



AUSTRALIA: DOLPHIN CONSERVATION

Welcome to the land 'Down Under...'

Australia is a must see destination – the sheer size, amazing natural wealth, awesome scenery and huge variety of plant and animal life make this unique destination one of the most incredible places on earth!

Discover the beauty of Australia's native fauna and help ensure they will still be here for future generations. Learn valuable life skills and help the environment at the same time!



WHAT DO YOU GET?

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
- Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you **feel safe and never alone!**
- An in-depth Induction makes you **feel local straight away!**
- A unique insight into another culture – **see it from the inside** in a way you could never do as a tourist.
- An opportunity to **make lifelong friends from all over the world.**
- And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**



► SUMMARY FACTFILE

Start Dates	Available from the beginning of October through to the end of May - you can choose your start and finish dates within this period.
Duration	From 6 weeks to 12 weeks, subject to visa restrictions
Requirements	No qualifications or experience required, but you must be adaptable, enthusiastic, fit and healthy, and have lots of initiative. You should also be fluent in English and enjoy talking to people.
Price	From £1,745 / US\$ 2,620 for 6 weeks, ranging to £2,345 / US\$3,520 for 12 weeks. Full Price List and other Currencies
What's included	► Accommodation ► Meeting you at the Airport ► Transfer to your accommodation ► Transport to your project in Bunbury ► Full pre-departure support ► Local in-country team support and backup ► 24-hr emergency support ► 2 free t-shirts
What's not included	Flights, Food, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance), Return transfer to airport.
Who can do this Project?	All our projects are open to all nationalities. Unless otherwise stated, you need to be aged between 18 and 70+

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

Your project is based at a non-profit Centre committed to dolphin research, education, conservation and tourism based in the South West Coast of Australia. The Centre enables people to interact with Bottlenose dolphins in a variety of ways. There are up to 100 dolphins living in the Bay and groups of them regularly visit the shallow waters in front of the Centre. The Centre was opened in 1994, and is the first Centre in Australia dedicated entirely to dolphin research.

The Conservation Programme

The Centre is a unique place. It is the only site in Australia which can offer shore-based and boat-based swim tour interaction with wild dolphins as well as dolphin watching tours and a fascinating and educational Interpretive Centre.



During the mid 1960's, a local resident, began feeding the dolphins from a small jetty near her home on the Inlet (directly south of the Centre). Unfortunately, she passed away in the early 70's ceasing any regular feeding of the dolphins she befriended. Some dolphins continued to be fed by the public from areas nearby. However, it wasn't until 1989 that a dolphin specialist was hired by a newly established Dolphin Trust to continue this tradition and began feeding and studying the local dolphins. From this work came the establishment of the Interaction Zone in 1990 and the Centre itself in 1994 to allow tourists and members of the community to interact, understand and enjoy the group of five to six dolphins that regularly visit this Zone.

It is not clear why the dolphins continue to visit the Zone today. However research does suggest that the small amount of food they receive as a reward for their visit is not the only attraction. There are many dolphins that visit the Zone regularly that do not receive any fish and many of them stay for extended periods of time for interaction with the human visitors. Sick and injured dolphins also treat the beach as a haven, with some repeatedly visiting during periods of illness or injury.

Work Content.

Being a volunteer at the Centre can be a wonderful experience, you meet people from all around the world, not to mention the dolphins! However, your time as a volunteer will involve a lot more than being in the water with the dolphins. Talking and answering questions is a very important part of your role. Eighty percent of your day will involve talking to people who come down to the beach to see the dolphins, thus educating them about their characteristics and making them aware of how crucial it is to conserve these wonderful animals.



Here are some of the tasks you may be involved with:

- Talking to visitors on the beach - explaining what the Dolphin Centre does.
- Assisting to coordinate the Interaction Zone when dolphins visit.
- Managing the front entrance and Dolphin Room area.
- Participating in "Coastcare" activities and assist with current research projects.
- Assisting with the research program, recording observations in the bay and monitoring dolphin visits to the zone.
- Inputting the research data into databases for analysis
- General maintenance and cleaning.
- Tour guiding through the Interpretive Centre for the general public, tour groups and school students.

The work that you'll be involved in depends on what is available at the time of your placement.

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[Booking Form](#)

This project requires you to commit for a minimum of 6 weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks. You will work 5 days a week, around 8 hours per day.

This placement is definitely for animal loving enthusiasts who are willing to work hard and aren't afraid of getting their hands dirty - the rewards are well worth it! Whilst volunteering is rewarding in itself, time spent at a project such as this is an excellent springboard for travelling around Australia. Meeting other volunteers from around the world, and listening to their stories and recommendations can give you the confidence to travel and experience more.

LOCATION:

This programme is located in the stunning south west coast in the third largest city in Western Australia. The city is small but a major commercial centre in Western Australia and acts as a hub to the local area about 2½ hrs drive south of Perth. Described as the real Australia. It is located on a spectacular peninsular surrounded by blue waters of the Indian Ocean, a bay and an inlet. A vibrant port city with a strong maritime history, the area is renowned for its quality lifestyle and unique blend of nature surrounds and top quality facilities.



The area other features include Western Australia's southern-most mangroves, rare basaltic rock and nearby Tuart Forest. A colourful "cappuccino strip" of sidewalk cafes and a variety of waterside dining options offer numerous opportunities to taste the wonders of the local produce.

Bunbury is located on a spectacular peninsular surrounded by blue waters of the Indian Ocean, Koombana Bay and the Leschenault Inlet. A vibrant port city with a strong maritime history, Bunbury is renowned for its quality lifestyle and unique blend of nature surrounds and top quality facilities.

Climate - The area has a Mediterranean climate with warm to hot summers and cool winters. Rainfall is received in the form of cold-fronts during winter but the weather is rather pleasant for the rest of the year. In summer (December to February), the average maximum temperature is 28°C with an average minimum temperature of 14°C. In winter (June to August), the average maximum temperature is 19°C with an average minimum temperature of 9°C.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

You'll live in a backpackers conveniently located in the heart of Bunbury. We team up with two different hostels that are very similar in the facilities they provide and in their excellent location that is close to everything! You'll have the beach, the City Centre and lots of other attractions all within two minutes walk and you'll be able to explore the nearby forests, national parks, beautiful waterways, historic towns, many vineyards and the incredibly beautiful coast-line on your days off.



In the town there is a colourful street of sidewalk cafes called the "Cappuccino Strip" that buzzes all day. There are lots of sidewalk cafes and a variety of waterside dining options offer numerous opportunities to taste the wonders of the local produce. These cafes and the award-winning restaurants, as well as atmospheric historic pubs, ensure the town hums. Bunbury also offers plenty of Entertainment Centres, Art Galleries and cinemas.

You'll stay in a dorm room with access to many facilities in the Backpackers. There is a kitchen where you can cook and an excellent BBQ and outdoor area that is very popular. Other facilities that you'll have free use of include a pool table, table tennis, board games, sporting equipment and off-street parking. you'll also be given a unique Bunbury Visitor's Guide and you'll have free access to tea and coffee.

There are fast-speed internet facilities at the Backpackers which you can use for a nominal charge, so you'll be able to keep up with emails with friends and family back home.

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VISAS:

For most nationalities visas are required, but don't worry we will liaise with you about your visa requirements, and make the visa process very easy.

FLIGHTS:

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.

INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL:

You will fly into Perth airport (Perth is the capital city of Western Australia) where you will be welcomed by our Australian Volunteer Liaison Officer. They will then transport you to a city backpackers where you will stay for 1 night in a dorm room.

You will be met by us again the following day and given a brief orientation about Australia and your time in Bunbury. After the orientation you will be taken to the Esplanade bus station, located in the CBD, where you will be transferred onto a South West coach.

Upon your arrival in Bunbury, a staff member from your accommodation will meet you at the bus station and walk you back to the backpackers.

**COSTS:**

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Meeting you at the airport
- ✓ Transport to and from your project
- ✓ Local in-country team support and backup
- ✓ 24hr emergency helpline
- ✓ Full pre-departure support
- ✓ UK administration
- ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations)
- ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection
- ✓ Staff Training/Equipment
- ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the [Bridge The Gap Foundation](#). This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

**COUNTRY PROFILE:**

Australia is a must see destination – the sheer size, amazing natural wealth, awesome scenery and huge variety of plant and animal life make this unique destination one of the most incredible places on earth! Australia's most striking feature is it's variety of landscapes, with endless miles of unspoilt beaches (over 7,000 beaches - more than any other nation), tropical rainforests, mountain ranges and huge areas of desert - the famous 'outback'. The natural scenery is unbeatable.

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Australians are known for their love of life and enjoyment of the great outdoors. While Australians have a relatively short history they have quickly developed their own unique culture - with their love of the humble meat pie, the arts and music, sport (Australian Rules Football is the national game), the beach and BBQs. Visitors maybe confused when first arriving in Australia. While it's common knowledge that Australians speak English, you may hear a unique colloquial language. You'll hear words such as 'G'day', 'fair dinkum', and 'cobber'. Don't worry, you'll get the hang of it and will be talking like an Aussie in no time!



THINGS TO DO IN: AUSTRALIA

- Although Australia is the **largest island** in the world with more beaches than any other country, it is also the **smallest continent**, as well as the **flattest, lowest and driest!** There are many unforgettable sights to see... exploring this incredible land will make you feel as though you have stepped into a postcard.
- Cities on the **East Coast** include Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns. Sydney has one of the most instantly recognisable Skylines in the world, where sunset views of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge are unforgettable. If you're feeling brave you can arrange to climb the Harbour Bridge - a 52 tonne structure! Sydney also has excellent nightlife, cuisine from around the world, many parks and museums, and not far from the city some incredible mountainous scenery. Many people don't realise that Sydney is not actually the capital of Australia - it's nearby Canberra, the country's political centre. Manly beach and the famous **Bondi Beach**, two popular surfing spots, are both located near Sydney.
- **Melbourne** is the state capital of Victoria and is the second largest city in Australia. Melbourne is very much about lifestyle with its vibrant energy, staggering choice of restaurants, funky boutiques, café-filled laneways, cool bars, unbeatable galleries, lush parks and village-like inner suburbs. New futuristic designs combined with the Melbourne of old create a fascinating mix of architecture and ensures the skyline is constantly changing. A standing joke in Australia is that Melbourne can experience four seasons in a day but this is really just another example of how they have it all!
- It truly is the city to have a cultural experience but don't just see the many galleries, experience the local passion of Australia Rules Football (AFL). Victorians are passionate about AFL, so head down the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) and enjoy a game – don't forget to grab a meat pie!
- **Byron Bay** and **Noosa**, located further north and close to Brisbane, are very popular for surfing and are good for professionals and amateurs! Further up the coast you'll reach **Fraser Island**, the largest sand island in the world. This protected region has over 100 freshwater lakes, ancient rainforests growing out of sand, and dunes stretching for miles.
- The **Great Barrier Reef**, located along the East Coast of Australia, is the largest coral reef in the world and wonderful place to learn to dive or simply snorkel. North of Cairns the region of **Cape Tribulation** has some spectacular beaches backed by rainforest.
- In **Central Australia**, **Uluru** is a must see. This sacred Aboriginal Meeting place, located in the middle of the outback, offers inspirational views, particularly at sunrise and sunset. Camping trips under the stars are popular. Nearby Kings Canyon, a less well known 'Grand Canyon' is another unforgettable site and something that everyone should see on a visit to Australia.
- On the **West Coast** of Australia, between Perth and Broome, there are miles and miles of perfect sandy beaches. Excellent wreck diving is abundant around Perth and this is also one of the best places to learn to dive in Australia. There are also plenty of snorkelling and other water sports on offer around Perth. As the majority of Australia's 20 million residents live close to the coast, beaches are an important part of life, and there are certainly plenty to choose from.
- Surfing, Snorkelling, Diving, Sailing and all other water sports are plentiful - so much so that Australian Dollar Notes are waterproof, just in case you should leave them in your shorts by accident!



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WHY GO WITH TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Professional work experience placements
- 15 years' experience sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of **flexible projects** that are **value for money!**
- Excellent support - second to none in the industry
- Accredited projects helps **appeal to future employers**
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions prior to, during and after your **trip of a lifetime!**
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our **EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.**
- 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:

"My major role was to pass on information to the visitors about the dolphins and their environment and to ensure every level of dolphin – human interaction was managed in a safe and appropriate way. This was particularly important during the dolphin swim tours where I was assigned the position of swim tour guide and was responsible for the safety of all visitors while snorkelling with dolphins out in the ocean.

In addition to these regular volunteer duties, I also participated as a research volunteer. Working alongside researchers from Murdoch University, part of my role was to collect survey and photographic data along with various other geographical and weather related details. This information provides a solid baseline source of information on the dolphin's general group densities, movements and site preferences and how they vary over time.

It was a tremendous experience for me to work with the Dolphin Discovery Center, I will take the skills I've learned into my next endeavours and the joyful memories will stay with me always!"

Danielle

HOW TO BOOK:

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we'll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

We do hope you'll join us and are confident that you'll find this an incredible experience. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions - we'll be happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

You may also be interested in other courses with Travellers, or do other projects in our other destinations – please visit our [website](#) for details of all our projects. In fact you can choose from over 300 projects in 19 countries!

Make a Difference – Get Involved!

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