Gap Africa



WILDLIFERESERVE | 1-12 WEEKS | WILDLIFE | OUDTSHOORN, SOUTH AFRICA

ECO AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

OUDTSHOORN: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

ENVIRONMENT

Discover the beautiful surroundings of Oudtshoorn while contributing to wildlife and habitat conservation at a nature reserve in the Western Cape.

As a volunteer, you will take part in a variety of daily activities, from monitoring wildlife and maintaining the reserve to planting indigenous trees and supporting local community projects. You may work around animals such as elephants, lions, giraffes, cheetahs and meerkats, while learning more about their natural environment.

The reserve is located in the Klein Karoo, approximately 6.5 km outside Oudtshoorn, within easy reach of the Garden Route. The area is malaria free.

GUIDANCE AND LEARNING

The programme follows a rotation system, giving you the opportunity to participate in different conservation activities and learn about the daily management of a nature reserve.

You will gain practical experience in wildlife monitoring, identifying animal tracks, using GPS and telemetry equipment, setting up camera traps and collecting research data. You will also learn about habitat conservation, animal behaviour and the challenges of human wildlife conflict.

Two mornings a week are dedicated to community work, where you will help with practical maintenance and improvement projects at local schools.



IN THE FIELD YOU..

- Monitor African wildlife
- Track free roaming cheetahs
- Assist with habitat conservation
- Use camera traps and tracking equipment
- Support research and reserve management



Let's talk about your plans!

Contact our Dutch and South African team at **hello@gapafrica.travel** | **www.gapafrica.travel**







SHARED DORMS | VOLUNTEER CAMP

ACCOMMODATION

YOUR HOME IN THE RESERVE

You will stay at the volunteer camp, located within the nature reserve. Accommodation is in spacious safari style tents, shared with up to four volunteers of the same gender. Each tent has comfortable single beds with bedding provided and its own ensuite shower and toilet facilities.

The camp has a communal area where you can relax, enjoy your meals and spend time with other volunteers after a day outdoors. Electricity is available in the tents and communal areas, and free WiFi is provided.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are freshly prepared by the Volunteer Camp Host and included throughout your stay, including weekends.

Your free time is yours to enjoy! Spend your evenings relaxing at the camp, sharing stories with fellow volunteers or simply enjoying the peaceful surroundings. On your days off, you can explore Oudtshoorn and the surrounding area, with plenty of opportunities for adventure and sightseeing.



GOOD TO KNOW

Will I volunteer with other people?
The programme works with volunteers throughout the year. Numbers can vary depending on the season

What does a typical day look like?
Working days normally run from approximately 08:30 to 17:00, with four to six different tasks during the day. Activities work on a rotation system, giving volunteers experience across different areas of the programme.

What will I do in my free time?
Every other Saturday and all Sundays are normally free. You can relax at the camp, explore Oudtshoorn or discover the Klein Karoo and nearby Garden Route.

Do I need conservation experience?
No specialist conservation background is mentioned as a requirement. Buffelsdrift looks for enthusiasm, flexibility, reliability, teamwork and an interest in conservation.

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PREPARE & TRAVEL

HOW TO GET THERE

The reserve is located approximately 6.5 km outside Oudtshoorn and 65 KM from George in the Western Cape.

International flight > Cape Town / Johannesburg > George > Project transfer

If you arrive in South Africa via Cape Town or Johannesburg, you can book a domestic flight to George Airport. From George, the drive to Buffelsdrift takes approximately one hour. Transfers between George and Buffelsdrift are included on Tuesdays.

BOOKING A DOMESTIC FLIGHT?
Allow plenty of time between your international and domestic flights. Check whether you need to collect and recheck your luggage. Domestic baggage allowances can be lower than international allowances.

WEATHER

Oudtshoorn has a semi arid climate with hot summers, mild winters and generally little rainfall. Layers are useful year round.

OCTOBER – MARCH
Warm to hot, around 25–35°C, with occasional summer rain.

MAY – AUGUST
Mild days around 15–22°C, with cold mornings and evenings. Rain is possible but generally limited.



WHAT TO PACK

OUR TIP: Bring practical clothes and sturdy shoes that can get dusty and dirty. This is an active outdoor programme, so your clothes may get stained or even ripped.

For the field
Comfortable outdoor clothing
Long trousers and shorts
Closed walking shoes
Hat or cap
Small day backpack

For changing weather
Warm layers
Rain jacket
Swimwear

Essentials
Reusable water bottle
Sunscreen spf 50 + Insect repellent (DEET)
Torch or headlamp
South African plug adaptor
Personal medication

Provided by the Reserve:
Foundation T shirt, Cap, Reusable water bottle

ECO-AMBASSADOR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WEEK PROGRAMME

	MORNING SLOT (08:30-12:00)	**AFTERNOON SLOT** (13:30-17:00)
MONDAY	Elephant Duties (Cleaning of Boma/Night Camp etc.) Animal Feeding (Supplementary Feeding work) Lion Enclosure duties (Fence monitoring etc.)	Spekboom Project Buckets (Make of buckets and planting of Spekboom) Cheetah Monitoring (Tracking) / Water Points Check
TUESDAY	School Visit – VredeRust	Erosion Control/Ukarabati Project (Spekboom Planting etc.) Lion Enclosure duties (Fence monitoring etc.)
WEDNESDAY	Fence Petrol / Maintenance on cheetah reserve	Camera Traps (Research purposes on Aardvark/Aardwolf/ Meerkats) Lion Enclosure duties (Fence monitoring etc.)
THURSDAY	School Visit – Vreugde Voetjies	Succulent Garden (Education on poaching / maintenance on plants etc.) Spekboom Project Buckets (Make of buckets and planting of Spekboom) Lion Enclosure duties (Fence monitoring etc.)
FRIDAY	Honey Bee / Wild Pollinators Research	Animal Feeding (Supplementary Feeding work) Lion Enclosure duties (Fence monitoring etc.)
WEEKEND	Free time	







A TYPICAL DAY

A typical working day starts at 08:30 and ends around 17:00. During the week, you will take part in a variety of conservation activities, usually four to six different tasks per day.

The programme works with a rotation system, giving you the opportunity to experience different aspects of conservation, research, wildlife management and community projects.

Every second Saturday includes essential conservation activities, followed by a fun activity. Every other Saturday and all Sundays are free, giving you time to relax, join activities at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge or explore the surrounding area.

FREE TIME

Buffelsdrift is located in the Klein Karoo, with plenty to discover during your weekends. You can explore Oudtshoorn and the surrounding area or travel towards the Garden Route and coast.

THINGS TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME INCLUDE:

Cango Caves • Hiking • Nature walks • Stargazing
Horse riding • Ostrich farms • Zip lining • Kayaking
Abseiling • Skydiving • Olive & wine tasting
Beach days & surfing

The closest beaches are around Mossel Bay, Herolds Bay and Victoria Bay, approximately 70 km away.



2027 PROGRAMME FEE

PER WEEKS R14,440.-

approx. €802,- (payment in ZAR)

INCLUDED

- Accommodation Camp
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Conservation activities
- Programme coordinator support
- Transfers to and from George on Tuesdays
- T shirt, cap & water bottle
- 24/7 Gap Africa support

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities

HOW TO BOOK

1. GET IN TOUCH

Interested in one of our projects? Send us a message and tell us when you'd like to come to South Africa, how long you'd like to stay and what you're interested in. Feel free to ask us any questions.

2. PLAN YOUR TRIP

Together, we'll find the project and dates that suit you best. We can arrange an online chat with you and your parents if you'd like. We'll also help with practical details, from getting to your project and knowing what to pack to planning trips and excursions.

3. BOOK & GET READY

Once you've decided to go, we'll arrange your place on the project and send you everything you need to prepare for your trip. We'll stay in touch by email and WhatsApp before you leave. During your stay in South Africa, you can reach out to our local team whenever you have questions or need support.

Not sure yet? Just get in touch. You don't need to have your whole trip figured out before contacting us.

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