

# **Volunteer Vacations**

## **South Africa**

**(1-2 weeks)**

**Steppin' Out can help plan activities pre or post  
and even during your volunteer experience.**

# WORK WITH LIONS

**Ever wanted to spend time with one of the most iconic and majestic creatures on the planet?**

We've teamed up with a lion education centre in South Africa to offer an exclusive volunteer opportunity. This centre is famed as a pioneer in the rearing of white lions, cats that are now almost completely extinct in the wild, and you could soon get to see them every day! The lion project team specialize in the care of Africa's large predators; the Lion (including the rare white lion), Leopard, Spotted Hyena, Brown Hyena and African Wild dog. It is also home to many of the other animals that make South Africa one of the wildlife jewels of the world. Volunteering in South Africa on this project means you can run wild with lions and giraffes so get involved with the team and help these amazing animals.

## **Trip Highlights:**

- Working and living with lions - need we say more?
- Waking up to the sounds of giraffe snuffling around 'next to' your tent
- Getting an incredible 'behind the scenes' experience in a world leading lion centre

## **AVAILABLE DATES:**

**2009: Nov. 23, Dec. 2, Dec. 11, Dec. 20, Dec. 29**

**2010: Jan. 7, Jan. 16, Jan. 25, Feb. 3, Feb. 12, Feb. 21, Mar. 2, Mar. 11, Mar. 20, Mar. 29, April 7, April 16, April 25, May 4, May 13, May 22**

## **Day 1: Arrival**

Welcome to South Africa. You will be met at the airport and taken to the lion education center. You will have a brief orientation and meet our i-to-i team leader who is stationed at the center. Our team leader will help you get settled in and will be there to support you throughout your time at the center.

## **Day 2 to10: Work at lion education center**

For the next nine days you will be working with some truly adorable creatures. Your main role is to help the lion education center staff with the daily running of the center. This could mean preparing bottles for feeding baby lions, playing with the clumsy little lion cubs and manning the various stations around the center.

## **Day 11: Travel to Pretoria**

After working hard for 9 days straight at the center, you will have a much needed rest in Pretoria. Spend the rest of today catching up on sleep and emails, visiting some locals bars and shops or just simply relaxing by the poolside. Tomorrow you go on safari to see the big 5 so be sure to get plenty of rest.

## **Day 12: Safari and craft market**

Today you will visit the Chameleon Craft Market, the biggest craft center in Africa, and a great place to pick up some African handicrafts. After the market you will drive through rural South Africa to Pilanesburg National Center where you will enjoy a picnic and afternoon safari looking for the Big 5 in the wild, taking photos and watching hippos take their late afternoon baths!

## **Day 13: Pretoria**

Today is free to explore Pretoria and pick up any last minute souvenirs. You may want to shop in town or even go on a tour of Soweto to get a real insight into the 'new' South Africa.

## **Day 14: Departure**

It's time to say goodbye. Pack your bags and head home or onto your next adventure.

## **What the project does and why it needs you!**

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The lion education center was created to educate the public about the conservation of predators in the wild, mainly the lion. They also work to breed endangered white lions in captivity and to train certain animals for use in movies and adverts. The center is open to the public and visitors can play with baby lion cubs as well as drive through the adult lion enclosures. The center also keeps various other predators such as hyena, wild dog, and jackal to increase public awareness and also to train some of them for use in films and adverts. The centre is approximately 208 hectares; with so many animals and land, the center requires a lot of maintenance and management. Lion cubs alone are demanding and need to be fed every few hours in their first few months. The center is often understaffed and needs volunteers to assist staff with their daily tasks. Volunteers are also appreciated for their passion and enthusiasm which brightens up the center atmosphere.

### **Who is it for?**

This project is perfect for anyone with a passion for animals and people since a lot of the work involves interacting with the public. The more enthusiastic and motivated you are, the more you will get out of your experience. Patience and flexibility are essential.

### **What you'll be doing**

You will be working daily with the center staff to assist in all tasks associated with the running of the center. This includes cleaning out enclosures, preparing bottles of milk for feeding the cubs, preparing food, interacting with the public and selling food to feed the giraffes. You will work from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday and 8am to 6pm on weekends. You will have some down time throughout the day to relax or if you prefer, to get involved with other lion education center activities. You will probably split your time between working in the nursery and working in the lion cub enclosures but the exact schedule will depend on how many volunteers are at the center. You may also do shifts at the giraffe feeding station, the gate to the game drive and at the entrance to cub world.

### **Where you'll be staying**

Lion education center: The project is located in Gauteng and is a 10 minute drive from shopping malls, super markets, and restaurants. Your accommodation at the center will be in semi luxury tents with brand new mattresses. Each tent has 4 proper beds inside, with good mattresses and electricity. Linen is washed and changed by the cleaning staff. The tents have windows and a small porch in front where you can sit and watch the wild game enjoy their dinner. There are bedside tables, a lamp and a small heater for the cold nights. The tents are very spacious. The bathrooms are located a few meters away and have powerful, hot water showers. The kitchen is fully equipped and spacious and even has a washing machine. There is also a fire pit and BBQ area where you can relax in the evenings.

Pretoria: you will stay in a shared dorm room in Pretoria Backpackers, a comfy hostel a few minutes walk to Hatfield and a 5 min walk to the University of Pretoria. There is also a swimming pool where you can go to cool down and relax after your long, hot day on safari!

### **What you'll be eating**

No meals are included. You will go grocery shopping at the beginning of your stay and there are kitchen facilities on site at the center. Food is also available at the center restaurant (until 5pm) if you aren't in the mood to cook. You will even get a staff discount on the food at the restaurant. You can also go out for dinner in the evenings - restaurants are just a short taxi ride away. You should budget \$60 US for the 9 days at the camp.

### **Advice and what to bring**

All the necessary materials will be provided, including two volunteer T-shirts that should be worn at all times when working at the centre. Take clothes that you don't mind getting dirty – comfortable khaki is ideal. Comfortable walking shoes or sneakers, a raincoat, insect repellent, flash light, towel and some sun block are essentials. On your free time there is plenty to do. You can visit the Lesedi Cultural Village one afternoon where you will get a guided tour of 5 South African tribal villages. There is also a 20 minute video presentation and an 'all you can eat' buffet dinner, where you can try various different meats including ostrich and even crocodile! The Montecasino,

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built like a real Italian village, is close by and filled with a casino, bars, shops and restaurants, which make it a great place to spend an evening.

### **When you arrive**

i-to-i orientation will take place on your arrival day at the tented camp. This will be given by our i-to-i team leader who lives at the center. The lion education center specific orientation will take place on your first work morning, the day after you arrive, usually around 8.30am, in the restaurant area.

### **Things that you will need to organize yourself**

- Flights to South Africa: we can secure preferential rates, please ask us
- Travel insurance: we can secure preferential rates, please ask us
- Visa
- In-country transport (except your airport pickup on arrival date)
- Tours, trips and add-ons: we can secure preferential rates, please ask us
- Food (approximately US\$50 or GBP£25 per week)
- Return transfer to the airport from Pretoria

### **Fast Facts**

#### **Project Information**

- Project Duration: Min 2 weeks
- Project Costs: US\$ 2030 for 2 weeks
- Location of project: *Near Santon, Johannesburg, in Gauteng Province, South Africa*
- Arrival Airport: *Johannesburg (JNB)*
- Activities: *Various types of work with park visitors and animals, including helping with feeding and facilities maintenance*
- Working Hours: *Flexible; usually daily 8am to 5pm, all other time is free. Days 1 to 10 at project; Days 11 to 14 transfer to Pretoria for safari and crafts market*
- Getting to the project: *Accommodation is on site*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 18*

#### **What's Included**

- Accommodation: *Shared semi-luxury tents at project; shared hostel on tour*
- Food: *Food is not included; you will need to purchase your own food (budget approximately \$US60 per stay at the park)*
- Airport Pickup: *Included on arrival date. Ask us for details if you're arriving early!*
- Training: *In-country orientation*
- Support: *Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support*

# SAFARI AND BUILDING ADVENTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA

## When is the best time to have a life changing experience?

Right now! Book this incredible two week adventure and you could be trekking through the African bush in no time. We've teamed up with one of the best organisations in Southern Africa (All Out Africa) to ensure you get the perfect combination of safari and animals and make a great contribution to the building projects. Your first week will be dedicated to spotting amazing wildlife and sleeping out in the bush under the stars in Kruger National Park. Then you are off to get your hands dirty helping to build homes for orphans and disadvantaged children in Swaziland. After a few tough days on the building site you will have plenty of time to take in all that Swaziland has to offer including amazing hiking, caving, paragliding or white water rafting.

## Trip Highlights:

- Camping in the vast wilderness of the world famous Kruger National Park
- Trekking through the bush to see wildlife
- Going on night drives through the park
- Building homes for children in Swaziland
- Bonding with families in the heart of the beautiful Swazi Kingdom

## Fast Facts

**DATES: 2009: Dec. 7**

**2010: Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4 Nov. 1, Dec. 6**

## Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 2 weeks
- Project Costs: US\$ 2205.00 for 2 weeks
- Location of project: *Ezulwini valley, Swaziland*
- Arrival Airport: *Manzini (airport code MTS)*
- Activities: *Safari, bush walk or night safari, building homes for Swazi children*
- Working Hours: *Flexible; full days on tour, all other time is free*
- Getting to the project: *Around 10-15 minutes by mini bus taxi (budget \$3 USD per day)*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 17*

## What's Included

- Accommodation: *Shared dorm room in guest house and shared dome tent*
- Food: *All meals*
- Airport Pickup: *Included on arrival date. Ask us for details if you're arriving early!*
- Training: *In-country orientation*
- Support: *Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support*

## What's not included

- *Flights, Insurance, Visas*

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival

Welcome to Africa! After arriving at Manzini International Airport you will be met by a friendly Swazi who will take you to your cozy guest house.

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## **Day 2: Orientation**

Today you will have a complete orientation to learn about your new surroundings and what you will be doing for the next couple weeks. You will meet your tour guide and have a chance to get to know your fellow tour mates.

## **Day 3 to 7: Kruger National Park, South Africa**

Kruger National Park is one of Africa's most famous conservation areas. Spanning nearly 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> it covers a vast array of habitats. It has an aura of ancient times and offers some of the best opportunities in the world to view Africa's big game. You will venture on a five day tour into the heart of Kruger Park and an expert wildlife guide will take you on game drives to explore the vast wilderness. With luck you will see lions, elephants, rhinos, buffalos, leopards, wild dogs and a variety of other wildlife. You will also go on either a guided bush walk in search of big game or a night drive to look for nocturnal wildlife, the choice is yours! On your last day, you will leave the Kruger and head to the beautiful Kingdom of Swaziland with its green rolling mountains and friendly people.

## **Day 8 to 12: Building Project in Ezulwini, Swaziland**

Swaziland is Africa's last remaining true monarchy and is steeped in Swazi culture and tradition. The Ezulwini valley of Swaziland is known as the 'valley of heaven' and is home to the royal family. You will spend five days working on the building project which aims to build basic but safe houses for children who are classified as orphaned and vulnerable children. These children do not have access to a safe shelter, reliable food source, education or health care. You will work along side experienced builders making blocks, laying foundations, building walls, and fitting roofs and doors to finish off the much needed structures for the children to move into. As a group you will be able to make a lasting difference to these children's lives.

## **Day 13 to 14: Swaziland**

Use this free weekend however you please. You can go white water rafting on the Great Usutu River, take a cultural quad bike tour (!) to visit rural Swazi villages, go river tubing, paragliding, mountain biking, caving, hiking, horse back riding amongst wildlife in a game reserve or even just indulge in a bit of craft shopping. That should be enough to keep you busy!

## **Day 15: Departure**

Sadly the adventure is coming to a close. You will be taken to Manzini airport in time to catch your flight.

## **Where you'll be staying**

**Kruger National Park:** camping in shared dome safari tents

**Ezulwini, Swaziland:** shared dorm room in backpacker lodge

## **What you'll be eating**

In Kruger all meals will be prepared by your guide. While volunteering in Swaziland, you will be asked to prepare meals on an informal rotational basis. Generally breakfast will be cereals and toast, lunch will be sandwiches and salads, and dinner will be a cooked meal.

## **Advice and what to bring**

You will need to take a sleeping bag along as the park can get cold in the evenings. You will be travelling to a malaria area although so please consult your doctor for advice about whether to take preventatives and what to take.

# RAISE LIONS AND TIGERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

## Are you scared of big cats?

Well, you should be. These ferocious carnivores have earned their title as 'kings of the jungle' for good reason. Though they will grow up to be prowling hunters of the night, they don't start out that way. Actually, at two months old, they are simply adorable creatures who are always in search of care and attention. This is where you come in. At the big cat breeding center, you will help care for the cubs by getting involved in a host of activities including feeding and playing with the cubs and their older brothers and sisters!

## Trip Highlights:

- Helping to look after lion, tiger and other 'big cat' cubs
- Tumbling around with the lion cubs
- Learning about all the different big cats
- Being surrounded by the beautiful wilderness of South Africa

## DATES: 2009: Dec. 7

2010: Jan. 4, Jan. 18, Feb., 1, Feb. 15, March 1, April 5, April 1, May 3, May 17, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 6, Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18

## Fast Facts

### Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 2 weeks - Max 4 weeks
- Project Costs: US\$ 2030.00 for 2 weeks, US\$ 595.00 for every week thereafter
- Location of project: *Near Kroonstad, Johannesburg, in Free State Province, South Africa*
- Arrival Airport: *Johannesburg (JNB)*
- Activities: *Various types of work with lions, tigers and other big cats including helping with feeding and facilities maintenance. Also assisting in showing visitors around the centre.*
- Working Hours: *Flexible; usually Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm, Sunday 8am to 1pm, all other time is free*
- Getting to the project: *Accommodation is on site*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 18*

### What's Included

- Accommodation: *Shared room in lodge at project*
- Food: *Food is not included; you will need to purchase your own food (budget approximately \$US 50 per week)*
- Airport Pickup: *Included on arrival date. Ask us for details if you're arriving early!*
- Training: *In-country orientation and briefing on arrival at the project*
- Support: *Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support*

### What the project does and why it needs you!

The project is a breeding park for lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards and other carnivores. The owner started the breeding program because of her love for the 'big cats' and her desire to give people the opportunity to come face to face with these amazing creatures. Many of these cats are close to extinction so breeding centers are key to their survival. The cubs need lots of attention and the park has limited staff. You are needed to help raise the cubs to ensure they grow up happy and healthy.

### Who is it for?

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This project is ideal for anyone who loves lions, the outdoors and is looking for a once in a lifetime experience working hands-on with big cats. As long as you love wildlife and are interested in looking after animals - this is the place for you. Forget a five star safari - this is the most incredible opportunity to spend time up close and personal with some of the most beautiful animals in the world.

### **What you'll be doing**

You'll be working very closely with these majestic animals by feeding and caring for them, raising the cubs and being involved in all the day to day activities of the lion center. You will be working alongside lion experts who have years of experience in the field. You can also help give tours to visitors to the project. Below is the list of typical daily activities at the center:

- Inspect the lion, tiger and jaguar enclosures, making sure that there is no damage to the fencing
- Feeding the lions - this will involve fetching animal carcasses from nearby farms and helping to prepare the meat for the cats (don't worry - this activity is optional!)
- Cleaning the lion, tiger and jaguar enclosures, removing old bones, giving the cats fresh water and maintaining the lion enclosures
- Cub duty - hand feeding twice a day, playing and giving attention
- Guided tours, take visitors on guided tours
- General farm maintenance and improvements, repairing and improving the enclosures
- Learning about the breeding of lions, jaguars and tigers, being a tour guide, and any other topics that you are keen to know more about

### **Where you'll be staying**

You will be staying in a beautiful chalet lodge on site at the center. You will be sharing a room with up to three others. The chalets are well equipped and have modern amenities such as hot running water, showers and Western style toilets. There is even a swimming pool on site! There is also a stunning verandah with views over the project, the animal enclosures and some friendly monkeys! In the evenings feel free to relax, listen to the wildlife and savour the experience of being in South Africa. From time to time you will be able to go to local bars and restaurants or have a traditional South African braai (BBQ). At the weekends you will be able to arrange trips into the nearest town (about 20 minutes drive) to catch up on e-mails and so on.

### **What you'll be eating**

You will be responsible for preparing your own meals and there will be a weekly shopping trip where you can stock up on all the essentials. The kitchen at the lodge is fully equipped with a fridge, utensils and anything else you might need to prepare delicious meals.

### **Advice and what to bring**

Please make sure you bring durable clothing - jeans / khakis / combat trousers - as you will be working on the project, getting dirty and even lion cubs do have claws! Please don't wear brightly colored clothing. The project does not allow facial piercings or large visible tattoos - if you have them please take them out / cover them up. Other items to add to your pack include a powerful flashlight, sunglasses, comfortable walking shoes, raincoat, thick socks, personal toiletries and towels, sunscreen lotion and insect repellent. Finally don't forget some books etc for relaxing in the evenings.

### **When you arrive**

Please book your flights to arrive into Johannesburg – O R Tambo airport (JNB). You must arrive by 4pm on your arrival date. You will be met at the airport and then taken to Pretoria Backpackers for an orientation at 5pm. After orientation you will have a lovely South African meal and spend the night at Pretoria Backpackers. You will take an early morning bus from Pretoria to Kroonstad where the lion center team will meet you and take you the short trip to the project.. Please note that your return bus ticket to Pretoria is included in the project fee. You can expect to leave Kroonstad at around 9.30am and arrive back in Pretoria at around 1pm. Return transfer from Pretoria to the airport is not included.

# HANDS ON WORK WITH ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

**Are you desperate to visit a magical place where friendly cheetahs roam free and curious monkeys swing gracefully from the trees outside your bedroom window?**

If so, you're in luck! When you work at the wildlife park, you be surrounded by tons of endangered, hand-reared animals who want nothing more than to eat out of your hand and be lavished with your attention. You will be involved in hand feeding young cubs, preparing food for the animals, general upkeep of the park enclosures and monitoring game on the reserve. If your passion for animals comes in second only to your love of beach, this trip is perfect for you - some of the best surf beaches in South Africa are just a few miles away from the park. You can spend your work days caring for animals in need and then head off to the beach to catch some glorious waves. Does life get any better than this?

## Trip Highlights:

- Nursing young wildlife back to health
- Waking up to the sound of exotic birds fluttering in your front yard
- Hiking through the game reserve to see zebra, giraffe, wildebeest and antelope roaming free
- Surfing or lounging on the golden sand beaches nearby
- Doing your bit to help conserve stunning wildlife for future generations to enjoy

## Fast Facts

**DATES 2009: Dec. 7**

**2010: Jan. 4, Jan. 18, Feb., 1, Feb. 15, March 1, March 15, April 5, April 1, May 3, May 17, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 6 Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18**

## Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 1 week - Max 8 weeks
- Project Costs: US\$ 1180.00 for 1 week, US\$ 425.00 for every week thereafter
- Location of project: *Thornhill, near Port Elizabeth, South Africa*
- Arrival Airport: *Cape Town (CPT)*
- Departure Airport: *Port Elizabeth (PLZ)*
- Activities: *Various types of feeding and caring for wildlife, helping maintain the reserve, hiking through reserve to monitor game and assisting in showing visitors around the park*
- Working Hours: *Flexible; usually 5 days a week, 7.30am to 4 or 5 pm, all other time is free*
- Getting to the project: *Accommodation is on site*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 16*

## What's Included

- Accommodation: *Shared dormitory style room in lodge at project*
- Food: *All meals are included*
- Airport Pickup: *Included on arrival date. Ask us for details if you're arriving early!*
- Training: *In-country orientation and briefing on arrival at the project*
- Support: *Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support*

## What's not included

- *Flights, Insurance, Visas, Return Airport transfer, Local Transport*

**What the project does and why it needs you!**

This wildlife park is a result of one man's passion to conserve his natural surroundings and was created with the aim of rescuing and treating all injured or orphaned wildlife brought to his attention. Even after extensive treatment, some animals may never be able to return to the wild so the park provides them with a safe home where they can live out their final days in peace and comfort. With so many animals to care for and new ones being born on a regular basis, the park needs your help to look after the ever-growing population of hungry tenants currently including monkeys, giraffe, zebra, impala, crocodiles, emu's and over one hundred species of birds!

### **Who is it for?**

- Do you want to get up close and personal to some incredible wildlife?
- Like the sound of experiencing the great outdoors in South Africa?
- Ever thought of hanging ten at one of the world's greatest surf spots or simply lazing away weekends on stunning beaches watching the dudes in the surf?
- Or even simply looking to enjoy some time in South Africa - an incredible country with hospitable people and amazing scenery?

If the answer to any of the above is yes then this is the trip for you!

### **What you'll be doing**

You have a chance to get involved in all kinds of fun and exciting tasks. You will be working 5 days a week from 7:30am to between 4 and 5pm. Not to worry though, you will have plenty of break times for lunch and snacks.

A typical week may include activities such as:

- Hand-rearing of orphaned wildlife including bottle-feeding
- Checking and counting game on nature reserve
- Preparation of food and feeding wildlife
- General upkeep and cleaning of enclosures
- Assisting with building of new enclosures
- Checking the state of game park fences

### **Where you'll be staying**

This may be the best work commute of your life since you will be staying in a comfy lodge right on the reserve grounds. You will be in a dormitory style accommodation - a great way to get to know other travellers! The lodge itself is well equipped and has modern amenities such as hot water and showers!. You will also have access to a lounge with a fridge and kettle. Local shops and post office are a 5 minute drive away. The beaches of Jeffrey's Bay, and the pleasant town of Port Elizabeth are all a reasonable taxi ride away - and all yours to explore on days off from the reserve.

### **What you'll be eating**

Enjoy the pleasure of having your breakfast, lunch and dinner prepared for you. You will be provided with three delicious meals a day. Dinner will be your main meal so you can look forward to some authentic South African braais (BBQ) as well as some traditional international favorites such as pasta and roasts.

### **Advice and what to bring**

It is a good idea to bring the following items with you:

- Torch / flashlight
- Walking shoes
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sleeping bag

You may also want to bring some items from home to keep you entertained in the evenings. Books, DVDs and music players are great choices. Be sure to have clothes for both warm and cool weather as it can get chilly in the evenings.

### **When you arrive**

Please book your flight to arrive into Cape Town International Airport (CPT) before 4pm on your arrival day. You will be picked up from the airport and taken to the volunteer house where you will have orientation at 5pm. After a cozy night in the volunteer house, you will get an early start to the day. You will leave the house at around 6am to catch a 7am bus to Jeffreys Bay. The bus ride is about 10 hours, a long but scenic ride and a great way to see the beautiful country landscape. You will arrive around 5pm in Jeffreys Bay and be met at the bus station by staff from the wildlife park and taken to your accommodation.

**NOTE:** If you would prefer to fly to the project after orientation this is possible but will be at your own expense. You will still need to arrive in Cape Town on your arrival date but then book a flight from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth in the morning of the day after orientation (Tuesday). If you would like to take this option please ensure that you contact us for further information.

At the end of your experience, you will take a shuttle bus to Port Elizabeth Airport. Please book your flight home to depart from Port Elizabeth Airport (PLZ).

# LIVE WITH LION CUBS

## Want to spend your days looking after and playing with lion cubs?

At this wildlife reserve and lion breeding centre in South Africa you will be spending your days looking after incredibly cute lion cubs as well as helping out on a whole range of duties throughout the reserve. Set in a stunning location the reserve is home to a number of lion cubs - and their older brothers and sisters, mums and dads! - and after spending time here we're certain you won't want to go home. You can get involved in a whole range of activities or, if you'd rather, spend all your time with the cubs - it's up to you. What we can guarantee though is that you'll fall in love with these incredible animals.

## Trip highlights

- Feeding and caring for lion cubs
- Helping to looking after other the animals at the reserve
- Living in and enjoying life an incredible wildlife reserve
- Taking the opportunity to learn how to abseil and rock climb
- Participating in game drives on the reserve

## Fast Facts

## Project Information

DATES: 2010 : Feb. 15, March 1, April 19, May 3, May 17, June 7, 21, Oct. 4 Dec. 6 and Dec. 20

- Project Duration: Min 2 weeks - Max 4 weeks
- Project Costs: US\$ 2205.00 for 2 weeks, US\$ 680.00 for every week thereafter
- Location of project: *Near Johannesburg, South Africa*
- Arrival Airport: *Johannesburg (JNB)*
- Activities: *Working with the lions and general maintenance around the reserve.*
- Working Hours: *Approximately 7am to 4pm daily - with time off arranged in country*
- Getting to the project: *Accommodation is on the reserve*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 18*

## What's Included

- Accommodation: *Shared room in chalet at project*
- Food: *All meals are included and prepared for you*
- Airport Pickup: *Included on arrival date.*
- Training: *In-country orientation and briefing on arrival at the project*
- Support: *Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support*

## What's not included

- *Flights, Insurance, Visas, Return transfer from Pretoria to the airport*

## What the project does and why does it need you!

This project is based on a stunning wildlife reserve and is involved in white lion research and conservation. One of its main aims is to learn more about the endangered white lions and to participate in the preservation of these stunning animals. The reserve currently has over 50 lions and a number of cubs, all of whom need a huge amount of care and attention and this is where you come in! During your time at the reserve you will be working hand in hand with the rangers to ensure that all the wildlife in the reserve are fed and looked after and that the reserve itself is well maintained. Everyone at the reserve is committed not only to the welfare and research of these wonderful animals but also to ensuring that you have the opportunity to learn more about the lions, the challenges facing them and how the reserve operates - an incredible opportunity for everyone.

## **Who is it for?**

This is the perfect environment for anyone with a love of lions and other stunning African wildlife. Providing a wonderful opportunity for hands-on experience with the lion cubs as well as a huge range of other activities on the reserve, this trip is really is a once in a lifetime experience. As well as the work at the reserve there are also great opportunities for horse-back safaris and visits to other reserves nearby at weekends and days off. All told this is a fantastic South African wildlife experience that will stay with you forever.

## **What you`ll be doing**

You will be helping to raise the cubs - feeding them and caring for them - as well as making sure that all the other wildlife and facilities at the reserve are well looked after and maintained. Don't forget that you may also be involved in cleaning out the enclosures and will probably get dirty in the process! The rangers are keen to pass on their knowledge and experience and you will have the opportunity to learn as much as you want. The way in which the centre runs is to work with you to find out where your interests lie - meaning that you can pretty much design a personalised programme of work - wow!

## **Where you`ll be staying**

You will be staying in a shared rondavel style chalet right alongside the cub enclosure! The chalets are very pleasant indeed with private bathrooms, hot water, and showers. Bedding will be provided for you but you may want to bring a mosquito net during the summer months. On site there is a swimming pool (!!!), a small bar, a lounge and TV area and laundry facilities - this really is a beautiful place to stay.

## **What you`ll be eating**

Food is included at the project - all good hearty South African fare. You will need to make sure you work hard to burn off all the great food you'll be eating.

## **Advice and what to bring**

Please make sure that you bring durable clothing with you - jeans, khakis, combats - that you do not mind getting dirty! Other items to add to your pack include a torch / flashlight, sunglasses, comfortable walking shoes, raincoat, thick socks, personal toiletries and towels, sunscreen lotion, insect repellent and a mosquito net. Finally don't forget some books for relaxing in the evenings.

## **When you arrive**

Please book your flights to arrive into Johannesburg – O R Tambo airport (JNB). You must arrive by 4pm on your arrival date. You will be met at the airport and taken to Pretoria for an orientation session, a delicious South African meal and your first night in Africa. The following morning you will be taken to the project which is around 1-2 hours drive away.

## **The end of your project!**

At the end of your project our team in South Africa will pick you up and transfer you back to Pretoria Backpackers from where you can either transfer back to the airport or head off for further travels in South Africa. You will get to the Backpackers in Pretoria between 12:00 and 1:00pm (approx) so please **don't** book flights home that day earlier than around 5:00pm or so. Please also note that the transfer from Pretoria back to the airport is not included.

# WORK WITH CHILDREN IN A TOWNSHIP NEAR CAPETOWN

## Remember when school actually was all fun and games?

Do you recall being in nursery school when your days were filled with making dirt sculptures, coloring, story time and just running everywhere because it was more fun than walking? Why not relive those glory years by volunteering at a child care center for disadvantaged children. You can help them learn valuable lessons while also getting a unique insight into what life is like for children being raised in a township.

During 2010 why not combine an amazing time in South Africa with the once in a lifetime opportunity of the first ever World Cup in Africa? The atmosphere is guaranteed to be amazing and even if you aren't a football fan this really is something not to be missed. The World Cup is between June 11th and July 11th 2010 and all our Cape Town trips will be running as normal and believe us, this will be one of the cheapest ways you can experience both the World Cup and make a difference in South Africa.

## Trip Highlights:

- Getting to really know and understand township life
- Making a positive difference to the lives of the children and goals of the project
- Exploring and experiencing the region around Cape Town - stunning!

## Fast Facts

DATES: 2010: Jan 18, Feb., 1, Feb. 15, March 1, April 5, April 1, May 3, May 17, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 6 sept. 20, Oct. 4, oct. 18

## Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 2 weeks - Max 6 weeks
- Project Costs: US\$ 1525.00 for 2 weeks, US\$ 240.00 for every week thereafter
- Location of project: *Masiphumelele township, around 45 minutes from central Cape Town*
- Arrival Airport: *Cape Town (airport code CPT)*
- Activities: *Playing, teaching and caring for young children. This will involve lots of laughing and running around.*
- Working Hours: *Flexible; Monday to Friday 8.30am to 1.30pm, all other time is free*
- Getting to the project: *10-15 minutes minibus taxi ride (budget approximately US\$15 per week)*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 18*

## What's Included

- Accommodation: *Shared dormitory room in volunteer house*
- Food: *Food is not included; you will need to purchase your own food (budget approximately US\$50 per week)*
- Airport Pickup: *Included on arrival date. Ask us for details if you're arriving early!*
- Training: *In-country orientation*
- Support: *Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support*

## What the projects do

### Doreen's Center:

The Ikhaya Creche (child care center) has been caring for children in the township for over a decade. Doreen, the founder, began the center in a shack with enough space to care for 5 children. Over time Doreen, with the help of a generous donor, has successfully grown the center to accommodate 72 children. Doreen is also part of the

Educare Forum which helps creches to be set up in the area and she also plays an important role in the further development of the registered creches.

### **Evelyn's Center:**

Doreen has also helped develop a smaller center in the home of an elderly woman, Evelyn, just across the road from the main building. Evelyn is recently widowed and she and her small team care for 31 babies and toddlers between the ages of 1 month and 3 years. You will be placed at either Doreen or Evelyn's child care center depending on availability.

### **Why does the project need volunteers?**

Doreen and her dedicated team work hard to provide the children with the highest level of care and attention possible but an extra pair of hands is always in high demand. Most parents pay a small fee to send their children however the money collected is not sufficient to hire as many staff as they would like.

### **Your role as a volunteer**

Your day will be filled with teaching, playing and caring for the children. You will work from 8.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday and will be involved in all aspects of the center. A typical day could include assisting with basic educational games & lessons as well helping to prepare meals and feed the children. Being creative and finding new and interesting ways to keep the children engaged and entertained will be your main task. Teachers themselves do not speak a lot of English so you help with the children in this aspect will be invaluable!

### **Living arrangements**

#### **Where you'll be staying**

Accommodation is at a volunteer house in the attractive South African suburb of Fish Hoek. From here, you will transfer to your project by taxi each day (taxi fees are not included).

#### **What you'll be eating**

It's self-catering so you will be responsible for buying and preparing your own meals. This is a great opportunity to learn to cook like a local. Why not try some ostrich steaks or snack on some game biltong, a South African favorite dried meat snack?

### **Project Resources and Advice**

There are very few resources at the project so please feel free to bring anything from home that you think will help the children and teachers. Educational books, coloring books and pens or pencils will always be useful. Also don't forget that the kids love any outdoor games so use your imagination!

### **When you arrive**

You will be met at the airport if arriving on the scheduled arrival date. Please book your flight to arrive into Cape Town (airport code CPT) before 16.00 to ensure that you do not miss your orientation that afternoon.

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