## Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mossel Bay, South Africa.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>From 2 weeks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>All year round from mid-January to mid-December.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Requirements| • Minimum age: 18.  
              • You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.  
              • Special skills: You must be physically fit. You should have a love for animals and an interest in conservation. |
| Your impact | 🐐♥️♥️♥️♥️ |
| Documents required | Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance. |
| Day of arrival | Sunday. |
| Day of departure | Saturday. |

## Highlights

- Supporting important conservation work with a passionate and dedicated team.
- Hands on work on reserves and assisting wildlife vets when necessary.
• Seeing South Africa’s famous Big 5 animals.
• Learning more about anti-poaching as well as survival in the bush.
• Taking part in important research topics.
• Getting personal support from the volunteer coordinator.
• Experiencing amazing tours and adventures in and around the Garden Route.
• Making new friends from all over the world.

**Project information**

This conservation project aims to rehabilitate agricultural land and develop a long term self-sustaining natural environment, create community awareness, expand the existing reserve and continue their successful free roaming cheetah research. They work with surrounding farms on the reserve to ensure these objectives and goals are met.

The core aim of this project is to return the land to its natural state and ensure a self-sustaining, functional ecosystem.

**Programme details**

You take part in all research on various wildlife species in the reserve. The project has numerous research projects running and all data is collected and compiled into a detailed monthly report. The project team makes sure that the volunteers get training in all the fields of work they will be involved in from tracking courses to approaching animals on foot.

Hard work is also part of a normal day with projects such as alien bush clearing and soil erosion control.

**Your role**

You will work from Monday to Friday (8:30-17:00). Weekends will be your free days.

Every day is different and will consist of both lectures in the reserve and practical conservation work. The schedule board is updated every day and will provide you with details for the next day’s activities. A morning briefing is done every morning and debriefing done every night to go over the daily activities.

Your roles and responsibilities:

• Game tracking
• Tracking & monitoring of released cheetahs
• Elephant research & upkeep of their boma’s
• Lion monitoring
• Anti-poaching night patrols
• Training on approaching wild animals on foot
• Mineral and medical darting, when needed
• Overnight Survival Camp (4 week stays and longer in summer)
• Community involvement, e.g. sustainability & conservation
• Wildlife immobilization when needed
• Wildlife nutrition monitoring and feeding when needed
• Game counts and species recording
• Marine education (optional extra)
• General reserve duties: soil erosion control, vegetation rehabilitation and road & fence maintenance.

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.
Project location

The Game Reserve Conservation project is based at a game reserve about 15 minutes away from Mossel Bay, South Africa.

Getting to and from the project

You need to arrive at George Airport or Mossel Bay bus station where you will be collected by the volunteer staff. Transport is provided on both your arrival and departure between 10:00 and 17:00.

Accommodation

You will stay in a communal volunteer house on the reserve. The house has four dorm rooms that sleep between 3 and 6 per room and two shared bathrooms. There is a fully equipped communal kitchen with a microwave, BBQ facilities, oven and a washing machine. The house has great views over the reserve, a fireplace and a bar. There is also a separate cottage that sleeps up to 6 people with one bathroom and a small kitchen. For an upgrade fee, you have the option to stay in a single luxury tent, with a bed and electricity, elevated on a wooden deck overlooking the reserve. The bathroom (toilet, basin, shower) is outside and shared.

There is a pool table, TV and WiFi available (limited, no streaming or Skype). Laundry is done once a week by the house manager. The washing machine is readily available in the volunteer house should you require it more often.

Meals

Three meals are provided daily. You will make your own breakfast (basic supplies will be at the house). There is a coffee break at the reserve in the late morning. Lunch and dinner will be provided at the volunteer house or as a picnic option in the reserve when working far away. A vegetarian option is available and it is also possible to cater for special dietary requirements. Please specify clearly in advance if there is a need for this.
Free time

Mossel Bay is a very friendly and relatively small town with a quaint town centre and beautiful views. The surrounding area, known as the Garden Route because it is always green, is world famous and boasts breathtaking scenery, pristine beaches, indigenous forests and spectacular wildlife.

There are great waves for learning to surf with beginner-friendly waves at Diaz Beach, and there are also plenty more demanding waves for advanced surfing. Except during summer holiday periods (primarily Christmas and Easter), the area is relatively quiet and very relaxed.

One of the most famous surf spots in the world, Jeffrey’s Bay, is only 300km east of Mossel Bay and many of the world’s best surfers, including 11-times world champion Kelly Slater, rate Jeffrey’s Bay as having the best waves in the world.

The Garden Route is also renowned for its wide variety of adventure and nature-oriented activities, including snorkeling & diving, sand-boarding, paragliding, skydiving, bungee-jumping, canoeing, kayaking, zip-sliding, tubing, and various wild-life experiences such as game-drives and whale watching.

Programme coordinators will help you arrange and book excursion transport for you on free days, with reliable local operators, to explore the Garden Route and visit various other towns, beaches and/or to do other activities. These transport costs are at your own expense.

Local transport

You will use the volunteer vehicle to get around the reserve from the volunteer house. For transport to and from Mossel Bay town centre, for sightseeing and/or shopping, there are local taxis at very affordable prices. Mossel Bay town centre is only a short taxi ride away, approximately 15 min. These transport costs are not included in the programme fee and are dependent on the rates of local providers.

What to bring

We recommend bringing comfortable, practical clothes as well as a small, easy to carry bag so that you can keep important belongings with you. Anything else you might need is readily available at local supermarkets in South Africa.

PLEASE NOTE: bring neutral colour clothing to wear in the reserves, this includes rain jackets! NO bright colours are to be worn in the reserve. Khaki, brown, green colours are best. Please keep in mind that the project offers a professional service to the local reserves; they also work with farmers, landowners and farm workers. Therefore, you need to be dressed accordingly (conservatively). Clothes should be comfortable to work in and practical. You are welcome to dress any way you like over the weekends. Hiking boots work well in the reserve, no open toes shoes when working. Higher ankle (hi-tops) shoes are better (snakes and ticks).

Your commitment

Please be aware that in applying for a volunteer project, you are making a firm commitment to the project. Our projects depend on the volunteers. It is necessary that you take this commitment seriously.

Some projects will appoint specific responsibilities to you; others are less structured and require the volunteers to use their initiative. If you prefer the one type over the other, please ask us for the most appropriate project for your preference.

Your daily presence is required and working hours are to be followed strictly. Not fulfilling your obligation can result in your dismissal from the project.
Cell phone use during working hours

Please note that the use of cell phones is prohibited on all of our projects during work hours. This includes taking photos and instant messaging. This is for the safety of the volunteers who work with animals. Volunteers need to make sure they are focused on the job at hand and should not be distracted by their social media accounts. Volunteers who would like to take photographs of their projects are free to communicate this directly to their project supervisors for guidance and instruction. All photos need to be discussed with the project manager before posting as they work with some sensitive species.

What to wear

You are asked to wear sensible clothing and to be culturally sensitive of the communities you are working with. You are expected to wear modest clothing, which includes jeans, leggings, long shorts, and long skirts. Closed shoes are advisable, especially when working outdoors. Underwear is not to be seen under any circumstances.

Not acceptable are low cut tops, short shorts/shirts, bikinis and swimwear, belly tops, shirts/t-shirts with no sleeves for male volunteers as well as flip flops or no shoes.

Any volunteers found inappropriately dressed will be given a written warning and asked to leave the project if the written warning is ignored.

Medical insurance

You are required to take out medical insurance before travelling.

You must ensure that you are covered from the day of departure in your home country to the day of arrival back in your home country. The minimum coverage must be US$ 100,000 and, as part of the enrolment process, you will need to email us a copy of your insurance policy documentation.

Health

No vaccinations are required except for travellers going to the north-eastern areas of South Africa, where anti-malaria precautions are recommended. Volunteers should consult their doctor for recommendations.

A yellow fever certificate is compulsory for those persons who have travelled from, or intend travelling through, countries in the yellow fever belt:


South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela, Argentina and Paraguay.

Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, since your body needs to adjust to the change in food and water during your first few days in South Africa.

It is important to keep in mind at all times that HIV and Aids are widespread diseases in South Africa.

It is advisable that you consider a tetanus vaccination or check to see if your current tetanus vaccination is still effective. Please contact us at Good Hope Volunteers should you have any questions about this.
Safety

While all safety precautions are followed, you are still working with animals and must be aware at all times and follow the safety guidelines.

You need to be physically fit and healthy, you need to be able to get onto the standby vehicle at very short notice, run a short distance if necessary and be able to do some physical work like road maintenance or brush clearing. Should you not be able to get onto a vehicle quickly during an emergency, there will be times when the facilitator may ask you to remain on the vehicle for your own safety as well as the rest of the group.

What’s included / not included

Included:
- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (George Airport)
- Accommodation (dorm-style rooms, breakfast, lunch and dinner, laundry)
- A donation towards the project
- Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
- Regular site visits by our coordinator
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support, including a 24-hour emergency number
- WiFi

Not included:
- Any other transport
- Excursions
- Any items of personal nature

Visa

You can volunteer in South Africa on a visitor’s visa for up to 90 days.

Nationals from certain countries (e.g. Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, France, the Netherlands, Spain) will receive their visa when entering South Africa. Other nationals need to apply for a visitor’s visa at a South African Embassy in their home country before travelling.

If you come to South Africa on a visitor’s visa, you can extend once by another 90 days.

Longer stays are only possible at projects that are registered NGO’s. This project however is not a NGO.

For the latest information contact the South African Embassy or Good Hope Volunteers.