

Big 5 Wildlife Conservative

2025/6



 Paterson, Eastern Cape, South Africa

 Game Management

 Conservation



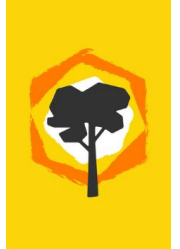
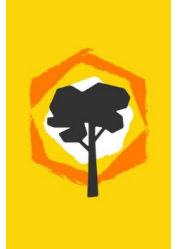


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I. What is the project all about?

This Big Five Safari Reserve began in 1999 as a joint conservation venture. Today, six independently owned lodges in the reserve are all accredited safari lodges. The lodges are managed by the descendants of the original families who arrived here with the British settlers of 1820. The lodges offer various styles of accommodation, which include two gracious colonial homesteads, two classic bush lodges, a historic inn and a Settler farmhouse. Looking at the amount of work and the interest of international visitors to do more than just go on safari drives, this project came to life and started offering volunteering opportunities in 2006.

Mission of the project

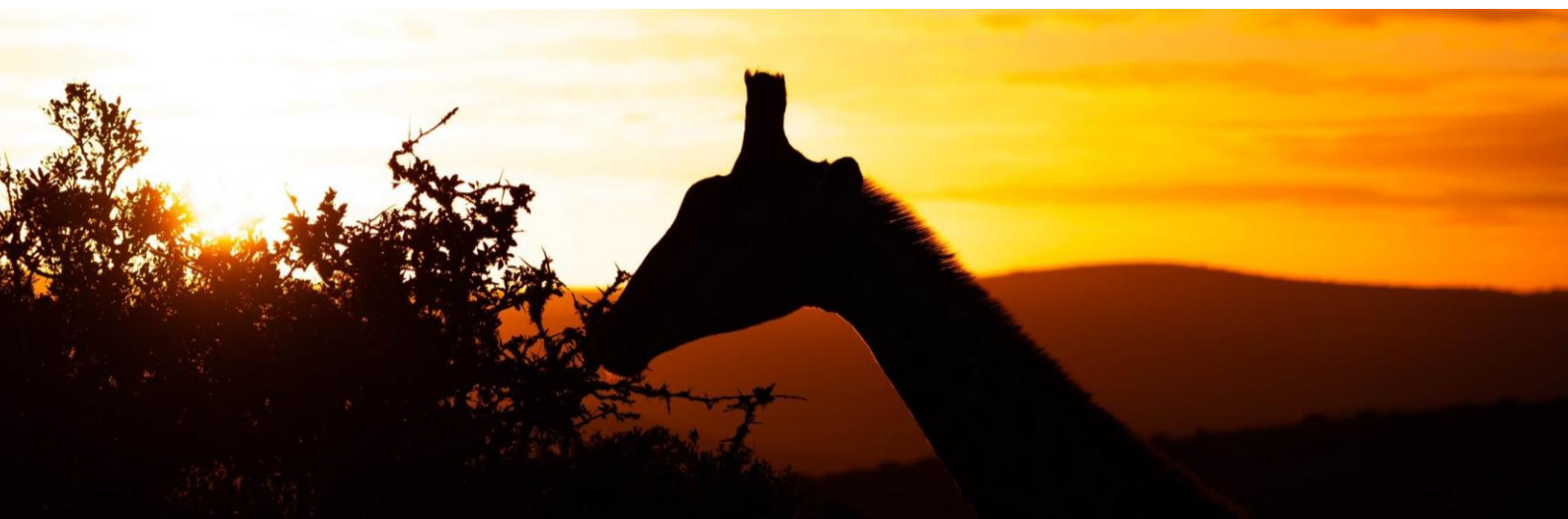
This Big Five Safari Reserve is a unique conservation initiative that allows animals to be re-introduced to the area where they once roamed freely and so contributing to the conservation of our natural heritage. The land was used to ranch sheep and cattle up to the turn of the century. The challenge has been to re-establish the original flora and fauna species to the area, and to return the land to nature.

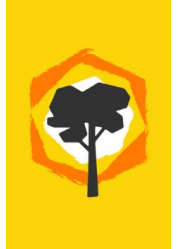
Role of the volunteer

The volunteers will work together with the game ranger ('game' means wild animals), who is responsible for all their activities. Volunteers assist in a variety of tasks and activities all related in running a safari reserve and maintaining infrastructure, well-kept animals and any initiatives relating to this reserve.

Other volunteers

This project is specifically selected to give you a unique and personal experience. Khaya believes in smaller projects with a limited amount of volunteers to guarantee this uniqueness. Volunteer numbers therefore differ from 1-10 and as volunteers come and go numbers can differ. Most volunteers are from the UK, USA and Western Europe.





2. What do they do?

As a Volunteer at the Big Five Safari Reserve, your primary responsibility is monitoring the lions, with the rest of the day filled with tasks and duties based around the reserve. You may also have the chance to assist with many on-going short and long-term projects on the reserve. A list below provides the details of various projects both on-going and experienced by past volunteers.

Duties at any one time may change, which means no week at the reserve is the same. Activities can be seen in a long-term project, general duties, and short-term projects. The activities during your stay will be a variety of all these activities. Not all activities can be guaranteed to take place during your stay however, so see it as a surprise of what you will be doing!

Long term projects:

- Animal Counts
- Animal Tracking using telemetry
- Territorial ranges and feeding range monitoring
- Lion health and breeding monitoring
- Giraffe movement and breeding monitoring
- Local community sustainability
- Assisting vulnerable children and aids orphans
- Birds in Reserves Project

General reserve duties:

- Erosion control
- Fence patrol and maintenance
- Herbarium development
- Alien plant control
- Bush clean and clear up
- Road maintenance
- Boma maintenance

Short term projects:

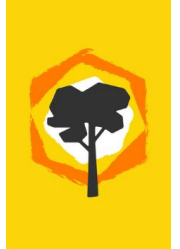
- Game capture, counts and monitoring
- Medicinal use of plants and vegetation biomes
- Guided walks, tracking and trails through the reserve
- Nocturnal predator monitoring

Pipeline projects:

- Wetland restoration

Future Projects:

- To continue all current running projects to their full effect

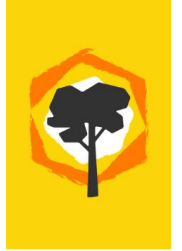


- Start providing basic pre-school education at the Isipho Centre
- Start getting involved in active sport games at Isipho, to aid children's health and fitness
- Relocation and renovation of the Isipho vegetable plot
- Bi-annual neutering of stray dogs and cats, in and around, the surrounding townships

Fun Activities:

- Bush camping
- Navigation and Compass Orientation
- Xhosa Bush Tour
- Target shooting
- Updating Project Information on the Computer
- Canoeing
- Boating
- Fishing
- 5-Star Lodge Experience
- Dissections
- Darting and relocations
- Game drives
- Volunteer diary for our website





3. How can I help?

Join us!

Join the volunteering program and help them in their conservation efforts.

Working hours

The working week at the reserve will usually consist of a 5-day week working 8 hours a day (Monday-Friday). Time to start and finish work will depend on the activities of the day and time of year.

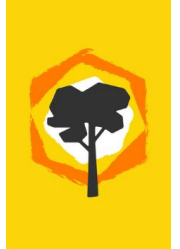
Supervision & Daily Guidance:

Volunteers will be supervised by one game ranger who is in charge of all activities, the house and any help you might need. He lives in the volunteer house where he will be part of making meals with you, fun activities/outings after work and driving you around the reserve. He is a talented, knowledgeable, and experienced game ranger who can really show and teach you a lot about the big and small things in the bush.

Employees

The project has several staff members with a variety of responsibilities such as admin staff, maintenance staff, field workers and game rangers. You will work with a variety of people from all walks of life.





4. How to become a volunteer

Step 1

Submit your application.

Step 2

Our booking office will help you to confirm your stay.

Step 3

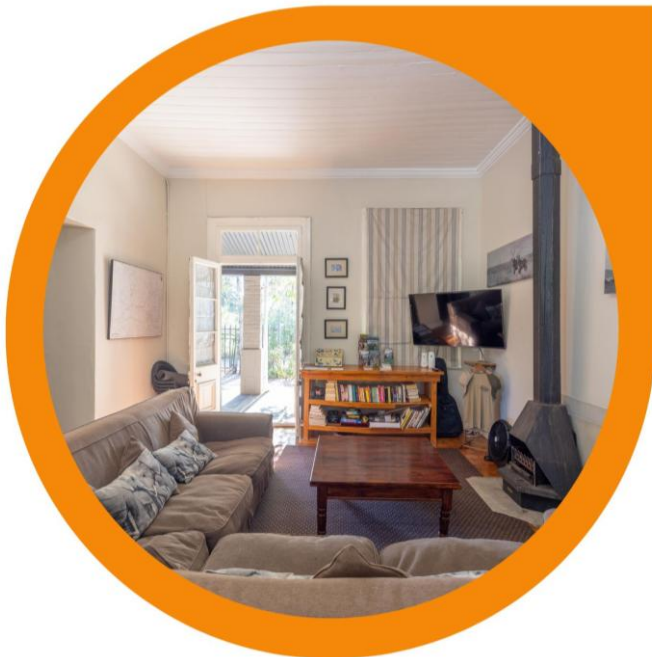
Check out our special discounts and offers & book your flights and/or travel arrangements.

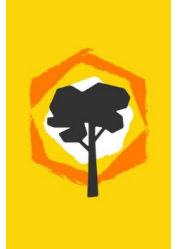
Step 4

Finalise your payments.

Step 5

Wait in anticipation for your departure date!





5. Location!

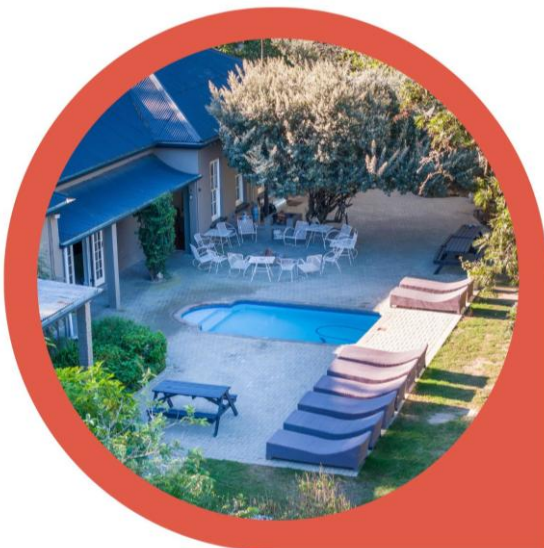
South Africa

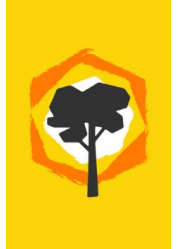
Especially for a country like South Africa, researching some of the history (before you travel) will explain cultural differences you might see and will add a whole new dimension to your experience. If you understand the history of a country, you will understand not only the country better but also the people, their culture, and customs.

Paterson, Eastern Cape, South Africa

The reserve is situated in the Eastern Cape, 85 kilometres from the Port Elizabeth airport, in a beautiful area. The environment provides a home for a vast quantity of animals and vegetation, truly a feast for the eyes. Your home, whilst working on the Big Five Safari Reserve, will be in the town of Paterson. This town was once an important railway link until steam trains were derailed in the 1980's. By 1996, the rail functions had been transferred to the city of Port Elizabeth and Paterson became semi-dormant.

The farming community of Paterson saw a clash of domestic and wild animal hunting interests, which caused the eradication of 'problem animals'. Substantial parts of the area since have become sanctuaries for wildlife and nature-based conservation. The last 200 years have seen dramatic changes in the farming and conservation around Paterson, with several farms diversifying into game reserves. The local community is actively involved in the running of these game reserves, retraining from farmers and labourers into maintenance and service workers. Paterson has since become a busy town offering a Café, coffee and cheese shop, fuel stations, Take-away food, 2 mini-supermarkets, a post office, and the popular Sand flats Public House.





6. Is South Africa safe?

Despite general ideas of South Africa being very unsafe, it is important to know that South Africa is known to many as very friendly and welcoming. But please remember that you must realise that in big cities you should stick to a certain conduct of behaviour to avoid complicated situations. As 70% of people live in poverty and few are extremely rich, the differences in life and hope for a better future creates a situation that fuels crime, lack of education, substance abuse, domestic violence and many more problems.

Your safety is very important, and as your host we will look after you to the best of our ability. We do expect you to do your bit and keep to our safety guidelines. Common sense is your best friend when it comes to safety, but here are a few guidelines:

- Do not walk alone or at night, rather use an Uber.
- Walk in a group where possible and stay on roads where you are in sight of other people.
- Do not walk around with visible valuables.
- Do not carry a backpack on your stomach; it shows you have valuables and are a tourist.
- Be confident and know where you are going without standing on corners looking at your phone.
- Have a phone on you but do not walk around while using it.
- The project manager at the project will give you additional guidelines that must be followed.

Your Co-ordinator is qualified in First Aid and First Aid kits are available at the volunteer house. Local doctors and hospitals are available in Port Elizabeth, a 1-hour drive away. Tetanus injections are highly recommended. Please consult your GP for advice on immunisation requirements. As the reserve is a Malaria Free area you don't have to worry about prophylaxis.

Your personal safety is very important to us, and this project has been picked to offer you safety. The town of Paterson is not Johannesburg and crime is not as most people think and expect. You live in a safe house and will be looked after by an experienced ranger. There is a safe to keep valuables if needed as well.

Activities

Evenings and weekends are allocated for your leisure to either relax in the pub or sit in front of an open fire. Alternatively, a wide variety of activities can be booked from the volunteer house. A full list of activities is available at the house, which includes car hire companies, should you simply like to explore the area for yourself.



7. How much does it cost?

Included in fees:

- Information and assistance before departure
- Accommodation in volunteer house
- All meals
- Cleaning lady and once a week laundry service
- All training programs that you will need to do your work at the project.

Excluded from your fees:

- Private Luxuries (snacks, cool drinks, alcohol etc.)
- Costs for weekend outings.
- Air tickets
- Insurance
- Vaccinations
- Visa
- Arrival/Departure transfers on Mondays from/to Port Elizabeth (fee listed above)

DURATION:	EURO	USD	GBP
1 Week	€ 850	\$ 1000	£ 745
2 Weeks	€ 1625	\$ 1910	£ 1420
3 Weeks	€ 2420	\$ 2840	£ 2115
4 Weeks	€ 3120	\$ 3665	£ 2730
Extra Weeks	€ 720	\$ 845	£ 630
Transfers Mondays (p/person one way)	€ 65	\$ 75	£ 55

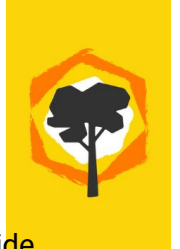
Arrival & Departure Transfers

The transfer will depart from Port Elizabeth Airport at 3pm on Mondays.

For departure the transfer will drop off volunteers at the Port Elizabeth airport at 8 am on Mondays. Transfers on other days can be arranged but will be quoted on request.

Upon arrival at Port Elizabeth Airport, you can make your own way, or you can choose to be collected by a representative who will transport you to the volunteer house in Paterson (approximately 1-hour drive). Please note that extra fees apply for pickups from the airport (see costs).

Please note that volunteers must arrive in PE before 3pm on Mondays and for departures volunteers must book flights departing after 8am on Mondays.



You will be greeted at the Volunteer house by the Volunteer Co-ordinator. They will provide you with a short briefing of the house rules, general programme and show you around the house and the facilities. You will then be shown to your room and allowed to settle in and meet the other volunteers, who you will be sharing the accommodation with. A small booklet will also provide you with more useful information regarding your stay.

Daily transport

During your time on the Reserve, you will be under the supervision and instruction of a qualified Game Ranger, who has a vehicle that is there just for the volunteers. He will drive you up and down where needed.

Accommodation

Volunteers are accommodated in a one-storey 7-bedroom house, which overlooks a large garden and within walking distance of the local bar and basic shops. Most of the rooms are doubles, with 3 sharing one bathroom, 2 sharing a second bathroom and 2 rooms being ensuite. Each bathroom has a hot water shower.

A communal dining and sitting room with digital satellite TV is central to the house, with well equipped kitchen and office space adjoining. A sunroom provides additional seating room where the internet and telephone is available. The internet is charged at R10 per 30-minute interval. If you spend less than 30 min the R10 rule still applies. Telephone calls can be made from the telephone using a World Call Card.

The house also has an outside seating area with braai (BBQ) and fire pit for those chilly nights and social gatherings.

The electrical sockets in the house are 2 and 3 rounds- prong, they will require international adapters which should be purchased before arrival.

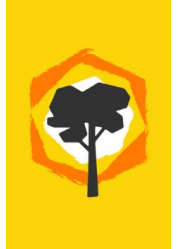
Meals

All meat, fruit and vegetables are provided for the volunteers at the house. Volunteers are responsible for cooking evening meals in the communal kitchen, so you can show us your cooking skills. Breakfast and lunch are prepared individually, so you grab what you like in the mornings and take a packed lunch when needed. Sweet treats and snack food can be bought in one of the shops in Paterson, which you will pass daily on your way to the reserve.

Vegetarian and other dietary requirements can be catered for with prior notification, so please let us know, so we can be prepared.

Laundry

Laundry is provided during the working week by the cleaning lady. She washes depending on how much washing there is, so don't worry about doing it yourself!



8. When can I start?

Starting dates are flexible, so you can start any week but preferably on Mondays. But again, we are flexible, so check with us what dates would match your preferred starting date, so we can see what is possible.

Duration

Participation is from 1 week minimum and you can only book per full week. Your maximum stay is 12 weeks.

9. Things to consider

Visa

Most countries will get a free visa upon arrival in South Africa, please check if you are unsure and note that visas are the responsibility of the volunteer, and that Go with Khaya can not be held responsible for clients being denied entry, should they not be in the possession of the relevant visa.

In general, the rule applies that any stay of longer than 90 days in South Africa will require you to apply for a visa before departure. If you plan to stay shorter than 90 days most nationalities receive a free visa upon arrival in Johannesburg or Cape Town airport which can be extended for another 90 days (total of 180 days) in South Africa at [VFS Services](#).

All travellers must be in possession of a valid onward/return air ticket.

Passport

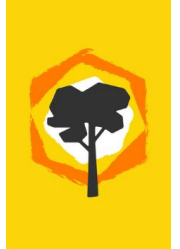
South Africa insists on people having 2-free pages available when you enter. Keep this in mind if you are going to fly home from South Africa after completing a tour to multiple African countries. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after your date of departure from Africa. You are personally responsible for ensuring that passports, visas, vaccination certificates and other travel documents are in order and for all costs relating thereto.

Vaccines

Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) is a malaria free area. We do have mosquitoes in summertime, but they are more of an annoyance. For other vaccines we recommend that you contact your local physician or travel clinic for information and advice.

Weather

The weather in this part of Africa can be diverse and summers can get warm, while winters can get quite cold. Port Elizabeth has a very moderate climate though due to the ocean currents and winds, cooling things down on those hot summer days.



Not what everybody expects of Africa but bring a jacket and warm sweater to be prepared for some of those colder days, if you come in our winter months (June, July, and August).

Summer (Dec, Jan and Feb) 16 – 40 ° Celsius

Autumn (Mar, April and May) 10 - 32 ° Celsius

Winter (June, July and Aug) 8 - 25 ° Celsius

Spring (Sep, Oct and Nov) 10 - 32 ° Celsius

Insurance

Accidents can happen to anyone. Make sure to get comprehensive travel and medical insurance.

Alcohol

We allow alcohol to be enjoyed at the accommodation but only for those of 18 years and older. Volunteers under the age of 18 are not allowed to drink alcohol as per South African Law.

We do not allow any parties or gatherings at the house where alcohol is consumed and advise you to go out to enjoy yourself and to drink responsibly.

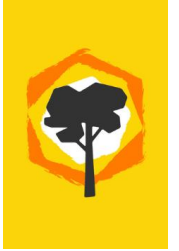
At this project volunteers work with children who are exposed to alcoholism and all the negative results of it. For this reason, volunteers will not be allowed to participate if they smell like alcohol in any way.

Drugs

Using or possessing drugs is illegal in South Africa and we have a zero-tolerance policy so if we become aware of this, you will unfortunately no longer be welcome at our accommodation or program.

Disclaimer

Go with Khaya commits itself to always offer accurate and correct information, but please keep in mind that information can change, and all projects can be subject to change regarding their programs and/or accommodation arrangements.



10. Let's stay connected

We'd love to stay connected so please follow & subscribe to our social media platforms below.



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Facebook](#)



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