

Cheetah Re-introduction

PARYS, SOUTH AFRICA



At African Impact, we see ourselves as the on-the-ground AFRICAN SPECIALISTS in volunteering. Founded in 2004, we have so far hosted over 6000 volunteers on our exciting Conservation and Community Volunteer Projects in Africa.

We are also immensely proud to have been nominated as Finalists for the following Responsible Tourism Awards in 2009: The World Travel Awards; The British Youth Travel Awards and the prestigious South African Imvelo Responsible Tourism Awards. In 2010 we were once again nominated for a World Travel Award and were proud Winners of an Africa-wide Imvelo Responsible Tourism Award. An accolade awarded in 2009 to Sir Richard Branson's Ulusaba Eco-Lodge in South Africa. In 2011 so far we are nominated for a World Travel Award and are entrants once again in the Imvelo Awards, British Youth Travel Awards and Virgin Responsible Tourism Awards.

Join us on our Cheetah Re-introduction Project! Just 1.5 hours' drive from Johannesburg International Airport in South Africa, this project gives you the opportunity to work hands-on with cheetahs, and to assist with their re-introduction programme. Read on to find out more about this exciting project!



African Impact

PHYSICAL ADDRESS 6 Carlton Close, Noordhoek, 7985, Cape Town, South Africa.

TELEPHONE +27 21 785 4319 Direct Line or CALL US TOLL FREE 0800 098 8440 (UK) 1-800-606-7185 (USA)



Project Highlights:

- Working and interacting hands-on with our resident cheetahs every day, including exclusive 'cheetah time' every afternoon!
- Helping to monitor any young cheetah cubs we might have during your stay
- Learning about cheetahs and the environment they live in
- Exploring and discovering the African bush through our monthly 3 day trip to Kruger National Park (only guaranteed for volunteers joining us for four weeks or longer)
- Making friends for life and having new experiences, both with the staff and your fellow volunteers

The Cheetah Re-introduction Programme

We invite you to come and work with our beautiful cheetahs, and help us save this incredible species. This volunteer programme is designed to introduce you to the fascinating wildlife Africa has to offer as well as all aspects of cheetah conservation.

The cheetah breeding and reintroduction centre is based near Parys in South Africa (100 km south of Johannesburg). It is situated on a reserve which borders the Vaal River and is home to a variety of antelope species as well as giraffe.

The centre began working with captive-bred cheetahs in 2001 and in the past few years cheetahs have been bred and raised with a fantastic success rate. The initial aim of the project was to provide these cheetahs to other breeding programs, both in South Africa and internationally and therefore preventing them being taken from the wild but due to the rapidly declining numbers of cheetah in the wild. However, the centre managers soon realized that further action needs to be taken to address this problem. The centre aims to achieve this with a three-phase project which will see our cheetahs released into managed environments which are closer to their natural habitat.

You will get large amounts of hand-on experience with the cheetahs, as you will be spending time with them every day as well as what has come to be fondly known as 'cheetah time' in the afternoons – an exclusive time for you to just spend time interacting with the cheetah with no duties to do! Volunteers are also responsible for cleaning and maintaining the cheetah enclosures, exercising and feeding them and monitoring any cubs (from the age of three months) that we may have at that time. Once a month, we take our volunteers on a trip to Kruger National Park, one of the largest national parks in South Africa which is home to the 'Big 5', where you can see the best of Africa's wildlife in its natural habitat.



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We are currently in the initial stages of our reintroduction project, and are offering you the chance to work with us to help reintroduce cheetahs back into their natural habitat. You will be playing a vital role in monitoring and teaching our cheetahs (from the age of three months) to prepare them to hunt for themselves, so that we can realise our goal of seeing free-roaming cheetahs again.

The aim of the programme is to give you a deeper understanding of conservation and its importance in the 21st century, as well as giving you the incredible experience of interacting with our cheetahs on a daily basis. The volunteer aspect of the programme has been running for just over two years now and we have a maximum of 6 spaces available per month, providing you with the best possible experience by giving you plenty of interaction and hands-on time with the cheetahs.

We are working hard to complete the Phase 2 area and once it is completed you will play a vital role in monitoring the cheetahs and ensuring that the Phase 2 area is the right environment for our cheetahs to successfully refine their hunting technique and raise their cubs in.

Everyone at the Cheetah Reintroduction Centre has a contagious passion for nature and conservation, and especially the cheetahs. You will be working side by side with the staff and will find their knowledge and expertise invaluable during your stay!

Project accomplishments to date include:

Since July 2008 African Impact volunteers have contributed over 8,000 hours to the development of the Cheetah Re-introduction Centre.

In that time we've maintained and improved the cheetah camps, by the building of shelters, and the construction and erection of panels which provide shade and protection. We have also implemented behaviour enrichment projects to ensure the cheetahs are as happy and enriched as possible. We have created a database for each cheetah, recording their health, behaviour and feeding patterns, which allows us to build up clear profiles on each one.

We have also maintained the roads and fences around the reserve, and regularly complete game counts to monitor the health and activity of the game on the reserve as well as starting an education project to educate disadvantaged school pupils in the local community. In time we hope to make this accessible to the entire nation.



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Participant Requirements

No previous knowledge or experience is required. All we want from you is a willingness to work, a desire to learn and a passion for wildlife. It can be hard work, but it will be incredibly rewarding. The programme is open to anyone from the age of 18 to 55, however all participants must be in good health and able to carry out all duties required of them.

Regardless of your dietary preferences, it is important to note that you are expected to be fully involved in the preparation of the meat (usually horses and donkeys) for feeding the cheetahs (this includes removing the meat from the bone). You will be fully supervised at all times.

Project Costs

Please note your volunteer fee on this project is payable in South African Rands (ZAR), if you would like to check the latest exchange rates we recommend www.xe.com and your destination manager will be able to assist you further with this.

2 Week Placement: R10 060 (approximately £880 or US\$1370)

3 Week Placement: R15 060 (approximately £1320 or US\$2050)

4 Week Placement: R20 125 (approximately £1760 or US\$2750)

Project Dates

Start dates for 2011/2012 are the 1st and 15th of each month, with the exception of January 2012, where it will start on January 2nd and 16th. The project closes over the month of December.



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Project Cost Includes:

- Programme Fee – this is the large bulk of the program cost and finances all aspects of the cheetah breeding and reintroduction work, for example enclosure improvements and feeding the cheetahs
- Return transfers to and from Johannesburg International Airport (O. R. Tambo)
- All accommodation, food and housekeeping costs
- All transportation and equipment required to carry out your project work
- Complete 24 hour support and guidance from the project management team
- All wildlife and conservation education during your stay
- **ALSO INCLUDED** in your project experience is a three day wildlife safari experience at the world famous Kruger National Park (for those staying 4 weeks), see more below!

Project Cost Excludes:

- Return flights to Johannesburg International Airport (O. R. Tambo)
- Any items of a personal nature, such as gifts and curios and additional food, drinks and snacks
- Internet access, which we sell time for
- The appropriate personal medical insurance, which must cover the entire duration of your programme, and should include cover for repatriation and any activities that you will undertake, including working with animals
- Any additional trips or activities organised in your free time



Kruger National Park Safari Trip – experience one of the largest game reserves in South Africa

The three-day Kruger National Park Safari Experience is designed to give you the chance to see Africa's wildlife in their natural habitat and you will have opportunity to see animals such as lion, elephant, giraffe, rhino, zebra, leopard, kudu and more! You will also go on a tour of an animal rehabilitation centre just outside the park.

Please note that this trip takes place monthly and is therefore only guaranteed *for volunteers joining us for four weeks or longer*. However, we are excited to be able to offer the trip as an optional extra, at an additional cost, to participants of the two week and three week programmes. (The additional cost is ZAR 2250 for volunteers on a two-week placement, and ZAR 1125 for volunteers on a three-week placement.) The three-day trip includes your accommodation, transport, park entry fees, game drives and meals .

If you want to visit Kruger as part of the two or three week programme, your project manager will be able to make the plans for you and take payment for it directly.

The dates for the trip are as follows:

2011: 7 - 10 February | 23 - 26 March | 23 – 26 April | 23 – 26 May | 22 – 25 June | 23 – 26 July | 23 - 26 August | 23 – 26 September | 22 - 25 October | 23 - 26 November

2012: 22 – 25 January | 25 – 28 February | 24 – 27 March | 22 – 25 April | 23 – 26 May | 23 – 26 June | 22 – 25 July | 25 – 28 August | 22 – 25 September | 23 – 26 October | 24 – 27 November



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A typical day in the life of a Cheetah Re-introduction Project Volunteer

While we have a routine in place, our timetable is fairly fluid and we have to be ready to act in any eventuality. Here is an example of a typical day as a volunteer at the Cheetah Reintroduction programme:

7 – 8:30am: Cleaning the cheetah enclosures and running the cheetahs to exercise them and to provide stimulation and enrichment

8:30 – 9:30am: Breakfast, cooked and waiting for you when you get back to the house

9:30 – 1pm: Morning duties, which could be a enclosure maintenance, meat preparation, Phase 2 preparation or the removal of alien invader plant species

1 – 2pm: Lunchtime

2 – 4pm: Afternoon duties which, could be reserve maintenance or creating fire breaks and 'cheetah time' – hands on interaction with the cheetah!

4 – 5pm : Cheetah Feeding (this can change depending on the time of year)

4-5pm: Evening duties, which could be enclosure maintenance, a quiz or bush walk

At the end of each day we have a short meeting to go over the events of the day and inform everyone of the coming day

5pm onwards: Free time, a time to socialize and eat dinner. We may occasionally also do other activities during this time.

Please note that your itineraries may differ from this, depending on your own experience and the number of other volunteers on the placement at the same time, and this is simply to give an example.

Project Accommodation

You will be staying in our specially designed volunteer house, which is very comfortable and cleaned on a regular basis. There are areas to relax and socialise in, and there is a TV and DVD player for watching films on as well as DStv (cable) television. We also have Internet on the volunteer computer, available at a small additional cost. The closest town is Parys, 10 km away. Staff make regular trips to town for food, but it is not possible for volunteers to go to town apart from if they choose to go on their days off, when they can take pick up and luxury items. Please note that because the project is located on a reserve, there is no access to town for volunteers apart from their days off.

You will get one day off a week; you can choose to spend it relaxing on the reserve, or enjoying one of the many activities, such as river rafting, abseiling and quad biking which are available in the area, for an additional cost.



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Project Meals

Coffee, tea and juice are available throughout the day and snacks and cool drinks are available to buy from the reserve's shop. We will provide you with a substantial breakfast as we believe this to be the most important meal of the day. Lunch will be a cold spread and in the evening volunteers cook their dinners communally from ingredients we provide. This is a chance for you to get together, relax and discuss your day.

Please let us know before you depart for Africa of any food allergies or specific requirements.

Project Orientation

You don't need any experience to join us, and upon arrival you will receive a comprehensive orientation and will be fully briefed and trained in all areas. You will be introduced to all members of staff and given a tour of the reserve. You will be shown where all the tools and equipment are, and briefed exactly how to use them. You will not be expected to carry out any duties without the appropriate training and supervision.

You will also be given more information on our reintroduction project and the plight of the cheetah, so that you fully understand just how important and valuable the project work and your contribution as a volunteer is.

Project Support

Before and during the program you will have full support from the African Impact team and your Project Managers to ensure you receive all the support and assistance that you need. We are committed to ensuring you have the best possible time at the project and your health and happiness is of the utmost importance to us.

How to get there: **We will meet you at the airport!**

Fly directly to O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg (formerly known as Johannesburg International Airport) where you will be met on arrival by one of our project representatives. Pick-ups are at noon on the 1st and 15th of each month, at Avis Car Rental in the airport. So you will either have to arrive in the morning, or arrive in the afternoon/evening the previous day and stay overnight near the airport.

Meet your Destination Manager for this project!



Emma is originally from Cape Town. She has spent many years travelling the world and living in fascinating places, immersing herself in the culture, language and lifestyle. She has also volunteered on various projects and after all her travels has returned home to work in the place she loves most. Africa is where her true passion and inspiration for life is and she loves wildlife conservation and the people of Africa! Her dream is to one day settle on a beautiful beach where the monkeys roam free in the trees above her and she can sleep to the sound of the waves and the calls of nature.



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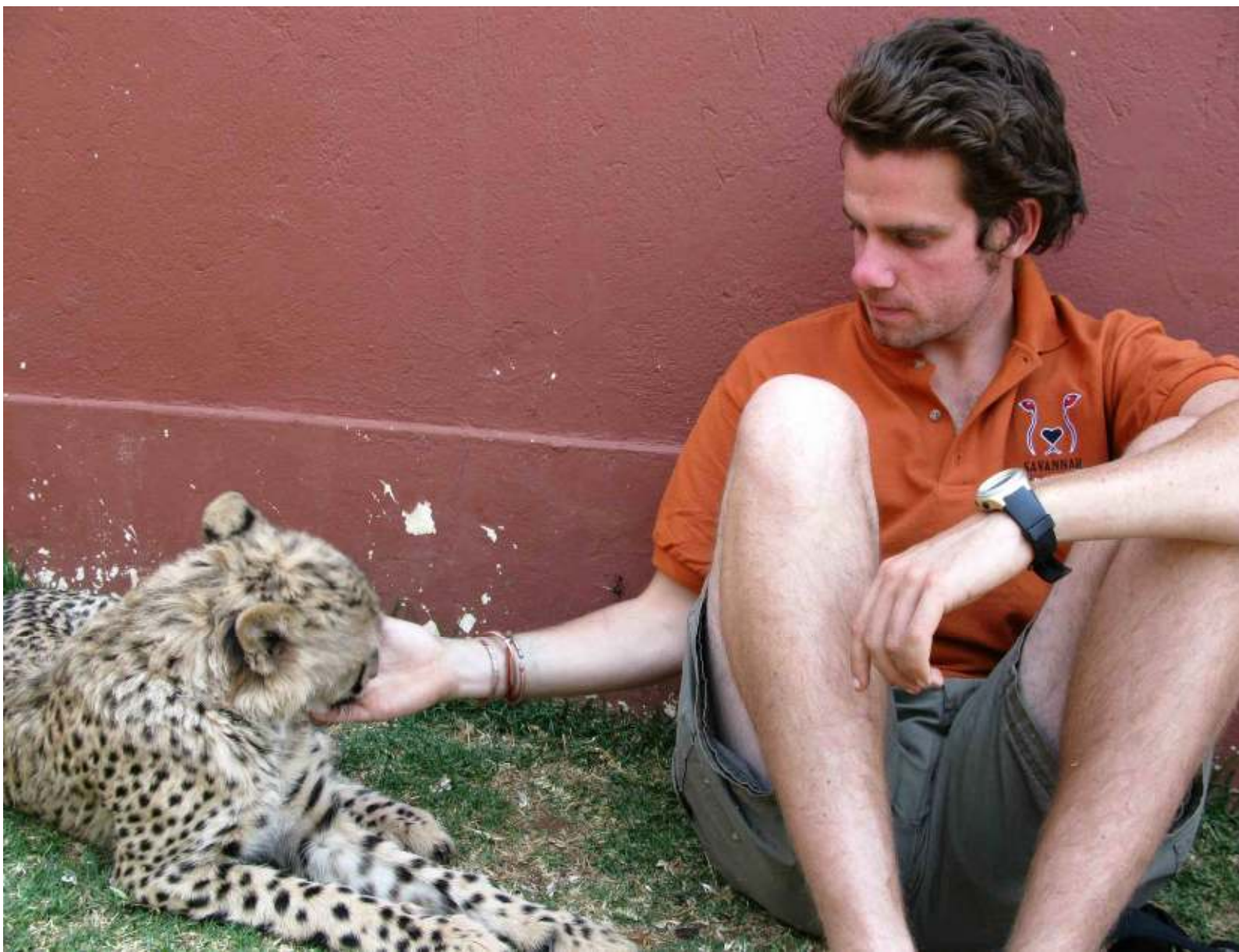


Our Partners

The Happy Africa Foundation www.happyafricafoundation.org African Impact is proud to have been instrumental in the establishment of The Happy Africa Foundation in 2007 and continues to be one of the Foundations major supporters. UK Registered Charity Number: 1123529. The mission of The Happy Africa Foundation is to empower the African people through the support of community and conservation based initiatives that operate at grass roots level.

We are proudly affiliated to the UK-based **Know Before You Go** campaign that promotes education and knowledge-sharing amongst travelers.

African Impact is proud to be **WINNER** in the Africa-wide Imvelo Responsible Tourism awards 2010, as well as **FINALISTS** in the 2010 World Travel Awards. We see this as exciting recognition of our position as African specialists in Volunteering with over 6 years experience.



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