



A guide to the:

*Harnas Wildlife Sanctuary*







# The Harnas Wildlife Sanctuary

**Focus:** African Wildlife

**Location:** Namibia

**Start Date:** Every Monday

**Arrival & Starting Point:** Windhoek

Located in southwest Africa, Namibia is home to some of Africa's most breath-taking natural sights. The orange sandy landscape welcomes you to the world's most ancient desert, curved by ferocious winds, baked by blazing sun, and rusted by the iron of Africa. Situated in the heart of Namibia, Harnas Wildlife Sanctuary has been on the forefront of wildlife conservation for over 44 years. With the populations of certain species at an all-time low, the sanctuary works to provide a safe haven for animals affected by human-animal conflict and those made orphaned or injured in the wild.

During your time at the sanctuary, you will play a key role in their ongoing care, with over 300 animals at the sanctuary, and more on the on-site reserve. You will prepare food and feed the resident carnivores, which provides an extremely close view of some of Africa's most notorious predators. You'll help to care for baboons and accompany them on enrichment walks through the bush, and observe the world's fastest land animal, the cheetah. Learn all about these captivating animals and the important work the sanctuary does to care for these vulnerable species and join a night game drive to gain perspective of the African wilderness at night. End each day listening to the almighty sound of lions roar as they mark their territory every evening.



In addition to working with the animals, visit the local Lifeline Clinic where volunteers directly assist in the healthcare, education and food provision for the San Bushmen community. The clinic was set up to battle malnutrition and scabies across Namibia and has since evolved to serve thousands of local people a year. The Harnas Wildlife Sanctuary is one of only a few places in Namibia where you can enjoy an authentic San Bushmen experience - steeped in tradition and the magic of the world's most ancient culture. You will get the opportunity to visit the community, where you'll learn about their historic nomadic lifestyle and spend some time creating engaging and educational activities for the children. This project offers a life-changing experience that'll reward you with a new perspective on African culture, as well as wildlife encounters that you'll never forget.

# Activities



## Food Preparation

Ready to prepare food for a hungry bunch? You will be preparing nutritional dishes for all the animals at the sanctuary on a daily basis. You'll chop up meat and vegetables whilst following the guide to ensure every portion is the correct size for the specific animals you are preparing food for. Whether it's creating vegetable platters for the herbivores or preparing snacks for the meat-eaters, your role in providing the animals with a balanced diet helps them to maintain a strong immunity ensuring they remain fit, happy and healthy.

## Small Animal Feeding

Having prepared their meals, it's now feeding time! You will experience some incredible encounters with animals up close. From packs of mongoose, to meerkats and baby lambs, you will be responsible for their daily feed. Whether it's feeding vegetables to a creep of tortoises or giving the baby crocodiles their tea, this intimate experience with the animals will contribute to the animal's daily well-being.



## Carnivore Feeding

Witness the carnivores tear apart their food right in front of your eyes! After loading meals prepared by the project staff, you will head out as a group and complete a full tour of the sanctuary, pausing to observe and feed the carnivores along the way. The sanctuary is home to a range of carnivores including lions, leopards, cheetahs, and wild dogs, and the opportunity to feed and observe these magnificent predators is an experience you will never forget.

## Baboon Walk

Sadly, baboons are perceived as pests in Africa and are often shot by farmers, leaving baby baboons to fend for themselves. As a result, the Harnas Wildlife Sanctuary takes in a number of orphaned baboons. Volunteers help to look after these incredibly social animals and accompany them on enrichment walks through the bush, where they can safely travel large distances as their troop would in the wild.



## Night Drives

Time to spot some of the more unusual and nocturnal animals under the moonlight! Kudus, springboks, wildebeests, and rhinos are just a few of the species that are more active at night, and this 3-hour game drive provides you with the opportunity to get a glimpse of these animals after dark. Taking place every week, you will head out onto the reserve after 9pm, so make sure to wrap up warm and keep your eyes peeled!



## Project Work

In order to give the animals a positive quality of life, project work is essential to ensure the sanctuary operates smoothly and the animals have a safe and comfortable place to live. Some of the tasks required include digging and cleaning water holes, building playgrounds for the baboons, fixing fences or roads and cutting back vegetation. It may also be required for you to clean the animal enclosures, so get ready to get stuck in and get your hands dirty!



## 24-hour Game Count

If you want to experience real wilderness in Namibia, sign up for the 24-hour game count. This activity only takes place on a full moon when you are able to see the animals in natural light. The aim is to spot a variety of different animals making note of the species, quantity, and distance of the sighting. The purpose of this is to monitor the predator and prey base ratio, to ensure population density is suitable to maintain the overall health of the ecosystem.



## San Bushmen Experience

The San community are the oldest inhabitants of Southern Africa, having lived there for over 20,000 years. The term San refers to a diverse group of hunter-gatherers who share historical and linguistic connections. In their culture, traditions are upheld with pride and they will show you how they build their houses, find water, make a fire and how they track animals. An educational and incredibly eye-opening experience.



## Lifeline Clinic

The Lifeline Clinic provides medical care, education, and daily food for the locals of Namibia. You will receive a tour of the clinic which includes the maternity and treatment rooms and have the opportunity to meet and interact with the local families. Work up an appetite by kicking a ball around with the children, and give back by serving lunch to the community.



# Itinerary

## Day 1

Upon arrival at Windhoek Airport, you will be greeted and collected by a project representative, before transferring to the Harnas Wildlife Sanctuary where you'll be given a tour and shown to your cabin. Finish off your first day by meeting and having dinner with your fellow volunteers.

## Days 2-14

These are your allocated project days, with each day beginning with breakfast at 7am before a morning meeting at 8am where you will map out your activities for the day ahead. Please see below for an example of a typical day at Harnas.

## Day 15

Today will be your final day at the sanctuary. You will be transferred back to Windhoek Airport in a private vehicle in time for your return flight, or to embark on your independent travel plans.

## A breakdown of a typical day at the sanctuary

**7:00am**

Start off your day off with a hearty breakfast, whether it's cereal, toast, fruit or yoghurt with your morning tea or coffee.

**8:00am**

Time for a quick morning briefing. The project coordinators will split your group into smaller teams, allocating the day's activities accordingly to ensure that everybody gets an equal opportunity to take part in all the exciting activities Harnas has to offer.

**8:30am**

Let the first activity of the day begin! Activities vary depending on animal feeding schedules. You could be feeding the small animals, undertaking project work, participating in a baboon walk, or feeding the predators.

**12:30pm**

Now it's time to sit down and enjoy a delicious lunch. After you'll have time to have a quick shower and soak up some sun or get a soft drink at the bar.

**3:00pm**

For the remainder of the afternoon you will be participating in further activities and duties. Every day is different but there will be a great balance of both research, physical work and exciting adventures!

**6:30pm**

After a fulfilling day you will be ready to tuck into a well-deserved dinner with your fellow volunteers.

**7:30pm**

Time to socialise and relax! Whether you fancy unwinding with your friends, enjoying a drink at the bar or appreciating the evening bonfire, you are free to enjoy your evening as you please.



## Accommodation

During your time on the project, you will stay in a fixed wooden cabin in the volunteer village. Each cabin is solar-powered with ample storage space and mosquito nets. Located nearby are the bathroom blocks where you will have access to showers with hot water and western-style toilets. Each wooden cabin is shared with up to 3 other volunteers of the same-sex, unless travelling as a couple or for those who request to be accommodated together. Socialise or recharge with a refreshing drink at the traditionally decorated on-site bar or unwind on a sun lounger around the swimming pool located in the volunteer village.

For those who would prefer a more private and luxurious stay, a cottage upgrade is available for an additional cost with private outdoor seating and great views. For more information, please contact our travel team.



## Food & Drink

Three meals a day are provided, with water, tea, and coffee freely available throughout the day. Breakfast includes toast and cereal, and lunch consists of sandwiches, wraps or hot a meal such as pasta. Evening dinners include varied hot meals such as fish or meat, rice and vegetables, and on Saturdays there is often a braai (a traditional African barbeque). A vegetarian option is always available, and vegans can be catered for upon request. Snacks and drinks (including alcoholic beverages) can also be purchased at the sanctuary for an additional fee.





## What's Included

- Airport transfers
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- Tea and coffee
- English-speaking project coordinator
- A donation to the project
- Laundry service
- Wi-Fi

## Not Included

- Flights
- Vaccinations
- Visas
- Soft or alcoholic drinks and extra snacks

## What Next?

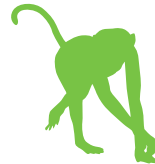
Becoming a volunteer at the Harnas Wildlife Sanctuary is simple, and you can help make a difference to wildlife conservation efforts in just a few simple steps...



Visit the website to select your start date and how long you would like to volunteer for.



Secure your place online by paying a deposit of £195. You'll have up to 60 days before your start date to pay your remaining balance.



Prepare for your trip and ask your dedicated travel expert any questions before packing your bags and heading off to Namibia!



Finally, have an incredible time and don't forget to send in or tag us in your photos!

**#thegreatprojects**



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