

VOLUNTEER PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE

We are looking forward to introducing you to our piece of Africa. This guide is to give you some basic information about what to expect upon your arrival into South Africa. We have included some helpful hints and tips about safety, and also some information about what to bring.

Arrival in South Africa

Once we have received your arrival details one of our dedicated staff members will pick you up at the airport (OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, Airport code: JNB). Our staff are easily recognisable as they will be holding a sign which reads "LION & SAFARI PARK VOLUNTEERS".

Contact numbers for airport collection are:

General +27 87 1500 100; +27 76 187 3883; +27 686 9237

You will then be shuttled to the Lion Park where you will be met on arrival by our resident Volunteer Coordinator. You will be taken to your accommodation and will begin an intensive orientation to learn all about the park and the animals.

You will also meet our friendly staff who you will be working with on a daily basis, go on your first game drive and to finish the day off you will enjoy dinner in our Wetlands Restaurant in order to welcome you to the park and kick start your volunteering experience.

Things to Bring

- An open mind and a positive attitude ;-)
- Hardwearing shoes/boots. Also, bring old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty in.
- Hoodies/Jumpers - although we are based in sunny South Africa it does get a bit chilly in the evenings sometimes... it's nice to have a big cosy jumper to pull on after a long day at the park
- Light windbreaker/rain jacket - never hurts to be prepared! The rain usually doesn't last for too long which is nice, but it's good to have a jacket on hand for the rare times when it does!
- A camera!!! This is one place that you will want to remember, bring a camera and keep it on you at all times... the animals here are amazing and you won't want to miss any of their playful antics! Ensure you have sufficient memory space.
- Insect Repellent - Although we are based in a Malaria free area, we do still get mosquitos, especially in summer months. (Remember we are southern hemisphere)

- Sun Screen - The sun here is very strong, it's important to drink plenty of water and also to wear UV protective sun screen. As volunteers, you spend a lot of time outdoors, so be sun safe! Sunburn is not fun.
- Hand Sanitizer - when working with animals it's good to have some hand sanitizer on you.
- Travel Insurance - Don't leave home without it!!!
- One or two nice outfits - you might want to go out some night.
- Towel
- Sunglasses
- Bring your laptop if you have one - There is an internet enabled desktop, however there is free wireless internet for volunteers, you are welcome to connect up to this wireless service.

Inoculations

When traveling to any African country it is important to make sure your routine vaccinations are up to date.

South Africa: General Information:

South Africa is a rainbow nation which boasts 11 Official languages!

South Africa is a multilingual country. The country's democratic constitution, which came into effect on 4 February 1997, recognizes 11 official languages, to which it guarantees equal status. These are:

- Afrikaans
- English
- IsiNdebele
- isiXhosa
- isiZulu
- Sesotho sa Leboa
- Sesotho
- Setswana
- siSwati
- Tshivenda
- Xitsonga

Seasons of South Africa

- SUMMER – December to March.
- AUTUMN – April to June.
- WINTER – July to September.
- SPRING – September to November.

Weather in the Gauteng Province where Lion & Safari Park is Located:

Gauteng enjoys summer rainfall, typically afternoon thunderstorms of short duration. Mild dry winters are the norm with occasional early morning frost on the Highveld. The average maximum summer temperature in Johannesburg is 29°C but can also get up to about 33°C; winter is 18°C.

Currency

Currency in South Africa is the Rand (ZAR)

Safety in South Africa

As far as your personal safety is concerned, don't be paranoid, let common sense prevail and take care as one would in most cities around the world. Avoid deserted places, wearing expensive jewellery, slinging camera and video equipment over your shoulder and carrying lots of cash.

The Lion & Safari Park has safe keeping facilities for valuables which may be used by volunteers.

Volunteer Code of Conduct

This code of conduct sets out the standards of behaviour that are expected of volunteers by Lion & Safari Park. We are fully committed to responsible volunteer travel and sustainable tourism. The code of conduct is designed to help you get the most out of your placement in a safe manner. It also ensures that the organisations and people we work with are treated with respect and that consideration is given to other cultural issues during your placement.

Please obey the following:

- No overnight visitors are allowed.
- Follow the advice and requests of your volunteer coordinator.
- Lion & Safari Park has a zero-tolerance policy towards the possession and use of illegal substances. If you are found in possession of or are under the influence of such substances, you will have your placement contract terminated immediately.
- Respect and seek to better understand the culture of the country. This involves being tolerant to the cultural norms of the local people (your coordinator can explain these and advise you.)
- Follow your project rules.

- Treat all people with respect and dignity.
- Not engage in political demonstrations or illegal activities.

Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to contact us, we are here to help you!

Email: volunteering@lionpark.com

Phone number: +27 (0) 87 1500 100

We look forward to welcoming you soon at the Lion & Safari Park!