



Wildlife sanctuary in Malawi



The organization

Our organization started life in 2009 when we opened the doors to what is still the only wildlife sanctuary in Malawi. Most of our first animal residents were rescued from a run-down zoo in the bustling capital city of Lilongwe. Since then we've grown into the country's leading conservation charity with an international reputation for high impact and world-class standards. We offer a series of placements in everything from sanctuary work to wildlife research and veterinary medicine but our approach is flexible. This means that, where possible, we're happy to tailor what we offer to your skills and passions. So don't worry if you don't see exactly what you want - just put as much information in your application form as possible and we'll get in touch to explore how we can create something special for you! Please let us know if you have any questions. We hope that you choose to join us in Malawi – the Warm Heart of Africa!

Malawi has an incredible diversity of wild animals and habitats but is facing huge threats, from deforestation and pollution to poaching and climate change. We work at the forefront of many of these challenges, so if you volunteer with us you'll be part of a much bigger picture. Whether you're working with our rescued animals, contributing to a research project or supporting our education team, volunteering with a chance to make a real difference to conservation in a critical context.

Where does your money go ?

It's no exaggeration to say that volunteering with us will help to save and change lives. Although many of our overheads are funded through grants from international governments and foundations, almost all of our animal welfare and biodiversity monitoring work is made possible thanks to the donations that are included in our placement fees. That means that your support is helping to fund our various conservation projects, including the sanctuary that keeps our animal residents alive and safe.

The program

Our center is Malawi's only wildlife sanctuary - widely reputed as one of the best facilities in Africa for its high standards of animal welfare. The Centre is the only sanctuary in the world to have obtained accreditations from the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the Born Free Foundation PAW scheme. Every single animal that comes into our care - whether as a result of abuse, illegal activity or human-wildlife conflict - receives a carefully tailored programme of support from our team of experts. Where possible, we aim to rehabilitate and return animals to the wild. Those that cannot be released are cared for in the safety of the sanctuary. Volunteering at the Centre will give you a powerful insight into the life-changing and life-saving work of wildlife rehabilitation.

Duration : 2 to 12 weeks

The work

Most volunteers choose to spend the majority of their time with the animal care team, where work covers the whole rehabilitation spectrum. Expect to get your hands dirty, work hard and sleep well! Duties include animal husbandry (cleaning, sanitation, feeding and enrichment), orphan care, vet clinic support, observations, integrations and reintroductions. You'll also get the chance to learn more about specialist areas of work such as enrichment, observation and rehabilitation techniques.

The center

The sanctuary is located within a 180-acre reserve, which is home to wild animals such as antelopes, crocodiles, small carnivores and hyenas and over 100 species of bird. There are 4km of walking trails running through the forest and along the river, and an on-site café which sells a selection of artisanal coffees and food and is a perfect space for a quiet moment of reading or studying. The Centre is just 10 minutes to town with its restaurants, shops and markets if you feel like a change of scene. The team are happy to organise movie nights, talks and nights out.

ACCOMMODATION

We are constructing brand new accommodation facilities which will be ready for visitors in early 2022! Our new accommodation building will host up to 18 people at a time across six bedrooms.

It also includes a lounge, kitchen, inside and outside dining spaces, two bathrooms, laundry space, an outdoor deck and garden. The building is located in the middle of our wildlife sanctuary, which means that you'll experience the magic of bush life after a hard day or work – spending evenings by the fire listening to the sounds of the forest.

MEALS

Meals are cooked by our local chef every day except on Sunday. The menu is vegetarian with a mix of international and local dishes. Let us know if you have other special dietary requirements, and volunteers are welcome to buy in other luxuries or meat if they wish.

Prices include

- Accommodation
- All meals, unlimited tea and coffee
- Airport transfers (on a Tuesday) and all work-related transport
- Orientation and full support during your stay
- Local SIM card and t-shirt

Prices exclude

- Flights
- Visas
- Vaccinations
- Excursions, souvenirs, nights out, personal expenses, snacks, etc.