



# **Safari Stables Project**

## **Zimbabwe, Africa**







## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

- Help rescue and rehabilitate abused and injured horses
- Get to know the African bush whilst exploring on horseback
- Ride right up to zebra, weave through herds of impala, canter past wildebeest and admire majestic giraffes, all on horseback
- Enjoy showjumping, dressage and polocrosse lessons
- Gain valuable horse management experience in Africa
- Assist at the park's animal sanctuary, caring for lions, wolves, jackal, monkeys, warthog, ostrich and camels
- Take advantage of optional excursions to see Zimbabwe's natural wonders:
  - ◇ **Victoria Falls**, town and waterfall. One of the 7 wonders of the world
  - ◇ **Lake Chivero** to take a boat cruise and search for wild rhino
  - ◇ **Zimbabwean Elephant Nursery** to meet rescued elephant calves





## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Join the safari stables project, based on a beautiful game reserve called “The Lion and Cheetah Park”, in Zimbabwe. We welcome everyone to the project from professional riders to those who have never sat on a horse before. Volunteers gain valuable experience into the daily running and management of a yard which rescues and rehabilitates abused and injured horses.

The project aims to give horses a second chance at life, carrying out horseback safaris in the bush and training for show jumping, dressage and polocrosse. There are 20 horses in the stables ranging from local African bush ponies, to ex-racing thoroughbreds, each with their own unique history and rescue story.



This project is perfect for people interested in a career in equine sports and recreation and those looking for hands on work experience. We accept students from equine colleges as well as those looking to gain a genuine cultural experience and really make a difference during their travels in Africa.

One thing is for sure, you will spend numerous hours in the saddle every day and improve your riding, whilst contributing to conservation and horse welfare in a friendly and welcoming country.





## THE GAME PARK

The park is located just 23 kilometres from Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe and only 45 minutes from where you arrive in the airport. This is the perfect location to enjoy the wilds of the bush, whilst being a short ride from the amenities of town. The reserve has a large free roaming game park, teeming with safe wildlife including antelope, wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, warthog and eland. There are no dangerous or carnivorous animals in this area, so the riding is safe for all abilities. Open grasslands, forests and towering rock formations make up various habitats. The stables play a huge part in keeping this area safe and snare free, as well as carrying out regular game counts and boundary patrols.

In the middle of the park, there is also an animal sanctuary, home to a number of individuals who have found their forever home in the safety of the reserve. White lions, tawny lions, camels, crocodiles, warthog, ostrich, monkeys, jackals and wolves are a few of the species living in the sanctuary, in high welfare enclosures. These animals are either born in captivity, or are injured or mentally impaired and would not survive in the wild. You will have the option to assist with the care and management of these animals during your stay.

The park is open to the public every day of the week. Visitors come to drive around the game reserve and take a tour of the sanctuary enclosures. This is a wonderful way to educate Zimbabweans about the importance of conservation, rescue, rehabilitation and animal rights. School groups often attend to see the animals and learn about preserving the natural world.

Day visitors are able to take horse rides in the park, and riders from all levels come and enjoy exploring the bush this way. You can assist with these rides and the wildlife knowledge you learn in your inductions will inspire other riders to love and conserve African wildlife.





# YOUR VOLUNTEER WORK

As an volunteer you will undertake a variety of riding activities, such as:

- Schooling horses
- Join up for young and nervous horses
- Going on safari rides in the bush
- Fitness training
- Dressage and jumping lessons
- Wildlife management exercises on horseback such as boundary patrols and snare sweeps
- Playing polocrosse
- Full moon rides and overnight safaris to camp under the stars in the bush

The requirements of the stable change from day-to-day, therefore an open mind and flexible attitude is a must! Volunteers can expect to spend an average of 3+ hours daily on horseback. As well as spending ample hours in the saddle, you will carry out various tasks that are important to the maintenance and development of the yard and the game park. This may include:

- Mucking out
- Grooming
- Hay collection and filling haynets
- Dipping horses and tick management
- Tack cleaning
- Road repair
- Alien plant removal
- Painting
- Fire breaks
- Receiving lunging lessons
- Receiving veterinary care lessons (bandaging, deworming, wound care etc)
- Assisting the farrier, equine dentist and vet when appropriate





# YOUR VOLUNTEER WORK

## WHAT ELSE WILL YOU BE INVOLVED IN?

During your stay, there may be jumping and polocrosse competitions scheduled in Harare. Volunteers can choose to attend these shows and tournaments, which is a great chance to meet like minded horse lovers, see more of Zimbabwe and have fun whilst competing. Volunteers are responsible for covering the cost of the horse box and class entries.

You will also be able to assist with the animals in the wildlife sanctuary. The sanctuary does not allow human interaction with carnivores, with the exception of the wolves, who have grown up in human company and thrive on such contact. There are often young, injured and orphaned animals coming in and you can assist with their management and care. You will have a number of optional sessions each week for working with these animals should you wish. This includes feeding the lions, cleaning and enriching enclosures, helping with darting, veterinary care and training the wolves.

## FUN ACTIVITIES

During your stay you will be able to participate in a range of fun experiences to help you really get a feel for life in Africa. These are all included in the cost of your stay and are scheduled in to your weekly plan and help volunteers bond with each other and the staff, and work together as a team.

- Braai in the game park
- Sundowners
- Lunar rides under the full moon
- Town trips for dinner out
- Bush skills lessons
- Discovering ancient bushman paintings





## DAILY SCHEDULE

The first week of the program you will go through a number of inductions at the safari park. This will include stable's daily rota, schooling plans, the personality of the horses and a chance to familiarise yourself with the rides in the park. Thereafter the working week at the stables runs from Tuesday to Sunday, with Mondays off.

The day to day activities may vary depending on the time of the year and the work the horses are receiving. The events of a day may change the night before, or even during the day, so we ask you to be flexible and able to adapt to changing plans in order to put the needs of the animals first.

7.30 am — Feed and groom horses, turn them out to the field

9.00 am — Riding session. School/lunge/game park management. This is also a period for mucking out and stable maintenance

12.00pm— LUNCH

2.00pm — Riding session and stable duties

4.00pm — Water, haynets, bring in horses and feed.

5.00 pm — Work finishes

7.00 pm — DINNER

Evenings are at your leisure and are spent around the outdoor fire pit, having movie nights, going for a drink in town, card games and bonding with fellow volunteers. Monday is your off day when you can choose to relax, shop, head to town, or even ride your favourite horse if you want to get more time in the saddle. Each Monday we also aim to arrange an optional extra trip or activity, so you really make the most of your time in Africa.





## ACCOMMODATION

Your accommodation will be within the beautiful colonial thatched volunteer house on the boundary of the game park, right next to the yard. There is hot and cold running water with both showers and baths for your use. A central kitchen allows you to make your meals and there is comfy living room with couches and a TV. The TV takes DVD's and hard drives and you are welcome to bring your own supply.

Bedrooms may be shared if there are a number of volunteers at the time, with a maximum of three people. Rooms are same sex, unless you are a couple and wish to be in a room together. All bedding and sheets are provided. You will need to bring your own towel.

House keeping will come to the house every day, clean your room, make your bed and do any clothes washing that is needed. All your laundry is included in the price of your stay.

### FOOD

All your meals are included in the cost of your stay. Breakfast is self served and ingredients like milk, cereals, fruit, tea and coffee are provided in the kitchen. Lunch will be made for you and eaten at the volunteer house or in the garden. Lunch may consist of salads, burgers, pizzas etc. Dinner will also be prepared for you and eaten at the volunteer house. Dinners can include lasagne, stews and a cultural "braai" experience, which is a meal of meat (or vegetarian alternatives) cooked over an open fire. We can cater for most diets but need advance warning, so please highlight your requirements when making your booking.

### STAYING IN TOUCH

During your stay you will be given a portable wifi dongle that you can load with data whilst with us. Most volunteers spend about 15 USD a week on their internet, depending on usage. The internet in Zimbabwe may be slower than what you are used to at home, so we suggest you download any films and music before you come! You will have no problems sending messages, and uploading photos and videos to social media.



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Am	DAY OFF	Feeding, grooming  Wildlife management: Boundary patrol  Tack cleaning	Feeding, grooming  Wildlife management: Game count  Water trough cleaning	Feeding, grooming  Lunging lesson  Stable cleaning	Feeding, grooming  Polocrosse lesson  Fence fixing
PM	DAY OFF	Join up with the young horses  Feed horses and groom	Dressage Lesson  Assist the Farrier	Showjumping lesson  Feed horses and groom	Wildlife management: Snare Sweep  Assist the horse dentist

	Sat	Sun
Am	Feeding, grooming  Groundwork with young horses	Feeding, grooming  Veterinary care lesson
PM	Optional lion feed and as- sisting at the sanctuary  Feed horses and groom	Give pony rides for day visitors  Feed horses and groom

This is a rough example of  
how your week could look.

However, due to the nature  
of the project these activities  
may change on a daily basis.





## EXTRA INFORMATION

### IMPORTANT TO BRING

- Riding hat, chaps and gloves
- Riding boots (with a heel and hard sole)

Since horse tack and equipment is challenging to obtain in Zimbabwe, we are always very thankful for donations of equipment like grooming brushes, hay nets, old riding hats, old tack and horse boots.

### VISAS

You will enter Zimbabwe on a tourism visa, as you are coming as an ecotourist. A tourism visa varies from 30 to 70 USD depending on your country of origin. This visa lasts for three months then you will pay a small fee (20 USD each month) if you stay for longer, up to a total of 6 months. You are responsible for obtaining your own visa, and most nationalities can purchase it with USD cash on arrival in the country.

### INSURANCE

You are required to take out travel insurance for the duration of your stay. This must include cover for local medical care and repatriation to your home country, as well as horse riding.

### EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Extra activities which are offered every Monday, are at your own expense. These can include visits to the Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery to meet the orphaned baby elephants and enjoy a delicious “high tea” (100 USD), boat cruises at Lake Chivero to spot rhino and other wildlife (20 USD), visiting the local Bird Rehabilitation Sanctuary (5 USD). We can also help you arrange a trip to Victoria Falls before or after your project (price varies).



# PROJECT COST AND DATES

Duration (weeks)	Cost
1	£570
2	£1140
3	£1710
4	£2,280
5	£2,800
6	£3,370
7	£3,940
8	£4,510

## START DATES

You can join this project any week of the year.

Volunteers fly in to and out of Harare International Airport on Sundays. We can help you book the correct flights and also cater for alternative start dates, so if your travel plans are not able to fit the normal dates, please contact us for more information.

## WHAT IS INCLUDED

Want to know what's included? Great news, it is pretty much everything! Including your:

- Pre departure assistance with planning and flights from one of our destination specialists
- Shared accommodation
- All horse riding and lessons
- Airport pick-up and drop-off from Harare International Airport
- 3 meals a day
- A fulltime housekeeping service and all laundry
- Onsite 24 hour volunteer coordinator

## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- International or domestic flights to and away from the project
- Visas
- Insurance
- Extra activities on your day off, and costs associated with horse competitions.

To find out more, or to make a booking you can email us at

[info@lionandcheetahpark.com](mailto:info@lionandcheetahpark.com)

Or check out

[www.lionandcheetahpark.com](http://www.lionandcheetahpark.com)