

South Africa Baboon Orphanage Adventure

Against the spectacular backdrop of South Africa's landscape help to nurture baboons that have been orphaned, injured or abandoned before they are rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

Enjoy the spectacular backdrop of South Africa's landscape whilst working at this wonderful baboon orphanage where baboons that have been orphaned, injured, abandoned, or even shot, are rescued and rehabilitated. Immerse yourself in the experience of bonding with these incredible wild animals and make a positive contribution to their release back into the wild.

Why not spend some time exploring the enchanting surroundings of this magical country? Nicknamed "the Rainbow Nation", South Africa has something to offer everyone, a colourful and enjoyable country that attracts millions of visitors every year to its wide, sandy beaches, cosmopolitan cities, friendly people and magnificent African bush; you'll never want to leave!

If you have a passion for primates then this project is perfect for you. You will enjoy a varied volunteer work programme that combines carrying out a number of different duties with caring for the young baboons. From the moment you arrive on site you will be involved in a wide range of hands on activities, working alongside expert park rangers and making friends for life!

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Help assist the hand-rearing of charismatic baby baboons
- Make a positive contribution to the release of baboons into the wild
- Develop your experience working in a 'Big 5' nature reserve

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum age of 18 years

FAST FACTS

Location	South Africa
Activities	Hands on wildlife rehabilitation Hand rearing orphan baby baboons Cleaning enclosures Enrichment programme & behavioural observations Collecting food Enclosure maintenance, renovation and design Bush walks Animal tracking lessons Community outreach programmes
Transport	Airport or bus depot pick-up

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Throughout Southern Africa wildlife habitats are being destroyed and South Africa's wildlife areas are becoming increasingly fragmented, turning the baboons' foraging grounds into farms, towns and other urban areas. As a result, many orphaned or injured animals can no longer live in the wild and need to be taken care of and supported. Wildlife refuges and rehabilitation centres are a crucial means of providing this support as well, wherever possible, as reintroducing animals back into the wild. They also play an important role as a means of educating the public about human wildlife conflict.

Rescued and traumatised baboons are welcomed to this rehabilitation centre in order to integrate them gently into new social groups and regain their confidence. In the wild they would be part of a close knit family unit, referred to as a troop. In normal circumstances a baby baboon would be born into a shielding family and have a protective father, devoted mother and several caring siblings and aunts who all fuss over the baby and keep it safe. Where possible we try to replicate this nurturing environment to give the orphans a second chance.

This project will give you the perfect platform from which to develop your experience of hands on wildlife rehabilitation and care. As a volunteer you will help hand raise baby baboon orphans and assist with the rehabilitation of rescued and mistreated baboons. You will contribute to the animals' healing, bonding with them in a way that is incredibly valuable. To watch them grow in confidence, assisting them to become self sufficient, sociable but still wild animals again is an unforgettable experience with unparalleled rewards.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Many orphaned baby baboons come to this rehabilitation centre to receive unique and specialist care. Your help is needed to assist with the hand rearing of the orphan babies and provide them with all their physical and psychological needs. The hand rearing involves supervising the nursery enclosure, preparing and giving out food and milk bottles and ensuring that the babies get a stable and loving upbringing. You will be taught how to interact with the baboons, spending time everyday playing with the little ones. You will communicate with them, offering them love and reassurance.

Working at this amazing and outstandingly worthwhile sanctuary gives you an unmissable chance to study the behaviour of these incredible animals, each with their own unique character. You will build up a relationship with the baboons and they will learn to trust and accept you. The daily routine will include a very varied schedule depending upon the focus of the project at the time of your visit but may include:

- Hand-rearing orphan baby baboons
- Cleaning enclosures
- Enrichment programme
- Behavioural observations
- Collecting food
- Enclosure maintenance and renovation
- Bush walks to learn about the local flora and fauna
- Community outreach programmes

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

You will be met upon arrival at Phalaborwa by a friendly Frontier representative. Flights and buses are available to Phalaborwa from Johannesburg so arrangements will be made to collect you from Phalaborwa airport or bus depot. This will be arranged in good time with your Frontier volunteer coordinator.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

Whilst participating on this project, you will be staying in shared dormitory style accommodation with your fellow volunteers, which is a great opportunity to make friends and build team spirit. You will be staying in a communal, rustic house in the bush, situated at the heart of the project site.

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

This project is self catered, giving you the chance to enjoy communal cooking with your fellow volunteers. You will have access to cooking facilities which you will share with your housemates. Once a week staff members will go into town to stock up on supplies for the group. You'll have great fun cooking with your new friends, so make sure you have a look at some cookbooks before you head out!

COSTS

2 weeks	US\$ 1,095
Extra week	US\$ 545

DEPARTURE DATES

Weekly. Please aim to arrive on the Monday to be met upon arrival at the airport or bus station.

DURATION

2 weeks +

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

- Pre-departure support & documentation
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Advice on visas & equipment
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt

In-country

- Project orientation
- Accommodation
- Self catering
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.