

Conservation & Community



Overview

Location	Paterson (distance from Port Elizabeth is 60km), South Africa.
Duration	From 2 weeks.
Dates	All year round.
Capacity	Max. 10 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 need to be physically fit.
Your impact	♥♥♥♥♥
Documents required	Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance.
Day of arrival	Monday.
Day of departure	Monday.



Highlights

- Hands-on volunteering offers an insight into conservation and environmental issues as part of managing the game reserve.
- You will experience the Wild 5 on your Safari Drives and many more animals like giraffes, warthog and cheetahs.
- Learn about the various animal species on the reserve and get close to them.
- Learn about various plants and insects and how it all fits into our eco system.
- Work with children in the Xhosa and Afrikaans communities and animals at the same time.
- The project is involved with the Conservation of Rhino.
- There are a variety of activities to take part in after hours (Addo Elephant Park, Kenton on Sea weekend breakaway)
- You will make new friends from all over the world.

Project information

This pioneering conservation project is the result of several farming families working together to form a private game reserve approximately 8500 hectares in size. It is actively managed as a protected area.

It is a unique conservation initiative that allows animals to be re-introduced to the area where they once roamed freely and is thus making a contribution to the conservation of the natural heritage.

In addition to the king of the jungle, impressive leopards, magnificent rhinos, graceful elephants and mystic buffalo that make up the big five; a diverse abundance of antelope and other species such as giraffe, warthog and cheetah roam the plains of the reserve which will provide you with everlasting African memories.

This project provides an insight into the environmental issues and management of a game reserve by assisting the Conservation Centre. It also contributes to community upliftment through a local day care centre, whilst also providing an element of fun for those who participate.

It is a hands-on experience, filled with tasks and duties based around the reserve. Here, no week is the same! Volunteers may also have the chance to assist with ongoing short- and long-term projects such as:

- Community projects
- Ecology projects
- Maintenance duties
- Seasonal & Circumstantial based projects
- Future Projects this year
- Fun Activities

Programme details

Community service

- Conservation centre assistance with school groups.
- Local church community.
- Reading classes to underprivileged kids.
- Education programmes at two local schools.

- Care, education and gardening.
- Maintenance of building and property facilities.
- Clean-ups.

Conservation service

- Game management, the re-introduction of new game into the park and the wild.
- Land management, controlled burning, investigating grazing patterns, management and maintenance of roads, bridges and fencing.
- Predator monitoring (including breeding), mainly lions and cheetah.
- Game drives, animal ID and tracking.
- Birding.
- Darting and relocation.
- Erosion control.
- Removal of alien vegetation and work in the indigenous nursery.
- Anti-poaching education.
- Wetland restoration.

Fun Element

- Learn about the Xhosa and Afrikaans cultures and the use of medicinal plants.
- Learn more about the history, geology and palaeontology of the area.
- Bush camping (no tent) & bush Survival skills – using stars to guide, plants in the wild and tracking
- Horse riding on the reserve.
- Game drives.
- Star gazing.
- Beach walks and night drives.

Your role

Monday to Friday (8 hours a day), weekends are off. Time to start and finish work will depend on the activities of the day and time of the year.

There is a dedicated volunteer coordinator at the project who arranges the work and activities for the volunteers. Two days a week, you will spend your time completing community projects with either school or aftercare program and on the other three days, you will work on the game reserve.

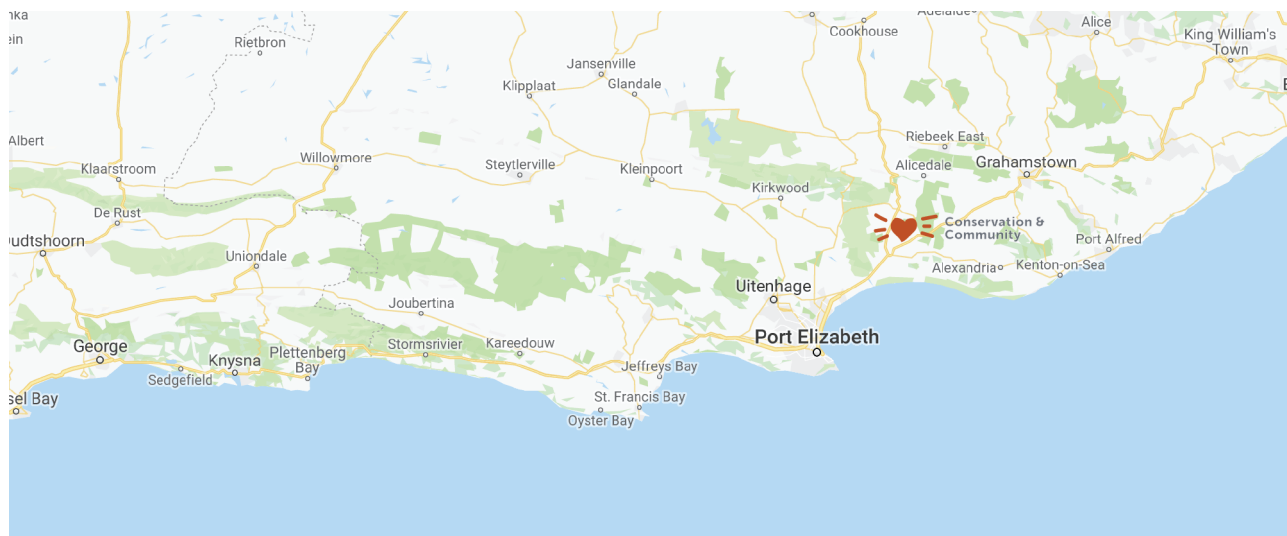
Typical tasks with the community or the two Primary schools include working with children of all ages. You may be reading, teaching or playing with the kids. There are also organisational tasks: fixing things, helping in gardening, etc.

You will also get involved with community clean-ups, craft projects, yard sales and more.

At the game reserve, you are involved with tracking lions and monitoring their wellbeing, game counts, road maintenance or clearing alien plants. There are also lectures and discussions on various topics like birding and hunting. You may be sure that all aspects of conservation are addressed during your stay at this project.

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 the year and the work that needs to be done. The final job description can therefore vary substantially from the above.

Project location



The Conservation and Community project is located in Paterson, only 60km away from Port Elizabeth.

Getting to and from the project

Flights should be arranged to and from Port Elizabeth Airport (PLZ). We do require that you plan your flight arrival and departure times, based on the fixed transfer times provided by the project.

Arrival

The transfer departs at 15:00 meaning you would need a flight that arrives into the airport by 14:00 to allow time for you to get through security and collect your luggage.

Departure

For your return journey, the shared transfer departs at 7:00 in the morning and arrives at PLZ at approximately 8:00. If you take this transfer, we recommend booking a flight that departs PLZ no earlier than 10:30 am.

Private transfers can be arranged at an extra cost for any flights arriving or departing outside of these times.

Accommodation

Your accommodation is in the renovated Old Railway Station in Sandflats. Sandflats is part of the Paterson Village, which is 10 km from the reserve. You are accommodated in a one storey 11-bedroom house, which overlooks a large garden and is within walking distance of the local bar and basic shops. Two volunteers usually share a room, and there are 5 bathrooms (with hot showers) to share. Bedding as well as towels will be provided. Laundry is available.

There is a communal dining and sitting room with Netflix and Wi-Fi as well as a well-equipped kitchen with adjoining office space.

The house also has a swimming pool, an outside seating area with a braai (BBQ) and a fire pit for chilly nights and social gatherings.



Meals

Food is supplied but you need to prepare your own meals. The stock is supplied once a week in the form of meat, fruit, vegetables as well as dry goods. A vegetarian option is available and it is also possible to cater for special dietary requirements with prior notification. Volunteers are responsible for cooking evening meals in the communal surrounding. Breakfast and lunch are to be prepared individually due to the nature of the week varying. Always take enough food and drinks out with you in the vehicle to last the day.

Free time

Evenings and weekends are allocated for your leisure to either relax in the pub or sit in front of an open fire.

Paterson is a little village offering a café, a coffee shop, fuel stations, take-away shop, several mini-supermarkets, a post office and the popular Sandflats Public House.

You can arrange to explore the area at your own expense, i.e. a trip to Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Jeffrey's Bay or even Cape Town. There are also nearby attractions available. You can go whale watching, do all kind of sports (golf, tennis, squash, surfing, horse riding, tandem sky diving, bungee jumping, etc.), enjoy the beach, do a fishing charter, watch movies, visit the casino, go shopping or even join a historical tour. Transfers can be arranged by the project at a cost.

Each week the project offers an excursion, for example:

- An excursion to the Addo National Elephant Park.
- Horsetrails on Amakhala
- Big 5 game walk
- Day trip to Kenton on Sea
- Bush camping (summer)

Local transport

You will be taken onto the game reserve daily from Monday to Friday. Any other transport must be organised by your own expense, either you pay a shuttle, use a taxi or hire a car.

What to bring

The Port Elizabeth/Grahamstown area is known to have 4 seasons in one day. Please pack sensibly for cold and warm weather conditions. You will be working on the Game Reserve for the majority of the day. You will be out in the early morning, straight into the bush to carry out the day's activities. You will be transported in an open Land Rover to and from the reserve. It is advised that you dress warmly as the wind-chill factor can be quite sharp during the early morning and late afternoon drives, particularly in winter (June – September). Blankets are provided at the house to offer extra warmth in the vehicle. You will be asked to take enough equipment and food out with you to last the day – and clothing for any impending weather conditions.

All year-round essential clothing items:

- Warm clothes: hat, scarf and gloves
- Waterproof jacket
- Thick fleece/coat

- Working/hiking boots
- Rockies or light canvas shoes for around the house
- Work gloves
- Long trousers
- Old shirts/old trousers (in case of painting with the children at the community centre)

Other items to bring:

- Binoculars
- A backpack for working days
- 3-point South African adaptor
- Torch (additional batteries can be purchased in Paterson)
- Warm sleeping bag + mat
- Small pocket knife
- Travel pillow/Camping pillow
- Personal toiletries (soap, insect repellent and suntan lotion - although a certain number of basic toiletries can be bought in Paterson)
- Insect repellent, Sunscreen, Aftersun
- Lip balm
- Sunglasses
- Peaked cap/sunhat
- Beach Towel / swimming costume
- Sanitizer and masks

Items provided at the project:

- Small lunch boxes / thermos flasks
- Bush camping kitchen equipment

As the project is involved with a great deal of community work with underprivileged children, any old clothes, stationary etc. would be very appreciated by these children should you have the opportunity to bring anything. To obtain an entire list of possible donation items, please contact our bookings office.

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. Due to strict privacy laws, taking photographs of people, particularly children, is in most cases prohibited.

We also ask that you consult with the project team onsite to receive guidance and advice on the taking of photographs while at the project. Please ensure you follow this advice as it is for your own safety as well as the safety of the children whom we support with our social projects.

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.

Health

Even though no vaccinations are required immunisation for Tetanus is highly recommended. For travellers going to the north-eastern areas of South Africa, 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, and you might be working with children affected by the disease.

The project is situated in a malaria free area so no drugs are required. Tetanus injections are highly recommended. Please note that ticks are rife during the summer months (November – April).



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

While all safety precautions are followed, you are still working with wild animals and must be aware at all times and follow the safety guidelines. HIV/AIDS and TB are a major public health concern. You should be aware that you are working with children that could be affected.

Volunteers should not walk to town alone and keep valuables locked in safes provided as well as making sure all electronic equipment is not left on beds or in the open when out on the day activities.

Emergency buttons are installed in each bedroom and in the kitchen area to press when any volunteer feels unsafe so staff will be alerted.

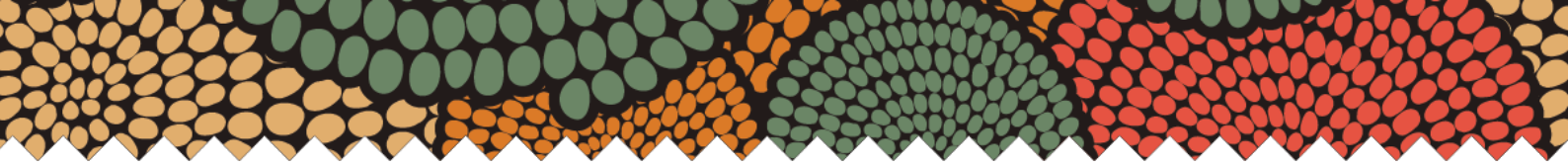
What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (Port Elizabeth Airport)
- Accommodation (twin room, food for self-catering, laundry with self-service, towels)
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Daily transport to and from the game reserve (Mon - Fri)
- 1 excursion per week including entrance fees
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number
- Wi-Fi

Not included:

- Any other transport
- Weekend activities/excursions



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.

Longer stays are only possible at projects that are registered NGO's. This project however is not a NGO.

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