



OCEANRESEARCHCONSERVATIONAFRICA  
INTELLIGENT CO-EXISTENCE

## ORCA FOUNDATION - VOLUNTEER PROGRAM –2018



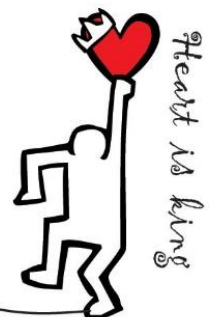
### OCEAN RESEARCH & CONSERVATION AFRICA, PLETTENBERG BAY, SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you for your enquiry about the **ORCA Foundation**. 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 (1 January 2017- \$525/week) including full board and accommodation – minimum 2 weeks stay.



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



# CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

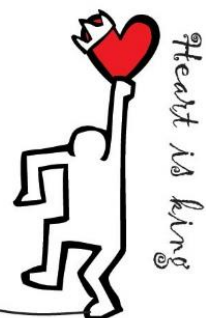
## BASICS OF OUR PROGRAM

Our program comprises 3 key elements:

1. **Conservation:** Rescue of marine birds, assist with beach strandings, stabilization of turtles prior to them being moved onto specialized facilities, alien tree removal, beach clean-ups
2. **Education:** Partaking in pre-school and primary school environmental education programs, educational entertainment through the media of dance and theatre, partnering with a local under-privileged preschool to teach English and assist where needed
3. **Research:** Taking and processing fin profile photos of a number of whale and dolphin species seen on boat trips, analysing river health, bird ringing, elasmobranch surveys. contributing to a number of online databases mapping species distribution

**ORCA Foundation** combines conservation, education, research, community development, and tourism into its comprehensive volunteer program. It's all **hands-on!** All activities depend on season, weather, and need, and as such may be subject to change throughout the year. As a result all placements are different, 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.

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



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## 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:



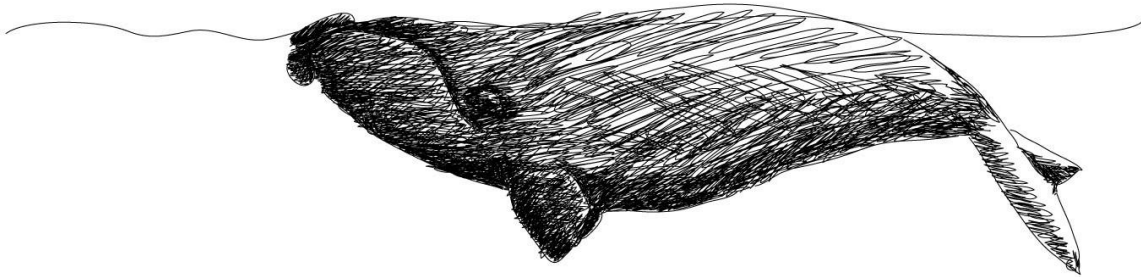
**1. Marine guiding program:** We are happy to assist you with registering you on a South African Boat-based Whale Watching Course which will enable you to learn more about our amazing animals. All our staff are well trained marine guides with great knowledge. Minimum stay 6 weeks!



**2. Stranded marine animal assistance:** During your stay there may be opportunities to assist the Plettenberg Bay Stranding Network with rescues of various stranded marine birds (including penguins), turtles, and mammals.

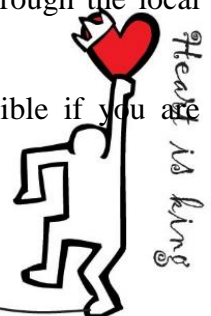
The **ORCA** volunteers assist with rescues and our team is always on high alert and on standby. In times of rough seas and strong onshore wind the volunteers patrol beaches for stranded birds and animals.

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



SCUBA diving courses can be organised for volunteers at an additional fee through the local dive school.

Please ensure that you inform the **ORCA Foundation** staff as soon as possible if you are interested in completing any of the courses





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## OUR PEOPLE

**Making your ORCA experience safe, comfortable, and a whole lot of fun**

**ORCA Foundation** manager, **Jared Harding**, will make sure that you are happy and will make sure you arrive in Plett safe and sound. He will assist you with any of your travel and transfer arrangements and logistics.

**Danielle Conry** "Danielle will be heading up our research department together with Frikkie. She is an aspiring marine mammalogist with a MSc degree in Zoology. She is experienced in boat-based cetacean research, as well as marine mammal strandings and dissections. Her passion for cetacean research developed while growing up on the West coast of South Africa and she has now been actively involved in marine mammal research as a volunteer, intern and student for over 10 years."

**Laura-Ann Bakker** is our people-loving and enthusiastic **ORCA** house manager and program co-ordinator. She will make everybody feel right at home and look after your comfort! She has just completed her BTEC in Nature Conservation and will be graduating this year

**Teliswa Fuyani** is our housekeeping executive, affectionately known as 'Mom', and keeps your home away from home easy to live in, including doing laundry and providing delicious, healthy meals to volunteers.



Jared



Danielle



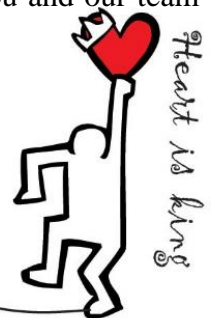
Laura



Tillie

**Additional staff for 2018:** "Frikkie is a passionate field biologist with a MSc degree in Fisheries Science. He has worked on various fisheries and marine mammal research programs in Southern Africa and the sub-Antarctic. He is experienced in marine mammal stranding response and necropsy, and acts as agent of the Port Elizabeth Museum to perform dissections for research and collection purposes. He currently leads various fieldwork projects to collect data for use in his planned PhD study on seal-fisheries interactions. Frikkie will be assisting ORCA Foundation with research projects."

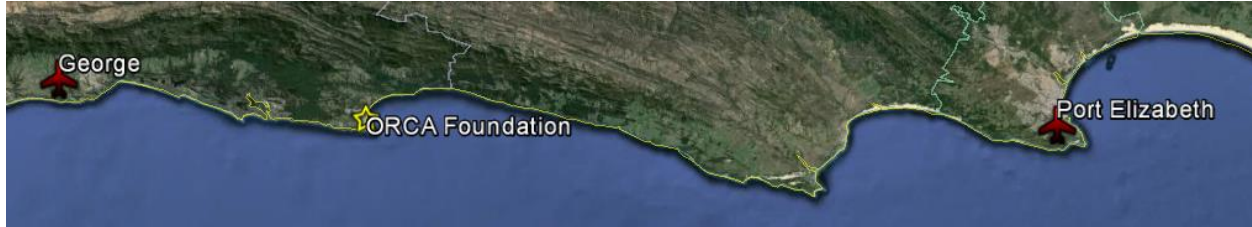
**Ocean Blue Adventures** General Manager, **Charlie Lilford**, will liaise with you and our team on making this a truly unforgettable experience.



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## GETTING HERE

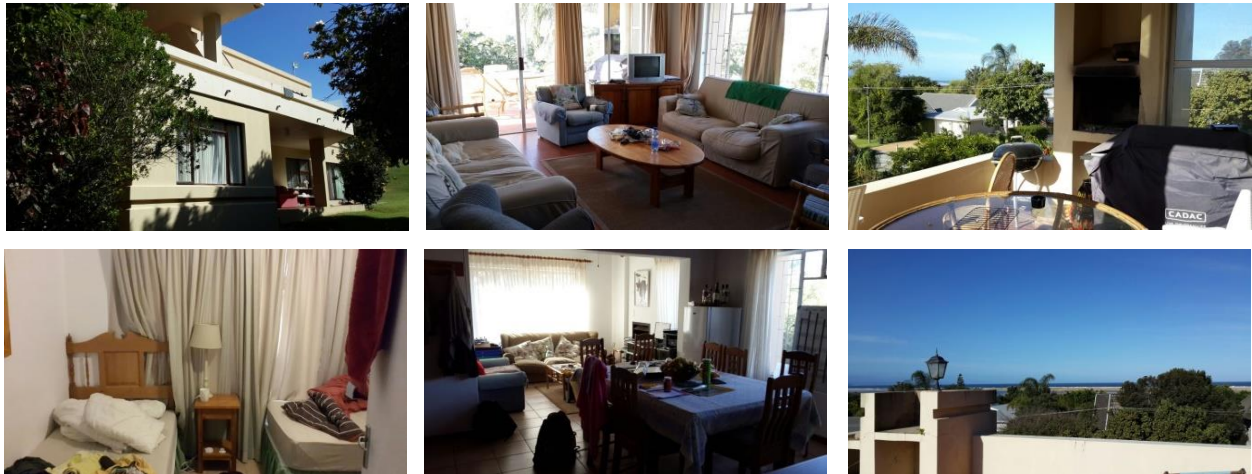
We offer concierge services to collect and transfer you directly to the **ORCA** volunteer house from George or Port Elizabeth Airport at an additional cost of around \$60 and \$115 respectively (one way).



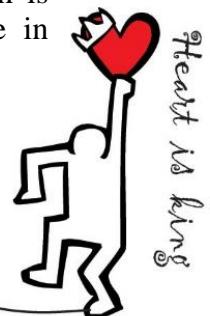
Domestic and tour buses are also available, and if you have any special requests or requirements, please talk to us.



## ACCOMMODATION



Included in our price is accommodation at the **ORCA** volunteer house, which is situated approximately 3 kilometers from the Ocean Blue Adventures office in Plettenberg Bay.



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## ACCOMMODATION

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 'house mom' Teliswa (Tilly) does communal washing several times a week to conserve energy and water.

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. We do cater for a variety of diets including vegetarian. You are also welcome to eat out but this is at your own expense. The **ORCA** house is located near a variety of restaurants and fast food restaurants, both local and international.

The **ORCA** house is close to a shopping centre, which includes a variety of shops and restaurants.

Rental cars and taxis are available for evening and weekend activities, ranging from economy to premium class.

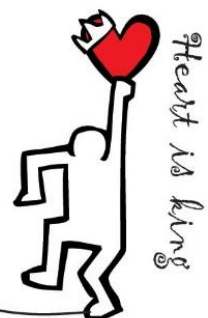


## COMMUNICATIONS

We suggest acquiring a local mobile from one of SA's "pre-paid" options, which are inexpensive, and to use to contact their coordinators.

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, Telkom and Virgin.

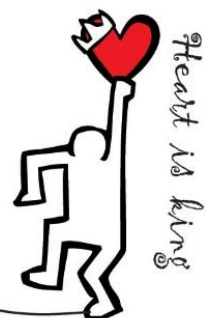
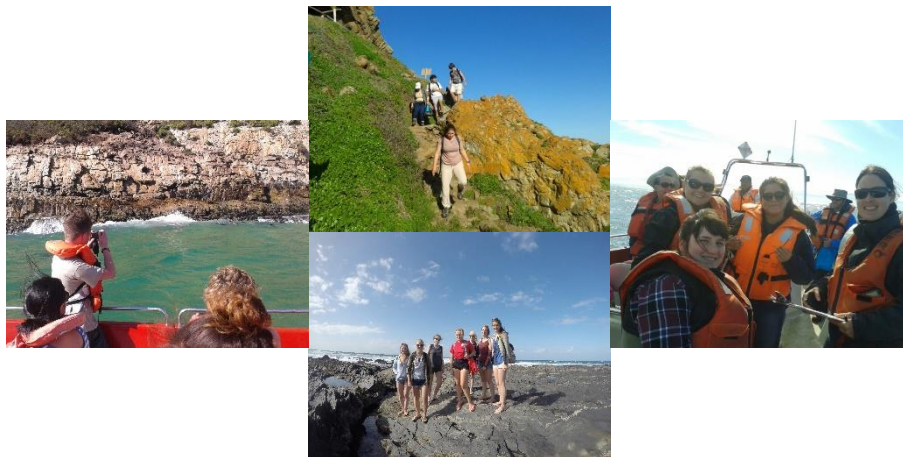


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## PROGRAMS FOR ALL SEASONS

ORCA research, community upliftment, and education programs continue throughout the year. The choice of **when** to join us, is mainly dependent on you and 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<sup>0</sup> to 89<sup>0</sup> 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<sup>0</sup> to 77<sup>0</sup> 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<sup>0</sup> F), but the nights are a chillier 5°C (41<sup>0</sup> 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.





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## WHAT TO EXPECT

Be ready at 08h30, when we collect you for the day's activities, which range from tank maintenance at Ocean Blue Adventures, to assisting research teams out on the ocean or the beach. Volunteer working week at **ORCA Foundation** is Monday to Friday, from 08h00 to 16h00. Evenings and weekends are your leisure times. The relaxed atmosphere of Plettenberg Bay and the **ORCA 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.

### Sample Weekly Program at ORCA Foundation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>08h00</b> Ocean Blue day Bait collection Boat Aquarium maintenance <b>13H00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Beach clean-up	<b>09h00</b> Tree planting <b>13h00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Alien tree removal	<b>09h00</b> Boat Natures Valley egg case survey <b>13h00</b> Lunch at the Farm Stall <b>14h30</b> Data capturing	<b>09h00</b> Siyakhula Preschool <b>14h00</b> Lunch <b>14h30</b> River assessment	<b>08h00</b> Assist rehab centre <b>13h00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Data capturing
<b>08h00</b> Ocean Blue day Bait collection Boat Aquarium maintenance <b>13H00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Beach clean-up	<b>08h00</b> Robberg egg case survey <b>13H00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Data Capturing	<b>05h00</b> Bird ringing <b>10h30</b> Snack <b>11h00</b> Keurboomstrand egg case survey <b>14h00</b> End early	<b>09h00</b> Siyakhula Preschool <b>14h00</b> Lunch <b>14h30</b> Data capturing	<b>08h00</b> Robberg Hike <b>13h00</b> Lunch <b>14h00</b> Fin profiling

*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.*

## VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

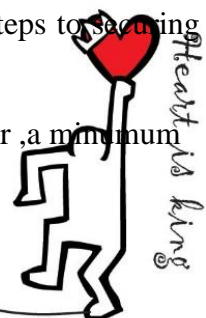
Previous knowledge or experience is not required to become a volunteer with the **ORCA Foundation**. **ORCA** seeks to place those with a passion for conservation in a diverse environment, giving them a life changing experience while the **ORCA Foundation** gains much needed conservation assistance.

If you wish to complete a project for your studies during your placement, special arrangements can be made and we can advise if it is possible with our researcher.

## 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:

- ✓ Once **ORCA Foundation** has confirmed space is available for a volunteer, a minimum deposit of 50% fee is required to secure the booking.





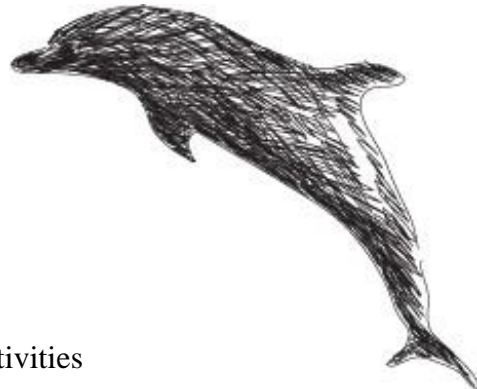
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- ✓ The balance of the payment should be made 3 months before the arrival of the volunteer
- ✓ If a booking is made less than 3 months of the volunteer arriving, then full payment is required to secure the booking.
- ✓ Cancellation policy requires that a minimum period of 6 months notice period should be given in writing to **ORCA Foundation** in order to receive a full refund of the deposit.
- ✓ Cancellation policy requires a minimum of 3 months notice period should be given in writing to **ORCA Foundation** in order to receive a 50% refund of the deposit made.
- ✓ Cancellation less than 3 months notice will result in a non-refund of the deposit payment. However, **ORCA Foundation** will hold the deposit for the volunteer as a credit should the volunteer wish to postpone the booking for a future date.
- ✓ 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 and cap



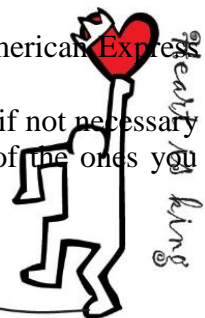
The cost of the program does not include:

- 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 (ZAR). There are many banks and ATM's for cash withdrawal and for cashing travellers cheques
  - MasterCard and Visa is accepted widely, Amex is not so popular. American Express and Diners are often NOT accepted
  - 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*)



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- The project includes some community work at under privileged schools, thus any old clothes, toys, or 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/sea 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
- If your luggage is lost *en route*, you can have it forwarded to:

**Ocean Blue Adventures**  
**Shop 5, Milkwood Centre, Hopwood Street, Central Beach,**  
**Plettenberg Bay, 6600**

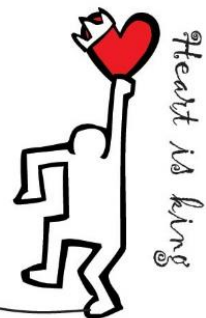
### PACKING LIST

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



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- 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, Diners, 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!**

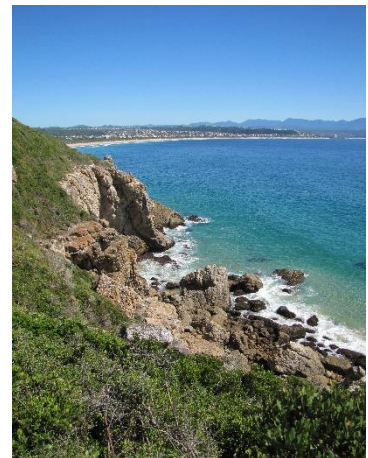
The **ORCA Foundation** works in association with **Ocean Blue Adventures** (the commercial operation branch of **ORCA Foundation**).

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION



**ORCA Foundation** is situated in Plettenberg Bay, along the heart of the world famous Garden Route. During your stay in Plettenberg Bay you will be exposed to one of the most breathtaking 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.

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, travelers and locals alike. This location allows you to enjoy beautiful coastal scenery, marine conservation and commercial ventures all in one place.



ORCA

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.



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## ADVENTURE (Optional additional activities)

A wide range of activities are available outside of the project during your off time, including skydiving, scuba diving, abseiling gorge tours, tours at 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.

- Horse Back Safaris
- Buffalo Hills game drive
- Plettenberg Bay Game Reserve
- Bridge Walking
- Bungee Jumping
- Sky Diving
- Tree Top Canopy Tours
- Monkey land
- Birds of Eden
- Lawnwood snake park
- Adventure land water park
- 3D Walking Maze
- Dive Courses
- Surfing Lessons/per lesson
- Deep Sea Fishing

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

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BAY, SOUTH AFRICA**

