

Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary



Overview

Location Hout Bay, Cape Town, South Africa.

Duration From 2 weeks.

Dates All year round.

- Requirements**
- Minimum age: 18.
 - You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.
 - Special skills: You should have a love for animals.
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Your impact 

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.

Documents required Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance.

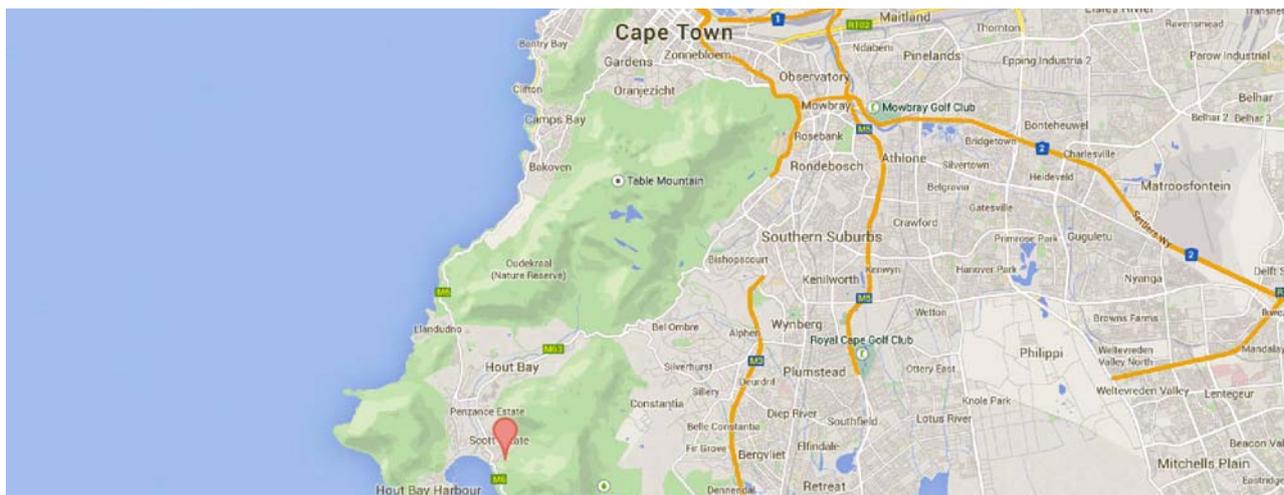
Day of arrival Saturday.

Day of departure Saturday.

Highlights

- Support conservation on a global scale by helping to rear rare birds and mammals in a protective environment.
- Bring wildlife to the people by helping establish breeding centres and sanctuaries, showing that wildlife and urban development can prosper side by side.
- Work with over 3000 birds, monkeys and small animals of 400 different species in a walk-through enclosure.
- Work in one of the most popular areas in Cape Town, Hout Bay with a range of activities and tourist spots.
- Experience amazing tours and adventures in and around Cape Town.
- Get personal support from the volunteer coordinator.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

Project information



The Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary seeks to bring people and animals closer together and to foster respect for and understanding of nature. Many of the birds seen at the project arrive injured, sick or as babies needing to be hand reared, and the sanctuary is responsible for their care.

Programme details

In the sanctuary there is an element of surprise around every corner. Experience delight when parrots chat back or when the bat-eared fox plays with the meerkats, or amazement when you are face-to-face with owls and storks and monkeys without a separating fence.

You will be placed with a keeper and will be trained in your first week. After this training, you will be used as one of the staff. You will mainly be involved with primates.

Your role

A possible work schedule could be:

- 08:30 – 10:30 Staff/volunteers unlock the animal cages and check on all the animals. Feed the animals & birds throughout the sanctuary. This can take up to 2 hours.

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- 10:45 – 11:00 Break for tea.
 - 11:00 – 13:00 Clean cages, dishes and do other routine work that needs to be done.
 - 13:00 – 13:30 Lunch break.
 - 14:00 – 16:00 Afternoon feed.
 - 16:00 – 17:00 Lock the cages again and check on the animals.

You work 5 days (Monday – Friday) with 2 days off each week.

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.

Arrival

You will need to arrive at Cape Town International Airport. Our driver will meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation.

Day of arrival is Saturday, but it is possible to arrive earlier at an extra charge.

Accommodation

You will stay in a communal house, just a 400m walk from the project. The house has 2 bedrooms that share a bathroom and a dorm that sleeps 4. There's a fully equipped communal kitchen with a microwave, BBQ facilities, oven and a washing machine. The house has great views of the bay, a fireplace and pool. There are musical instruments as well as free satellite TV and WiFi. There's also a large garden. Linen and towels are provided. Laundry (self-service) is available.

Meals

Self-catering. Lifts to the supermarket for grocery shopping (5 minute drive) are provided twice a week or upon request at an additional fee.

Free time

Hout Bay is just 20 minutes away from Cape Town and easily accessible by public transport. The volunteer house is a 5min drive from the beach, the harbour, shopping centres, restaurants and bars. A variety of activities are offered, i.e. fishing, diving, sailing, hiking, a wine tour, as well as loads of entertainment. You can hike up Table Mountain, bike Chapman's peak, do a guided township tour and much more. A highlight is the Hout Bay Harbour Market with craft beer, delicious food, a craft market and live music. Hout Bay is a beautiful place where you can meet travellers from all over the world.

How to get to the project

The project is just a short 400m walk away. If it's raining, lifts are provided.



What to bring

There are no special requirements in this regard but we recommend bringing comfortable, practical clothes. Anything else you might need is readily available at local supermarkets in South Africa.

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 animals and must be aware at all times and follow the safety guidelines.

What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival

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- Accommodation (Communal House: dorm-style room, shared bathroom, self-catering, laundry with self-service)
 - A donation towards the project
 - Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
 - Weekly site visits by our coordinator
 - An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
 - Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
 - Local support including a 24-hour emergency number
 - WiFi

Not included:

- Food
- Any other transport
- 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.