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African Wildlife Sanctuary, Namibia

"There are no words to describe my time in Namibia - I had the best 3 weeks of my life at the wildlife sanctuary" **Maddy**

"If you not only love African Animals but truly care about their conservation and want to see them rehabilitated and thrive in their natural habitats, then this is the experience for you"
Michaela

At this exciting wildlife sanctuary volunteers have a rare opportunity to actively participate in the conservation, rehabilitation and research of African wildlife.

The award-winning sanctuary relies on volunteers to help achieve its mission to provide a safe refuge for orphaned, injured or 'problem' wildlife. They specialise in rescue and rehabilitation so that once ready, and where possible, animals are able to be returned to the wild. Where release is not possible, due to illness, injury or habituation, they get to live out their days at the sanctuary in a safe and caring environment.

With guests and residents including cheetahs, baboons, leopards, lions and a host of other mammals and birds, this is an exceptional opportunity to get hands on with African wildlife and many aspects of their care. Volunteers play an important role, helping with feeding and cleaning duties as well as maintenance and development of the sanctuary. For a complete African wildlife experience, spend an additional week with conservationists at TimBila Reserve monitoring elephants, carnivores and other animals in the wild.



Book now with a low \$400 deposit, balance due 3 months before trip. Payment plans available

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Snapshot

- **Start Dates** : Any day of the week, all year-round
- **Pricing** (in Australian Dollars AUD):
 - **2 weeks** \$2,495 **3 weeks** \$3,395
 - **4 weeks** \$4,245 **6 weeks** \$5,995
 - **8 weeks** \$7,295 **12 weeks** \$9,595
- **Minimum Age** : 18 if solo, children accepted if accompanied by parent/guardian
- **Fly In/Out** : Windhoek (WDH)
- **What's included**: All meals, accommodation, return airport transfers, 24/7 support
- **What's not included**: Flights, travel insurance
- **Accommodation**: Twin-share safari "tents" (with proper beds)
- **Food**: Delicious catered meals are provided, most dietary needs are catered for



Wildlife Research add-on

As part of your stay, we recommend you combine time at the sanctuary with a stint at the exciting Timbila reserve research project, a fantastic way to have a complete African wildlife experience. Research weeks at TimBila are undertaken in small groups escorted by members of the sanctuary team. All transport, accommodation and meals are provided, and a surcharge of \$200 per week applies over the standard sanctuary program rate. More detail is provided at the end of this Info Pack.

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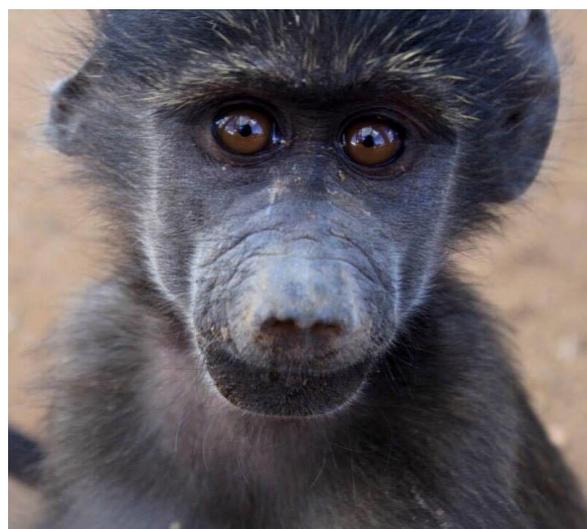
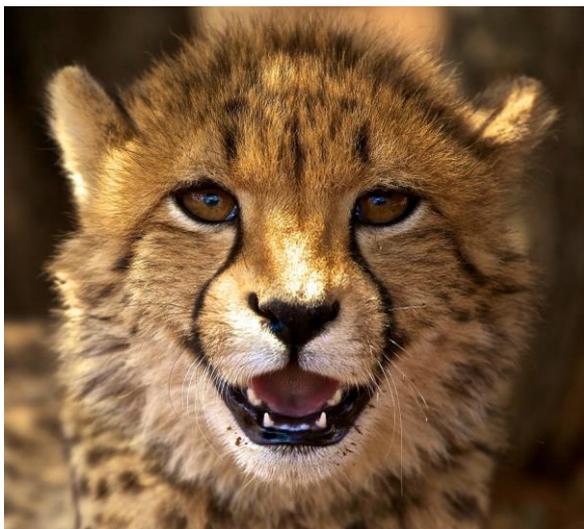
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Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive into Windhoek Airport and you'll be met by our staff and taken straight to the sanctuary around 40 mins away and your home for the duration of your trip. Settle in and get to know your fellow volunteers, the staff and the animals who also call this place home. Your orientation session will talk you through the history of the sanctuary, its aims and the important program rules to keep you safe.

The program Then you'll get stuck in ! Duties begin each day around 8am and tasks at the sanctuary are varied, with a mixture of work, fun and educational half-day sessions carried out on rotation to ensure that everybody gets involved in the full range of experiences available at the time. Expect some or all of the following:

- Food prep and feeding the animals, inc the Big Cats / Small Animals / Baboons
- Baboon walk – escorting the young baboon troupe out into the bush reserve
- Cheetah run – accompany rangers into the reserve alongside the cheetahs
- Tracking the free-roaming elephants and rhinos
- Enrichment – creation of objects to stimulate natural behaviours in captive animals
- Research activities inc camera traps, game counts, footprint identifications, etc
- Horse riding and stable maintenance
- Rhino Rangers
- Anti-Poaching Patrol / K9 Unit (dogs) Training
- Cleaning and maintenance of animal enclosures
- Reserve Maintenance / Alien vegetation clearing



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You may also be involved with the kinder or primary school which is located within the grounds of the sanctuary. These facilities have been established to provide free education to the San children whose parents work on site.

Weekends At weekends there's lots to do...or do nothing at all! Join in with animal feeding on Saturday morning if you wish. Take a walk, swim in the pool or book one of the many optional activities available – what better than a horse ride in the desert, mingling with giraffes and watching the beautiful African sunset? Join the Sunday mall-trip for a shopping fix or book a lazy lunch at the swanky Lodge, it's up to you how busy you'd like to be.



Last day – For those heading home, it's just 40 minutes to the airport tomorrow and our driver will deliver you for your flight out at any time of the day.

Accommodation and meals : Your accommodation will be one of our guest "tents" - large, permanent, canvas-sided huts with wood flooring and power. Twin-share, occasionally triple, most have an open-air ensuite bathroom (those that don't share a bathroom with only one other hut). If travelling solo you'll be paired with a roomie of the same-gender. The huts are fairly basic but very comfortable with a proper bed (all bedding is provided, but do take your own sleeping bag too in winter).

Three delicious catered meals are included each day, so you'll enjoy the luxury of having your breakfast, lunch and dinner prepared for you. Most dietary needs are catered for, and participants are often pleasantly surprised at the quality and variety of the meals on offer. You can look forward to some authentic African braais (BBQ) on a weekend too !

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The logo for 'totally travel' is located in the top left corner. It consists of the word 'totally' in a white, cursive font inside a yellow speech bubble, and the word 'travel' in a white, sans-serif font inside a red speech bubble below it.

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A collage of three images: a woman smiling next to an elephant, a woman and a man laughing together, and a monkey being administered a vaccine.

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Extend your stay and see more of Namibia

As part of your stay in Namibia we recommend you combine your Veterinary Experience with a week or more on either the African Wildlife Sanctuary program or at one of the special conservation, research or adventure project locations around Namibia. There are many options available and all projects operate under the same overall management – programs operate year-round in 1 week blocks and all your transfers, accommodation and meals are included. Whichever you choose you'll find the transition between programs to be seamless. You'll also be amazed at the many different landscapes and experiences available in this spectacular country ! Choose from:

- Harnas wildlife volunteer program
- TimBila Reserve (see below)
- Kanaan Desert Retreat
- Coastal Conservation Project
- Neuras Adventure Week
- Rhino Rangers
- Lifeline Clinic

Please refer to the “Namibia Projects” pack for more details on these opportunities.

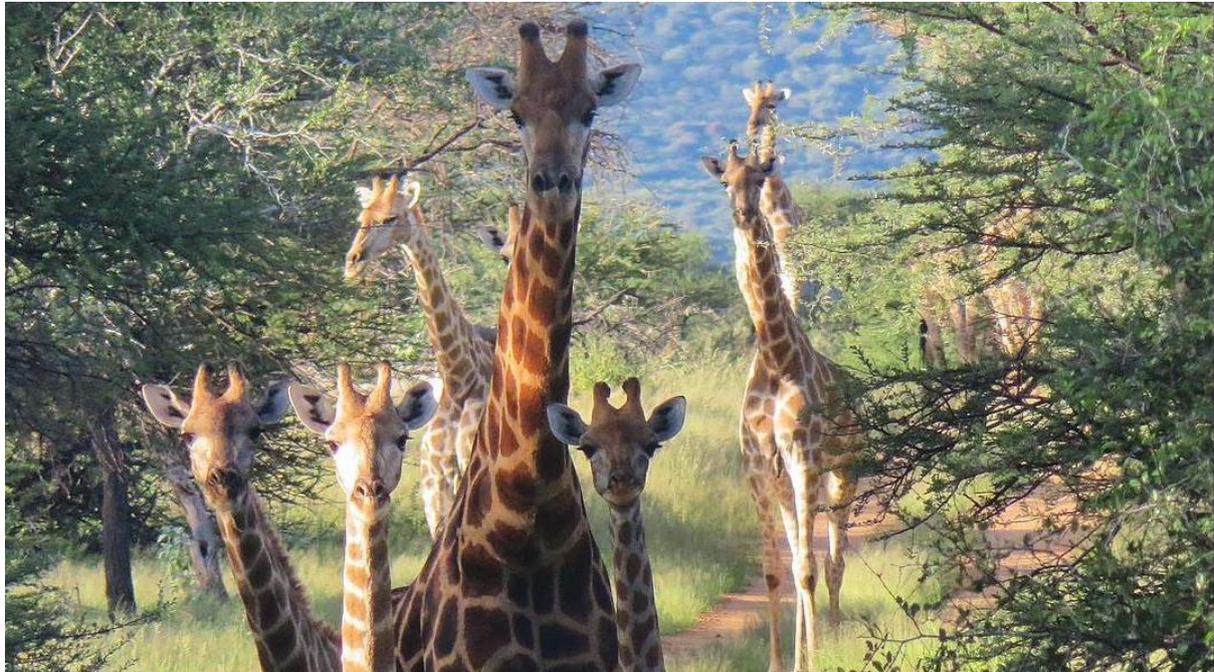
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TimBila Wildlife Research week



TimBila is a beautiful and spectacular 33 000 hectare reserve, home to a vast number of prey and carnivore species. Forming a vital release site for conflict carnivores and the re-establishment of wildlife, this reserve is a conservation gem. Located 270kms from the Sanctuary, TimBila is **an absolute must** as part of your Namibia experience. TimBila epitomises the Sanctuary's vision of conserving the landscapes of Namibia, protecting its wildlife and improving the lives of the people we work with.

TimBila is home to a herd of translocated elephants, white rhino, rescued conflict lions and African painted dogs, all successfully rehabilitated. These are in addition to the wide range of existing wildlife which include leopard, cheetah, hyena, caracal and many species of reptile and herbivore. The translocated wildlife is monitored daily by scientists and volunteers to track its progress, and this will be just one aspect of your exciting time at TimBila Reserve.

Operating Saturday to Saturday, Timbila research weeks are in small groups escorted by members of the sanctuary team, with all transport, accommodation, meals and training provided. Hiking the terrain makes up a large part of the daily activities, so a good level of fitness is recommended though activities can be tailored to suit the levels of most people.

The schedule is varied and will change according to need, but expect to be involved in some or all of:

- game counts and biodiversity surveys, both daytime and at night

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- species ID
- wildlife tracking, using tracks, scat markings and GPS
- lion monitoring
- elephant monitoring
- setting camera traps and analysing image data
- night drives
- participating in the release of wildlife
- maintenance and security on the reserve

We highly recommend you combine your time at the sanctuary with a week at this exciting research project, a great opportunity to view animals in the wild, to learn and be part of wildlife rehabilitation and reserve management. A stay at TimBila Reserve, “the place of second chances”, is a fantastic way to complete your African wildlife experience.



Accommodation You will be staying in the volunteer farmhouse with twin-share rooms and ensuite bathrooms. All meals are included and there is a lovely pool for regular cool-off swims. The comfortable volunteer area has a breathtaking view over the reserve.



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First-trip away? Female traveller? On your own?

“10/10 This was such an incredible experience. I was terrified to travel alone as a young female and for the first time. But you assured me I’d be completely fine, which I was! I’m so happy I went through you guys! This was the best thing I’ve done in my life.” **Ash from QLD**

Namibia is a great option for a first trip to Africa - Australian DFAT rates Namibia "Green" for safety and security - that's considered as safe as New Zealand, Singapore and Fiji !!!

On average, over 80% of volunteers here are female. The sanctuary itself is a highly professional operation, a very safe and secure environment, fenced and patrolled. You're picked up as soon as you arrive at the airport and dropped back at the airport at the end, so there is really no time during your stay that you are on your own.

You stay on the sanctuary grounds and rooms are twin-share – when travelling solo you'll be paired with another female solo traveller. The sanctuary is a large operation with many permanent paid staff working alongside a large team of international volunteers (anything from 30–50 at any given time). It's a very social and friendly environment. They operate strict health and safety procedures to ensure there are no issues around the animals.



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