



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

SOUTH AFRICA



CARE FOR ANIMALS AT A WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND RELEASE CENTRE IN KWAZULU-NATAL

The best cage is an empty cage! Work in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre that is also a wildlife hospital that cares for injured and orphaned wild animals and birds. You'll work with over 400 different animals and birds, and lots of monkeys! Become part of an amazing team of wildlife experts specialising in the rescue, treatment, rehabilitation and release of various wild animals that may have been injured or orphaned. Assist with feeding, cleaning of cages, enclosure enrichment and lots more to provide the best possible environment for these animals in distress. Your time and contribution is invaluable to the project!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on 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 helping abused, orphaned or threatened animals and knowing that you made a difference to them.
- 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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SUMMARY

Prices: From **£945** excluding flights.

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

Duration: From 2 weeks to 12 weeks or longer, subject to visa requirements

Start Dates: All year round - you choose your start and finish dates.

Requirements: No qualifications needed, just a big heart and a love of animals and their conservation. Minimum age 18

What's Included:

- ▶ Arranging your Programme,
- ▶ Payment Protection insurance
- ▶ Certificate of Completion
- ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport
- ▶ 24-hr emergency support.
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance,
- ▶ Accommodation
- ▶ Transfer to your on-site accommodation
- ▶ Local in-country team support and backup
- ▶ Free T-Shirt

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

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Run by a small, yet highly dedicated and experienced team of staff and local and international volunteers, the Rehabilitation Centre assists over 3000 injured, orphaned and displaced animals every year.

From mongoose, genets and monkeys to raptors, reptiles and antelope, the Centre represents a second chance at a free, safe and sustainable life for all wild animals in distress. This excellent project is based in a beautiful Rehabilitation Centre.

You'll work with anywhere from 300 - 400 different animals, birds, and monkeys! The number and variety of animals can vary depending on the time of year.

Much of your work involves understanding the principles of wildlife rehabilitation and contributing towards giving animals that have been orphaned or injured, the best chance of getting back out into the wild where they belong.

You'll contribute to an extremely valuable conservation effort that provides medical care, temporarily homes and also releases wild animals back into their natural environment.

WORK CONTENT

This is a superb project. Your work with the animals has the direct result of improving their quality of life, of "rescuing" them from death or a life of misery.

- You'll assist in preparing food and feeding,
- Looking after the many species in the Centre,
- Assisting with the maintenance and improvement of the grounds and enclosures. There is also quite a lot of manual work that you will get involved with such as digging, building, cleaning and generally improving the enclosures for the animals.
- They also have a very busy Educational Program, so if education 'is your thing', you may be able to assist with school tours and edutainment events at the Education Centre, if available at the time that you're there.



A TYPICAL DAY AT THE CENTRE:

(Please note that the below is just provided to give you a general idea. Every day will be different!)

07:00 - Volunteers report for duty

07:00-07:15 - Morning meeting with staff and volunteers to plan the day ahead

07:15-09:00 - Morning feeding & cleaning session (Preparing food for all animals and assisting Clinic Nurses with feeding the animals and cleaning out their enclosures) Assisting with rescues and releases as needed.

09:00-09:15 - Mid-morning Tea Break

09:15-10:30 - Assist CROW Clinic Nurses with catching animals that are going to be released, prepping empty enclosures for new arrivals, any ad hoc repair and maintenance tasks. Assisting with rescues and releases as needed.

10:30-12:00 - Assist with daily animal enrichment activities such as gathering natural greens, berries and bugs to supplement animals' diets & making a variety of natural treats and stimulating "toys" for the animals from natural materials. Assisting with rescues and releases as needed.

12:00-13:00 - Lunch Hour

13:00-15:00 - Afternoon feeding & cleaning session (Preparing food for all animals and assisting Clinic Nurses with feeding the animals and cleaning out enclosures) Assisting with rescues and releases as needed.

Please note: In terms of daily food preparation: The Centre accommodates a wide range of animals including carnivores which need to be fed protein/meat. Vegetarian volunteers need to be aware that food preparation will include cutting up meat and poultry for these animals.

Autumn and Winter Months:

South African autumn months are March, April and May which are still quite warm due to the subtropical climate of most of KZN. The winter is from June to August.

During the late summer and autumn those animals that have suitably recovered and been rehabilitated (weaned from their dependence on their human caregivers) are reintroduced to the wild. In addition to caring for those animals and babies that are not suitably recovered yet, you are likely to participate over this period in the release and monitoring of animals that are being returned into the wild. This will involve going out to game reserves and farms where animals will be allowed to go back into the wild.

This is done specifically to give the animals a chance to adapt to their new homes, establish a territory, find the best food sources and water, etc before the cold winter months set in and adequate access to food and shelter become essential to their survival. Those animals that are not ready to be released remain in the Centre over the winter and require ongoing care throughout the winter. This is also the time that the Centre readies itself for the next influx of babies. Baby buck usually arrive in the early winter and will be in need of a lot of TLC.

Preparation of food, feeding and caring for those animals that have remained in the Centre is ongoing, but there is also a strong focus at this time to **repair and improve** the grounds, Clinic, Education Centre, enclosures, the cages and transport boxes.

Rescues are ongoing throughout the year and you may go out with the staff to help capture and secure injured animals that need to be brought back to the Centre for medical attention and care.

Duties throughout the year may also include painting and construction, landscaping and removal of alien vegetation, as well as enriching the cages with structures and equipment to keep the monkeys entertained and stimulated.

There may be times when we have more volunteers than babies, and in such situations volunteers should abide by the decision of the supervisor as to who gets to "mother" the baby, or whether one baby can have two volunteer "mothers". In situations like this where we work with orphaned animals, we have to deal with the demand nature throws at us. However, you will have some hands-on care of wild animals that need to be rehabilitated, and your efforts will be of direct benefit to the animals.



"The Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release Centre in KwaZulu-Natal was just fantastic, the staff, volunteers and of course the animals! I was very fortunate to be the foster-mum for a baby grey duiker as well as for the baby vervet monkeys - adorable!!! The most amazing, amazing place. :-)"

Sheran Lee



ACCOMMODATION

We have 2 types of accommodation:

We have a fully furnished volunteer house that accommodates up to 10 volunteers at a time. There are four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Volunteers share rooms. The house is within the security of the sanctuary and surrounded by an electric fence.

For couples or groups of volunteers who would like some extra privacy, we have a log cabin situated next to the main volunteer house, nestled under huge indigenous thorn and fig trees. It comfortably sleeps 4 volunteers in two bedrooms and has a veranda, small kitchenette and sitting room. Ablutions consist of a shower, toilet and hand basin. Meals will still be cooked with the rest of the volunteers in the main house. Allocation to this accommodation will be made at the discretion of the Project.



A safe is available at the main office should you wish to lock away your passport, money or any valuables. Mobile phones do operate with full reception on-site and it is recommended that you bring one with you.

FOOD:

Sufficient food is purchased for the house on a weekly basis to provide 3 meals per day. Volunteers advise Mabel, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, of any special requirements i.e. vegetarian, and these are met within reason. Volunteers cook their own meals out of the food provided. In addition to the stove in the house, there is also a braai (barbeque) area to cook outdoor meals.

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

"I elected to travel alone to South Africa to volunteer and assist with animal conservation on Thanda Private Game Reserve. Travellers answered all my questions, handled all the arrangements and made recommendations pertinent to my project. My experience exceeded my expectations and I can't wait to return!"

Leesa Madsen

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 dedicated 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.

THE REWARDS OF DOING THIS PROJECT:

This placement is definitely for nature loving enthusiasts who are willing to work hard and aren't afraid of getting their hands dirty, but the rewards are well worth it:

- You'll get a wonderful and varied experience with many different species of animals.



- You'll get to experience the headiness of looking after animals that are totally helpless and reliant on you take care of them.
- You'll leave feeling very proud of yourself for having contributed to the quality of life and well-being of previously abused and battered animals.
- You'll learn much more than you can imagine, particularly about the importance of conserving wildlife, and hopefully you'll help to raise awareness by talking to friends and colleagues on your return home.
- This project will be an excellent entry on your CV, demonstrating your initiative, adaptability, your unique working experience and your concern for nature.

The Rehabilitation Centre itself is a lovely and a very safe environment. This is truly a wonderful project that is both rewarding and unforgettable.

“I have been here now for 4 weeks... I have had the most amazing time here. Everyone here is amazing, they have all been really nice and let me help out with the animals.”

Katie Davies

On Arrival, your Introduction to the Country:

When you arrive you will be welcomed by a member of our South African staff who will take you to your accommodation and introduce you to everyone. During your first few days you'll be given an induction so that you can learn about the country and its culture, as well as other useful information, like how to use the transport system, banks, safety issues, tipping, and lots more. You will have weekends free and this will also allow some time for travelling and sight seeing.

MORE ABOUT THE CENTRE

Mission Statement

The rescue, rehabilitation and release of orphaned and injured wildlife, and it believes in action and education with regard to the protection of all natural resources. The Centre is committed to conservation and strives to return all rescued and rehabilitated wildlife to their natural habitat. The Centre has 12 depots in and around the Province and is considered to be one of the leading rehabilitation Centres in South Africa.

Animals that are currently being rehabilitated are placed in enclosures far away from public activity. As far as possible, animal enclosures are created that are similar to their natural environment to give them a "feel" of what their world is like. Orphaned antelope are often only released in Nature Reserves where there are no predators, as they don't know what a predator is. These animals are tended to by staff and volunteers whose love, care and dedication is unconditional, around the clock.

The Team Leader has extensive experience in the rehabilitation of wildlife and assists a number of wildlife agencies in drawing up release protocols for rehabilitated animals.

As the Centre is a non-profit organisation with no financial aid from the government or any large concern, they are solely reliant on fundraising initiatives and the generosity and goodwill of the public. As the running costs are approximately £8,000 (\$14,500) or more a month, there is very little funding that can be applied to appointing full time staff.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of this organization, especially during the spring and summer months when lots of orphan baby animals are brought to the centre for care.

During the late summer and autumn those animals that have suitably recovered and been rehabilitated (weaned from their dependence on their human caregivers) are reintroduced to the wild. Those that are not ready to be released remain in the centre over the winter and require ongoing care. This is also the time that the centre readies itself for the next influx of patients.



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 (I can say that, I grew up there :-). 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.

LOCATION: Yellowwood Park, Durban, South Africa

The Rehabilitation Centre is located on the east coast in a suburb of Durban, called Yellowwood Park. It lies close to a small protected reserve of 253 hectares which offers coastal forest and grassland habitats and includes species such as zebra, bushbuck, reedbuck, impala, blue, red and grey duiker, vervet monkeys, rock hyrax, slender mongoose, bushbaby, Egyptian mongoose, banded mongoose, water monitor and genet. The reserve also has an interesting variety of indigenous flora and over 200 bird species.

Because the Centre is close to the Reserve and the fact that food is always available at the Centre, you'll see lots of birdlife scavenging food from the enclosures - and wild Monkeys are also regular visitors.

The Bluff is a gigantic headland that forms the southeastern 'arm' of Durban Harbour and has a string of safe and protected beaches. Brighton Beach, Cave Rock Beach, Anstey's Beach and Garvies Beach are all very popular, with interesting walks through coastal bush that end almost at the water's edge.

EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

KwaZulu Natal is renowned for its Game Reserves and traditional Zulu Culture : The attractions in KwaZulu Natal (KZN) range from vibrant cities to the gorgeous Land of a Thousand Hills, from tranquil beaches to outstanding Game Parks and Nature Reserves. These are just some of the sites you shouldn't miss:

- Big Five Game Reserves (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino - and lots more, of course) and Travellers volunteers are able to work in many of them, including Tembe and Mkhuze.
- Beautiful St Lucia Wetlands with its Crocodile Centre and Wetlands
- Numerous nature parks,
- Fantastic beaches for swimming and diving. The beaches are truly golden.
- Lively Durban where South Africans go to have fun,
- The San Art Park for a collection of astounding rock paintings ... And much, much more!

Durban (Tekweni in Zulu) is the ancestral home of the Nguni people. Africa's bewitching seaside playground in the sun with radiant golden sands and lush sub-tropical greenery. The city has balmy weather all year round, making it a perfect holiday paradise. Durban International Airport is only a 10 minute drive from the City. Sophisticated and cosmopolitan, Durban Metro after dark buzzes with elegant lounges, funky taverns and cozy inns, distinctive local theatre and live music, and trendy clubs, pubs and discos. This is nightlife in a modern, authentic African metropolis!



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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