

Centre for Endangered Species



Overview

Location	Closest town: Hoedspruit (about 23km away), South Africa.
Duration	3 weeks – this is a fixed 3-week programme. It is a basic conservation programme, consisting of a theoretical component, followed by active participation in practical exercises.
Dates	The project runs 13 times a year (dates see below). June, July and August programmes are normally fully booked long in advance.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum age: 18.• You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.• Special skills: You have to be in a good physical condition and eager to learn.
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	Tuesday.
Day of departure	Monday.



Highlights

- First hand experience with many endangered species, namely the Black and White rhino and cheetah.
- Be involved in an educational day where you will learn about different plant/animal and bird species, animal tracking and identification and general conservation techniques.
- Learn about the current problems that conservation faces in South Africa.
- Visit schools in rural areas.
- Explore the beauty and rich diversity of South Africa.
- Take part in amazing tours and excursions outside of the project.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

Project information

The Centre for Endangered Species is living proof that people can make a difference to the long-term survival of the planet and its animal inhabitants, and is one of the leading private research and breeding facilities for endangered species in the country. They have a progressive and modern management approach, and focus on the breeding and maintenance of several endangered wildlife species which are indigenous to southern Africa. Cheetah and rhino conservation are two of their core activities.

The excellent condition of these animals and the premises on which they are maintained, reflect their attention to detail, which is the hallmark of this facility.

The centre also provides a safe haven for orphaned and sick animals as well as an education centre where the public and South Africa's younger generations can learn about endangered species by observing them at close range.

The Centre is actively involved in:

- The treatment and rehabilitation of orphaned or injured animals which are brought to the centre.
- The education of learners, students and the general public in conservation and conservation activities.
- The release and establishment of captive-bred cheetahs in the wild.
- The promotion of scientific research and development in the wildlife field.
- The breeding of endangered, vulnerable or rare animal species.
- The provision of a safe alternative for damage-causing animals on commercial farms, with a view to ultimately introducing them into conservation areas that can accommodate such animals into their management policies.
- Anti poaching initiatives on the reserve and greater Timbavati/Kruger area.

Programme details

This is an intensive 21-day programme. The programme is divided into 3 main sections: Participation, Conservation and Sight Seeing. Volunteers experience first-hand the work of the centre.

Participation: The focus of the programme is on the cheetah as well as the Black and White rhino. During the course volunteers are involved with the everyday care of cheetahs and rhinos. This includes cleaning,



feeding and where required, assisting with or observing any veterinary activities that may occur during their stay. The same activities apply to other species being cared for at the centre.

Conservation: This section of the programme involves informal lectures on all aspects of conservation both in the field and in the classroom. It includes specialist input on all animals, grasses and trees, as well as basic biodiversity. This section of the experience will also introduce you to the culture of South Africa, and how education affects conservation in the area.

Sight Seeing: It enables volunteers to put the theory learnt into practise, either through direct observation in the wild or at other centres that specialise in other areas of research or conservation in the area.

The programme aims to equip volunteers to be able to actively participate in conserving the wildlife of southern Africa, to build awareness of conservation on a broader global scale, and to allow volunteers to experience the beauty and rich diversity of South Africa.

Your role

Monday to Saturday, Sundays are off.

Hands on experience:

- Working with cheetahs, cervils, rhinos, wild dogs, small spotted cats, African wildcats and more.
- Preparing food for the animals and feeding the animals.
- Cleaning, building, fixing animal enclosures.
- Possibility of working with the wildlife vet (darting, capturing and operating on animals).
- Local community involvement (e.g. visiting schools in rural areas).

Some days will be set aside for included excursions, i.e. a day trip to the Kruger National Park, a reptile orientation at the Reptile Park, a cultural visit to a local village community.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no certain time of the year for baby animals – this could happen anytime and there is no guarantee that you will be working with baby animals during your stay.

Community Work:

As part of the Volunteer Programme, you may get involved with less privileged communities. In a unique project, the centre has partnered with a rural school where learners have the opportunity to visit the Centre to learn more about endangered wildlife. Primary school students will work closely with the volunteers when visiting the Centre.

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 Cheetah Conservation project is based about 23km outside of Hoedspruit, in the Limpopo Province area.

You need to arrive at Hoedspruit (Eastgate) Airport where you will be collected by the volunteer staff. There are only two flights per day for the Hoedspruit Airport – pick-ups on your arrival and drop offs on your departure can be arranged for both flights.

Arrival dates 2017:

3 Jan, 31 Jan, 28 Feb, 28 Mar, 25 Apr, 23 May, 20 June, 18 July, 15 Aug, 12 Sept, 10 Oct, 7 Nov, 1 Dec.

Accommodation

The accommodation camp is situated within walking distance to the project, but as the camp is based in a Big 5 Area (Lion, African Elephant, Cape Buffalo, Leopard and Rhinoceros) you will be transported to and from the project every day. You are accommodated in Rondawels, which are little thatched huts. Each hut offers a place for 2 volunteers. There are separate ablution facilities for women and men – each facility has two toilets and two showers. The camp consists of a kitchen and a boma (an outdoor entertainment area) with a relaxing area and barbecue facilities. Bedding and towels will be provided. Laundry facilities (hand wash only) are available and the necessary washing powder will be provided.

There is limited WiFi available, WiFi vouchers are available for purchase from the project and can be used in the accommodation area.

Meals

Three meals a day are provided. You have to prepare breakfast and lunch by yourself. Cereals, bread, salads, eggs, bacon, ingredients for sandwiches, etc. are available. Dinner will be prepared by the volunteer staff. Over weekends volunteers are asked to prepare dinner for the staff – ingredients are provided. Dinners include pastas, salads, some African dishes (Potjie Kos, Stokbrood, Vetkoek, Bobotie, etc.), roasts, veggies, etc. All meals are eaten at the volunteer camp. You might go out for dinner one evening but this is on your own expense. You can also choose to eat lunch at your own costs at the Deli, a restaurant that is situated at the project.



A vegetarian option is available and it is also possible to cater for special dietary requirements.

Free time

At the beginning of the project volunteers often revise assignments (identifying animals, birds, insects, etc.) after work. After dinner you can spend some time together at the campfire, read a book, board games, etc.

You will have the opportunity to visit numerous places of interest and attractions in the area, including the renowned Kruger National Park.

You have Sundays off – you can either decide to do optional activities or simply stay at the camp and relax. You can do river rafting, geckoing, quad biking, play paint ball, visit the baobab tree, and many more.

Local transport

Daily transport to and from the project will be provided. You can be taken to Hoedspruit once a week where you can do some shopping or spend some time at the Internet café.

Any other transport can be organised by the volunteer staff but is on your own expense.

What to bring

Bring old clothes - you might get very dirty as you work with meat.

Items you will need are:

- Khaki, black, green and/or brown coloured clothes are recommended
- One set of clothes if you go out for dinner one evening
- Toiletries
- Sun block
- Hat
- Insect Repellent
- Torch
- Walking boots
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Books to read
- Laptop or any other (to keep busy after work)

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.

You do not require antimalarial medication for this project. However consult your doctor before your trip, as this project is located on the border of a malaria area. Please note antimalarial medication can sometimes mask the symptoms of malaria, so if you choose NOT to take antimalarial medication, you should contact a doctor immediately if you feel ill on or after the project. It is also advisable that you consider a tetanus and a rabies vaccination or check to see if your current vaccinations are still effective. Please contact us at Good Hope Volunteers should you have any questions about this.

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.

Cultural diversity

We suggest doing some light reading regarding the history of South Africa and its people. Please note it is a very ethnically diverse population, and there are many different groups of people with different ideas and behaviors. We suggest being as open minded as you can - try understand the history and note that in rural areas the differences can be more pronounced. Please try to be modest in what you wear and how you behave.



What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement.
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (Hoedspruit Airport)
- Accommodation (shared room, breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Daily transport to and from the project
- Transport to Hoedspruit once a week
- The following excursions: a cultural village visit, a day trip to the Khamai Reptile Centre, a full day trip to Kruger National Park
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number

Not included:

- Any other transport
- Any other 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, 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.