
PROJECT DOLPHIN COAST PRIMATES (SOUTH AFRICA)

Project Background

Project Dolphin coast opened its doors to the public in April 2019. At this project you will see multiple species of primate roaming freely around the 23-hectare forest. The primate species at include Buff-Cheeked Gibbons, Squirrel Monkeys, Ring-tailed Lemurs, Black and White Ruffed Lemurs and Capuchin Monkeys. Many of the primates are originally from exotic habitats and the forest does not, therefore, naturally provide enough appropriate food. The project, therefore, supply of variety of foods daily to fulfil their needs. In addition to the forest, there is a restaurant at the



reception area, a souvenir store, children's play area and an environmental cinema. All of the primates are free-roaming in the forest, not kept in cages so, unlike most wildlife volunteer programmes, there's very little, if any, shovelling of animal poop. The only exception is if they have new arrival(s) in the pre-release enclosures or a primate undergoing some kind of medical treatment. These situations are fairly rare but are

the only times that any of their primates will be in enclosures which will need to be regularly cleaned.

Please note that the project are 100% hands-off. The project do not allow staff, volunteers or members of the public to touch, hand-feed or in any other way interact with the primates in their care. The aim is to give them as natural a life as possible.

Arriving at your accommodation

Depending on where your journey is starting, you may choose to arrive by air, bus or train.



By Air The closest airport is Durban King Shaka International Airport, which is just 26kms from your accommodation. Please ensure that you have provided your flight details with us (info@ravia.co.za) so that we can arrange for you to be met at the airport. At airport arrivals, a member of the staff will be waiting for you, with a board showing your name.



By Bus If you are arriving from another part of South Africa, there are a number of different bus companies that operate routes between Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Intercape (www.intercape.co.za), Greyhound (www.greyhound.co.za), City to City (www.citytocity.co.za), Intercity Xpress (www.intercityxpress.co.za) and Cityliner (www.citiliner.co.za) all operate routes across South Africa, stopping at Durban. There is also a hop-on hop-off bus service, Baz Bus (www.bazbus.com), that operates across South Africa. It stops at various lodges and backpackers enroute, although you are not required to stay there. Baz Bus stops in Durban and also has a shuttle service to Ballito. We can arrange to collect you from the Baz Bus stop in Ballito free of charge or from Durban for which a transfer fee is payable.

By Train The Shosholozha Meyl train is run by the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa and offers a range of routes within South Africa. If you are arriving by train, a member of the staff can collect you from the train station in Durban for which a transfer fee is payable

Volunteer Requirements

All volunteers will need a good level of English. You will also need to be hard working, fast learning, enthusiastic and prepared to cheerfully fulfill tasks requested of you. A genuine interest in primates and other wildlife is essential. You will generally be expected to work 5 days per week and a normal workday lasts from 8am to 5pm. Your off days will not necessarily be on the weekends. Please note: this project are “hands off”, meaning that at no time do they allow physical contact with their animals. If this rule is broken, you will be asked to leave the volunteer programme immediately.



What to expect from your volunteer placement

Your duties whilst volunteering at Project Dolphin coast will depend on your length of stay, the type of volunteer role you applied for and whether you have any specific skills or interests. We ask all volunteers to help out with general duties whenever possible. Any necessary training will be provided when you arrive.

General duties may include: -

Preparing and distributing food for the primates; - Cleaning feeding platforms in the forest; - Cleaning pre-release enclosures; - Maintaining the grounds, keeping them clear of litter; - Explaining sanctuary rules to visitors and answering their questions; - Supervising media visitors; - Helping out with monthly stock-take in the shop; -

Cleaning walkways and bridges; - Clearing alien vegetation; - Helping with large school groups. Being a tourism organisation, we have slow and busy periods. The more you get involved, the more you will get out of the experience. If you have an idea for a special project, please speak to the Volunteer Coordinator.



The Project will provide you with two golf shirts or khaki shirts and epaulettes (for guides) and a fleece/jersey. Please bring your own khaki trousers (pants)/shorts/skirts as well as brown, khaki or black shoes/boots. If you are volunteering as a sanctuary guide, your pants/shorts must be khaki. For any other volunteer positions, khaki, green, grey or brown are fine.

Suggested Packing List: Clothing for work: - any khaki-coloured clothing - sturdy khaki/brown or black shoes - dark coloured rain jacket

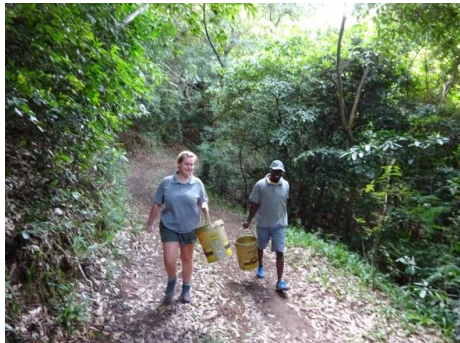
Other items: - Copies of all documents – passport, travel and health insurance and vaccinations - Beach towel (bath towels are provided at the volunteer accommodation) - Sunscreen (the African sun can be very strong so you're advised to use a high factor) - Hat and protective sunglasses - Mosquito repellent - Alarm clock - Good flashlight or head torch - Water bottle - Personal toiletries - First Aid Kit - Travel adaptors for electrical items - Books (although we do have some in the volunteer accommodation) - Photographic equipment - Laptop (for personal use or if you are undertaking a marketing/photography/filmography volunteer placement) - Anti-bacterial hand wipes - Mobile phone.



Volunteer Accommodation

All volunteers stay in a private home managed by the Volunteer Coordinator. The house is located just 10kms from the sanctuary and 10kms from the town and beaches of Ballito. There are four volunteer bedrooms. Three of these (two twins and one quad) have their own en-suite shower rooms. The fourth bedroom, a twin, is just across the hallway from a large shower room. There is a TV room with TV, DSTV satellite and DVD player, dining room, kitchen, a well-stocked bar and gardens.

Please make sure that you let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.



The cost is R5000 per week and includes:

- Airport transfers (King Shaka International) at the start and end of the placement;
- Daily transport to and from the sanctuary on working days;
- 3 meals per day, 7 days per week. Volunteers help themselves to a range of cold breakfast items (e.g. fruit salad, yoghurt, cereals, toast and preserves) and make a packed lunch to take with them to the sanctuary. A meal is prepared for the volunteers in the evenings. Please note that volunteers are generally responsible for their own meals if away from the house on day trips, weekends away etc. or if they opt to eat out at a restaurant.
- Laundry;
- Bedding and bath towels (changed weekly);
- Uncapped wifi;
- Use of the book and DVD library, playing cards and board games;
- Use of the well-stocked honesty bar;
- Support of the volunteer coordinator who stays at the house and can also help with planning things to see and do in the province on off-days.

