

Big 5 Rehabilitation



Overview

Location	Closest town: Port Elizabeth (about 85 km away), South Africa.
Duration	From 2 weeks.
Dates	All year round.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum age: 18.• You must have an Intermediate level of English.• Special skills: You should be physically fit and should have a love for or interest in animals.
Your impact	 <p>The impact of your volunteer work depends on the nature of the project. In addition, it may also depend on whether the project offers a full volunteering experience or a combination of volunteering and tourism. For details, please see the description of the project and what's included in the project fees.</p>
Documents required	Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance.
Day of arrival	Monday.
Day of departure	Saturday.



Highlights

- Work and live up close with a large variety of South Africa's wildlife.
- Explore a game reserve where the Big 5 roams free.
- Interact with some of the Big 5 in the rehabilitation centre.
- Make a difference to the local wildlife and environment.
- Experience the Xhosa culture.
- Work with the local kids from the community.
- Take part in amazing tours and excursions outside of the project.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

Project information

This is a programme designed for volunteers interested in having a truly African experience while making a difference to the local wildlife and environment.

The game reserve's education and rehabilitation centre is home to various different species of predators. Designed in such a way that it maintains a natural look, the rehabilitation centre gives the endangered predators that much needed connection with the wild although they are living in a cordoned-off area. The predators that have found a home at the centre include Lions, Bengal Tigers, Cheetahs and White Lions.

The Rehabilitation Centre aims to contribute to the conservation of endangered species and the rehabilitation of injured, abused, orphaned and poisoned wildlife. The game reserve team are a group of dedicated conservationists committed to the preservation of wildlife.

Programme details

A game reserve is a very dynamic environment and you will have the possibility to work in different areas. You will be working on a Big 5 game reserve where the Big 5 are all in their natural environment and free-roaming. You will, however, get a chance to interact with some of the Big 5 in the rehabilitation centre as well as the elephant sanctuary, depending on the time of the year.

For all activities, the project has specific outdoor and indoor coordinators. Indoor coordinators are responsible for items such as accommodation, transfers, orientation, excursions, meals, laundry and any other related issues. Outdoor coordinators will be working with you on a day-to-day basis for all your daily activities. They are specially trained in their field and any questions on wildlife and fauna & flora can be directed to them. If you are not comfortable or have any problems, please do not hesitate to approach your coordinators.

Your role

You will work from Monday to Friday (07.30 – 16.30).

The programme's day-to-day schedule will vary depending on weather and other factors, meaning that the itinerary can be changed at any time. However, every week a schedule will be created and communicated to all the volunteers there. This is designed in such a way, that volunteers are divided into teams of up to 10 volunteers per group. Each group will have an outdoor coordinator as a leader and mentor. The groups

will engage in various daily activities, but will do the same type and number of activities by the end of the week. In some cases all volunteer groups will work together e.g. game capturing.

Duties include the following but are not limited to:

- Removal of alien vegetation in and around the reserve.
- Lion tracking and monitoring.
- School feeding schemes (please speak to the volunteer coordinator if you would like to participate as this is voluntary and on a first-come-first-serve basis).
- Maintaining wildlife enclosures.
- Tree planting and landscaping.
- Game drives.
- Predator interaction and care.
- Elephant sanctuary work.
- Fauna and flora work in the nursery.
- Wilderness trail walks and patrols.
- Fence patrol.
- Game counts.
- Game captures.

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.

Getting to and from the project



The Big 5 Rehabilitation project is situated in the Eastern Cape of South Africa approximately 85 km out of Port Elizabeth towards Grahamstown.

You need to arrive at Port Elizabeth Airport where you will be collected by the volunteer project staff.

There are scheduled arrivals and departures that normally run as follows:

Mondays – Port Elizabeth to Project (Departs 16.00)

Saturdays – Project to Port Elizabeth (Departs 09.00)



It may happen that on your arrival you have to wait for other volunteers arriving later due to the scheduled transfer. The same might happen with your return transfers. All volunteers will depart at the same time and this will be determined by the times of the earliest flight. If your flight is departing early next morning, you will be taken to a lodge in town where you can spend the night and be fresh for your flight the next morning. If you are not comfortable with leaving on the scheduled transfer, please note a transfer can be organised for you at an extra cost and depending on availability.

Please note that if you are not arriving by plane on your day of arrival, you are required to make arrangements to meet the team at the following address no later than 15.00: Al Beit Lodge 49, Admiralty Way, Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth, Tel: +27 41 583 6415, Email: reservations@al-beitlodge.co.za. Should you not be there when the vehicles depart, you can make your own transport arrangements from Port Elizabeth to the project at your own expense.

Accommodation

You will be housed in either Kubs Quarters or Mafusa Camp dorms. Transport to and from the project is arranged. The dorms are single-sex rooms and therefore no boys are allowed in the girls' dorms and no girls in boys' dorms. In cases where volunteers want to stay as a couple, this can be arranged at an extra cost and also depends on the availability of rooms, unless arrangements were made prior to arrival. Bedding will be provided; you must bring your own towels. You will be provided with a laundry service on Tuesdays and Thursdays; you will be given a laundry bag on your arrival. Laundry is charged at a nominal fee.

Free WiFi is available in the hotel area on the property, and you are welcome to use this during your breaks and in the evenings.

There are public telephones available for use at the reserve. Telephone cards can be obtained from the local shop or when you go out for excursions on weekends in town. From time to time, however, the lines in the area are down due to robust elephants pushing down the poles on neighboring properties.

Meals

Three meals a day are provided. Breakfast includes cereals, bread, butter, jam, tea, coffee and cheese, sometimes eggs, sausages or baked beans are served, and sometimes a combination of the above. For lunch and dinner there is a wide variety ranging from burgers, chicken and chips, vegetarian dishes, potato casserole and so on (so you definitely won't go hungry!). There is a small shop close by where you can purchase cool drinks, crisps, chocolate, etc. Please note that there is no alcohol allowed on the premises.

Breakfast: 09.30 – 10.00

Lunch: 13.00 – 14.00

Supper: 18.00 – 19.00

Please note that all meals are served at the Mafusa dining area, and no cooking is allowed in any of the kitchen/kitchenette areas. Selected meals can be served at the 5-star hotel by the invitation of the CEO only, and in such cases you are asked that you adhere to the dress code of the hotel, which is casual and respectable.

A vegetarian option is available and it is also possible to cater for special dietary requirements (vegans, dairy-free/gluten-free, etc.).



Free time

On weekends, you have the opportunity to go out for overnight excursions between Saturdays and Sundays. The excursions will either be to Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, or any other nearby destination. On these excursions, please note that the project will only provide you with accommodation and transport to and from your destination. Accommodation will be in dorms and if you would like an upgrade, you are welcome to do so at your own cost.

For those participating in the organized Garden Route tours, the weekend excursion is not included as you will be going to Port Elizabeth at the start of your Garden Route portion.

The project also offers Addo Elephant National Park excursions through a partner – the project will assist you with these arrangements. Since these excursions are done by an agent, you need to pay for your accommodation, activities and meals which will form part of your excursion package. If you are interested in this excursion, you should confirm by the Tuesday afternoon prior to its departure.

Other packages are also available on request. You are also free to organize your own excursion, at your own cost. Please note that should you do so, you will need to sign out at reception and make your own transport or accommodation arrangements. You are also free to stay behind over the weekends to relax and unwind at the project – you are allowed to use the project's various facilities such as swimming pool, sporting facilities and the entertainment room.

On Sundays when coming back from weekend excursions, please adhere to the pick up times. If you are not there when the vehicles depart, you will need to make your own transport arrangements from town back to the project for your own account.

Local transport

Transport is available to take you into town for purchases as well as on selected outings during your free time (please see above). Any other transport can be arranged at your own expense.

What to bring

You will each get a T-shirt and a cap as part of your uniform.

Items you will need are:

- Walking shoes/boots or trainers for working/game farm
- Working clothes for getting dirty
- Warm clothes for evening/winter
- Towels, Flashlight
- 3-point South African adaptor
- Any other personal items

While there is no specific uniform, volunteers are asked to wear sensible clothing, e.g. long shorts and closed shoes. Hot pants, string bikinis and flip-flops are not suitable for work.



Medical insurance

It is required that you take out medical insurance before travelling to South Africa. For stays exceeding 90 days, it is compulsory to take out a South African medical insurance. We recommend NetworX from Compcare, which is specifically designed for people who visit South Africa for 3 to 12 months. You will receive an information leaflet and an application form together with your confirmation of booking.

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, 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, Zaire.

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.

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. The project is situated in a malaria-free area so no drugs are required.

What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (Port Elizabeth Airport)
- Accommodation (dorm-style rooms, breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- A cap & a T-shirt
- Daily transport to and from the project
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Some weekend excursions (transport & accommodation)
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number
- WiFi



Not included:

- Any other transport
- Any other excursions
- Towels & Laundry
- Any items of a personal nature

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, 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 visa at a South African Embassy in your home country. This visa is restricted to registered NGO's and therefore not available for this project.

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