

African Cat Sanctuary



Overview

Location	Stanford, South Africa.
Duration	From 2 - 12 weeks.
Dates	All year round.
Capacity	Max. 6 volunteers at one time
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum age: 18.• You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.• Special skills: You must have a love for animals as well as good physical and mental health as much of the time entails outside work that requires focus and concentration.
Your impact	♥♥♥♥♥
Documents required	Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance.
Day of arrival	Saturday.
Day of departure	Saturday.



Highlights

- Enjoy the beautiful, peaceful, scenic location on a farm with mountain views and no traffic/city noises or lights, incredible sunsets, and amazing stargazing.
- Be part of an ethical volunteer programme and a true sanctuary where no cub petting, breeding or trading takes place.
- The opportunity to learn about the captive big cat industry, the challenges and cruelty big cats are facing and how to be part of the change to make the world a better place for them by staying educated and being an advocate for them.
- Volunteers will not only work with the animals but have free time to spend by the animals. They will see the difference they make by supporting this project.
- Since the maximum number is 8 volunteers at a time, both volunteers and staff are very close and share lunches and social evening together, so the family vibe is really important at this project.
- Be close to many of South Africa's top tourist attractions, the possibilities in this area are endless!

Project information

The African Cat Sanctuary is an environmentally friendly sanctuary for any captive-bred big cats, where they will be protected and prosper for the rest of their lives. This 40-hectare paradise provides a beautiful home for the animals, the owners and the many visiting volunteers. The land is filled with lots of large trees, a natural spring and an amazing 180-degree mountain view. The project upholds a belief in the connection between both environmental and wildlife conservation and aims to become the first green big cat sanctuary in South Africa by running solely on solar energy.

One of the project's main focuses is to be an educational platform where they create awareness about conditions big cats face in captivity, and how animal welfare and enrichment play a vital role in giving the cats the best captive life possible. They are a true sanctuary where no cub petting, breeding or trading takes place. They are a blue print of how a non-profit sanctuary, focusing on animal welfare, can become self-sufficient, and they aim to change all breeding facilities into sustainable ethical programmes.

The project believes in the equal importance of both humans and animals, and they will do their absolute best to give you the experience of a lifetime. They know from personal experience that this includes both quality time with animals, as well as with staff and other volunteers. Hearing a lion roar up close, getting love and recognition from a leopard, hearing the chuffing of a tiger, or seeing the big cats appreciate and love the toys you make to enrich their lives = BLISS.

Programme details

All the project's animals have been rescued from unfit captive environments such as breeding facilities, bad zoos, circuses, private homes, and the bone trade. Most of them were taken away from their mothers to be hand-raised by humans for the profit of money. The whole African Cat Sanctuary pride is now living the rest of their days at the sanctuary, which gives love, respect and the best life possible in captivity.

Currently the project's pride consists of big cats and jackals, namely:

- Arabella and Rays (Tigers)

- Oliver, Obi, Jubatus, Neptune, Elsa, Zakara, Lei-ah, Jade and Achilles, Chaka, Baguira, Alpha, Cora, Karlos, Ivana (lions)
- Maya (jackal)
- Amy, Max and Jack (caracals)
- Pardus (leopard)
- Pema (cheetah)
- Balozi, Lekanya, Kamagelo and Mahaba (servals)
- Plus, the little house pride consisting of the project's dogs Kira, Leo, Buddha and Orion and their cat Tarzan.

Your work schedule

Normally, your days off are Saturdays, Sundays and Thursdays.

A possible work schedule could be:

- 06:00/07:00 Breakfast
- 07:00/08:00 Morning Meeting (07:00 during October – March due to the heat and 08:00 during April – September)
- 07:15/08:15 Morning Project
- 12:00 – 14:00/15:00 Lunch
- 14:00/15:00 Afternoon Project
- 16:30 – 17:30 End of workday/animal time
- 18:00 Dinner, then leisure time!

Your role

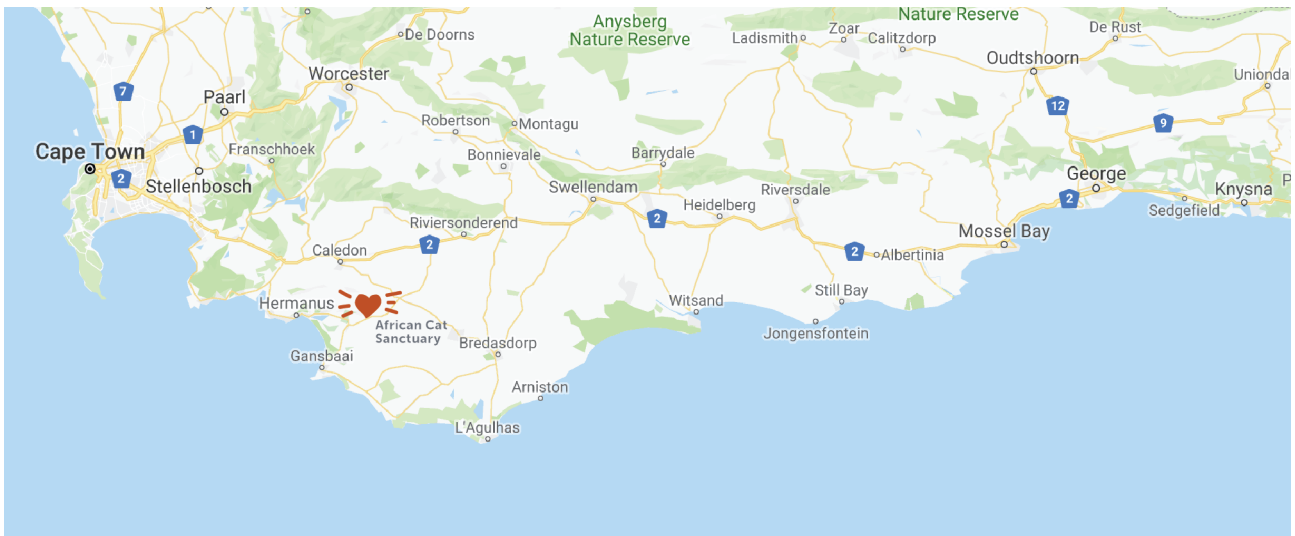
There is a difference between summer and winter months due to temperature and hours of light during the day. Together with the project team, you have a morning meeting where you go through every day's schedule so everything will be planned and set up for you. There are breaks between the different tasks, and the team will try their best to be flexible to accommodate off-site activities, so you can expect a good variety of work and relaxation!

Daily tasks might include:

- Caring for and observing the big cats
- Enrichment programme
- Preparation of food and feeding
- Cleaning, maintaining and upgrading of enclosures
- General farm work
- Assisting with educating visitors

It is important to note that this description serves as an example only. The daily tasks and challenges depend on the volunteer, the time of year and the work that needs to be done. The final job description can therefore vary substantially from the above.

Project location



The African Cat Sanctuary project is based in Stanford, with the Klein River running through it, mountain views, and is just 30 minutes away from the sea-side town of Hermanus.

Getting to and from the project

You need to arrive on a Saturday at Cape Town International Airport.

Arrival

Airport pick-ups are arranged before 13:00.

Please note that if your flight has a huge delay (i.e. more than 2 hours) you need to arrange a private taxi to get to the project. This will be on your own expense.

Departure

Departure transfers to the airport are also offered on Saturdays after 14:00.

Should these transfer times not work with your flight times, you need to stay one night in Cape Town at your own cost.

Accommodation

During your stay you will enjoy our modern, cosy home which is situated at a 8 minutes drive, or 25 minutes beautiful walk, from the sanctuary. The house consists of 3 bedrooms with 3 bathrooms, a spacious and fully equipped large kitchen and dining room area for everyone to cook and enjoy dinners together or get together for game nights. A cosy living room area with a fire for film evenings or just relaxing with a nice book is also available. Outside we have a traditional South African braai (BBQ) area, and a lovely dam and large garden to sunbath for the hot summer days! The pool in the garden at the sanctuary can also be used during free time. We have two bedrooms that accommodate two people, and one bedroom that accommodates up to 4 people.

Wi-Fi is available for volunteers to use at R50 per week, payable upon arrival.

Meals

Breakfast (self-service) and lunch (vegetarian) will be provided. Dinner is self-catering. You can enjoy all dinners together at the dining room area.

A vegetarian option is available and it is also possible to cater for special dietary requirements.

Free time

As Sundays and Thursdays are normally your days off, you can expect a good variety of work and relaxation. Wednesday is your activity day where you will be enjoying the amazing Overberg area together with the other volunteers. During your excursion day on Thursdays, the project staff will arrange and transport you to various activities in the area, such as:

- kayaking
- shark-cage diving
- whale watching
- wine tasting
- river cruise
- horseback riding on the beach
- quad biking
- visiting the casino and spa, and many more.

You are very close to many of South Africa's top tourist attractions: Cape Town with its Table Mountain, Robben Island, Cape Point; Hermanus with its unbelievable whale watching cove and wine tasting; Gansbaai with its spectacular white-shark diving, and some of the world's most amazing beaches on your door step.

Good Hope Volunteers will help you book other activities before and after your project should you wish to explore more in the area.

Local transport

Staff will transport the volunteers from the volunteer house to the sanctuary for work. The volunteer house is at walking distance for when volunteers want to come visit the animals during their free-time.

Transport is also available to take the volunteers for grocery shopping. In addition, on the excursion day (Thursday) the project offers a free transport to the activity.

Any other transport must be organised at your own expense.

What to bring

Here is a list of packing suggestions, but remember you can always buy anything you have forgotten here in South Africa.

You only need to pack for a week as laundry is available on-site. South Africa is capable of going through three different seasons in one day. It can be scorching hot during the day and very cold at night.

Clothing

- 7 days of work shirts
- Several long-sleeve shirts for morning/night-time
- Two pairs of jeans or long pants
- Two pairs of shorts
- 7 days of underwear + socks
- Warm sweater or fleece
- Waterproof jacket and trousers (raincoat)
- Bathing suit + pool/beach towel (not winter months: June – August)
- Gloves, hat, mittens (June - August)
- House shoes/slippers/warm socks
- Warm pyjamas (June – August)
- Leisure clothes for off days
- Wellingtons (can also be borrowed in different sizes) + sandals + casual shoes

Accessories

- Power adapters! Our outlets are 3 pronged.
- Hat with a brim
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Flashlight / head lamp
- First aid kit – plasters, disinfectant
- Insect repellent + lotion for itches
- Laptop / digital camera / chargers

Your commitment

Please be aware that in applying for a volunteer project, you are making a firm commitment to the project. Our projects depend on the volunteers. It is necessary that you take this commitment seriously.

Some projects will appoint specific responsibilities to you; others are less structured and require the volunteers to use their initiative. If you prefer the one type over the other, please ask us for the most appropriate project for your preference.

Your daily presence is required and working hours are to be followed strictly. Not fulfilling your obligation can result in your dismissal from the project.



Cell phone use during working hours

We kindly ask that you refrain from using your cell phone during work hours as this will distract you from doing the work at hand. This is for the safety of the volunteers who work with animals.

Volunteers who would like to take photographs of their projects are free to communicate this directly to their project supervisors for guidance and instruction.

What to wear

You are asked to wear sensible clothing and to be culturally sensitive of the communities you are working with. You are expected to wear modest clothing, which includes jeans, leggings, long shorts, and long skirts. Closed shoes are advisable, especially when working outdoors. Underwear is not to be seen under any circumstances.

Not acceptable are low cut tops, short shorts/shirts, bikinis and swimwear, belly tops, shirts/t-shirts with no sleeves for male volunteers as well as flip flops or no shoes.

Please also do not wear any camouflage patterned clothing.

Insurance

Travel insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out full personal insurance cover.

This should include protection against theft and against loss of fees, should the whole or part of a programme or activity or accommodation not be attended.

Medical insurance

You are required to take out medical insurance before travelling.

You must ensure that you are covered from the day of departure in your home country to the day of arrival back in your home country. The minimum coverage must be US\$ 100.000 and, as part of the enrolment process, you will need to email us a copy of your insurance policy documentation.

Safety

Although there is no physical contact with our animals, we are working around large and dangerous predators so we do have strict safety rules in place which will be clearly explained to the volunteers during orientation and before they begin tasks and projects in the sanctuary. Volunteers will sign a document agreeing to our non-negotiable safety rules. If any of our non-negotiable rules are broken, we reserve the right to ask the volunteer to leave the project early, with no financial reimbursement.



Health

No vaccinations are required except for travellers going to the north-eastern areas of South Africa, where anti-malaria precautions are recommended. Clients should consult their doctor for recommendations.

A yellow fever certificate is compulsory for those persons who have travelled from, or intend travelling through, countries in the yellow fever belt:

Africa: Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda.

South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela, Argentina and Paraguay.

Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, since your body needs to adjust to the change in food and water during your first few days in South Africa.

It is important to keep in mind at all times that HIV and Aids are widespread diseases in South Africa.

Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. We recommend that you make contact with your local vaccination services. The vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine and polio vaccine. In addition, we recommend Hepatitis A, typhoid and rabies. You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so this vaccine is recommended if you might get a tattoo or piercing.

Please contact us at Good Hope Volunteers should you have any questions about this.

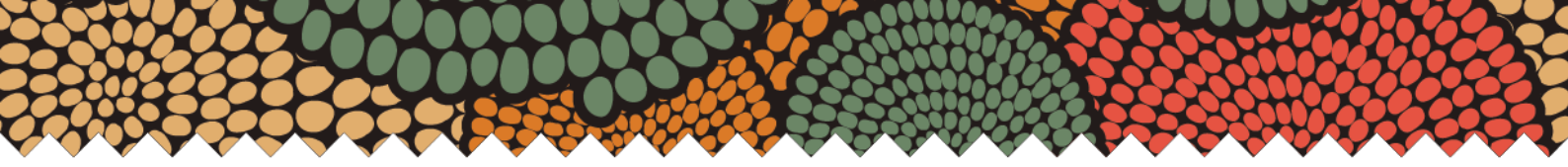
What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (Cape Town International Airport)
- Accommodation (mainly twin rooms, breakfast and lunch, laundry)
- Daily Transfer to Project
- Weekly transfer for grocery shopping
- Transport to one activity per week (Thursday)
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Local support, including a 24-hour emergency number
- Printed certificate of participation

Not included:

- Dinner
- Any other transport
- Excursions
- Wi-Fi
- Flights and insurance



Visa

You can volunteer in South Africa on a visitor's visa for up to 90 days.

Nationals from certain countries (e.g. Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, France, the Netherlands, Spain) will receive their visa when entering South Africa. Other nationals need to apply for a visitor's visa at a South African Embassy in their home country before travelling.

If you come to South Africa on a visitor's visa, you can extend once by another 90 days.

If you plan to come for more than 90 days, you need to apply for a volunteer visa at a South African Embassy in your home country. Please ask us for the necessary documents for your visa application.

For the latest information contact the South African Embassy or Good Hope Volunteers.