

Rhino Conservation Project



Overview

Location	Mossel Bay, South Africa
Duration	From 2 weeks
Dates	All year round
Capacity	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 should have an interest in conservation and the welfare of wildlife
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

- The perfect combination: work in one of the most beautiful Big 5 reserves and live at one of the most spectacular beaches in South Africa
- Make a difference and get involved in real-world conservation initiatives
- Contribute to meaningful research with particular focus on the White Rhino
- Learn from true wildlife experts who guide you each day
- Make new friends from all over the world
- Experience amazing tours and adventures in and around the Garden Route

Project information

The Rhino Conservation Project is a unique volunteer opportunity that gives wildlife enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds an opportunity to get involved in the conservation and sustainability of African wildlife and ecosystems. Volunteers are critical in the continuation of the project's research and conservation efforts.

The project focuses on observational, behavioural research of free-roaming wildlife that will support the natural biodiversity and sustainability of the ecosystems. Research is designed to be beneficial to other researchers, wildlife management, and fellow conservationists. Its team believes in collaboration and to protect wildlife.

Volunteers will spend five days per week assisting in various capacities of wildlife conservation.

Volunteers get time off during the evenings and on weekends, which gives you the opportunity to explore the Garden Route and take part in various cultural and tourist activities. Based in the beautiful coastal town of Mossel Bay, South Africa, volunteers have a unique experience to work hands-on in a free roaming wildlife reserve while living within walking distance of the blue flag beaches.

Programme details

The mantra of 'Educate, Act, Empower' is nowhere more evident than at the Rhino Conservation Project. Not only are volunteers directly involved in protecting and studying African wildlife and ecosystems but they also undergo educational sessions where the focus is teaching "the bigger picture" through the better understanding of conservation biology, animal behaviour, animal ethics and tourism, human-animal coexistence, and the many other areas of conservation.

Volunteers of this programme are working towards short-term and long-term goals and solutions by assisting with critical hands-on research and conservation initiatives in the field that impacts the wildlife and the environment. These two mantra areas, 'Educate' and 'Act', work together to foster and facilitate the most important aspect of these ideals, namely to 'Empower'. Through hands-on initiatives and education, volunteers leave with a better understanding of the problems plaguing African wildlife, the efforts being made to moderate these issues, and how they can continue to work with conservation and thus, make a change for the betterment of the wildlife lives, ecosystems and our planet as a whole.

Time spent on the various projects will be determined by monthly quotas, weather and animal cooperation. No work will be done in the evenings or on weekends.

Your role

Volunteers will also be trained in some “bush basics” such as survival, tracking, reading animal behaviour, and ethical approach methods. The team takes great pride in only ethical operations and finds it important to provide the information and understanding with those involved.

Volunteers are provided with an orientation meeting upon arrival. Topics covered include:

- Staff introduction
- Safety in South Africa
- Project introduction (goals, purpose, methods, role etc.)
- Reserve safety & procedures
- Accommodation

When participating in the Rhino Conservation Project, you will be involved in various conservation initiatives and projects within the game reserve. Projects and initiatives are based on previously founded ecological and cognitive knowledge to improve the welfare of current and future wildlife in Southern Africa. You will assist in all aspects of the reserve’s current needs regarding projects and daily operations.

You assist with data collection and management, complete field observations and collect data for the various projects. You assist in managing trail cameras by maintaining active batteries and keeping the memory cards from filling to capacity. Data management includes entering the field observations on to the servers so that the information we collect can be analysed and utilized for various purposes. Volunteers are also responsible for analysing trail camera captures (photographs) for their subjects and documenting their behaviours.

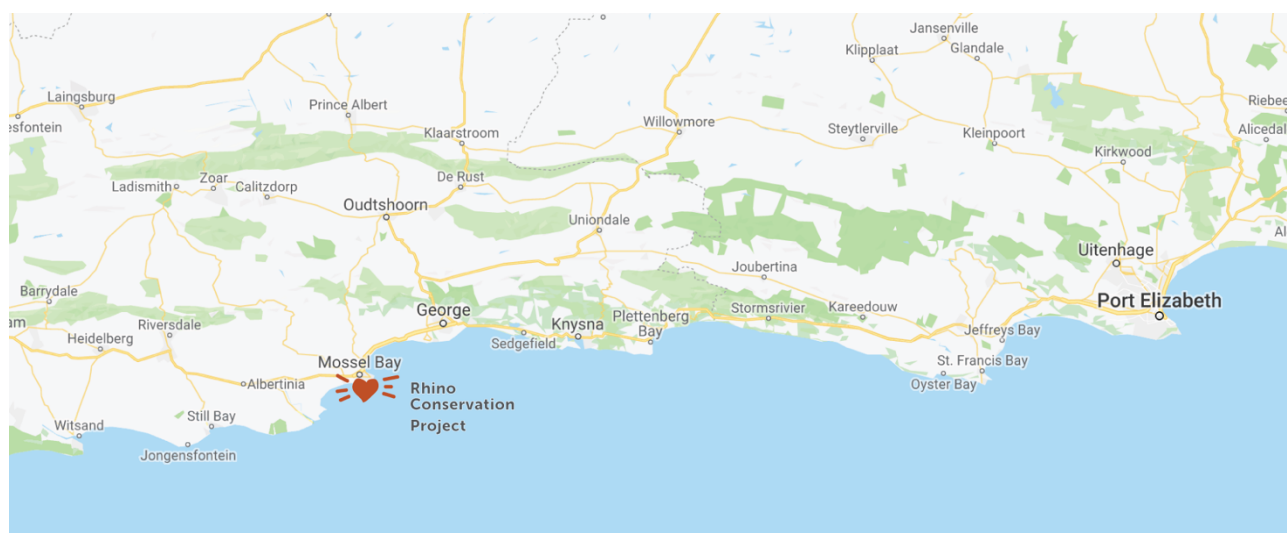
You are actively working Monday to Friday from approximately 8am - 4pm, however, these times may vary based on the animals, weather, and tasks of the day. One day per week is allocated for data entry and management. Additional data management is available for volunteers interested in assisting “after hours”.

Volunteers with backgrounds in the biology, ecology, and environmental fields or those with experience in data analysis, statistics, GIS, or other useful skills are often able to help developing reports and to analyse the data.

Currently, work is being done with white rhino population ecology, social behaviour and utilisation of Fynbos habitats as well as wildlife and road fatalities (done in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)), additional short projects are also implemented throughout the year.

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 Rhino Conservation Project is based in Mossel Bay, a harbour town on the Southern Cape along the Garden Route of South Africa.

Getting to and from the project

The nearest airport is George Airport. Transfers are included to and from George Airport.

You may arrive and depart anytime during the day but remember that it's always nicer to arrive in daylight. Arrival and departure is also possible any day of the week IF Saturdays aren't possible for you. Please approach us if this is the case.

Accommodation

Accommodation is a shared 2-bedroom apartment with a kitchen, TV (volunteers are able to plug in a hard drive via USB to the TV) and bathroom. Bath towels are included (not to be used at the beach, please bring your own beach towel).

The apartment's kitchen is fully equipped and offers an oven, stove, microwave, toaster, fridge, freezer, kettle, cooking and serving dishes/utensils.

The apartments are within a hotel complex and share the following facilities:

- Braai facilities (BBQ) in all rooms
- Restaurant (à la carte) and Bar (walking distance)
- Wi-Fi
- Housekeeping

Meals

Breakfast is provided 7 days a week and lunch 5 days per week during field days. Lunch is mostly packed for you won't be at your accommodation for lunch.

All dinners and the lunches on the weekends are self-catering.



Free time

Volunteers will have free time during the evenings and on weekends. You are located within walking distance of beaches, shops, restaurants, mini golf, a small water park, hiking trails, boat trips, etc., so there is lots to do.

Activities such as sandboarding, whale watching and kloofing, horseback safari can be arranged. The staff is happy to arrange in-house weekend trips to the Great Karoo, Cango Caves, Cape Town, the Garden Route and other areas if desired.

All of the above activities are available at your own cost.

Local transport

Work-related transport is included. Any other transport must be organised at your own expense.

What to bring

- Neutral coloured clothing – khaki, denim, brown, black, dark green or blue, grey etc.
- Hiking shoes / boots
- Sun hat and sunscreen and a beach towel
- Leisure wear
- Warm sweater, coat or jacket, gloves, beanies, buff and warm socks in during winter
- Personal toiletries
- A reusable water bottle
- Waterless hand sanitizer
- Face masks
- Reusable shopping bag
- Binoculars since they are necessary for field work but aren't provided by the project
- a backpack for hiking
- a camera is recommended
- Towel
- 3-point South African adapters
- Notebook and pens
- Laptop / tablet with Microsoft Office (if possible but not required)

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, athletic wear such as gym shorts, pants or trousers, sweat pants or leggings, belly tops, shirts/t-shirts with no sleeves for male volunteers as well as flip flops or no shoes. Clothing may not include any lewd, sexual or vulgar slogans, words or images.

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

All wildlife is free-roaming and is potentially dangerous.

Volunteers may come into contact with snakes, spiders, ticks, and plants in addition to wildlife.

Volunteers should also be aware of the potential hazards that are present when travelling to South Africa.

Health

No vaccinations are required in this area.

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.

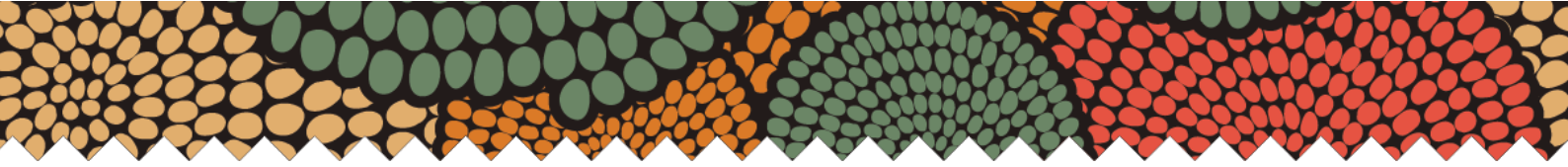
What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Transfers on arrival and departure (George airport)
- Accommodation (dorm style)
- Breakfast (7 days per week)
- Bath Towels
- Lunch (Monday – Friday)
- Daily access to the game reserve
- Work-related transfers
- 24/7 emergency standby team
- Guided research and management activities
- Research equipment & conservation fees
- All training and training materials
- Housekeeping and towels
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Free Wi-Fi

Not included:

- All dinners
- Lunches on the weekend
- Drinks
- Weekend activities
- Beach towels
- Non-work-related transportation
- Laundry
- Flights
- Visa



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.