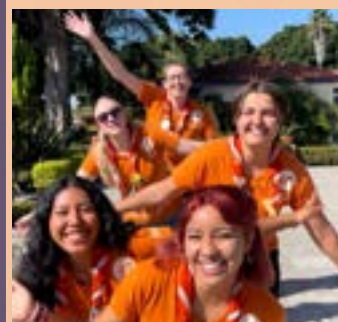
22-29 Natural Mexico: Fireflies Forest

JULY



21-28 Mexico Adventure: Summer Friendship 1

AUGUST



3-10 Mexico Adventure: Summer Friendship 2

17-24 Mexico Adventure: Summer Friendship 3

SEPTEMBER



**Independent guest bookings available**

OCTOBER



11-18 Taste of Mexico 4

28Oct-4 Nov Real Mexico: Day of the Dead

NOVEMBER



**Independent guest bookings available**

DECEMBER



7-14 Natural Mexico: Monarch Butterflies

28 Dec-4 Jan Ringing in the New Year in Mexico

# Nuestra Cabaña

## 2026 CALENDAR

### JANUARY



18-25 Taste of Mexico 1:  
New Year New Flavors

### FEBRUARY



4-8 Friends of Nuestra  
Cabaña Annual Gathering

16-23 World Thinking Day  
Activities

### MARCH



7-14 Splash into Spring 1

19 -26 Splash into Spring 2

### APRIL



1-8 Taste of Mexico:  
Celebrating Easter

### MAY



**Independent  
guest bookings  
available**

### JUNE



14-21 Real Mexico:  
Mexican History & Culture

23-30 Mexico Adventure:  
Summer Friendship 2

### JULY



2-9 Real Mexico: Fireflies  
Forest

11-18 Mexico Adventure:  
Fiesta Latina

24-31 Mexico Adventure:  
Summer Friendship 4

### AUGUST



2-9 Mexico Adventure:  
Summer Friendship 5

11-18 Mexico Adventure:  
Summer Friendship 6

20-27 Real Mexico:  
Fireflies Forest 2

### SEPTEMBER



**Independent  
guest bookings  
available**

### OCTOBER



3-10 Taste of Mexico 4:  
Tasting Traditions

28 Oct-4 Nov Real  
Mexico: Day of the Dead

### NOVEMBER



**Independent  
guest bookings  
available**

### DECEMBER



3-11 Natural Mexico:  
Monarch Butterflies

29 Dec-3 Jan Ringing in  
the New Year in Mexico



# 05

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

# THANK YOU

As we reflect on 2024, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible support we have received throughout the year. It has been a great adventure leading Nuestra Cabaña, a place that holds so much history, meaning, and love for so many around the world. Maintaining and caring for this cherished

World Centre is both a great responsibility and a privilege. Every day, I am inspired by the generosity and dedication of those who support Nuestra Cabaña—through donations, volunteer efforts, and the unwavering commitment of our team. The love for this special place is truly evident, and it is heartwarming to see how many people, near and far, care so deeply about its future.

Being part of WAGGGS and this global movement fills me with excitement, responsibility, and hope. Together, we are creating opportunities for girls and young women to connect, grow, and lead change.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and belief in Nuestra Cabaña. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in 2025!

**Martha Concha**

**Get  
involved**





# SANGAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
BY MINA JADHAV



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# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



## GUESTS AND VISITORS

In 2024, Sangam has hosted more than **1,200 guests**. Throughout the year, we have had the pleasure of welcoming participants for various events, community partners engaging in our initiatives or conducting their own programmes, as well as independent visitors and day guests. Those guests are from **46 countries**.



## EVENTS

**11 Sangam events** were successfully held. These included 5 cultural events, 4 leadership events and 2 Magic Masala events. The Surf Smart 2.0 celebration event took place at Sangam as well. And we were one of the hubs for the Juliette Low Seminar 2024 expeditions.



## LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

We have 2 leadership programmes: Volunteer Programme and Community Programme. **5 volunteers** from Rwanda, UK, USA, Australia and Lesotho joined the family. **9 young women** from the USA, UK and Denmark took part in our **Community Programme**.



## STEM DISCOVERY DAY PROGRAMME

We ran 28 STEM Discovery Day programmes for girls aged 10-15. As of July 2024, we have exceeded our target by 20%, reaching **1,076 girls and boys** from our community partner, local schools and local Scout and Guide groups.



# 02

## OUR PROGRAMMES



## EVENTS

### SANGAM EVENTS

At Sangam, we deliver 2 types of events: Cultural and Leadership. The activities are progressively becoming more dynamic. With an average of 1 to 2 events per month, we have a good rhythm between leadership and cultural events. While more family, friends, leaders and adults over 30 are coming for the cultural events, groups of young people aged 13 and above are starting to return for the leadership events.

### GLOBAL EVENTS

The Surf Smart 2.0 Celebration was held at Sangam with 36 participants from 19 countries, including 8 global teams and 2 Pax Lodge staff.

We were honoured to be a part of the discussion on the future of the programme and we had representatives from Gen and Johnson&Johnson joining us for a panel discussion. We have been inspired to see how people from around the world are coming together to promote internet safety.

We were one of the hubs for the JLS 2024 expedition which has been delivered in English and Arabic. We welcomed 43 participants from 26 countries, and 11 global team including 2 volunteers from the Languages Services Team from 8 countries. Blended with international exchange and Indian culture, we have provided a space for these JLS participants to practise their leadership and create lifelong memories.





## COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

The Community Programme celebrated its 20 years in 2024. The programme continues to change the lives of participants and the community. This year, we celebrate 20 years of impact and over 200 Tares who continue to shine around the world.

The community programme offers participants a unique, hands-on experience within the local community. Community programme participants spend between 4 to 10 weeks at Sangam. During their placement, they work 4 days a week with our community partners which include NGOs and schools. On the other days, they are fully immersed in the culture and Guiding/Scouting through the various activities organised by Sangam.





## GLOBAL PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

We have started delivering the STEM DISCOVERY DAY PROGRAMME since November 2023. This programme has enhanced their understanding of STEM as well as their ability to identify and challenge gender bias in STEM education and career pathways.

In partnership with SafePad Project Denmark, we educated girls aged 12 and above about Menstrual Hygiene Management through our Community Programme in September. A total of 500 reusable sanitary pads were distributed in 14 community partners which include schools and NGOs.



## LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Volunteers are at the core of the delivery of Sangam's programmes. The programme provides young people between the ages of 18 and 30 with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world centre by contributing to the delivery of our events, whilst consciously practising and developing their leadership as well as other skills.

Our volunteer said "I went into this experience thinking about my leadership in the context of when we had guests and participants. But, I grew in the leadership you show with your coworkers and in your relationships. I adjusted my mindset to the different types of values everyone brings. And then from there work to see how I could help to support the people around me in the best ways I could."



# 03

## OUR OPERATIONS

# STAFFING

We currently have 16 local staff. Besides work, mind mantras, group discussions during international days and celebrations are organised to ensure cohesion and everyone's integration into the vision and mission of the World Centres and WAGGGS.

A new member of staff has joined the domestic team. And our assistant programmes have each moved on to new challenges as Administrative Assistant and Community Relations Assistant.

Two of our maintenance team have completed lifeguard training and are now qualified lifeguards, ready to ensure the safety of all who use the pool.

In January 2024, we joined there of the World Centres World Centres Manager and Programme team at Our Chalet. The discussions, exchanges and shared moments were instrumental in getting to know each other as World Centres and also in aligning our actions with the WAGGGS priorities.





## FACILITIES

### HALL

One of the significant property projects carried out this year was the hall has been renovation. The condition of the wood had significantly worsened, leading to its deterioration. Therefore, the doors, windows, and all wooden structures were entirely rebuilt. Having concluded that work, ventilation and lights are still yet to be done.

### REGULAR MAINTENANCE

The maintenance team consistently dedicated their efforts to ensuring the property remained clean and tidy. They are always working towards finding appropriate solution to fix and repair things around. As a team, they are working hard and doing lot of small repairs themselves.

### COUNTING DOWN TO 60

With the 60th anniversary just a year away, planning and brainstorming for maintenance work to get Sangam ready have begun. Water tower, repainting buildings, solar panels are some examples of major projects that need to be done.

### ONGOING WORK

The maintenance team consistently dedicated their efforts to ensuring the property remained clean and tidy. They are always working towards finding appropriate solution to fix and repair things around. As a team, they are working hard and doing lot of small repairs themselves.



# 04

## 2025 AND BEYOND



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

We are delighted to welcome and offer the unique Sangam experience to more Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Our team is working hard to develop a range of fresh events that promise to engage and inspire. These new events are designed to complement our best-selling and ensure that every guest finds something to suit their interests and aspirations.

As we continue our countdown to the momentous milestone of 60, we will embrace 2025 as a preparatory stage for the Diamond Celebrations in 2026. We aim to lay a strong foundation for the celebrations. This period will involve careful planning, identifying priorities and preparing the building. With a year to go before the 60th birthday celebration, the “Diamond Jubilee” event from the 9th to 18th October 2026 is fully booked.

One of our key priorities is also to increase awareness of Sangam among a wider audience. We believe that by reaching out to more countries, we can share the unique values and experiences that Sangam offers.

There is always a wide range of opportunities available to everyone at Sangam.

In line with one of the World Centres’ objectives to support WAGGGS in fostering a cohesive and connected movement led by girls and young women, and in our commitment to enable more Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to experience the transformative Sangam journey, we are offering scholarships for various events in 2025 for young women in Guiding and Girl Scouting from around the world to apply for.

There are a few placements open for those who want to take part in our community programme. We also have scholarship available to support a young women to shine in the community.

We have adjusted the number of placements and the number of volunteers needed according to our activities and we expect to welcome more volunteers than in the last 2 years this year.

# Sangam

## 2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p>18 Online Cooking with Ishwari 22-28 Discover Incredible India</p>	 <p>1-28 Community Programme 4 Weeks 19-25 Celebrating World Thinking Day</p>	 <p>10-16 Celebrate India: Holi Festival</p> <p>SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE</p>	 <p>19-25 Indian Summer Flavours</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p><b>CLOSED</b></p>	 <p>4-8 Come Home</p>	 <p>7-13 Brave Space 7 Jul-12 Set Community Programme</p> <p>SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE</p>	 <p>6-12 Brave Space II</p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p>28 Aug-3 Sep Celebrate India: Ganesh Festival 19-25 Art 4 Healing</p> <p>SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE</p>	 <p>12-18 Diamond Countdown One!</p>	 <p><b>Independent guest bookings available</b></p>	

# Sangam 2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p>20 Jan-28 Feb Community Programme 6 Weeks 22-28 Discover Incredible India</p>	 <p>20 Jan-31 Mar Community Programme 10 Weeks 19-25 Celebrating World Thinking Day</p>	 <p>2-8 Celebrate India: Holi Festival</p>	 <p>1-7 Arts 4 Change</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p><b>CLOSED</b></p>	 <p>4-8 Come Home <b>50% OFF</b> 18-24 Discover Incredible India</p>	 <p>6-12 Leaders Today 4 Jul-17 Aug Community Programme 6 Weeks 4 Jul-12 Set Community Programme 10 Weeks</p>	 <p>11-17 Brave Space <b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p>16-22 Spark, Shine &amp; Share I</p>	 <p>9-18 Diamond: Spark, Shine &amp; Share <b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p>	 <p>16-22 Spark, Shine &amp; Share II</p>	 <p>10-16 Connect, Camp &amp; Celebrate</p>



# 05

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

# THANK YOU

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing and endless support. Whether you've visited, participated in one of our online events, or supported us with your donations, you've helped us achieve what we set out to do.

It is through your generosity that we can continue to improve Sangam, offer more opportunities to more Girls and young women, and deliver enriching experiences to every guest.

We look forward to welcoming you at Sangam and creating more incredible experiences with you.

Warm regards,

The Team at Sangam

**Get  
involved**



**Volunteering  
opportunities**



**Support  
Sangam**



**Become a  
Friend**



# KUSAFIRI

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
BY JEN BARRON



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# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



## GUESTS

Kusafiri received **83** Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting guests in 2024, from **35** countries. 2 of these were day visitors, the rest were overnight guests.



## EVENTS

Kusafiri delivered **2** in-person events and **2** virtual events in 2024. The virtual events reach **126** people.



## VOLUNTEERS

Kusafiri has **3** wonderful volunteers in 2024, from **3** different countries.



## PROGRAMME

The Kusafiri challenge was launched at the 2024 JLS event and **45** people completed it.



# 01

## PROGRAMMES



## EVENTS

**Free Being Me Expert Facilitators Training for Africa Region:** This event was delivered in French and English in July 2024. There were 15 participants, 2 interpreters, and 3 WAGGGS staff from 14 countries. The event was funded through the Free Being Me partnership with Dove, including event fees and travel grants.

**Juliette Low Seminar 2024 Kusafiri Expedition:** This event was also delivered in French and English in September/October 2024. 44 participants were in attendance from 26 countries and there was a global team of 13 from 10 countries. The expedition was an amazing learning experience for all those who attended and included an incredible community connection with some of the partners of Ghana Girl Guides.

At the JLS, we launched the Kusafiri Challenge and many of the participants and members of the global team completed the Challenge. You will have to come to Kusafiri to complete this!

We hosted 2 successful online events in 2024 – one for World Thinking Day and one for Kusafiri's 13th birthday. Both were well attended and were good fundraisers for the Centre.

## VOLUNTEERS

Ghana Girl Guides currently have 2 Volunteers working with them from France. This is assisting greatly in our desire to deliver programmes in both languages to meet the needs of the Region.

We have 3 Kusafiri Volunteers who have spent most of the year working remotely and were able to attend the JLS to support the success of this event. The 3 Volunteers have various levels of French. They come from Ghana, the UK and Kenya and will continue to work with us remotely through the remainder of this year.



# 02

## OPERATIONS

## KUSAFIRI PILOT

At the 38<sup>th</sup> World Conference in 2023 it was decided that Kusafiri would be located in Ghana until 2026. WAGGGS and the Ghana Girl Guides Association have been working closely together to move Kusafiri forward at their existing training centre in Accra. A report assessing the success of this pilot and the future of Kusafiri - the findings of which will be shared with Member Organisations in advance of the 39th World Conference in 2026, so stay tuned!



## STAFF

Jen Barron continues as the key consultant working with Kusafiri on a part-time basis. Most of the time she works with the team in Ghana remotely and in 2024 was able to travel to Ghana twice to work with the team face-to-face which was hugely beneficial.

# 2024 UPDATES

## BRANDING

You can now find signs on the entrance and the outdoor meeting space saying 'Kusafiri World Centre'. The front gates of the Centre are also branded with the Kusafiri drum and there's a 'I've been to Kusafiri' board where you can insert your face to prove that you made it here! There's also painting all around the courtyard representing African culture and Kusafiri.



## BATHROOMS

New bathroom and shower cubicles have been added to the property to ensure we have enough to host large groups onsite.

## AIR CONDITIONERS

Many of the units on the property have been upgraded to ensure guests can sleep comfortably when it's warmer.

## RECEPTION

An office has been turned into a comfortable reception/waiting area for guests to use once they arrive and anytime during their stay.

## SHOP

An old shipping container has been converted into the Kusafiri shop.

## REFLECTION AREA

One of the open-air shelters has been converted into a reflection space where guests can take some time out.

## DINING ROOM

Another open-air shelter has been converted into a dining space complete with boards where the menu for each meals is displayed in multiple languages.

## ELECTRICITY

We need to upgrade our generator and re-distribute the electrical load across the three phases on the property. This is our next project in relation to property upgrade.



# 03

## 2025 AND BEYOND



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

**Kusafiri 2025-2026: A World of Adventure and Culture Awaits.**

Kusafiri is thrilled to offer a diverse range of programmes and activities in 2025 and 2026, all designed to immerse you in the vibrant culture and stunning natural beauty of Ghana.

Our events are hosted at the Ghana Girl Guides Training Centre in Accra, with some extending to other locations around the city. Each event offers a unique opportunity to explore, connect, and grow – with optional post-event tours that let you discover even more of Ghana’s rich heritage and breathtaking landscapes.

If our scheduled event dates don’t align with your plans, no worries! We invite you to request a customised event for your group or enjoy a personalised stay as an independent guest.

**Introducing the Kusafiri Challenge!**  
We’re excited to introduce the Kusafiri Challenge, where participants can engage in a series of fun and meaningful activities, earning the exclusive Kusafiri Challenge badge/patch. Come to Kusafiri and be among the first to complete the challenge and proudly wear this symbol of accomplishment and adventure.

### **Join Us Virtually!**

If you can’t travel to Ghana in person, you can still join in the excitement. We’ve scheduled four virtual events throughout 2025, featuring cultural celebrations and immersive experiences that bring the spirit of Kusafiri directly to you.



No matter how you choose to engage, we can’t wait to welcome you to Kusafiri and share the wonders of Ghana with you!

# Kusafiri

## 2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p><b>Independent guests booking available</b></p>	 <p>22 Virtual World Thinking Day</p>	 <p>8 Virtual Kusafiri Tour &amp; Cultural Experience 1 29 Virtual Kusafiri Tour &amp; Cultural Experience 2</p>	 <p>30 Apr-6 May U4SDGS Climax Event</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p>28 Virtual Red is the New Black (Menstrual Health Matters)</p>	 <p><b>Independent guests booking available</b></p>	 <p>8-19 Huduma Kwa Utamaduni 13 Virtual Kusafiri Birthday</p>	 <p><b>Independent guests booking available</b></p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p>1-8 Shai Moonlight Adventure</p>	 <p>1-21 Community Adventures -3 Weeks</p>	 <p><b>Independent guests booking available</b></p>	 <p><b>Independent Guests bookings available</b></p>

# Kusafiri

## 2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p><b>Independent guests booking available</b></p>	 <p>19-25 World Thinking Day</p>	 <p>16-22 Arts4Change</p>	 <p><b>Independent guests booking available</b></p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p>28 Virtual Red is the New Black (Menstrual Health Matters)</p>	 <p><b>Independent guests booking available</b></p>	 <p>9-15 Kusafiri Birthday 19-29 Huduma Kwa Utamaduni</p>	 <p>20-26 Experience Gamashie with Chalewote</p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p><b>Independent Guests bookings available</b></p>	 <p>1-21 Community Adventures -3 Weeks</p>	 <p>12-17 Camping in the Wild</p>	 <p><b>Independent Guests bookings available</b></p>



# 04

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

4  
GHANA

# THANK YOU

We extend our gratitude for your support for Kusafiri World Centre. Your generosity and enthusiasm truly make a difference.

Together, we are building a brighter future, and we are incredibly thankful to have you as part of our journey.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Kusafiri family. We look forward to sharing our continued progress with you and having you visit us in Ghana soon.

**Get  
involved**



**Volunteering  
opportunities**



**Support  
Kusafiri**



**Become a  
Friend**



**!Merci !شكرًا لكم!**  
**Gracias! Thank you!**



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