

Running Wild

CHEETAH CONSERVATION



South Africa

VOLUNTEER, STUDENT & INTERN INFORMATION

Join us for an unforgettable few weeks under the African sun and amongst the endangered cheetah, a species close to extinction, and close to our hearts. If you have always wanted to see South Africa and be involved with conserving one of Africa's most graceful cats, this is the place for you.

Running Wild Conservation's volunteer program will give you the opportunity to work with these magnificent animals while contributing to real conservation efforts to save the cheetah from going extinct in the wild.

Your involvement and help will assist us to ensure the survival of the species for generations to come.

This project is unique in that you will actively help to save the endangered cheetah by getting involved in one of the most exciting Cheetah projects in South Africa. The only project ever breeding with cheetah for the sole purpose of releasing. We are not trading with any of our animals, they are meant for more, to be free and wild again, as they are supposed to be! Many of the cheetahs bred, raised and trained to survive in wild by us, are already now living a free life in protected reserves.

Our main focus is breeding and releasing cheetah (including other smaller endangered cat species) back into the wild to supplement the current dwindling population. At our sanctuary we also take care of injured, old and orphaned animals that cannot be released. We also work towards the rescue and repatriation of older or mistreated cheetahs from zoos all over the globe and offer these animals a deserved semi freedom in their final years. With many years of experience and knowledge of these animals we have developed a unique strategy and program to successfully breed and reintroduce cheetahs back into the wild.

The time is now or we might lose these magnificent cats forever.

As the decline in wild cheetah numbers throughout South African has now more than ever come to a critical point, it is our responsibility to ensure the species has a future for the next generations. With the current number less than 1200 wild cheetah in South Africa, it is imperative that something is done to replenish these dwindling numbers. The need to reintroduce these animals is the only way to eliminate the extinction of the Southern African Cheetah. We strongly believe that we have developed methods to successfully breed and reintroduce cheetahs back onto their natural habitat in South Africa.

With our conservation efforts to reintroduce cheetah and smaller felines back into the wild, we are adding to the conservation of their natural environment.



Our facility is only 70 miles from OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, nestled near the foothills of the Magaliesburg Mountain Range, close to the famous Cradle of Humankind World Heritage site.

This project is unique in that you will actively help to save the endangered cheetah by getting involved in one of the most exciting cheetah projects in South Africa, where our aim is solely to release cheetahs back into the wild, where they belong! Our aim is also to enlighten you in the true conservation efforts done in terms of rehabilitation and release of captive animals with added skills in animal husbandry.

At Running Wild, it is all about the animals. We believe in the rights and protection of animals. Our project is home to a variety of wild but captive kept animals such as lions, cheetahs, servals, caracals, even the mischievous meerkats and more. We also provide a home to any other animal that cannot be released back into the wild, as well as a "day care" for animals that were abandoned, injured, traumatised, in need of care, support, medical attention and a forever home. We strive to make life as normal as possible for animals by ensuring their happiness and well being.

We offer you an opportunity to work with the animals and gain valuable experience in daily animal care and spending time with the animals to learn more about their behavior and special needs. You also get the opportunity to unwind in the beautiful mountainous surroundings with the sound of a lion roaring in the background.

Rates for your visit : Per person, per week

Discounted rate for every week you stay longer!

1 June 2023 – 31 May 2024

	<i>Dollar</i>	<i>Euro</i>
1 x Week	– \$770	- € 730
2 x Weeks	– \$1410	- € 1340
3 x Weeks	– \$2060	- € 1950
4 x Weeks	– \$2680	- € 2550
5 x Weeks	– \$3280	- € 3100
6 x Weeks	– \$3850	- € 3650
7 x Weeks	– \$4440	- € 4220
8 x Weeks	– \$4950	- € 4700

1 June 2024 – 31 May 2025

	<i>Dollar</i>	<i>Euro</i>
1 x Week	- \$840	- € 810
2 x Weeks	– \$1550	- € 1510
3 x Weeks	– \$2200	- € 2140
4 x Weeks	– \$2950	- € 2910
5 x Weeks	– \$3590	- € 3530
6 x Weeks	– \$4220	- € 4180
7 x Weeks	– \$4880	- € 4830
8 x Weeks	– \$5450	- € 5400

INCLUDED IN YOUR RATE :

Accommodation, 3 meals per day at the project, laundry, game drives, picnics & bushwalks on the conservancy

NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR RATE :

Flights, excursions & meals during excursions, transport to & from airport, drinks, snacks, gratuities, etc.

Volunteer, student & intern accommodation :

Five new log cabins surrounding the lodge & close to the animal camps.

Each cabin consists of 2 bedrooms and a bathroom, which will be shared by max 4 volunteers.

Each room will accommodate 2 volunteers.

The cabin has a small lounge, kitchen & bathroom.

Males and females are separate in sharing rooms.

Pay \$20 per day extra and secure your own private room if possible.

To have your own private cabin, if we have availability, the rate is \$35 per day additional to your normal rate.

Meals :

Breakfast : Cereals, fruit, eggs, toast and spreads.

Lunch : One of these options: noodles, omelettes, salads, toasted sandwiches, wraps, etc.

Dinner : A hot meal will be served every night such as a traditional BBQ, pastas, casseroles, vegetables, salads and meats etc.

Ingredients for breakfast & lunch will be available in the lodge kitchen, you will prepare your own breakfast & lunch, while dinner will be prepared by us. Tea and coffee will be available at any time in the lodge.

All other drinks & snacks will be at your own expense, although tap water is safe to drink.

Our meal portion sizes are normal, if snacks are desired for in between eating, please purchase some groceries prior to arrival or when we go into town volunteers will have the chance to go with or give us their list.

There will also be a fridge available for your personal food and drinks.

Please advise us prior to arrival of any dietary needs (e.g. if you are vegetarian or have any allergies).

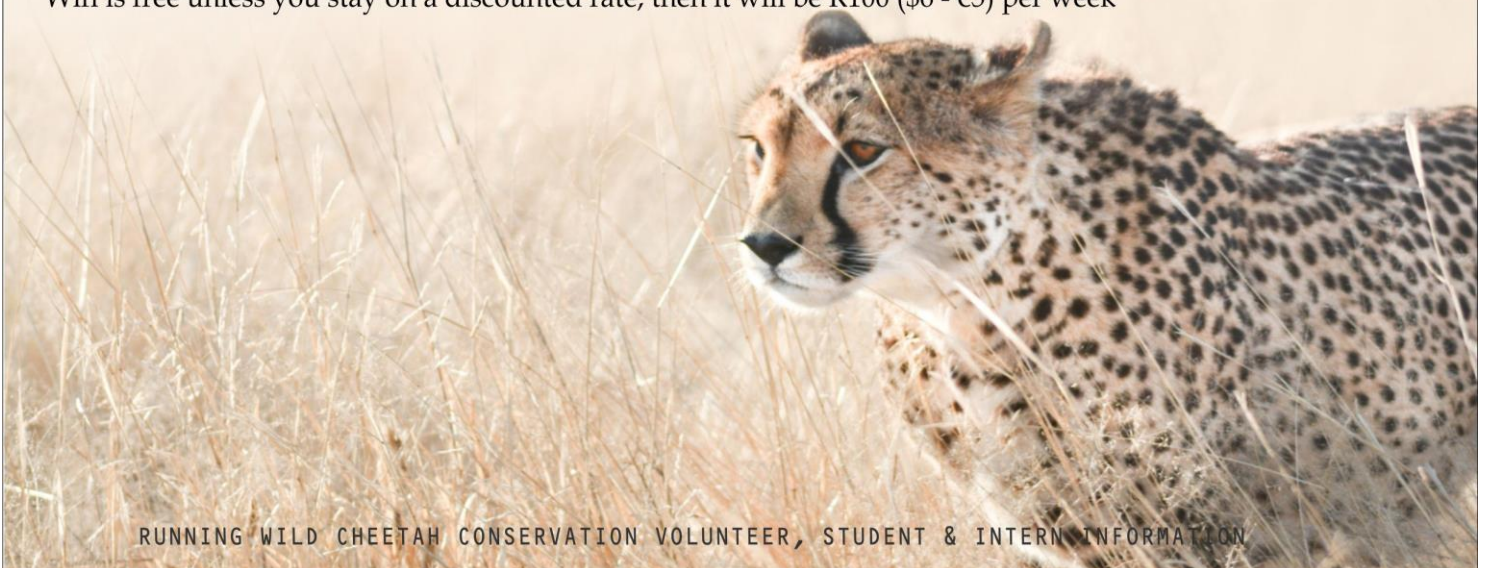
Vegans will have an additional charge of R500 (\$40 - €35) per week for our additional cooking.

Laundry :

There is a laundry room where our cleaning staff will take care of your washing once a week, free of charge.

Internet :

Wifi is free unless you stay on a discounted rate, then it will be R100 (\$6 - €5) per week



Project booking details

Arrival date	: Monday mornings for arrivals
Departure date	: Monday evenings for departures
Our Location	: Rustenburg region, North West Province, South Africa
Closest international airport	: OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg
Transport to & from project	: A private shuttle will collect you at the airport & take you back
Minimum stay	: 1 week
Maximum stay	: 8 weeks
Requirements to book	: Basic level of competency in English to communicate with owners & staff An interest in the ethical conservation of wildlife

You have to arrive and depart on a Monday which will streamline the transfer logistics of shuttle transports. The cost of the shuttle is normally between \$40 - \$70 per trip, You will pay the driver directly but the project will arrange your transport & send you the details prior to arrival. If you really cannot arrive or depart on a Monday, please let us know when you enquire.

Project Highlights

- Work hands on with the big cats such as cheetahs and lions
- Work hands on with small cats such as caracals and servals
- Receive short courses and education on basic rescue & rehabilitation
- Learn more about our passion and dedication to rewild and release cheetah
- Experience first-hand all aspects of the animal's life
- Be part of a very passionate team
- Learn about conservation and Africa's wild animals
- Live in close proximity to the lion, serval, caracal, meerkat and cheetah enclosures

Volunteers will work 5.5 days per week. Sundays are generally your day off and will give you a chance to settle into the conservancy or go on nearby excursions. Thursday mornings are also your off time to spend as you wish. Please note that this routine is kept as best as possible, however, working with animals sometimes requires a flexible schedule. The above outline is subject to change.



Packing List (recommended)

- Casual working clothes for warm & cold days, please avoid bright colours.
- Jackets
- Sunscreen and hat
- Swimsuit
- Toiletries : Personal bathroom amenities (soap, shampoo)
- A towel
- Your personal needed medication
- Doom/tabard (insect repellent)
- Cash in Rand currency to the amount of R4000 maximum for excursions, snacks, beverages, souvenirs & shuttles.
Visa, Master or Credit cards can also be used locally for payments
Shuttle must be paid in cash (South African Rand)

General Information

Water:

Water is safe to drink however scarce in many areas.
Use water sparingly and have short showers or baths.

Insurance:

All Running Wild Conservation volunteers must have medical, travel and trip cancellation insurance for the duration of their program.

Drugs:

Running Wild Conservation has a zero-tolerance policy for illegal drugs.
Offenders will be removed from the program immediately without refund.

Smoking:

Smoking is not allowed when you are in animal camps or around any animal.
Designated areas will be available for smoking

Alcohol:

A responsible level of drinking (for volunteers of legal age) is allowed on certain nights of the week.
- Alcohol is never to be consumed during the work day
- Drinking is allowed normally on Wednesdays, Friday & Saturday NIGHTS

Additional Information

What is the difference between volunteering and regular tourism?

In regular tourism the emphasis is on the tourist who expects to receive excellent service on their trip (great hotel, good food and all excursions working according to a timetable).

The place and local community becomes less important with the tourist becoming the centre of attention.

In volunteer tourism (voluntourism) the emphasis shifts to work contribution, goals of the program and helping the local community. It is the success of the program and the atmosphere between the community and the volunteers that helps make the trip unforgettable – not the level of service or the quality of the accommodation.

Will there be any surprises?

Volunteer tourism can be unpredictable! While Running Wild Conservation does the utmost to stick to timetables and examples of type of work needed by the volunteer, there are many factors that can impact these plans. For example, the weather and seasons, local holidays, mood of the wildlife and immediate needs of the program. The information you will receive from the program is important and valuable however things can change and we urge you to use it as a guideline and expect the unexpected – this is what makes volunteer tourism so diverse and exciting. It is important that you arrive with a flexible attitude and remember that just by being at the project you will be contributing to its running, growth and success. Many of these programs are in cultures very different than yours and as such the type and length of work given may or may not seem important to you but it will be for the program.

Culture Shock

The volunteers you will be working with come from all over the world and may be from different religious and ethnic backgrounds. Volunteering is also a cultural experience where you can learn about different cultures but please be both tolerant and patient. Do not be shy in sharing your experiences, recipes, songs and traditions it will just add to the overall group cohesion. If you are ever unsure about a certain issues, please feel free to discuss it with your volunteer leader.

Extra expenses

Please take into account additional expenses like tours, trips, cold drinks, restaurants and bars. It is a good idea to carry different types of payment : Cash, Credit & Debit Cards are options.

Travel Insurance

It is very important and necessary to purchase and carry travel insurance for any unforeseen eventuality.

In short be prepared to learn a new culture - T.I.A.

(This Is Africa) - things changes, that's the awesome part of the experience. Patience can go a long way to making your trip unforgettable!

Please come with an open mind and positive attitude, you will have the most awesome time of your life!

