

African Horizon – Animal Rehabilitation Centre

This animal rehabilitation centre feeds and cares for stranded and injured animals. Up to 50 different species call this centre home. Unfortunately, some animals that can't be free-roaming are kept in enclosures, but most of the larger animals roam freely during their rehabilitation.



Highlights

- Work and live up close with a large variety of South Africa's birds and wildlife.
- Explore a game reserve where giraffe, zebra and other buck species run free.
- Make a difference to animals' lives.
- Experience as much hands on contact as possible.
- World's top surfing mecca Jeffrey's Bay is only 30 minutes away.
- Take part in amazing tours and excursions outside of the project.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

Overview

Location	Thomhill, South Africa
Duration	From 2 weeks
Dates	all year round
Requirements	upper intermediate level of English
Minimum age	17
Documents	enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance.
Date of arrival	Monday
Date of departure	Monday

Project Information

The sanctuary boasts the most incredible animal enclosures and aviaries in which it houses the many species brought there by the public. Nearly all the baby animals in the sanctuary are orphans that have been rescued from elsewhere and brought to the sanctuary for safety and, where possible, will be released back into their natural habitat in the wild.

The sanctuary has grown steadily since it opened to the public in 1992. Since then many more animals and birds have been taken in and the sanctuary is now home to a large number of animals and over 300 species of birds. Most birds and animals are brought to the sanctuary by members of the public or referred from local veterinary practices. These have usually been injured or orphaned. They can range from small birds to larger animals such as bush pigs and buck. Many of the parrots at the sanctuary are unwanted pets which are brought in and integrated into the aviaries with other birds of the same species. Some animals not indigenous to South Africa have come from zoos and other wildlife parks throughout the country. These include Emu, Wallabies and Marmoset Monkeys.

The centre is primarily a sanctuary and the majority of animals and birds that come in are either infants or seriously injured adults. They are cared for by the volunteers and live out the rest of their lives at the sanctuary. However, those that are able to survive in the wild are nursed back to health and released back into their natural habitat.

Your Role

The usual day-to-day duties involve preparing food for the animals and birds and feeding them twice daily. This can take up to 1 hour in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon. Volunteers are required to maintain and clean out enclosures regularly and be aware of any problems that arise either with the animals themselves, their enclosures, or their access to food and water.

Most of the long-term resident animals are friendly and the project staff encourages you to have as much hands on contact as possible. You will have free access to the young Serval cats and kittens but for obvious reason the contact with some of the larger, more dangerous animals, including the Crocodile and Cheetahs, is limited – although you will help to clean and maintain the cheetah enclosures and most volunteers get to go in and spend some supervised time with them. There is also a clinic where new injured or young animals are kept. You will help to feed and look after these animals daily.

Volunteers work 5 days with 2 days off each week (not necessarily the weekends). It can be hard work. It can be dirty. It can be smelly. But that's all part of the fun!

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.

Accommodation

Your accommodation is a 5-minute walk away from the project. You live in a backpacker-style accommodation with rooms ranging from single to an 8-sleeper dorm, but usually 2 or 3 volunteers share a room. For all volunteers there are 2 bathrooms to share, with a total of 4 toilets and 6 showers. The lodge has a TV lounge (DSTV, DVD) and is equipped with a small kitchen area with a fridge, kettle and microwave. Outside there is a fire pit where you can make bonfires in the evenings. A small laundry room is available where hand washing of clothes can be done. For R35 per load you can also use the washing machine. Sheets, a pillow and a duvet/blanket will be provided; however, you must bring your own sleeping bag which is necessary especially in the winter months.

There is no WiFi available, only in Jeffrey's Bay. But you are able to purchase a dongle for your laptop if you want personal Internet at your accommodation. A public payphone is available and accepts both coins and international calling cards. You can also easily buy a South African SIM card to access Internet through your cell phone. The volunteer staff will assist you in getting a local SIM card at the airport on your arrival.

Prices

Project fee	2017
	2 weeks: € 626
	4 weeks: € 1.081
	8 weeks: € 1.992
	Additional week: € 228

Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project placement• Airport transfer on arrival and departure• Project accommodation (dorm-style rooms, full-board)• Orientation• Monthly site visits by our coordinator• Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)• Local support including a 24 hour emergency number
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Not included	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local transport• Weekend excursions• Towels• WiFi
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