

Extensive information:

Project Big Cats
in South Africa

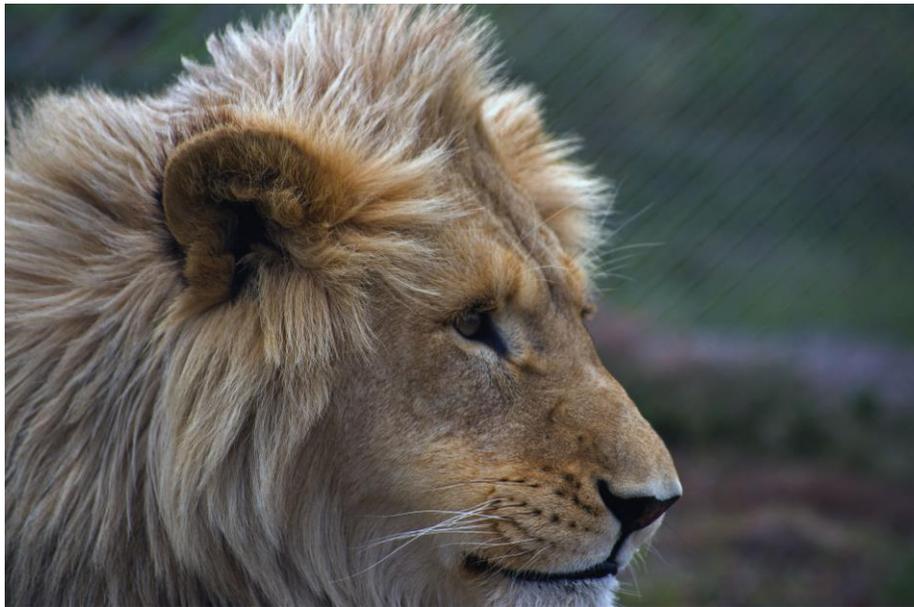


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Note: Annually the text of this extensive information will be developed and will be kept up with regularly in cooperation with this project. Because there can be made some changes or because there will be some changes be necessary because of certain and unexpected results, etc., it could be that this text not every time will compare in practise at this project.

Join the project with an open mind, and a flexible attitude and you will leave South Africa with unique, special and unforgettable memories!



1. The project

1.1 About this project

This project is a sanctuary for lions and big cats and is an environmentally friendly sanctuary for any captive bred big cats. At the sanctuary they will be protected and prosper for the rest of their lives.

One of the Sanctuary's main purposes is to be an educational platform where we create awareness about conditions big cats face in captivity, and how animal welfare and enrichment play a vital role in giving them the best captive life possible.

The project is a true sanctuary where no cub petting, breeding or trading takes place. The project is a blue print of how a non-profit sanctuary, focusing on animal welfare, can become self-sufficient, and we aim to show all breeding facilities in Southern Africa how they can change into sustainable ethical projects.

The sanctuary believes in the connection between both environmental and wildlife conservation and aims to become the first "green" Big Cats sanctuary in South Africa, and run solely on solar energy.

The owners of the Sanctuary have first-hand experience with some of the lion breeding programs in South Africa and were once volunteers themselves. When they however found out what happens at these breeding programs in the name of so-called 'conservation' they decided to make it their lives work to open a true sanctuary; a home for these animals to live the best life they can. Unfortunately none of these cats can be released into the wild so their fate would most probably be the hunting industry if they would not have been bought by the Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary is situated on a 40 hectare paradise with a beautiful home for the animals, the owners and the many volunteers visiting. The land is filled with lots of large trees, a natural spring and an amazing 360 degree mountain view!

We strongly believe in the saying "In union there is strength" - and by standing together, human and animal, we believe in the possibility of a prosperous future for the big cats, and we take pride in 'speaking' on their behalf.

At the moment, the following big cats feel at home at the Sanctuary: lions, leopards, jackals, caracals and even some non-indigenous tigers.



2. Volunteers

By being a volunteer on this project you will support this project's work in two ways:

1. Volunteer donations contribute to the day-to-day costs of running the project. These costs include food, healthcare and the provision of new and updated housing and its enrichment for the animals also general support and maintenance of the reserve.
2. Volunteer participation in the work of the project is essential, as each volunteer brings unique skills and perspectives to the organization.

2.1 Period / duration

- Volunteers are welcome all year round.
- The duration of your stay must be 2 weeks or longer
- Start dates and end dates are on Saturdays.

2.2 Requirements

There are no specific skills, nor previous animal care experience, required to participate at the project.

However, **it must be important that volunteers understand the importance of the following:**

- To adapt to the project instead of the other way around, the animals come first and you can be part of this.
- To be passionate about working with animals.
- To feel passionate about nature.
- To respect and guarantee the vision and mission of the project.
- To be able to show flexibility with regards to tasks and duties.
- To be able to work in a team.
- To be able to bear responsibility.
- To be reliable and trustworthy.
- To be able to take initiative in any required tasks

Any misbehavior or not complying with the rules and regulations can result in immediate termination of your placement without refund.

2.3 Fees

The costs per person to participate at this project are as specified in the Global Spirits' website.

These costs include:

- Pick up upon arrival and drop off at Cape Town airport
- Accommodation in volunteer house
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Onsite volunteer coordinator available 24/7
- One social activity
- A donation to the project for food for the animals, maintenance of the cages used for big cats and general support and maintenance of the reserve
- Training and supervision
- Administration costs

These costs not include:

- Flight to and from Cape Town, South Africa
- Passport / visa
- Travel insurance, which is compulsory for all participants and a cancellation insurance
- Dinner
- Wi-Fi (50 rand paid on arrival)
- Personal expenses and private luxuries (snacks, cool drinks, alcohol etc.)
- Lodging in Cape Town on arrival and departure if required
- Activities and sightseeing that require a fee

2.4 Accommodation

During your holiday with us you will become a part of our family and enjoy our modern, yet cosy home. The house is situated in the middle of the property, so you will be mesmerized by the spectacular mountain view and feel at peace with nature whilst listening to the lions roar.

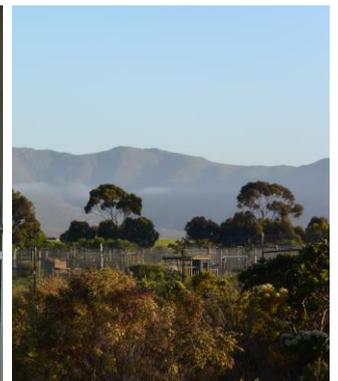
The house consists of 5 bedrooms with 5 bathrooms.

You will be sharing a room with 3 new volunteer friends, or optionally enjoy our couples room.

For the nature lovers and brave-hearted people, you also have the choice to spend a night or two in hammocks by our old ruins under the African stars.

There is also a spacious and fully equipped kitchen for everyone to cook and a big living and dining room area where we enjoy dinners together, games nights, film evening or just relaxing with a nice book.

Outside there is a traditional South African braai (BBQ) area (indoor and outdoor), and a lovely pool to cool down with a garden to sunbath for the hot summer days!



2.5 The work

This project will offer you the unique opportunity to be involved behind the scenes of the Sanctuary and how to care for its animals - daily tasks can include:

- Caring for the amazing big cats
- Enrichment program
- Preparation of food and feeding
- Cleaning and maintaining enclosures
- General farm work
- Educating visitors

Please note that as a Sanctuary we do not allow animal petting and close interaction with our cats, so please do not expect to play with them and pet them. Any project that does allow that kind of interaction cannot be regarded as a true Sanctuary.

Working hours really depends on the weather and the season of the year. Summer days can be very hot so working hours will be adjusted.

In general expect to work 5 days a week for 6-8 hours a day with weekends being free to explore the surroundings.



2.6 The project staff and other volunteers

Guidance and other volunteers

The project staff consist of 6 enthusiastic people.

Guidance will be offered by experienced coordinators that will supervise your daily work. Under no circumstance will you be allowed to work with any of the cats alone or without proper supervision. Days will be scheduled with different activities every day.

You most likely won't be alone when volunteering at the Sanctuary and meet both local as international volunteers. We get volunteers from all over the world (from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the UK, USA and many other countries).

We believe in the equal importance of both humans and animals, and we will do our absolute best to give you the holiday of a lifetime. We know from personal experience that this includes both quality time with animals, as well as with staff and the other volunteers.

Hearing a lion roar up close, getting love and recognition from a leopard, hearing the chuffing of a tiger, or seeing them appreciate and love the toys you make to enrich their lives = BLISS.

In addition to the indescribable bonds you will form with the animals, friendships will be formed and together at the end of the day we all can share stories, hopes and dreams around the bonfire with a cold drink watching the famous African sunset.



3. South Africa

3.1 Geography

South Africa occupies the southern tip of Africa, its long coastline stretching more than 2500 km from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic coast southwards around the tip of Africa and then north to the border with subtropical Mozambique on the Indian Ocean.

To the north of South Africa lies Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland, while the Kingdom of Lesotho is an independent enclave surrounded by South African territory.

South Africa is made up of nine provinces; Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal.

There are three capital cities in South Africa; Cape Town, which is the parliamentary capital in the Western Cape, Pretoria in Gauteng, which is the administrative capital and Bloemfontein which is the judicial capital. Johannesburg in Gauteng is the largest city.

South Africa has been referred to as the 'rainbow nation', a title which shows the country's cultural diversity.

The population of South Africa is one of the most complex and diverse in the world. South Africa has approx. 52 million inhabitants of which 79% is Black African, 9% is white, 9% is coloured or mixed race and the rest is Asian/Indian.

South Africa also has 11 official languages, with isiXhosa, English and Afrikaans spoken in the Area description.

3.2 Project Location

The project is located near Stanford, which is a small village in the Western Cape. It has 4800 citizens. With the Kleinrivier running through the village, stunning mountain views and only 30 min. away from the ocean, Stanford is ideally positioned for a laid-back getaway. Stanford has some nice antique stores, restaurants, vineyards, coffee shops and more. Besides this, for the ones looking for some more adventure, there is also horse riding, boat cruises, hikes, bird watching and great white shark cage diving, all within a 20km radius of Stanford.



Stanford is beautiful. Its preserved Victorian cottages, dirt roads, mountains and river make it one of the most popular villages in the country.

It has the most beautiful river, stretching all the way down to the Hermanus lagoon. You can swim in it, kayak, float or launch a boat on it. You can float paper boats down it and keep your feet cool in it and locals also use it to irrigate their veggie crop. Stanford has a market square, which is very rare, where we hold farm markets, play cricket and arrange the odd festival on it. The town is famous worldwide for offering the most bird species in one place in the world. Bring your binoculars and notebooks and take a trip down the river to discover them yourself!

Gansbaai and area

Gansbaai is named the BIG-2-TOWN after the numerous Great white sharks that cruise in the waters east of Danger Point Peninsula and the many Southern Right Whales that hang out around the shores on the western side of the Danger Point Peninsula between July and December.

The locals still see it as the fishing village it has always been. The harbour is still the point of gravity in town and every local in Gansbaai, whatever his profession, is also a fisherman. If you need a craftsman on the first day of the lobster season, you won't find him. He is at sea, catching lobsters with his neighbours. In almost every drive-way in Gansbaai, you can see a trailer with a boat parked next to the family car.

In spite of the developing tourism industry, the fishing industry is still the economical heart-beat of Gansbaai. The fleet of fishing boats and the fishmeal factory in the harbour employ a substantial number of people. Locals call the occasional typical smell from the fishmeal factory the "smell of money". The Abalone farm, just outside Gansbaai, immediately on the shores of Danger Point Peninsula, produces this traditional local culinary delight in large quantities for the Asian market.

Gansbaai is the point of gravity of the Danger Point Peninsula area. Gansbaai is the place where the banks, petrol stations and most of the shops are. The tourism office can be found in the middle of Main Street. There are various restaurants and bars dotted around Main Street, in the backstreets and in the harbour. It is a very Gansbaai-thing to do: drink the locally brewed Birkenhead beer in a harbour-bar and watch the fishing boats return against the setting sun over Walker Bay.

Gansbaai is an unpretentious town with real people. Newcomers, guests and travellers are traditionally welcomed with open arms as long as they don't tell the locals how to lead their lives ("I do my thing, you do yours, you are welcome"). The fierce independence of the early nomadic fishermen and the nomadic farmers has anchored itself in the blood of the locals and is a welcome and effective barrier against the artificial elements that often go hand in hand with a developing tourism-industry. Gansbaai is strongly connected to the sea - a working fishing village that will maintain its character.

3.4 Climate and clothing

Temperatures during the year:

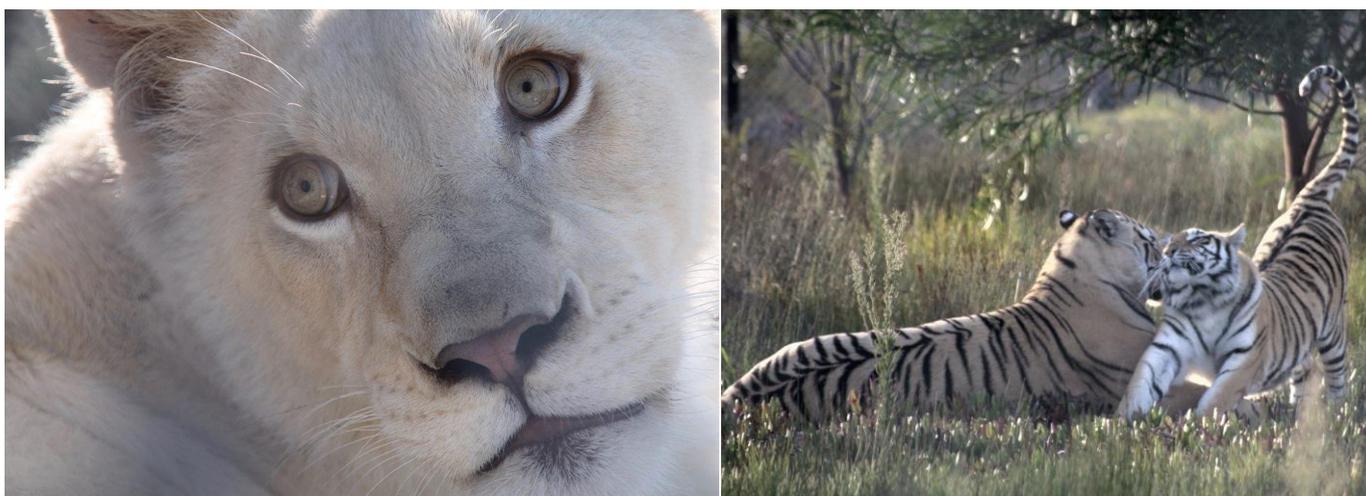
Summer (Dec, Jan and Feb): 16 – 50 ° Celsius

Autumn (Mar, April and May): 10 - 35° Celsius

Winter (June, July and Aug): -2 - 25 ° Celsius

Spring (Sep, Oct and Nov): 10 - 35 ° Celsius

The summers are hot, both day and night, so bring light clothes and shoes. Even though winter temperatures do not fall below 10 degrees, the wind, periodical rain and coastal humidity is unpredictable, so make sure to bring nice warm clothes, waterproof jacket and trouser.



4. Travel information

4.1 Flight arrangements

Volunteers have to make their own flight arrangements. We advise you not to reserve your flight before we have confirmed your participation at the project, unless you will plan your participation at the project as a part of a bigger journey.

If you are unable to arrange your flight yourself for any reason, Global Spirit will be able to help. If you would like us to help you, please note this on the booking sheet.

4.2 Passport and visa

Your passport must have enough pages for any visa. Your passport should have 2 pages free for every country to be visited. Please ensure that you take your own passport out from your hotel / backpackers safe the night before departure. It is absolutely necessary, that you make a copy of your passport and give it to your supervisors; we strongly recommend that you also leave a copy at home or with some friends. Please note that South Africa insists on people having 2-free pages available when you enter. Keep this in mind if you are going to fly home from South Africa after completing a tour to multiple African countries. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after your date of departure from Africa. You are personally responsible for ensuring that passports, visas, vaccination certificates and other travel documents are in order and for all costs relating thereto.

As visa requirements vary considerably, please contact the various embassies or a visa service agent to recheck, visa requirements at least 4 weeks prior to departing. Please note that visas are the responsibility of the volunteer, and that GlobalSpirit will not be held responsible for clients being denied entry, should they not be in the possession of the relevant visas. All travellers must be in possession of a valid onward/return air ticket.

Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. All volunteers are advised to check their entry requirements with their own embassy or consulate!

4.3 Insurances

Every volunteer is required to have a travel insurance policy (which covers extra medical costs, accidents and repatriation costs), and cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Without this travel insurance you will not be permitted to work at this project.

Global Spirit can help you arrange travel insurance (for volunteers who live in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany) and cancellation insurance (for all volunteers). If you would like assistance, please indicate this on the booking sheet. If you already have insurances (or if you are a volunteer living outside The Netherlands, Belgium or Germany) please send a copy of the policy to Global Spirit.

4.4 Arrival in Cape Town, South Africa

You will be responsible for arranging your own transport to Cape Town, South Africa. Providing we have received your flight/arrival details, a staff member of the project will pick you up from the Airport and bring you to the project.

Start dates and end dates are on Saturdays. It would be lovely if you could try to arrive/depart between 10am and 4pm on the specific days. Should you, however, like to make alternative arrangements with us, we will always try and accommodate you. We can arrange pick-up and drop-off on alternative days at an additional cost of R 500.

4.5 Safety

Safety is an issue that is paramount in the minds of volunteers visiting South Africa. Safety is important to us and by following just a few guidelines your safety in South Africa can be increased incredibly. Although South Africa is in many aspects a developed country, much of its population, particularly in rural areas, lives in great poverty.

When you stay in South Africa, the odds are that you will have a safe and incident-free volunteering period. However, crime and violence, as well as unexpected difficulties, can happen.

Hoping to help you avoid serious difficulties during your visit to South Africa, you should keep the following in mind:

- Safety on the Street: use the same common sense travelling in South Africa that you would at home.
- Don't walk around with all your valuables visible.
- Use taxis at night and let somebody always know where you are going.
- Try to seem purposeful when you move about. Even if you are lost, act as if you know where you are going. When possible, ask directions from individuals in authority.

The project staff looks after your safety in multiple ways during your stay:

- Offering safe and well equipped accommodation.
- The coordinators are prepared for your stay, and have been instructed to keep you as safe as possible.
- The Code of Conduct, which will be spoken about and signed has clear 'do's and don'ts' which we urge volunteers to stick to.

5. Medical advice

Because volunteers will work with animals and sometimes you will have direct contact with these animals, you will have to take precautions for your own protection and that of the animals.

5.1 Advise

As Global Spirit is not a professional medical service, we advise you to go to a local clinic or medical authority in your own country for the appropriate medical advice.

This document is provided for information purposes only.

Do not visit your local clinic or medical authority later than six weeks before departure.

As a participant in this project, you are responsible for yourself. Global Spirit is not held responsible/liable for any unexpected casualties. All volunteers will participate solely at their own risk and Global Spirit or the project cannot be held liable for any damages, loss, theft, injuries or death before, during or after your stay.

Our advice is to behave responsibly and always listen to the project staff.

5.2 Required vaccinations

There are no vaccinations required at this project, although Yellow Fever vaccination is required for travellers arriving from a yellow-fever-infected area in Africa or the Americas. (Only in many countries it won't be given because it isn't effective, but your vaccination book will be signed because many countries in the world will check it).

This part of South Africa is malaria free. It is best to contact your local physician before you leave your country to check what inoculations they advise you to have. Rabies is NOT common here and no real risk, so no need for that.

However, while there are risks anywhere you travel, South Africa has a relatively salubrious climate and the levels of hygiene, health care, and water treatment make it a pretty safe destination. Our policy is that we do not allow volunteers to be exposed to any serious health risks. Guarantees are impossible to give but we do believe that we can offer healthy working environments for volunteers, staying within reasonability of risks involved of course.

5.3 Recommended vaccinations

You are really recommended to be vaccinated against:

- DTP
- Hepatitis A (and B if you want to participate for a long time)
- Typhoid
- Yellow fever (in many countries it won't be given because it isn't effective, but your vaccination book will be signed because many countries in the world will check it).
- Rabies

These vaccinations are not required, but are still very important to have. If you don't take them it's on your own responsibility. Global Spirit is not held responsible/liable for any unexpected casualties.

5.4 Medical service

For minor medical needs, the nearest clinic is in Stanford.

6. Personal equipment

Some items are provided at the project, such as:

- Pillow
- Sheet and blanket will be provided (but bring your own sleeping bag for extra warmth)
- Towel

CLOTHES AND SHOES - The Sanctuary is situated in what you can call “the modern Africa”, but even so you can expect to get your hands and clothes dirty. So remember to bring outdoor clothes that you can, in worst case, leave behind if they get too worn out.

We do have a washing machine so it is sufficient to bring the amount of clothes for only one week. There will be the opportunity to go out for meals and some fun in Hermanus and maybe even Cape Town, so if you like to dress up a little bit some nicer clothes will come in handy.

Shoes are always something ladies love to bring with, but you do not need too many! We recommend three different pairs of shoes so you have got a mixture to suit you and the weather conditions. Comfortable, hard wearing shoes/boots will be the main thing, in addition to a suitable pair of sandals and flip flops for those warm days on the farm and when we head off to the beach! Make sure to bring your wellingtons (gumboots), even in the spring/autumn – you will need these to work on the farm. If you are coming during summertime, remember that we have a nice swimming pool so bring your bathing suit and a bathing towel.

FIRST AID KIT – You will be working with animals, in addition to doing some physical work, so bring plasters and bandages for those 'just in case' situations. The sun is hot and it is easy to get a bit dehydrated at times, so some rehydration packets and Paracetamol are always worth packing.

TOILETRIES – This is Africa and the sun is very hot, so please bring sun cream with a high factor and a soothing after sun. You can expect a visit or two from the many insects that live together with us on the farm, so make sure to bring the lifesaving insect repellent, and the itch-soothing lotion. We know some of you are crazy about the anti-bacterial face/hand wipes, so bring it with, but not a necessity. We are very down to earth on the farm, but bring some make up if you like to dress up a little bit for a fun night out!

LIGHTWEIGHT TRAVEL SLEEPING BAG – We do provide duveys with linen and a towel, but if you might want to sleep outside by the old ruins, the travel sleeping bags can come in handy. If you fancy going on an extra trip during your stay, or you would simply like an extra layer in bed when it is cold, the travel sleeping bag might become your best friend!

6.1 Essential items

Below you find a list of necessary items for a comfortable and enjoyable experience. The weather varies greatly throughout the year so please make sure to check before your arrival.

You only need to pack for a week as laundry is available on site:

- O Valid passport and Visa
- O Travel insurance documents
- O 7 days of work shirts
- O Several long sleeve shirts for morning/nighttime
- O Two pairs of jeans or long pants
- O Two pairs of shorts
- O 7 days of underpants
- O 7 days of socks

- Warm sweater or fleece
- Bathing suit and pool/beach towel
- Gloves, hat, mittens (June – August)
- Comfortable house shoes/slippers
- Warm pajamas
- Leisure clothes for off days
- Wellingtons (gumboots), sandals and casual shoes

Larger portions of toiletries can be bought in town, so depending on your length of stay, only a travel size may be necessary.

- Shampoo (+ Conditioner)
- Toothbrush + Toothpaste
- Body Wash + Loofah
- Personal products
- Sunscreen (+ Aloe)
- Personal Prescriptions
- Contact lenses / Solution

6.2 Optional items

Here are some optional items, which you may choose to bring with you:

- A copy of your passport and visa
- Extra passport photos
- Reusable water bottle
- Sunglasses
- Hat (with a brim) or cap
- Mosquito, insect repellent and Itch Soothing Lotion
- Day pack / rug sack
- Water bottle
- A flashlight / head lamp
- Personal medical first-aid kit (with for example plasters, disinfectant, painkillers, etc.)
- Laptop / Digital Camera / Chargers
- Power Adapters (our outlets are 3 pronged)
- Binoculars
- An alarm clock
- A pen, notebook and address book
- Something against dehydration like ORS (we advise you to drink a lot of water)
- Imodium or other ant-diarrhoea medication
- Lightweight sleeping bag
- Books or magazines
- Spending money (Your fees will cover most of your expenses but if you like to enjoy a beer/wine or soda, want to buy some souvenirs or fancy a nice dinner eating out, excursions/trip in your leisure time, etc. we advise you to bring some extra money).

7. General information

7.1 Food and refreshments

We provide you with breakfast and lunch. All dinners are for your own account.

Please advise us of any known or possible medical condition or dietary restrictions.

As we normally have a nice variety of nationalities and different volunteers, most volunteers cook together and use the braai (BBQ) frequently. You also have the choice of cooking a nice homemade meal, or enjoy one of the many restaurants close by.

You will be taken on a weekly shopping trip, where you can buy groceries and other items from the many shops available.

Drinking of un-boiled water is not recommended. Drink only bottled water from bottles with a crown cork. The project offers drinking water for free.



7.2 Supermarkets and markets

Supermarkets: Volunteers will have the opportunity to do grocery- and other personal shopping at least once a week at either Hermanus or Gansbaai. The cities are not very large and the offers can be somewhat limited, so if you need any special personal items that are important and maybe difficult to find, then we suggest to bring your own.

Markets: .none in the surrounding

7.3 Laundry services

Laundry facilities are provided for personal use at the main house.
(You will be able to buy a small packet of washing powder when you buy your groceries).

7.4 Internet access and telephone

There is WIFI in the house so you can easily keep contact with friends and family!
We, however, want to mention that the signal and capacity is sometimes limited as we are situated on a farm.

WIFI is not free, you will pay 50 Rand on arrival.

To be connected in South Africa, you can purchase a local SIM card to use locally and to phone us if you need us. Please make sure your Smartphone is SIM lock free to be able to use this card.

7.5 Electricity

South Africa has an electricity voltage of 220 - 230 Volts. A 3-legged plug can be used. It would be handy if you bring an international adaptor with you, but you can check this in a specialised shop in your own country.

7.6 Transport during your stay

Tuesday is your activity day where you will be enjoying the amazing Overberg area together with the other volunteers. The project will arrange the transport and join the volunteers for the excursion activities.

If you want to go somewhere outside of the sanctuary on other days than excursion days, it is possible to order a taxi.

7.8 Excursion arrangements

Being situated close to many of South Africa's top tourist attractions makes this experience a perfect holiday.

Leisure time options:

- Cape Town with its Table Mountain, Robben Island, Cape Point to mention some.
- Hermanus with its unbelievable whale watching cove and wine tasting
- Gansbaai with its spectacular white shark diving,
- Some of the world's most amazing beaches on your door step
- Etc.

All excursions are at your own expense.



7.9 Currency

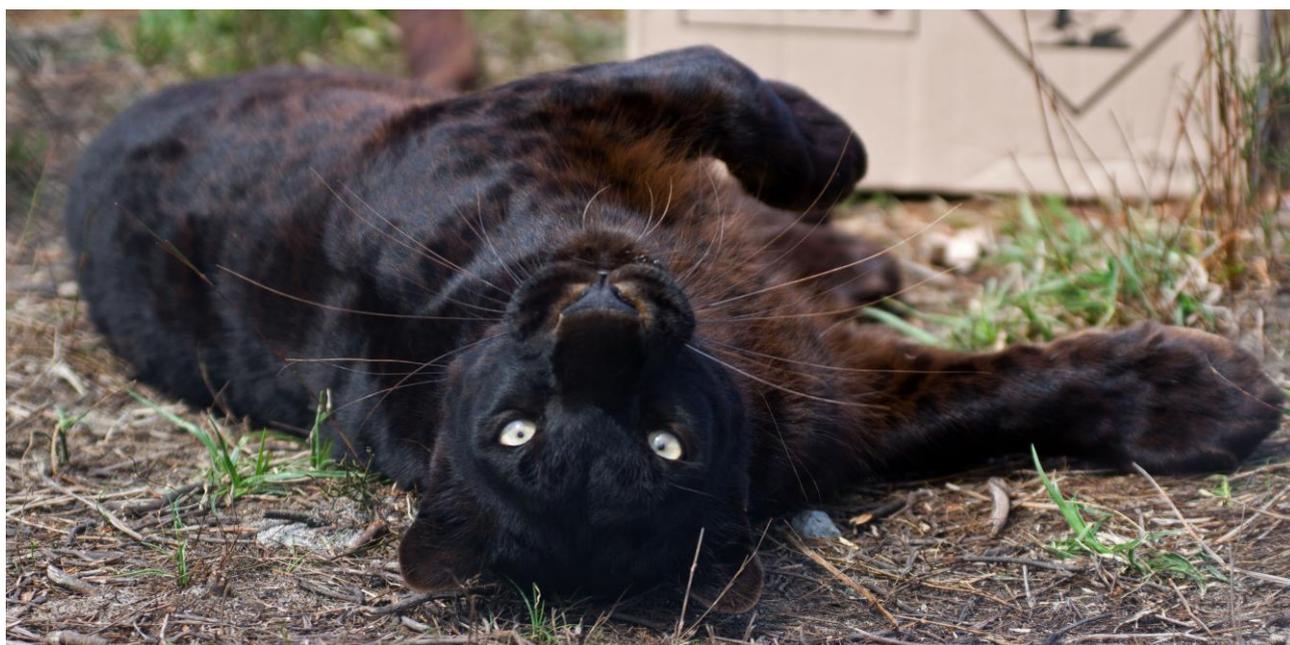
The monetary unit of South Africa is the South African Rand.

Foreign currency can be exchanged in most banks. Most major international credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa and their affiliates are widely accepted.

There is a bank in the the nearest city Hermanus (30 minutes away) whee you can make foreign exchange. In the nearby village Stanford you may find ATM to withdraw cash.

The banks are open on Monday – Friday from 09.00 am until 15.30 pm and Saturdays 09.00 am until 11.30 am.

All cash machines have instructions in English.



Website Global Spirit www.globalspirit.nl

If you have any questions, please contact us on info@globalspirit.nl