



Wildlife & Travel Zimbabwe

The wildlife orphanage is a haven for wild animals which have little hope for survival in the wild. Creatures which have been orphaned, abandoned, injured, born in captivity or brought up unsuccessfully as pets. It is often the last refuge for those brought in sick or injured, and increasingly it is a sanctuary for confiscated animals. The wildlife orphanage has been featured in countless documentaries and is now world renowned for its pioneering work and is famed as one of Africa's largest and most successful wildlife rehabilitation/release centers.

This project was established in 1973 by an ex-game ranger his wife, and its primary function is to offer a home to orphaned, abandoned and sick wild animals. The wildlife orphanage is not a zoo. Wherever possible, rescued animals and birds are rehabilitated and returned to the wild. If safe release into their natural habitat is not possible, animals are cared for and kept for educational purposes and zoological study. In the case of endangered species, captive breeding programs may also be undertaken. The wildlife orphanage is a registered Welfare Organization in Zimbabwe.

The functions of this project today:

- Wildlife orphanage/ animal rehabilitation centre: to provide a service to rescue and care for injured wildlife, thereby providing a home for the many injured, sick, orphaned, abused, confiscated or abandoned wild animals from anywhere in Zimbabwe.
- Education: to educate the Zimbabwe public, especially young children, with the aid of live viewing of many species not easily seen in the wild. Provide relevant lectures, film and slide shows for visiting groups. Thus providing a local resource centre for children to appreciate the important value of Zimbabwe's natural heritage.
- Nature Conservation: to teach people and especially children, to appreciate the wonder and variety of indigenous wildlife and not to take it for granted that these animals or their environment will not always be there for their enjoyment without the correct management of our natural resources.
- Research: to observe and record useful zoological information on captive animals such as body growth and development, nutrition, dentition and gestation periods. Relevant research and field surveys are undertaken in the wild, under natural conditions in National Parks and protected areas.
- Cooperation: To provide a link between local and governmental authorities thus being able to offer assistance to organizations like SPCA, National Parks, schools and private individuals where ever problem animals are concerned.





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Life of a Volunteer

On arrival at Bulawayo Airport, you will be met by a member of staff to take you straight to the orphanage which takes about 45 minutes. Depending on what time your flight gets in you will either be taken straight to your cabin where you can relax before having dinner or if it's an early flight you can settle into your cabin then taken on a tour of the orphanage. Volunteers are expected to work 6 days a week and have Mondays off. No experience is needed to work with the animals as all the training will be provided. All we ask is that you're enthusiastic and dedicated to working with animals. You will work 7 hours a day but will always be on call during fire season and when we have babies in. Baby shifts will be shared out between the volunteers as we would not expect them to be awake with them all night.

During your first week you will be getting to know how the orphanage runs, during this time you will work with the different teams. You will get an introduction into working with the carnivores, primates, birds of prey, snakes and domestic animals. Your main duties will include:

- Preparing food for the animals, all the different sections are different as they all require a specific diet.
- Feeding the animals, some of the animals are dangerous so the volunteers get to observe will the workers feed them, these are animals such as the snakes and crocodiles.
- Clean out enclosure, this does including the large carnivores.
- Helping with enrichment ideas for the animals.
- Go out on field trips
- Give presentations at local schools to children about nature and living together with animals
- Helping to build and maintain enclosures.
- Giving tours and educating the public.
- Hand rearing orphans that come into The wildlife orphanage, this is the most rewarding task as you get to comfort them when they cry, feed them when they get hungry and generally just play with baby animals. This can also be very tiring as they may need feeding during the night or just need a cuddle when they get scared.

Life at the orphanage

The living accommodation is in comfortable cabins with electricity. Depending if you are alone you will have your own cabin which is equipped with a comfortable double bed, mosquito net, 2 shelves, wardrobe and bed side table whereas if you come with a friend, you will have a twin room only difference is 2 single beds rather than a double. In the camp there are hot water showers, flushing toilets, braai area, kitchen and a swimming pool. You will be provided with clean sheets, blankets and a swimming towel. Your laundry is done twice a week and freshly ironed by the maids, but you will have to do your own smalls.

We have 3 meals served a day, these vary on a daily basis and do include meat dishes but vegetarian meals can be supplied and any other diets can be accommodated for. These meals are all prepared for you but you can make request if you would like something special. Tea, coffee, squash and cold water are available all day. If the volunteers wish to cook for themselves or have a braai they are more than welcome. At the main house there are comfortable sofas and DSTV. There is also a lounge especially for volunteers, this has a DVD player, bar and library of novels as well as educational books. During your stay at The wildlife orphanage, we will take you on a trip, it depends on what is going on but it could be to release lions or leopard research in the Matapos National Park.