



Umoya Khulula Wildlife Centre

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Umoya Khulula Wildlife Centre is a certified non-profit organisation and volunteer project.





Introduction

Umoya Khulula Wildlife centre is a non-profit organisation dealing in the rehabilitation and release of indigenous South African wildlife. As a volunteer, you're going to get your hands dirty, but the reward, knowing you have helped rescue and rehabilitate vulnerable animals, is worth the hard work!

You will play an integral part in carrying out daily activities for the care of the animals at the centre. This could include caring for bush babies, warthogs, antelopes, caracals, porcupines, or other wildlife. The centre's main goal is to get these animals back out into the wild where they belong. Many animals come in as ex pets, orphans or have been injured, depending on the situation will depend on the rehabilitation process the animal will go through.

You will primarily be working with owner Emma de Jager and Katharine the centres manager. Some of the activities include preparing food, feeding the animals, cleaning enclosures, harvesting vegetation, monitoring behaviour, as well as other chores needed for the daily well-being of the residents. Although there is a daily routine, rescue and rehabilitation work can be unpredictable, so expect the unexpected – you never know what kinds of animals will need your help so you will need to be ready for anything!



Accommodation

You will stay on location at the Umoya Khulula Wildlife Centre, a beautiful property surrounded by citrus farms, forests, and beautiful ravines. Meals are served under a overlooking the lush ravine.

The volunteer dorms are cosy and split by gender. Each dorm can sleep up to 6 volunteers and they are each equipped with a fully functioning toilet and shower attached. The highlight, of course, is your very own jacuzzi just steps away from the volunteer house, the perfect place to relax and enjoy the African sunsets.

There is a town located 30 minutes away from the centre, which volunteer will get the chance to visit once or twice a week. Volunteers will be able to get anything they need from there. Wi-Fi is limited, but available at the centre in the communal area. We highly recommend that all volunteers purchase a South African SIM card (MTN is the best in this area) in order to stay in touch with friends and family during your visit

Makes sure to bring clothes that you do not mind getting dirty!!! Working with the animals you get very messy so comfy clothes that you don't mind not taking back with you are ideal. Please also see the included packing list for the other items that you will need. Clothes washing is offered at the centre once a week for a small charge of R50 per wash to help cover the electricity, water, and staff cost.

Vaccinations are also required for this project, please see Medical Information in the Travel Information Section for more details.



Activities

Volunteers get to learn and assist with everything that is happening at the centre. Each day volunteers assist to clean and feed all the animals, help hand raise any orphans that come in. You will get an opportunity to learn about South African wildlife and how to conserve it, assist with medical procedures (if appropriate), help local farms with taking out snares (traps), collecting enrichment for the animals, building new enclosures, maintaining structures, monitoring the animals in preparation for release, integrating any social animals into a group and helping with any releases.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that you will see a release, but we hope that you do. We do release more animals in October – March as the conditions for herbivores are better in these months. Carnivore releases happen all year round.

The centre holds a permit for over 70 different species of animals. It is always hard to say what is going to be at the centre during your stay, as it changes so often. Some of the regular species that come into the centre are bushbabies, tree squirrels, warthogs, antelopes, hippos, jackals, mongoose, caracals, birds, owls, and tortoises.

Animals need to be feed and cleaned everyday but after morning chores the weekends are more relaxed. Sometimes the centre has nocturnal, sick or baby animals that need night-time feeding and care. There is a rota put in place to ensure duties are shared and everyone gets a night off.



Additional Excursions

Volunteers will have an opportunity to go on excursions, giving you the chance to explore the lowveld and its surrounding areas. Please note that any and all excursions are at your own extra cost which is payable directly to the project. Possible excursions include but are not limited to:

Kruger National Park – is the biggest game reserve in South Africa hosting all of our majestic animals. The trip includes 2 days and one night in the park where you will be sleeping in chalets and listening to the amazing natural sounds of the bush. All meal will be provided throughout the trip. You will be guided around the park and if you are lucky you will get to see the big 5 (lion, rhino, buffalo, elephant, and leopard). ***Cost – R4,000.00** (Includes transport, guide, meals, accommodation, and park entry fees).

Tree Canopy Tour – Fly through the mountains from tree to tree. You will get to zip line in one of the most beautiful places on earth. The excursion is situated in the mountains and boasts beautiful waterfalls and scenery, and if you lucky you might get a glimpse of the rare Samango monkey that is highly endangered. ***Cost – R 850.00** (includes entrance, transport, and lunch)

Panarama Scenic Tour – You will get to see more of the beauty that South Africa has to offer and dive into the traditional markets where you can buy authentic souvenirs. This trip stops at some breath-taking sights like the 3 Rondavaals and God's Window. And for all the adrenalin junkies there is a big bungee swing where you can glide over a gorge and if you not screaming too much enjoy the wonderful views. ***Cost – R800.00** (Includes transport and entrance, Excludes lunch and the big swing)



Project Dates & Cost

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

This project is suitable for persons over the age of 18, who have an interest in caring for wildlife. Volunteers need to be in good health with a moderate level of fitness. It is a great opportunity for those wishing to enter into the veterinary or rehabilitation field, or if you have just completed your studies and wish to gain practical experience.

PROGRAM DATES

The rehabilitation centre is open all year round. Arrivals and departures to the project are on Sundays only and requires a minimum stay of 2 weeks.

PROJECT FEES

Whilst admission onto the projects requires a minimum 2 weeks stay, you can stay as long as you like or can afford.

<u>Duration</u>	<u>Price</u>
2 weeks (14 days)	R 12,000
3 weeks (21 days)	R 15,600
4 weeks (28 days)	R 19,200
5 weeks (35 days)	R 22,800
6 weeks (42 days)	R 26,400
7 weeks (49 days)	R 30,000
8 weeks (56 days)	R 33,600

For stays over 8 weeks please contact us for a quotation as additional discounts will be given.

Prices are shown in South African Rand. For your local currency conversion rates check out

www.xe.com

*Please note that any bank charges for payments will be for your account.

**A 30% non-refundable deposit is payable to confirm your booking and full payment is due no later than 42 days prior to your arrival. You are welcome to make one full payment should you wish to do so, however your booking can not be confirmed until minimum payment has been received.

***Any payments made via PayPal will incur an additional 1.5% Service fee.

PRICE INCLUDES

- o Return road transfer from Hoedspruit airport to your project.
- o All Accommodation whilst on the project.
- o Wi-Fi (Where applicable)
- o 3 meals per day at your project.
- o Transport within the program.
- o All Project activities as described.
- o All project services as described.

PRICE EXCLUDES

- o All Flights and/or transfers other than those described above.
- o All drinks such as Alcohol and soft drinks (Safe drinking water is provided)
- o All personal snacks and any other luxury items you can't live without.
- o Social events.
- o Eating out (any meals at restaurants is at your own cost)
- o Any Excursions offered by the project
- o Extra activities on excursions

For an additional fee of R700/night, Scales Volunteers can provide overnight accommodation in Johannesburg between flights on your arrival or return from your project, including a return airport shuttle to transport you between OR Tambo airport and your accommodation.

Should you prefer a cheaper alternative to flying between OR Tambo International airport to Hoedspruit Domestic airport, Scales Volunteers can also provide you with a road transfer for only R1,600 return. (Please note this shuttle service has set scheduled departure times)

To cover any additional expenses, such as personal/luxury items, cost of excursions or for meals when eating out, we would suggest that you consider having access to approximately R500 per week of your stay. ATMs are readily available throughout Hoedspruit and accept all major credit cards. Please consult your bank regarding charges and it is also advised that you notify them that you will be travelling abroad.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Luxury Safari Break

If at the end of your Volunteer Program, you would like to treat yourself to a little bit of luxury at an affordable price contact us for more information about the Luxury Lodge options close to your project.





Weather & Climate

During the Summer months (September to March) it can get extremely hot and humid. Average temperatures for summer are 18c to 45c. At times it has been known to reach temperatures as high as 50c, but this is very rare. Make sure to bring plenty of high factor sun cream, a hat and insect repellent.

During the Winter months (April to August) it is mostly warm during in the day, but the temperature drops as the sun goes down, make the evenings, night-time and first light very cold. Average temperatures for winter vary between 5c at night and up to 25c during the day. Sunscreen is still recommended during winter months. The insects tend to disappear during the colder months, but it is still a good idea to bring some insect repellent just in case.

If you would like to research more about the weather you can expect during the specific time of your trip, then we recommend that you check out wunderground.com as they give access to extensive historical weather data for almost all chosen locations.

As with any natural events, we are unable to guarantee that the weather you encounter will be as described, this is merely an indication to help advise you on what to expect and what weather to pack for.



Travel Information

HOW TO GET THERE

You will need to fly to OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg as this is the closest international airport to the project. There are regular international flights into Johannesburg's OR Tambo Airport and if you require assistance with selecting a flight, please do not hesitate to ask and we might be able to assist you, however SCALES Volunteers do not offer flights as part of our packages.

From there you will need to get a connecting internal flight from Johannesburg to Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport. Here you will be met by a member of the team and driven directly to your project.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

It is your responsibility to ensure that you meet the passport and visa requirements for entry into South Africa. Ensure that your Passport is Valid for your trip and for a minimum of 6 months after your return.

Please check with your nearest South African High Commission or the relevant South African Diplomatic website for the country in which you reside for more information regarding your specific visa requirements.

It is also your responsibility to ensure that you meet the COVID-19 requirements for entry into South Africa and any other country you might be passing through.

MEDICAL & PERSONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Prior to travelling, you should visit your Doctor/Healthcare Professional to obtain advice on immunization and general health requirements. The Greater Kruger National Park is generally a low to medium risk malaria area, but you should consult your Doctor/Healthcare Professional about the appropriate prophylactics. Ensure that you declare any medical information we should be aware of on your booking form including any allergies and/or dietary requirements.

As you will be working with wild animals the project requires you to provide proof of vaccination for Tetanus, Hepatitis A and Rabies.

In the local town, which is 30 minutes away from the project, is a private hospital and doctor surgery. They do except international travellers, but you will need to arrange your travel insurance at home prior to your stay. When arranging this please make sure that you are covered to work with animals as this is not generally automatically included.

INSURANCE

It is very important that you take out adequate travel insurance for your trip to cover such events as cancellation due to illness, accident or injury, personal accident and personal liability, loss of or damage to baggage. SCALES Volunteers or Scales Conservation Fund will not be responsible or liable if you fail to take adequate or no insurance cover at all. You will be required to submit a copy of your insurance policy / certificate with your travel information prior to departure.

CURRENCY

South African Rand. As the project is situated in the middle of the bush it is very hard to change currency, so we recommend that you exchange any cash prior to arrival. We also recommend the use of bank/travel cards over cash for security purposes. All shops accept Visa and Mastercard, as well as other well-known providers. However please ensure to contact your bank to notify them of your travel plans before you leave your country of origin to avoid your card being flagged as fraudulently used and subsequently blocked. We highly recommend travel cards as you can lock in your currency and do not charge withdrawals. Again, these should be arranged prior to departure.

SAFETY

The project is based in a safe community, and you won't have to worry whilst you are at your project, however we do want to give you some basic guidelines in order to ensure you have the best experience during your stay.

- Don't accept lifts from strangers
- Don't leave valuable things on display
- Don't "flash"/display any large sums of cash
- You will be in a wildlife area so beware of snakes, scorpions, and centipedes.
- Don't approach any animals that are in the wild as they are unpredictable.
- Follow project rules at all times. Always follow direction and requests from the Project Staff, they are looking out for your safety.
- Don't be shy to ask questions!





What to Pack

The suggested packing list below should help you with deciding what to pack. If you are unsure about any items or have any questions, then please ask. We are here to help!

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Original and certified copy of your passport
- All tickets and receipts for travel.
- Certified copy of any prescription medicines (Original only if necessary for re-fill)
- Original and certified copy of any Medical or Insurance Cards
- Original and certified copy of your Drivers Licence (If necessary)
- Copy of your Travel Insurance
- Copy of your Travel Itinerary

CLOTHING

- Hat / Cap
- Sunglasses
- Warm Jacket / Fleece
- Waterproof Jacket
- Clothes that you don't mind getting dirty, including
 - Durable and neutral-coloured shirts / t-shirts / Vests
 - Durable and neutral coloured long sleeve shirts (seasonal, but also useful for covering yourself from the sun)
 - Durable and neutral-coloured shorts
 - Durable and neutral-coloured trousers
- Socks & Underwear

- Comfortable Walking Boots
- Sandals / flip flips
- Trainers
- Gloves & Beanie (Seasonal)
- Swimwear
- Appropriate Sleeping Clothes (Accommodation is shared)
- A couple of smart outfits for town trips or trips out to the local restaurants.

TOILETRIES

- Shampoo / Conditioner
- Soap
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Hairbrush / comb
- Bath Towel
- Personal Toiletries – Razor, deodorant, sanitary products etc

GENERAL

- Water Bottle (Minimum 2 litre)
- Torch / Head Torch
- Day Pack
- Camera (Including batteries/charger and spare memory cards)
- Personal First aid kit (Plasters, Antiseptic, Prescription Medicine etc)
- Sunscreen (Factor 50)
- Laptop or iPad
- Insect repellent
- Travel adaptor Plug

RECOMMENDED

- Binoculars
- Reading material
- Power bank
- Positive attitude
- Mosquito Net

We recommend acquiring a local mobile SIM Card from one of SA's "pre-paid" options (Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, Telkom and Virgin), which are inexpensive and can be used to keep in contact with project staff, our office, friends and family or anyone else you might need to contact during your stay.

If you still have space left in your bag, please contact us to find out if there is anything that you can bring out for your project, such as supplies or donations that are waiting for transport.

WE ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO HELPING
YOU PLAN YOUR NEW
ADVENTURE!

