Join our field guides and research team on safari drives through South African game reserves to monitor and study the African ‘Big 5’ - lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo. The data you collect on these wild, but vulnerable and at-risk animals, will help local wildlife foundations in protecting and conserving them. While living at a lodge in this wildlife haven, you'll not only practically contribute to conservation, but learn more from our team of experts about the issues facing African animals.
Go on daily game drives in some of South Africa’s finest game reserves, including those neighboring the iconic Kruger National Park. You’ll help collect data on the ‘Big 5’ and other iconic species, providing critical information that can protect them from poaching, starvation, and misinformed culling.

Join us in tracking the movements, and monitoring the behavior, of elephant herds and prides of lion. The better we can understand them, the more effective we can be in our conservation efforts.

Camp out at our overnight research camp once a week – a truly African experience that sees you spending a night in the middle of the bush.

Undertake night game drives, seeing nocturnal animals in their natural environment.

Assist in ongoing practical conservation initiatives, including removing invasive plant species or conducting snare sweeps. This directly preserves the habitat, and lives, of the animals who call this area home.

Be part of local anti-poaching efforts, learning more about the issues facing this region, as well as what is being done to prevent it.

Experience real-life wildlife conservation in-action and learn more from our team of experts.

Live in the heart of the world-famous Greater Kruger Area, in your own private volunteer lodge surrounded by wildlife.

During your downtime, explore Blyde River Canyon, take in the sights of the Panorama Route, go for a hike, take a swim in our pool, or put another stamp in your passport by visiting the intriguing land-locked country of Swaziland.
This project is based in the stunning Greater Kruger Area of South Africa – famous for its breath-taking scenery and sightings of the ‘Big 5’ (lion, elephant, rhino, leopard and buffalo). The ‘Big 5’, while now thought of as the top animals to see on safari, originally referred to the five most dangerous animals to hunt on foot. The area is world-renowned for its protection efforts to save these species’ and preserve their natural habitats.

As a research volunteer, you’ll be part of the action; helping to monitor the region’s wild ‘Big 5’ animals and assisting in vital conservation efforts that support the long-term objectives of internationally-recognized wildlife trusts and foundations.

### THE RHINO PROJECT

In the face of the current rhino-poaching crisis, there has never been a bigger need for the monitoring of this majestic species. Over 1000 rhinos were poached in South Africa last year, so your participation is key as you actively search for individual rhinos on daily research drives. By tracking and identifying individuals, and then documenting your observations, you’ll provide the necessary information required for their protection and for the deterrence of poachers in the area.

### THE LION PROJECT

Africa’s iconic species is continuing to disappear at an alarming rate. With a 43% drop in the lion population in the past 20 years and a total eradication of lions in 14 African countries, hands are needed on the ground to save these amazing animals. You will be instrumental in collecting data on specific lion prides during your daily research drives.
**THE LEOPARD PROJECT**

The leopard population in South Africa is declining quickly due to persecution by humans. Decisions on their protection are misinformed because of outdated population numbers, with hunting permits still being issued. On daily research drives, you will be collecting vital information on this species and creating ID kits on each individual, helping authorities better protect them in the future. You will also be detecting snares and removing them – playing a direct role in saving this iconic species.

**THE ELEPHANT PROJECT**

Elephants are greatly misunderstood and sometimes seen as a nuisance due to a lack of information on their numbers and migratory patterns. These beautiful creatures are being culled unnecessarily often due to this lack of insight. You will play a critical role in their protection, by providing our partner organizations with data collected on elephant population estimates and movements in the area.

**THE BUFFALO PROJECT**

The stability of the buffalo herds (also called obstinacies) is key information for management of conservation in the area. They are often misunderstood but are fundamental to reserve management and predator and prey relationship. We can guarantee that through game counts and daily research drives, you will see why they need respect and hold the deserved place in the ‘Big 5’.

**ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

By conducting research on how ecosystems work together, we can be better informed as we work to conserve and protect our valuable endangered and threatened species in Africa. This ranges from the effect of the changing climate with drought and flash floods often destroying huge land areas. The disappearance of insect life, reptiles and birdlife all absolutely needed for a healthy and balanced protected wildlife.
KEY VOLUNTEER WORK

DAILY GAME DRIVES
Join our qualified guides and research team on daily game drives in search of the ‘Big 5’ and other African wildlife. We will give you the tools and support you need to collect data on comprehensive data sheets, using GPS, camera traps and mapping software and help identify individual animals using ID kits. Your observation and data collection will form part of a large picture to provide key information for better understanding and ultimately critical decisions made on protecting the wildlife in the Greater Kruger area.

CONSERVATION WORK
This dirty work is so much fun and key to the survival of wildlife in the area. We need your help to remove invasive plants and encroaching species in order to transform the land back into a habitat where wildlife can flourish. You will be joining us on snare sweeps, where we discard of these traps that often cost the lives of leopard and other animals. Don't worry about your physical ability, we have a role for everyone and many hands are needed.

DEAL IN THE DETAIL
You will learn how to compile and collect data, which is analyzed and used to create reports, maps, and up-to-date profiles of the animals that we observe. Using whisker patterns, scars and ear notches you will understand how to distinguish individuals in order to create and update ID kits which will monitor their movement and their health in the years to come.
WHAT ELSE YOU'LL BE INVOLVED IN

REPTILE CENTER
During your time with us, we will get you involved in different and exciting activities. Partnering with a local Reptile Centre you will clean their cages, assist with the reptile food garden, and maybe overcome your fears of spiders and snakes by learning about them and holding them if you wish!

OVERNIGHT CAMPING IN THE BUSH
Fancy camping under the stars? No sleeping bag required! In a Big Five Private Game Reserve, you will have the chance to monitor all the wildlife, record data on them, and just simply enjoy what the bush has to offer. You will be doing day and night drives, and have an amazing dinner in the tented glamorous tented campsite.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK
You will get the chance to help in a variety of community projects. You will take part in our fun reading club, where in an exciting and interactive manner you will help improve the English reading and comprehension skills of local children – a crucial skill for their futures. As part of our Farmers of the Future initiative you will help maintain vegetable gardens at the local schools, which add to the meals of the children and the community.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Last but not least! Our knowledgeable Field Guides and on-site staff will hold presentations to enhance your understanding on topics such as: rhino poaching, giraffes, lion conservation, bio indicators, beetles and bugs and many more.
# A Week in the Life of a ‘Big 5’ Volunteer*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research</strong> - Game Count</td>
<td><strong>Conservation</strong> - Invasive Plant Removal</td>
<td><strong>Research</strong> - Game Drive</td>
<td><strong>Research</strong> - Bush walk or Bird survey</td>
<td><strong>Research</strong> - Game Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MID-MORNING</strong></td>
<td>Rhino Poaching Presentation followed by Team Meeting</td>
<td><strong>Project work</strong> - data entry / camera traps</td>
<td>Break Up Camp and Return to Lodge</td>
<td>Giraffe Presentation</td>
<td><strong>Project work</strong> - ID kits / data entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research</strong> - Game Drive/ Data Sheet Handling</td>
<td><strong>Research</strong> - Game Drive</td>
<td><strong>Conservation</strong> - Reptile Centre</td>
<td><strong>Community</strong> - Reading Club</td>
<td>Optional Town Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EVENING</strong></td>
<td>Night Research Drive/Overnight Camp</td>
<td>Chill by the Fire</td>
<td><strong>African Sundowners</strong></td>
<td>Braai Night</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SAT</strong></th>
<th><strong>SUN</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekend Trips – Panorama Trip</td>
<td>Weekend trips – Kruger National Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is a rough example of how your week as a research volunteer could look. However, due to the nature of the project these activities may change on a daily basis.
WHERE YOU WILL BE STAYING

During your volunteering placement you will stay in our lodge within the Greater Kruger Area – a spacious lodge boasting a large swimming pool all situated on 18 hectares of land. This beautiful landscape serves as home to impala, warthog, bush pig, nyala and a great diversity of birdlife. Here, you’ll dine, relax and socialise. We don’t know of a better place to sit around a campfire and admire the stars!

WHAT THE LOCATION IS LIKE

Situated in the heart of South Africa’s most famous ‘Big 5’ area, we are surrounded by game reserves including the world-renowned Kruger National Park, which is a 45-minute drive from the lodge.

The nearest town is Hoedspruit, which is a 30-minute drive from our lodge and a great place to spend some relaxing downtime. We do an optional weekly town trip on Fridays to visit supermarkets and souvenir shops or you can simply relax whilst drinking coffee or eating ice-cream.
Want to know what’s included? Great news, it is pretty much everything! Including your:

- Shared Accommodation (private accommodation upgrades are available for an extra supplement)
- Airport pickup and drop-off on selected Sundays
- All your daily project transport
- 3 meals a day, freshly cooked from our team of great chefs
- A full-time housekeeping service and 24-hour onsite support
- Returning volunteers receive 5% discount!
- Existing volunteers booking another project in a NEW location receive 10% discount!
- Wi-Fi is available for an additional fee, but you will need your own Wi-Fi compatible device. (Approx.: R350 for 2 weeks or R600 for 4 weeks)

Our team stays with you and offers guidance and advice whenever you need it. We help plan your day, so you get as much out of your work as possible. We are also here to make sure you have fun!

### START DATES 2020

05, 12, 26 Jan | 05 or 19 Apr | 14 or 28 Jun | 05, 12, 19 or 26 Jul | 02, 09, 16, 23 or 30 Aug | 06 or 20 Sep | 04 or 18 Oct | 01, 15 or 29 Nov | 13 or 27 Dec
We know you’re going to be working hard during the day but we want you to enjoy your downtime in the evenings and on the weekends. Here are just a few ideas:

- Go on the famous Panorama Route, which is a scenic route along Mpumalanga Escarpment with Blyde River Canyon, Africa’s second largest canyon
- Go on an adventure in Blyde River Canyon that include extreme hiking or micro light flying
- Go on a day safari or overnight trip with an experienced guide to the world-famous Kruger National Park, South African’s largest game reserve
- Enjoy a fantastic fun filled afternoon learning about the Shangaan culture, language and history through dance and music
- Go on an afternoon town trip in to Hoedspruit, grab an ice cream, do some souvenir shopping and pick up some yummy snacks for the following week
- Get an extra stamp in your passport and explore Swaziland, in the wonderful Mlilwane Game reserve filled with numerous animal species and stunning flowers
- Relax by the pool, watch a movie or challenge your fellow volunteers and staff to a game of touch rugby
At African Impact, we create the most transformative and impactful volunteer experiences on the planet for communities, wildlife and volunteers.

Volunteering in Africa is what we do, it's in our DNA and what we are awarded for year after year. We've built, grown and developed our very own projects, hand-in-hand with local African communities. We work with the most incredible people to make this happen and surround ourselves with inspiring human beings from every corner of the world.

Every year is a chance to grow, learn and better our offering – both for host communities and for volunteers themselves. We’re constantly pushing the boundaries of excellence and know that volunteering can achieve even more.

What do we believe in?

- Providing an extraordinary experience to our volunteers
- Making tangible, measurable impacts for our communities and wildlife initiatives
- Transforming the lives and perspectives of everyone who is part of our journey

So, welcome to what good volunteering looks like. Join us and go #BeyondVolunteering to a place that connects cultures, mindset and ideas. A place that leaves you awed and inspired, able to do more, discover more and to make a real impact.
Nicole is originally from Canada. However, she has called South Africa home for the past 11 years. She first came to South Africa as a community project volunteer and therefore knows (first-hand) the life-changing experience of volunteering in Africa. After travelling the world, it is the rich beauty of South Africa that has stolen her heart. She now looks forward to sharing the diverse volunteer experiences waiting for you here with African Impact.

Email Nicole on: nicole@africanimpact.com

We look forward to welcoming you for a unique, rewarding and unforgettable experience!