

Free to  be Wild

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Volunteer Programme

**Wildlife Orphan Rescue**

Experience hands on wildlife orphan care & rehabilitation





“A home away from home, the team was so welcoming and working with the wild animals was brilliant!”

~ Tamarin

## *What does volunteering at Free to be Wild entail?*

Join the day to day work at Zimbabwe's first animal sanctuary built to house and rehabilitate primates alongside a wide variety of other species of wildlife.

Work alongside the projects founder, Baye Pigors, who was awarded the Unsung Conservation Hero's Award by Africa Geographic in 2016.

- 🐾 Enjoy hands-on experience with wildlife orphans
- 🐾 Help raise baby monkeys and baboons from bottle-feeding to bush walks
- 🐾 Work with a range of species from zebra to antelope, birds to bush babies
- 🐾 Go horse riding in the release site
- 🐾 Assist with feeding, husbandry and enrichment regimes
- 🐾 Join the team when veterinary or rescue work is carried out
- 🐾 Understand the rehabilitation process
- 🐾 Be a part of the animal's release
- 🐾 Help monitor released animals
- 🐾 Enjoy the stunning national parks, museums, markets and wildlife of Zimbabwe in your free time.



# About the Project

The story started when Baye Pigors, a local Zimbabwean, was unable to find a rehabilitation facility for a baby baboon she had rescued.

She decided to start her own sanctuary, in her home town of Bulawayo, specialising in rescue and care for primates.

Since those humble beginnings the centre has grown into a recognised wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release centre with an open door policy to all wildlife species.

The sanctuary cares not only for primates but also rare and endangered species such as the pangolin and not to be forgotten our smaller creatures like the hedgehogs and owls.

The sanctuary is not open to the public and their aim is to save and release as many animals as funds allow.

As a registered trust volunteers play an important role in the generation of funds towards the running of the sanctuary. Every volunteer allows numerous animals to be saved. Volunteers fit right into the team and enjoy working and socialising with staff and colleagues.

Many animals brought to the sanctuary are not suitable candidates even for a 'soft release' due to mental and physical issues relating to their past.

Those that are suitable are released inot the trust's associated associated release sites when they are ready.





## Your Volunteer Work

While assisting Baye and her team your key activities can be broken down as follows:

### *Animal Feeding*

- 🐾 Participate in the regular bottle feeding of orphaned animals
- 🐾 Nutritional planning for a variety of herbivores, omnivores and carnivores
- 🐾 Daily food prep and feeding of all animals

### *Behaviour Enrichment*

- 🐾 Bush walks with the orphans stimulating them to explore their natural habitat
- 🐾 Build toys, platforms and playgrounds
- 🐾 Become a part of the troop as you play with the young monkeys and baboons

### *Rescue & Release*

- 🐾 Help nurture and raise orphaned wildlife
- 🐾 Undertake snare sweeps and boundary patrols of release site
- 🐾 Horse riding in release site
- 🐾 Care for the permanent residents who can not be released
- 🐾 Monitor released animals as they are offered a second chance

Don't be fooled though, just when we think we have seen it all, something new pops up!

From scooping suffocating fish out of a drying lake, to driving across the country to pick up a traumatised monkey, the days are varied and exciting.



## Life at the Sanctuary

### *Where you will be staying*

Your accommodation will be on-site at the sanctuary. The volunteer house is a large, comfortable thatched safari house with two bedrooms and a communal living room and kitchen. Rooms can be shared between two people but most of the volunteers have their own room.

Being on-site allows you to remain close to the orphans all day and on-hand for any night time bottle feeds. In some cases you may even find yourself with a little orphan sleeping with you through the night. The house is run off solar electricity only.

### *Location*

Free to be Wild is situated in the second largest city of Zimbabwe; Bulawayo, also known as the “City of Kings”.

From the founding of Gobulawayo by King Lobengula in the 1800’s Bulawayo, over the years, has developed into the city it is today.

Old colonial architecture nestles effortlessly amongst the new. Wide tree lined avenues of blooming lilac Jacaranda or flaming red Flamboyant drop thier blossom carpeting the roads. From being the gateway to Matopos Hills National Park to the friendly hospitality Bulawayo is renowned for all draws travellers from far and wide back over and over again.

Volunteers are encouraged to join the team socially for evening dinners, day trips and nights out. This is a chance to really intergrate with the local community and see the real Zimbabwe.



## *Start Dates*

The project starts every Monday throughout the year, though alternative start dates can be accommodated, as can tailored periods of stay or multi-project trips. Just get in touch to find out more.

## *What is included?*

It's pretty much everything!

- Induction and training on the project
- Accommodation in a lovely area of the city
- Breakfast & lunch
- All teaching and education
- Transport relating to the project
- 24 hour project co-ordinator available

## *What you pay*

- Food
- Flights to and from project
- Transfer to and from airport
- Visas
- Travel costs during your stay
- Any excursions not related to the project including trips to town

## *Arrival*

You need to arrive at Bulawayo Airport on the day your project starts. A member of the team or a driver will meet you at the airport and transport you to your accommodation on request.



## *Going to town*

From the sanctuary town is only a short ride away. There are buses and taxis that run throughout the day and night. So you can go for coffee, lunch or shopping quite easily.

## *Weather*

January to April - day and nights are hot. There are regular but short lived beautiful rolling thunderstorms which cools the summer air.

May to September - there is very little rain with long sunny days. Nights are cooler and can be very cold at times.

October to December - the temperatures start to climb before the rains start again.

## *Food*

Volunteers are provided with food to make their own breakfast and lunch. We tailor to your dietary needs as much as possible by providing a range of rolls, bread, cereals and milk, cold meats, fruit and pastas. Just let us know what you like and what you can't eat! For dinner volunteers cook at their house. The team generally goes out for dinner once a week.

## *Visas*

Volunteers can get and pay for a tourist visa on arrival at the airport or apply before they depart their home country.

# What else to do in Zimbabwe

Visiting Zimbabwe is a once in a lifetime opportunity, therefore, we urge you to go on as many excursions during your free time as possible. We have listed below some ideas which are relatively near by and a must see if you have the opportunity!

## *Matopos National Park*

Visit one of the most stunning national parks in Africa to see towering rock formations, ancient cave paintings and go for bush walks for a 90% chance of getting close to Rhino.



## *Natural History Museum*

Described as one of the most fascinating museums in Southern Africa packed with the history of Zimbabwe. Visit the excellent cafe too!



## *Open Air Markets*

Visit one of the many bustling African markets, pick up fresh fruit, handmade crafts or grab a bargain in the fashion market.



## *Victoria Falls*

One of the 7 Wonders of the World. Visit this huge thundering waterfall, go rafting, bungee jumping, sip cocktails in world renowned bars or take a Safari to Hwange to see the Big 5.





## How to get in touch with us

Thank you for taking an interest in our Wildlife Orphan Rescue volunteer programme. We hope this information has sparked your interest in joining our work in Zimbabwe.

### To become a volunteer:

1. Choose your start date and duration
2. Email [volunteer@freetobewildsanctuary.com](mailto:volunteer@freetobewildsanctuary.com)
3. We will provide you with our bank details. We ask for a £200 non-refundable deposit to confirm your place
4. Once your deposit is in, our team will send you a pre-departure document with all the information you need to prepare for your trip
5. The remainder of the fee is due at least 1 month before you depart
6. Get on the plane and come make your African conservation dreams happen!

Feel free to contact us for further information and be sure to follow us too!

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



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/freetobewildsanctuary

