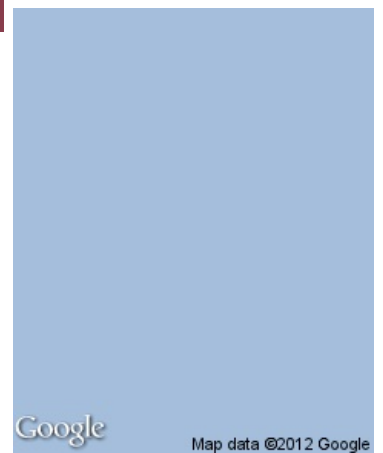


Wildlife Photography volunteering holiday in South Africa



Highlights

Learn a new skill and help educate local communities about conservation on this volunteering photography and wildlife conservation project. You will spend a month in the breath-taking Greater Lucia Wetland Park in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, where herds of hippos, rhinos & elephants have made their home alongside over 520 species of birds.

The focus of this project is entirely on conservation and nature. You will spend four weeks volunteering in one of South Africa's finest national parks, photographing the wildlife and raising awareness about conservation in the local community.

You will be working in the Greater Lucia Wetland Park, otherwise known as the iSimangaliso Park, on the East coast of KwaZulu Natal. The park is a designated UNESCO world heritage site and is an ecosystem comprising savannah, marsh, wetlands and beaches, making for an incredibly diverse habitat. There are over 520 species of birdlife to be found here as well as the largest hippopotamus population in any of South Africa's parks. Other animals resident here include rhinos, elephants, buffalo, leopards, crocodiles, humped back whales and many different insect species as well.

You will spend your mornings out in the field photographing some of these magnificent birds, mammals and insects in their natural habitats. At lunchtime you will return to your guest accommodation where you will eat your meal and catch up with your fellow volunteers. Afternoons will be spent contributing to a local wildlife conservation project including helping to build a database of wildlife images, teaching the importance of conservation at local community centres or taking children on an educational field trip into the bush. You will return back to your base for dinner and afterwards may choose to take a dip in the pool or go for a drink with your fellow volunteers.

Is it for me?

It goes without saying that you need to be passionate about wildlife and conservation in order to enjoy this project. Having said that, you don't need to have a doctorate in zoology or be the next David Attenborough to participate. Prior to going out into the field, you will attend an intensive three day induction course where you will be trained in the art of photography and will also learn all about the conservation projects that you will be involved with

Accommodation

Your accommodation throughout your stay will be in a house in the middle of St Lucia. You will have all of your meals here (although you will be given a packed breakfast for those early morning expeditions.) Laundry and cleaning will also be taken care of. The house is comfortable and fully furnished and has some great facilities such as a swimming pool, Jacuzzi and bbq facilities. It is, however, all about communal living. Meals are eaten together and you will be sharing a room with between one and three other volunteers. So whilst it is still perfectly reasonable to expect to get some 'me time' out in the field or reading a book by the pool, there will be a good deal of time spent with other people. See this as a great opportunity to make some really good new friends, contribute to a local community and be inspired by an amazing place.

Prices from

1,725 GBP (4 weeks) per person

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Itinerary

Itineraries are adapted depending on your experience and the number of other volunteers on the placement at the same time. Below is a sample itinerary:

05:30

Get up and get ready for your morning drive.

06:00

Depending on the schedule you will head off to the photography area for that day either on a game drive or bush walk to capture photographs of the wildlife, landscapes or people around the area.

09:30

Return for breakfast and to edit your photographs.

12:30

Lunchbreak.

14:00

Start of your afternoon projects. You may be working on adding your new pictures to the database, or you may work on a conservation activity or education in the local community.

16:30

End of the working day. You will be picked up from your project and taken home, where you will evaluate the day with fellow volunteers and project coordinators, and discuss the schedule for the next day.

18:30

Dinner at your volunteer house. After dinner, you may be presenting your top 5 images to the other volunteers.

Details

Price includes

The project fee entails financing that goes directly back into the project that you are involved with. It facilitates funding for items such as educational materials.

Price also includes the following;

- Transport between Richards Bay Airport and St. Lucia
- Orientation program, including a photography course administered by an experienced wildlife photographer
- All daily transfers to and from your projects during your stay
- Full board and lodging, which includes 3 meals a day at our volunteer house
- Laundry service during your stay
- Assistance at your projects by African Impact staff and volunteer coordinators
- Any visits to other African Impact programmes based in St. Lucia

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed

Reviews (1)

Reviews of this experience

“ I had a wonderfully warm welcome in St Lucia. The volunteer house where I stayed was spacious and all the staff friendly and helpful. The food was also very good and the cook catered for all our needs. Being a more mature person, I was concerned whether there would be a range of ages amongst the volunteers and I was pleasantly surprised that there were people of all ages from different parts of the world.

I was one of three people on the photographic and conservation project and this started with a fantastic but intensive 3 days with a professional wildlife photographer who was inspiring and great fun. The programme was well organised and there was always plenty to do from game drives, bush walks, volunteering at the Crocodile centre, visiting the other projects in the local village such as the Creche and orphanage and of course editing all those photos. The area is fantastic with many different eco-systems from beautiful beaches, sand dunes, lake and wetland etc. I also enjoyed the conservation project in the local village and with the local High school where we helped the children create a garden and build a compost. The local people were very welcoming and very happy to have our support.

There were great opportunities for weekends away too and I went to Kosi Bay and saw turtles hatching and also to Mozambique swimming with dolphins, but you could also relax at the house and pool and explore St Lucia.

I had wished that I had not been a complete beginner in photography as I feel I would have gained

much more from the 3 days with the photographer and on reflection I would have chosen to do a course or two before embarking on the trip. Also for me as a beginner it was a slight frustration that there was only a limited amount of photographic support for the rest of the month.

Overall though I had a fantastic time, met some wonderful people, saw some amazing wildlife and took a some great photos. I would rate my experience at 4.5 out of 5. ”

Judy

reviewing Wildlife Photography volunteering holiday in South Africa