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Namibia Wildlife Rehab Experience

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

Michaela



Designed for students or anyone with a keen interest in African wildlife, this special Wildlife Rehabilitation Experience is the ideal program for those interested in pursuing a career in veterinary, wildlife or zoology fields; or simply to learn about wildlife rehab in greater depth.

Participants will gain first-hand experience of wildlife husbandry and rehabilitation in sessions led by the most experienced members of the sanctuary team. You'll gain an understanding of species-specific behaviours and learn about the role of the sanctuary in rescue, rehabilitation and release through a busy itinerary packed with theory and practical sessions. Furthermore, this group will get a front-row seat for any unexpected veterinary activities going on during their visit, including call-outs and rescues.

Offered twice each year, in February and September, each group takes a maximum of 10 participants. The 2 week Wildlife Rehab Experience can easily be combined with a week or more of general wildlife volunteering at the sanctuary and/or time spent at the exciting Timbile Reserve wildlife research project.

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

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Snapshot

- **2023 Dates :** 29 Jan - 11 Feb, 03 – 16 Sep
- **2024 Dates :** 28 Jan - 10 Feb, 01 – 14 Sep
- **Pricing:**
 - **2 weeks Veterinary program** AU \$2,995
 - **3 weeks (inc 1 week Sanctuary program, end Sat)** AU \$3,995
 - **3 weeks (inc 1 week Timbila program, end Sun)** AU \$4,365
 - **4 wks (inc 1 wk Timbila + 1 wk Sanctuary, end Sat)** AU \$5,195
 - **Additional Sanctuary weeks + \$990**
- **Minimum Age :** 18
- **Fly In/Out :** Windhoek (WDH)
- **What's included:** All meals, accommodation, return airport transfers, activities
- **What's not included:** Flights
- **Accommodation:** Twin-share safari tents (with proper beds)
- **Food:** 3 delicious meals per day are provided, most dietary needs are catered for



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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, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a yellow speech bubble, and the word 'travel' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a red speech bubble below it.A collage of three images is positioned at the top of the page. The left image shows a woman smiling next to an elephant. The middle image shows a woman and a young boy smiling together. The right image shows a person administering a syringe to a monkey's mouth.

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Itinerary

Day 1 (Sunday) Arrive into Windhoek Airport (airport code WDH) and you'll be met by our staff and taken straight to the sanctuary – your home for the duration of your trip. Settle in and meet other participants as well as sanctuary volunteers, the permanent members of staff and the animals who also call this place home.

The Program After breakfast on Monday participants will come together for orientation – this important session will talk you through the history of the sanctuary, its aims and the important program safety rules. The **Wildlife Rehab Experience** runs for 10 days, Monday to Friday with the weekend off in between.

Participants will learn the ins and outs of species behaviour, gaining an in-depth understanding of everything from wild dog pack mentality to captive cheetah management. Informative presentations are key to understanding the basis of the animals' activity and behaviour. We'll cover the stages of wildlife rehabilitation and what it involves, nutrition and enclosure management, enrichment, post-release monitoring, conservation laws, ethical dilemmas and also the impact of human-wildlife conflict and the role conservation organisations play in Africa.

Practical sessions will cover health and condition, visual animal assessments (BCS), behaviours and social structure, feeding habits and gender differences, examined using our on-site animals as a visual aid. Here participants will have the opportunity to visit our big cats at feeding time, to walk amongst baboons and cheetahs in the veldt and to observe our other various conservation ambassadors in order to gain a better understanding of their behaviour. Watching the way lions interact over food or the way baboons build a complex social hierarchy will better enable participants to draw conclusions about the various species and learn what contributing factors stand in the way of successful rehabilitation. We'll do a session on VHF tracking of large mammals in the reserve as well as kill-site investigation if circumstances permit.

The wildlife sanctuary boasts an incredible variety of magnificent wildlife, with lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant and rhino as well as baboons, vervet monkeys, oryx, kudu and countless other species. Participants will learn about the role of the wildlife sanctuary as well as the circumstances of the animals that come into our care, from the day of arrival until the day of release.

Each animal has its own story... whether rescued from a farmer's trap, surrendered or seized from illegal captivity, injured or orphaned there are many paths to here. The sanctuary team specialise in rescue and rehabilitation so that animals, once ready and where possible are able to be returned to the wild.

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Weekends During your free time there's lots to do...or do nothing at all! Take a nature walk across the farm, swim in the pool, play football or even go paintballing – but always make time for the beautiful African sunsets. Saturday afternoons are set aside for fun and games as a group followed by a braai (BBQ) for dinner. You may have chance to join a trip into Windhoek or to visit the ancient San skills academy to try your hand at a range of tribal skills including fire-making with traditional San fire sticks, making bows and arrows and jewellery.

Extend your stay by combining your 2 weeks veterinary program with a week or more of general wildlife volunteering at the sanctuary and/or time spent at the exciting Timbila Reserve wildlife research project. Refer to the **African Wildlife Sanctuary and Research Weeks** info packs for details. For extended programs, we can offer great flexibility with your arrival and departure dates.

Last day (Saturday) On your last day with us, having said your goodbyes and packed your bags, we'll whisk you off to the airport in plenty of time for your flight onwards, or home.



Accommodation and Meals: Accommodation is in our twin/triple-share safari-style “tents” – permanent canvas structures on a raised platform and with proper beds, duvets and pillows, very comfortable. If travelling solo you'll be paired with another volunteer of the same-gender. Showers and toilet facilities are communal, though some do have private bathrooms. Three delicious meals are included each day so you'll enjoy the luxury of having your breakfast, lunch and dinner prepared for you. Most dietary requirements are easily managed. You can look forward to some authentic African braais (BBQ) on a weekend too !

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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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TimBila Wildlife Research week



As part of your stay in Namibia, we recommend you combine time at the sanctuary itself with a week or more 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. This is a fantastic way to complete your African wildlife experience. The current focus project is at the TimBila Nature Reserve, “the place of second chances”.

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

TimBila is a 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 truly a place of second chances and **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.

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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 reserve's 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. 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
- 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



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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