

A Day at Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary

There is a huge amount involved in running a wildlife sanctuary like Jukani. Some of our duties are fun; and some are less so – preparing food for the big cats, for example, is not everyone's idea of fun although it has been the favourite task of some of our volunteers!

Please be aware that you will be working with left-over food, animal faeces, animal carcasses and potential allergens such as hay, Lucerne, Animal/Hair and teff. Be prepared if you have any aversion towards these items. If you find that you cannot tolerate or cope with the environment in which the animals are kept, please notify the manager of this immediately and we will endeavour to find alternative tasks for you.

Day-to-day activities vary depending on what is needed at any given time and the interests and skills of individual volunteers. However, the information below gives a good idea of the type of work that our volunteers get involved with.

08:00

Arrive at Jukani.

08:00-10:00

Help ready the sanctuary for a new day. This may include helping staff with any of the following tasks:

- taking the curio stock from the overnight store room and setting up the curio store;
- cleaning the Raccoon enclosure and feeding the raccoons;
- cleaning the walk-in coldroom container;
- cleaning the kitchen;
- washing vehicles; and
- sorting the store rooms.

It is also during this time that the duties are discussed and assigned for the day; volunteers will be assigned to permanent staff members to help them with their daily tasks.

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10:00-16:30

Activities that volunteers help with during the day may include any of the following:

Tour Backup: assisting guides with larger groups, for example school groups, to be a back-up guide. In this instance, the volunteer will not lead the tour but is there to help keep the group together and ensure the sanctuary rules are followed.

Animal Food Preparation: Volunteers assist the staff member tasked with food preparation, in preparing and sorting of daily food rations for the various individual animals. Many volunteers choose to do both visitor-facing tasks and helping with the food prep as this really fills up their day quite well and giving them the best of both worlds.

Maintenance: Helping with the upkeep of the sanctuary and all that involves, for example fixing water pipes, replacing stones in the parking lot, maintenance of walkways and fences, cutting of grass, tree branches and small shrubs and any other odd jobs that may need to be done.

Fly-trap programme: cleaning the fly traps and re-stocking them with bait – not the most pleasant-smelling of our tasks but an essential job as it works very well.

Tour Guiding: volunteers who have had the necessary training may be able to take visitors on guided tours of the sanctuary in English and/or their mother tongue. This will only be the case where volunteers have demonstrated the required skills and personal attributes for guiding e.g. self-confident, able to ensure that visitors follow rules and instructions, able to retain lots of information about our animals and share it with visitors in an entertaining and informative way. Volunteers undertaking tour guiding duties are also expected to meet and greet visitors at the sanctuary entrance. Volunteers undertaking tour guiding duties must remember that they are working directly with the public and are representing not only Jukani, but the whole of SAASA and everything we stand for. Volunteers are expected to follow our rules and protocols which they will learn from our permanent guides before they start doing any of their own tours.

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General: Volunteers are always encouraged to speak to one of the managers if there is anything else happening at the sanctuary where they think they may be of assistance.

16:30

Close of day and return to accommodation

Coffee/Tea Breaks and Lunch

We generally have a half an hour morning break, at around 10am, where volunteers are welcome to have a cup of tea or coffee from the kitchen – instant coffee, tea, sugar, milk and sweetener are provided – volunteers are asked to bring along their own mug or cup. If the volunteers have brought a brunch snack along, they are welcome to have it at this time.

Lunch is generally taken at around 1pm, together with the animal keepers and maintenance staff. Please note that volunteers involved in tour guiding may need to take their lunch and breaks at different times. The Receptionist on duty or the front office supervisor will be able to confirm the timings of scheduled tours and when it would be appropriate for the volunteer to take a break.

All meals or drinks are to be had in the staff area. This is also the only area at Jukani where smoking is allowed.

NB: At no time will the humanisation of the animals be allowed. Any volunteer who tries to pet or, in any way, interact with the animals in our care will be asked to leave the sanctuary and the volunteer programme immediately.