



Itinerary | 4 Week Wildlife Volunteering

Week 1

Day 1: Arrival	<p>You arrive at Richards Bay airport in Kwa-Zulu Natal, where we will meet you and drive to the Big 4 game reserve where you will be staying. The reserve is situated in a UNESCO world heritage site in between sea, lakes, bush and other game reserves. You will be lodging in a bush camp which overlooks False Bay lake, part of lake St Lucia. Each chalet sleeps 2 people. The bathroom is shared by 2 chalets and consists of a shower, wash basin and toilet.</p> <p>The bush camp also has a recreation area for you to relax and socialise with your co-volunteers in the evenings and on the weekends. The recreation area has sofas, a kitchen for you to make tea and coffee and some wildlife books to brush up your knowledge before a game drive. There is a swimming pool at the main lodge for those hot days.</p>
Day 2: Orientation and Game drive	<p>Today you will be taking part in an orientation programme which explains what lies ahead in the next few weeks. After this we will go for a drive on the reserve to get you familiar with your surroundings. We could see animals such as Elephant, leopard, rhino, buffalo, Nyala, Reedbuck, warthog, Duiker and many more. In the afternoon you will be taken on a Game drive in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Big 5 game reserve with a game ranger who will share their infinite knowledge with you. After we return home it's time for a Braai (BBQ) in the evening where we will be sitting around the fire and listening to the amazing nature around you.</p>
Day 3: Snake and croc park	<p>Your first day volunteering with African wildlife. We will head off to a snake and crocodile park. The day starts with a lecture and a tour given by the park manager about the different snakes and crocodiles we have in South Africa. You will then get to work inside the snake and croc enclosures where you will be helping with the general maintenance of the enclosures.</p>
Day 4: The animals in our area presentation and Hiking Trail	<p>In the morning you will have a presentation about all the different animals we find in this area. In the afternoon we will put on our hiking boots and make our way to a neighbouring property where we will do the hiking trail. Here we could see animals such as Nyala, Reedbuck, warthog, Duiker and many more.</p>
Days 5 - 7: Wildlife conservation on the reserve	<p>A typical day could consist of partaking in exciting tasks such as game capture (catching and relocating wild animals for their own welfare), game monitoring and counts (we monitor and study the wildlife to find out if they are healthy and have the correct numbers of their species for the area), fence patrols (This is important to check for poaching and breaks in the fence), monitoring the elusive leopards and hyena's on the property as well as tasks that are hard work but essential to the parks such as bush clearing (this is when we take out alien plant species that would destroy the natural habitat if not removed) and cleaning of enclosures. You could expect to encounter animals such as Buffalo, antelope, elephants and rhino amongst others.</p>

Week 2

Day 8: Animal anti-cruelty preparation + Cat rehab Centre	<p>You will spend the morning preparing an animal anti-cruelty presentation that you will present to Primary school children at a school in a rural community. The underprivileged rural communities in the area do not treat animals with much respect and some of their family might even take part in poaching, therefore an anti-cruelty presentation will be a great eye opener for most of the children. In the afternoon we will make our way to a cat rehabilitation centre where you will get to see many of the wild cats we have in South Africa, you will even have the opportunity to stroke a cheetah!</p>
Day 9: Animal anti-cruelty presentation	<p>Today you will get to finish your anti-cruelty presentation in the morning and present it to the children. In the afternoon you will have some free time to relax and enjoy your surroundings.</p>
Day 10: Beach day	<p>Beach day! We will make our way to one of South Africa's most beautiful beaches and have a great day swimming and chilling, on the way home we will go past a curio shop so you will have the opportunity to buy your loved ones back home some lovely gifts.</p>
Days 11 - 14: Volunteering with wildlife	<p>A typical day could consist of partaking in exciting tasks such as game capture (we need to help with catching and relocating wild animals for their own welfare), game monitoring and counts (we monitor and study the wild animals to find out if they are healthy and have the correct numbers of their species for the area), fence</p>

	<p>patrols</p> <p>(This is important to check for poaching and breaks in the fence) etc.. as well as tasks that are hard work but essential to the parks such as bush clearing(this is when we take out alien plant species that would destroy the natural habitat if not removed) and cleaning of enclosures. You could expect to encounter animals such as Buffalo, antelope, elephants and rhino amongst others.</p>
Day 15: Day off to Relax	<p>Today is yours to relax and enjoy some of the facilities on offer, such as the swimming pool and communal area. It could also be used to catch up on some sleep or reflect on some of the things you have already done and prepare for the week ahead.</p>

Week 3

Day 16: Hiking Trail in False Bay nature reserve	<p>Today we will put on our hiking boots as we are going to do a 2.5 hour hike in the False Bay nature reserve. The reserve is situated along the Western Shores of False Bay, which is part of Lake St. Lucia - a recently declared World Heritage Site. The park's diverse habitats provide excellent bird watching and game viewing.</p>
Day 17: Hippo and croc river tour	<p>Today we make our way to the little town of St Lucia, where we will have a look at all the touristy shops and enjoy a lovely lunch at one of the restaurants. In the afternoon we will go on a 2 hour boat trip down the St Lucia Estuary in between all the Hippos and crocs.</p>
Day 18 : Elephant interaction	<p>Today will be very exciting as we will make our way to a game reserve where you will get the chance to interact with elephants. The knowledgeable rangers will talk you through the elephant's history as well as provide you with interesting facts while you get to interact with these amazing majestic creatures. You will be given opportunity to feed the elephants as well as touch their ears, behind his tusks, and even get to feel their tongues. In the evening we will have another Braai (BBQ).</p>
Days 19 - 21: Volunteering with wildlife	<p>A typical day could consist of partaking in exciting tasks such as game capture (catching and relocating wild animals for their own welfare), game monitoring and counts (we monitor and study the wildlife to find out if they are healthy and have the correct numbers of their species for the area), fence patrols (This is important to check for poaching and breaks in the fence), monitoring the elusive leopards and hyena's on the property as well as tasks that are hard work but essential to the parks such as bush clearing(this is when we take out alien plant species that would destroy the natural habitat if not removed) and cleaning of enclosures. You could expect to encounter animals such as Buffalo, antelope, elephants and rhino amongst others.</p>

Week 4

Days 22 - 28: Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Durban	<p>Today we will leave in the morning and make our way to the Rehabilitation centre in Durban. Founded over 30 years ago, this centre for the rehabilitation of wildlife was one of South Africa's first dedicated wildlife Rehabilitation centres. Today, it is still KwaZulu-Natal's only registered wildlife rehabilitation centre dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of all indigenous wildlife found in the area. The centre provides an exciting volunteering experience where volunteers can not only learn about local wildlife rehabilitation and conservation with all its challenges and complexities, but also work alongside our team on a daily basis assisting with wildlife rescues and releases and taking care of the 300-400 patients that are housed at the centre at any given time.</p>
Day 29: Depart	<p>Today is a sad day as it is your last day. It had to come sometime. The morning will be spent saying goodbyes and getting ready to leave. You will depart for King Shaka International Airport in Durban. The rest of your life will be spent remembering all the amazing things you have seen and done and all the lives you have impacted throughout your time volunteering. We hope to see you again soon.</p>