



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



LOCATION: Serra da Lousã

This unique and exciting project gives you the chance to directly contribute to wild animal conservation in the countryside of Portugal. Observe, feed, and protect different species of deers, wild boars, eagles, lamas, Euro-Asian lynx, Iberian wolves, European otters, and even brown bears!

Volunteers at this project will have the chance to support a biologic park which more than its environmental impact also integrates disabled people locally. In a scenario where Nature is all around the park, wild animals rescued from zoos, private owners, and other situations in which animals were mistreated, are preserved and taken care of. Together with the local staff, you will assist in most tasks related to the conservation of wild animals such as deers, wild boars, different species of eagles, lamas, Euro-Asian lynx, Iberian wolves, European otters, and even brown bears! You will also assist in the farm to take care of horses and oxen but also ducks, pigs, chickens among others. Tasks include observing their behavior, forest conservation, habitat maintenance, feeding, among many other tasks depending on the season.

The organization responsible for the Wildlife Park is a social organization whose mission is to contribute to the local development and to fight poverty by supporting and integrating disabled people. This organization plays an essential role in the local community and 43% of their staff are people with some kind of disability or chronic disease.

This program is accessible to everyone but requires some level of physical fitness. When joining the program in the Winter, the volunteer should be prepared to experience lower

temperatures of between 40-60°F (5-15°C), and come equipped with warm clothing. If the volunteer is planning on coming during the summer, when temperatures range between 77-100°F (25-38°C), comfortable and light clothes are recommended.

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Pick up at the international airport in Lisbon or Porto & transfer to the accommodation
- Accommodation at a dormitory at a local hostel, female dormitory, or mixed dormitory for the first two nights
- Accommodation at a shared apartment in Serra da Lousã during the program with share use of living room, kitchen, and free Wifi
- Three meals a day everyday: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner (Local style. Vegetarian, gluten-free and meals for lactose-intolerant are also available upon request)
- Shared use of common room, outdoor area, garden, and free WIFI
- Orientation event on arrival (including an introduction to Portugal and its culture, volunteer experience, overview of programs, practical information, safety guidelines)
- Transportation to the project site
- SIM card
- Guided city tour
- The best tips to discover the city!
- Allocation and coordination of a work placement in an impactful non-profit project
- Introduction on the first day of volunteering
- Ongoing support throughout the stay
- 24h/7 emergency support
- Limited coverage civil liability insurance.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

- Flights
- Pick-up at the airport on other dates
- Drop-off at the airport
- Personal expenses
- Personal insurance (health or accidents)

How is a typical day in this volunteer program?

You will join the morning or afternoon shift at your placement and will work for approximately 3 to 5 hours per day.

A typical daily schedule will look as follows:

09:00 am | Travel to your project with the organization transport and join the local staff to volunteer at the park

01:00 pm | Have lunch at the park with the organization staff

02:00 pm | Explore the mountains trails and the surroundings of the forest or enjoy your free time with other volunteers in the center of the village

08:00 pm | Dinner with other international volunteers on your accommodation

Please note that the actual schedule can change according to the season the volunteer is applying for.

Shall I bring any own equipment and tools for this program?

No, you will be provided with all the tools and materials you'll need for this program at the location!

Are the meals included in my volunteer program fee?

In all our destinations, the volunteer program fees include three (breakfast, lunch and dinner) home-made and delicious meals a day!

In Mafra (where the Wolf Conservation program is located), the volunteer program fees do not include meals, but you will have access to a fully-equipped kitchen to prepare your own meals at either location!

Find more detailed program and location-specific information in our program description and pricing details! And if you have any more specific questions or want to make any special requests, feel free to get in touch with us!

Do I need to speak the local language?

No, you don't need to have any previous skills in the local language! All of our programs are run entirely in English and our guides and staff are all comfortable speaking English as well! But we always encourage our participants to get acquainted with some of the most basic terms and expressions, as even just a simple "Good morning!" in the local language can be a great icebreaker to start interacting with the locals!

There are also language lessons available for volunteers. The language lessons can be booked before or on the arrival. Lessons are taught by a professional teacher and tailored to each volunteer's current language level.

Shall I bring special clothes to participate in this volunteer program?

There is no mandatory dress code for taking part in this program, so we just recommend you to bring comfortable clothes adjusted to the time of the year!

What do I need to pack for my trip?

Are you already excited about your stay with us? We prepared a little list of essentials which can assist you with your packing:

- Basics (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner...)
- Medication contact lenses, glasses
- Clothes according to the local weather and the project you applied for
- Plug adapters and power converters
- Unlocked mobile phone – we will give you a Portuguese SIM card that you can charge according to your needs
- Laptop, tablet or smartphone so you have access to Wi-Fi almost everywhere
- Camera (if you want to capture all the unforgettable moments.)

Will I have time for some sight-seeing as well?

Of course! We want you to really get to know your natural and cultural surroundings and will provide you with useful tips and tricks that will help you discover the location of your stay like a local!

Your shifts will generally last between 3 and 5 hours per day and will take place either in the morning, in the afternoon or in the evening, which will leave you with plenty of free time to go explore, take a stroll around your surroundings, catch the most important sites, interact with the locals or simply go and relax! And of course, you will have your weekends off as well!

Does this program require a high level of physical fitness?

No! All activities within this program only require a medium or low level of physical fitness!