



Volunteer

Karoo: Nature Conservation

Location: Sutherland, South Africa

Duration: 4 weeks

Environment

This Reserve in the Karoo, meaning “rye ravine,” was founded in 1756 by Joachim Scholtz, the son of German and Nordic immigrants. For over 250 years, its rugged beauty has been shaped by various owners, enduring challenges like lions, droughts, snow, and harsh winds.

Located at 1,400 to 1,700 meters in the Karoo, the Reserve is part of the Roggeveld Plateau, known for its sweeping plains, clear night skies, and rich biodiversity. The towering Roggeveld Mountains feature peaks like Sneekop (1,739m) and Salpeterkop, South Africa’s southernmost extinct volcano.

Home to the exclusive Star Plains, this Reserve offers an unparalleled stargazing experience. The area hosts diverse wildlife, including springboks and cheetahs, and contains ancient fossil sites.

Join a young, experienced team to gain hands-on experience in reserve management and guest hospitality. Assist with wildlife care, maintain the EcoVillage’s infrastructure, and help welcome guests.

Bonus: Visit SALT (Southern African Large Telescope) and explore one of the world’s top astronomy locations.

Responsibilities

- Maintain the EcoVillage, including the solar energy system, water supply, and gas.
- Care for the animals in the EcoVillage, such as chickens, ducks, and springboks.
- Assist in welcoming guests for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Inspect and maintain the wildlife fences (checking, repairing, and patrolling).
- Conduct wildlife counts and observe animal behavior in the 20,000-hectare reserve.
- Remove invasive plant species.
- Prevent erosion and restore roads.



Accommodation

Volunteers are accommodated in a spacious shared house alongside the guiding team. The house is located on the reserve and offers a practical and comfortable living environment, designed to support both rest and daily routines.

You will stay in a private loft room within the house. Shared facilities include a large kitchen, a communal living area, and a porch with an outdoor campfire space. The house remains cool during the summer months and is equipped with a fireplace for warmth during the cold winter season.

A generous lunch is provided daily for all staff and volunteers. Other meals can be prepared independently in the fully equipped kitchen.

This setup encourages a collaborative atmosphere while also providing personal space and comfort during your time on the reserve.

Primary Education Internship Service Gap Africa:

- Pick-up and drop-off service from Cape Town to the reserve
- Mediation between volunteer and Gap Africa Partners
- On-site accommodation
- 24/7 support contact available for assistance
- Lunch included
- A dedicated support team available to answer any questions you may have

GOAL AND IMPACT

Wildlife & Stargazing:

Explore diverse wildlife and enjoy stunning stargazing in the Karoo, home to unique landscapes and South Africa's southernmost extinct volcano.

Practical Conservation:

Gain hands-on experience in reserve management and wildlife care while contributing to conservation efforts.