



WOLF CONSERVATION



LOCATION : Mafra

In this exciting program, you will be helping out at the Iberian Wolf Recovery Centre, ensuring that these wolf species have a comfortable place to live!

Did you know that the Iberian Wolf is an endangered species?

Especially due to the destruction of the habitats and the persecution by humans, there aren't many of those mysterious creatures left in our forests.

Volunteers will contribute to the preservation of the wolves by participating in a wide range of day-to-day activities at the centre, which include assisting with the feeding of the animals, checking the water, maintenance of the centre's infrastructure, fire prevention, forest cleaning and the observation of the wolves to ensure their good health and well-being.

All the volunteers will be accommodated in very comfortable and cool wooden houses at the center itself, where the local staff will be able to provide guidance at all times and help with anything volunteers need!

Except for December and January, the program is running all year round, but we really recommend you booking in advance to guarantee availability!

This is a lifetime experience that neither the animals nor nature lovers would want to miss!

WHAT IS INCLUDED :

- Pick up at the international airport in Lisbon & transfer to the accommodation
- Accommodation at a dormitory at an impactful hostel, female dormitory, or mixed dormitory for the first two days
- 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)
- 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
- Transfer to the project site in Mafra; accommodation in a wooden house in the park in Mafra, max. 4 bed dormitory, share use of living room, kitchen and free Wifi
- 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)
- Meals (*However, you will have access to a fully-equipped kitchen where you can store food and prepare your meals.*)

How is a typical day in this volunteer program?

After the initial orientation in Lisbon, you will be taken to the Wolf Centre in Mafra by van, where you will stay throughout the rest of your program. You will volunteer with the protection of the wolves and their habitat.

A typical morning schedule looks as follows:

8:00 am | Breakfast begins at the volunteer house.

9:00 am | Volunteer activities.

1:00 pm | Cook lunch at your wooden house together with the other local and international volunteers.

3:00 pm | Volunteer activities.

7:00 pm | Cook dinner at your house with the other volunteers. After dinner, you can use your free time to relax or as you wish.

Please note that the actual schedule can change according to the shift's volunteers participate in.

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.

Does the Wolf Conservation program require a high level of physical fitness?

Yes. Most of the tasks in the *Wolf Conservation* program require medium to heavy physical effort (for example, to carry weights around 8kg/17lb). Additionally, as the Centre is in a forested valley, the ground is irregular and with steep slopes, the volunteers must be able to do this physical effort while walking on those conditions.

If there is any specific detail about your overall health that you think could interfere with your participation in this program and in performing such tasks, let us know, so we can arrange the best way for you to come to Portugal and help us with tasks suitable for you.

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.)

Shall I bring special clothes to participate in the Wolf Conservation program?

Please bring clothes to spoil and to work in the forest, such as boots and work gloves, for the *Wolf Conservation* program in Mafra.

When can I start my volunteer period on the Wolf Conservation program?

The *Wolf Conservation* Program in Mafra is available between February and November of every year.

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!