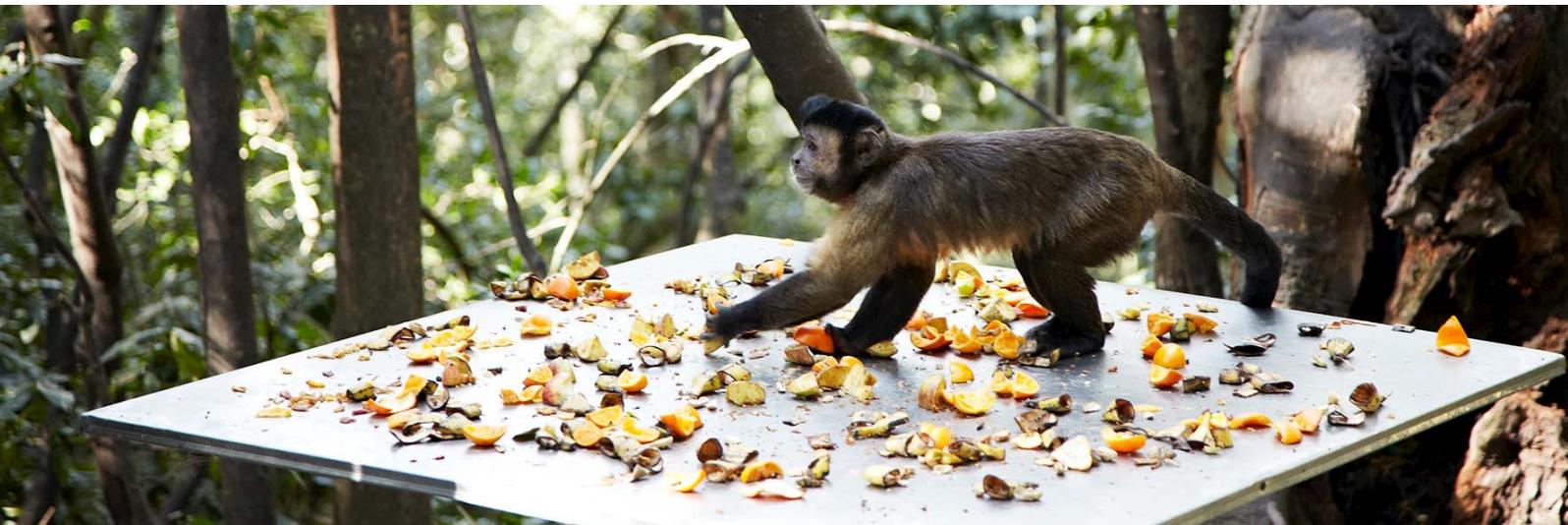


# Monkey Sanctuary



## Overview

**Location** Plettenberg Bay, South Africa.

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**Duration** From 2 weeks.

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**Dates** All year round.

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- Requirements**
- Minimum age: 17.
  - You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.
  - Special skills: An honest desire to help animals and a true 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.

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

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**Day of arrival** Sunday.

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**Day of departure** Sunday.



## Highlights

- Gain a great insight into these fascinating creatures in their natural habitat.
- Experience the Garden Route's natural beauty.
- Take part in amazing activities outside of the project: Bloukrans Bungy (the world's highest commercial bridge bungee jump), waterfall zipline, elephant & snake sanctuaries, wine estates, skydiving, whale watching, swimming with seals, adventure boating, kloofing, kayaking, etc.
- From the accommodation, you are transferred daily to the projects Monkey Sanctuary, Wild Cats and Birds of the World. It is therefore possible to combine any of these projects.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

## Project information

This project opened its doors to the public on the 6th of April 1998. This unique primate sanctuary is currently the top eco-tourism attraction on the Garden Route, for very sound and sunny reasons. The sanctuary has captured the hearts of visitors in its efforts to rehabilitate and free previously caged primates. The sanctuary is exceptional as it caters for several species of primates, which are not caged. They are free to move harmoniously about the forest. The sanctuary conducts guided walking safaris for visitors. Visitors see the primates as they are meant to be: free and in a natural habitat. The safaris are conducted by multi-lingual game rangers and are fun, exciting and educational. The guests leave the sanctuary with a greater understanding of primates and the threats they are facing. On the guided safaris, guests can see a variety of primates, ranging from the Gibbons of Asia to the Lemurs of Madagascar. Guided by knowledgeable rangers, guests learn all about these fascinating mammals as they encounter them roaming free in the forest. As well as conducting safaris, the project also prepares previously caged primates for their eventual release into the sanctuary.

Awareness of the world's environmental problems is increasing all the time and, as a centre of conservation, the sanctuary is an important educational resource in this field. Situated in an eco-sensitive location, about 20 km east of Plettenberg Bay, the primate sanctuary has found its niche and works hand in hand with interest groups to enhance conservation-orientated tourism in the area. In doing so, they help to preserve the Garden Route's natural beauty. The sanctuary is located on 23 hectares of indigenous forest (which contain the primate sanctuary and a free-flight aviary) and the free-roaming aspect of the sanctuary enables them to convey a positive environmental message in ways that are both interesting and memorable to all age groups. It is therefore tourism driven and totally sustainable.

## Programme details

The sanctuary provides the primates who live there with a stable environment. There is permanence and definitely no exploitation. The care they provide at this sanctuary exceeds the requirements of animal welfare regulations. Most importantly, the sanctuary is a place where primates are rehabilitated both physically and emotionally. It strives to achieve an effective balance between conservation and economic reality.

## Your role

Monday to Friday, from 08:00 to 16:00. You assist the Rangers with their daily tasks. Depending on your skills and experience, it may also be possible to assist the marketing department.

Daily tasks could include:

- 08:00 – You arrive at the sanctuary and start with feeding and cleaning the monkey cages. Those monkey cages are, for different reasons, not released into the main 12 hectare forest. Rubbish run: meaning walking through the forest picking up papers that the monkeys may have stolen and dropped on the forest floor as well as cleaning the car park of litter that was left behind by visitors.
- 09:30 – Coffee break; you wait for the first guests to arrive (some volunteers may already have gone on tour with paying guests). Depending on aptitude and wishes, you will now mainly escort guests to our main reception building and/or conduct guided tours in their mother tongue and/or English.
- Lunch – Lunch is not taken at any pre-determined time as it can only be taken as the situation allows. However, you are always given preference over staff when it comes to taking lunch.
- 09:00 to 15:00 – Conducting guided tours: taking guests on one-hour guided tours through the forest and finding the 550 primates that freely roam there, giving relevant information about the primates and observing the primates up close and personal in a natural setting. Other odd jobs that may need to be done are feeding peanuts to the forested monkeys, maintenance of forest walkways and suspension bridge, marketing in town, at shows and functions, public relations, assisting the curators in observations, vet visits and treatment, etc.
- 14:30 – Unloading food truck and loading monkey food for next day's feed in the cool room as well as feeding caged primates.
- 15:00 to 17:00 – Top up feed for main forest, you feed animals on a few platforms in the main 12 hectare forest which house the nearly 550 primates.

Basically there is a wide variety of different tasks but these do not always happen on a daily basis.

**Please note: At no time is human contact with the primates allowed and they are very strict in their "HANDS OFF" approach towards the primates.**

**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 Monkey Sanctuary is situated in an eco-sensitive location, about 20 km east of Plettenberg Bay.

You need to arrive at George Airport where you will be collected by the volunteer staff. Transport is provided on both your arrival and departure on any day between 08:00 and 17:00.

Alternatively, you can fly directly into Plettenberg Bay. Limited flights are available on Cemair (<http://www.flycemair.co.za/>) which flies directly to Plettenberg Bay from Cape Town and Johannesburg each week. Please let the Good Hope Volunteers coordinator know if you need more information on these flights.

## Accommodation

You will live in a backpackers based in The Craggs, a rural suburb of greater Plettenberg Bay. The backpackers is set in a 5 hectare small-holding amidst indigenous forest and open grazing pastures. You are accommodated in shared rooms and/or in under-cover luxury Safari bow-tents that come fully equipped with carpets, beds, linen, electric blankets, lights etc. You will, where required, be sharing with one or two other volunteers. There are numerous bathrooms for communal access and use. The main homestead is equipped with an office, TV lounge, two kitchens plus a large verandah, with a residents' bar, and two fire-hearths for those chilly nights. It is here that guests and hosts gather for social interaction and where evening meals are served for all to enjoy. Immediately adjacent is an outdoor braai (BBQ) area, while close by, is a combination plunge pool/hot-tub (the latter fired up for Fridays) plus a golf practice putting green and a proper boule/petanque track where guests soon get to know their co-guests. Bedding and towels are provided and your laundry will be regularly done on a wash and fold basis by the housekeeper. Free WiFi is available at the main homestead area only.

### Meals

Three daily meals are provided. You will make your own breakfast and lunch (continental breakfast; lunch consists of self-made sandwiches). For dinner you will be provided with a pre-prepared hot meal usually taken with all residents at the facility. All meals are eaten in the verandah area or the outside entertainment area when required.

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

## Free time

The project is situated in an area where the country's best activities are offered. You are surrounded by amazing activities that can be done over weekends and during your free time. Activities can take place in Plettenberg Bay, The Craggs, Tsitsikamma, George, Mosselbay, Oudtshoorn, etc. You can go bungy jumping, sky diving, whale watching, swimming with seals, adventure boating, kloofing, kayaking, horse-riding, shark cage diving, or do a tree-top canopy tour, or visit the waterfall Zipline, elephant and snake sanctuaries, wine estates, and many more.

To participate in these activities, you can contact the project coordinator or the staff at the backpackers and they will assist you with the necessary arrangements.



## Local transport

Daily transport to and from the project will be provided. Transfers to town or to activities during your free time can be arranged – but this will be at your own expense.

## What to bring

A uniform will be provided BUT it is best to bring your own khaki-coloured clothing as well as brown or black shoes preferably with no bright colours; waterproof boots are also highly recommended. Their general colours are dark green, brown and khaki – if you have any warm clothes of that colour this might be also very useful. Please note that there is a non-negotiable deposit of ZAR 800 required for your volunteer uniform. This deposit is returned to you when you personally hand back your uniform.

Otherwise, there are no special requirements in this regard but we recommend bringing pocket money, toiletries, any medication, sunscreen, mosquito repellents, travelling clothes, books/laptop, camera, any items of personal nature, etc. All these items (and anything else you might need) are readily available at local supermarkets in South Africa.

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.

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



## 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.

## What's included / not included

### Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (George Airport)
- Accommodation (shared rooms, breakfast, lunch and dinner, laundry)
- Daily transport to and from the project
- Basic volunteer uniform for rent (refundable deposit of ZAR 800)
- 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:

- Any other transport
- 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.

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