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SAVE Volunteering
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Botswana Wlld Polokwane Arrival

Overview

Escape into the untamed beauty of Botswana's Central Tuli Block and embark on a wildlife volunteer program that combines adventure with conservation impact. Nestled in a sanctuary for iconic African species, from elephants to leopards, this experience promises a true wilderness immersion. As you contribute to the conservation objectives of the area, you'll be surrounded by vast landscapes and indigenous wildlife, creating memories that last a lifetime.

Project Highlights

Ultimate Goal: Partnering with adjacent protected areas, game reserves, and national parks, the program aspires to remove fences and create a larger protected area. This collaborative effort aims to enhance biodiversity in Southern Africa.

Join us for an unforgettable adventure that not only enriches your life but also contributes to the preservation of Africa's extraordinary wildlife and habitats. Volunteer with purpose, and make a difference in the heart of wild Africa!

Project Details

Program Arrival and Departure Details

Arrival Day – Sunday

- **Arrival Time:** Your flight can arrive at any time on Sunday.
- **Airport Option:** Polokwane Airport.
- **Transfer:** You will be collected upon arrival and taken to Country Blue guesthouse I for the night.

Project Start – Monday

- **Morning Shuttle to Border:** The shuttle will transfer you to the border (+/- 4 hours).
- **Meet Project Staff:** At the border, your project staff will meet and accompany you to the project site.

Departure Day – Following Monday

- **Return Transfer:** A shuttle will take you from the project site to Polokwane Airport.

Additional Information

- **Minimum Duration:** 1 week (excluding 1 night's accommodation in Johannesburg upon arrival).
- **Age Requirements:** Minimum age is 16; no maximum age.
- **Fitness Level:** Medium fitness level required.

Check in at Country Blue Guest House

Country Blue Guest House in Polokwane offers volunteers a peaceful and welcoming place to rest after their journey. Just outside the city center, it provides a quiet escape from traffic while still being close to shops and amenities.

The property features a beautiful garden and a secure, well-maintained environment. Volunteers will stay in comfortable rooms with breakfast included, and dietary needs can be accommodated on request.

A range of room options are available, including standard and budget-friendly choices—ideal for a restful stop before continuing on to your volunteer placement.

The guesthouse has a restaurant, an outdoor swimming pool, WiFi, a nice garden and a terrace.

Country Blue Guest House
57 Oost Street, Polokwane, South Africa

Location

Central Tuli Block: Historically a mixed-use area, the Central Tuli Block has been transformed into a wildlife sanctuary. Private conservationists worked to re-wild the region, making it a haven for Africa's iconic species. This program aims to provide an authentic wilderness experience for youth while contributing to the conservation goals of the area.

Volunteer Tasks

Your daily journey will involve approximately six hours of volunteer work, divided between early morning and late afternoon tasks to steer clear of the midday heat. During lunch and the early afternoon, you have free time to indulge in reading, relaxing, playing games, or even taking a siesta! For those more active individuals seeking less downtime, there are consistently available activities around the camp, such as downloading camera trap data, identifying spoor, and capturing images of birds and insects for identikits.

The late afternoons typically culminate with a breathtaking sunset atop a rocky outcrop, and if the weather permits, evenings are spent enjoying the night sky around a campfire.

1. **Research:**
   - Conduct mammal and bird surveys
   - Study migration patterns throughout the year
   - Develop elephant identikits
   - Monitor camera traps and document nocturnal activities
   - Contribute valuable data to the broader management planning of the area
2. **Conservation Projects:**
   - Undertake activities based on conservation needs
   - Fence repair, waterhole construction, soil erosion control, and more
   - Play a vital role in protecting and maintaining the wilderness area
3. **Wildlife Observation:**
   - Observe wildlife in their natural habitat
   - Encounter herds of elephant, zebra and giraffe, with opportunities to track leopard, lion and hyena.
   - Immerse yourself in the sounds and sights of the African bush
4. **Sleep-Outs:**
   - Experience the magic of Africa's starlit sky
   - Witness breathtaking sunsets over the plains
   - Fall asleep under the vast African sky, listening to the sounds of nearby creatures
5. **Discover:**
   - Learn to identify species in the African bush
   - Engage in spoor identification and cast-making
   - Participate in conservation debates and bird identification sessions
   - Absorb the silence and vastness of the surrounding landscapes

Volunteer Requirements

- Completed Application form
- Basic level of competency in English
- Copy of return flight itinerary
- Medium level of fitness
- Medical Insurance that includes evacuation

What's Included

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Your volunteer rate covers everything you need for an immersive experience:

- Airport pick up
- Welcome dinner
- 1 Night Polokwane - Country Blue guest house
- Return Tranfer from Polokwane to project
- Certificate of completion
- All meals
- Accommodation
- 24 hour support and supervisor
- Donation to the project
- Braai once a week
- Guided activities
- Game drives
- Sleep-outs under the stars
- Sundays off for relaxation and local exploration
- Laundry day
- Please note that extra excursions, SIM cards, and personal snacks are not included in the rate.

Meals
Volunteers will receive three meals a day.

- Breakfast is a simple oats, breads, spread, cereals - self service
- Lunches and Dinners are substantial home-cooked meals
- Tea and coffee will be available all day.
- There will be periodic visits to a local village where there is a small local shop to buy simple snacks, but we recommend you bring extra snacks from home or Johannesburg
- A refrigerator is available for you to use for your personal food and drinks

NOTE: Please do let us know up-front if you have any special needs regarding food

Accommodation

A fully equipped tented camp is home away from home.

There are 2-6 person walk-in safari tents with bunk beds, sheets and pillows. Ablutions are shared, with hot and cold showers and flush toilets.

There is a common area for eating, relaxing and reading and a beautiful boma for fireside evenings.

The kitchen is equipped with gas appliances and all meals are provided. Pizza nights are a highlight with the home-made pizza oven

Extra information

● **Shops/Grocery Stores:** When possible, trips to visit a local village will be scheduled to pick up basic snacks and cool drinks

● **ATMS:** There are plenty of ATMS in Johannesburg where you will have your orientation. Please exchange your foreign monies in Johannesburg airport as it cost effective and safe. You will need PULA for Botswana and you would need to take this with you from Johannesburg or home

Supervision/Co- Ordination

As the nature of the work varies we will place volunteers under the supervision of various staff members. We will have one member of our team assigned as “team leader” to facilitate the smooth operation of the volunteers stay and provide guidance where necessary.

Weather in Botswana

Botswana generally experiences a subtropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons.

- **Dry Season (March to October):**
  - This is the dry season with warm days and cooler evenings. During the winter months (June-August), temperatures can drop significantly at night and early morning. This is a lovely time of the year for wildlife viewing as animals tend to gather around waterholes.
- **Green Season (November to February):**
  - This is the summer season with higher temperatures and the welcome of summer rains. While there can be rainy days over this time, afternoon rainstorms are most common, bringing a welcome relief to the heat. The landscape becomes lush and green, and this is when many of the baby animals arrive.

Packing list

DOCUMENTS

- Passport
- Travel documents (required for individuals under 18 years old)

LUGGAGE

- Suitcase or rucksack
- Daypack for daily use

CLOTHING

- Neutral-colored attire suitable for the bush, avoiding bright colors or neons
- Lightweight shorts and tops for daytime activities
- Long-sleeved tops and pants for evenings (to guard against mosquitoes)
- Lightweight hoodie/jersey for summer and warm jacket for winter
- Lightweight waterproof jacket (especially useful during the rainy season)
- Pajamas, socks, and underwear
- Sturdy closed shoes
- Flip flops or sandals
- Swimwear
- Hat and sunglasses
- Warm beanie for winter
- Garden gloves (provided for activities like building waterholes or repairing fences)
- Buff (multi-functional headwear)

GENERAL

- Towel
- Sleeping bag
- Large water bottle
- Head torch (a cell phone light may not be sufficiently bright for this purpose)
- Sunscreen (ensure an ample amount for sun-exposed work)
- Insect repellent
- Personal toiletries (preferably eco-friendly)
- Camera with necessary batteries and chargers
- Binoculars (if available)
- Journal/cards/games/art supplies as desired
- Reading books and mammal/bird identification books (if available)
- Basic first aid kit (plasters, headache tablets, antiseptic cream, etc.)

IMPORTANT

Please ensure you have all necessary personal medication and enough for your stay plus a couple of extra days. Obtaining medicine and prescriptions in the remote camp area may be challenging.

EXTRAS

- Snacks if desired
- Pocket money (for local purchases.)

Program dates

Program dates
July/August 2027 | 19 July - 31 August

Only dates available

Information & Documents

Wildlife projects in BOTSWANA FAQ
In this document you will find all the info you need on this project including visa requirements.

*Tuli block is a low malaria area