

Klipkop Wildlife Sanctuary

Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa



Volunteer Information Pack 2008

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KLIPKOP The buck stops here.

Klipkop is a magnificent 5,000 Ha conservancy located in Bronkhorstspuit, a rural area 45 minutes from Johannesburg. As a conservancy, that is a private conservation initiative, Klipkop is offered nothing by way of funding, subsidies or protection under the law.

Klipkop is located on a rare and endangered type of vegetation called *bankenveld*. Less than 2% of bankenveld is under formal (government) conservation programmes. The International Union for Conservation (IUCN) guideline states that the minimum preservation level required to ensure essential ecosystem services, and the maintenance of genetic diversity, is 10% (total area). You may never have before considered that vegetation could be endangered. The fact is that Bankenveld is as endangered as the rhino and the elephant.

Furthermore, the pressure on bankenveld is unrelenting. Estimates suggest that around 65% of bankenveld has been transformed from natural vegetation to agricultural, afforestation and urban sites. The loss of bankenveld, and its affinities with the grasslands of the interior plateaux, the savannas of the Bushveld, and flora of the Drakensberg and Kalahari, means the loss of inherent biodiversity – the basis of all life.



Within the conservancy is the 1240 Ha sanctuary. Over 30 species of endemic African wildlife roam, virtually free from predator pressure. Nearly 200 avian species have been observed, many endemic to the area, and others which migrate from as far a field as Europe.

The volunteer programme at Klipkop offers participation in conservation as a whole – literally from the ground up. Let's face it, the health of nature, and ultimately of mankind, is dependent upon the continued well-being of all the individual plant and animal species that make up the environment.

▶ As a volunteer, you will be involved in every aspect of managing and maintaining a wildlife sanctuary. ◀

The **environmental conservation** work entails soil erosion and exotic plant management, water testing, veld (vegetation) condition assessment and land reclamation projects.

The **wildlife conservation** work involves participation in game management, including in-depth game assessment and reporting, and anti-poaching practices. Volunteers are also involved in birding field work.



In 2001, Klipkop won the **Nedbank / GreenTrust Award for Best Emerging Conservancy** because of its essence as a community based initiative. Property owners within the conservancy have all but donated their land to form and progressively expand the sanctuary. From small beginnings, and the conviction of a few people, the sanctuary has grown to a worthy size.

Klipkop continues to rely heavily on the spirit that got them to where they are today. Volunteers play an absolutely vital role in enabling the sanctuary to progress - not just maintain the status-quo. Our long-term goal is to become a specialist buck (antelope) sanctuary over the full 5,000 Ha conservancy area.

By joining our programme, you will be helping to preserve species and habitats in one of the most biologically diverse areas of the world. Moreover, you will take back with you an appreciation of conservation issues that are being faced the world over. We hope your experience with us will inspire you to tackle these matters in your own "backyards". ▶

The Klipkop Proposition:

- 1▶ to preserve an endangered wilderness, bankenveld
- 2▶ to provide a sanctuary for wildlife, especially overlooked species, free from the pressures created by mankind and other predators
- 3▶ to offer volunteers a unique blend of environmental and wildlife conservation experience
- 4▶ to educate and encourage active interest in conservation issues that affect not only South Africa, but many parts of the world.





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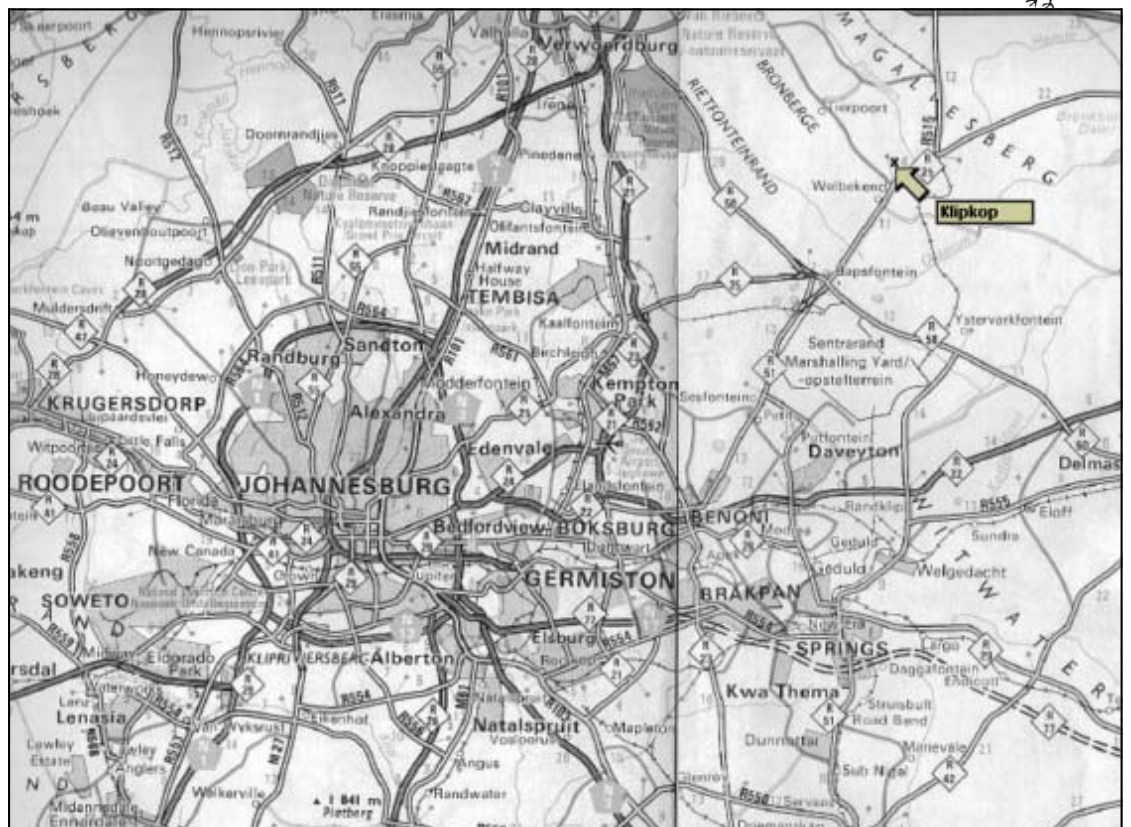
About South Africa

Location

South Africa is the most southern country on the African continent. It is bordered by Namibia to the north west, Botswana and Zimbabwe to the north, and Mozambique to the north east. The Atlantic Ocean comes in from the west, the Indian Ocean from the east, converging around Cape Agulhas.

South Africa is roughly 5 times the size of Britain, and covers 1.2 million sq km. The country is divided into 9 provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape, North West and Free State. Within the country lie the sovereign kingdoms of Swaziland and Lesotho. It is the only country in the world that can lay claim to an entire floral (botanical) kingdom within its borders.

The program is located in Bronkhorstspuit, in the Gauteng Province. Bronkhorstspuit is approximately 45 minutes from Johannesburg and 30 minutes from Pretoria. Both Johannesburg and Pretoria are major cities. Pretoria is the administrative capital of South Africa, and very much like any city you'd find in the western world. It has supermarkets and shopping centres, cafes and restaurants, bars and clubs, movie theatres, and markets. You are not in the midst of "deepest, darkest Africa", cut-off from all known forms of civilisation! Klipkop offers the "best of both worlds". When you are on the Reserve, the rest of the world seems very far away. In reality, it is less than an hour. ▲





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About South Africa ...

Climate

The climate in South Africa varies markedly across the country. Temperatures below 0°C (32°F) can be experienced at night, during winter in the high mountainous regions; temperatures above 50°C (122°F) can be experienced in the semi-desert regions during the summer. In the Gauteng province, you will not experience these extremes.

Summer: (December – February), day-time temperatures range between 25-35°C (75-95°F). The evenings hover between 16-20°C (60-70°F). Summer in the Gauteng province is wet-season. It can rain for days at a time. Magnificent, though violent, thunderstorms are not uncommon. However, near drought conditions have prevailed in the past few years.

Winter: (June – August), day-time temperatures range between 18-22°C (65-68°F). The evening temperature falls to between 5-10°C (40-50°F), but has been known to drop below zero. Winter in the Gauteng province is dry and very pleasant.

The spring and autumn seasons are typically very short lived. ▲



Economy

South Africa is a country rich in natural resources, matched only by some countries of the former Soviet Union. Gold became the basis of the national economy after the discovery of the main reef within the Gauteng province in 1886.

It was gold prospectors who discovered the many other minerals which help power the South African economy, including coal and platinum, and base metals such as copper. Johannesburg literally means “city of gold” and grew in little over a century from a make-shift mining camp to the financial and commercial heart-land of the country. De Beers, which once maintained a virtual oligopoly over the world’s diamond markets, is one of South Africa’s most internationally recognised companies.



The mining industry makes a significant contribution to economic activity, sustainable job opportunities and foreign exchange earnings. It accounts for 6.5% of GDP (gross domestic product) and 35% of export revenue. Other strong exports include fruit and vegetables, livestock, ostrich products and fish.

Although blacks were once restricted to working the mines, recent black empowerment initiatives have sought to alter the industry’s racial composition at the employment and corporate stock ownership levels.

Manufacturing is also well developed, particularly in the automotive, chemicals, textiles, metals and food industries. Without significant oil reserves, South Africa relies on coal for most of its energy production. Coal is a cheap, although not ‘clean’, source of electrical power. Only small deposits of oil and natural gas are found within South Africa, and consequently research and development into synthetic fuels is quite highly developed.

Finally, South Africa’s unparalleled scenic, wildlife, cultural and historic attraction has made it a very popular tourist destination. Tourism contributes over R25-billion to the economy (8.2% of GDP). ▲





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About South Africa ...

Culture, Society and Language

South Africa is called the 'rainbow nation', due to its cultural diversity. Its culture, cuisine, social and religious practices are influenced by many peoples – the original hunter-gatherer inhabitants, the Dutch traders, settlers from Europe, their Asian and Indian slaves, and finally migrants from many parts of the world who elected to call South Africa home.

The cultures you will have the greatest exposure to are those of the tribal South Africans, the Afrikaners, and the British. Afrikaners are descended from the Dutch. There are 11 official languages: English, Afrikaans, and 9 tribal tongues (Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho, Setswana, SiSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu).

The stark contrasts in South Africa do not exist in landscape alone. Some refer to the country as containing two worlds: a first and a third. Despite the riches of the country, they are not shared equally among all. Many households still exist in informal settlements. These are illegal shanty towns where dwellings are erected with whatever materials the families can muster, including corrugated iron, discarded building materials and wire. They have to rely on paraffin oil, wood or gas for light, cooking and heating. Each dwelling may offer one or two rooms, where individuals sleep on mats on the floor. Toilets are shared, perhaps one between 10-15 dwellings. Water is accessed from communal outlets.



Although the post-apartheid era is working slowly towards establishing minimum living standards for the previously disadvantaged communities, it will take many years for this to become a reality for all. We encourage every volunteer to go on a tour of an informal settlement. Aside from the community benefitting financially from your visit, most visitors walk away very grateful for the unrealised good fortune in their own lives.

Following the end of the apartheid era, the black middle-class is growing, albeit slowly. There are a vast number of black people still living in the lowest socio-economic strata of society. The coloured population (for example, Indians) also continue to suffer. The black empowerment movement of the past decade has offered them no benefits. They are, after all, not black. It is not altogether clear what will ensure their equal rights within society, other than self-representation.



Culturally, South Africa is very rich. Dance, art, music, theatre, film and literature offer great insight into not only the evolution of the country, but the evolution of mankind. There are over 100 venues actively promoting the South African arts.

South African cuisine offers many new taste sensations, including game and fried insects. However, if you are not particularly adventurous in this respect, remember that South Africa is not called the 'rainbow nation' for nothing. If you eat out, you can eat virtually anything, including Italian, German, Asian, and Indian – even hamburgers and chips (if you really must!). The braai (barbecue) is very popular, with fiercely guarded recipes for the best boerewors (spicy sausage) and potjiekos (stew). South Africans love their meat. South African wine is also amongst the finest in the world and is very good value. ▲



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About South Africa ...

Health

No country has been spared from the ravages of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and South Africa is no exception. South Africa has one of the highest concentrations of HIV-positive people in the world.

In 2004, the South African government launched a comprehensive AIDS treatment plan, which includes the rollout of anti-retroviral treatment, training and infrastructure overhaul across the public health sector. R12-billion will be invested over the next three years in the hopes that the lives of more than 1.7 million people can be saved by 2010. It is a frightening statistic, but estimates suggest there will be 1 million children orphaned by AIDS by the end of the decade.

Many foreigners find the public prevention and awareness campaigns within South Africa quite astonishing, and quite different to those found back home. It will be interesting to hear how you find them. Enormous difficulties have been encountered in getting the AIDS message through, especially within tribal and rural communities. A significant change is required in accepted social practises.

However, as a volunteer you should not be alarmed, just as cautious as you would be in your home country. The transmission of AIDS occurs in the same way throughout the world. You are ill-advised to involve yourself with any high-risk activity during your stay in South Africa.

South Africa's health system consists of a large public sector and small private sector. As is the case with many public health systems, it is under-resourced and over-burdened. Only around 20% of the population have private health cover, as a middle to upper-level income is necessary to afford it. As a foreigner, you will be directed to facilities in the private sector, where you will be required to pay for your treatment up-front and reclaim it against travel insurance.



Traditional healing is still practised extensively throughout rural and urban settlements. Its methods incorporate remedies concocted from plant materials (e.g. bulbs, leaves, bark and roots), and animal products (e.g. fat, claws, teeth and skin), collectively referred to as *muthi*. Divination, which involves a combination of psychic ability and communication with ancestral spirits is also practised for the purpose of providing personal guidance and fortune-telling. ▲

Water

High-quality tap water is available almost everywhere in South Africa, excepting the informal settlements. It is safe to drink the water straight from the tap. In some areas, although not Klipkop, the water is mineral-rich, which might give you a mild stomach upset while you adjust to it. If in doubt, bottled water, both sparkling and still, is readily available from most places. ▲



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About South Africa ...

Personal Safety

Many past volunteers have expressed concern at whether their presence in South Africa might be unwelcome given the events of the Apartheid era still being fresh in the minds of many.

Sadly, some racism is alive and well in South Africa, as it is in every country. However, generally you will find that black South Africans are very keen to have foreigners visit. They are very proud of their country and their culture, and are thrilled that you want to learn and experience it for yourself. Most people are very friendly. A smile goes a long way towards breaking down barriers, language or otherwise.

There are some places, particularly within the city of Johannesburg, that you will be advised not to go, unless through an organised tour. There are dangerous places in South Africa, just as there are dangerous places in your home country. To go 'asking for trouble' is just silly.

Car-jackings and muggings are not uncommon in South Africa. We will advise you on how to conduct yourself when outside of the property. In many cases, taking simple precautions and not making a target out of yourself, will be sufficient to keep you safe. No volunteer has had problems in the past. Here are a few suggestions:

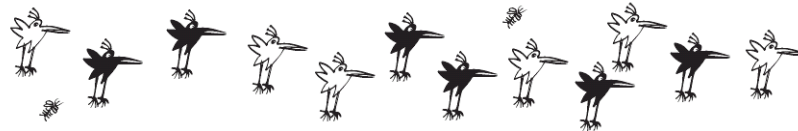
- ▶ Travel in groups if possible and avoid travelling at night.
- ▶ Do not accept food or drink from strangers. Do not get into their vehicles.
- ▶ Don't travel with valuables on you, and wear as little jewellery as possible (preferably none). A vault is available at Klipkop in which all of your valuables can be stored.
- ▶ Muggings / petty theft are a problem. Do not bring hand-bags or shoulder-bags with you. Purchase a money belt so that you can conceal your money under your clothes and to the front of your person.
- ▶ If you are mugged, do not resist. Keep a small amount of cash in your pocket to hand over. It may be sufficient and prevent the need for a more extensive search of your person.
- ▶ Many ATM machines have security guards in attendance. However, still be careful when taking cash out - make sure you are not being watched or followed.
- ▶ If you are lost somewhere on foot, do not reach for your map or guide book on the street. Walk confidently to the nearest café or the like, and re-group there. If you need to ask for directions, it is probably best to approach a female, an older couple, or a police officer / security guard.
- ▶ Female travellers should take particular care to dress responsibly. Remember that you are in a foreign country. It is best to take your cues from what you see around you.
- ▶ Do not carry anything back to your country of origin for a third party.
- ▶ Before you leave on any trip (e.g sight-seeing), tell us where you are going and when you expect to return. That way, should we feel it necessary to sound the alarm, we will know where to start looking and / or direct police. ▲





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Payment & Arrival Information



Payment Details

Three payment options are available: (i) electronic funds transfer to the account listed below (min. 4 weeks in advance), (ii) travellers cheques on arrival (USD only) or (iii) cash on arrival (USD or AUD only).

Account Name|: Mr A.R.W. Prince

Account Number|: 1071960168

Bank|: ABSA **SWIFT code|:** 632 005

Branch Code|: 501 642

Branch Address|: 5th Avenue, Springs. South Africa. 1560

Arrival Information

1▶ Ensure that you arrive in plenty of time for your departure. Many airports require you to arrive 3 hours ahead of the stated flight departure time. We recommend that you also exchange the equivalent of R200 – 300 (South African Rand) prior to your departure. This will give you one less thing to worry about when you arrive.

2▶ On your arrival into South Africa you are required to complete an immigration form. If you are travelling by air, you will likely be issued with one on the aeroplane. If not, forms will be available from the immigration desk. Most of the questions on this immigration form are straightforward. You will be required to provide details of your contact address. They are as follows:

Tony Prince

Plot 30, Klipkop, Bronkhorstspuit. South Africa.

Postal|: P.O Box 76, Welbekend. South Africa. 1517.

Ph|: +27 11 964 3399 **Mob|:** 082 717 0667

You will also be required to state the purpose of your visit. It is best to indicate 'tourism'. This saves any confusion over the meaning of 'volunteer work'.

3▶ If you arrive on the date as nominated in your application form, you will be met by a Klipkop representative in the Arrivals area. You should have no difficulty in identifying them, as they will be holding a sign with your name on it. If there are any last minute changes to your date of arrival or flight details, which are not caused by the airline itself, please let us know. The Klipkop contact details are provided above.

If you arrive before the date nominated in your application form, we cannot guarantee you accommodation (unless it has been previously arranged). Assume you will need to budget for your own food and accommodation during this period.

4▶ Should you not find anyone waiting for you at the airport, please stay within the Arrivals area. Allow 30 minutes before attempting to contact us in case we are delayed in traffic. ▲



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The Programme

OVERVIEW	
Features	
Type of Work	wildlife and environmental conservation
Length of Stay	minimum 4 weeks
Work Time	week days
	AM 8:30am – 12:00pm all year
	PM 1:00 – 5:00pm August – May
	1:00 – 4:00pm June – July
	EVE n/a August – May
	5:00 – 7:00pm June – July
Free Time	evenings and weekends (including 1 long weekend)
Accommodation	on-site, home-style accommodation
Meals	breakfast, lunch and dinner included (vegetarians catered for)
Facilities	in-ground pool, lounge area, TV & stereo, internet access, phone and fax, car hire
Training	five workshops + on-the-job supervision





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The Programme ...

Work Detail

The volunteer programme consists of environmental and wildlife conservation work. A schedule is distributed at the beginning of each month to all participants. We endeavour to work to the schedule, unless urgent issues arise.

Environmental conservation: Out on our reserve, nothing stands between you and the wildlife. Many species of plains game will gaze quietly as you go about your work. Maintaining a reserve in optimum condition requires constant vigilance. In addition to ensuring a pristine habitat for the wildlife, you will be preserving a type of vegetation that is increasingly threatened by agriculture, forestry and urban development.

Work involved: exotic plant management ♦ soil erosion control ♦ bush encroachment management ♦ fence inspections and maintenance ♦ veld condition assessments ♦ water and soil testing ♦ fire hazard management / block burning (winter only).

Wildlife conservation: Good game management practices are vital to the long-term viability of any reserve. You will learn many of the principles involved, and take part in surveys and reporting.

Work involved: game counts and assessment (including condition, and sex and age ratios) ♦ capacity planning ♦ anti-poaching activities ♦ bird field studies ♦ reporting ♦ collecting, transporting and distributing meat donations (for vulture community).

Learning programme: Aside from providing practical training, Klipkop runs a number of education workshops to ensure volunteers fully understand the conservation issues they are tackling; background, magnitude, complexity, management and solution.

Workshops: introduction to conservation ♦ exotic plant management ♦ soil erosion ♦ veld management ♦ game management.

Special projects: Occasionally there will be the need for volunteers to tackle infrequent or once-off projects covering a variety of areas.

Future projects: bird-hide construction ♦ vegetation and erosion mapping ♦ wildlife releases.

Activities: Volunteering internationally is not just about the work, but about the adventure. We combine a variety of activities into the programme, which in some instances will provide valuable skills, and others which will give you a greater appreciation of South Africa. It's tough to do better than spend time doing things that are fascinating and fun.

Activities: game tracking ♦ night game drives ♦ astronomy evenings ♦ sleep-outs under the stars ♦ bush survival skills ♦ 4WD training. ▲





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The Programme ...

Accommodation & Facilities

Sleeping quarters: Volunteers reside in the home belonging to Tony Prince and Mary Lewis (Plot 30, Klipkop). The rooms house between 2 and 6 people each. A maximum of 12 volunteers can be accommodated at any one time. Males and females are given separate rooms, unless they are travelling as a couple. Each room is fitted with bunk beds, bed-side tables and lamps, chairs and ample cupboard space. Mosquito repellent devices are installed in each room. It is not necessary to bring mosquito nets.



Bathrooms: Three bathrooms are available, offering bath and shower facilities with hot / cold running water. The toilets are 'western style' and located within the premises. The property is connected to mains electricity. Water can be consumed straight from the tap.

Lounge: Volunteers have their own "space" in the pool house. The pool house is located 20 metres from the homestead, and provides a lounge area, small kitchen and laundry facilities. Here, the volunteers can relax between shifts and after hours. (Note: The image below shows the wall that was turned, by a group of volunteers, into a mural dedicated to the beauty of Africa.)

Pool: Backing onto the pool house is a lovely grassed area surrounding an in-ground pool. Barbecue (or "braai" as they say in South Africa) facilities and outdoor furniture complete the setting.

Phone, Fax and Internet Access: Klipkop offers a number of other conveniences, including dial-up internet access, telephones, and facsimile service. All facilities are charged on a usage basis and are paid for at the end of the stay. Printing, scanning and photocopying are available free of charge providing they are used in moderation.

Car Hire: There are two vehicles available for hire, at a very reasonable daily rate plus petrol. Cars can also be hired from local operators and internationally-recognised companies such as Avis and Budget. ▲





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The Programme ...

Meals and Food

Breakfast and lunch are self-prepared down at the pool house. Generally bread, cereals, fruit and eggs are available for breakfast; salad vegetables, cheese, spreads, pasta and cold meats for lunch. Any reasonable requests for other foods are typically accommodated.

Dinner is served in the homestead dining room around 7:30pm each evening. At times, volunteers will be asked to assist with meal preparation; washing up after the meal is expected. The cuisine is 'English' with the occasional traditional South African dish prepared.



The types of dishes that have been served in the past include roast dinners, pasta dishes, quiches, soups, cold meat platters, and pizzas. As the pool house is equipped with barbeque facilities, a traditional South African "braai" is organised once a week, offering mouth-watering, flame-grilled chicken, steaks and sausages, with roasted vegetables on the side.



Vegetarians are very welcome. One of the proprietors, Mary Lewis, is a vegetarian herself, so a vegetarian option is automatically available with every meal. Klipkop also does its utmost to cater for those with other special dietary requirements (e.g. wheat intolerance). We only ask that you nominate any conditions on your application form.

The water is safe to drink straight from the tap. ▲

Transportation

When you arrive at Johannesburg International Airport, you will be greeted by a member of Klipkop staff and taken to the placement. We will also return you to the airport when you are due to leave.

Without a car, it is virtually impossible to get around the Gauteng province. This is why Klipkop makes a couple of cars available for hire. Terms and conditions do apply to the hire of the vehicles, and these will be made available to you. There are also many local and internationally-recognised companies from which good quality vehicles can be hired. The decision to hire a vehicle from Klipkop, or from a car-rental company, is entirely yours.

One shopping trip is organised per week, which gives you the opportunity to get to "civilisation" and either do some serious shopping, or pick up a few odds and ends. There is no charge for the transport to and from the shopping centre. ▲

Medical Facilities

There are excellent medical facilities within South Africa. Should you fall ill, you will either be taken to the clinic at Johannesburg International Airport, or the emergency centre at Pretoria East Hospital. Both facilities are within about 30 minutes of Klipkop.



Consultations, treatments and pharmacy products will need to be paid for up-front, the receipts retained and claimed against travel insurance. We cannot encourage you enough to take out travel insurance. Although you may be a generally fit and healthy person, you are entering a foreign country. Your immune system may not be ►



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The Programme ... **Medical Facilities**

adapted to the conditions with which it may be confronted. That being said, South Africa is considered a relatively safe destination given the moderate climate and levels of water treatment.

You will not have difficulty in finding a pharmacy in South Africa. However, we do suggest that if you are on a course of prescription medicine, that you bring sufficient to cover your stay (and perhaps a little extra, in case your departure is delayed.) Should any emergency arise, it is likely that you will be able to receive an equivalent medication. It would be worthwhile bringing the consumer information leaflet which accompanies the prescription medication, should it need to be matched to a product available within South Africa. ▲

Responsibilities

The volunteer programme is a programme for adults and we expect you to conduct yourself in an appropriate manner. You have paid a great deal of money to come to South Africa to assist us in our wildlife and environmental conservation programme, so please make the most of your time. Perform the tasks we ask of you as well as you can. We also ask the following:

- ▶ Take care of, and be responsible for, any materials or equipment provided for your use. You will be charged for any loss or damage you cause.
- ▶ Damage to property, caused by you or any guests invited by you, are your responsibility and you will be charged for that damage.
- ▶ Please stay for the full length of time you have nominated on your application form. If you choose to leave early, we cannot be responsible for your welfare or safety.
- ▶ Please show respect for your fellow volunteers. Maintaining a positive group dynamic is so important to everyone having an enjoyable time.

We reserve the right to ask you to leave the property if:

- ▶ you are not fulfilling your obligations as a volunteer;
- ▶ your behaviour, in our opinion, is causing distress to staff or volunteers;
- ▶ you continually refuse to carry out reasonable requests;
- ▶ you have acted in such a way that you are likely to bring our organisation into disrepute;
- ▶ you have acted with reckless disregard for the safety of staff or volunteers, or have caused them actual harm;
- ▶ you are found to be involved with illegal substances, or are convicted of a criminal offence during your placement.

Of course, you must abide by the terms and conditions you have accepted as part of your placement. We will do our utmost to ensure your stay is safe and enjoyable. ▲





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Preparations for Travel

Immunisations

There is a good chance that you will need no further inoculations before entering South Africa, particularly if you have travelled recently. (Excellent news for those who don't appreciate being used as a pin cushion!). We strongly recommend you speak to a travel medicine specialist, who has all the latest information.

Yellow Fever: There is only one immunisation requirement on entering South Africa. If you have travelled from a yellow-fever endemic area (the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America), you will need a certificate to prove your inoculation status.

Hepatitis A & B: Recommended.

DTP (Diphtheria, tetanus and polio): Essential. You must have current protection against tetanus given the work you will be undertaking on the property. A booster vaccination is not a bad idea. ▲



Malaria Tablets

Klipkop is not within a malaria area. However, parts of South Africa are. If you intend to travel to the Kruger National Park, the Lowveld of Mpumalanga and Limpopo, or the northern part of KwaZulu-Natal, you are at risk – particularly during the summer months. You should consult your doctor or travel medicine specialist concerning the latest advice on anti-malarials, as it does change from time to time.

Irrespective of whether you elect to take anti-malarials or not, always use mosquito repellent (DEET 90% or above), and wear long pants, closed shoes and (light) long-sleeved shirts after sun-set. You do not need to bring a mosquito net to sleep under. Each room in the house is fitted with insect-repellent devices.

NOTE! Many personal insect repellents available through the general domestic market are not strong enough. The percentage DEET is the critical factor in its effectiveness. You may need to visit an army disposal store, or consult your travel medicine specialist, for sources of supply. ▲

Other Health Issues

Ticks generally come out in early spring and may carry tick-bite fever, although it is rare. The condition manifests as frequent head-aches, occurring particularly early-mid afternoon. Tick-bite fever is easily treated by a quick visit to the GP. The best prevention will be to check your clothes and body at the end of each day. Ticks are far easier to remove before they have embedded themselves in your skin! It sounds somewhat horrendous, but they can be removed.

Ticks pose a greater threat to the domestic animals on the property. Unfortunately, preventative treatments are somewhat ineffective. If you spot them on one of the animals, you'd be doing the animal a great favour by removing them. ▲



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Preparations for your Travel ...

Travel Insurance

There's an expression, "don't leave home without your tooth-brush". Our advice is "don't leave home without your travel insurance". Travel insurance is not provided as part of your placement. However, you are strongly advised to purchase it. Most travel agents will have information on insurance, and will be able to advise you on a level of cover which is suitable.

Your travel insurance should cover events like lost luggage, missed or cancelled flights, diagnostic services, medical treatment, medications, hospitalisation and so forth. ▲

Visas and Other Documents

You will be granted a 3 month tourist visa on arrival, providing you have a valid passport. There is no specific visa available for volunteer work. As you will not be paid for your work at Klipkop, a work permit is not only unnecessary, but exceptionally difficult to obtain. If asked for the purpose of your visit, it is quite acceptable simply to state "tourism".

If you chose to stay in the country longer, either as a result of extending your volunteer placement or electing to travel, it is possible to extend your visa at the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria. As at 1 April 2004, a tariff of R425 applies. Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months after you intend to return home. You will also be asked to substantiate that (i) you have enough money to support yourself during the remainder of your stay (e.g. bank statements) and (ii) you have a return ticket. ▲

Currency and Financial Transactions

The currency in South Africa is the Rand. For current exchange rates, visit <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency>. There is no need to bring more than a few hundred Rand (in cash) into the country with you.

Taking money with you in the form of travellers cheques is a good idea, as they can be replaced if lost. However, travellers cheques cannot be used as a substitute for currency. They must be converted to ZAR through foreign exchange outlets – either at the airport or at the shopping centre (visited on a weekly basis).

Do not be surprised, if when completing a purchase, your cash is checked under ultra-violet light. Fake currency is a problem in South Africa.

South African ATMs will accept foreign debit cards providing they are Maestro and/or Cirrus compatible. If they are, the corresponding logos will be displayed on the reverse side of the card below the signature panel.

You should encounter no difficulty in using the major credit cards i.e. Mastercard and Visa in retail stores. American Express is not as widely supported. In using your credit card, you are likely to be asked for a pin number. In some western countries, for example Australia, it is not customary to associate a pin number with a credit (only) card. Before you travel, please ensure you have established a pin number with your credit account, just in case it is asked of you. ▲



KLIPKOP The buck stops here.

What to Bring with You

Klipkop provides volunteers with everything they will need to get the job done. All the volunteer is required to bring are the following personal items, some of which vary depending on the time of year. The work can get quite dirty, so old clothes are in order.

- ▶ sleeping bag
- ▶ long and short-sleeve shirts
- ▶ trousers and shorts
- ▶ thick socks and sturdy footwear
- ▶ gumboots and waterproof (Dec – Feb)
- ▶ torch
- ▶ hat (preferably wide-brimmed)
- ▶ water bottle
- ▶ insect repellent (>90% DEET)
- ▶ sunscreen
- ▶ sunglasses
- ▶ swimming suit / bathers (optional)
- ▶ bath towel (x 2); hand towel
- ▶ toiletries
- ▶ prescription medicines (if applicable)
- ▶ phone card; mobile phone (if desired)
- ▶ electrical adaptor
- ▶ drivers licence
- ▶ warm jackets / jumpers / sweaters (Jun - Aug)
- ▶ malaria tablets (if intending to travel to a malaria area)



Not required: mosquito nets, cooking utensils, pots or pans, pillows, blankets.

NOTE! Past volunteers have indicated that they spent more money in South Africa than they had expected to, or had budgeted for. There is so much to see and do, and such wonderful arts and crafts to purchase, that spending can get out of hand. ▲

Final Bits & Pieces

Altitude: During your stay at Klipkop, you will be living and working at an altitude of around 1500 m (4,900 ft) above sea level. Unless you normally live at high altitude it may take a week or so for your body to adjust. The body automatically adapts to the “thinner” air by generating more red-blood cells. The altitude is not sufficiently high for the condition known as altitude sickness to occur, however you may fatigue more quickly. Be prepared to take it a little easy to begin with.

Domestic animals: Klipkop has quite a tribe of dogs and cats on the property, 12 in fact! These animals are a part of the family and are absolutely delightful company. However, we point this out in case you are allergic to fur. ▲



▶ Thank you for choosing to volunteer at Klipkop. We look forward to working with you. ◀|
