

# African Wildlife Experience



## Overview

<b>Location</b>	Oudtshoorn, South Africa.
<b>Duration</b>	From 2 - 12 weeks.
<b>Dates</b>	All year round.
<b>Capacity</b>	Max. 20 volunteers at one time
<b>Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum age: 18.</li><li>• You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>
<b>Your impact</b>	♥♥♥♥♥
<b>Documents required</b>	Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance.
<b>Day of arrival</b>	Tuesday.
<b>Day of departure</b>	Tuesday.



## Highlights

- Be empowered to protect nature by creating a conservation lifestyle.
- Work with species such as lions, rhinos, elephants, giraffes, cheetahs, meerkats and buffalos.
- Learn new and many different ways of how to preserve and conserve our planet and its animals.
- Track and monitor free roaming cheetahs.
- Relocate and translocate wildlife species.
- Combine conservation volunteering with the contribution of community upliftment when helping in a local farm school or school projects.

## Project information

If you are looking to make a difference by actively participating in the conservation of African wildlife within a fun, safe, stable and stunning environment, this project is the place for you.

Although this may sound similar to many other proudly South African volunteering projects, the project's dream for every person it encounters is to have a lifestyle change towards thinking conservation and living conservation. May it be the experience of a lifetime as well as an experience that changes your life!

The aim is to empower ordinary people (people like you!) to protect nature by creating a conservation lifestyle upon your return home. This project is a starting point for you to become a conservationist, because with your help there can be a better tomorrow.

Our planet and specifically the wildlife that abound in it are a special gift that we have the luxury of experiencing and enjoying. We want to share that experience with you and more importantly, we want future generations to have the opportunity to have similar enriching experiences. This can only be achieved through conscious consideration of current actions and learning new ways to preserve and conserve the greatest gift.

This conservation project could not function without the hard work, dedication and time of you – those who see a country through unique eyes and spend their funds assisting conservation around the world.

## Programme details

You will work and live on a working game reserve. Essential tasks are on the schedule, followed by fun activities. There are usually four to six tasks per day, based on a rotational system which ensures that everyone has the opportunity to experience all tasks.

Tasks for the day can include the following:

- Food preparation
- Tracking and monitoring free roaming cheetahs
- Researching and observing wild meerkat families
- Performing game counts
- Electric fence and enclosure patrolling
- Setting up camera "traps" for research purposes
- Relocating/trans-locating wild-life
- Mitigating human/animal conflict
- Contributing to habitat conservation, including planting spekboom
- Community upliftment (Vrederust school project)
- Assisting and support at local farm school
- Farming work such as maintaining water supply, fixing fences, etc.

- Learning veld skills such as Tracking, Animal species, plant species
- Ultimately – learning to become a conservationist

## Your work schedule

Normally the working day starts at 08:00 and ends at 17:00.

## Your role

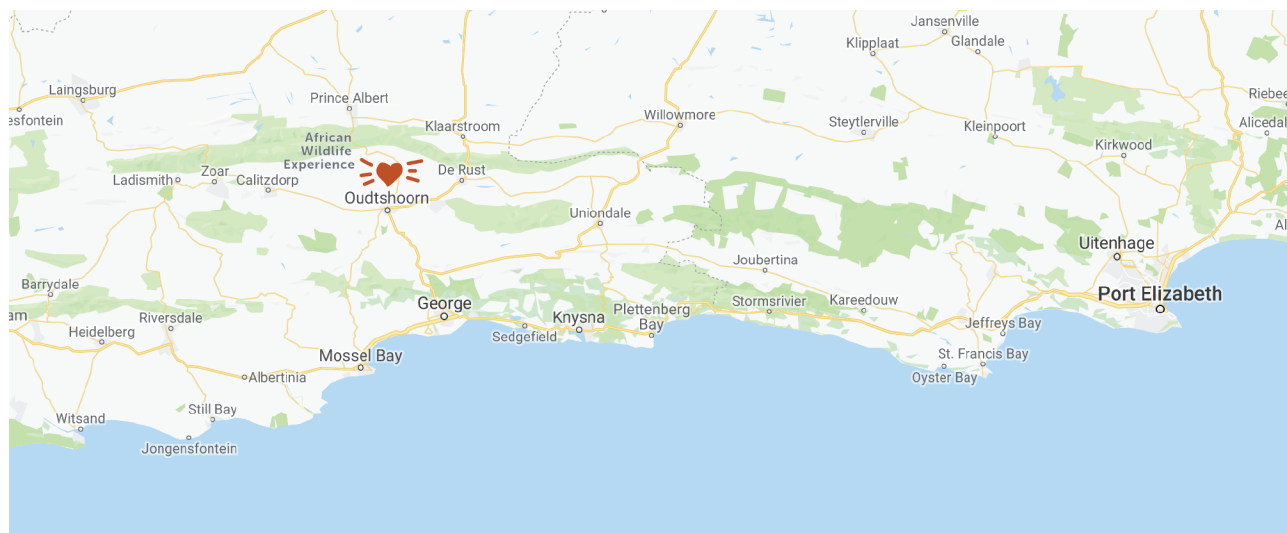
You are empowered to protect nature when participating in this project. You will gain leadership, teamwork and relationship skills and learn about self-management. You will also enjoy the benefits of communal living, meet people of different walks of life and also get the opportunity to make long-life friends. The main aim is for you to gain a conservation mind-set.

Skills you will acquire and develop:

- The proper use of telemetry tracking equipment
- The use of hand-held DPS devices
- How to identify wild life species
- How to set up and use camera “traps” to monitor certain species
- How to track animals using traditional methods like the identification and following of animal spoor
- How to collect and analyse data
- An understanding of conservation and issues of human animal conflict

**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 Wildlife Experience project is based 6,5km outside Oudtshoorn, located on the Western Cape in South Africa. The area is called Klein Karoo.



## Getting to and from the project

Transport from and to George International Airport is provided on Tuesdays and takes a 60 minutes scenic drive to the project. George airport is usually reached through Cape Town or Johannesburg.

### Arrival

Airport pick-ups are arranged between 12:00 – 15:00

### Departure

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

On the day of arrival or the following day the project offers a full detailed orientation for the volunteers. This will include a safety briefing and procedures in case of emergencies, history of the foundation and reason of volunteer program, a meet and greet of all staff members involved at the program and what to expect for the duration of their stay. A Volunteering T-shirt and dress code will also be given.

## Accommodation

Accommodation is provided in a large, newly built, tented camp with up to four people (same gender) sharing each tent. The rooms and tents are basic, but the single beds are comfortable with bedding provided (duvets and pillows). Showers and toilet facilities are en-suite and hot water is supplied by gas geysers. Power sockets for electrical items are available in each tent and in the communal area.

A washing machine and the detergent is provided. The project also provides an iron and ironing board. You also have access to Wi-Fi in the tented camp.

### Meals

Lunches and dinners are prepared by a staff member, assisted by the volunteers, breakfast is a self-help meal but ingredients are provided.

Vegetarian and vegan meals can be provided on request, and you would need to provide the project with your dietary preferences beforehand. Menus are discussed with the volunteers on arrival and accommodations are made according to dietary preferences.

## Free time

The project is based in an area filled with opportunities for adventure and sight-seeing. You are offered the opportunity to have a change of scenery and to go and explore the beautiful country and all it offers during your free time on Sundays.



Some of the adventures and activities you may join before, during and after your stay are:

- Cango Caves
- Skydiving & Zip lining
- Kayaking
- Abseiling
- Nature walks
- Ostrich farm
- Explore Klein Karoo and the Garden Route
- Stargazing
- Horse riding
- Hiking
- Olive and wine tasting
- A day at the beach or surfing (the closest beaches are at Mossel Bay and Victoria Bay – approximately 70 km travel time)

## Local transport

Every second Saturday you are provided transfer to town, however, if you are in need for something, Lodge town trips are on Mondays and Fridays.

Any other transport must be organised at your own expense.

## What to bring

Bring enthusiasm!

Being energetic and having a positive attitude can help to motivate yourself and others – fun is guaranteed if you come prepared. Flexibility, creativity, reliability and integrity are characteristics that are highly appreciated. Whoever is able to work in a team makes his and the lives of others a lot easier.

The project is looking for willingness to serve as well as passion to live what you have learned and to spread the conservation story.

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

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
- Warm sweater or fleece
- Waterproof jacket and trousers (raincoat)
- Bathing suit + pool/beach towel (not winter months: June – August)
- Gloves, hat, mittens (June - August)
- Warm pyjamas (June – August)

- Leisure clothes for off days
- Wellingtons, sandals and casual shoes
- Volunteers are provided with a t-shirt upon arrival at the project

#### Accessoires

- Hat with a brim
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Flashlight / head lamp
- First aid kit – plasters, disinfectant
- Insect repellent + topical creams for irritation
- Laptop / digital camera / chargers
- Universal plug for use with electronic devices

## 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.

## 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.



## Safety

The volunteer camp is situated on the game reserve that is well fenced with electrical fencing on boundary fences which increases the safety to the animals and everyone resident on the farm. Although there is no physical contact with animals, you are working around large and dangerous predators so we strict safety rules will be clearly explained to the volunteers during orientation and before you begin tasks and projects. Appropriate clothing for the weather, including hat and sunscreen, are also necessary to manage the risks from UV exposure while working outdoors.

## What's included / not included

### Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (George International Airport)
- Accommodation (tended camp with 4 people of the same sex sharing, all meals)
- Laundry
- Transfer to town every second Saturday for personal needs
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Local support, including a 24-hour emergency number
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Bedding (duvets and pillows)
- Wi-Fi

### Not included:

- Any other transport
- Excursions
- 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.