
Project Gqeberha (bird and wildlife sanctuary)

About Project Gqeberha

Situated in a valley between Port Elizabeth and Jeffreys Bay in the malaria-free Eastern Cape, Project Gqeberha started out as a family interest in rehabilitating orphaned and injured animals and birds, and over the years has grown into a larger operation. Since open to the public in 1992, several more animals and birds have been taken in and the sanctuary is now home to a large number of animals and over 250 species of birds. Most birds and animals are brought to the sanctuary by members of the public or referred from local veterinary practices. These



have usually been injured or orphaned and can range from small birds to larger animals such as antelope and cats, Many of the parrots and monkeys at the sanctuary are unwanted pets who are brought to us and integrated into enclosures with other animals of the same species. Most of the animals not indigenous to South Africa have come from zoos and other wildlife parks throughout the country, these include Emu, Wallabies and Marmoset Monkeys.

Animals at the park include several buck species (common and blue duikers, grysbok, bushbuck, kudu etc.), Cheetahs, Servals, Lynx (caracal), Ground Squirrels, Marmosets, Squirrel Monkeys, Wallabies, Genets, Meerkats and Crocodile. Birdlife includes several birds

indigenous to South Africa including the Knysna Loerie, Black Eagles, Blue Cranes, African Greys and Grey Crowned Cranes.

The centre is a sanctuary, meaning the majority of animals and birds that come to us are infants or injured. They are then cared for by our managers and volunteers and live out the rest of their lives at the sanctuary. Those fortunate enough to live a life in the wild at their full potential are released where possible. Many of the non-indigenous species can unfortunately never be returned to the wild, so we aim to make their lives in captivity as fulfilling as possible.

Although they no longer breed the cheetahs and servals, they have 5 resident cheetah (of which 3 are hand reared), and the volunteers help with the feeding and maintenance of their enclosures along with the 12 serval cats and 4 caracals.

Project Gqeberha also have a 1000 hectare game farm which is home to Zebra, Giraffe, Kudu, Nyala, Bushbuck, Duikers, Hartebeest, Wildebeest, Waterbuck, Mountain and Common Reedbuck, Blesbuck, Impala, Vervet Monkeys, Donkeys etc. There are also many species of birds - too many to mention! Volunteers are welcome to explore the game farm in their free time.



The park is regularly changing and so new enclosures often have to be constructed and existing ones adapted to meet the needs of new inhabitants. Therefore, volunteers may be involved with both the building and maintenance of these enclosures.

Volunteering

Volunteers live on site in the lodge situated on the game reserve a 5 minute walk from the sanctuary. There is a TV lounge with a DVD player for volunteers to use. The rooms are usually twin or 3 sleeper with the



biggest dorm room sleeping 4. Volunteers are usually accommodated with volunteers of the same sex and of similar ages or length of stays. The accommodation is basic, although there is hot water and electricity! Bedding is provided but volunteers are advised to bring sleeping bags as this is a must for the cold nights through the winter months! (May – September). They also have some separate accommodation for older volunteers or couples requiring a bit more privacy. There is no wifi for the volunteers, but we recommend you buy a SA SIM card .We would suggest MTN for the best network coverage at the sanctuary. The park do have SIM cards available to buy on arrival should you require one.

Meals are included and consist of

Breakfast – cereals, toast etc.

Lunch – Sandwiches, Wraps, Soup etc

Dinner – Cooked meal. Roasts, pasta, Curry, Braai (BBQ), Lasagne etc.

The volunteers are welcome to buy additional snacks and drinks at the park shop and use the tab system they have in place to pay for these items.

Project Gqeberha do cater for vegetarians and vegans where required.

The usual day to day duties of our volunteers involve preparing and feeding the birds and animals twice a day. Volunteers are required to clean and maintain enclosures while keeping the animals healthy and happy.



Volunteers work 5 days with 2 days off each week. Project Gqeberha are situated 30 minutes from the surfing town of Jeffreys Bay which is a popular off day destination for volunteers with several surf shops, bars and restaurants and the opportunity to do activities such as surfing, horse riding, quad biking and sky diving, Other popular trips include Storms River which is home to the world's highest bungy

jump, Plettenburg Bay where volunteers can visit the monkey sanctuary, big cat sanctuary and



Volunteer huts

elephant. There are loads of other activities , managers will help you to organise all these things on your days off. Volunteers often like to spend their off days relaxing around at the sanctuary, watching a movie or taking a walk on the game farm.

The minimum placement is 2 weeks as it really takes this long to experience all they have to offer and get to grips with the feeding routine etc., but we take bookings for any duration. One to two months is the usual length of time that people choose to spend with them. Any placements less than 3 months (90 days) can be undertaken on a temporary resident's permit which is issued to all visitors on arrival in South Africa. This can then be extended once you are here (within your first 30days) for up to an additional 90 days.



Collections



Collections from **Port Elizabeth Airport** are preferably Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm. Collections outside this time may require an additional transfer fee.

The Park can also collect from **Jeffreys Bay** if you are travelling from Cape Town direction. If your travel plans are outside these times please contact us as there may be a late collection charge.

Volunteer 'to bring' list

This is just a general guide of things for you to bring for your trip. We advise travelling light



and there are plenty of stores in South African should you need to purchase anything forgotten or needed as extra.



- Walking shoes, boots or trainers for working hours
- Other shoes: flip-flops etc. for off-days and down time:
- Working clothes (that will get dirty!)
 - T shirts and vests
 - Jumpers and fleece tops (especially in the winter months!)
 - Shorts
 - Trousers
- Warm clothes for evening and winter
- Other clothes for time off etc
- Waterproof jacket (Trousers optional) – we do get rain!
- Swimwear
- Towel (personal and beach)
- Torch
- Alarm clock
- Water bottle
- Sun hat and suntan lotion
- Insect repellent
- Sleeping bag (**warm** one for winter months April – Sept- not necessary during summer months)
- Personal toiletries
- Personal medications
- Small first aid kit
- Hand sanitizer
- Camera
- Cell phone – if you would like to purchase a South African SIM card, please make sure your phone is **UNLOCKED** from your home network)
- Personal entertainment – Books etc.
- South African 3 pin adaptor



Project details

- Project starts: Anytime throughout the year.
- Location: PE, Eastern Cape
- Minimum duration: 14 days
- This 14-day program with all its unique animals, experiences, activities, food and accommodation will only cost you **R7000**. You can always extend your stay if you want by another week/weeks: at **R3300** per week, with all included as before.

WHAT IS NOT INLCUDED?

- Airfare and visa
- Insurance
- Vaccinations and personal travel medication
- Extra activities not included in the program
- This program is available all throughout the year. Want to join this epic program? You can! Just send an email to info@ravia.co.za