

Harnas Wildlife Foundation

Background

Harnas Wildlife Foundation is the oldest and longest running wildlife rehabilitation center in Namibia. Since the establishment of Harnas over 30 years ago, we have had a fast growth and successfully managed to involve a large international fundement that supports our causes and passion.

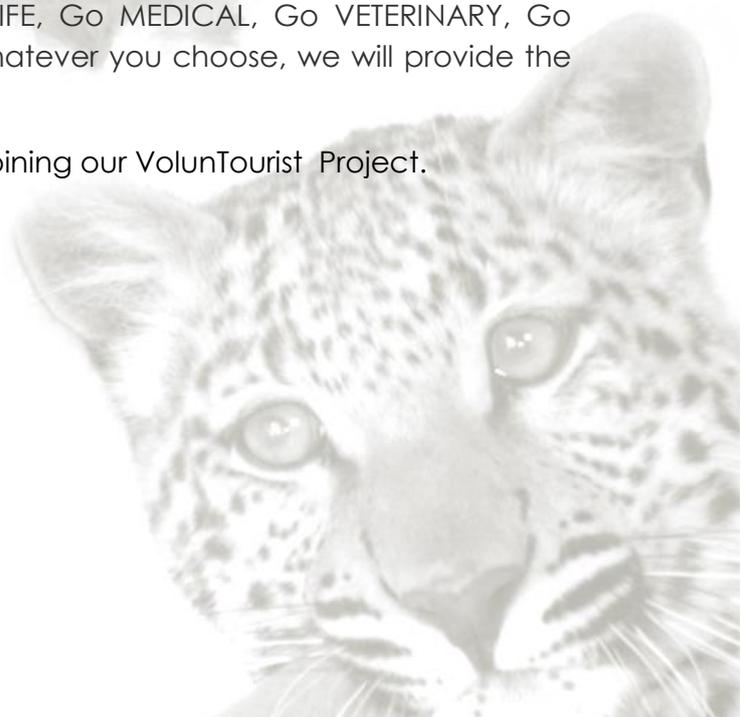
We strive to give animals a second chance at life, by rehabilitating and releasing them back into their natural habitat or caring for the ones that will not survive in the wild. We further believe that all people and animals are entitled to lead a life without negative stress like hunger and pain.

With a constant release we will be able to train the rehabilitated predators and prepare them thoroughly for what lies in the definition of 'THE WILD'. Throughout the years, population numbers of animals like lions, cheetah and other species have plummeted but with the Harnas rehabilitation project, our dream is to truly make a difference by re-establishing wild animals into the wildlife of Namibia.

The VolunTourist projects on Harnas offers international and local Namibian tourists the opportunity to work with and experience wild animals and people from all walks of life. Harnas is an ever-changing environment and develops by the minute. There is always something exciting happening whether it's the wildlife, research, day-care center or medical projects. As a volunteer you can choose to be involved in the field that fits your range of interest, and depending on whether you choose to Go HUMANITARIAN, Go CARETAKER, Go WILDLIFE, Go MEDICAL, Go VETERINARY, Go RESEARCH, Go SOCIAL or Go EXCLUSIVE, whatever you choose, we will provide the experience.

Anybody can make a difference today by joining our VolunTourist Project.

Be the change you want to see in the world.



Harnas Projects

Harnas Wildlife Foundation offers a once in a lifetime experience where VolunTourists can take part in several aspects of wildlife conservation and community upliftment. You have the possibility to join any of the Voluntourist projects which includes:

- [GO Wildlife](#)
- [GO CareTaker](#)
- [GO Humanitarian](#)
- [GO Medical](#)
- [GO Veterinary](#)
- [GO Research](#)
- [GO Social](#)
- [GO Exclusive](#)

Each of the Harnas projects is unique. Projects may change and is always subject to the circumstances, time and safety of the moment!

Please note that Namibian law reserves the right to change and maintain the way in which people are allowed to interact with animals. Namibian law prohibits hands on interaction with large carnivores.

All Project prices include:

- Transfers to and from Windhoek city to Harnas Gobabis.
- Accommodation in our VolunTourist accommodation units.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Welcoming and training upon arrival and during stay.
- Full support and assistance from your program coordinators for the entire duration of your stay at Harnas.

What's not included?

- Flights
- Airport transfer is not included, as Harnas is only responsible for transfers from within Windhoek on a Friday morning (Monday mornings for exclusive VolunTourists) to Harnas Gobabis and back again at the end of the stay to any place in Windhoek, this is on a Thursday (again on a Monday for exclusive VolunTourists).
- Any pre and post accommodation.
- Personal Extras and extra excursions.
- Personal travel insurance for the duration of placement, which should include cover for repatriation.
- Medical Aid (Harnas has first aid facilities on all relevant properties but do not cover any illness or injury suffered during the stay and VolunTourists sign an indemnity specific to this)
- Harnas souvenirs.
- Drinks and snacks, or any items that can be purchased in the Lapa bar.

B

ooking and payment:

Upon confirmation of a VolunTourist placement, you will receive a VolunTourist confirmation summary and personal booking Number.

This unique Booking number should be used in all correspondence with Harnas.

Use the booking number as reference when making a payment and **not the invoice number.**

By doing this, we can ensure fast and efficient service to a VolunTourist. If we are not able to trace your booking, this can lead to an automatic system cancelation of your reservation.

Ensure that we have the correct booking details, and personal details. This ensures us with a complete and updated record of personal data, enabling us to more accurately determine the needs of every VolunTourist and role in the different projects.



W

orking Visa and documents:

All VolunTourists require a valid passport with a validity period of 6 months beyond date of intended stay and sufficient un-used pages for entry and exit stamps. We recommend that VolunTourists have at least two free pages in the Visa section of passport before any international travel. U.S. citizens can get extra passport pages added to their passports within 24 hours.

Find out from the airline whether the flight will be a connect flight as part of the journey to South-Africa, as some countries en route to the destination require a separate transit Visa. This Transit Visa is your **own** responsibility. Please confirm with relevant embassies and consulates regarding transit visas and other related travel documents of onward travel through South Africa.

Harnas cannot be held responsible for en route travel documents and no refund will be permitted in case a VolunTourist is denied entry into Namibia. Harnas reserves the right to immediately cancel a booking of a VolunTourist if he/she does not have the relevant travel documents i.e Working Visa prior to his/her arrival and Harnas cannot be held responsible for any additional costs incurred. Each VolunTourist is responsible for making all necessary travel arrangements to ensure that you comply with all laws and regulations of the country and places of intended visit.

Information provided by our office in regard to above aspects, should only be regarded as advice. It is not our responsibility to ensure all your travel documents are in place. Furthermore, VolunTourists should purchase comprehensive travel insurance for incidents mentioned above.

A Vital note to remember: VolunTourists wishing to take part in any of the Harnas projects **require a valid working Visa.**

The application procedure to obtain such a working visa can be done through our booking office. The working visa is your entry visa to Namibia and it should be issued prior to arrival in Namibia.

Furthermore, we cannot proceed with a working Visa application unless a deposit has been paid and we have received prove of deposit.

State you're booking number on the payment – not the invoice number.



Once you receive our confirmation with a booking reference ID number and invoice, immediately proceed with all relevant documentation for the working visa! Make sure the Visa application form has been signed.

VolunTourists shall comply with all governing laws and regulations while in Namibia.

To apply for the visa, the following must be submitted to the bookings office:

1. Application form: Please complete first page (A) and second page (B) and make sure to sign the form at the Bottom of page B.
2. Copy of passport (personal details and passport number)
3. Copy of highest qualification / most recent training certificate / letter from employer stating that the applicant is employed. **(Only 1 page)**
4. Copy of deposit, including the bank reference number and Booking Number / amount and date of transfer.

Once the working visa is finalized, we will send it via email. Please note that the working visa is not a stamped entry in your passport but a separate page. This page should be printed and brought with you to Namibia.

When you receive the visa, make sure the visa is valid for the total duration of intended stay in Namibia.

The working visa is normally only released close to date of arrival and is valid from the date of issue. If the visa is issued too soon, it might expire again before your actual date of arrival.

The working visa for a VolunTourist : The top section mentions the name of only one VolunTourist and the second section serves as an addendum and includes the names of all the VolunTourists in that specific group. **Please make sure your name is on this list.** The Namibian Department of Home Affairs follows this system to save time when issuing visas. Present this page to immigration upon entering Namibia and they will endorse the visa in your passport.

Cancellation:

Cancellation terms:

- 7 weeks prior to arrival – 80 % cancellation fee charged
- Less than 7 weeks – full cancellation charge and no refund

General information on all projects:

(This is applicable to all projects except the Go Exclusive project as this project has its own layout)

Transfers and transport

The Harnas Projects starts on a Friday and ends on a Thursday.

VolunTourists should ensure their flight arrives at Hosea Kutako International Airport, situated 45 km east of Windhoek, at least a day in advance, before the start of the project. In the event of your flight arriving the same day as that of our bus leaving for Harnas, and your flight is delayed, we cannot wait for any one at the airport and transfer to Harnas will be for your own account.

A transfer from the airport to the city is not included in the project fee and should be arranged and paid by the VolunTourist. For assistance and information about pre and post accommodation/ airport transfers and tours, please feel free to ask our booking office.

The transfer from Windhoek City to Harnas, which takes approximately 3 hours, is included in the project fee and scheduled for Friday mornings.

The Harnas shuttle bus will pick you up at your accommodation establishment strictly between 09h00 and 10h00. Please ensure that we—received the necessary information about your pick spot, 2 weeks prior to arrival in Namibia.



At the end of the project on Thursdays, arriving in the city at lunch time, our shuttle will drop you off at your arranged accommodation establishment. Please ensure we have all your **pre and post** accommodation details.

Pre and post accommodation in Windhoek is for your own account. Feel free to ask the bookings office of Harnas for more information. **Pre and Post Accommodation** must be booked in advance.

If a VolunTourist wish to stay on in Namibia after the Harnas experience, accommodation and transport is your own responsibility.

Food

Well balanced meals will be provided and VolunTourists partake in the preparation thereof. Meals will be meat based to a large extent as Namibians are a meat eating folk. If a VolunTourist has a specific dietary need, like being a vegetarian, this should be arranged upon booking for Harnas to make necessary arrangements.

Laundry

Harnas offers laundry service from Monday to Friday, but VolunTourists are required to wash their own underwear and socks and should provide their own washing detergent to wash their underwear and socks.

Guests

Harnas has another wing in the business operating as a guest farm, with local and international guests visiting and VolunTourists should be aware that extensive guest-VolunTourist interaction is discouraged.

Length of stay at Harnas

The **minimum** required stay for VolunTourists is two weeks or up to a maximum of three months at Harnas Wildlife Foundation. It is recommend that VolunTourists stay longer than two weeks to make the most of the experience, and to really bond with the animals. Please read carefully through each project as some of our projects require a longer minimum stay.

Accommodation

Accommodation is at the VolunTourist Village where (4) four same gender VolunTourists share a unit at a time. Showers and toilets are communal for the VolunTourists and are separate from the cabins. It is not en-suite. Accommodation for the different projects may change due to the circumstances of the projects.

Harnas supplies towels and bed linen for the cabins but for sleep-outs in the bush VolunTourists should bring their own sleeping bags as they will not be allowed to take the cabin linens into the bush.

The village is run on solar power, and each room has solar panel lights. Since there are no permanent power outlets at the village, Harnas offers a separate room where VolunTourists can charge their cell phones, laptops and cameras at the main farm complex which is located about 700 meters from the VolunTourist village.

We cannot guarantee private couple sharing accommodation on our Go Projects. Depending on our occupancy and season, and if / where possible, we will try our utmost best to accommodate such a request but we cannot guarantee this.

Climate

April and especially May are often lovely months, increasingly dry, with a real freshness in the air. During the winter months, it can be extremely cold, with temperatures often dropping well below 0° Celsius at night. From November to January temperatures often go to +40° Celsius but the rainy season is filled with thundershowers and rain.

Induction – first day at Harnas

Upon arrival at Harnas, VolunTourists are introduced to the coordinators and facilitators and are shown their accommodation and facilities at the VolunTourist village.

The first full day is an induction day, where coordinators give a full background on Harnas Wildlife Foundation; its history, policies and rules; as well as all the guidelines and regulations of how to work and interact with the various animals at Harnas.



accinations:

Recommended Vaccinations, unless you have any medical reason not to vaccinate:

Hepatitis A	
Tetanus	
Typhoid	
Polio	
Rabies	

Vaccinations requirements change, so please check with a specialized travel agent or GSA for up-to-date information.

Harnas is known to be malaria free; however, Namibia is a country in which malaria does occur. You should therefore use your own discretion about malaria medication while on Harnas.

GO Wildlife

Are you looking for a wildlife experience out of the ordinary? Are you tired of the predictable everyday life? Do you want to experience an untouched continent, and get the chance to give something back or contribute towards positive change? Then Harnas is the place for you. This project is our Go Wildlife VolunTourist project refined with a new twist. You do not need any experience or qualifications for this project.

This energetic and robust project is for people between the ages of 18 and 45 and allows for a unique and rewarding practical experience. VolunTourists take part in various aspects of conservation, animal care, research and environmental studies.

You will be taken on adventures and taught how to read nature and its wildlife. You will conquer fears, the African savannah and experience the unique interaction and bonding with animals. At Harnas we only live by two things, being an animal lover and to always Expect the Unexpected.

Role of the volunteer

Go WILDLIFE offers you the chance to try a bit of everything, and you can be involved in all the daily activities which will include food preparation, feeding, cleaning, animal interaction and building of enclosures, waterholes and fences, fence patrol on horseback, game counting, animal studies, research on rehabilitated animals, fear factor games, survivor games, dress up nights, bush walks as well as animal walks and star gazing. Accommodation is at the VolunTourist village.

Do I need experience? No. Go Wildlife is suitable for everybody who has a passion for animals and conservation. It provides an opportunity to develop new skills, make new friends and learn about Wildlife. Make a difference in an animal's life and conservation by joining our GO WILDLIFE project.



GO Caretaker

Marieta van der Merwe, the founder, has made sure that Harnas Wildlife foundation has been one of the major fore fronts of nature conservation and rehabilitation in Namibia since the beginning of its existence in 1975. Marieta is the life source and the inspiring drive force of Harnas Wildlife Foundation in Namibia. Survivor of incredible personal tragedies in the African bush, she devoted herself as caregiver to injured and orphaned wild animals, including lions, baboons, cheetahs, monkeys, and wild dogs. Marieta is sharing her love for wild animals , her methods and secrets towards caring for wild animals.

If you want to follow in the footsteps of Marieta and make a difference in wildlife conservation then join the GO CARETAKER project today and receive a qualified caretaker certificate at the end of your stay.

During the GO caretaker project you and a maximum 4 others will work daily with Marieta. You will learn how to communicate and bond with wildlife, how to care for them, learn about the differences between species and the importance of keeping a boundary of respect.

Examples of activities:

- Lectures on each species and their behavioural patterns, hand rearing and infant care.
- Hand rearing young wildlife
- Rehabilitation, treatment and care of injured animals
- Animal interaction and communication: practical and theoretical.
- Animal care & enclosure cleaning

Do I need experience? No.

- A commitment to conservation
- An ability to adapt to changing situations

GO Humanitarian

By joining the GO HUMANITARIAN project you will be involved in the daily activities of the Cheeky Cheetah Children and help us to support the people of the San tribes at Harnas in providing sustainable education for their children. The Harnas Wildlife Foundation started off with an incredible passion for animals. Throughout the years in our own way we have also found that it is not only the wildlife that needs to be protected, taken care of and “rescued”. 90% of the employees are people from the San community, a tribe that has always been nomadic. The desire to move, to relocate, like the animals, is deeply engraved within their souls. Unfortunately the changing western world now requires that they urgently adapt to the ways of modern civilization. The adult literacy program enables them to gain basic life skills to secure a more constant source of income and a better future and we are able to provide a more steady and permanent educational level for their children.

This project combines basic pre-school education, life skills as well as increasing awareness about wildlife conservation. The combination of essential skills and nature conservation will allow the San people to move forward. With this solid foundation the Cheeky Cheetah students have a better chance of finishing their schooling and adapting in public schools.

Your role as a volunteer

If you want to break away from the Western schools or daycare facilities, then cross the oceans and make a difference in these little kids' lives. You will not only be working at the cheeky cheetah school, but you will teach them about hygiene and good nutrition, you will go for educational conservation visiting surrounding schools, take the cheeky cheetah kids as well as other school children on nature educational excursions etc.

You will take them on:

- Nature walks to collect pods, seeds and feathers for crafting
- Visits to the camp kitchen where the kids will get the chance to prepare their own barbeque and foods (stick bread, meat, poitjiekos etc).
- Arrange fun day and sports competition where they can take part in making the things they need for the competition.

- Painting and drawing
- Face painting
- Game drives
- Nature walks to learn to identify animal spoor and droppings
- Birding for beginners.
- Braai and star talk at our campsite in the Bush.

The minimum required stay is 2 weeks up to a maximum of three months at Harnas. We recommend you to stay longer than two weeks to make the most out of your experience, and to really be able to bond with the locals. The volunteers will be given a project to accomplish with the kids before they depart from Harnas. It could be anything from a concert, soccer cup, a play, art exhibition etc. We need you as a VolunTourist to take initiative. We take maximum 3 volunteers at a time to help with the day care center.

Example of school excursion itinerary:

You as the Harnas teacher and representative welcome the group with some juice and cookies under the camel thorn tree. The Harnas tour guide will take you on an afternoon excursion, where you and the children will get the chance to see and learn more about the animals, and the surroundings. At 6 pm, get ready for a camping sleep out in the bush, with a braai under the stars and teach them more about the solar system. The next morning you will enjoy a breakfast in the bush and head back.

- Accommodation for VolunTourists joining this project will be in our units at the school or VolunTourist village.

Do I need experience?

- Yes. We will need a detailed CV outlaying qualifications, accompanied by copies of diplomas and/certificates relevant to the project. If you are still studying, a letter from the university or academy is needed, proving that he/she is studying towards the relevant degree accompanied by a report card of results obtained so far in course/s.
- Confirmation of placement is subject to approval by Harnas Management and Booking Office.

Go Medical

Do you have a medical background as a nurse or a doctor but you have the urge to break away from your daily routines? Do you want to offer your time and skills while on a dream trip in the heart of Africa. Then the Harnas Go Medical project is just the experience you have been looking for.

You will get to work with different tribes, ages and backgrounds and it is up to you to make a difference, and decide how you want to run a day to day program. Your ultimate goal: Be the change you want to see in the people of Harnas. The Go Medical project will include duties like:

- Creating a medical record of each employee on the farm and their families
- First aid training
- Teaching the importance of health and hygiene
- Safe Sexual practice, family planning, nutrition and health issues

Upon arrival at Harnas you will be provided with induction training and you will also have a person to help you on Harnas with the day to day duties and to guide you on this adventure.

The minimum stay required for a VolunTourist is three weeks with a maximum of up to three months. We do recommend you to stay longer than three weeks to make the most out of your experience, and to really be able to bond with the locals. Make a difference! Go medical!

Do I need experience?

- *We will need a detailed CV outlaying qualifications, accompanied by copies of diplomas and/certificates relevant to the project. If you are still studying, a letter from the university or academy is needed, proving that he/she is studying towards the relevant degree accompanied by a report card of results obtained so far in course/s.*
- Confirmation of placement is subject to approval by Harnas Management and Booking Office.
- Accommodation will be at the staff quarters or VolunTourist village.

GO Social

Do you have a passion for photography and experience in the social media? Are you between 18 and 45 years of age? Do you want to live out your passion and experience the thrill of a daily life on Harnas (which may also involve working alongside the Harnas management team on projects) Do you want to tell the legendary tales of the lives of the animals on Harnas? Then you are the specialized volunteer Harnas is looking for to help drive its social and media project.

Go SOCIAL offers you the opportunity to be actively involved in the marketing side of Harnas by your contributions through the visual media (photographs and videos) of daily activities on and around the farm. You will be there when new animals are received, sick animals treated, enclosures built, animals released, waterholes dug and also when the little San children play and perform. Your duty will be to be the eye and ear of the Marketing Manager in Windhoek during the everyday activities on the farm. You will be the first one there when a baby animal sees the light or when an over-eager volunteer falls into a thorn-bush or are being chased by an ostrich. You will also be required to take all official photographs on the farm.

Harnas gives you the opportunity to help market the Harnas experience to the world out there by showing it from the perspective of a volunteer. Your contribution can help to make a difference in so many animal lives.

Length of stay required as a Social and Media volunteer is two weeks minimum or for a maximum of 3 months. Take a break from the snow-covered landscapes of Europe to smell the dust and to feel the heat of Africa. We need you to make a difference today. The program only allows for two volunteers at a time.

Do I need experience?

- Experience and/qualifications in photography, social media and marketing will be an added advantage.

VolunTourist Accommodation for this project will be at VolunTourist Village

GO

Research

Do you have a passion for and /experience in wildlife research? Are you between 18 and 45 years of age? Do you have the patience to wait at a waterhole for hours, with only the sounds of nature surrounding you?

The Go Research Project plays a key role in the preservation of this magnificent wilderness and the future success of Harnas which aims to provide wildlife with a vast and untouched habitat.

Go RESEARCH offers you the opportunity to be actively involved in any of the following research activities on Harnas:

- Game counts, night drives and predator call-ups
- Distribution of different kinds of game species;
- Grazing patterns of the herbivores;
- Eating habits of the carnivores;
- Data basing and tracking of collared animals;
- Monitoring the behavioural patterns of the different animals;
- Stress factors; or
- Interaction between the different predators.
- Bird observations - Creating a thorough bird species database

Harnas gives you the opportunity to help establish and or maintain a working data base on the many different wild (and not so wild) animals that can be found on Harnas. Your contribution might help to make a difference in so many animal lives.

Required length of stay as a Research volunteer is minimum 1 month up to a maximum of 3 months. Take a break from your studies or daily routine and come and experience nature at its primitive best, smell the dust and feel the heat of Africa. We need you to make a difference today. The program unfortunately only allow for one volunteer at a time.

Do I need experience?

- *We will need a detailed CV outlaying qualifications, accompanied by copies of diplomas and/certificates relevant to the project. If you are still studying, a letter from the university or academy is needed, proving that he/she is studying towards the relevant degree accompanied by a report card of results obtained so far in course/s.*
- *Confirmation of placement is subject to approval by Harnas Management and Booking Office.*

GO Veterinary

Do you have a passion for animals and conservation and you enjoy a good challenge? Do you want to experience a different kind of practice within the field of vet medicine and embark on an adventure? Then you are the specialized volunteer that we are looking for to join our brand new GO Veterinary project.

The Harnas Wildlife Veterinary Experience offers you the opportunity to run the day to day activities as our wildlife veterinarian on Harnas. You will be working in the field, treating and handling wildlife as well as hand raised orphans. Much of the work can be related to wildlife industries such as game capture and relocation, thereby maximising your exposure to surrounding human wildlife conflict, sanctuary care and the wildlife's natural habitat.

You will experience a different kind of practice, and retrieve knowledge about animals and diseases only common in Namibia or Africa. You might get the chance to actively take part in:

- Wildlife research work where you will be a part of the darting of a wild animals that is about to be released or that needs an annual checkup
- Working on sick, injured or orphaned wildlife
- Retrieving blood from wild dogs for DNA testing etc.
- Deworming and de- ticking etc.

BY joining us as a wildlife vet you will not only contribute to the saving of animal lives, but you will get the insight to conserve wildlife on a larger scale.

Required minimum length of stay as a Voluntourist on the GO Vet project is 1 month and maximum 3 months. Take a break from your European practice and join us in the land of the wild. We need you to make a difference today. The program only allows for two Volunteers at a time.

All the money raised through our volunteering program goes directly back into the project providing employment, education and accommodation to the local Bushman community and ensuring the rescue, survival and rehabilitation of the animals which are housed in natural environments around the site. The funds helps

Harnas to continue the battle for environmental welfare and helps us to buy items such as GPS collars for research, building materials, fuel, food and medication for the animals, as well as volunteer meals

We would also like to sponsor rural communities with medication and vaccinations for their animals and with your expertise and aid we can also help giving the vaccinations.

- We will need a detailed CV outlaying qualifications, accompanied by copies of diplomas and/certificates relevant to the project. If you are still studying, a letter from the university or academy is needed, proving that he/she is studying towards the relevant degree accompanied by a report card of results obtained so far in course/s.
- Confirmation of placement is subject to by Harnas Management and Booking Office.
- Accommodation will be in staff quarters or at the VolunTourist village.



GO Exclusive

Go Exclusives Prices

- o 2 weeks

Embrace a true interactive African wildlife experience in natural comfort and style in the country of the wild open spaces, Namibia.

Harnas offers an exclusive African wilderness experience for individuals, couples, families & friends over 45 years old whom wants something that will have a remaining impact on their lives. This Exclusive Project is a balance between work and play, a blend between VolunTouring and visiting a special destination. The Harnas Exclusive Project offers you a personalized and unique opportunity to assist with the preservation and conservation of our African wild animals.

This 14-day project will include the caretaking of various animals and predators, bushwalks, animal walks, and teambuilding activities, visits to near-by tourist attractions, research, lectures and a team project to leave behind on Harnas as a symbol of your love for animals and become part of your legacy on this blue planet.

Accommodation

Guests will have upmarket and comfortable rooms overlooking beautiful African vistas, with the luxury and privacy of en-suite bathrooms.

Laundry

Laundry services are offered from Monday to Friday on Request

Food

Guests will eat in our comfortable restaurant & lapa. A full breakfast, lunch and three course dinner will be provided for the duration of your stay.

Transport

- Exclusive VolunTourists will Guests will be picked up at their accommodation establishment within Windhoek on a Monday by the Harnas shuttle bus to be transported to Harnas and transfer from Harnas back to accommodation establishment within Windhoek at the end of your stay again on a Monday.
- Should an Exclusive VolunTourist have a request to be dropped at the Hosea Kutako International Airport at the end of their stay, this should be organized with the Coordinator on Harnas.
- Please ensure we have all your **pre and post** accommodation details.
- Pre and post accommodation in Windhoek is for your own account. Feel free to ask the bookings agent at Harnas for information about accommodation and establishments in Windhoek.
- If a VolunTourist wish to stay on in Namibia after the Harnas experience, accommodation and transport is your own responsibility

For any information you might still need, contact bookings@harnas.org

We are looking forward to welcome you at Harnas Wildlife Foundation.

