

Making a Difference....

Updated Jan 2020

Centre for
Animal
Rehabilitation &
Education
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Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education

Volunteer Guide 2020

MAKE 2020 THE
BEST YEAR YET!

WE CAN'T DO THIS
WITHOUT YOU.

Have the experience of a
lifetime, make friends from
around the globe, be part of
something good.

Make a difference.

C.A.R.E.; Samantha Dewhirst
THE CENTRE FOR ANIMAL REHABILITATION AND
EDUCATION
COMMITTED TO HELPING SOUTH AFRICA'S WILDLIFE



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C.A.R.E. VOLUNTEERS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WHAT TO EXPECT & HOW TO MAKE YOUR AFRICAN DREAM A REALITY IN 2020

Make 2020 a year of action; a year of “being the change you want to see in the world”.

A study published last year, predicted that even resilient species like the baboon could become extinct by 2070. Despite being listed by the IUCN as “least concern”, even scientists are indicating, **we need to be concerned**. With baboons being orphaned at an **alarming rate** as roads and agriculture cut into their habitat, coupled with global warming and an increasing human population; baboons **need your help now** more than ever. **Action is needed to save the animals** and their environment.

2019 saw millions of people around the world mobilised in protest to highlight the dire emergency facing our planet. Help make 2020 a year of action. Get involved, get your hands dirty and make a difference!

Back in 1989, our Rehabilitation Centre, established by the late Founder Rita Miljo, was established with the momentum of a simple question;

“Why wait until a species is on the brink of extinction before we try to help?”

This founding sentiment, along with an understanding and appreciation for these truly unique and special animals is even more important 31 years later.

In 2020, our planet faces an environmental crisis; fires are devastating habitats, deforestation continues to happen at an alarming rate, human population continue to increase and animals continue to be persecuted. We need your help now more than ever.

You can make a positive difference every day.

AFRICAN DREAM MEETS REALITY

The Olifant's River runs alongside the beach upon which the wild baboons, dogs and the orphan baboon babies often play under the supervision of C.A.R.E.'s staff and volunteers.

On some occasions these volunteer shifts, which allow the dogs to run free, the orphaned baboon infants to explore, forage and be "in the wild", have to be postponed if elephants or hippos have been spotted migrating their way through the sanctuary. Not so surprising, after-all the word "Olifant's" translates to "Elephant's". Other times, the volunteers enjoy the diverse choruses of the birds and the distant whooping of hyenas whilst watching the orphan babies play besides wild baboons, wild warthogs, varied buck and vervet monkeys. Watching wildlife roam freely in the reserve, which borders the famous Kruger National Park, and working daily to make a positive difference to the animals in the sanctuary, really makes C.A.R.E. a magical and unique place to be.

It is easy to become spellbound, especially at dusk when the place is so serene and idyllic. Just before sunset, a time known as *'the golden hour'* many animals venture to the river to lazily forage on the most succulent vegetation before heading to bed. Others begin to wake after sleeping all day in the African sun. Volunteers, like the baboons themselves, enjoy relaxing at this time, after a fulfilling day of making a difference.

Just up the hill from this tranquil scene, the reality of South Africa's persecution of wildlife is unmistakably evident; enclosures filled with orphaned wild animals, their families killed because of human cruelty, greed and habitat encroachment.

These orphans are the animals you are coming to help and make a positive contribution to their lives.

Many individuals being cared for at the centre are representative of a whole troop of animals shot or poisoned, leaving one remaining survivor; a tiny infant that was still only drinking his mother's milk so couldn't ingest the poison intended to kill him, or shielded by her mother's once warm body, she was spared from bullets intended to wipe her and her family out. Seeing the masses of orphans it's certain to say that if not already, these intelligent, empathetic primates will be facing extinction if no one bothers to intervene.

2020 is set to be another exciting year at C.A.R.E., 31 years since C.A.R.E. was recognised as a Rehabilitation Centre in South Africa for wildlife. C.A.R.E. has expanded massively since 1989, pioneering successful methods of rehabilitating social primates and releasing them back into the wild. 2020 has been kick-started with trialling (and succeeding) in some of our new release methods; integrations of weaned orphaned infants into protected wild troops a few hours away from C.A.R.E. and the release of single-males (of dispersal age, see <https://www.ippl.org/gibbon/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/August-2019.pdf#page=23>). We do have some leads for troop releases for this year too which we hope will become reality.

Our education centre is up and running and can now fly; already we have been teaching children and adults about the importance of baboons, conservation and human-wildlife-conflict alleviation.

Join us to make 2020 an amazing year of rescue, rehabilitation, release and education.

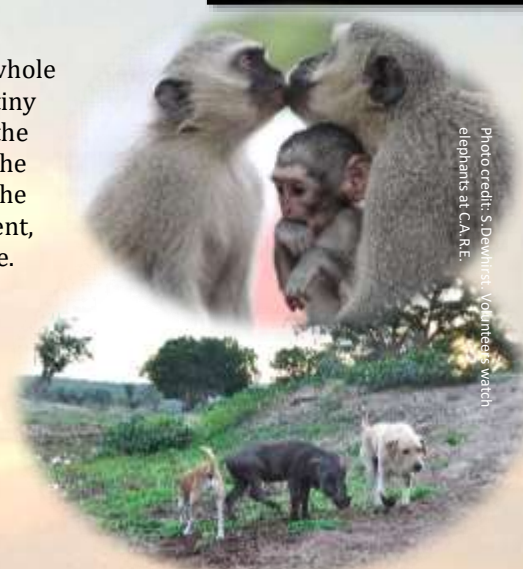


Photo credit: S.Munro Volunteers watch elephants at



Photo credit: S.Dewhirst; Volunteers supervising orphans at

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS; WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

Despite the epic leaps forward for the Centre in terms of its size, methods and facilities, the lack of vital funds means the staffing structure remains small, run by a dedicated team of professionals; who themselves are primarily volunteers.

Volunteers are the backbone of the organisation and the donations contributed by the volunteers is the bread and butter on which the day to day operations survive. Simply put; ***without volunteers C.A.R.E. wouldn't be here to save baboons.*** Volunteers are vital to C.A.R.E. and make a massive positive impact on the welfare of so many animals and their conservation as a whole.

“We really need your help, now more than ever; with so many big dreams we have for the baboons and C.A.R.E. in the realm of release, habitat protection, welfare improvements, education and rescuing we cannot do this without you!

Please come and help us on our mission to rescue, rehabilitate, provide sanctuary and release animals. Give yourself the opportunity to get to know such a misunderstood species. Prepare for the baboons to get under your skin and Africa to get into your blood.

Your life will be changed forever; many suddenly find their horizons boundless, priorities shifted and not only can Africa make a positive impact on your life; you can be the positive difference to the lives of so many too. Join the C.A.R.E. family.” Stephen & Samantha, Managing Director, Assistant Managing Director.



What are you waiting for? Make this dream a reality.

SO YOU'VE DECIDED ITS TIME TO MAKE YOUR AFRICAN DREAM A REALITY – NEXT STEPS

Well done. We have all been there.... thinking it was scary and impossible to visit Africa and wondering how you will get the money together to break away from home.

For all the volunteers we have had at the centre (which is running into hundreds) we have not once had any report of anyone having security problems when landing in Johannesburg to make their connection flight or bus to Phalaborwa; the worst that has happened is misplaced luggage! In 2020 the travel is even easier as there is a shuttle service which collects you from the airport and drops you right at the reserve in which C.A.R.E. is situated.

What about money? Many people determined to overcome the money hurdle dedicate themselves to fundraising (read fundraising tips). Before you know it, the red tape between you and your dreams is put aside and finally - you prepared, you saved, you booked your tickets, you collected donations, you made the journey and finally – you made it to Africa, then into the wilds of C.A.R.E.!

We are here to help at every step of making your trip a reality.

2.

A GUIDE OF HOW TO PREPARE AND WHAT TO EXPECT

2.a.

a. Location

Situated on the banks of the Olifants River, between Hoedspruit and Phalaborwa in South Africa, in the middle of a 'Big 5' Nature Reserve, C.A.R.E. is the perfect location for a wild animal rehabilitation centre.

2.b.

b. Visa

Upon arrival to Johannesburg most European, American and Australian citizens over 18 will be granted a 90 day visitor visa free-of-charge and without any complications. Please check the website; <http://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/> if you come from anywhere else in the world. The 90 day visitor visa is all you need to stay at C.A.R.E. for a short <90 day visit.

UNDER 18's VISA: C.A.R.E. typically does not enrol under 18's. Those under 18 must follow the rules of providing additional documentation, all up to date details can be found on; <http://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/>

90+ DAYS VISA: Anyone staying longer than 90 days must apply for a Volunteer Visa in their host country. Volunteers staying longer than 90 days are so valuable to the centre, so please know that your efforts to obtain the necessary paperwork are truly appreciated! The application process has been made more efficient and easier than before as it is all handled by VFS Global. You can complete many things online and follow the process online; <http://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/>. Make sure you check the most recent requirements for submission well in advance of your travel date so that you are not left disappointed. Obtaining the necessary paperwork can often be time consuming. Most of the time you need; Police Clearance, Radiological Report, Medical Clearance, proof of funds, proof of ticket and your Birth Certificate.

90+ DAYS VISA EXTENSION WITHIN THE COUNTRY: There is a possibility if you are on a 90 day visa to extend it further whilst you are within the country, but it is made difficult as the closest offices to submit the application are Polokwane and Nelspruit; meaning you will need to hire a car. Additionally, you must pick up the visa once it is processed in person (or someone can collect it on your behalf if they have your ID & written permission), meaning another long trip with car hire. As per other visa applications, for this option you must initially apply via the website and you will then choose to book yourself an appointment at one of the nearest offices.



c. Adhering to Prerequisites

Qualifications and previous experience isn't something we necessarily look for; we are looking for people with a passion for nature, desire to want to make a positive difference, a love of animals, a strong work ethic and enthusiasm for new experiences. There are however, other mandatory requirements detailed below;

- i. **ENROLMENT & INDEMNITY:** There is a mandatory Enrolment Form and Indemnity Contract that all volunteers and visitors must sign in order to be accepted as a volunteer. This contract and indemnity waives C.A.R.E.'s responsibility for your health and safety. You must describe your medications, allergies and insurance.
- ii. You are responsible for your necessary travel documentation; visas (see visa section), insurance and any medical treatment/immunisations as your doctor advises.
- iii. **VACCINES:**
 - o **ESSENTIAL:** You must have an up to date tetanus & TB (BCG) vaccination.
 - o **NON-ESSENTIAL:** When working with animals or in the health care industry some doctors recommend having a, rabies vaccinations and hepatitis. Please ask your health care practitioner / doctor what they recommend. We have never handled a rabid baboon and none have ever been diagnosed with hepatitis, but there is always a potential risk. Your doctor may recommend other vaccines such as polio, typhoid and diphtheria; you can decide on which advice to take.
- iv. **AGE:** There is a minimum age requirement of 18 for indemnity and insurance reasons. Also, South African ports of entry now require a lot more documentation for those travelling under 18 without parents.
- v. **PHYSICAL HEALTH:** You must be free from contagious disease, psychologically and physically well. You must be physically able to help around the centre; lift buckets of food, clean enclosures, use a shovel, walk on uneven, rocky ground. We get people of all ages and physique and can amend your schedule accordingly; but be aware it is hot in South Africa, the centre is situated with a large hill going up from one side of the centre to "The Mountain Lodge" down to the other side to the Olifant's River. The paths are rocky with inclines. That being said, we do get over 60's join us and thrive in the exciting environment at C.A.R.E.
- vi. **PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH:** You must be psychologically well. We have found over the years that many people who are clinically depressed have gravitated towards projects like ours instead of reaching out for professional help. Whilst C.A.R.E. is an incredible place, it can at times make people feel lonely as they are away from home and whilst the place can be healing in some ways; it can also have the opposite effect. Being in a nature reserve isn't for everyone; living with strangers, being restricted due to safety as to how far you can roam, not being in control of your own schedule, food etc. can be emotionally challenging and some find it tough. If you are on any medications, you must ensure the staff are aware and ensure that you have more than enough for the period of time you are with us. Always have the trip cleared by your doctor if you are on medication and take out the necessary insurances. Let the staff at C.A.R.E. know if you are prone to depression and educate them on how to help you. Never, ever come to C.A.R.E. for healing without taking prescribed medications; always take the advice of your doctor.
- vii. **MEDICATIONS:** If you are on any medications, you must ensure the staff are aware and ensure that you have more than enough for the period of time you are with us. Always have the trip cleared by your doctor if you are on medication and take out the necessary insurances. Listing your medications is mandatory.
- viii. **ANTI MALARIAL:** Phalaborwa borders a malaria zone and the Kruger National Park is referred to as a malarial zone. Whilst the long-term staff from overseas (U, Australia US mainly) do not use anti-malarial medications due to its negative long-term use side-effects, usually your doctor will recommend it for a shorter stay. Please see your doctor for the latest information for overseas travel advice. The usual anti-malarial medications used are Doxycycline (which if you have any left-over we'd be happy to take from you as a donation to our clinic; we use it for the baboons for certain ailments) or malarone (more expensive). It is your choice and responsibility to get all the latest information from your health care practitioner and decide on the best options for yourself. Always advice the C.A.R.E. staff on your decision; you will have to list all your medications on your Enrolment Form.
- ix. **VISA: See visa section (5)**
- x. **INSURANCE:** It is essential for you to have travel insurance whilst visiting C.A.R.E. You are working with wild animals, in a wild animal reserve; it is necessary to have a plan in place should you require hospital treatment. We have very good doctors and hospitals in Phalaborwa; but the local private hospital (Clinix) is very expensive and will only treat you with proof of funds/provision of a credit / debit card. Doctors appointments usually cost R300-R500 for a consultation.

d. Donation Payments

We ask all volunteers to make a non-refundable donation contribution to the centre. C.A.R.E. receives no government assistance and doesn't have any sponsors that help with the day-to-day costs of caring for the animals. The volunteer program is what funds the centre. The donation you pay not only covers the costs of housing and feeding you at the centre, but it also pays for the care of the animals you are going to be working with. The volunteer program has been in operation since the 90's and has funded the growth of the centre since then.

If you are coming to C.A.R.E. via an outside agent, they will provide you with the payment information; they often take a cut as they assist you with your booking.

For **those booking directly with C.A.R.E.**, the following information will help you pay your volunteer donation;

i. **NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT**

You can either pay the full amount or deposit. The deposit required to secure your place is 50%. Please note that your place will only be confirmed on receipt of the deposit. **The deposit is non-refundable in the event of cancellation.**

ii. **BALANCE OF PAYMENT**

The balance is due 30 days before arrival

Please note that the total amount paid will be forfeited if cancellation is received less than 30 days before arrival. **The payment is considered a donation to the charity and is non-refundable in the event of cancellation.**

iii. **PAYMENT METHODS**

It is the volunteers responsibility to cover all charges.

a) **All non-UK account holders bank transfer to:**

Bank: First National Bank
 Account name: C.A.R.E.
 Account no. 6202 5834 187
 Branch: Phalaborwa
 Branch code: 270-452
 Address: FNB, 15 Wilger Ave, Phalaborwa, 1390, South Africa
 SWIFT No: FIRN ZA JJ XXX
 CARE Address: CARE, Plot 5 Grietjie Nature Reserve, Grietjie, Phalaborwa, 1390, SA

b) **UK ACCOUNT HOLDERS ONLY:**

Bank: Barclays Bank PLC
 Branch: Bournemouth
 Acc Name: C.A.R.E. - UK
 Acc No: 40644633
 Sort Code: 20-11-39
 Swift Code: BARCGB21105
 Address: 61 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1ER, Dorset, England

c) **PayPal**

Another easy way to donate to C.A.R.E. is via **PayPal**. If you go to www.PayPal.com, under the Transfer tab you will see 'send someone money'. It is a secure site and we have never had any problems. Our fundraising email address for PayPal: donate2carebaboons@gmail.com. The website itself changes slightly regularly but the concept of sending is usually easy to navigate; it will then take you through how to set up so that you can send money asking for your card details etc. Be sure to chose "gift" or "friends and family" option over service, this minimises all fees.

However, please note that PayPal charge at least 10% comission/transfer fee, so if using paypal kindly add the 10% to your donation to ensure the baboons get the full donation.

If you have any trouble please let us know and please tell us when you have made the transfer by sending us the Proof of Payment to info@primatcare.org.za



VOLUNTEERS ARE A KEY PART OF THE WORKFORCE & GIVE THE BABOONS A FUTURE.



THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FUNDS THE DAY TO DAY FOOD, CARE, VETERINARY EXPENSES, ENCLOSURE MAINTENANCE PLUS THE COSTS INCURRED WITH YOUR HOUSING AND FOOD.



CARE IS AN NPO AND STRUGGLES TO FUND THE DAY TO DAY AND BRANCH FURTHER INTO EDUCATION, RELEASES AND CONSERVATION. YOUR DONATION MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE.

e. Fundraising – How Much Do I Need?

Worried about money? Travelling can be expensive, but what isn't in life? Once you have decided you want to travel and worked out the costs it is often easier than you think to discipline yourself to save. Most people cut out a few of life's "luxuries", take on an additional job, work more hours or fundraise, often finding over the course of a few months that they are amazed at how much they can save.

i. **COSTS ONCE AT C.A.R.E.:** You'll be excited to know once you have paid the donation, travel, transfers, insurances etc. you don't really need much when you get to us as your meals, laundry and accommodation are included in your project donation. Some volunteers like to hire a car for some of their stay with us so that they can visit various tourist destinations without having to rely on our busy vehicle schedule; others prefer to spend the whole time in the reserve with the baboons. Some volunteers spend money on buying their preferred food items, extra toiletries and trips dependable on their budget and personal preferences.

ii. **TRANSFERS:** We ask for a R300 (\$20 approx.) transfer fee to pick you up and drop you off to Phalaborwa bus station or airport or R500 (\$40 approx.) if Hoedspruit. This is payable in cash upon arrival. Additionally, we ask for a R50 (\$3 approx.) reserve entrance fee (once off) payable in cash upon arrival.

iii. **EXCURSION COSTS (APPROX.):** We can organise some day trips to local tourist destinations when you arrive, all have very cheap entrance fees (R80 – R300), and then we would ask for some contribution towards fuel on top (R50 – R300 +/- dependable on number of people and distance). The more expensive trips are those to the Kruger Park due to fuel prices and some people like to stay over. You'll be looking at R700 = R2000 depending on your plans. Often, C.A.R.E. can't offer the use of a C.A.R.E. vehicle due to our other commitments at the time, so then you would be looking at hiring a car for certain trips; avis.com and europcar.com can both be rented from Phalaborwa airport. However, one of our staff member offers trips.

iv. **GROCERIES AND LUXURIES:** At C.A.R.E. we have a small curious shop with some clothing/baboon memorabilia and a small "tuck shop" which sells soda and snacks. The prices are low and fair. Your basic meals are all provided. Many people do like to purchase extra when they get the opportunity once a week to buy groceries; special cheeses, chips, crisps, drinks, chocolate and toiletries for example; but you don't *need* to buy anything extra unless you have special requirements. Some people spend an extra R100 – R300 per week on "luxuries" dependable on their appetites, some spend nothing.

v. **WIFI:** with a voucher system once at C.A.R.E. with a guide price of approximately R10 (ZAR) per 100MB (this is subject to change).



Determination and dedication to the cause: Many volunteers, including our full-time voluntary staff take on an extra job, additional hours or fundraise for their trip. Volunteers are often proud of their achievement and have an experience of a lifetime. Even the Managing Director (volunteer) takes on additional work to cover costs of visits home (featured in the photo). Be humble; ask for help and take on jobs you wouldn't normally do.



Some volunteers like to go on excursions to the Kruger Park on their own or with other volunteers on projects. This is a great way to see the reserve and its animals.



f. Ways to Fundraise

Many volunteers embark on fundraising initiatives to fundraise for their donation contribution and even their flights.

- i. ONLINE:** One example of a great and easy way to raise funds is an online campaign such as gofundme.com or rockethub.com. These sites take a small percentage but really help enable your friends, family, colleagues and acquaintances to donate through the click of a button. Be sure to thank your sponsors, sharing it to your Facebook page helps to continually draw attention to the fund without always directly asking for help.

For legitimacy, you are welcome to fundraise through GlobalGiving.org for your **volunteer donation**. JustGiving.com is no longer allowing funds to be raised for charities outside of the US so we no longer promote this option.

- ii. FUNDRAISING IDEAS:** Volunteers have raised funds in a plethora of ways, we are always in awe of the energy and ideas you can come up with. It is a good idea to imagine what you are good at and what opportunities you have. Here are some of the things volunteers have succeeded with; sponsored races, marathons, presentations, table-top sales in the school foyer and talks to their classes.

If you set up an online campaign you never know where it may lead.

Some people prefer to just work, take on a second job or use their university loans to pay. Since many volunteers are students, the student loans companies often give grants or additional loans for “work experience” and internships; it may be worth looking into. Also check with your university if they have any scholarships or grants to apply for.

We are happy to provide you with a letter confirming you are fundraising for your trip if you need one, just send us an email; info@primatcare.org.za.

ONLINE FUNDRAISING



PRESENTATIONS



MARATHONS



TABLE TOP SALES



Try going onto price-comparison websites such as expedia.com, opodo.com or skyscanner.net and check out how much you need to save for your flights. Some people prefer to spend a little extra for comfort and timeliness, others are happy to travel on cheaper airlines via various countries in order to be able to afford it. It is very dependent on what you are comfortable with and how much time you have.

OPTIONS FOR TRAVEL: BUSES AND PLANES

If you are coming to South Africa from overseas you will need to get a flight to Johannesburg Airport (OR Tambo) and then a connection (flight, bus, shuttle or car rental) to Phalaborwa. Address: O R Tambo Airport Rd, Johannesburg, 1627, South Africa. Phone: [+27 11 921 6262](tel:+27119216262)

Ask your local travel agent for assistance or use an online booking website such as expedia.com, opodo.com, price comparison websites or your favourite airline provider such as Virgin, Luthansa, Emirates, Air France, British Airways or another. You can fly direct, or the cheaper option is via another country. Upon arrival to Johannesburg you will go through immigration/passport control and then you must always collect your baggage and then either re-check it in to the connecting flight or take it with you to the bus.

1. ASHTON'S SHUTTLE SERVICE:

Highly recommended. Almost door to door service from the airport to Grietjie Nature reserve where we are situated. You do not have to leave the security of the OR Tambo airport & we recommend this option over the buses.

www.flysaa.com

2. SOUTH AFRICAN AIRLINK: (TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE TO PHALABORWA, however available to Hoedspruit) Jo'berg airport to Phalaborwa or Hoedspruit via flight

For 2020 airlink isn't flying temporarily to Phalaborwa, however, there is still a flight to Hoedspruit available. The flight is very short and you do not need to leave the security of Johannesburg airport.

3. GAUTRAIN: Jo'berg airport to the bus station via a tube-style train

The Gautrain is a new and efficient way to travel. The Gautrain is like the 'tube' style trains found in most cities around the world. It is clean, spacious and has security guards manning all stations and carriages. It runs from within the Johannesburg airport, meaning you do not have to leave the security of the terminals and haggle with taxi-drivers. It will take you to a bus station where you will get your bus. You purchase a "Gold Card" at the Gautrain entrance and load it with money to get to the preferred station. Translux and City to City buses depart from Johannesburg Park station or Pretoria, we recommend Pretoria. Cost R150-300 approx. www.gautrain.co.za

4. BUS: Johannesburg Park Station / or Pretoria to Phalaborwa

You need to book your ticket in advance. The reputable companies are Translux (preferred) or CitytoCity. You can use www.computicket.com to reserve your ticket. Cost R350-500 approx. (depends on return). We much prefer options 1 & 2 over this option; options 1 & 2 are considered more efficient and safer.



Phalaborwa airport is picturesque, with only one plane landing at a time meaning it is easy to spot one another. Flight time is 1.5 hour +/-.



Ashton's Shuttle service comes **highly recommended** and drops you straight to our reserve from Jo'berg airport. The shuttle has a/c and makes regular stops for toilets / snacks. It is an intermediate price option between bus & plane. Much more efficient / convenient than a bus.



Translux buses are a more affordable option of travelling from J'burg to Phalaborwa, but the journey is long and the timetable doesn't always fit with international flight times. Also you need to get to the bus station via the Gautrain or taxi.

1. TRAVELLING WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA:

*Note: For Ashton's shuttle service we recommend 2 hours minimum time between landing and bus departure time. There is often not enough time to catch the bus services the same day you land. Allow at least three hours to disembark, clear immigration and customs, collect your luggage, catch a taxi or train, travel to the bus depot, and be there 30 minutes before departure. When deciding whether to take the bus vs. the flight, remember to factor in the costs of a taxi to a hotel or backpackers, overnight stay, meals, taxi to the bus depot, and the bus fare. Ashton's shuttle is often more agreeable times over the buses and right at the airport (whereas the bus terminal is 30-40 mins away).

Someone from C.A.R.E. will be there to collect you from either the shuttle/bus station or airport in Phalaborwa – they'll have a CARE T-shirt or cap on and/or holding a sign – and they'll be looking out for you – it's a tiny and well run airport which is laid back and quiet so we won't miss you.

DELAYS: If your flight is delayed, PLEASE let one of us know so that we don't make the trip to the airport unnecessarily, it takes the C.A.R.E. team over 45 minutes to drive to the airport/bus station.

CARE OFFICE	071 692 5055	(+27 716 925 055 from outside SA)	If this is out of order
Stephen	072 546 1308 mobile	(+27 72 546 1308 from outside SA)	
Samantha	082 585 1759	(+27 82 585 1759 from outside SA)	
Karen	082 452 0146 mobile	(+27 82 452 0146 from outside SA)	

Email: info@primatecare.org.za, samantha@primatecare.org.za

If we get delayed due to an emergency - please just sit tight - ask one of the SAA ground staff to help you make a call to us.

2. HOTELS/BACKPACKERS IN JOHANNESBURG:

Use booking.com to get recommendations and look for the "airport shuttle" included in the price to ensure they will be there to pick you up and drop you off.

HOTELS/BACKPACKERS IN PHALABORWA: www.accommodation-phalaborwa.co.za/

Daan & Zena's Guest House: www.daanzena.co.za. Tel: +27-15-781-6049 (basic and comfortable)

Villa Luso: www.villaluso.co.za. Tel: +27-15-781-5670 (basic)

Elephant Walk Backpacker: [+27 15 781 5860](tel:+27157815860) (basic and comfortable)

Sefapane Lodge and Safaris: [+27 15 780 6700](tel:+27157806700) (beautiful and tranquil)

Sunbird Lodge: <http://sunbirdlodge.com/> (nice)

3. CAR HIRE:

Some volunteers have chosen to drive from Johannesburg to Phalaborwa. This option takes on average 8 hours for first time travellers. Additionally, many volunteers like to hire a car once at C.A.R.E. so that they can drive themselves to the Kruger Park or other nearby destinations. The C.A.R.E. team can arrange for a transfer for you to collect your car at a fee for the fuel costs if a vehicle and driver is available (unless combined with another trip).

All the major car hire companies are represented in SA; Avis and Budget have a counter at the Phalaborwa airport.

Most companies will only rent to persons over 25 years of age (or impose a hefty excess charge). You must have a valid international driver's license and a credit card. The cheaper rental cars are generally manual/stick shift, and South Africans drives on the left hand side of the road. You'll find all the information you need on the Avis and Budget websites. There is a secure place at C.A.R.E. to park. When booking try to ensure you ask for unlimited mileage, or you may be charged extra per mile.

4. DRIVING TO C.A.R.E.:

It is a long drive from Johannesburg airport to C.A.R.E., but some people prefer the flexibility of driving. It will take first time drivers about 8 hours with breaks. Once you have your car hire sorted here are the directions;

CARE is approx 500kms from Pretoria. You will find the turn-off to CARE (situated within Grietjie Private Nature Reserve) along the R40 road between Phalaborwa – Mica – Hoedspruit.

You have two options to get there from Pretoria direction:

- **Reccomended route as it is highways and smoother roads:**

Take the N1 to Polokwane, follow it to Tzaneen and on to Gravelotte.

When you pass through Gravelotte do not turn off towards Phalaborwa – keep straight and you will eventually reach the T junction that meets the Phalaborwa – Hoedspruit road.

Turn left and travel about 15- 20kms until you see the turn to the right to Grietjie. It's a dirt road with a number of signs for lodges (Mfubu / Kulungi etc) just before the turn.

Pass through the boom gate 1km along the dirt and then follow the road signs to Mfubu / CARE. It's about 8kms, and CARE is Plot 5, after Mfubu. When you get there you must park in an enclosed garage at the end of the drive in to the Centre.

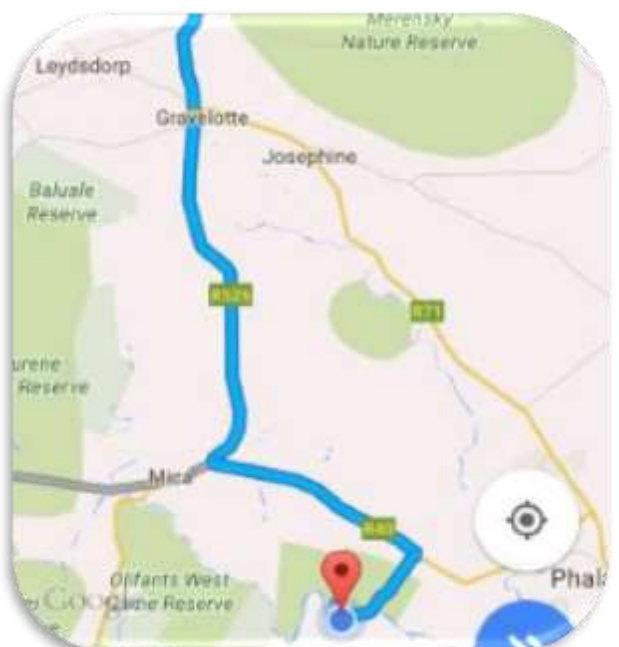
- **The 'scenic route':**

Take the N4 to Witbank, through to Middelburg, onto Belfast, Dullstroom, pass Lydenburg, onto Ohrigstad and through the Abel Erasmus tunnel.

Once you pass through the tunnel and descend the mountain pass turn left at the Giraffe Junction towards Tzaneen. After a few kms turn right towards Phalaborwa / Mica. You will eventually come to a T Junction at Mica, turn left. You are now on the Phalaborwa to Hoedspruit road, look for the turn to Grietjie after about 15-20kms.



If you hire a care, Google Maps or another GPS Service is recommended. Put in Grietjie Nature Reserve and it will take you to the reserve entrance, from there, it is sign posted; Plot Number 5, C.A.R.E.



WHEN YOU GET HERE

3. WELCOME TO C.A.R.E.

Welcome! On-route to C.A.R.E. you will have the chance to buy supplies at the grocery store (unless you got the shuttle / bus); some people like to get snacks, bottled water and toiletries which were too heavy to pack. You will then drive to C.A.R.E., which takes about 45 minutes. C.A.R.E. is situated deep within a Big 5 Nature Reserve, so you may be lucky enough to spot some elephants, giraffe, waterbuck, kudu and other animals on your way to the centre!

C.A.R.E. is a very special and busy place, filled with energy and dynamic. The credit can only be attributed to the charismatic and curious chacma baboons that inhabit the centre – always keeping us on our toes! With the wild baboon troop roaming around there is never a dull moment at C.A.R.E. and their presence is considered a bonus component to the rehabilitation of those in the enclosures. For the baboons undergoing rehabilitation to be able to watch, listen and learn from the wild baboons the rehabilitation at C.A.R.E. is unparalleled by any other rehabilitation centre for baboons, additionally it provides a fantastic opportunity for any volunteers and researchers interested in nature and social behaviour to observe the performances of real wild baboons.

3.a. **a. Accommodation see page 26**

Our “Volunteer Village”, was completed in 2016 and our volunteers love the new space! The accommodation contains 6 rooms, each housing between 2 and 3 people each. There are new toilet and shower facilities, where volunteers get to wash while gazing up at the beautiful South African sky. There is a small volunteer kitchen, as well a communal lounge / games room, with ping-pong, darts, TV/DVDs. The bedrooms are situated around a beautiful communal garden space and braai (BBQ) area. The Volunteer Village is located within “The Rebuild” area, surrounded by a secure electric fence to keep you safe from roaming elephants and other animals.

You will hand in your forms to the Office, settle your transfer/entrance fees and be shown to your room. Usually you will proceed to get a tour of C.A.R.E., be sure to drink plenty of water on your first day! Let yourself get settled in, get plenty of rest, get to know your fellow volunteers and be prepared for the experience of a lifetime! **see page 26 for full description**



3.b.

b. 48 Hour No Contact Policy

For the first 48 hours at C.A.R.E. we have a “No Contact Policy” whereby we ask you not to touch any baboons for the first 48 hours. This is to minimise the risk of any coughs or colds coming into the centre to protect the baboons. Don’t worry this time flies by and is the perfect opportunity for you to get orientated, learn the bottle and food preparation shifts, learn a little about the baboon behaviours to get some tips on how to act when you meet the orphans and work with the adult baboons. Meeting the baboons will be an experience you will never forget and we wish you luck preparing for your trip!

4.

YOUR ROLE AS A VOLUNTEER

4.a.

a. Am I Really Making a Difference, or is this Just Another “Nice Experience”?

Rest assured; through simply paying your donation you have already made a difference. The volunteer program funds the majority of the day-to-day expenses. Housing, feeding and caring for almost 440 baboons is an expensive undertaking and your donation helps to cover these immense costs. In addition to the donation, as a volunteer at C.A.R.E. you really are a key member of the work-force! We can’t afford the salaries to cover all the staff roles needed at the centre and rely on people like you to act as though you are an employed member of the team. **The “Volunteer Experience” isn’t a holiday.** Whilst we do urge all volunteers to take a day off each week (for example to the lodge next door for a relaxing day at the pool-side) and try to ensure you have a fabulous time, you will for the rest of the time be helping out with the day-to-day husbandry. You will get hot, tired, peed and pooped on and can be confident that C.A.R.E. isn’t a place where we make things up for volunteers to do; **you are needed!** You are key to helping us make a difference! The baboons especially need you for their physical and psychological healing and development.

C.A.R.E. is run primarily by volunteers. We have a paid staff of 11+/- (African’s) and the rest (including the management) are for the most part volunteers. The jobs you will be doing is helping the over-all day-to-day tasks; you will be making a real difference to the animals’ lives and support the progression and success of the centre itself.

There will be incredible, life changing moments during your stay with feelings of elation and achievement, and there will also be times that aren’t so great; picking up poop, scrubbing poles and sorting through fruit and veg! The “experience” is not all about cuddling baby baboons, always remember; the baboon orphans are at the centre because their families were killed and one day they grow up into adults, who still need lots of hard work to care for. Baboons are really only babies for 6-8 months, from there on those same babies have to face life in a troop and we love for the volunteers to help in all stages of the rehabilitation/husbandry, which at times can be hard work.



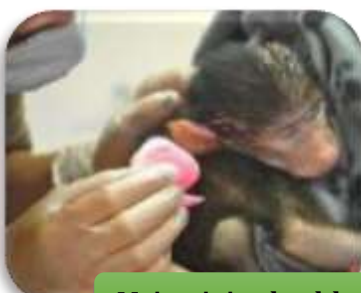
Giving the baboons a life and a future which human cruelty took



Husbandry; keeping enclosures clean and maintained....



Psychological healing....



Maintaining health....



Physical healing....

You are at C.A.R.E. as a helping hand and are expected to act as a professional in training. It is important that you listen, learn, use your initiative and act like a professional. At the end of a hard day you can put your feet up, let your hair down and ask for a day off at the lodge next door or go on another excursion. However, whilst working and walking around the Centre we expect you to be a capable member of the C.A.R.E. team and help us to achieve great things for the baboons!

It is important to remember that the line of 'authority' does not stop at our Directors, Stephen & Samantha. They too have to answer to the authorities and report to them in order to obtain permits to release and operate. We expect you as a volunteer to help Stephen & Samantha achieve for the baboons and get them out of the cages back into the wild where they belong!

If everyone does a little, we do achieve a lot for these amazing animals! So we ask volunteers to please ensure the area of running C.A.R.E. which you have been assigned to gets done well. We want you to be proud to be part of the team and proud of the work you have done before you exit the area. It is important that you realise how vital it is that the 'little things' get done properly and we work with a "bottom up" attitude rather than "top down".

4.b.

b. Some of the Things You May be Helping With....

Day to day activities vary and are dependable on how many infant orphans are in need of help (if any) and how many volunteers there are present at the centre. When we have baby orphans a lot of the voluntary role is based around their care;

- i. Supervising any orphan babies in the nursery; ensuring they are emotionally secure, eating, resting, playing, socialising
- ii. Preparing and giving bottles/food
- iii. Cleaning their play-space
- iv. Cleaning the baboon kitchen/work space, food store
- v. Bonding babies to a baboon surrogate mother and supervising interactions
- vi. The majority of the population at C.A.R.E. are in Phase II rehabilitation; the hands-off phase. These animals are being prepared for a life in the wild, so they are maturing, bonding and settling ranks. Whilst in the hands-off phase we still need your help to;
- vii. Make enrichment & food
- viii. Collect behavioural data
- ix. Clean and maintain enclosures (2-3 hours a day)
- x. Build climbing enrichments (ladders / swings)
- xi. Collect grass, natural foliage, seed pods
- xii. Go on trips to the local farms to help load vehicles of food/unload
- xiii. Sort through fruit/veg donations (good from bad)
- xiv. Clean and organise areas of the centre as needed
- xv. Complete alien plant removal and other reserve management activities
- xvi. Map vegetation data as needed
- xvii. Help with the domestic rescued animals (chickens, dogs, cats, guinea-pigs)
- xviii. Help with any other rescued animals undergoing rehabilitation



Key part of the animal care team....



Cleaning enclosures....



Making Enrichment



Supervising orphans and integrations....

c. How do I Help the Baboons Through Hand-Rearing?

IF WE HAVE ORPHANS AT THE TIME OF YOUR STAY: Baboon babies are born helpless and they need hands-on nurturing in order to ensure they are developing.

In addition to physical development, the babies need humans to support them emotionally.

Baboon babies bond strongly to their mothers and if this bond is broken through the mother being killed, the baby becomes insecure and traumatised.

At C.A.R.E. we have a Quarantine Nursery where volunteer care-givers help to supervise them. We provide the babies with a human surrogate when they are infants to ensure they get a stable upbringing. The surrogate, like their baboon mothers, take care of them 24/7, sleeping in the Nursery Quarantine bedroom or Orphan-Overflow bedroom. The babies get exposure with other baboons from day 1 at C.A.R.E.; this is very important! They learn many important behaviours from spending time with other baboons. We have found that if the baby bonds to the surrogate they fear unknown humans more readily, which is important for when they face release. If the baboons are handed around to anyone and everyone, they lose all fear of people, which isn't ideal for rehabilitation and release. **Being a committed and dedicated rehabilitation centre we DO NOT ALLOW VISITORS TO INTERACT WITH ORPHANS: only volunteer care-givers are allowed to help with supervising babies.**

Human surrogates are normally long-term volunteers (often staff and/or return volunteers at the centre for 4+months), but **the short-term volunteers also help through acting as an Aunty/Uncle during the day; just as other baboons would in the troop.**

The infants are supervised by all volunteers who act as Aunts/Uncles during the day. Volunteers supervise them in the nursery during the day and when the babies are being bonded to a baboon surrogate. This is at an age where in the wild they would also be left by their mothers with baboons they know well and can take care of them for short bouts of time. This is also when the babies begin to bond to the other baboons and depend less on humans for help with bottle feeding, etc.



Te-Amo and Rory; Rory was released in 2020 as a "dispersing male", along with cage-mate Bobby.



When the baboon babies grow up they begin to rely on their "baboon friends" more and are weaned from their human surrogate. Bonding to other baboons is essential for the baby, as it must belong to a new baboon family in order to face a life in the wild. Human volunteers help to facilitate these special bonds.

4.d. How do I Help “Bond Orphan Babies to “Baboon Surrogate Mothers”?”

There may or may not be baboon orphans at this stage of rehabilitation during your stay. When the infant orphans can climb more effectively, move about confidently and recognise a bottle as nourishment/will come for a bottle, staff and volunteers begin to introduce them to a baboon female who will act as their surrogate mother. The female would be chosen from one of our troops who are awaiting release. Initially, they will only spend a few hours a day being introduced, and the rest of their time playing with the other orphans in the nursery. This helps them to become confident which is needed when meeting an adult baboon female. The more confident the baby, the more time spent bonding with the adult female; the confidence comes from the early security they had in their surrogate and exposure to other baboons.

Previously, C.A.R.E. formed troops made completely of orphan babies in a peer-rearing setting with some human hand-rearing. These babies came in over the course of about year and would be strongly bonded – they are now at the centre to grow and mature so that they can be released. A baboon begins to mature sexually from about 4.5 years of age, emotional maturity comes a few years after that.

Presently, we have several formed troops which are mature and ready for release. We can take females from within these troops to bond with an incoming orphan. This means the orphan will spend much less time in captivity and a fraction of time having hands-on contact with humans. Once bonded, the female and her new adopted baby are returned to the troop and so far – the babies have been accepted well. This refined methodology is much better for the baboons and we aim to continue to refine the rehabilitation methods. The bonding process can take between 2 – 6 weeks.



Baboon infants are helpless and need humans to help them with feeding and emotional security.



4.

YOUR ROLE AS A VOLUNTEER continued...

4.d.

d. How do I help “bond orphan babies to “baboon surrogate mothers”? Continued...

The volunteers help with the bonding and integration process. Firstly, the baby is settled with the human care-giver and due to the relationship they have built, they are confident in their presence. The human care-giver can then sit with the baby in a custom built “introduction enclosure”. The introduction enclosure has two sides with a sliding door in between. The sliding door is opened slightly so that the baboon orphan can fit through. On one side the volunteer care-giver will sit and on the other side the potential baboon surrogate mother will sit. Initially the orphan can be very scared of the adult female and the human care-giver helps to reassure. Eventually, the baby builds up enough confidence to go through the sliding door and quickly begins to choose to spend more time with the baboon female. Even from a young age, baboons want to be with baboons!

Gradually, slowly, at the orphans pace, a relationship is formed between the baboon infant and adult female; baboons clearly want to be with their own kind, and with time, the baby no longer spends much, if anytime with the human care-giver. This is when the human care-giver will step away. Sometimes, the baby will get scared and make “contact-calls” to the human care-giver but, usually, quite quickly the adult female will reassure the baby. Eventually, the adult female baboon and baby spend 24/7 together; grooming, playing, eating and sleeping. The volunteers still feed milk to the babies through the fence, but the contact from thereon becomes minimal. Eventually, the staff make the decision to move the female and her new adopted baby back to her troop.

From thereon, volunteers make behavioural observations and continue to feed milk through the fence for a few months until the baby no longer needs milk formula. Success! The baby has been adopted into a formed, bonded, mature troop and years spent in captivity should be minimal! Thanks to the volunteers through helping with every step of the process.



The orphans still need milk when they are weaned from the nursery to be with the baboon surrogate. Volunteers give milk through the fence. They receive milk formula as they would still be drinking from their wild mothers. Sadly their wild mothers were killed, which is why they are at C.A.R.E. needing rehabilitation.



Bonding orphan babies to baboon females in captive troops awaiting release benefits the orphan as it means less time in captivity and with humans, it is also more natural. Additionally, it has a positive impact on the surrogate baboon female and her troop; it encourages positive behaviours; playing, grooming, nurturing. Females which hadn't been observed playing since they were juveniles have been observed giggling, bouncing and play-facing again.

The new bonding enclosures allow for the smooth and safe bonding of an adult baboon female from a rehabilitated troop to bond with an incoming orphan baby. We've observed babies like Maple (above) even suckling for comfort on the teats of their surrogate mother.



e. How many baboons are at C.A.R.E. that cannot be released and how will I help them?

Presently (January 2020) there are four baboons at C.A.R.E. which are not part of a releasable troop and classed as “unreleasable”. They are unreleasable mostly due to age. An exception is Stevie Wonder, who wouldn’t survive in the wild as he is blind / brain-damaged. The four unreleasable baboons which you will work with are; Hope, Ayana, Stevie Wonder and Patats. The rest of the baboons at the centre are at various stages of rehabilitation or within a releasable troop.

- i. **Hope and Ayana** were rescued from the biomedical research industry. Whilst a number of other females were rescued at the same time and found a place in a releasable troop, these two ladies aren’t physically or psychological suitable for release. They have very bad teeth which would mean they would slowly starve in the wild, additionally, they are very old and the psychological damage caused through living alone previously has meant they find life in a troop hard. Often they shut down when faced with any social stress and lose weight/condition quickly as a result. Ayana in particular has a soft personality and becomes stressed easily and struggles to deal with troop politics. Hope has a very strong personality. This, coupled with her past (being housed singly in a biomedical research setting), means that she often reacts defensively in social situations, resulting in aggressive combat. Hope and Ayana have found comfort in one another’s company and enjoy grooming and resting together. Volunteers can enter the enclosure with these two ladies to clean them out and give them enrichment.
- ii. **Patats** is a very elderly female who was once welded into a steel drum so that her faeces could be harvested by a “Songoma” (witch doctor) for “muti” (a form of “traditional/cultural” medicine. There is no evidence that baboon faeces has medicinal qualities for humans). Patats has very old (and very few) teeth, meaning she couldn’t survive in the wild. She finds it hard to interact with other baboons, being elderly she gets bullied and the stress causes her to lose weight as a result. We aim to give Patats an enriching life in captivity. Volunteers enjoy grooming with this sweet female, making her enrichment toys and other special treats. Patats is VERY popular with everyone at C.A.R.E. due to her super-sweet nature and eager-to-please personality.

- i. **Stevie Wonder** arrived at C.A.R.E. already as a fully-grown, stunning adult male. When he was younger Stevie was beaten almost to death, which resulted in permanent brain damage, and he is also partially sighted. Due to his condition he cannot be released into the wild and also cannot be housed in a troop setting as he doesn’t know how to respond appropriately to various social gestures. Stevie really enjoys the various enrichments which volunteers make for him and the volunteers help keep his enclosure clean and his mind stimulated. Volunteers do not enter Stevie Wonders enclosure whilst he is inside; his enclosure is specially designed to allow him to be enclosed in one half while volunteers enter the other safely and vice-versa. Stevie Wonder presently lives besides a releasable troop and he enjoys grooming the troop next door and engaging in other normal social situations.

These four very special baboons enjoy life living in enclosures that are within their natural habitat and surrounded by both wild and captive baboons, which they enjoy controlled/safe interactions with. They love grooming baboons through the fence and we often trial various social settings with them to try and forge friendships between them enabling them to live in at minimum a pair.



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4.

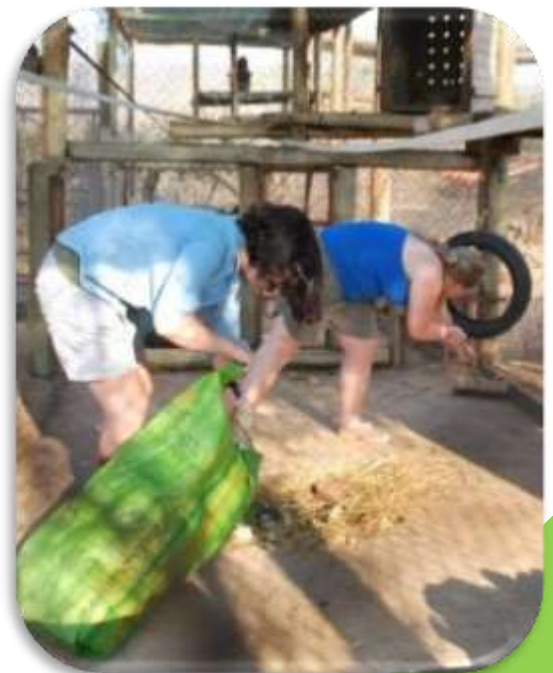
YOUR ROLE AS A VOLUNTEER continued...

4.f.

f. How Will I Help the Unreleasable/Sanctuary Baboons?

Volunteers assist with the husbandry aspects of 4 unreleasable baboons by:

- Collecting and giving natural vegetation; seed pods, branches, leaves, bark, fresh and dry grass, this helps with their digestion, keeps them busy and also enables them to live a more natural life.
- Making and giving enrichment; making mostly natural “toys” and interesting items for the baboons such as pasting vegetation with special food pastes and seeds, making foraging boxes, making ‘taste’ logs and rocks and other interesting items to keep their minds stimulated in a natural way.
- Making them food; these baboons often have very bad teeth and have to be specially catered for.
- Cleaning them out; enclosure cleaning is a major part of the husbandry and so important to keep the baboons happy and healthy. The work can be hot and tough, but seeing the baboons enjoy your hard work is very rewarding.





4.

YOUR ROLE AS A VOLUNTEER continued...

4.g.

g. How do I help the older baboons that are being prepared for or waiting for release?

The orphan baby baboons grow quickly and in most situations by 5+/- months old are bonded to a baboon surrogate mother within a releasable troop. The troops awaiting release need a lot of care and whilst the locally employed African labourers which live on-site are responsible for most of their husbandry volunteers also assist in the following ways;

- Collecting natural vegetation; seed pods, branches, leaves, bark, fresh and dry grass, this helps with their digestion, keeps them busy and also enables them to live a more natural life. It is important to give the baboons natural foods as this is what they will be eating once released too. Most volunteers enjoy learning about the natural vegetation and what the baboons will eat in the wild.
- Making and giving enrichment; making mostly natural “toys” and interesting natural items for the baboons such as pasting vegetation with special food pastes and seeds, making foraging items, making ‘taste’ logs and rocks and other interesting things to keep their minds stimulated in a natural way and to promote foraging behaviours.
- Making them food; washing, chopping and prepping food for the releasable troops.
- Cleaning them out; enclosure cleaning is a major part of the husbandry and so important to maintain happy and health animals. Expect to spend 2-3 hours a day cleaning.

We have some semi-wild enclosures which require minimal maintenance as they are large and like in the wild the natural organisms present in the environment break down any waste materials, however, most of the enclosures are smaller rehabilitation enclosures and require cleaning out regularly. We are in the process of updating all the enclosures to cement the bases and include sliding doors; for those enclosures which are already renovated volunteers can safely enter to clean. Volunteers help to remove the waste, hose and scrub the floors, water dams and poles and then add natural substrates and enrichments for the troop. It is very rewarding to see the baboons enjoying the clean and enriched space. We appreciate that some volunteers may be physically unable to participate in these activities and tailor the daily schedules to meet each individual's personal needs, but most volunteers enjoy this physical activity.

- Data collection; volunteers are trained to observe and collect data on the baboons. The volunteers often enjoy learning about the various behaviours, vocalisations and gestures which the baboons perform. Data is collected mostly on the baboon orphans which have been bonded to baboon surrogates and then integrated into a releasable troop. It is important and interesting for the team to know how the orphan has been accepted and if the troop are protective of the orphan and taking care of them. Other data may be collected on the effects of enrichments, other integrations and hormonal implants as and when needed.

h. Other Important Jobs That You May Assist With

C.A.R.E. doesn't turn away any injured, orphaned or abused indigenous wildlife in need of help. Now-and-then a few domestic animals may need help too. As a volunteer at the centre you should be willing to adapt to the day to day surprises and also be happy to help in all areas;

- Meal worm care
- Laundry
- The weekly shop
- Food collection
- Sorting donations, incoming food and
- Off-loading food/supplies from the vehicles
- Helping various projects around the place; particularly making swings, ropes, ladders, hammocks
- Using your skills to help; are you a budding or experienced photographer, artist, accountant, marketing officer or something else which could be beneficial to C.A.R.E. in a particular way? Let us know and use your skills to MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
- Maintaining paths
- Clearing and maintaining areas of the centre
- Maintaining enclosures and/or facilities
- Gardening – food production, grounds maintenance
- Cooking OR cleaning up after meals
- Walking the dogs
- Taking care of the cats
- Helping with other wildlife if we have any cases at the time; birds, squirrels, porcupines, warthogs, small buck, bush babies
- Cleaning out and feeding the Education Centre's Guinea Pigs
- Habitat assessments/vegetation surveys
- Cleaning and organising equipment
- Helping to fundraise
- Giving presentations to school groups or tours
- General site clean-ups
- Having a generally helpful attitude





5.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

What you will take away from the experience very much depends on you! If you decide to spend your whole time solely socialising with the other volunteers, staring at your iPad and reading books then you may not learn much about Africa and the wildlife. We hope that you and the other volunteers will, however, be conscious of where you are and learn to live in the moment. We hope that when a wild baboon walks past you, that you will relish the opportunity to observe, learn and feel. It is very easy in today's culture to forget how to live in the moment and we challenge you to do just that; realise YOU ARE IN AFRICA SURROUNDED BY WILD ANIMALS – WOW!!! If you are patient, humble, aware and appreciative you have the opportunity to learn so much!

We hope you will learn a lot about;

- Primate husbandry;
 - contraception
 - rehabilitation
 - releases
 - monitoring
 - enrichment
 - efficient and effective enclosure cleaning
 - enclosure maintenance
 - the challenges we face to succeed

The baboons undergoing rehabilitation at the centre really do get the best start for a life back in the wild, learning about the wild animals around them and how to live as part of a family again. With magnificent birds of prey flying above, the orphan babies soon learn to duck out of sight or into the arms of the volunteer Baboon Care Givers. It's always exciting for the staff and volunteers when the baboons make their unique warning calls, which echo throughout the centre, as then it is known that a crocodile, elephant or hippo has been spotted in the nearby river – a chance for everyone to grab their cameras to find out what they have spotted!

- A little about yourself; how did you cope living away from home, dealing with the heat, were you scared of the bugs?
- Baboon behaviour
- Wildlife vocalisations
- Wildlife habitats
- Working as part of a diverse team
- How to collect behavioural data
- How to be resourceful



6.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES AND EXCURSIONS

Dependable on the staff at the centre, what animals are in need of help and for what reasons and how busy the main team are you may also get an opportunity to;

- Learn basic tracking skills
- Have a veterinary experience; faecal collection and analysis, observe procedures
- For an additional cost when you arrive you could learn how to dart (not using a live target/drugs)
- Take part in anti-poaching activities
- Visit release-sites
- Pre and post release research
- We urge all volunteers to visit other nearby rehabilitation projects and the Kruger Park (see EXCURSIONS below)
- Have a lesson in the native flora
- Take game drives around the Nature reserve
- Have sundowners at the picnic spot and spot the hippos



EXCURSIONS (see excursion costs)

As with the entirety of your stay, you embark on any of these experiences recommended below at your own risk. You can easily and at an affordable price hire a car nearby or see what trips the staff members are offering at the time but some of the nearby attractions include but are not limited to;

- The Kruger National Park (comes highly recommended)
- The Vervet Monkey Foundation (comes highly recommended)
- Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (comes recommended)
- Jessica the Hippo (many volunteers have reservations about the owner's ethos but Jessica herself is incredible)
- Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre where you get a tour of the animals housed there and Educational Talk about wildlife and rehabilitation in South Africa
- Khamai Reptile Park where you can have either just a browse or a hands-on interactive tour where you may face your fears and hold a snake or tarantula (comes highly recommended)
- The Panorama Route (including God's Window, the Three Rondavels, Sabie, Graskop, Bourkes Pot Holes, MacMac Falls, Lisbon Falls etc.) (comes highly recommended)
- Chimp Eden, a Jane Goodall Endorsed Sanctuary for chimpanzees where you get a guided tour (about 4 hours away) (comes highly recommended)
- Elephant Whispers/Sanctuary (we do not condone the use of elephants for tourism, 4 hours away)
- A day at the next door neighbours pool; Mfubu Lodge, owner Oli puts together delicious lunches for the volunteers for a small fee and the pool is just a 5 minute walk next door (comes highly recommended)
- Horse riding
- Zip lining (can be combined with Panorama Route)
- The Big Swing (can be combined with Panorama Route)
- Nearby lodges for a relaxing break





7.

ACCOMODATION AND MEALS

7.a.

a. The New Volunteer Village

As part of your volunteer donation we provide you with accommodation, hot and cold running water (showers, sinks and flushing toilets), access to a washing machine, electricity (220v) and meals.

As of 2016, we have finished our new “Volunteer Village”, thanks to the Boda Charitable Trust.

The accommodation is comfortable; contains 6 rooms, each housing between 2 and 3 people each. There are new toilet and shower facilities, where volunteers get to wash while gazing up at the beautiful South African sky. There is a small volunteer kitchen, as well the communal ‘Leopard Lounge’ (lounge/games room), with ping-pong, darts, TV/DVDs. The bedrooms are situated around a beautiful communal garden space and braai area.

The Volunteer Village is located within “The Rebuild” area, surrounded by a secure electric fence to keep volunteers safe from the wild animals in the reserve.

Each room is equipped with a single bed and a bunk bed; depending on the number of volunteers; all the beds may not be full in your room. There are storage lockers in the rooms as well, so you have space to put away your clothes. Some of the rooms have desks as well.



Small Volunteer Kitchen with a fridge-freezer, toaster, kettle, microwave and sink for you to use anytime out of the main meal times for personal food and drink needs.



For those wanting more luxury;

We have one private room available for those wanting a private room with air-conditioning, double bed and small self-catering equipment. Please note that this room may not always be available during your stay and it comes with a higher price tag. There is a separate shower and toilet adjacent to the clinic.

Long-term volunteers and staff members also sleep in the same areas as the shorter/medium term volunteers; the Management team have separate living quarters.

Important Information

- **We ask volunteers to bring with them a mosquito net and towels. We appreciate all donations of these items too.**
- **WE DO NOT AS A STANDARD PROVIDE ROOM FANS. YOU CAN PURCHASE A FAN IN TOWN FROM BETWEEN R200-R500 (DEPENDABLE ON PREFERENCES).**
- **We provide pillows and a duvet (with sheet and covers).**
- **The mattresses are not very high standard as we cannot afford hotel standard equipment - if you suffer with a bad back and would prefer to purchase your own mattress from town and donate it to the centre upon your departure we would really appreciate all help and donations towards keeping the centre maintained.**
- **We appreciate all donations of new sheets, duvets, pillows, covers, blankets etc. and you have the opportunity to purchase new from town if you prefer.**



Two of the rooms in the Volunteer Village- lots of mature trees for lots of shade and beautiful rock gardens and paths.

7.b.

b. What will I eat?

As part of the volunteer donation, our volunteers are provided with primarily vegan food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We never serve meat, volunteers can buy their own in town though. Meals are served "buffet style" on the patio of our Education Centre dining area. All meals are prepared by staff and at the weekends volunteers have the opportunity to cook for everyone. You may be asked to help prepare food or help clean up during your stay.

Our food is basic but filling! Any luxury items (chocolate, crisps, soda, etc.) can be purchased from our tuck shop, or bought in town on our weekly trips. We can cater to most dietary requirements including to vegetarians, vegans, gluten-free, etc. We cannot cater to those with extreme allergies- such as peanuts.

You can purchase bottled water; although the water from all taps in the rebuild is from a borehole, it is

The main meals are usually served at the Education Centre which has a large kitchen, toilets and dining facilities.



filtered and all the long-term staff/volunteers drink the water without issues.

Using a part of your Volunteer Donation C.A.R.E. buys food supplies each week for the meals. Again, we must stress that your donation was to help care for the animals you are coming to help and therefore the food we provide is basic essentials and not an all-you-can-eat restaurant or hotel standard. The funds from the volunteer programme fund the running of the centre, feeding +/- 440 baboons is expensive and caring for them is also costly. We try to budget the volunteer meals in order to also feed the animals at the centre and therefore, we urge volunteers who eat a lot or prefer certain tastes to purchase their own luxury food items at their own expense and have an opportunity to do so each week.

We provide all meals (excluding snacks) and your daily meals. We have strict meal times and we ask if you want to eat outside this time to use the volunteer kitchen and personal food items. Meals served will generally consist of the following;

- i. **BREAKFAST;** served between 6 and 8am on a weekday; a selection of cereals/muesli, toast, soya milk, tea and coffee.
- ii. **LUNCH;** served between 12 and 2pm; sandwiches, pasta, salads, savoury pies, etc. (if you as a person like to eat eggs, cheese etc. then we ask you to buy a personal supply at your own expense since we provide mostly wholesome vegan meals)
- iii. **EVENING MEAL;** Served around 6:00pm; Using basic ingredients, which are bought each week (tinned lentils, chickpeas, mixed beans, tomatoes, corn, fresh veggies such as broccoli, mushrooms, carrots, tomatoes, spinach, beetroot (beets), potatoes, grains such as rice and pastas), dinner is prepared for you. We primarily serve vegetarian and vegan foods. Typical dishes include; spaghetti bolognese, baked potatoes, lasagne, veggie stir-fry, rice dishes, macaroni and other pasta dishes, roasted veggies, "roast dinner", pancakes, vegetarian braai (South African variation of a BBQ), pizza and more. We may ask you to help cook or clean up.

Sometimes we offer the volunteers to take a trip into town for a small fee to cover fuel expenses (+/- R30 per volunteer; £1.50, \$2) for the chance to buy an evening meal at a local restaurant or to buy take-away pizza. We try to arrange for a meal out each week but it varies depending on which staff are at the centre, how busy we are at the time and if all the vehicles are present.

There is a trip to town once a week for volunteers to purchase their own groceries if they desire additional items and there are fridges and cabinets to store personal food items in the volunteer kitchen area. One or two volunteers accompany a staff member each week and the rest of the volunteers give their shopping lists to the designated shopper. Some volunteers like to buy fizzy drinks, chips and chocolate, others prefer to buy healthier salads, fruit and specialist gluten-free or additional vegan substitutes. South African supermarkets cater for all cultures and tastes.



One of the garden and vegetable patches in the Volunteer Village. We're growing tomatoes in this one!



Veggie patch in the Education Centre garden bursting with home-grown tomatoes.

7.c.

c. What are the bathroom facilities?

In the Volunteer Village there are 2 toilets available, as well as a separate sink for hand washing/tooth brushing, etc. There are 2 private open top showers with hot water. You'll be able to privately shower while gazing up at the beautiful African sky! There are additional toilets and showers besides the clinic, new nursery building and Education Centre building but these are reserved for visitors or volunteers, which are assigned to shifts in those areas.

7.d.

d. How do I keep in touch with home?

C.A.R.E. is relatively isolated. There is no bus or passing traffic to get a ride into town. Please explain to your family that they are unlikely to hear from you on any regular basis. Once at the centre, you may only get to town once a week or two weeks. Upon arrival at Johannesburg we suggest you contact your family, and those concerned for your safety, to let them know you have arrived in South Africa.

The volunteer accommodation does not have a public phone or computer. To avoid viruses and unnecessary or expensive abuse, please respect that C.A.R.E.'s email and phone is off-limits to volunteers. Overseas calls will only be permitted in the case of emergency.

- i. **WiFi:** There is basic Wi-Fi connection in the Volunteer Village (including in your room!). Internet is purchased via vouchers. You can purchase as many vouchers as you like during your time at the Centre. Almost all volunteers use this Wi-Fi. It has limitations and you are not allowed to stream, download movies/music and should use it for basic use. You must remember we are in the South African bush so it is not always very fast or reliable. Please note that there are times we are without power (due to a storm or South African "load shedding") so we cannot guarantee the WIFI is always function great. We highly suggest you bring your own laptop, tablet, or Smartphone to use with the Wi-Fi.
- ii. **CELL PHONE:** You can purchase a very cheap mobile phone or SIM card in town or at Johannesburg airport. MTN and Vodacom are the local carries and the centre gets decent cell reception (unlock your phone from home before you arrive to accept a local sim-card). Mobile phone reception at C.A.R.E. is sufficient to send and receive SMS/text messages, and is generally strong enough for phone calls. A voice call from a cell phone to the USA is around R12 (\$1.60) per minute. A text message is approximately R2 (\$0.30) per international text message of 160 characters. A cheap local cell phone is R150 (\$15). Please note that it is not mandatory or imperative that you have a local cell phone; there is nowhere really to go where the staff or other volunteers will need to call you on a cell phone. However, please check with your family, as they may want you to have this option to keep in contact with you.
- ii. **POST:** South African post is notoriously unreliable. There is no delivery directly to C.A.R.E., but there is to a post box in Phalaborwa, which we check relatively frequently (weekly at best).

Please note that the post can take 3 or more weeks to arrive. Do not send valuable or perishable goods through the mail. Letters or packages can be posted to;

CARE

Your Name

c/o Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education

PO Box 1937, Phalaborwa 1390, South Africa

YOU MUST ENSURE THAT THE POSTAGE IS MARKED AS A GIFT/CHARITABLE DONATION WORTH 0.00. Otherwise you will be charged hefty import taxes.



Hamish and Fran, two of our rescued dogs, sleeping in the office where internet bundles, cold drinks, snacks and merchandise can be purchased.

The following shifts are covered by volunteers on rotation;

Milk Bottles (making bottles, preparing food and giving the bottles); 6:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, and any late nights as needed

Nursery Shifts: *Can be between 6am-6:45pm dependable on the season.* If we have (an) orphan baby baboon(s) in the first phase of rehabilitation they normally spend the whole day in the nursery with volunteers which they are comfortable with acting as their Uncles, Aunties and surrogate parents. We never leave an infant baboon alone or with volunteers they do not know as it is very damaging to their psychological wellbeing. Volunteers are taught how to interact and act as a safe harbour for the babies, ensuring they are eating and drinking and helping them to become confident. The time each volunteer spends in the nursery is dependable on how many volunteers we have at the centre and who the babies feel most comfortable with (specific volunteers may spend a lot more time than others), but if we have baby baboons in that phase of rehabilitation it is normally a minimum of three hours a day spent by each volunteer in the nursery.

"Supervised Bonding": When we have orphaned babies in the "bonding phase" of rehabilitation we use volunteers to supervise and facilitate the bonding of orphaned babies to a new baboon surrogate mother (see *How do I help "bond orphan babies to baboon surrogate mothers" pg. 17?*).

Phase II Enclosure Cleaning: 2-3 hours in the morning, put on your wellies (advised to bring a pair with you or you will have to use communal ones and may not be the right size/comfort for your taste), put on your overalls or cleaning clothes, and your facemask and scrub! The baboons in the Phase II (hands-off) Phase of Rehabilitation require assistance from volunteers to keep their living space clean and hygienic. This is a VERY IMPORTANT job and every morning there are cleaning shifts with a tag-team of volunteers to help. The troop awaiting release are moved into one area of their enclosure and shut-off with a sliding door so that volunteers can safely enter to clean and maintain their enclosure.

Sanctuary Baboon Enclosure Clean: put on your wellies and cleaning clothes and make it sparkle! Our sanctuary residents have smaller enclosures and volunteers normally do this alone (once trained) or in pairs.

Make Enrichment: learn how to make interesting items to enrich the animals' lives! Some items are retrievable (foraging boxes etc.) and will need cleaning the next day.

Guinea-Pigs: the guinea-pigs need to be cleaned out, fed, given water, a health check and socialised in the morning and afternoon.

Other animals/birds: whatever animals we have at the centre at the time you are with us will need cleaning, feeding, socialising and supervising. We need your help to ensure they are well taken-care of. Most small mammals/birds have a shorter rehabilitation for release time and so may not spend long in our care/may have already been released or in Phase II Release before you arrive.

Projects: There are always various projects happening which may include enclosure renovations, enclosure cleans, making enrichments; hammocks, swings etc. Your help will be needed! Bring some gardening gloves as the manual work can be tough on hands.



Supervise 'Bonding' Sessions



Make and Give Bottles



Help build swings and hammocks for the baboons using donated firehose and wood.

A Typical Day May Include;

06:00—Morning bottle and food preparation and clean

06:30 - Giving morning bottles to babies that are weaned to adult baboon surrogates through the fence

07:00—Breakfast

07:30—Phase II Enclosure Clean & provisioning of new substrate (branches/grass/hay as available)

09:00 — Shower and change after the Phase II cleaning

09:30 - Food sorting (sorting bread/veggies and washing them)

10:00—Nursery baboon supervising/playing/giving bottles

11:00—Break

11:30—Clean and feed the guinea pigs and other animals/birds

12:00— Supervise bonding time of orphan baby and adult baboon surrogate

13:00—Lunch

14:00—Data collection

14:30—Bottle/food make and clean

15:00—Enrichment preparation and giving

15:30 - Browse collection (branch/grass or other foliage is collected)

16:00—Cleaning out of sanctuary baboon

17:00— Cleaning nursery

17:30—Clean the guinea-pigs and other animals/put them to bed

18:00—Take any orphan babies in Phase I rehabilitation to the river until dusk for last play-session for the day or stay with babies being weaned to adult baboon surrogates until dusk

18:30—Alien plant removal at river and wildlife spotting at the river

19:00—Dinner



One of THE most important jobs of animal husbandry- cleaning to ensure every baboon has a healthy environment in which to thrive!



Spend time learning about tracks at the river. Who do you think made this one?

Weather:

Sept—Feb (spring/summer) is very hot. It is the rainy season when it will contrast between extremely hot and humid days and have days of heavy rain, with temperatures usually in the 30-40+ Degrees Celsius (85-105 Degrees Fahrenheit). You'll need loose clothing, with some wet-weather gear and plenty of sunscreen.

May—August (winter) will be hot during the day (15-30 degrees C, 80 degrees F), with temperatures dropping at night (4 degrees C (minus some nights), 50 degrees F).

A duvet, pillow, and bed linens will be provided for you by C.A.R.E.

9.a.

a. Mandatory Items:

- torch (flash light) – it is a very short walk to the bathrooms but night time is when scorpions and snakes are most active, we do not keep lights on at night as it is bad for the environment, creates light pollution and disorients bugs and other nocturnal creatures
- rubber gloves (or a pack of disposable) for cleaning/food prep
- face masks; it is mandatory to wear a facemask in the Phase II Rehabilitation areas – disposable cheap facemasks are suitable (paper/fabric with elastic to keep it secure) but feel free to bring fancier
- mosquito net
- pair of welly boots for cleaning shifts (or you will have to wear the communal pairs)
- closed-toe shoes for your working jobs (these can be old sneakers/hiking boots or comfy flats); **you are not allowed to wear flip-flops around the centre**
- dark/bush coloured clothes for cleaning in (overalls? Specific pants/t-shirts) as these as a rule have to be different from those worn in the house/nursery – avoid bright colours as we aim for you to be inconspicuous to the animals.
- dark/bush coloured clothes for the nursery (you aren't allowed to wear the same clothes for cleaning as you do sitting in the nursery and you are not allowed to wear any of your work clothes in the rest areas); suggested quick dry pants/shorts and neutral coloured baggy light-weight t-shirts (tight tops get very hot and sticky and tank tops will be pulled down by the babies, t-shirts are preferred) -- avoid bright colours as we aim for you to be inconspicuous to the animals.
- clothes for resting in; lightweight pants/shorts, jeans, tank-tops, t-shirts and during the very hot summers- light weight dresses and skirts. For the winter bring a coat, gloves, a hat and fleeces.
- Towel (a pool towel and one for the bathroom – C.A.R.E. doesn't provide towels. C.A.R.E. does have a trunk of old towels but these are also used for cleaning up things, if you could donate your towel after you leave it would be appreciated).
- Medications needed for the whole of your stay – there is a doctor in town but if you are on a specific medication please do not rely on the pharmacy here to stock your medicines

9.b.

b. Suggested Items:

- Steel-toed work boots/hiking boots for project work; you may use hammers/heavy tools and for personal health and safety steel-toed boots are recommended (if you chose to wear regular closed-toe shoes for project work you do so at your own risk)
- Flip-flops for rest time (flip-flops are only permitted to be worn during rest time as they are unsuitable for the terrain and for working with animals)
- Sunscreen (+50 factor) and aftersun
- Burts Bees Herbal Insect Repellent; or a similar natural variety. Some natural repellents aren't that good but many people recommend the Burts Bees Herbal Insect Repellent. The herbal varieties are kinder to the Earth and if the baby baboon licks it, or when it washes out of the shower into the environment you can be happier knowing the animals won't be harmed. Deet is very toxic

and it is damaging to amphibian life but you can use it in the evenings. You will need a repellent for the evenings especially in the summer.

- We suggest that you bring sets of 'dirty' clothes for the dirty, daytime work and another set of 'clean' clothes for after work, evening hours. Access to laundry facilities is usually once a week, so pack accordingly. (see mandatory clothing above)
- Washable walking boots/trainers, sandals/Crocs/flip-flops (see mandatory footwear above); Your shoes are going to get muddy and dirty and have the laces chewed. Bring more than one pair of shoes; you should have a few pairs of work/daytime shoes (trainers/crocs/boots) and one pair of after work/night-time shoes (trainers/flip-flops).
- Long-sleeve shirts and trousers; Insects can be a nuisance, especially after dark. This is also bordering a malaria zone so cool long-sleeve shirts and trousers are recommended to offer the best protection in the evenings.
- Sweatshirt/Jersey/Fleece; It gets cold in the winter mornings and nights; a few fleeces are recommended during this time.
- 'Dirty' Work Clothes Shorts or pants/trousers and t-shirts. Neutral colours are preferable. These clothes will get peed and pooped on and you may not want to wear them again later so bring clothes that you won't mind getting dirty or ruined. There is a 'communal bin' of clothing that has been left behind by past volunteers, which you are welcome to use; most take advantage of this. Please leave behind unwanted clothing as when the communal clothing bins get full we give parcels of clothing to the local African workers. Removing any excess buttons is recommended before going in with the babies as otherwise they may remove them for you!
- 'Clean' t-shirts, shorts, and trousers to wear in the evenings after work, or on excursions out of C.A.R.E.
- Rainproof jacket and pants; the baboons need care in all weathers and even when it rains the babies want to play!
- Swimming costume for days off; however, you many NOT swim in the river due to crocodiles, but there is a lodge with a pool next door!
- Hat; a baseball hat is good to keep the sun off your face. A warm hat/'beanie' is good for colder winter nights.

- **Medical Kit**

It is always useful to carry a small personal medical kit. This should include:

- Personal medication to last the duration of your stay
- Mild painkillers (e.g. Paracetamol or Advil) Band-Aids / Plasters
- Anti-histamine cream/tablets
- Antibacterial cream (e.g. Bactroban)
- Rehydration solution and probiotics
- Sun cream
- Insect/mosquito repellent (prefer natural like Burts Bees or similar herbal sticks/oils)
- Malaria tablets

- **Toiletries**

Most essential toiletries are available for purchase in Phalaborwa, but if you are particular to a certain brand it is best to bring it with you. It is also best to arrive with a few things in case we can't get to town right away.

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body wash/soap
- Washcloth
- Razors
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Hairbrush
- Extra hair ties (A MUST!!As the babies love to steal them!)
- Deodorant
- Contact Lenses and solution
- Tampons/Feminine Pads

c. Other Items

- Camera, spare SD cards, batteries, chargers (remember all your power cords/charges/batteries as chances are you won't find a spare in town – and Amazon doesn't deliver to the bush!)
- Power adaptor (with 3 round prongs. This can also be purchased locally but not immediately usually)
- Penknife/Leatherman
- Binoculars
- Books—We also have a collection of books at the centre that you can read and swap
- Laptop—there is communal wifi internet connection
- External hard drive/Flash drive
- Duct Tape
- Water Bottle
- Backpack/daypack

d. Past Volunteer Tips

- *Bring movies – EVERYONE (including yourself) will be grateful.*
- *Read the list of things to bring!*
- *C.A.R.E. doesn't supply fans as standard so when you visit the store buy one, they are about R250-R500 (\$10-\$40) dependent on your preferences and will really help during the summer months. During winter C.A.R.E. provides you with an extra blanket, you may prefer to bring one or your sleeping bag.*
- *Make sure you take an adequate supply of contact lenses; your brand or script may not be available locally.*
- *Bring your own pair of welly boots and a set of clothes specifically for cleaning (light-weight overalls for example) and be kind enough to donate them at the end. You WILL wear wellies so you may as well bring a pair, which fit well and aren't going to be shared with other people (imagine when you left your sports-kit at home when you were at school and the teachers made you wear someone else's kit which didn't fit and who knows who wore it.... better to be prepared).*
- *Make sure you have small change for the airport porters (R50 is ENOUGH, they will ask for more but more than R50 isn't necessary)*
- *Don't bring too much clothing—leave most of the fancy clothes at home and bring clothes that you will want to leave behind.*
- *Visit the dentist before leaving home—a toothache can really spoil your trip.*
- *Bring a credit/debit card linked to your accounts, and use it to draw cash from the ATMs. Do not bring travellers checks as the local bank doesn't normally accept them. Also exchanging foreign currency takes HOURS (this is Africa), so avoid bringing foreign currency.*
- *Shops DO NOT accept foreign currency, bring only South African Rands*
- *Scan your passport, travel documents, tickets, etc. before departure and be able to access the file in case of emergency.*
- *Label your luggage (it is easy to lose luggage so make sure the airline has no excuses!).*
- *Bring sunscreen and a hat.*
- *Bring all-natural insect repellent (the deet is sticky and tastes bad and the baboon babies might try to lick it, Burt's Bees Herbal Insect Repellent works well and smells great and is kinder to the Earth)*
- *Be prepared to live without many modern conveniences.*
- *Avoid taking Imodium if you get a bout of travellers diarrhoea – whatever is inside your tummy needs to come out! Rather take a day off, eat some probiotics, get some rest and drink PLENTY of rehydration solutions. **A trip to the doctor is also easy to arrange.***
- *Be prepared to get dirty!*
- *Take a day off! No one can work flat-out without burning out. It is important to get away from C.A.R.E. now and then so book your safari to Kruger and also once a week go to the lodge next door for a pool day – you won't regret it and it will remind you how much you LOVE C.A.R.E. as guaranteed you will miss those sweet animals SO much!*

10.

SAFETY AT C.A.R.E.

When arriving all volunteers are given a tour, explained the safety and emergency procedures and provided with a Training Sheet which has further rules and safety advice.

The following advice and rule are for your own safety, those around you, and the animals.

C.A.R.E. is situated in a nature reserve with wild animals. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your eyes open for any dangers. If you meet a wild animal back away slowly.



10.a.

a. Safety Around the Centre

- Do not walk around at night without permission or unnecessarily. Never walk in the dark without a torch/flashlight. Do not go to the river at night or alone.
- Do not swim in the river—big crocodiles live there! Keep well back from the riverbank.
- Always close doors behind you, ensure padlocks/locks are fastened on enclosures.
- If you see a snake, back away slowly and call for help—it may be venomous and pose a threat to you and the animals. Never pick up a snake, even if it appears dead.
- Always walk around with shoes on. Volunteers must bring with them appropriate footwear for uneven, rocky terrain. Volunteers must wear closed-toed shoes unless resting indoors.
- Do not walk around the centre with headphones on listening to music. The wild sounds around you can alert you to any dangers, such as snakes, or fighting wild baboons.

10.b.

b. Safety Around the Animals

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Never enter an enclosure without permission.
- Be calm around the animals; screaming is reserved for emergencies; the management team do not appreciate false alarms!
- Never tease the wild baboons with food. If confronted, drop any food on the ground for them to pick up rather than handing it to them, and walk away.
- Never walk outside with food in hand/on view.
- Never try to take food or other items away from a wild baboon.
- No smoking around the animals and only in designated “smoking spots”.
- Don’t wear necklaces or earrings in the baboons’ enclosure, as they will pull at them.
- Close car windows if parked outside & lock doors.
- Quickly walk a safe distance away from any fighting baboons.
- Never walk or stand between a mother or father baboon/warthog and their baby.
- Never walk or stand between a male and a female in oestrus.



c. Rules for the Accommodation

- All volunteers must pay a R500 deposit upon arrival which could cover any small damages; bedding, windows, paint work, unpaid tuckshop etc. as long as you don't damage anything you will get it back at the end of your stay.
- Stay in the Volunteer Village at night; walking around other areas is not permitted at night.
- Do not light any fires; the braai area and fire pit is reserved for group nights only and must be lit/the responsibility of a staff member only.
- **Do not use candles in your room or outside; this is a very real fire risk.**
- Turn off lights at night; otherwise it causes many bugs to die, causes light pollution and disorients nocturnal animals.
- Tidy up after yourself, keep kitchen surfaces clean, put food away.
- Food left out = cockroaches = rats =snakes.
- We have a septic tank system; **Do not throw anything except toilet paper down the loo.**
- No smoking indoors or in any areas which aren't designated smoking areas. Smoke only in the designated areas, there is a 'smoking hut' in the volunteer accommodation. Place butts in designated areas only.
- Drug usage of any kind is not tolerated at C.A.R.E. If any is found, it is grounds for immediate dismissal.
- Keep the dogs and cats out of your rooms (some volunteers may have allergies and they can damage bedding).
- **Sleep under mosquito nets.**
- Our water comes from a borehole. Drink only from taps in the Volunteer Village and rebuild areas, which is from the stored closed system. If you have a sensitive stomach, bottled water is available for purchase.
- Shake out shoes before stepping into them—scorpions and frogs love to sleep there.
- Leave hibernating tree frogs alone (small white frogs). Move spiders, lizards, geckos, and bugs outside if they are bothering you—don't kill them as they serve an environmental purpose.
- **Upon departure, please clean your room for the next volunteer and put your bed linens in the laundry.**
- Please note that sound travels in the bush. Kindly turn off music and talk softly late at night.
- Do not have any sexual relations with the local African staff. This is cause for immediate dismissal from C.A.R.E.. If engaging into any sort of intimate relationship with another volunteer, then ensure it does not affect your colleagues or role; it may cause you or them to be dismissed.
- Violence is not tolerated at the Centre. Any violence among volunteers can be cause for immediate dismissal from C.A.R.E.



IF IN DOUBT... ASK!

ASSUME MAKES AN 'ASS' OUT OF 'U' AND 'ME'

You can read more on our website; <https://www.primatcare.org/how-to-help>

We are urging all volunteers to set up a fundraising page via gofundme.com or other – every little donation goes such a long way. One thing you can think about doing is sponsoring a baboon for their contraceptive implant, this can be fundraised online – if you do then you will be invited to watch the procedure in the Veterinary Clinic while you are here – along with getting a certificate of thanks.

Please spread the word on Facebook, hold a fundraiser or put up posters in your high traffic areas (downloadable on the website).

Or bring along one of the items mentioned below.

a. What You Can Bring for the Baboons

Take a look at our wishlist available online; <http://www.primatcare.org/wishlist>

Items you can bring for the centre and the baboons (We WELCOME and NEED donations so PLEASE consider bringing something of the following for us);

- Size preemie (0) up to size 2 baby nappies (for orphan baboons – human baby nappies are the best, we cut a hole for the diaper; Huggies and Pampers preferred unless preemie)
- Packs of disposable face masks (you will use these a lot in Phase II too!)
- Branch cutters (large and small)
- Honey, peanut butter etc. for enrichment
- Garden seeds (veggies and herbs)
- Good binoculars for release team (Stephen)
- Probiotics for the baboons; so valuable. We would REALLY appreciate Protexin (an animal probiotic) or human versions for adults and babies
- Mosquito tents (please donate them to us)
- Multi-tools – SO useful!
- Deworming medication for the baboons (panacur, mebendazole based, ivermectin injectable or other)
- Veterinary equipment; ask us if there is something you have which may be useful. We need needles and catheters 18G – 23G are the most widely used sizes.
- Anti-biotics for the baboons (if you use Doxycycline as an antimalarial we would love any extras you have as it is often used in the clinic, any amoxyclav/amoxicillin based is also useful)
- NSAIDS for the baboons; metacam (or similar)
- Good pliers (larger the better)
- Soft blankets – we prefer LARGER ones
- Baby bottles and teats – especially teats!
- Bottle brushes
- Veterinary books/supplies
- Kitchen/cooking utensils (our can openers ALWAYS seem to break!)
- Cups, plates, bowls (volunteers are not kind to our kitchen equipment)
- Cookbooks
- Razors (for the clinic) – always needed
- New movies, TV shows and music – the longer-term volunteers and staff will especially be grateful!

b. Items You Can Fundraise For

- Contraceptive Implants

- Tools – multi-tools, power tools (screwdrivers) etc.
- Bring some funds with you and shop when you are here for tools, enrichment stuff and gardening stuff!

We are always in the process of releasing baboons and finalizing new release sites and setting these areas up for volunteers to visit and do research. For this we really need;

- Good binoculars
- DSLR camera that you can donate to help us with our marketing
- GPS (hand held)
- Solar Charger suitable for GPS / Cell Phone / Satellite Phone
- Hand-held communication 2 way radios (basic Motorola/Samsung will be sufficient)
- Camera traps (with sturdy cases as baboons like to explore novel things – often with their mouths!)
- Vehicles
- Release sites
- Semi-Wild Enclosures
- Enclosure Renovations
- Land
- The Vaccination Fund

We understand that collecting donations and/or fundraising can be time consuming and we are not expecting you to arrive with anything

– just your helping hands and positive attitude is the most incredible gift that you can give to the baboons.



Be prepared to leave a piece of your heart in Africa!