

Lowveld Rehabilitation Centre



Overview

Location Closest town: Hoedspruit (about 26km away), Limpopo Province, 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 must be physically fit, willing to work and to get your hands dirty.

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 Monday.

Day of departure Monday.



Highlights

- You will gain hands-on experience in working with animals and will learn about African endangered wildlife.
- You take part in the daily feeding of a variety of orphaned and permanently housed animals (this depends entirely on the animals at the centre at the time).
- You might even get the chance to release some of the animals.
- You will be part of the conservation towards Saving the Rhino.
- There are a variety of activities to take part in after hours.
- You will make new friends from all over the world.

Project information

The Lowveld Rehabilitation Centre was established in 1991 on a farm run by Brian Jones. Beginning with a crowned eagle and a baby zebra called *Zebbie*, Brian's reputation for animal rehabilitation work spread. Soon, orphaned or injured animals needing help were being brought to him. After a couple of years, it became apparent that the centre could not run without funds, so the time came to charge visitors to the centre to meet the costs of feeding, medical attention and building cages. The centre has grown tremendously over the years, and representatives now give talks all over the country and in the U.S.A.

The centre works with orphaned, poisoned or injured wildlife. Where possible, wild animals are rehabilitated and reintroduced to their natural environment. Where this is not possible, and a poisoned or injured animal can't be returned to its natural environment, the centre provides a life-long home for it.

The plight of Africa's animals and our natural system have always been at the centre of the Rehabilitation Centre. Spreading awareness helps save animals, and public educational tours of the centre are now run by a group of dedicated guides.

The experience of working as a volunteer for the centre will hopefully create a passion and understanding of African wild life that can help preserve this unique aspect of our country for future generations. However, it is not for the faint hearted, and the centre cannot guarantee what each day will hold or what animals they will have in rehab at the time of your visit. But they do hope that you will make the most of your time there, that you get involved in all the activities and work that goes on at the centre, and that you go away with memories which will last a lifetime!

Programme details

Since 1998, the Lowveld Rehabilitation Centre has been accepting volunteers. They are involved in all day-to-day activities and have become a pivotal part of the animal care and treatment at the centre.

Volunteers care for and work with animals at the centre that are unable to be released back into the wild. These animals remain at the centre for members of the public to get a close and personal experience with these incredible creatures. This allows the centre the ability to demonstrate to the public the problems the wildlife is facing as well as give them some information about each animal at the centre.

A large part of volunteer duties is to care for these animals, and this involves everything from feeding, cleaning and providing stimulation for the more intelligent residents (such as the honey badgers). Whilst



working at the centre, you will be involved in any call-outs, drop-offs or hand-raising of baby animals brought to the centre.

The Rehabilitation centre is also actively involved in research on the movements and behavior of leopards. To date they have captured and collared a number of leopards for this research and the results have been astounding. During your stay at the rehabilitation centre volunteers may be lucky enough to be involved in the capture or release of a leopard. Their research also extends to a number of vulture species that are monitored on a daily basis.

Your role

Your day-to-day tasks are most important whilst at the Rehab Centre. No previous experience is needed in order for you to fulfil your daily duties - all you will need is a love for animals and nature, and be prepared to do the dirty work.

Dedication and teamwork is the 'key' to a successful day of work. The project requires that everyone works together and the tasks given be done with enthusiasm and care.

The priority of the day will be the feeding and cleaning of all the animals and their enclosures in the morning and afternoon. During the rest of the day there are general rehab tasks that need to be done.

There is no typical day at the Lowveld Rehabilitation Centre... ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN! Working with animals can scramble up the day and schedule, it can delay meals and rob you of your sleep, so be prepared for the unexpected. Everything that happens just adds to your experience here in South Africa.

Other activities you may get the chance to take part in: game capture and animal rescue.

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 Lowveld Rehabilitation Centre is located at the foothills of the Mariepskop mountains, in the Limpopo Province.



You need to arrive at Hoedspruit (Eastgate) Airport where you will be collected by the volunteer staff. Transport is provided on your arrival and departure on a Monday at any time.

Accommodation

The accommodation is situated within walking distance of the project. You will stay in brick and reed buildings. Separate male and female accommodation is provided, 2 to 4 to a room. There are rooms available for married couples, but this is subject to bookings (We cannot guarantee there will always be a room available). The accommodation has a common room and a kitchen. Bedding will be provided, but no towels. Laundry service is provided except for your underwear, which you need to wash yourself. A machine and washing powder are available.

WiFi is available but not included – you will be asked to pay a nominal fee per hour.

Meals

Three daily meals are provided (breakfast, lunch and dinner), which are served buffet style. On a Wednesday, dinner is provided at Ya Mati park, which is a short drive from the rehab centre. On Thursdays, volunteers will have the opportunity to relax and unwind by visiting a local restaurant; however, this is at their own expense. For those who do not wish to go, dinner will be provided as normal at the rehab centre.

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

Free time

After your workday, you can spend some time together with other volunteers, read a book, play some games, watch movies on your laptop, etc.

Several exciting activities can be done during your free time or over weekends, including horse riding, a day excursion to the Kruger National Park (done by a safari operator), river tubing, an excursion to the Khumai Reptile Park, a balloon ride, micro-light flying, etc.

These activities will be arranged for your own cost and all participants need to contribute towards the fuel. Most of these excursions are done in groups. Prices can be obtained from the project office.

Local transport

There will be regular town trips to Hoedspruit. Any other transport (for activities, excursions, outings) can be organised with the project staff but you will need to share the petrol costs with other participants.



What to bring

You will be provided with two work T-shirts.

Items you will need are:

- A small net laundry bag to wash your underwear.
- Three pairs of work trousers (these can be three quarter length but must cover your knees).
- A couple of T-shirts that could be useful if your work shirts, which they provide, are in the wash (these must cover your shoulders).
- Good walking shoes for bush walks and for work (You can work in hard wearing sandals but this is at your own risk).
- Two jumpers for the cooler months and one for the summer months (these must not be your best).
- In the evenings you can wear your own clothes so bring along casual clothes for your free time.
- Waterproof jacket.
- During winter (June-September) the temperature does drop in the evenings so bring a warm jacket and scarf.
- Good flashlight and extra batteries.
- Mosquito repellent & sunscreen.
- Hat for walking in the bush and for working outside.
- Mosquito net for a more comfortable night.
- Camera (Binoculars if you are keen on bird spotting).
- 1 small – medium padlock and key for your cupboard.
- Money for any shopping you may want to do and for any of the optional activities which the project offers.
- 3-point South African adaptor.

While there is no specific uniform, you 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 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 (dorm-style room, breakfast, lunch and dinner, laundry)
- Regular town trips
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number

Not included:

- Excursions
- Towels
- WiFi



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.