



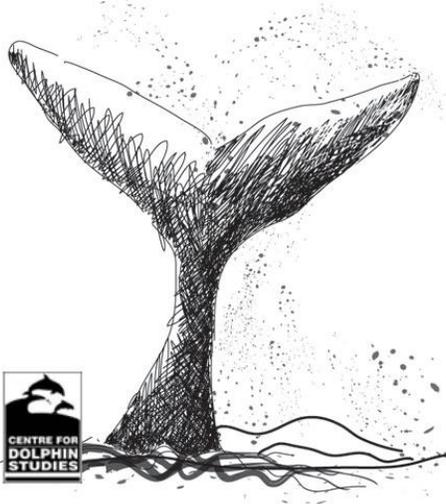
## ORCA FOUNDATION - VOLUNTEER PROGRAM - 2014



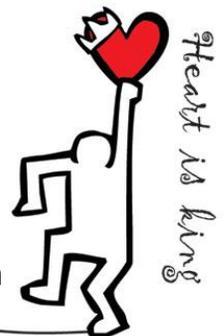
**OCEAN RESEARCH & CONSERVATION AFRICA, IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
CENTRE FOR DOLPHIN STUDIES, PLETTENBERG BAY, SOUTH AFRICA**

Thank you for your enquiry about the ORCA Foundation and the Centre for Dolphin Studies. This document answers most questions about the programs on offer for you to enjoy a journey of a lifetime.

**ORCA** provides a volunteer experience for 2 – 12 weeks from January to November. Price is \$500/week including full board and accommodation – minimum 2 weeks stay



[www.orcafoundation.com](http://www.orcafoundation.com)





## BASICS OF OUR PROGRAM

Our program comprises 3 key elements;

1. **Conservation:** Rehabilitation of marine birds, beach strandings, turtle rehabilitation, etc
2. **Educational activities:** Partaking in pre-school and primary school conservation education programs, edutainment through the media of dance and theatre, beach clean ups, alien tree removal, maintaining aquariums, collecting bait, and assisting with various research programs
3. **Research initiatives:** Dolphin data capture through photo and sound identification, assisting in fish counts, analysing river health, tag and release fishing.

It's all **hands-on** !

All activities depend on season, weather, and need, and as such may be subject to change throughout the year.

**Ocean Blue Adventures**, our primary sponsor, assures a wide variety of activities and challenges.



## YOUR TRAINING AS A VOLUNTEER

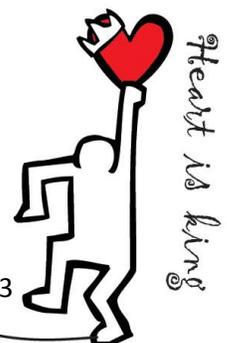


You will gain valuable experience collecting data, samples, and photographs for the various research projects being undertaken at the time by the ORCA Foundation. The details will be explained with each project you are involved in on-site.

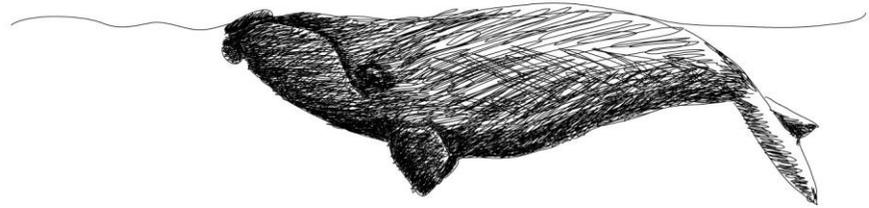
There are two other training opportunities for volunteers.



**1. Our marine guiding program:** Recognised as an entry-level nationally accepted program. The marine guiding course requires 2 weeks for the theory and a further 2 weeks for the practical.



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## 2. First Aid for Stranded Marine Animals:

An entry-level course for animal care that can be completed during a two-week stay. This course is geared towards those who have no knowledge of marine animal care, but are keen to make a start and learn about marine conservation.

During your stay there will be opportunities to receive valuable talks & insight from experienced, passionate people e.g. our Researchers \* Dr Vic Cockcroft and Dr Aleandra Vegas. These programs include, amongst others Marine Protected areas, dolphin & whale activity and behaviour, marine conservation, ocean acidification, research methods, conservation & carbon offset.

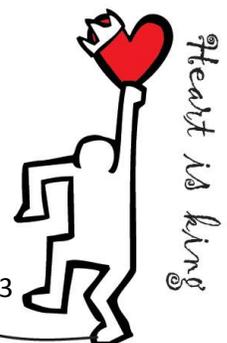
\* Dr Vic Cockcroft from the **Centre for Dolphin Studies**, is an internationally recognised researcher on dolphins and whales, and has written many books and theses' on the subject. Many whale and dolphin watching guidelines have been stimulated by his research. Dr Cockcroft has supervised 17 Master students and 18 PhD students in related projects.

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Diving courses can be organised for volunteers at an additional fee through the local dive school. Please ensure that you inform the Foundation staff as soon as possible if you are interested in completing any of the courses.

## ENTERTAINMENT

As a premier world class eco-tourism destination, Plettenberg Bay and the national coastal *Garden Route* offer all the extras, restaurants, curio shops, that the most discerning traveller may wish for.



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## OUR PEOPLE

### Making your ORCA experience safe, comfortable

Your volunteer coordinator and person you will spend most time with is **Jared Harding**, the ORCA Foundation manager an avid diver and qualified marine guide.

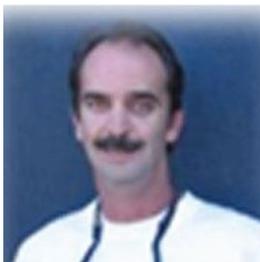
**Ulrika Williams**, who heads up our conservation education program at Siyakula Pre-school with a master's degree in Marine Biology, is another qualified marine guide and dive master.

**Daniel Hall's** our people-loving, sporty and enthusiastic ORCA house manager, who will make everybody feel right at home and look after your comfort: he's also a volunteer co-ordinator and qualified marine guide.

**Wesley Andrews** is another friendly face who will be assisting with the bookings and enquiries for the program and liaise on excursions

**Teliswa Fuyani**, our 'housekeeping' executive, affectionately known as 'Mom', keeps your home away from home easy to live in, including laundry and meals to volunteers. The staff of Ocean Blue Adventures regularly assists volunteers during their placements as well.

**Ocean Blue Adventures** General Manager, **Charlie Lilford**, will liaise with you and our team on making this a truly unforgettable experience.



CHARLIE



DANIEL



TELISWA

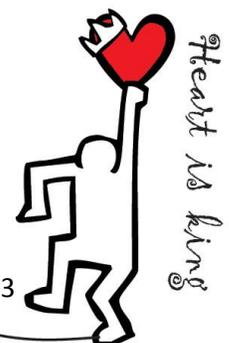


JARED



ULRIKA

You can fly into South Africa's major cities of Cape Town or Johannesburg, and take a brief connecting flight to the picturesque city of George, and (if you choose) hire a vehicle for a short drive to *Plettenberg Bay*.



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We offer concierge services to collect and transfer you directly to the **ORCA** volunteer house from George Airport, at an additional cost of around \$50 for 1 and a half hour's travel along South Africa's equivalent of the *Great Ocean drive*.

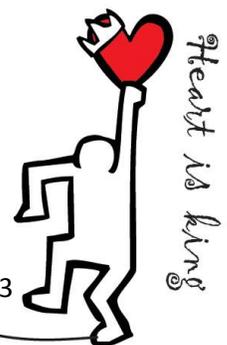


Domestic and tour buses are also available, and if you have any special requests or requirements, please talk to us.

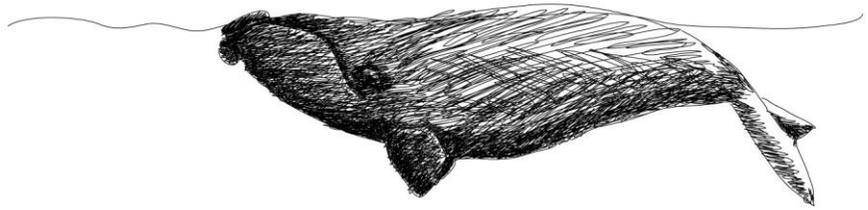
## ACCOMMODATION



Included in our price is accommodation at the **ORCA** volunteer house, which is situated approximately 3 kilometres from the Foundation and Ocean Blue office in Plettenberg Bay. The accommodation is self-catering, with shared bedroom and bathroom facilities.



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The number of volunteers can range anywhere from 1 to 12, depending on the season and number of bookings made, with no more than 4 people in one room.

Laundry facilities are available and 'mom' Teliswa does communal washing several times a week to conserve energy and water.

The house is close to a shopping centre, which includes shops, restaurants, and a cinema. Rental cars and taxis are available for evening and weekend activities, ranging from economy to premium class.

Basic food for meals is provided for you at the house. You may be required to pack a lunch for some activities, but you will be informed of our schedule ahead of time. Evening meals are prepared for you 5 nights per week, but volunteers are also welcome to eat out. We do cater for a variety of diets including vegetarian. Your **Orca Volunteer Home** is located near a variety of restaurants and fast food restaurants, both local and international.

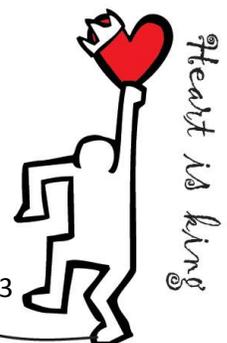
- \* Our house is non-smoking and there is a zero-tolerance policy regarding use of illegal substances, excessive alcohol use, and inappropriate behaviour/language while on the project.

## COMMUNICATIONS

We suggest acquiring a local mobile from one of SA's "pre-paid" options, which are inexpensive, and we provide a communal cell phone in the house which volunteers may top up with airtime and use to contact their coordinators and arrange transport for after hour activities.

There is Broadband internet access at the volunteer house, with Skype available. Volunteers are welcome to bring a laptop computer or tablet, as the **ORCA** house is equipped with wireless internet.

South Africa has excellent cell phone communication and coverage, through a number of providers such as Vodacom, MTN, Cell C and Virgin.



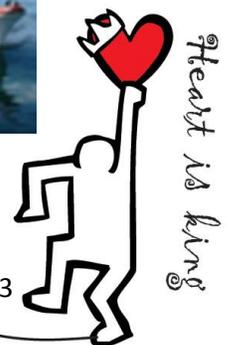
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## PROGRAMS FOR ALL SEASONS

**ORCA** research, community up-liftment, and education programs continue throughout the year. The choice of “when” is to join us, is mainly dependant on you: what kind of weather you prefer.

- **Summer: January to March** tend to be our warmest months.
  - Sun cream and hats are strongly recommended.
  - Temperatures range from lows of 15°C to highs of 30°C (59° to 89° Fahrenheit).
  - Expect to see a variety of dolphin species and the occasional Bryde's Whale on our whale watching tours at this time of year.
- **Autumn: April to June** fall days are still warm, but the evenings cool off nicely.
  - Temperatures range from 8°C overnight to 25°C at midday (46° to 77° Fahrenheit).
  - Humpback whales, on migration north at this time of year, join dolphin species.
- **Winter: July to September** are our winter months, but the start of **whale-watching** season.
  - Days start off cool and warm up to about 20°C (68° F), but the nights are a chillier 5°C (41° F).
  - Warm clothes are recommended for this time of year. We don't use central heating in South Africa, so pack a jersey jacket and gloves for the colder nights.
  - Southern Right Whales are a common sight in *Plettenberg Bay*.
- **Spring: October to December** weather conditions are similar to Autumn.
  - Animal sightings are mostly Humpback Whales and dolphins. The water warms up considerably, so diving and snorkelling can be done comfortably.





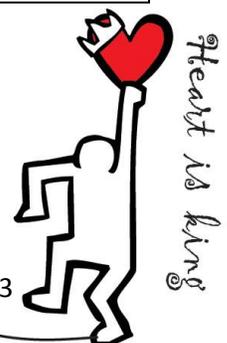
**WHAT TO EXPECT**

Be ready at 08h30, when we collect you for the day's activities, which range from tank maintenance at the centre, to assisting research teams out on the ocean. Volunteer working week at ORCA Foundation is Monday to Friday, from 08h30 to 16h30. Evenings and weekends are your leisure times. The relaxed atmosphere of Plettenberg Bay and the Foundation will help you to settle in quickly. Some days involve more work and assistance, while others move at a leisurely pace. Daily activities can change on a moment's notice, if something exciting comes along. Be prepared to go with the flow. The **ORCA** volunteer house is within walking distances from the beach and local facilities.

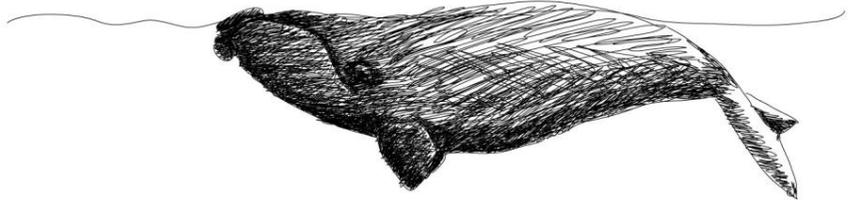
**Sample Weekly Program at ORCA Foundation**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>08h30</b> Fin Profiling and Spatial distribution <b>13H00</b> Lunch <b>14h30</b> Aquarium maintenance &amp; bait collection, animal husbandry</p>	<p><b>08h30</b> Carbon Neutral Presentation <b>09h00</b> Tree Planting <b>13h00</b> Lunch <b>15h00</b> Alien tree removal</p>	<p><b>07h00</b> Research boat trip <b>12h00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Tag and release fishing</p>	<p><b>09h30</b> Qolweni Preschool <b>14h00</b> Lunch <b>14h30</b> Aquarium food collection and SASS evaluation, Aquarium food collection</p>	<p><b>09h30</b> Robberg Hike and clean up <b>12h00</b> Presentation with Dr Vic <b>14h00</b> Lunch <b>15h00</b> Clean aquariums, and van</p>
<p><b>08h30</b> Fin Profiling and Spatial distribution <b>13H00</b> Lunch <b>14h30</b> Various courses and presentations</p>	<p><b>08h30</b> Beach clean-up. <b>13H00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Tag and Release fishing</p>	<p><b>07h00</b> Bird ringing. <b>13h00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Natures Valley hike and aquarium collection.</p>	<p><b>09h30</b> Qolweni Preschool <b>14h00</b> Lunch <b>14h30</b> Food collection &amp; SASS evaluation, Aquarium food collection</p>	<p><b>09h30</b> Fin Profiling and Spatial distribution <b>12h00</b> Presentation with Alejandra <b>14h00</b> Lunch <b>15h00</b> Clean aquariums, and van</p>

**Regardless of how long you choose to stay, you will leave ORCA with a deeper understanding of marine and coastal conservation, and the skills to educate others.**



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## VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Previous knowledge or experience is **not** required to become a volunteer with ORCA Foundation.

The Foundation seeks to place those with a passion for conservation in a diverse environment, giving them a life changing experience while the foundation with much needed conservation assistance. If you wish to complete a project for your studies during your placement, special arrangements can be made. Student volunteers will work directly under the supervision of Dr Vic Cockcroft or Alejandra Vargas. These types of projects generally require a *minimum stay of eight weeks* and are coordinated with their respective universities.

## BOOKING

Now you have decided to volunteer at **ORCA Foundation**, these are the next steps to securing your life changing experience and adventure of a lifetime:

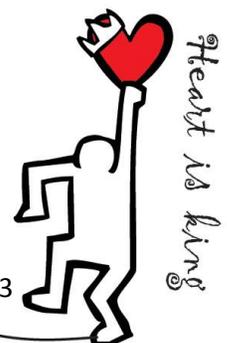
- ✓ Confirm placement with full payment (or minimum of 25% non-refundable deposit ) - full payment if under 4 weeks to departure;
- ✓ ORCA Foundation team will be in touch with your confirmation and any additional details;
- ✓ Four weeks prior to departure, make your full payment to ORCA Foundation.
- ✓ Ensure you have organised travel and health insurance, personal insurance, and any extra luggage costs (at your own expense);
- ✓ Arrange the safest and most affordable transport to ORCA Foundation, or ask about our concierge collection services.
- ✓ **ARRIVE** at the **ORCA Foundation** and begin your adventure with us!

Bookings and payment can be made via our website [www.orcafoundation.com](http://www.orcafoundation.com) or directly with the foundation [bookings@orcafoundation.com](mailto:bookings@orcafoundation.com).

Your fee includes:

- accommodation,
- 3 meals per day,
- all activities on project,
- transfers during working hours on the program,
- memorial t-shirt,
- training manual,
- a cap.

Should you choose to stay 4 weeks or longer, you will receive a polar fleece jacket, and eligible to participate in our **marine guide program**.

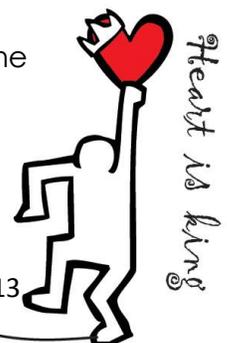




- The cost of the program does not include insurance, out of project activities, equipment hire, diving activities, car hire, taxis, airport transfers, out of house meals, snacks, cigarettes, alcohol, health care or personal hygiene.
- It is strongly recommended that volunteers purchase medical, travel, and personal insurance against things like theft, cancellation of flights or illness. While we've had no problem in the past, rather be safe than sorry.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Currency in South Africa is South African Rand. There are many banks and ATM's for cash withdrawal and for cashing of travellers cheques.
  - MasterCard and Visa is accepted widely, Amex is not so popular.
  - We do not recommend carrying large amounts of cash on your person if not necessary.
  - Most activities are payable by credit card, and you will be advised of the ones you need to pay cash at (*easily withdrawn from an auto-teller machine*),
- The project includes some community work at under privileged schools, thus any old clothes, toys, stationery, which you may wish to gift while here or leaving, are always welcome.
- A full driving licence and credit card is required when hiring or driving vehicles. There is a minimum age of 21 required to hire vehicles.
- A large portion of your placement will be spent at sea. If you suffer from motion sickness, bring appropriate medication. *Kwell* is a popular treatment, but is hard to find in South Africa.
- Voltage is 220v, and there are round three pin plugs. International adaptors are required.
- Visa requirements include two completely empty pages in your passport alongside each other.
- You are given a 90 day visa upon entry to the country.
- Immunisation: Tetanus is highly recommended. Please consult your local physician for advice on any other immunisation requirements. We're *not* in a high malaria risk zone so medications are not required – but if you plan to travel further north, check the country guidelines.
- Confirm the baggage limits for the airlines you are travelling with, to avoid overweight charges.
- We have a lock box in the house for passports and necessities, kept by the house manager.



# MARINE RESEARCH . EDUCATION . CON!



- If your luggage is lost *en route*, you can have it forwarded to:

**Ocean Blue Adventures**  
**Shop 5, Hopwood Centre,**  
**Plettenberg Bay, 6600**  
**Telephone +27 (0)44 533 5083**

## PACKING LIST

You will almost certainly need

- A waterproof (and windproof if possible) coat/jacket
- Long trousers for evenings and cool days (winters can be chilly)
- Shorts for sunny days
- T-shirts, both long and short-sleeved
- Old jeans or work-trousers and shirts
- Jumper or fleece jumper
- Comfortable walking shoes, old trainers, or sandals
- Swimming trunks/costumes/suits
- Pyjamas. Remember that winter evenings are cold (July-September)
- Underwear and socks
- A day rucksack/backpack
- A hat or cap for the sun (and for winter a beanie or woollen hat)
- Sunglasses (preferably good, polarized ones)
- Smarter casual clothes for if you are wanting to be going out at night
- Sunscreen and mosquito repellent

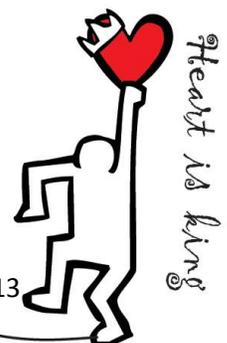
You will probably also want to bring:

- A camera
- Binoculars
- A torch or flashlight
- Some books to read in the evenings
- Work gloves

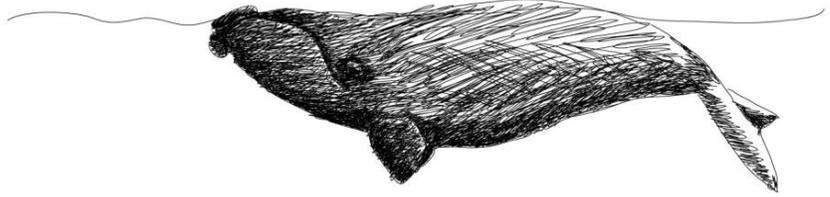
There are a number of banks in Plettenberg Bay town centre, and almost all shops and restaurants accept international credit cards. Keep in mind that American Express and Discovery are not always accepted.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us on [bookings@orcafoundation.com](mailto:bookings@orcafoundation.com)

**The ORCA Foundation team looks forward to welcoming you soon!**



# MARINE RESEARCH . EDUCATION . CONSERVATION



## The ORCA Marine Foundation

Works in association with both the Centre for Dolphin Studies and Ocean Blue Adventures (the commercial operation branch of ORCA Foundation).

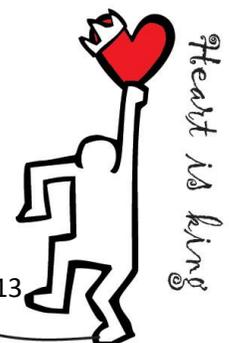
**ORCA** is situated in Plettenberg Bay, along the heart of the world famous Garden Route. This location allows you to enjoy beautiful coastal scenery, marine conservation and commercial ventures all in one place. Plettenberg Bay (lovingly referred to as "Plett" by locals) is home to some of the world's most fascinating marine species, including Southern Right Whales, Humpback Whales, Bryde's Whales, Bottlenose Dolphins, Common Dolphins, Orca or Killer Whales, and Great White Sharks, to name but a few. Your placement here gives you a unique, once in life time opportunity to observe some of these magnificent marine species while participating in conservation and education oriented volunteer work. ORCA combines education, conservation, community development, science and tourism into its comprehensive volunteer program.



**Please note all placements vary, and you may or may not be involved with the above activities. Volunteers can also expect to contribute to Ocean Blue Adventures' commercial operations. Bad weather days can delay conservation/research activities and may involve indoor activities and courses.**

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

We're situated along South Africa's famous Garden Route, in the lively town of Plettenberg Bay. During your stay in Plettenberg Bay you will be exposed to one of the most breath-taking and serene outdoor classrooms in Southern Africa. You will regularly experience the power and grace of whales, the exuberance of dolphins, the playfulness of seals, and the magnificence of mountains and forests.



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Plettenberg Bay, one of South Africa's most fashionable holiday resort locations and a beach-lover's paradise, is home to long stretches of soft sand that line an endless azure ocean. The town is characterised by sweeping, unspoilt golden beaches, a dramatic rocky peninsula, intriguing lagoons and estuaries, towering indigenous forests, and unpolluted rivers and sea. With its exceptional Mediterranean-like climate, and beautiful view sites over the Indian Ocean, Plettenberg Bay is perfect for tourists, travellers and locals alike.

## ADVENTURE (*Optional Activities*)

A wide range of activities are available outside of the project during your off time, including skydiving, scuba diving, swimming with seals, abseiling gorge tours, wildlife rehabilitation centres, animal sanctuaries, game drives, horseback riding, bungee jumping and canopy tours. Volunteers receive a discount on many of these activities, which can be arranged by the house and volunteer co-ordinators.

- Walk with Elephants \$25
- Ride with the Elephants \$45
- Horse Back Safaris \$28
- Buffalo Hills game drive \$35
- Plettenberg Bay Game Reserve \$35
- Bridge Walking \$10
- Bungee Jumping \$75
- Sky Diving \$200
- Tree Top Canopy Tours \$45
- Monkey land Free
- Birds of Eden Free
- Lawnwood snake park \$10
- Tenikwa Wildlife Centre Free
- Adventure land water park \$15
- 3D Walking Maze \$10
- Dive Courses \$210-350
- Surfing Lessons/per lesson \$25
- Deep Sea Fishing \$50
- Seal swim/dive \$40

[www.orcafoundation.com](http://www.orcafoundation.com)

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