



# The African Pre-Veterinary Wildlife Experience

Chintsa & Surrounding Conservation Areas;  
Eastern Cape, South Africa



## Who Should Apply & What to Expect?

Our course is designed for interns, volunteers and young professionals looking to explore or enter the professional fields of veterinary science, animal welfare and animal management. Categorized into three distinct learning areas, we provide a theoretical and hands on approach to learning as it applies to African Wildlife, agricultural livestock and domestic animals.

Achieving our objectives require you to experience and interact with wildlife in a game reserve context, livestock within the farming context and domestic animals within South Africa's rural village context, where many animals live in an uncared for manner and animal rights is low on the social agenda.

The course is managed by highly experienced and qualified local botanist Dennis Taylor:

- BSc Botany and Zoology, Dip Agricultural Management
- FGASA Field Guiding Level 3 with Special Knowledge and Skills -Dangerous Animals.
- 15 years in conservation management
- Accredited trainer for the Field Guide Association South Africa (FGASA)

### VOLUNTEER AFRICA 32° SOUTH

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The diversity of practical work is demand driven, but with the objective for you to receive maximum exposure within the three sectors.



**African Wildlife** – participants on our program will spend around one third of their time in wildlife environments (commercial and non commercial game reserves). Through lecture based learning and practical interactions you will be exposed to the following:

- Health & Safety
- Immobilisation and Tranquilisation of animals
- Game Capture\*
- Animal management
- Ecosystems services support & biodiversity preservation
- Threats to wildlife
- Toxic and venomous animals
- Animal Health and Nutrition

\*every effort is made for you to experience (1.) at least one game capture, but as this is seasonal and demand driven, it cannot be guaranteed; (2.) exposure to rehabilitation of wildlife in a legitimate rehabilitation case [where this is not possible, alternative animal rehabilitation of abused animals such as horses will be experienced]; (3.) bush presence during rutting and lambing seasons of African Wildlife.

**Agricultural Livestock** – participants on our projects will visit a range of livestock farms to gain maximum “hands-on” working experience as it relates to livestock wellbeing. Through lecture based learning and practical interactions you will be exposed to the following:

- Health & Safety
- Basic Animal Health & Animal Behaviour
- Immobilisation, Tranquilisation & inoculation of animals
- Animal management
- Ecosystems services support & biodiversity preservation
- Animal Health and Nutrition



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**Domestic Animals** – participants will undertake visits to rural villages and township settlements to undertake “hands on” practical work with a broad range of domesticated animals. In the South African context, these animals are very often classified as “vulnerable and abused” and live under extremely difficult circumstances. As a result they are a high priority for our work. As volunteers and interns, it is also the environment in which you can contribute most effectively to animal welfare in South Africa. Through lecture based learning and practical interactions you will be exposed to the following:

#### Health & Safety

Community Support Services & Understanding animal management in the South African context  
Basic Animal Health & Animal Behaviour  
Immobilisation, Tranquilisation & inoculation of animals  
Animal Health and Nutrition

A further component to this sector of your course will be exposure to South Africa’s animal welfare agencies and you will visit and learn of the challenges faced by organizations like the SPCA.



## The Project

The project design provides a broad and comprehensive understanding of animals in the African context and exposure is from the large to the small, from the bush to the home and from the chronic to the pampered. As interns you will be expected to participate in all aspects of the project, undertake a special learning assignment and do a presentation on your assignment.

The nature of the project – requires us to be mobile and responsive to where we are needed. As a result some participants may feel unsettled, although we do make every effort to attend to your comforts and needs. Accommodation, if in the wilderness, can be basic and lack some of the mod-cons you may be used too.

In the past we have worked with rats, mice, elephant, rhino, dogs, cats, buffalo, lion, bulls, cows, giraffe, goats, sheep, chickens, raptors, antelope, tortoises, snakes, monkeys and many other domestic, agricultural and wildlife species. The majority of our practical experiences are with domestic and agricultural animals as wildlife, by their very nature, obviously require less human intervention, are unpredictable, dangerous and expensive. Although our project will deliver a healthy wildlife component, it is important to not be of the impression that this is the majority of your working and learning experience, especially as it relates to hands on professional development.



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## Project Accommodation & Meals

Volunteers are based in the coastal town of Chintsa which is the VA32 volunteer hub. Whilst in Chintsa interns will stay in shared accommodation in the “vollie” house, situated just a few minutes’ walk from the beach.

Due to the nature of the Pre-Vet Experience interns work between various reserves, farms and rural villages and are mobilized to where the work is. Program accommodation reacts to this need and interns can expect to stay in a variety of accommodation in the wider Chintsa area. This accommodation will always be comfortable and safe and could include work based tented camps, bush cottages, farm houses and occasionally lodges.

Meals are simple and nutritious; a breakfast of cereals and fruit, a sandwich lunch and a hot, home cooked meal for dinner.



## Evenings, Weekends & Free Time

Evenings and weekends are “free time”, which allows interns to enjoy the natural beauty of our coast and interior. Trips to the famous [Buccaneers Backpackers](#) or overnight stays in a rural village can be arranged upon request. There is also the option to spend weekends at nearby destinations such as Hogsback and even explore as far as Cape Town. VA32 management are available to assist with all excursions and planned trip—please note that these are not included in the cost of the program.



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## Project Expectations

This experience aims to expose interns to Africa and its array of animal life, provide you with increased knowledge, provide practical experience working with animals and their surrounding welfare issues and generally broaden experience of conservation and animal management.



## Project Dates & Fees

This project has specific start dates. This information as well as the current project fees are listed on the attached rates and dates sheets or online at [www.volunteerafrica.co.za](http://www.volunteerafrica.co.za).

### What's Included in the Project Fee?

- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure (Monday arrivals only)
- Accommodation in shared, serviced camps
- Three meals a day whilst on project
- All project related transport
- Support of our experienced on-site project co-ordinator
- Welcome pack with all project info, and meal and drink vouchers for local Chintsa restaurants and bars, 1 free hour internet upon arrival, free VA32 T-shirt

### What's Not Included?

- Flights
- Personal Insurance
- Snacks, drinks and meals outside of project
- Extra excursions and trips



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