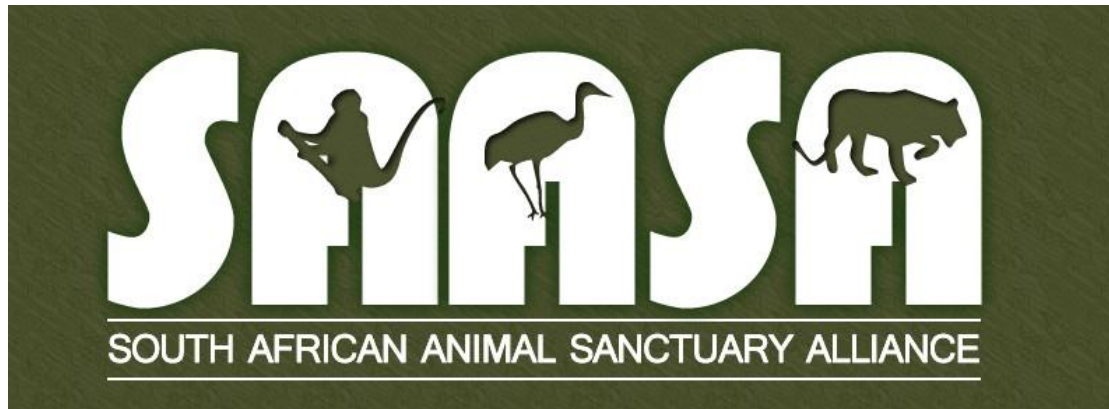
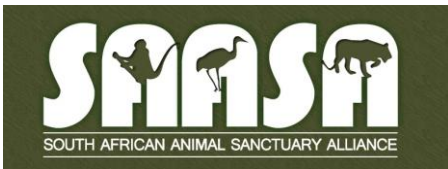


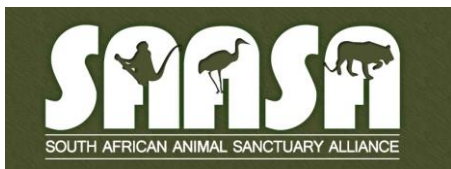
SAASA Volunteer Handbook





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Our Mission Statement:

- Conservation of wild animals including primates, birds and apex cats
- Create safe natural habitats
- Conservation education both locally and internationally

South African Animal Sanctuary Alliance (SAASA)

At SAASA our vision is to maintain sustainable wildlife sanctuaries of various species of wildlife living in as close as possible habitat to their home range. With the ultimate goal being to utilize them in the future for re-populating of their home ranges.

The vision of this Alliance (SAASA) is a not for gain; we are a body which strives to improve the lives of captive wild animals and to change legislation which allows and/or supports trading in wild animals.

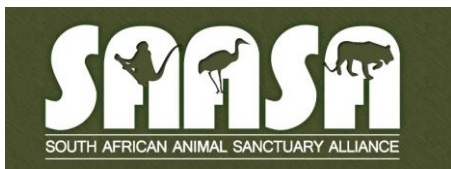
SAASA currently operates 3 sanctuaries in South Africa – Monkeyland Primate Sanctuary, Birds of Eden & Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary.

Monkeyland Primate Sanctuary

Monkeyland opened its doors to the public in April 1998. Our unique multi-species primate sanctuary is currently one of the top eco-tourism attractions on the Garden Route, capturing the hearts of visitors in its efforts to rehabilitate and free previously caged primates. Several species of primates move about the forest freely and they do so most harmoniously.

Monkeyland's forest encompasses a 12-hectare sanctuary together with a 13-hectare 'greenbelt' area that is protected for indigenous chacma baboons, vervet monkeys and other wildlife. The sanctuary is home to more than 550 primates and since most are originally from exotic habitats, our forest does not naturally provide enough appropriate food. We therefore supply a variety of foods daily to fulfill their needs.

The primate species held at Monkeyland are Black & White Lemurs, Ringtail Lemurs, Red-backed Bearded Sakis, Black Howler monkeys, Bolivian and common Squirrel monkeys, Vervet monkeys, Spider monkeys, Hanuman Langurs, Spectacled Langurs, Lar Gibbons, Brown Capuchins and Cotton Top Tamarins.



Birds of Eden

Birds of Eden opened its doors to the public in December 2005. The decision to develop Birds of Eden stemmed from the need to create a safe environment in which to release a large collection of free-flight African birds and miniature monkeys. The sanctuary also enables bird owners to apply to release their pet birds into the sanctuary, after undergoing rehabilitation.

Its unique two-hectare dome (the worlds largest) spans over a gorge of indigenous forest. The sanctuary has its own mysterious ruin, which incorporates a walk-behind waterfall. Another feature is its amphitheater, which has the ability to seat over 200 visitors.

Currently over 3,500 birds live at the sanctuary including 60 species of Parrots, Pheasants, Toucan, Scarlet Ibis, Flamingo and 8 species of Tauraco including the Knysna Loerie.

Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary

Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary became part of SAASA in 2012 and opened its doors to the public in August 2013.

“Big cats” are extraordinary animals with a dangerous beauty that is both awe-inspiring but also fearsome because of their power and ability to kill. However, at most wildlife facilities various species and especially large predatory species are kept as a way of attracting visitors without regard for the animals’ physical and emotional needs, they are just commodities to attract visitors. The Jukani approach is one of respect for what each animal represents. All the female predator cats are on birth control, and the sanctuary is a no-touch facility.

For safety reasons, Jukani is our only sanctuary where you view the wildlife form behind a fence rather than mingle amongst them. For this reason, special ramps have been erected so that visitors can obtain an uninterrupted view of the animals.

Jukani is currently home to big cats such as Lions (white & tawny), Cheetahs, Tigers (Siberian, Benegal & white), Leopards (spotted & black), Jaguars, Pumas, Caracals, Serval cats and other wildlife species such as Zebra, Wild Dogs, Honey Badgers, Raccoons and various snake species housed in individual vivariums.



Volunteer Requirements

Volunteers will be considered if they have a basic ability to speak English. They also need to be hard-working, fast learning, enthusiastic and prepared to cheerfully fulfill tasks requested of them. A genuine interest in primates, birds, apex cats and other wildlife is vital.

You will be expected to work 5 days a week. A normal workday lasts from 8.00am to 5.00pm.

Volunteers who commit for a minimum of 2 months are given free housing in our on-site volunteer houses.

Shorter stays are possible however volunteer housing is not always available and job preference depends on the availability during your stay.

Please note: All SAASA sanctuaries are “hands off” meaning that at no time do we allow physical contact with animals. If this rule is broken you will be asked to leave immediately.

Visa requirements

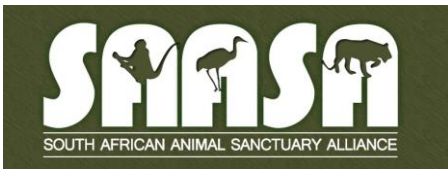
90 day Visitor Visa

A visitor visa allows a stay of 90 days or less.

Requirements for entry differ from country to country, and are subject to change. Always make enquiries before travelling to South Africa. Please visit the Department of Home Affairs at www.dha.gov.za for more information.

Yellow Fever certificates – if your journey starts or passes through the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America you must have a valid yellow fever certificate.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR PASSPORT IS GOING TO EXPIRE WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF YOUR STAY IN SOUTH AFRICA, YOU MUST HAVE IT RENEWED BEFORE TRAVEL.



Medical & Insurance requirements

Volunteers are required to have full medical and travel insurance that includes emergency evacuation coverage. Volunteers must ensure they have enough money on them to pay for hospitalization and other emergencies that may arise. Although you are required to have medical insurance, you will have to pay for these services immediately and claim the money spent in the emergency from your insurance company at a later date.

The Sanctuary Curator will assist you in getting to the doctors office or hospital in Plettenberg Bay if you are unwell. The average cost of visiting a doctor during normal office hours is ~R350. If you “call in sick” for more than 2 days in a row you are required to seek medical attention and get a medical certificate.

Where you will be based

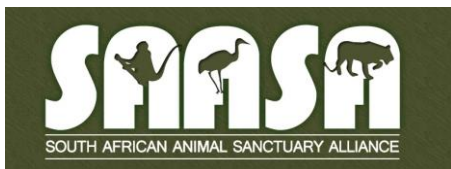
South Africa is divided into 9 provinces. SAASA sanctuaries are located in the Western Province on the Garden Route.





The Crags is embraced by the popular coastal town of Plettenberg Bay and the quaint village of Nature’s Valley.





What to expect from your volunteer placement

The duties of the volunteers depend on your length of stay, the sanctuary you attend and if you have a particular skill. All training will be provided once you get here.

Daily duties may include: -

Welcoming visitors	Explaining sanctuary rules
Conducting walk-ins	Checking tickets
Conducting informative guided tours	Supervising media visitors
Feeding & cleaning cages	Cleaning walkways
Cleaning & stocking feeding stations	Food preparation
Grounds maintenance	Making recycled enrichment items
Assisting with marketing	Special projects*

*** Being a tourist based business 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 Sanctuary Curator.**

Arriving in Plettenberg Bay

Flying

Plettenberg Bay Airport is serviced by Fly CemAir from Johannesburg & Cape Town a few times a week. Please be aware these are small 20 seater planes.

George airport is serviced by South African Airlines, Kulula and Mango. The airport is located 103 km / 1.5 hour drive from Plettenberg Bay town centre and 127 km / 1.75hrs from Monkeyland. Transfers can be organized through Stephanie or Mac (see accommodation section for contact details).

Port Elizabeth airport is serviced by South African Airlines, British Airways, Kulula and Mango. The airport is located 210 km / 2.75 hour drive from Monkeyland or 237km / 3hrs from Plettenberg Bay town centre. Most volunteers arriving in Port Elizabeth stay over night then catch the Intercape or City to City bus to Plettenberg Bay. A transfer can be arranged through Stephanie or Mac but they are expensive.

Bus

From Cape Town there is the Intercape, City to City and Baz Bus. The overnight bus arrives at 2am so you will have to spend your first night at a Plett backpackers. The day bus arrives at ~2.30pm and a SAASA staff member will pick you up and take you grocery shopping before driving back to The Craggs or your host will collect you.



Accommodation options

Option A: Volunteers at Monkeyland and Birds of Eden can be provided with accommodation in our 2 volunteer houses. Each house has 1 double & 1 triple room with linen provided, a communal living room, kitchen and bathroom. You will be responsible for washing your own clothes in the provided washing machine.

We prefer to have long term volunteer's stay at our volunteer houses, so if you are planning to volunteer for less than 2 months, and/or if you are younger than 18 years of age option B is definitely what you require.

The volunteer housing is situated 22km from Plettenberg Bay. Although there is a small supermarket and post office 2km from us, it is still very isolated. Additionally, there is no live connection but each house has a television and DVD player (so download shows & movies from home), minimal internet access and so forth.

Option A is NOT available for Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary volunteers. Jukani volunteers can choose out of Option B depending on what would fit best for them.

Option B: Homestay Volunteering, there are 2 options for you. Contact Vijver on info@saasa.org.za for details on these.

Willing Workers in South Africa – Rocky Road Backpackers in The Craggs is 3km from Monkeyland/Birds of Eden and 10km from Jukani. At WWISA/Rocky Road you get the full accommodation package – that's your bed with linen in one of their cottages (it's max two per room and you may have to share as and when required); you will receive 3 meals a day (self-help cold breakfast, make your own lunch, hot dinner), WWISA/Rocky Road also wash and fold your laundry for you.

There is also internet available, a welcoming lounge with a big screen TV with the full Cable Package. WWISA/Rocky Road offers you daily transport to work around 7.45am and collection around 5.00pm. They will also include you in their weekly run through to Plett for shopping.

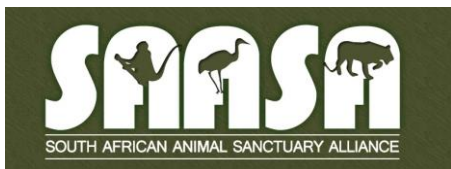
If you are interested in Option B please email direct to check availability

Go Volunteering

Stephanie at info@gogardenroute.co.za

Willing Workers in South Africa

Mac at info@wwisa.co.za



Uniforms

Ranger Shirts, a Fleece/Jersey and epaulets are provided. Bring your own Khaki pants/shorts/skirts as well as brown or khaki shoes.

On receipt of the uniform and other items you will pay a deposit which can be paid in Cash or Credit Card and will be returned to you on return of these items.

The Republic of South Africa (RSA)

It's impossible for travellers to South Africa to remain oblivious to the fact, despite the rise of 'black diamonds' (middle-class black folk), racial inequality persists here. Black and colored townships face problems such as a horrific HIV/AIDS rate and xenophobic tensions caused by economic refugees from nearby countries.

Nonetheless, South Africans are some of the most upbeat, welcoming and humorous folk you'll encounter anywhere.

As a visitor to South Africa and a volunteer at SAASA it is important that you respect local customs and cultures. We ask that you dress, behave and converse in a way that does not cause offense.

There are eleven official languages of South Africa: Zulu (23%), Xhosa (16%), Afrikaans (14%), English (9.6%), Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Sotho, Swazi, Tswana, Tsonga & Venda. English is the 4th most common first language in the country but it is understood in most urban areas and is the dominant language in government and the media.

South Africa is famous for its sunshine, It's a relatively dry country, with an average annual rainfall of ~464mm. While the Western Cape gets most of its rainfall in winter, the rest of the country is generally a summer rainfall region.

Being in the southern hemisphere, our seasons stand in opposition to those of Europe and North America, so yes we spend Christmas on the beach!

Money & expenses

The rand, sign R code ZAR, is the currency of South Africa. There are numerous banks in Plettenberg Bay and most petrol stations have ATMs in them including the one located on the N2, 2km from the Monkeyland/Birds of Eden volunteer housing.

Meals are not provided at the free volunteer houses, but the accommodation includes a fully equipped kitchen, and around R450 (about 50 dollars) per week will be more than enough for food, toiletries and essentials if you stick to the local farms



and supermarkets.

Besides the food costs mentioned above we recommend that you budget to have US\$100-200 per month for extra 'pocket money'. This may cover mobile phone re-charge cards, internet, coke, beer, cigarettes, eating out, taxis, activities, etc.

Examples of the cost of goods:-

Supermarket

Can of Coke	R7	Bottle of wine	R15	Bottle beer	R10
500ml water	R5	Loaf of bread	R15	Chocolate bar	R7
Frozen pizza	R35	1GB data	R140	Cigarettes	R22

Café / take-away

Can of Coke	R12	Bottle of wine	R60	Bottle beer	R20
500ml water	R15	Pizza / Burger	R35-80	Steak & sides	R130

Restaurant

Can of Coke	R15	Bottle of wine	R90	Bottle beer	R25
500ml water	R20	Entrée/starter	R30-80	Main course	R80-150

Communication

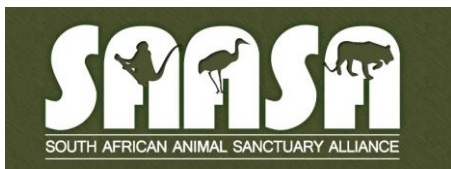
It is possible to use the internet at work with a 50MB daily limit. You can buy a dongle and transfer phone credit into data as required. Please be advised that the connection can be slow and is sometimes down.

Please speak to your telephone provider to ascertain if your mobile phone will work in South Africa, and to set up international roaming. You may also wish to purchase a local sim-card if you are staying for an extended period and want to talk to family and friends. Airtime credit can be purchased from most petrol stations. It is important to ensure that your phone is not sim-locked before leaving home.

The postal system is slow but cheap. There is a small Post Office outlet at the petrol station on the N2, a post shop at Market Square and the main post office is at the top end of Main Street in Plett central.

Postal Address:-

Monkeyland
 Attn: *your name*
 PO Box 1190
 Plettenberg Bay 6600
 South Africa



Media Information

SAASA does not allow interaction with animals and we do not want to be associated with any activity that does. Therefore we request that during your time you with us you do **NOT** post any photos on social media of you touching/feeding animals. This may include images taken at the Special Monkey Home, during veterinary procedures or at other wildlife facilities as we feel this sends the wrong message. Termination will result if volunteers are found to not abide by this policy.

We are happy for you to watermark any images or brand any film footage but we would also like unbranded versions to be supplied for use in official marketing. We ask that volunteers leave a CD of their photos behind with the Sanctuary Curator.

If visited by film crews and journalists covering stories about SAASA you may be included in their footage/photos. If you are required to take part, you will be briefed about your role by the Sanctuary Curator.

Other information of interest

It is quite common for people in South Africa to ask for money or belongings from you. If you politely say no this is not considered rude. SAASA strongly discourages you from giving money or gifts directly to people as this practice creates a distorted perception of visitors and results in future visitors being greeted by outstretched hands. If you wish to leave things or give money to support people it is best you do it through the Sanctuary Curator so it can be distributed in an appropriate way.

Cell phones should not be used in view of the general public. It is prohibited to use your cell phone whilst manning the front gate. If you must use your cell phone please go to the smokers area.

Smoking in uniform can only occur in the designated smoking area. Smoking should not be done while working with the animals, the local community or school groups. Ensure you are a responsible and considerate smoker, do not throw butts on the ground and ensure those around you are not affected by your smoking.

The use of alcohol, drugs or any other controlled substances by employees/volunteers, consultants/researchers is prohibited whilst on duty. Reporting to work with alcohol, intoxicants and/or controlled substances, including those drugs prescribed by a physician, which might impair your ability to perform your job, is prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary action. Illegal drug taking is totally prohibited and will result in instant dismissal from all SAASA projects.



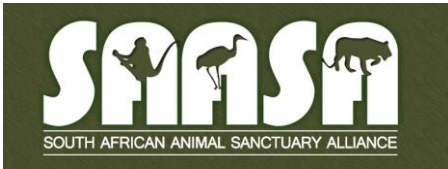
What to bring

Clothing:

- Any khaki colored clothing
- Khaki / brown sturdy shoes
- Clothing and shoes to wear in your free time
Remember African people are generally very well presented; it is advisable to look clean and tidy
- Rain jacket (dark color)
- Sleep wear
- Warm jackets/jumpers (it can get very cold at night / during the winter months)

Other items:

- Copies of all documents – passport, insurance and vaccinations
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Mosquito repellent
- Alarm clock
- Sunglasses
- Good flashlight or head torch
- Solid water bottle (min. 1L capacity as no free drinkable water at work)
- Personal toiletries
- Personal first aid kit
- Adaptor plugs for electrical items - European style plugs with two round pins



- Books to read / hard drive with movies &/or TV shows
- Ipod or MP3 player
- Photographic equipment
- Anti-bacterial hand wipes/antiseptic lotions
- Mobile phone

Contact Details

Vijver (pronounced Favour) Jonck
Volunteer Co-ordinator

Cell: +27 72 613 2261

Email: info@saasa.org.za