



WildCat Project in Kimberly



Overview

The project is located in the well-known Free State province, which borders the Northern Cape. The predator farm is situated only 30 km from the historical town of Kimberley, on the National Road (the N8). The farm is home to an abundance of animals; we are a home to 35 predators and 3 monkeys and 2 capuchin monkeys : 18 lions, 2 caracals, servals, 2 African wild Cats, 2 black backed jackals, and 9 bat-eared foxes. These animals are taken in to be cared for because of various reasons; some cannot live in the wild on their own if they are sick or were abandoned, and many are rescued from unethical processes like canned hunting and breeding for tourism purposes. When it is possible, we strive to release our animals back into the wild where they can live freely without any human interaction.

The centre was founded in 2010 by the Burger family when Chriszanne and Nicol Burger adopted 2 animals from a project where they previously work. These animals were moved to the centre and cared for by the Burger family. This action was the foundation for the continued conservation and rehabilitation work that takes place at the Centre. Around this time, the Burger family learned about Canned Hunting (a method of hunting in which an animal is kept in a confined area-such as a fenced enclosure-to vastly increase the likelihood of the hunter obtaining a kill for trophy purposes), which sparked the desire to work towards the eradication of this process and rescue African cats from hazardous environments.



Project details

- **Arrival Day** - Wednesday
- **Time** - Your flight can arrive anytime on Wednesday
- **Airport** - O R Tambo International Airport (JNB) (or Lanseria)
- **Departure Day** – Thursday
- **Departure time** - Please book a **late evening flight** from Johannesburg, as the shuttle arrives after 18:00. Alternatively, you can fly from KIM – JNB if you wish to skip the shuttle at your own expense.
- **Min Duration** - 2 weeks
- **Min Age** : 16
- **Max Age**: N/A - Medium Level of fitness required

***NOTE:** We can also collect you at any Hotel or place of accommodation on your arrival day, should it be within close radius of the City centre or Airport*

- **1 night at JN**

Project highlights

- You will be able to listen to the sounds of cats calling throughout the night
- Not only will you be privileged to work with these beautiful cats, but your accommodation is also situated in the middle of the project and surrounded by all the enclosures.
- You will be accompanied by other people who are very passionate about animals.
- You will have the opportunity to work face to face, with big cats and other wildlife.
- Learn and experience how each animal behaves, reacts and what their characters are like

Volunteer tasks

Volunteers are involved in the daily run of the wild cat centre. These tasks vary from meat preparation, cleaning of enclosures and stimulation of animals. As a non-profit, family run farm they also facilitate tours of the farm to local visitors. Volunteers will be able to assist with these visits and even work within the curio shop. There are various projects which aim to improve the farm and well-being of the animals. The projects continuously change depending on the needs of the animals and farm at the time.

There are two different types of work on the farm:

Daily routine: Cleaning the enclosures & farm, feeding the animals, maintaining the enclosures, etc.

Projects: Various projects that aim to improve the farm and well-being of the animals. The projects at Felidae continuously change depending on the needs of the animals and farm at the time.

Duties that do not directly interact with the animals are still crucial to their well-being. General maintenance and cleaning of the grounds (for example: cutting grass to ensure there are no ticks, fleas, snakes, and spiders, and poop scooping); are regular tasks on the farm for the health and safety of all the animals in our care.

As a volunteer, you will be able to experience each of the various jobs on the farm; tasks are rotated among the volunteers to ensure each person has an opportunity to both help with farm maintenance and interact with the animals equally.

Example itinerary :

An early wake-up at 07:00am

Breakfast with the team

Discussion of daily events and duties

During the course of the day you can be involved in tours, preparing food, working in the enclosures, nursing sick animals, and so on

Lunch hour

Free time to do your laundry, taking a nap, spending time with other volunteers, or even helping in the preparation of an evening function

Dinner will be a nice warm meal.

Just before bedtime, a quick check-in on the cats, making sure everyone is settled

End the day with a well-deserved sleep

Please note that from time to time there can be unavoidable changes to projects. These can be caused by weather, conservation priorities, materials supply, or because ongoing projects have progressed more quickly or slowly than originally planned. We ask you to accept the changes – we are sure that you will enjoy the replacement projects just as much.

Volunteer requirements

- Completed Application form
- Basic level of competency in English
- Copy of return flight itinerary
- Medium level of fitness

Meals

Volunteers will receive three meals a day.

- At breakfast, you will have a substantial meal. Sandwiches will be for lunch. For dinner you receive a warm meal consisting of meat, starch and vegetables.
- Tea and coffee will be available all day.
- We do encourage you to bring along extra money to buy snacks and soft drinks in between meals
- A refrigerator is available for you to use for your personal food and drinks

NOTE : Please do let us know up-front if you have any special needs regarding food

Accommodation

Volunteers will stay in a volunteer's house (1 – 4 or 1 - 6 people per room) including its own kitchen facilities, bathroom, and bedroom. The accommodation has recently been upgraded.

- All linen will be provided.
- The volunteer house is between the enclosures and the main-house, and is safe and secure.
- Swimming pool is available.
- No visitors are permitted to enter the property unless permitted by the project leader

The farm is located 30 kilometres outside of Kimberley Town centre on Petrusberg Road.

ATMS: There are plenty of ATMS in Johannesburg where you will have your orientation. Once on project you will have the opportunity to withdraw money on your weekly shopping trip. Please exchange your foreign monies in Johannesburg airport as it cost effective and safe.

Winter in South Africa

Please note that May through to September are our winter months and it can get quite chilly with an average temperature ranging from -1 at night to 15 degrees Celsius during the day. So, **please make sure to pack enough warm clothes** if you plan your trip in that period.

Packing list

- Casual working clothes for hot and cold days, Raincoat
- Clothes for functions and for trips to town
- Sunscreen and hat
- Swimsuit and towel
- Personal toiletries and bath towels
- Insect repellent
- 2 pairs of working gloves
- Flashlight and batteries
- Proof of all inoculations
- First aid kit and personal medication
- Water bottle
- Notebook and pen