

# South Africa

An overload of cultures and communities, landscapes and wildlife that will captivate any visitor

Over the past 20 years South Africa has gone through some remarkable changes - most notably the abolition of apartheid through Nobel peace prize winner President Mandela.

Located at the southern-most tip of Africa, South Africa attracts more visitors than anywhere else in the continent, drawn to its exciting and diverse landscape and culture.

Modern cosmopolitan cities like bustling Johannesburg, stunning natural scenery at Table Mountain National Park, the extremes of the Karoo desert, the snowcapped peaks of the Drakensberg Range, the fresh lush coast of KwaZulu-Natal and of course spotting the 'Big 5' at the world famous Kruger National Park.

Although South Africa has made great strides in recent times, a divide remains greater than ever between the rich and poor, leading to many shanty towns and poor health facilities and education. Things do not seem to be getting any better in South Africa with 57% of the population still living below the poverty line and 35% living on less than \$2 a day. Kaya projects need your help in community and conservation initiatives to help this great nation.

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responsible travel



## Your life outside the project

Whether you are based in Cape Town, Chintsa or St Lucia, you are never far away from a stunning beach, a host of adventure or a cultural community of indigenous people. Our volunteer houses provide the opportunity to relax and unwind after a hard day's work and the weekends offer adrenaline sports, the opportunity to spot Africa's magnificent wildlife, the chance to take part in community sports games or just enjoy a typical South African Braai.

## Weather

- Average Temperature: 17°C
- Wet Season: November - March
- Dry Season: May - August

## Photography and Conservation Project

### Project facts

- Duration: 4 weeks
- Cost: £1785 for 4 weeks
- Requirements: Age 17+
- Location: Thanda Game Reserve, South Africa
- Project Activities: Photography course, photographing wildlife, organising shots in a database, attending workshops and education days for locals.
- Working Hours: Monday –Friday 08:30 - 16:30 (some early mornings required for photography)
- Project availability: Every month, contact our advisors for exact dates
- This project is incredibly popular and gets booked up in advance (max 7 volunteers per month).

### What's included

- Accommodation: Shared room in a volunteer house
- Food: 3 Meals a day (except Sundays)
- Weekly laundry service
- Airport pick up and drop off
- 3 day wildlife photography course
- Training: Pre-departure information pack, on-site Orientation and project induction provided, plus a basic lesson in Zulu language
- Daily transfers to and from your project.
- Support: On-site coordinator providing 24 hour support
- Activities: Staff help organise weekend activities. (Activity price may be extra)

### What's not

- Flights
- Visas
- Insurance

### The project

You can volunteer in South Africa on an incredible wildlife photography course where volunteers develop skills for taking great shots whilst working alongside an important documentation project where the wildlife of the wetland parks are being captured and documented. In order to preserve indigenous plant life and wildlife, it is essential to get local communities involved. What is lacking in current educational syllabus is a detailed photographic database of the wildlife in the area. The project aims to create a database which will be used for educational purposes. As a volunteer, you will contribute to this goal by taking photographs of as many wildlife species as possible. You will photograph large animals such as elephant, buffalo, rhino, leopard, as well as smaller creatures such as chameleons, insects, and some of the 521 bird species that call this World Heritage Site home. The best pictures will be included in the project database. The project is a unique opportunity to encounter some of Africa's most beautiful animals on a daily basis, to improve your photography skills, as well as to contribute to conservation efforts.

### Why the project needs you

Photographing wildlife is an activity that relies as strongly on patience and good luck as it does on the right equipment, knowledge of the techniques and creative skill. When a moment arises, an animal is spotted or a particular behavior is observed, the best chance of capturing it comes from as many people, as regularly as possible, being there to catch the moment. This wetland area is vast and in order to build the database that will aid education and research, volunteers with a passion for photography are encouraged to join this project and combine this opportunity to build a stunning portfolio, with a worthy goal that contributes to the conservation efforts.

### Role of the volunteer

Following your 3 day photography course within the wetland park, you will spend your mornings on various game drives, located in hides or travelling to an area which is to be documented - each day focussing on a different area or animal. In the afternoons, you will organise and document your shots on the database, visit local communities where you can continue documentation in some of the local community development projects and even get involved with some of the community work yourself. On certain days you might get involved with community education talks, workshops and excursions that begin to educate the local people and children at the local schools, on the value of conservation within their land.

### Skills required

For this project, enthusiasm for photography is essential. Photographic knowledge and experience is helpful, but not necessary. Volunteers will need to bring their own photographic equipment as a minimum they should bring an SLR digital camera with 18-55 mm lens, battery charger and 2GB memory.

### Project location

You will be based in a beautiful Private Game Reserve on the North East Coast of South Africa approximately one and a half hours away from St Lucia. The reserve is home to all of the Big 5 as well as 14,000 hectares of breathtaking Africa bush so there will be lots for you to explore every single day of your project. The award winning reserve is in northern Zululand and, as you'll be living within the reserve, there will be plenty of opportunities to see lions, leopards, buffalo, elephants, black and white rhinos as well as over 400 species of birds.