

Cheetah Conservation

Project Port Elizabeth, SOUTH AFRICA



At African Impact, we see ourselves as the on-the-ground AFRICAN SPECIALISTS in volunteering. Founded in 2004, we have so far hosted over 6000 volunteers on our exciting Conservation and Community Volunteer Projects in Africa.

We are also immensely proud to have been nominated as Finalists for the following Responsible Tourism Awards in 2009: The World Travel Awards; The British Youth Travel Awards and the prestigious South African Imvelo Responsible Tourism Awards. In 2010 we were once again nominated for a World Travel Award and were proud Winners of an Africa-wide Imvelo Responsible Tourism Award. An accolade awarded in 2009 to Sir Richard Branson's Ulusaba Eco-Lodge in South Africa. In 2011 so far we are nominated for a World Travel Award and are entrants once again in the Imvelo Awards, British Youth Travel Awards and Virgin Responsible Tourism Awards.

Join us on our Cheetah Conservation Project! Less than an hour from Port Elizabeth, and right next door to the beautiful Addo Elephant National Park, this project gives you the opportunity to work hands-on with cheetahs, and to contribute to conserving these beautiful animals. Read on to find out more about this exciting project!



African Impact

PHYSICAL ADDRESS 6 Carlton Close, Noordhoek, 7985, Cape Town, South Africa.

TELEPHONE +27 21 785 4319 Direct Line or CALL US TOLL FREE 0800 098 8440 (UK) 1-800-606-7185 (USA)

Project Highlights:

- Working and interacting hands-on with our resident cheetahs every day
- Learning about cheetahs and the environment they live in
- Exploring and discovering the African bush in Addo Elephant Park on your days off
- Making friends for life and having new experiences, both with the staff and your fellow volunteers

The Cheetah Conservation Programme

The cheetah breeding programme was started in 2000, with the aim of contributing to the conservation of the cheetah. The cheetah population has declined drastically in past decades, and they are listed as an endangered species. This is due to their loss of habitat, loss of prey, conflict with humans, and a limited genetic diversity. Recent figures estimate that there are only 1400 cheetahs left, both in the wild and in captivity.

The breeding project, a non-profitable operation, started with three cheetahs in 2000, with the aim to breed cheetahs and release the offspring in approved wildlife reservations. Over the years, 55 cats were successfully released or exchanged with other private game reserves. There are currently 12 cheetahs at the project.

Apart from breeding and releasing cheetahs, the programme also serves as a sanctuary for orphaned or injured wildlife. Whenever possible, these animals are nursed back to health and released into the wild. The project regularly takes care of meerkats, steenbok, caracals, cervals, zebra, and kudus. The programme also occasionally rehabilitates lions.

As a volunteer, you will be involved in the day-to-day running of this programme. You will be involved in the caretaking of the cheetahs, and you will get the opportunity to work with these beautiful animals hands-on. In addition, you will be involved in looking after the other wildlife that lives in the sanctuary. Your tasks may include:

- Preparing food for the cheetahs and feeding them
- Cleaning enclosures
- Spending time with the cheetahs in order to provide stimulation for them
- Help take care of the other wildlife in the sanctuary, including caracals, servals, meerkats, zebras, and occasionally lions
- Assist in general maintenance of the programme, which may include alien plant removal and enclosure maintenance



Participant Requirements

No previous knowledge or experience is required. All we want from you is a willingness to work, a desire to learn and a passion for wildlife. It can be hard work, but it will be incredibly rewarding. The programme is open to anyone from the age of 18, however all participants must be in good health and able to carry out all duties required of them.

It is important to note that you are expected to be fully involved in the preparation of the meat (usually horses and donkeys) for feeding the cheetahs (this includes removing the meat from the bone). You will be fully supervised at all times.



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A typical day in the life of a Cheetah Re-introduction Project Volunteer

While we have a routine in place, our timetable is fairly fluid and we have to be ready to act in any eventuality. Here is an example of a typical day as a volunteer at the Cheetah Reintroduction programme:

- 06:00 - 07:00 - Help feed cheetahs and clean their bowls
- 07:00 - 08:00 - Clean the cheetahs' enclosures and fill up their water bowls
- 08:00 - 09:00 - Enjoy breakfast at the volunteer house
- 09:00 - 13:00 - Morning duties, which will generally involve enclosure maintenance and spending time with cheetahs, providing them with stimulation and enrichment
- 13:00 - 14:00 - Lunch will be waiting for you at the volunteer house
- 14:00 - 16:00 - Afternoon duties, which might involve preparing food for the cheetahs, feeding orphaned animals, or removing alien plants
- 16:00 onwards - Free time. Dinner will be cooked for you and served in your volunteer house.

Please note that your itineraries may differ from this, depending on your own experience and the number of other volunteers on the placement at the same time, and this is simply to give an example.

Project Meals

Coffee, tea and juice are available throughout the day and snacks and cool drinks are available to buy from the reserve's shop. Breakfast is on a help-yourself basis and consists of cereal, toast, rusks, etc. Lunch will be prepared for you and generally involves sandwiches or burgers. Dinner is a fully cooked meal, such as pasta, rice dishes, barbeque meat, etc.

Please let us know before you depart for Africa of any food allergies or specific requirements.

Project Orientation

You don't need any experience to join us, and upon arrival you will receive a comprehensive orientation and will be fully briefed and trained in all areas. You will be introduced to all members of staff and given a tour of the reserve. You will be shown where all the tools and equipment are, and briefed exactly how to use them. You will not be expected to carry out any duties without the appropriate training and supervision.

You will also be given more information on our reintroduction project and the plight of the cheetah, so that you fully understand just how important and valuable the project work and your contribution as a volunteer is.

Project Support

Before and during the program you will have full support from the African Impact team and your Project Managers to ensure you receive all the support and assistance that you need. We are committed to ensuring you have the best possible time at the project and your health and happiness is of the utmost importance to us.



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Project Accommodation

You will be staying in our volunteer cottage, which is attached to the project manager's house. The cottage is very comfortable place, situated right next to the cheetah project. It was a comfortable bedroom, lounge, and bathroom, as well as a TV with cable television and internet access.

Staff make regular trips to town for food, but it is not possible for volunteers to go to town apart from if they choose to go on their days off, when they can take pick up and luxury items. Please note that because the project is located on a reserve, there is no access to town for volunteers apart from their days off.

You will get one day off a week; you can choose to spend it relaxing on the reserve, or you can visit some of the attractions the area has to offer, for an additional cost. You can, for instance visit the beautiful Addo Elephant Park, Schotia Private Game Reserve, Jeffreys Bay, or Port Elizabeth. Our project managers will be able to provide transport for you.



Project Costs

Please note your volunteer fee on this project is payable in South African Rands (ZAR), if you would like to check the latest exchange rates we recommend www.xe.com and your destination manager will be able to assist you further with this.

- 2 Week Placement: R10 060 (approximately £880 or US\$1370)
- 3 Week Placement: R15 060 (approximately £1320 or US\$2050)
- 4 Week Placement: R20 125 (approximately £1760 or US\$2750)
- 6 Week Placement: R30 255 (approximately £2650 or US\$4130)
- 8 Week Placement: R40 383 (approximately £3535 or US\$5515)

Project Cost Includes:

- Programme Fee – this is the large bulk of the program cost and finances all aspects of the cheetah breeding and reintroduction work, for example enclosure improvements and feeding the cheetahs
- Return transfers to and from Port Elizabeth airport
- All accommodation, food and housekeeping costs



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- All transportation and equipment required to carry out your project work
- Complete 24 hour support and guidance from the project management team
- All wildlife and conservation education during your stay

Project Cost Excludes:

Return flights to Port Elizabeth airport

- Any items of a personal nature, such as gifts and curios and additional food, drinks and snacks
- Internet access, which we sell time for
- The appropriate personal medical insurance, which must cover the entire duration of your programme, and should include cover for repatriation and any activities that you will undertake, including working with animals
- Any additional trips or activities organized in your free time

How to get there: *We will meet you at the airport!*

You will fly into Port Elizabeth Airport, where you will be met on arrival by one of our project representatives. Pick-ups are at noon on the 1st and 15th of each month. The project is about an hour drive away from the airport.

Meet your Destination Manager for this project!

Valerie is a local Capetonian and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Law and Economics. She is also currently studying her postgraduate Bachelor of Laws degree in her own time. Continuing to learn and one day travel the world are two of Valerie's passions, together with being part of assisting and sustaining African wildlife and communities. Learning more about the African continent is her goal each day and she hopes to make a meaningful difference through her involvement with African Impact. Valerie will take you of your placement, and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Skype Valerie on valerie.bam



Our Partners

The Happy Africa Foundation www.happyafricafoundation.org African Impact is proud to have been instrumental in the establishment of The Happy Africa Foundation in 2007 and continues to be one of the Foundations major supporters. UK Registered Charity Number: 1123529. The mission of The Happy Africa Foundation is to empower the African people through the support of community and conservation based initiatives that operate at grass roots level.

We are proudly affiliated to the UK-based **Know Before You Go** campaign that promotes education and knowledge-sharing amongst travelers.

African Impact is proud to be **WINNER** in the Africa-wide Imvelo Responsible Tourism awards 2010, as well as **FINALISTS** in the 2010 World Travel Awards. We see this as exciting recognition of our position as African specialists in Volunteering with over 6 years experience.



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