
Project Lion Park (Western Cape)

little to no interaction with animals

The Park was established in 1998 to provide lions in distress with sanctuary, where they could live in safety, free from abuse and persecution, and be treated with the compassion and respect they deserved.

The Park is actively involved in improving the quality of life of lions in captivity, locally as well as internationally, either by offering these animals a lifetime home or working in conjunction with other animal welfare organizations to secure a safe future for individual animals in dire need.

The Park is not involved in commercial breeding or trade and offers lifetime care to all of its animals. All the animals brought to the Park are captive bred / hand reared and cannot be rehabilitated to the wild. The animals at the Park are assured a chance of living out their natural lives in an enriched and safe environment.

As a genuine sanctuary, the Park is not involved in breeding or any form of commercial trade.

Project Lion Park is situated in the scenic Cape Winelands and although the Park is located in a rural setting, civilization is only minutes away in the town of Paarl!

Volunteers have the unique opportunity to become a part of our team of dedicated animal care givers and experience the day to day running of a lion sanctuary, **working for the animals** and **not with them**.

Projects where volunteers *can work with lions* are in most cases primarily captive breeding operations and volunteers who work in these programmes hand rearing lion cubs are ultimately working for the *captive breeding industry*.

Volunteer Duties

General volunteer activities will include but not be limited to the following:

- Monitoring visitors to the sanctuary to ensure our animals well being.
- Food preparation for the lions.
- Cleaning the grounds and facilities.
- Cleaning lion camps.
- Clearing alien vegetation.
- Clearing fence lines and general fence maintenance.
- Fence construction.
- Firebreak maintenance (and fire fighting in the summer!).

Why pay to volunteer?

Most non-profit organizations that run international volunteer programs are to some extent funded by volunteer contributions. In return for the opportunity to work at the organization, volunteers fund themselves, ensuring that the host organization does not incur any expenses.

Volunteer fees generated by our programme go towards the care costs of our resident lions, as well as the costs associated with future rescues.

Project details

The cost to join this volunteer programme is R5500 for a two week stay or R11 000 for a four week stay (arriving on a Monday and departing on a Saturday by 11h00).

For volunteers staying for more than one week, Saturday and Sunday are days off, but if you are out exploring please remember that the front gate will be locked at 9pm and you will not be able to enter the Park after 9pm and will have to find alternate accommodation for the night.

You may choose to extend your stay and additional days may be purchased at a rate of R400 per day, but this is subject to availability and we cannot guarantee accommodation outside of your booked timeframe should you want to extend your stay.

Accommodation & Transport

Accommodation is in the form of shared same sex units (maximum 2 persons) with a kitchen / recreation area. The kitchen is fully equipped with a gas stove and fridge. Volunteers are responsible for keeping the accommodation tidy at all times.

The accommodation units are situated a short distance from the lion and chimp enclosures, so volunteers will have the added bonus of hearing the lions roar every night!

Volunteers are responsible for supplying and preparing their own meals. Volunteers will be taken on a scheduled shopping trip to purchase the necessary supplies and can safely budget on 400 ZAR per week for food.

We do not arrange for pick ups or drop offs and volunteers will have to find their own way to the Park.

How far should I book in advance?

This project has limited availability, we advise you to submit your application as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The sooner you apply, the better your chances of securing your placement! However, it is sometimes possible to join a project at the last minute so please contact us if you are interested in volunteering in the near term.

Do I need to have experience to volunteer?

Absolutely not. Project Lion Park's program is open to anyone with a love of adventure, travel and the great outdoors! Whether you bring specific skills or good old-fashioned elbow grease and enthusiasm, you will perform important work in our project. A great volunteer is... open to experiencing new cultures and meeting people from around the world • tolerant and respectful of others, no matter what their beliefs or background • flexible and adapts well to new situations and environments • self-disciplined with a sense of independence • eager to develop their own personal qualities and character while giving something back to the planet • pro-active and look for opportunities to experience their new surroundings.

What should I pack?

- Small daypack
- Work gloves x 2
- Torch with extra batteries
- Towel
- Personal toiletries/medications
- Books
- Camera/film
- Warm clothes for cold nights
- Light clothes for hot days
- Hiking boots
- Underwear/socks
- Sunglasses/sunhat
- Cash/credit cards/travellers cheques
- Passport
- Driver's license (if available)
- Travel insurance certificate
- Copies of important documents

Clothing

Each volunteer is supplied with ONE uniform T Shirt and will be required to wear a volunteer T Shirt while working in the Park. Additional T Shirts can be purchased at 120 ZAR each.

Volunteers will have to be presentable and properly clothed (high heels and short skirts are definitely not suitable work attire!).

Bugs, snakes and creepy crawlies

We are in a malaria free area! As we are in a rural setting, there are snakes during the summer months, the most common being the venomous Cape Cobra, but they will most definitely be more scared of you than you of them! For this reason volunteers are required to wear hiking boots while working and will be advised on some basic cautionary behaviour to avoid encounters with snakes.

Ticks are also common during warmer weather and volunteers are encouraged to check themselves for ticks when dressing / undressing.