



## **SONDELA NATURE RESERVE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

### **Volunteer Program**

Sondela Nature Reserve's Wildlife Centre offers a unique backdrop for a Volunteers Program which is rapidly gaining popularity with both local and overseas animal lovers. Abandoned, injured and neglected animals that are brought to the Centre are given a safe haven in which to recover and our volunteers play a vital role in this.

Volunteers are given many duties and responsibilities related to the running of the Centre, the Farmyard and the Reserve which together, provide a wonderful, hands-on opportunity to increase their all-round knowledge and understanding of African Wildlife and Nature Reserves.

### **Volunteer Duties**

Wherever animals are involved, there is never a shortage of the variety of duties that need to be completed on a daily basis and the Wildlife Centre (WLC) is no exception!

Animals need constant care and hygiene is a major priority. The enclosures at the WLC have to be cleaned regularly to prevent the spread of disease and infection and provide a comfortable environment for the animals. There are many little mouths to feed and the kitchen where the animals' food is prepared must also be kept clean. The surrounding bushveld has to be kept clear of invasive plants in order to promote the growth of the indigenous plants which are a natural and vital food source for our animals.

The Sondela Farmyard, with an assortment of domestic animals such as pigs, sheep and dairy cows provides a popular guest activity. A watchful eye must be kept over these animals and volunteers will assist our full-time veterinary nurse to carry out regular inspections and perform the necessary health checks, vaccinations, deworming etc.

Horse riding into the Nature Reserve is one of our most popular activities and the stable yard is a hive of activity. Volunteers will learn how to groom and saddle the horses and will also have the opportunity to go for horse rides into the Nature Reserve.

Sondela also has what is called a 'Caracal Walk' which is an once-in-a-lifetime experience! Our hand-reared caracals need exercise and volunteers are encouraged to assist a co-worker to take them for a walk on a leash.



Animal Care is more than just feeding and cleaning and volunteers will be taught the importance of tender loving care in any animal's rehabilitation. A lot of time will be spent with the animals, giving them the attention and love they deserve and this may sometimes include the through-the-night feeding of any needy newborns! Our Sondela babies currently include a beautiful baby rhino, two baby giraffes, four lion cubs and two serval cubs!

With all this going on, there is incredibly still enough time for relaxation and fun - a wide choice of excursions to various tourism attractions in the surrounding area awaits, or explore a little further to some of the more well-known South African landmarks.

### **Personal Requirements**

The Volunteer Program is open for all applicants preferably between the ages of 18 – 25. Volunteers considering this program should be adventurous, outdoor lovers with a passion for nature and wildlife. They must be willing to work hard, realize that hours can be long and unpredictable and, when necessary may involve night feedings. We ask that volunteers be of general good health and be able to walk reasonable distances should we need to go into the bush to rescue an injured animal. Remember - we are in Africa and the Centre is located on a Nature Reserve which is not only home to a variety of antelope, but also to insects and reptiles, including venomous snakes. Volunteers must also be able to withstand high summer temperatures.

### **Health**

This is a malaria free area but you are encouraged to consult your private physician for any advice he may have on malaria and/or recommended vaccinations. As you will be working with animals, we advise you to be vaccinated against tetanus and rabies. Please provide us with detailed information on your booking form regarding any health condition or allergies you may have.



## **SONDELA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RATES**

*(All quoted rates exclude flights)*

### **Standard Package - £55.00 per night Choice of 7, 14 and 28 nights**

Included in package:

1. Accommodation: Wildlife Centre accommodation
2. Activities as per attached schedule
3. Meals – 3 meals per day
4. Drinks – Soft drinks only
5. Airport transfers

### **7 Nights Luxury Package - £770.00**

Included in package:

1. Accommodation: 5 Star Luxury Country House accommodation
2. Activities as per attached schedule
3. Meals – 3 meals per day
4. Drinks – Soft drinks only
5. Airport transfers

This package can be extended at £90.00 per night extra.

***NB: Singles share accommodation or pay a 50% supplement.  
Subject to availability.***



## SONDELA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RESERVATIONS PROCEDURE

1. Complete the Booking Form when you place your reservation.
2. Be honest when you describe your health status.
3. Complete the Indemnity Form which must be returned to us together with your Booking Form.
4. Payment must be made as follows:
  - 50% of total volunteer price upon booking
  - Balance due by 14 days prior to arrival date
5. Cancellation Policy:
  - Cancellation made more than 21 days prior to arrival date – 50% of deposit will be forfeited.
  - Cancellation made 14 – 20 days prior to arrival date – 100% of deposit will be forfeited.
  - Cancellation made 13 days and less prior to arrival date – Full cost of volunteer package will be forfeited.
6. Payment Methods:
  - Bank Transfers: South African Account  
Account Name: Adinvale (PTY) Limited  
Bank: First National Bank  
Branch Code: 260347  
Account Number: 54200018842
  - Credit Cards: Please fax proof of payment to +2714 736 8850
7. Currencies accepted on the Resort:
  - South African Rand
  - US Dollars
  - Pounds Sterling
  - Euro
  - Travellers' cheques in the above currencies

*Please note that exchange rates are subject to change without prior notice.*

*Daily exchange rates may influence the prices charged in foreign currency.*



**SONDELA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
BOOKING FORM**

Surname:				
First Name:				
Passport Number:				
Contact Details:	Address:			
	Telephone:			
	Email:			
Applying For: <i>(please tick your choice)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Nights Standard <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Nights Standard <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Nights Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Nights Luxury <input type="checkbox"/> 7+ Nights Luxury <small><i>Please specify No. of nights extra</i></small>		
Requested Dates:				
Diseases:				
Allergies:				
Dietary Requirements: <i>(please tick your choice)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Halaal	<input type="checkbox"/> Kosher



## SONDELA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM INDEMNITY FORM

Surname:		First Name:	
Arrival Date:		Departure Date:	
Adults:		Children:	
Volunteer Program: <i>(Please tick)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Nights Std <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Nights Std <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Nights Std	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Nights Luxury <input type="checkbox"/> 7+ Nights Luxury	Email:
Home: Cell: Work:			Address:
Paid:		ID/Passport Number:	

I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that I visit Sondela Nature Reserve entirely at my own risk and that I sign this indemnity on behalf of myself, my family, my guests and my dependants.

I fully understand that animals can be dangerous and that I will not hold Sondela, its members, management or employees responsible for any injury, loss, damage or death through the behaviour of any animal in the Reserve, whether wild or otherwise and through whatsoever cause.

I acknowledge that I make use of the facilities and recreation activities at Sondela at my own risk and declare that I will not hold Sondela, its members, management or employees liable for any damage, injury, death, loss or theft and/or compensation, of whatsoever nature and howsoever arising, as a result thereof, irrespective of whether human error or negligence exists and hereby waive any claim I may have as a result thereof.

By signing this indemnity I declare that I am aware that numerous photographs and video footage may be taken in which I may feature. I hereby authorize the use of such photographic and video material by Sondela for marketing purposes.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_