

ORCA Foundation

(Ocean, Research, Conservation, Africa)

2019 Volunteer Programme Orientation Guide



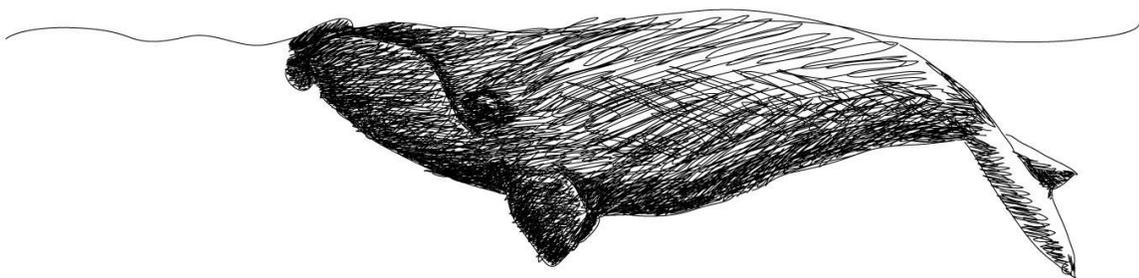
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Welcome to the **ORCA Foundation**! This booklet answers most questions about our volunteer programme and explains everything you need to know to make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

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OUR MISSION



- To raise awareness and interest in marine conservation issues facing Plettenberg Bay
- To support applied marine research that informs conservation management decisions with scientific advice
- To install a sense of community and support by collaborating with other conservation organizations and research institutes in the region
- To expose international volunteers to local marine research, conservation and education initiatives
- To teach young children about the value of our oceans

OUR TEAM



Jared Harding
Programme Manager

Jared will make sure that you arrive safely in Plettenberg Bay. He will assist you with all your travel, transfer and other logistical arrangements. Although more involved with the marketing and budget control aspects of the programme, Jared has loads of experience in seabird conservation and rehabilitation. He is an avid diver and qualified marine guide. Jared received his National Colours in scouting and spent 13 months on sub-Antarctic Marion Island to collect data on seabirds for the Department of Environmental Affairs.



Laura Bakker
Volunteer Coordinator

Our people-loving and enthusiastic volunteer coordinator will make everybody feel right at home while looking after your wellbeing and coordinating your activities. With a BTech degree in Nature Conservation, Laura also runs our conservation and educational projects.



Teliswa Fuyani
House Mother

Tilly is our experienced housekeeping executive, affectionately known as 'Mom', and keeps your home away from home easy to live in, including doing laundry and cooking delicious, healthy meals. 'Tilly' has been working at the ORCA Foundation for over 11 years.



Danielle Conry
Cetacean Researcher

'Dani' is experienced in boat-based cetacean research, as well as marine mammal strandings and dissections. Her passion for cetaceans 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. Her masters research focused on the abundance and habitat use of the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin. Dani has acquired a category C skippers license, which enables her to lead routine

boat-based surveys as part of a collaborative monitoring project that aims to further study this endangered species. Dani also works closely with Ocean Blue Adventures regarding space allocation on commercial whale and dolphin watching trips to collect opportunistic data.



Frikkie van der Vyver
Pinniped Researcher & Fisheries Scientist

Frikkie is an experienced marine biologist with a BTech degree in Nature Conservation, a BSc Honours degree in Ichthyology and a MSc degree in Fisheries Science. He is currently registered as Professional Natural Scientist with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP). Over the past 10 years he has worked on numerous

fisheries and marine mammal monitoring programmes in southern Africa and on sub-Antarctic Marion Island. He has also worked on marine mammal stranding response and necropsies during short-term contracts at the Port Elizabeth Museum, and is currently appointed as agent to attend to strandings and perform dissections in Plettenberg Bay. As collaborator of the museum he also collects behavioral data and diet samples at the Robberg seal colony, part of which is intended for use in his planned PhD on seal-fisheries interactions. Frikkie has a category C skippers license which enables him to lead dedicated boat-based surveys in the Robberg Marine Protected Area to monitor local seal population growth, pup survival, tag re-sights, seal-shark interactions and seal-fisheries interactions.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The ORCA Foundation, a conservation node of Ocean Blue Adventures, officially opened its doors in 2001 and was designed to create awareness about marine conservation issues facing Plettenberg Bay. Today, the foundation combines research, conservation and education into its comprehensive volunteer programme. The foundation strongly depends on the willingness of international volunteers to contribute their time and dedication to help further our work. Volunteers of different ages and backgrounds come from all over the world to learn and provide valuable assistance in a wide variety of meaningful projects. This allows them to make a valuable contribution to increased knowledge and awareness regarding local conservation efforts.



How will I help?



It's all hands-on! You will play a major role in all our projects where you will be expected to perform a large portion of the work.

Your participation in conservation and education projects will involve regular hikes and surveys on local beaches to perform marine debris clean-ups; alien plant eradication; river health assessments; assistance at the SANCCOB Seabird Rehabilitation Centre; assistance at the Knysna Animal Welfare Service (KAWS); and environmental education of children at the Siyakula Pre-School Crèche and Sterreweg Special Needs Pre-School.

Our marine programme is designed for individuals who are interested in marine mammal research. By assisting our biologists in the field or at sea you will gain valuable experience in boat-based and land-based field research methods involving some of Plettenberg Bay's charismatic marine top predator species (eg. southern right whale, humpback whale, Bryde's whale, Indian Ocean humpback dolphin, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, Cape fur seal and Great white shark). You will assist with humpback dolphin photo-ID research and record sightings of other marine animals during dedicated boat-based surveys. In addition, you will join Ocean Blue Adventures commercial whale and dolphin watching boat trips when there are opportunities to record opportunistic data. You will also participate in other research projects including marine mammal stranding response and necropsy; seal population monitoring; seal scat processing and preliminary identification of prey remains; seal-fisheries interaction and seal-shark interaction research in the Robberg Marine Protected Area. Sample processing, data entry and error checking forms an important component of research, and you will be expected to perform a large portion of this work.

THINGS TO BE AWARE OF

The level and extent of your participation

Depending on the length of your stay, you may or may not participate in the full range of activities. If your stay exceeds 2 weeks and you have achieved a level of experience that is satisfactory to our team, you may be asked to take on more responsibility in certain projects and even train or supervise new volunteers.

You will be exposed to challenging work conditions

While assisting our biologists during boat-



based fieldwork you may be required to move around the vessel whilst underway, sometimes in choppy conditions. Seasickness is a possibility and we suggest you take the necessary precautions if you think you may be prone to this condition. Hiking out to work sites, clearing alien plants or performing tedious behavioural observations from cliff-top vantage points can be physically demanding and mentally challenging. However, we do realize that every volunteer has their own physical and mental capabilities, and therefore won't expect you to venture beyond your limits. It is important to notify the volunteer coordinator at the start of your stay if you have any disability, injury or condition (especially fear of heights) that may affect your participation in some of our more challenging fieldwork activities.

You will need to be patient with the weather-dependent nature of fieldwork

You will need to be prepared for regular last-minute changes in the pre-planned work schedule. It is important to understand that most of our projects are highly weather dependent, especially boat-based fieldwork. Bad weather days will be used to catch up on data entry and other database tasks. Opportunistic research on Ocean Blue Adventures whale and dolphin watching boat trips may also be cancelled or delayed depending on available space and last-minute tourist bookings. Marine mammal strandings often occur without warning. Events involving fresh carcasses or live animals ashore require immediate response and therefore take priority over all other activities. When we receive a report of a marine mammal ashore we often drop what we are doing and rush out to investigate as data and samples collected from stranded animals are very valuable for research.

ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

No previous experience is required to participate in any of our projects. It is however recommended that you have the following qualities in order to make a valuable contribution:

- General interest in marine biology, research, conservation and education
- Enthusiastic, positive, mature and independent attitude
- Willingness to learn and work well within our small team
- Adaptable and patient due to the weather dependent nature of fieldwork
- Ability to work long-hours on small vessels
- Moderate fitness level to hike long distances in the field
- Attention to detail
- Willingness to perform tedious behavioural observations
- Willingness to perform tedious data entry duties
- Ability to communicate fluently in English (both written and oral)

Once you have arrived and settled into the ORCA house, our volunteer coordinator will give you a brief orientation of the programme. Details of the purpose and importance of each project can be found in this guidebook but will also be explained further during in-field training.

There are two additional training opportunities for those that wish to expand their skills in the marine tourism sector:

- **Marine guiding course:** We are happy to assist you with your registration on the South African Boat-Based Whale-Watching Association (SABBWWA) course, which will provide you with a local marine guide qualification.
- **SCUBA diving course:** PADI accredited courses can be organised for volunteers at an additional fee through the local dive school.



Please ensure that you inform the volunteer coordinator as soon as possible if you are interested in completing either of these courses.

WORK SCHEDULE

Due to the weather-dependent nature of our work, we plan each week's activities the weekend before, usually on a Friday. Once the schedule has been finalized the volunteer coordinator will write the programme on the activity board in the dining room.

The standard volunteer working week at the ORCA Foundation is Monday to Friday, from 08h00 to 17h00, except on a Friday afternoon when we often finish at 13:00. Some days can involve more work and longer hours, while others move at a more leisurely pace. You are expected to be ready at the time specified on the volunteer group the night before, when we collect you for the day's activities, which can range from general duties at Ocean Blue Adventures to assisting our biologists out in the field or on the ocean. Evenings and weekends are your leisure times. The relaxed atmosphere of Plettenberg Bay and the ORCA Foundation house will help you to settle in quickly.

It is important to remember that planned activities can change on a moment's notice, especially if the weather turns or something exciting like a marine mammal stranding comes along. Be patient and prepared to go with the flow...Unpredictable and chaotic days are common!

During periods when we have large volunteer groups (>5) our conservation and education activities may run in parallel with research activities. This allows us to split volunteers up into groups (where practical) to assist with different projects simultaneously while ensuring small enough group sizes so that all participants can be involved. The particular interests of each volunteer will be taken into account when assigning volunteers to specific activities. If there is too much interest in any specific activity the volunteer coordinator will improvise so that all volunteers receive equal opportunity during their stay.

Table 1. Example of a typical 2-week program

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08h00-12h00 Beach Clean-up (Group 1) 18h00-12h00 Boat-based Observations/ Aquarium Maintenance and Prawn Pumping (Group 2) 13h00-17h00 Robberg Observations (Group 1) 14h00-16h00 Data Entry (Group 2)	08h00-12h00 Alien Clearing 13h00-16h00 Beach Clean-up	07h00-15h00 Baboon Scat Hike (Group 1) 08h00-12h00 Alien Clearing (Group 2) 13h00-17h00 Estuary Survey/ Tree planting (Group 2)	06h00-16h00 Humpback Dolphin Survey (Group 1) 08h00-12h00 Siyakula Creche (Group 2) 13h00-16h00 MiniSASS (Group 2)	09h00-12h00 Knysna Animal Welfare Shelter
08h00-12h00 Boat-based Observations/ Aquarium Maintenance and Prawn Pumping 13h00-17h00 Robberg Observations	08h00-12h00 Alien Clearing 13h00-17h00 Robberg Observations (Group 1) 14h00-17h00 Baboon Scat Hike (Group 2)	06h00-16h00 Humpback Dolphin Survey	06h00-16h00 Humpback Dolphin Survey	06h00-16h00 Humpback Dolphin Survey

RESEARCH

Overview

The ORCA Foundation offers a unique learning experience for volunteers who are passionate about the marine environment. It will allow you to make valuable contributions to increased knowledge, awareness and conservation efforts while supporting applied marine research. As part of our comprehensive volunteer programme, you will regularly receive the opportunity to assist our research team and obtain hands-on participatory experience in boat-based and land-based fieldwork, as well as marine mammal stranding response and necropsy.

Our biologists study various marine top predator species in Plettenberg Bay, some of which are endangered (eg. the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin and the Great white shark) and others that are more prolific (eg. The Cape fur seal). They collaborate on various monitoring projects focusing on cetacean photo-ID, abundance estimates and habitat use; seal population monitoring, diet, and estuarine presence; seal-fisheries interactions and seal-shark interactions. Furthermore, our biologists are members of the Plettenberg Bay Marine Mammal Stranding Response Network, a voluntary group acting on behalf of the Port Elizabeth Museum. They are appointed as agents of the museum to attend to marine mammal strandings, perform necropsies and collect samples for existing research projects.



Projects



Marine Mammal Stranding Response and Necropsy

You will occasionally attend to dead whales, dolphins and seals ashore to assist biologists with scientific dissections and the collection of samples for research. Samples are transported to the Port Elizabeth Museum on a monthly basis where it is used in various ongoing studies on marine mammal morphology, taxonomy, population structure, diet, health, fisheries interactions and predator-prey interactions. You may also get an opportunity to assist with rare events involving live seals ashore

to capture, tag, move and/or release them. Stranding events involving live dolphins or whales are extremely rare.

Opportunistic Boat-Based Surveys with Ocean Blue Adventures

You will join Ocean Blue Adventures on their commercial whale and dolphin watching boat trips when there are available seats to record opportunistic sightings of marine animals such as whales, dolphins, seals, sharks and seabirds. When whales and dolphins are encountered you will take dorsal fin photographs for photo-identification research.



Sightings of injured, entangled or vagrant seals hauled out on Robberg Peninsula are also photographed and recorded. All data is intended for use in existing collaborative research and citizen science projects, and will provide us with information on aspects such as the spatial distribution of various species within the bay, individual movement patterns, changes in group sizes, population health, predator-prey interactions and human-wildlife interactions.



Boat-Based Humpback Dolphin Surveys

The Indian Ocean humpback dolphin was recently listed as endangered in South African waters and faces a number of anthropogenic threats due to its preference for shallow coastal waters. With an estimated population size of 500 individuals, it is considered to be South Africa's most endangered resident marine

mammal. You will assist our cetacean biologist during dedicated boat-based surveys (4 per month) to collect sighting and photo-identification data. Data will contribute towards an existing collaborative research project of the Nelson Mandela University, which aims to increase our knowledge of this species, assess trends in population numbers and inform conservation management decisions with scientific advice.

Boat-Based Seal Population Monitoring in the Robberg Marine Protected Area

You will assist our biologists during routine boat-based surveys (4 per month) to Robberg Peninsula to monitor the number of seals that haul out, and, from November-February the number of new-born pups. This long-term monitoring project will allow further examination of trends



in local seal population growth. It will also allow new research on the impact of easterly storms as a natural mortality factor in pup survival rates at this colony. Reliable pup counts over the next few breeding seasons will inform managing authorities of the possible change of the status of the colony from a former haul out site to a full-on breeding colony. You will also record tag re-sights and any injured or entangled seals as part of existing research projects on seal-shark interactions and seal-fisheries interactions.



Boat-Based Monitoring of Cape fur seals in the Keurbooms River Estuary

Fishermen have encountered Cape fur seals in the Keurbooms River estuary for many years and there are numerous anecdotal reports of them preying on important recreational fish species that are also of conservation concern. In the past, due to public pressure, this has led to

the selective removal of so called 'rogue' seals by river management authorities. However, the existence of river-specialists, whether such individuals have a greater impact on estuarine fish species than individuals in the general population, and the potential effect of their removal, has not been examined.

You will assist our biologists during dedicated boat-based surveys to record the presence, individual identity and behaviour of these seals. Using photo-ID techniques you will identify individuals with unique flipper scars. Prey species will also be identified from photos taken during predation events. With this we aim to determine whether individual seals specialize in feeding on estuarine fish species, and whether their behaviour is seasonal, tidal, sex or age specific. The study further aims to place the impact of river seals into context with current recreational fishing pressure, which you will also record.

Cliff-Top Monitoring of Seals, Sharks, Whales and Dolphins in the Robberg Peninsula Marine Protected Area

You will regularly hike out on Robberg Peninsula to perform dedicated observation sessions from designated cliff-top monitoring sites. From here you will record environmental conditions and the presence and behaviour of seals, sharks, whales, dolphins, tourism vessels and shore anglers within the Robberg Marine Protected Area. Your information will be used to monitor seal-shark interactions and the importance of the marine protected area to marine mammals and the tourism industry.





Seal Diet Monitoring

Our biologists collect monthly scats samples to update the current diet of Cape fur seals that haul out on Robberg Peninsula. You will assist them with routine processing of samples and preliminary identification of prey remains for future analyses. Data will be used to aid in studies examining the role of seals in the Agulhas Current and their interactions with fisheries. This is especially

important to monitor the impact of recent changes that have taken place in the Agulhas Current ecosystem.

Intertidal Baboon Scat Surveys

You will assist with intertidal baboon foraging research by participating in weekly hiking surveys at four different sites along the Garden Route coastline. During these hikes we aim to record the number and location of baboon scats, as well as collect them for subsequent diet analysis. Additionally, we also record sighting data of any baboon troops observed during the hikes. This data collection is



done as part of a PhD study by Maxine Whitfield-Smit, based at the Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience at Nelson Mandela University. Maxine's study aims to determine the degree to which Chacma baboons forage along the South African coastline and what factors influence their preference for certain areas of the coastline. Most of these hikes are long and strenuous and require a high level of fitness. Certain sections are not suitable for volunteers who fear heights.

CONSERVATION



Beach Clean-Ups

We regularly hike along Plettenberg Bay's beaches to clean up marine debris. Unfortunately we live in a world where people still expose of their rubbish from vessels, in rivers or on beaches. This often causes deadly entanglement in marine animals. Tiny plastic particles (micro-plastics) are also known to end up in the ocean food-chain. This project not only

keeps our beaches clean and healthy, but also sets a good example for the community. We also use the opportunity to record our findings, which gives us indications of where the garbage is coming from and where it appears most frequently.

River Health Evaluation

As part of a citizen science project we perform mini-SASS river health assessments at various sites along the Bitou River. In order to complete an evaluation the river needs to be sampled for micro-invertebrates. These species are then identified and scored on a matrix according to their sensitivity to disturbance. Results will allow management authorities to identify early warning signs of decreasing river health due to various potential sources of pollution. The results which are obtained from the evaluation are fed into the online MiniSASS database, where the history of the river's health can be accessed by the public.





SANCCOB Seabird Rehabilitation Centre

Once a month we visit the centre to assist with general maintenance of the facility and the rehabilitation of various seabirds, such as the endangered African penguin. Due to the fact that the centre is in Port Elizabeth, this requires an early start to the day, often leaving the ORCA house at 05h30 in the morning. Therefore please be prepared for a long day if you are lucky enough to partake in this activity during your stay with us. The activity is often combined with a seal or dolphin necropsy at the Port Elizabeth Museum, which is hosted by the museums marine mammal curator in return for samples that we routinely collect from marine mammal strandings in Plettenberg Bay.

Alien plant eradication

One of the ORCA Foundation's goals is to remove as many alien plant species as possible from the Plettenberg Bay area. These species are not compatible with our forests and are known to use a lot more water resources than our indigenous plants. South Africa is short of rainfall and this inevitably leads to drying out of rivers and a decline in local biodiversity. In conjunction with other organizations we often head out into the surrounding areas to help remove problem species – sometimes removing as many as 300 trees in one day. We are currently removing the alien species *Acacia saligna* (Port Jackson) which is a native of Australia and was introduced into South Africa for dune stabilization.



This can be a tiring and physically demanding task especially when done in the heat. Please be prepared for this by wearing a hat and sunblock. Also note that this activity will not be done for longer than two hours a day.



Tree Planting

Planting a tree is one of the easiest ways to help the environment and offset your carbon emissions. We assist the municipality to plant indigenous trees in the community and surrounding areas, and in so doing encourage others to do the same. We are currently germinating our own Yellowwood seeds. The Yellowwood is the national tree of South Africa and thus we would like to plant as many as possible. Therefore once the seeds are ready to be planted we will plant them at our alien clearing site as well as other sites agreed upon with the local municipality.

Bird Ringing with Natures Valley Trust

Natures Valley Trust sometimes invites us to assist them at one of their bird ringing sites where they capture birds in order to ring them with a uniquely numbered metal band and to record any recaptures of previously ringed birds. This work is done as part of a long-term study assessing aspects such as survival, residency and body condition of the birds in this area. Volunteers get the opportunity to observe the birds up close and are able to learn and identify the different species which we find here in South Africa, particularly the 'Fynbos' species.



EDUCATION

Siyakula Pre-School Education

Once a week, volunteers visit young children at the local crèche to give a lesson on basic English words based on the theme of the week. All teaching is done in English (translated by the teachers into their mother tongue of isiXhosa) so that kids can learn a second language. It has been proven that getting the



information to people at an early age you are helping to enhance their cognitive function of their brain. This is important as this is the learning phase when children are able to start identifying things, and thus we can help make a difference in their lives. Volunteers also train children through reading stories and playing games. They further assist the crèche by serving children lunchtime meals and washing up. The children at the creche absolutely love it when volunteers visit them and they literally shower you with lots of hugs and affection.



Sterreweg Special Needs Pre-School

Volunteers occasionally spend time assisting carers at a local crèche during daily activities involving children with moderate to severe cognitive and physical disabilities. Volunteers may also participate in an Early Intervention Programme for children between 1 and 3 years old or shadow Occupational Therapists and

Physiotherapists who work at the centre. Volunteers are more than welcome to help out at the school whenever they prefer, but this must please be pre-arranged with the programme manager.

Aquarium Maintenance

Volunteers maintain a small aquarium housed at Ocean Blue Adventures, which holds a collection of fish that represent the near-shore species found in the bay. You are responsible for collecting natural food for the fish (mostly prawns collected in the estuary), cleaning the aquarium, facilitating water changes (fetching water from the ocean) and collecting specimens. This will allow you to learn more about the coastal marine and estuarine environment.



Knysna Animal Welfare Services

Once every two weeks volunteers may visit the Knysna Animal Welfare Services centre (KAWS) to assist with general maintenance of the facility and interact with cats and dogs. As a volunteer you will assist in getting the dogs more acquainted with people by taking them for a walk on a lead as well as playing with and grooming them. This activity has proven to be a firm favourite among our volunteers.

ACCOMMODATION

Laundry facilities are available and your 'House Mom', Tilly, does communal washing several times a week to conserve energy and water.

Basic food for healthy meals is provided for you at the house. You may be required to pack a lunch for some activities, but the Volunteer Coordinator will inform you of the work schedule ahead of time. Evening meals are prepared for you 5 nights per week (Mon-Fri). We do cater for a variety of diets including vegetarian. Alternatively, you are welcome to eat out at your own expense. The ORCA house is located within easy walking distance to two shopping centers with a variety of shops, restaurants and fast food outlets, both local and international.



HOUSE RULES

Upon arrival at the ORCA house you will receive a hard copy of the house rules. You are expected to read through the document and follow the rules during your stay. If the rules are not followed there will be consequences and you may be asked to leave the program.

TRANSPORT

We will transport you to programme activities in the ORCA Foundation combi, which seats a maximum of 10 people. Rental cars and taxis are available for your evening and weekend activities (at your own expense), ranging from economy to premium class.

COMMUNICATION

We suggest acquiring a local mobile from one of SA's "pre-paid" options (Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, Telkom and Virgin), which are inexpensive, to be used to communicate with our volunteer coordinator.

There is Broadband internet access at the volunteer house, with Skype available. You are welcome to use your own laptop or tablet, as the ORCA house is equipped with free wireless internet.

Communication is key as you need to be aware of the day to day planned activities. The volunteer coordinator will communicate the weekly schedule at the beginning of each week by listing planned activities on the activity board in the dining room. You will also be added to the volunteer WhatsApp group where you will receive final confirmation of each day's planned activities the evening before. Bear in mind, planned activities often change due to the weather dependent nature of fieldwork and unpredictable nature of marine mammal strandings. If you are still unsure of any plans for the next day, please ask other volunteers or the volunteer coordinator at supper.



OCEAN BLUE ADVENTURES

Ocean Blue Adventures allows ORCA Foundation volunteers to join their commercial whale and dolphin watching trips in order to collect valuable opportunistic data on Plettenberg Bay's marine life.

Your responsibilities when on OBA duty includes:

- The collection of GPS, sighting and effort data on cetaceans, pinnipeds, seabirds, sharks, turtles, fishermen and boat activity
- The collection of cetacean dorsal fin photographs for photo-identification
- Collecting river prawns to feed aquarium fish
- Cleaning the aquarium
- Cleaning the photo-ID camera body and lens
- Data entry and processing of photo-identification photos
- Data error checking
- Ensure the GPS and camera are charged the night before trips
- Ensure that there are enough data sheets in the clipboards before trips and that the pencils are sharp
- Take the GPS and clipboards with you to Ocean Blue in the morning
- Take warm clothing, a waterproof jacket, sunblock, hat and sunglasses (polaroid if possible)



While you are working as a volunteer on these trips, please consider the following:

- Remember to greet OBA staff when you arrive in the morning and remind them that you are joining them for the day/morning.
- Store your bags in the back office where they will be out of the way.
- You need to fill out your details on the passenger list and sign the indemnity form before every boat trip.

- Check with the guide whether you can help prepare bottled water (from the fridge in the kitchen) and snackpaks (at the back of the office) to be placed on one of the outside tables. These are for the clients only. You are expected to bring your own water and snacks/lunch.
- When the guide is ready, assist in handing out life-jackets to customers – hand out appropriate sizes to adults and children.
- Be politely quiet and attentive during the pre-trip safety briefing.
- Allow the guests to board the boat first, and you fill in the remaining open seats.
- Please help guests with the waterproof compartments in the boat if you see them struggle.
- On the boat, please listen to the instructions of the skipper and guide. With their permission you may go up to the spotting tower.
- Clients on the boat may ask you questions, feel free to answer if you are able, otherwise direct them to the guide.
- You will most likely get multiple opportunities to be on these boats, while for the clients this is their one and only trip. Please do not monopolize prime viewing positions.
- Back at the shop please assist clients out of their lifejackets and hang them on the rack.

Ocean Blue Adventures staff:

General manager:	Charlie
Assistant manager:	Jared
Finance & administration:	Tilly
Boat skippers:	Mario, Steve, Nino
Marine guides:	Michael, Nino, Danielle, Cameron
Robberg hiking guide:	Liya
Township tour guides:	Agnes and Hazel
Beach crew:	Clifford and Zola

If there are any problems, or you have any concerns or questions, please bring them to the attention of Jared as soon as possible. We really hope that you have a fantastic time on Ocean Blue Adventures boats, collecting important data, learning from the guides and skippers, and enjoying the opportunity of being out on the water viewing incredible creatures!



WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Weekends are your own leisure time and any activities that you take on will be at your own expense (and risk). There is a file in the ORCA house lounge which contains brochures of some amazing outdoor activities available in the Plettenberg Bay region.

Please do not make bookings for any weekend activities on your own accord. Contact the Programme Manager, Jared Harding, by no later than Wednesday of that week to make the necessary bookings on your behalf, except for transport.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Programme Manager (Jared):	081 377 9478
Volunteer Coordinator (Laura):	067 082 1898
House Mother and Cook (Tilly):	078 315 2177
Taxi Service (Noel):	060 419 0061