



Wildlife Manager Work Shadowing ANTELOPE PARK ZIMBABWE

At African Impact, we see ourselves as the on-the-ground AFRICANSPECIALISTS in volunteering. We were founded over 5 years ago in Zimbabwe and have our head office in Cape Town, South Africa, with supporting operations offices in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. To date we, together with our project managers out in the field, have had the privilege of sharing Africa with over 3,000 volunteers who were determined to make a difference in the amazing communities and conservation areas in which we work.

And they did... and so can you...

Your mission on the Antelope Park Wildlife Manager Work Shadowing Project...

Contribute to the welfare of the animals in this private game reserve whether that be the horses in stables, the orphaned elephants that are resident at the Park, the abundant game species and of course the lions of the African Lion Rehabilitation & Release into the Wild Program which was founded and still based at Antelope Park.



African Impact

PHYSICAL ADDRESS 6 Carlton Close, Noordhoek, 7985, Cape Town, South Africa.
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“The most brilliant part for me has been working with the lions in such a close-knit team. Not only have I learned more than I ever expected about the animals and their habitat, I’ve also made some brilliant friends and feel as though we’ve all helped to make a difference.”

Rachel Lonsdale, UK

Project Highlights:

- Direct hand-on experience with some of Africa’s most enigmatic species;
- Take an active role in the wildlife management of this private game reserve;
- Walk with lions as they practice their skills in preparation for release;
- Assist the leading program for the reintroduction of lions into the wild
- Immerse yourself in Zimbabwean culture and make friends for life!

African Lion Rehabilitation and Release into the Wild Programme:

African Impact has partnered with ALERT, the African Lion & Environmental Research Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the African lion. ALERT supports the Rehabilitation & Release into the Wild Program, founded at Antelope Park, which is seeking to provide solutions to the problem of rapidly decreasing lion populations by releasing into appropriate National Parks and reserves the wild borne offspring from rehabilitated captive bred lions, using a unique four stage program.

The program is a multi-faceted one as ALERT believes that for the lion to survive in viable numbers then its programs must also consider the environment within which it can thrive as well as the communities that live alongside it. As such the program incorporates the Conservation Centre for Wild Africa (CCWA) and the ALERT Communities Trust (ACT) to ensure that habitat is protected, that research is conducted to provide a basis for sound conservation management plans to be developed and that those communities bordering the conservation area are involved every step of the way to foster support for wildlife conservation.

All elements of the project are carried out in partnership with appropriate national and local authorities and we work alongside partner organizations to ensure that cross program cooperation is maximized.

Commercial enterprises are encouraged to develop around all programs to provide long-term financial security to the projects, and here at Antelope Park we work very closely with the “Walk with Lions” which operates stage one of the rehabilitation program. Tourists are given the opportunity to join the lions on their daily walks through the wild and experience our program first-hand. The additional funding raised by these walks goes back into the project to further our conservation and community development aims.

The highest standard of care for the lions whilst in captivity is paramount, and as such the program is linked to PAAZAB, which provides an ethical code for us to abide by in good animal husbandry techniques.

Further detailed information regarding ALERT and the lion release program can be found by visiting www.lionalert.org where a number of pdf documents are available to download providing a step by step guide to the project in full.

Your involvement:

The involvement of students and volunteers on the project is paramount to achieving our aims on all fronts. You can expect days to be long, but you will also be able to end each day knowing that you have given something back to Africa; having made a difference to the animals and people that you come into contact with.

With over seventy lions, four elephants, over 25 horses, mules and donkeys and more than 30 other mammal species in the 3000 acre private game reserve there is plenty of work to be done.



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Your primary task whilst on placement will be to assist the wildlife managers and their team of handlers, cage attendants, elephant guides and stables staff in all aspects of care for the animals in their charge.

You will also have the opportunity to assist the chief vet in his clinic located in the nearby city of Gweru. This busy practice handles all kinds of veterinary work including domestic pets and farm animals.

Please note that the list of tasks provided that you may be involved in offers a range of tasks that the wildlife managers undertake over a period of a year. You may not have the opportunity to take part in some of these tasks if that event does not happen to take place during the time you are at the project site. Your role will be varied.

Your daily tasks may include:

- Ensuring that the lions are correctly fed with appropriate amounts and types of feed;
- Sourcing meat to feed the lions – a huge task!
- Making sure the lion enclosures are properly maintained and cleaned;
- Making regular health checks of the animals to detect any problems early so that proper care can be provided before any issues become severe;
- Administering medication as and when appropriate following consultation with our wildlife vets (please note that our vets are based in Harare and not at the project site);
- Training staff in good animal welfare techniques;
- Maintaining accurate records on all animals' welfare;
- Liaising with the Park's management, guides and project managers;
- Preparing animals for transport or even travelling with them, when needed;
- Assisting our consultant vets during their regular visits to monitor the progress of the animals;
- Conduct game censuses on the free-ranging game species within the Park;
- Answering questions from the Park's regular visitors about the animals;
- Assist with school visits to the breeding program as part of our conservation education program.



Lion Walks. Spending time with the lions in the wild each day is an essential part of the cubs' upbringing. If the cubs are to be successfully released it is important that they spend time out in a natural environment. They need to adapt to it, learn from it, understand, observe, feel and smell the wild.

Since the start of this intensive lion walking programme, we have noted a marked increase in the lions' awareness of their natural surroundings, as well as an improvement in their hunting skills. The larger cubs are now able to take down smaller game species whilst out on walks, and these abilities are being enhanced each day whilst under the supervision of staff, students and volunteers.

Alongside the walks you will be involved in the care of the animals which overnight in enclosures. They need feeding, cleaning, and occasionally will need veterinary care to ensure that they are kept in the best of health.

Stables. Antelope Park operates a working stable with over 25 horses, mules and donkeys. Each day the animals need to be groomed and fed. The horses are allowed to feed within the Park each night, returning to stables every morning. You will assist our stables staff in ensuring that all of the animals are well looked after, checking on and treating any injuries that the horses sustain during the night or in their working day.



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Elephants. The Park is also home to four elephants, orphaned during the severe droughts of the 1990s. They take regular guest rides as well as taking part in a guest swimming program in one of dams. Each morning the elephants undergo a training session which gives us a vital opportunity to check on their condition and apply any care that is needed.

Free-ranging game. There are a large number of species living free within the reserve. Game counts need to be conducted to review the Parks game management plans and anti-poaching operations are vital to ensure the viability of the Parks species.

Throughout your placement you will meet regularly with the management to review your progress and discuss any issues you may have personally or with regards the implementation of improved welfare standards and animal management protocols.



PROJECT PRICING:

2011

2 weeks GBP 1095 / US\$ 1975 / EUR 1435

4 weeks GBP 1985 / US\$ 3575 / EUR 2585

2012

2 weeks GBP 1210 / US\$ 2175 / EUR 1575

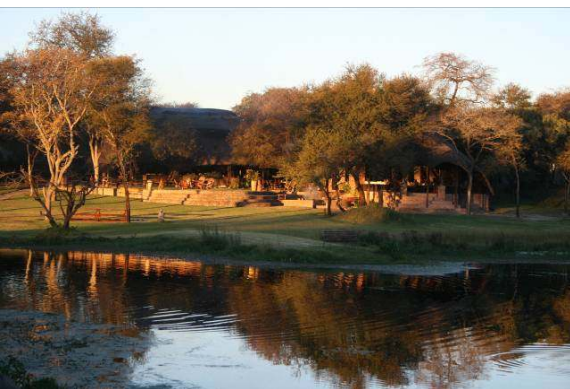
4 weeks GBP 2195 / US\$ 3950 / EUR 2855

Project Cost Includes:

- Project Fee: this entails financing that goes directly back into the project that you are involved with. This project fee facilitates funding for items such as food for lions and elephants, management and maintenance of lion enclosures, and the development of the lion breeding and rehabilitation programme.
- All transfers to and from and overnights in Bulawayo or Harare International Airports upon your arrival and departure, if required.
- Assistance in your projects and comprehensive orientation by various trained guides and staff during your stay.
- Any wildlife education talks that take place during your stay and that you might wish to partake in
- Full board and lodging which includes 3 meals a day at our Safari Camp dining area.
- Unlimited tea, coffee and juice throughout the day.
- Weekly laundry service during your stay.
- The service of a cleaner to attend to your room each day.

Project Cost Excludes:

- All items of a personal nature, such as curios, gifts, clothing (work and other).
- Return flights to Harare or Bulawayo International Airports.
- Email and telephone calls made during your placement (charged out at cost).
- Any excursions over and above your planned itinerary in Zimbabwe e.g. visit to the Victoria Falls.
- Personal insurance cover for the duration of your placement, which is expected to include cover for repatriation.
- Cokes, beers, chocolate and other food items not included in your meals



Project Accommodation:

- You will be staying in comfortable twin or quad room thatched accommodation at the main reserve camp
- Other facilities include swimming pool and internet access which is sometimes only sporadically available due to our remote location
- Volunteers have separate clean shower & toilet facilities to the rest of the camp which are located adjacent to the sleeping area
- Your room will be cleaned daily by the housekeeping staff, and free use of the laundry service is available to all volunteers



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Please note that accommodation upgrades are available to those who wish to have a more 'comfortable' volunteer experience. Pricing available on request. Please contact your destination manager, Lesley Bredenkamp for further details: lesley@africanencounter.org

Project Meals:

You will enjoy 3 cooked meals a day. All meals are served as a buffet style and taken in the main camp dining room, a thatched building overlooking the dam.

Project Getting There: *We will meet you at the airport!*

Your options are as follows:

- Fly in to Bulawayo from Johannesburg, possible overnight Bulawayo at our volunteer lodge, and transfer by 2 hour journey to Gweru either with an Antelope Park representative or on the City Link Bus the following morning. In some very rare cases, you may be required to spend 2 nights at the lodge
- Fly in to Harare (Zimbabwe's capital), overnight at our volunteer lodge, and then transfer by 4 hour journey with either an Antelope Park representative or on the City Link Bus the following morning. In some very rare cases you may be required to spend 2 nights at the lodge.
- There is a chance that whichever airport you arrive at you will be met directly at the airport by staff from Antelope Park and transferred directly to the park without the need for an overnight stay. It just depends on transfer availability.
- We organise all volunteer pick-ups, overnight accommodation at respective volunteer lodges (Bulawayo or Harare), and transfers to your programme of choice as part of your fee.



Our Partners

The Happy Africa Foundation www.happyafricafoundation.org African Impact is proud to have been instrumental in the establishment of The Happy Africa Foundation in 2007 and continues to be one of the Foundations major supporters. UK Registered Charity Number: 1123529. The mission of The Happy Africa Foundation is to empower the African people through the support of community and conservation based initiatives that operate at grass roots level.

We are proudly affiliated to the UK-based Know Before You Go campaign that promotes education and knowledge-sharing amongst travelers.

African Impact is delighted to have been nominated as a 2009 World Travel Awards Finalist and see this as exciting recognition of our position as African specialists in Volunteering, with over 5 years experience in sharing Africa with travelers who have a passion for making a difference.



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