

Lion and Big Cat Sanctuary

2025/6



 Standford, South Africa

 Ethical Sanctuary

 Wildlife Care

 Conservation Education





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I. What is the project all about?

The Lion and Big Cat Sanctuary is an environmentally friendly sanctuary for any captive bred big cats. At the sanctuary they are protected and prosper for the rest of their lives.

One of the Sanctuary's main purposes is to be an educational platform where we create awareness about conditions big cats face in captivity, and how animal welfare and enrichment play a vital role in giving them the best captive life possible.

We are a true sanctuary where no cub petting, breeding, or trading takes place. We believe we are a blueprint for how a non-profit sanctuary, focusing on animal welfare, can become self-sufficient, and we aim to show all breeding facilities in Southern Africa how they can change into sustainable ethical projects.

The Lion and Big Cat Sanctuary believes in the connection between both environmental and wildlife conservation and aims to become the first "green" Big Cats sanctuary in South Africa and run solely on solar energy.

The owners of the Sanctuary have first-hand experience with some of the lion breeding programs in South Africa and were once misled volunteers themselves. When they however found out what happens at these breeding programs in the name of so-called 'conservation' they decided to make it their lives work to open a true sanctuary; a home for these animals to live the best life they can. Unfortunately, none of these cats can be released into the wild so their fate would most probably be the hunting industry if they would not have been bought by the Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary is situated on a 40-hectare paradise with a beautiful home for the animals, the owners and the many volunteers visiting. The land is filled with lots of large trees, a natural spring and an amazing 360-degree mountain view!

We strongly believe in the saying "In union there is strength" - and by standing together, human and animal, we believe in the possibility of a prosperous future for the big cats, and we take pride in 'speaking' on their behalf.

Now, the following big cats feel at home at the Sanctuary: lions, leopards, jackals, caracals and even some non-indigenous tigers.





2. What do they do?

Volunteers at the sanctuary experience the unique opportunity to be involved behind the scenes of the Sanctuary and how to care for its animals - daily tasks can include:

- Caring for the amazing big cats
- Enrichment program
- Preparation of food and feeding
- Cleaning and maintaining enclosures
- General farm work
- Educating visitors

Please note that as a Sanctuary we do not allow animal petting and close interaction with our cats, so please do not expect to play with them and pet them. Any project that does allow that kind of interaction cannot be regarded as a true Sanctuary and should be avoided.





3. How can I help?

Join us!

Join the volunteering program and help this sanctuary take care of big cats who deserve care and comfort.

Working hours

This really depends on the weather and the season of the year. Summer days can be extremely hot so working hours will be adjusted. In general, expect to work 5 days a week for 6-8 hours a day with weekends being free to explore the surroundings.

Supervision and Daily Guidance

Guidance will be offered by experienced coordinators that will supervise your daily work. Under no circumstance will you be allowed to work with any of the cats alone or without proper supervision. Days will be scheduled with different activities every day.

Sanctuary Needs

There is, besides daily help and assistance, always an ongoing need for financial support. Any possible gifts and donations provided by volunteers and their network of people are extremely appreciated.





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!

Stanford

The project is located near Stanford, which is a small village in the Western Cape. It has 4800 citizens. With the Kleinrivier running through the village, stunning mountain views and only 30 minutes away from the ocean, Stanford is ideally positioned for a laid-back getaway. Stanford has some nice antique stores, restaurants, vineyards, coffee shops and more. Besides this, for the ones looking for some more adventure, there is also horse riding, boat cruises, hikes, bird watching and great white shark cage diving, all within a 20km radius of Stanford.

Stanford is beautiful. Its preserved Victorian cottages, dirt roads, mountains and river make it one of the most popular villages in the country.

It has the most beautiful river, stretching all the way down to the Hermanus lagoon. You can swim in it, kayak, float or launch a boat on it. You can float paper boats down it and keep your feet cool in it and locals also use it to irrigate their veggie crop. Stanford has a market square, which is very rare, where we hold farm markets, play cricket and arrange the odd festival on it. The town is famous worldwide for offering the most bird species in one place in the world. Bring your binoculars and notebooks and take a trip down the river to discover them yourself!

Gansbaai and area

Gansbaai is named the BIG-2-TOWN after the numerous Great white sharks that cruise in the waters east of Danger Point Peninsula and the many Southern Right Whales that hang out around the shores on the western side of the Danger Point Peninsula between July and December. The locals still see it as the fishing village it has always been.

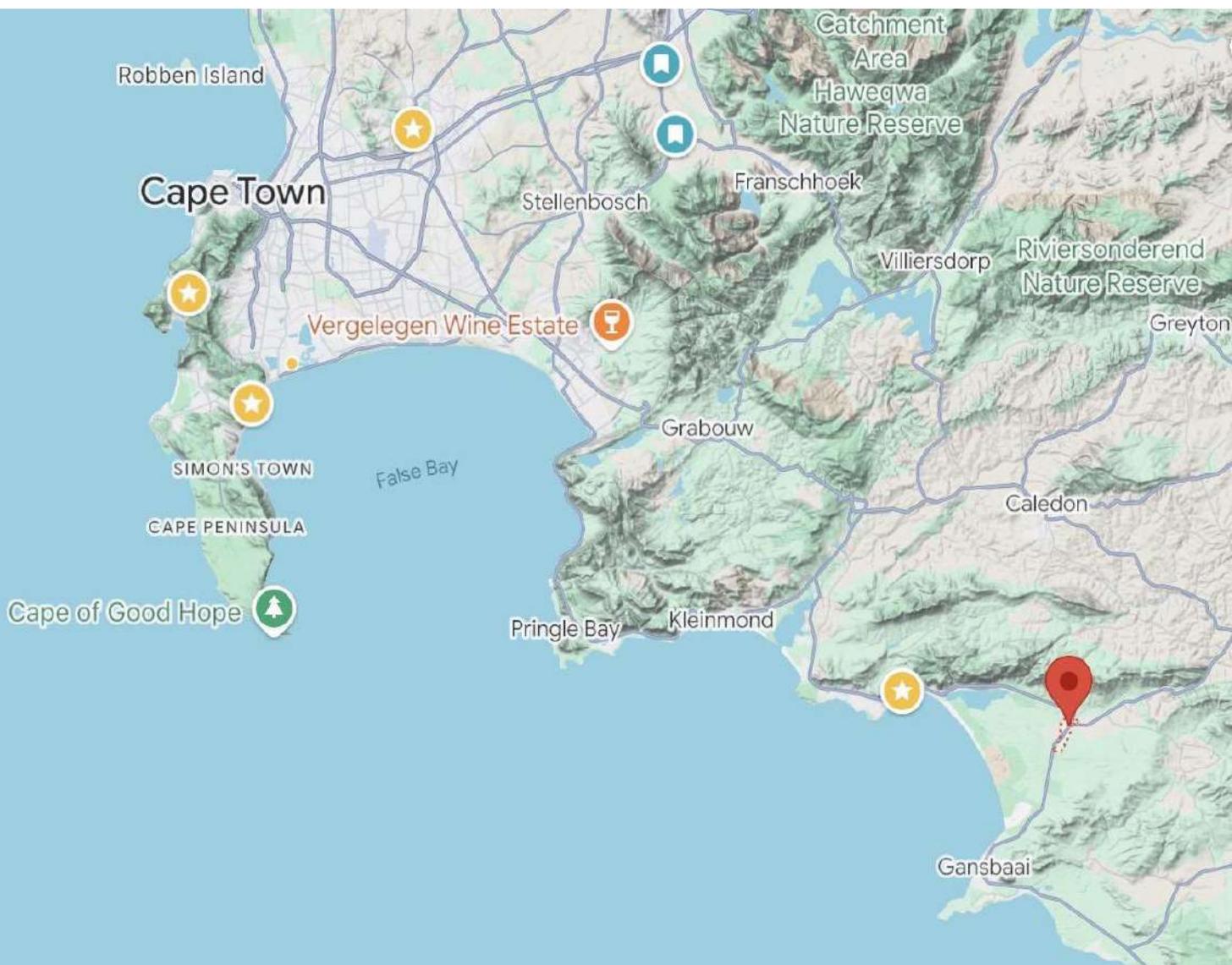
The harbour is still the point of gravity in town and every local in Gansbaai, whatever his profession, is also a fisherman. If you need a craftsman on the first day of the lobster season, you won't find him. He is at sea, catching lobsters with his neighbours. In almost every driveway in Gansbaai, you can see a trailer with a boat parked next to the family car. Despite the developing tourism industry, the fishing industry is still the economical heartbeat of Gansbaai. The fleet of fishing boats and the fishmeal factory in the harbour employ a substantial number of people. Locals call the occasional typical smell from the fishmeal factory the "smell of money". The Abalone farm, just outside Gansbaai, immediately on the shores of Danger Point Peninsula, produces this traditional local culinary delight in large quantities for the Asian market.

Gansbaai is the place where the banks, petrol stations and most of the shops are. The tourism office can be found in the middle of Main Street. There are various restaurants and bars dotted around Main Street, in the backstreets and in the harbour. It is a very Gansbaai-thing to do: drink the locally brewed Birkenhead beer in a harbour-bar and watch the fishing boats return against the setting sun over Walker Bay.

Gansbaai is an unpretentious town with real people. Newcomers, guests, and travellers are traditionally welcomed with open arms as long as they don't tell the locals how to lead their lives ("I do my thing, you do yours, you are welcome"). The fierce independence of the early nomadic fishermen and the nomadic farmers has anchored itself in the blood of the locals and is a welcome and effective barrier against the artificial elements that often go



hand in hand with a developing tourism-industry. Gansbaai is strongly connected to the sea - a working fishing village that will maintain its character.



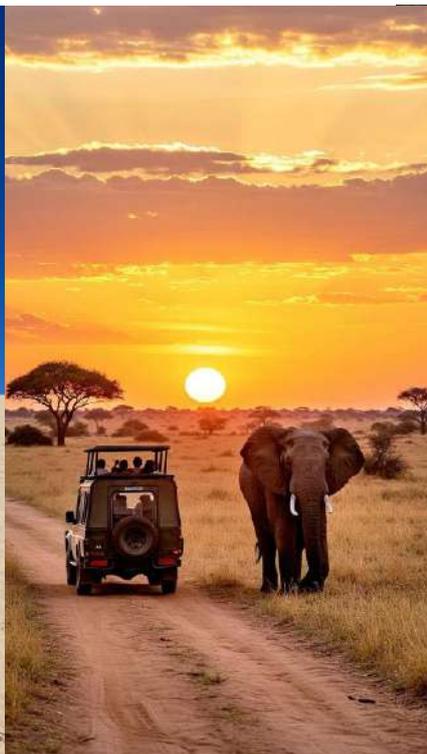


6. Is South Africa safe?

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.





7. How much does it cost?

Included in fees:

- Information and assistance before departure
- Pick up upon arrival and drop off at Cape Town airport (Saturdays between 10am and 2pm)
- Accommodation in volunteer house
- Onsite volunteer coordinator available 24/7
- One social activity
- Breakfast
- Lunch

Excluded from your fees:

- Flight tickets
- Dinners
- Private Luxuries (snacks, cool drinks, alcohol etc.)
- Insurances
- Lodging in Cape Town on arrival and departure if required
- Activities and sightseeing that require a fee

DURATION:	EURO	USD	GBP
2 Weeks	€ 1625	\$1890	£1415
3 Weeks	€ 2295	\$2665	£1995
4 Weeks	€ 2920	\$3390	£2540
Extra Weeks	€ 650	\$755	£565

Arrivals & Departures

The project does pick-ups and drop-offs at Cape Town International Airport between 10am and 2pm on Saturdays. If you arrive after 2pm you will need to arrange your own transportation to the project.

Even if you arrange your own transport it is advised to arrive on a Saturday because orientation is done on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.

Should you, however, like to make alternative arrangements with us; we will do our best to accommodate you.

Accommodation

During your stay you will enjoy our modern, yet cosy home. The house consists of 4 bedrooms with 4 bathrooms, a spacious and fully equipped kitchen for everyone to cook, a big living and dining room area where we enjoy dinners together, games nights, film evening or just relaxing



with a nice book. Outside we have a traditional South African braai (BBQ) area, and a lovely pool with a garden to sunbathe for the hot summer days!

Volunteers will be charged a small fee per week for WIFI to be collected upon arrival. We, however, want to mention that the signal and capacity is sometimes limited as we are situated on a farm. Because of this we kindly ask you to please download any series or movies before your arrival. We have many movies and series here that you are more than welcome to watch in the evenings.

Meals

We provide you with breakfast and lunch. All dinners are for your own account.

As we normally have a nice variety of nationalities and different volunteers, most volunteers cook together and use the braai (BBQ) frequently.

There is weekly transport included to the grocery shop to stock up.

Please advise us of any known or possible medical condition or dietary restrictions.





8. When can I start?

Start and end days are on Saturdays and the program is open all year.

Duration

Participation is from 2 weeks minimum, and you can only book per full week.

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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