



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships
and Cultural Courses Abroad

SOUTH AFRICA



CONSERVATION: MULTI-MARINE PROJECT WITH SHARKS, WHALES AND DOLPHINS, NEAR CAPE TOWN

Sharks, Whales, Penguins, Seals, Dolphins... this is an extraordinary project in a beautiful location, white beaches and blue ocean. And two hours from Cape Town. Fantastic!

Work with sharks, whales, penguins, tourism, research and community development. You'll be taught, guided and lectured by very skilled field teams.

Go on whale watching trips that are not just magical but rewarding too.

Thank you for your interest on volunteering in this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. You can volunteer whether you're taking a gap year, on a career break, retired, or on a holiday with a purpose. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!

WHAT DO YOU GET?

SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of knowing that your work is contributing to marine conservation.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Africa and the many diverse cultures in South Africa! And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

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Prices: From **£1,395** excluding flights.

Please see Full [Price List Online](#).

Duration: From 2 weeks to 6 months or longer, subject to visa requirements

Start Dates: All year round – Must arrive in Cape Town on a Sunday where you will overnight and start on Monday mornings.

Requirements: No qualifications needed. Minimum age 17.

What's Included:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| ▶ Arranging your Programme, | ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance, |
| ▶ Payment Protection insurance | ▶ Accommodation |
| ▶ Certificate of Completion | ▶ Breakfasts and Lunches |
| ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport | ▶ Local in-country team support and backup |
| ▶ 24-hr emergency support. | ▶ Transport to and from your project |
| ▶ First night in a lodge in Cape Town | ▶ Transfer to your accommodation |

What Not Included: Evening meals, Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required), Return transfer to airport.

SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WORK CONTENT

The project is designed to give volunteers the opportunity to work in the area of not only sharks but also whales, penguins, tourism, research and community development.

There is a huge variety of work that you will be doing and this will largely depend on what work is being done at the time you are there.

During the summer time (November, December, January and February), the project is very involved in Tourist trips and dives (these fund research and community development projects) and thus they have very little time for the research and development side of their work during this period.

You may be fortunate enough to spot the 'Marine Big 5' .

- **Shark** – The Great White
- **Whale** – Southern Right, Humpback and Brydes'
- **Penguin** – African
- **Seal** – Cape Fur
- **Dolphin** – Bottlenose, Common and Humpback

You will be able to go out to sea a minimum of once every other day. For example, a 30 day stay enables you to go to sea at least 15 times. Please note that this will be the minimum (depending on no-sea days and weather), but could be much more, and we do our best to accommodate you as often as possible.



When at sea it will not be feasible for you to dive in the cage every trip, or you may not even want to – lots of people choose to observe the sharks from the deck instead. If you do wish to dive that day please inform the Marine Biologist or Skipper, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Your day will start off with prepping the boats and the tourists for their trip. Much time will be spent with the tourists educating them about the sharks, assisting the tourists, as well as observing sharks, possibly taking part in cage dives, if time allows and maybe helping out on the daily research projects on the vessel, by assisting with data recording. After the trip you will help wash down the boat and equipment before attending a presentation or conservation activity (1 -2 times for week) or having much-welcomed relaxation time.

Activities on the 'no-sea' days

On your no-sea days (when weather is unsuitable for boat departures) you will be involved with activities arranged under the auspices of the Dyer Island Conservation Trust. Examples of these are:

Beach Clean-ups and Fishing Line Bin Project

This project supports recycling and is aimed at involving local schools and the community in beach clean-ups, marine education and placing unique fishing line bin disposal units along the coast. It was recognised by WESSA and the Blue Flag beach programme nationwide.

You may have the opportunity to work with children's groups in doing beach clean-ups. Data from these exercises is collected for our project on marine pollution. You may also make up our unique fishing line bins or help clean the fishing line for recycling. Being involved in removing fishing line and other litter off our beaches you are quite possibly helping save birds, seals, sharks, dolphins and even terrestrial animals from injury and an agonising death due to entanglement.



Wood Project

This project supports clearing of alien vegetation and providing firewood for heating and cooking purposes to the local poorer community. We noticed very young children walking along a dark road at night carrying firewood that they had collected themselves, so we hope that providing wood in this way will help to keep the children at home and off the streets in the evenings. You will help to load wood onto a trailer, travel with us when we go to deliver it and unload it alongside these children. You will see many a happy smile as a result of this activity!

African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary

This project is a true feather in the cap for the Dyer Island Conservation Trust. APSS is a state-of-the-art centre for the rehabilitation of seabirds in distress, with a particular emphasis on conserving the African Penguin, which is endangered and has been undergoing a shocking decline in population numbers. Injured, oiled and sick birds are collected or brought to us for care and recuperation and when they are fit and healthy again we release back into the wild.

You may be involved in cleaning their pens, assisting with preparing medicated fish and telling visitors about what we do. If you will be staying a minimum of 5 weeks and you want to volunteer at APSS regularly during your time here then you may be able to learn how to handle the birds yourself, if the rehabilitator feels that you show an aptitude for this.

Shark Egg Case Monitoring Project

This project is part of a larger project that monitors the types (species), quantity and seasonality of shark eggs (or mermaids' purses) that are washed out along our shore. You will help to hunt for these empty eggs amongst the kelp, collect, identify and measure them.

African Penguin Nest Project

Penguin habitat has been largely destroyed by man removing much of the guano that they produce and subsequently burrow and nest in. We have designed an artificial penguin nest that people can sponsor and if you stay for 4 weeks or more, you automatically sponsor one!



A TYPICAL DAY

Wake up at and get ready any time between 6:30 – 8:00. After breakfast, assuming that the boat trip will take place that day (because the trips are subject to weather conditions), the day will start with making your way to the 'Great White House' where once the tourists have had their briefing, you will help to dress them in their jackets and life vests or go and prepare the boat for the trip.

You walk the tourists down to the boat. Once the boat leaves the harbour you'll spend between 3 and 6 hours out at sea. The Shark Boat will go out once or twice a day depending on numbers and time of year and the Whale Boat normally goes out four times a day (for a duration of roughly 2 hours for each trip). During your time on Shark Fever, you will participate in data collection. Once a shark is spotted, you will need to record as much information as you can about it, including data such as size, sex, any scars or other identifying marks, the length of time it remains around the boat, behaviour, and if it is a re-sight, etc. Michael will inform you about what information you need to collect.



If it is decided that it is a 'good' shark, the cage will be lowered into the sea and you will help with preparing the tourists for the cage dives. This will include getting them into their wetsuits. You may not participate in a cage dive on each occasion, but you should have the opportunity on couple of occasions. Please keep in mind that not every boat trip ends in a cage dive – it will depend on whether there are any sharks around at that time, whether the sea conditions are conducive to lowering a cage, and other similar factors. Just to give you an example, though, a very recent volunteer on a one-month placement went out to sea on 20 occasions, but the cage was only lowered on 9 of those occasions.

At the end of the 5 hours, you will return to the shore and here your work will continue. Once back in shore you might have to wash the boat down and pack all the kit up. The equipment needs to be washed and hung to dry for the next day. If it is busy there might be a second boat trip so all the above is repeated. If not, they have the rest of the day off. The working week is 6/7 days, it is possible to take weekends off, if you ask.

The work you do will ideally be split between the boats, Slashfin and the Dream Catcher, work on land or in the office. It will largely depend on what is happening at the time of your placement and where the most help is needed.

You will be given information and the necessary material to help you answer any general questions that the tourists on the boats might ask you and you will be expected to know and provide basic information.

Lectures and Activities

There will be 1-2 presentations every week. They will be conducted when time permits, with regards to sea conditions, and the number of trips each day. You will probably rotate between the shark boat, the whale boat and work on land, which will vary between maintenance, dressing clients, checking jackets, cleaning the parking lot, placing and manufacturing penguin nests etc

During your placement you might have the opportunity to attend some lectures on various aspects of shark and marine conservation. The number of lectures will vary at different times of the year.

Wherever possible, a weekly lecture and activity will try to be organised for you. However, due to the workload at the time of the year and other external factors, this may not always take place.

For the Sharks:

Best sightings are May to September.

The chances of seeing sharks are 90% or more. During winter stormy weather is a fact of life, and this can prevent us from going out to sea.



December to March is considered the “low” season for sharks. Sightings can vary daily from very good to below average. With wildlife there are no guarantees – you just never know.

For the Whales:

They run from July – December. This is quite possibly the only place in the world where one can see a mighty whale and a great white shark on the same boat trip.

You will be involved with boat-based whale watching. Southern right whales are almost guaranteed July to December. All trips are weather dependent.

"I ended up enjoying the Multi-Marine project the most for many reasons, such as the accommodation was amazing... The days out on the boat were incredible, seeing sharks every day and the occasional whale and Kleinbaai/Gansbaai were just beautiful and very safe locations to be staying in."

Fiona McAdam

"I love being out at sea (now that I have my sea legs!) And every day is so exciting, especially when we get really interesting sharks... The amount I have learnt since I got here is unbelievable! Not only more about the sharks, but also about working out at sea, which I knew nothing about 2 weeks ago"

Stephanie Edwards

ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION:

The Volunteer Lodge, your accommodation during your stay, is equipped with 4 cottages that house 4-6 people each. Each cottage has a bathroom, kitchenette and living areas as well as daily living essentials. There is a large garden with barbeque facilities, swimming pool and an activity area with board games, pool table, table tennis table and foosball.

Buildings in South Africa are not thermally isolated or heated, so the temperatures inside are the same outside. In winter time please remember to dress accordingly (it can be 10°C inside). The main living area is extremely comfortable with WiFi and cooking facilities. It is cleaned daily and your bedding will be changed weekly. Personal laundry facilities are available in Gansbaai.



If you would prefer to walk to where you will volunteer, it will only take 10-15min (1.4km). We also have a volunteer bus that is equipped with all the necessary safety permits and is used daily for the volunteers needs.

FOOD:

There is a fully equipped communal kitchen in the main building as well as kitchenettes in each cottage.

- Breakfast is a help-yourself affair, with eggs, bacon/vegetarian sausages provided, cereal, bread, milk, coffee and tea.
- Lunch is provided on the boat – cheese and tomato roll, fruit, crisps; the same lunch is available on no sea days, but most volunteers decide to cook for themselves in this case/they go out for lunch.
- **Dinner is your own responsibility** (don't forget to budget for this)– some volunteers cook together, others go it alone and sometimes we go out to eat or grab pizza takeaways and watch the sunset from the rocks.

There is an outside courtyard where you can have a typical South African barbeque known there as a 'braai'. Make sure you try the local spicy sausage known as 'boerewors'. Also, the Karoo lamb chops are to die for on a 'braai', but if fish is more to your taste then a fish 'braai' with South African 'snoek' is a must.

WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers
- Excellent support! And 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, during and after your trip of a lifetime!
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

Donations to **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ Accommodation | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection |
| ✓ Meeting you at the airport | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment |
| ✓ Transport to the placement site | ✓ Donations to worthwhile project |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ 24hr emergency helpline |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline | |
| ✓ UK administration | |

"I would like to thank Travellers Worldwide with all the help in organising and their advice. For me, there was no better way for me to spend my year out. The people were extremely helpful with everything, and always so friendly, in both England and South Africa."

Helen English

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: info@travellersworldwide.com

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure! Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home.

The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Fact file, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget. As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity! This is a truly awesome, elegant and beautiful country.

LOCATION: ABOUT DYER ISLAND

Most work is done in and around Dyer Island which is located 8 km from shore and is completely protected for the conservation of its many resident bird species, including African penguins. Adjacent to Dyer Island is Geyser Rock, home to a 60,000 strong Cape fur seal colony. These seals are also present all year round. The channel of water between Dyer Island and Geyser Rock is the now world renowned Shark Alley.

Dyer Island (larger island) is the breeding ground of Jackass Penguins, Cape Cormorants and Gannets, while Geyser Rock (smaller island) is a breeding Mecca for Cape Fur Seals and currently home to approx. 50 000 seals. In season, whales and dolphins may also be spotted.

The name of the island originated from an African American, Samson Dyer, who went to live on the island in the 19th century. He collected "guano" (bird droppings), and made a living from supplying it to farmers on the mainland as fertilizer. The boats that transported the guano from the island are today in the Maritime Museum at the Waterfront in Cape Town.

The Bay is also a vitally important breeding area for the endangered Southern Right Whale: Each year the Southern Right Whales migrate from their feeding grounds in Antarctica to breed here and to give birth - adult whales are seen between July and December each year either in mating groups or accompanied by recently born calves.

On Arrival, your Introduction to the Country:

When you arrive (usually on a Sunday or before) you will be welcomed by a member of our South African staff who will take you to your lodge accommodation in Cape Town for your first night. You will then be picked up by the project's shark bus from the lodge the following morning (Monday) and taken to the Project in Kleinbaai (about a 2 hour drive from Cape Town). During your first few days you'll be given an induction so that you can learn about area and project. You will have weekends free and this will also allow some time for travelling and sightseeing.

ABOUT THE GREAT WHITE SHARK

ABOUT THE GREAT WHITE SHARK

Roaming the world's oceans, the Great White Shark is undoubtedly the greatest predatory force of the seas. Cloaked in myth, misunderstanding and fear, this awesome animal remains a mystery.

Sharks are intelligent and vulnerable, deserving of sympathy and respect. Education helps people to lose the Jaws phenomenon and gain the realisation that sharks are a complex and precious species, living in the water – just doing their best to survive.

100,000,000 sharks are killed each year by humans, usually through fishing. They are, as a result, on a collision course with extinction. Great White Sharks are the last wild predator on earth that we cannot tame; from that point of view alone it deserves our respect and attention.

How could our oceans be the same without the glorious Great White beneath its surface?

Finding the Great White, or letting them find you, is a skill, involving years of practice, the water temperature, depth, visibility, swell height, current and wind direction are all major factors. Once the site is found, the bait is prepared and the team awaits the shark, respecting it as a free animal. A recent tagging project was very successful allowing a number of Great Whites to be tracked.

Great White Sharks are very stable animals, displaying stable and predictable behaviour. They do not eat each other and on very rare occasions fight with one another. They are highly intelligent animals, able to remember and learn quickly.



Possible Extinction:

Contrary to popular opinion, shark attacks are rare, with only 55 unprovoked attacks each year worldwide by all species of shark, of which 2 – 4 are fatal. The media hype of these attacks and movies have installed a primitive fear in humans – that of being eaten alive by a shark. This fear has been exaggerated, exploited and then marketed at the expense of the wellbeing of the shark species. Sharks' natural feeding areas are seal colonies, not a beach packed with surfers. In fact, it is recently said that sharks hate the taste of human blood!

150,000,000 to 200,000,000 sharks are killed each year by humans just for their fins. On top of that, 16 Billion fish are discarded each year; a lot of this is made up of sharks. They are, as a result, in danger of extinction. Great White Sharks are the last wild predator on earth that we cannot tame; from that point of view alone it deserves our respect and attention. There is an increased awareness and interest in the plight of this animal, thanks to organisations like the one you will be working for.

Sharks are vulnerable and deserving of sympathy and respect. Education helps people to lose the Jaws phenomenon and gain the realisation that sharks are a complex and precious species.

THINGS TO DO IN SOUTH AFRICA

LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

The best advice you'll get from us is to try to see some of the country while you're in South Africa. It's big (huge!) and each different region is exciting and very, very beautiful. Cape Town is probably the most beautiful city in the world.

KwaZulu-Natal comes a very close second, albeit very different. Knysna is where South Africans go on holiday, which gives you some idea of how lovely the region is.

ACTIVITIES IN CAPE TOWN

Adrenaline Activities - Enjoy exciting and "real" adventures with an adrenaline twist!

- Abseiling
- Sandboarding
- Deep-sea Angling
- 'Kloofing' (insanely jumping off very high cliffs into pools of water!)
- Paragliding
- Helicopter flips
- Bungee jumping (just up the coast)
-and a LOT, LOT more!!!!



- ❖ **Township Tours** - A visit to one of the many townships surrounding the city is an experience that will open your eyes to the way in which the biggest portion of Cape Town's population are living. Take a township tour of Langa, the oldest township in South Africa or Khayelitsha, the second largest township in South Africa. **Two Oceans Aquarium** - Located in the V&A Waterfront, the Two Oceans Aquarium has lots of display tanks, interactive experiences, a touch pool and the highly popular predators' tank.
- ❖ **Cape Winelands** - Wine lover or not, a visit to the Cape Wine lands is an absolute must as the region is one of breath taking beauty and majestic mountain backdrops. Rolling vineyards and quaint Cape Dutch homesteads ... as well as some of the country's best wines.
- ❖ **Relaxing drives:** Drives are a very popular leisure activity in South Africa, because the roads are generally wide, in good condition, relatively empty and a pleasure to drive on. People often go for drives on a Sunday afternoon to a favourite hotel or restaurant for afternoon tea and scones, or to the top of a pass just to look at the view, or to a national park to watch the baboons - there's always a good reason to go for a drive!

Cape Town has lots of cafes and restaurants with outdoors seating areas overlooking the street or on the pavements, with colourful sun umbrellas - a perfect place to sit with the sun on your face, watching passers-by ambling along, sipping a steamy cappuccino or staving off the heat with a cold drink.

HOW TO BOOK

TWO EASY WAYS ...

Complete a [booking form](#)
online.

Telephone
01903 502595 (UK)
or
1-603-574-4935 (USA)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!

We hope you'll join us!

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

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