



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

SOUTH AFRICA



CONSERVATION: VERVET MONKEY REHABILITATION IN KWAZULU-NATAL

Help to care for, rehabilitate and release injured and abandoned Vervet Monkeys back into the wild to live a free and natural life. This is a wonderful project that encompasses all aspects of Vervet Monkey Rehabilitation and Conservation ... not to be missed!

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 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!**

2A Caravelle House, 17/19 Goring Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 4AP, UK
Tel: UK +44 (0)1903 502595, USA: 1-603-574-4935. Email: info@travellersworldwide.com

TravelQuest Ltd t/a Travellers, registered in England & Wales, Registered Office: 7 Mulberry Close, Ferring, West Sussex, BN12 5HY, Reg. No. 3072191, VAT Registration: 786540201

Prices: From **£795** excluding flights.

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

Duration: From 1 week to 24 weeks or longer, subject to visa requirements

Start Dates: This Project runs from beginning of **August through to end of March** every year. You can choose your start and finish dates during this period.

Requirements: No qualifications needed, just a big heart and a love of animals and their conservation. Minimum age 17.

What's Included:

- ▶ Arranging your Programme,
- ▶ Payment Protection insurance
- ▶ Certificate of Completion
- ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport
- ▶ 24-hr emergency support.
- ▶ Free T-Shirt.
- ▶ Airport transfer from Ballito Bay back to Durban Airport at the completion of your placement
- ▶ Two nights' accommodation in Ballito Bay (one on arrival and one at the end of your placement)
- ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance
- ▶ Accommodation
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Airport Transfer from Durban Airport to Ballito Bay on arrival
- ▶ Transfer from Vryheid to the project and back again

What Not Included: Flights, travel insurance, cost of visa, Greyhound coach return ticket from Ballito to Vryheid and back again (approximately £40)

SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This Rehabilitation project is run by a non-profit organisation to take in rescued Vervet Monkeys from all around the country. The work they do is genuinely to help the monkeys, so there is little hands-on work because it's important that the monkeys aren't human-habituated. Too much human/monkey interaction would significantly reduce the possibility of releasing them back into the wild - which is the Centre's primary aim.

The Vervets are kept safely in enclosures until they are ready to be released into the wild, far from human habitation. This usually takes about two to three years but, depending on the amount of human contact the monkeys have had, the de-humanising could perhaps take a little longer. During this time the monkeys are gradually weaned from close human contact and the troops are built up to ensure that they form a coherent relationship. Vervets are very social animals and cannot be released individually.

The releases start to take place from September (which is spring in South Africa) and continue through the summer months. After they have been released, the Vervets need supplementary feeds for two to three weeks until they learn to completely fend for themselves. They are also monitored for two to three months after their release.

WORK CONTENT

As these Vervets are being prepared for "the outside world" and by necessity have to be kept in cages until they have been cared for, rehabilitated and prepared for release, the contribution you can make to improving their daily pre-release lives is enormous. The range of work is quite diverse and varied, and wide-ranging, including:

- **Feeding the Monkeys:** This includes not only feeding, but also food preparation. You'll spend an hour or two chopping fruit and vegetables to feed to the Vervets in the outdoor enclosures.
- **Growing the food to feed the Monkeys:** Bruce and Sandi, who run the Centre, buy the fruit that the monkeys need, but the gardens grow a constant supply of vegetables which need to be looked after. If you have green fingers, they will come in handy (but not to worry if you don't, the monkeys won't notice!) You can help to sow seeds when necessary, keep the veggies well watered and harvest them when they are ready to be eaten ... and you'll then have the undying devotion of the Vervets, who are always hungry!



- **Enclosure Enrichment:** Some of the most satisfying work you can do will be to provide some enclosure enrichment and mental stimulation. This is an essential part of keeping the Vervet Monkeys happy and occupied. You can use your creativity to provide useful “toys” and games for them and offer them a different element to the usual daily routine. The monkeys take great interest and delight in new areas to explore and will really enjoy your contributions to this facet of their enforced enclosure until they can be released. (We provide our volunteers with an in-house guide to suggestions for enclosure enrichment and you may be able to use or adapt some of the suggestions for Vervet Monkeys.)
- **Data Collection:** Records of all the monkeys and the releases have to be kept, so if paper-work or collating data is your forte, your assistance will be hugely appreciated in that department.
- **The Centre's Facebook and Social Networks:** Bruce tries his level best to update the Centre's Facebook page on a daily basis, but he doesn't always get the time. You can use your computer skills to keep the Facebook page fresh and interesting as well as helping with the web site.
- **Monkey Releases - freedom at last!** The older Vervet Monkeys start to be released from September through to the early summer and you would be required to assist with these releases. You may stay on the release site for a few weeks to monitor the integration to normal Vervet monkey life and to ensure a successful rehabilitation and release.
- **Post-Release Feeding** is necessary whilst the Vervets get used to their new “home” and learn where the natural food sources are, and you'll help by taking food to the feeding stations if you are on site. The Vervets usually need to be given food for about 2 or 3 weeks after their release.
- **Post-release Monitoring:** The newly released troop must also be monitored to check for any injuries or members that have been excluded from the troop. Monkeys who are in such situations could possibly have a slim chance of survival due to their injury or isolation. In extreme cases, re-capture may be necessary in the best interest of the individual concerned. Each release poses its own set of circumstances and you'll have a very important role to play in the monitoring.



DAILY SCHEDULE

Your work schedule may vary. The number of Vervets on site or being released would affect the volume of work you would be doing.

A TYPICAL DAY

The description given is of a typical day. This is purely an example – you may sometimes need to start work earlier than 7.00. The animals don't keep to the same timetable as us humans.

| Time | Description |
|-------|--|
| 07:00 | Wake up, wash and get ready |
| 07:30 | Breakfast |
| 08:00 | Start work |
| 12:00 | Lunch |
| 12:30 | Back to work |
| 16:00 | Finish work |
| 16:30 | Shower, relax |
| 18:30 | Dinner |
| 19:00 | Relax , watch DVD's, read, contemplate the meaning of life |

Hours of duty and Work Schedule

The average working hours are from 08h00 until 16h00, inclusive of tea and lunch breaks.

The Rewards

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 Vervet Monkeys.
- 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!

Baby Monkeys – Special needs

During the summer months when monkeys give birth, many newborn baby monkeys are either abandoned or taken away from their mothers by ignorant humans who would like them as pets. When people realize they don't have the skills to care for these animals, they abandon them. These baby monkeys require 24 hour care, regular feeding and cleaning,

“I feel thankful for such a wonderful opportunity to help those that can't currently help themselves! ... An experience I will never forget, I can see why people get attached to the babies & want them as pets, but after seeing 5 pre-released monkeys in the wild, all females pregnant, it proves how worthwhile this cause is”

Megg Evans

ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION:

For the duration of your stay you will live in the house with Bruce and Sandi. There are two bedrooms and one “room in the roof” for volunteers. You will share a bathroom with other volunteers and the rest of the house is communal. For the hot African summer months they have a swimming pool right next to the house which you can cool off in at any time

TELEPHONE/INTERNET

There is no landline on the property, but all cell phone networks are picked up without any problems. It is, however, recommended that you get your cell phone unblocked for South Africa to be able to use local sim cards - these are available at most stores.

There is wireless internet which can be used for a small fee.

On your days off you can either get a lift into town or simply spend the day relaxing next to the pool with a good book whilst you top up your sun tan.

Please note that there are two wonderful, friendly dogs on site that everyone loves! They are a part of the family, and allowed inside the house. If you have a problem with dogs, this may not be the best project for you to choose.



FOOD:

You'll join Sandi and Bruce at meal times and you can let them know if you have any particular food preferences or allergies, e.g. if you are a vegetarian or vegan. You will be provided with three basic meals per day. You'll be asked to prepare one main meal per week for everyone in the house.

Meals are provided, but not 'extras' like biscuits, sweets, soda pop or alcohol, any specialty food or drinks. You can purchase extras while on trips to town and there is fridge- and cupboard space for personal food items. The evening meal is the main meal of the day and you'll prepare your own breakfast and lunch from the provisions provided.



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 | ✓ 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 | ✓ Free T-Shirt |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline | |
| ✓ UK administration | |

“Travellers is an amazing organization that offers life changing experiences to people of all ages, I will highly recommend it to everyone, and I will be planning another volunteer experience for myself as well as for my sons. Thank you so much for the experience of a life time!”

Deanne Peterson

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.

On Arrival, your Introduction to the Country:

When you arrive you will be met and taken you to your accommodation, which is on the project site. Here you'll be introduced to everyone and settled in.

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 sightseeing.

SOUTH AFRICA ON THE WEB

- Tourist information about **Pietermaritzburg**: <http://pmb-midlands.kzn.org.za/pmb-midlands/>
- Information about **Durban**: <http://durban.kzn.org.za/durban/>
- Everything you want to know about **Port Elizabeth**: <http://www.pecc.gov.za/1.htm>
- And more stuff about **Port Elizabeth** (with nicer photos): <http://www.pe.org.za/>
- Tourist information on the **Eastern Cape**: http://www.sa-venues.com/east_cape_tourist_info.htm
- **Knysna**: <http://www.places.co.za/html/knysna.html>

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.

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) lies in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, the ancestral home of the Nguni people.

Africa's bewitching seaside playground in the sun, Durban has from its earliest days possessed a special charm...a certain mystique that adds 'something extra' to the meeting of warm Indian Ocean, radiant golden sands and lush sub-tropical greenery. The city is blessed with balmy weather all year round, making it a perfect holiday paradise.

Durban is a major gateway to Africa and is also the largest and busiest port city on the continent. There is an extensive road network leading to and from any destination in South Africa and 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. Rave 'till dawn and catch sunrise over the vast Indian Ocean horizon - this is nightlife in a modern, authentic African metropolis!

Probably the first European to have sight Durban was Vasco De Gama on his pioneering sea voyage to India in 1497. Durban takes its name from Sir Benjamin D'Urban, governor of the Cape Colony at the time of the first successful colonial settlement in 1835. Since then, Durban has been colonised by firstly Dutch and then English traders. A large number of Indian labourers were brought to Durban during the 19th century to farm the emerging sugar industry. With them came traders and their ancestors form a large percentage of Durban's current population.

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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