



INTENCE

*** NEW ***

Veterinarian Project

ORCA Foundation, Plettenberg Bay

2 WEEK PROGRAM *only*



ORCA Foundation is situated in Plettenberg Bay, within the heart of the world-famous Garden Route. During your stay 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.

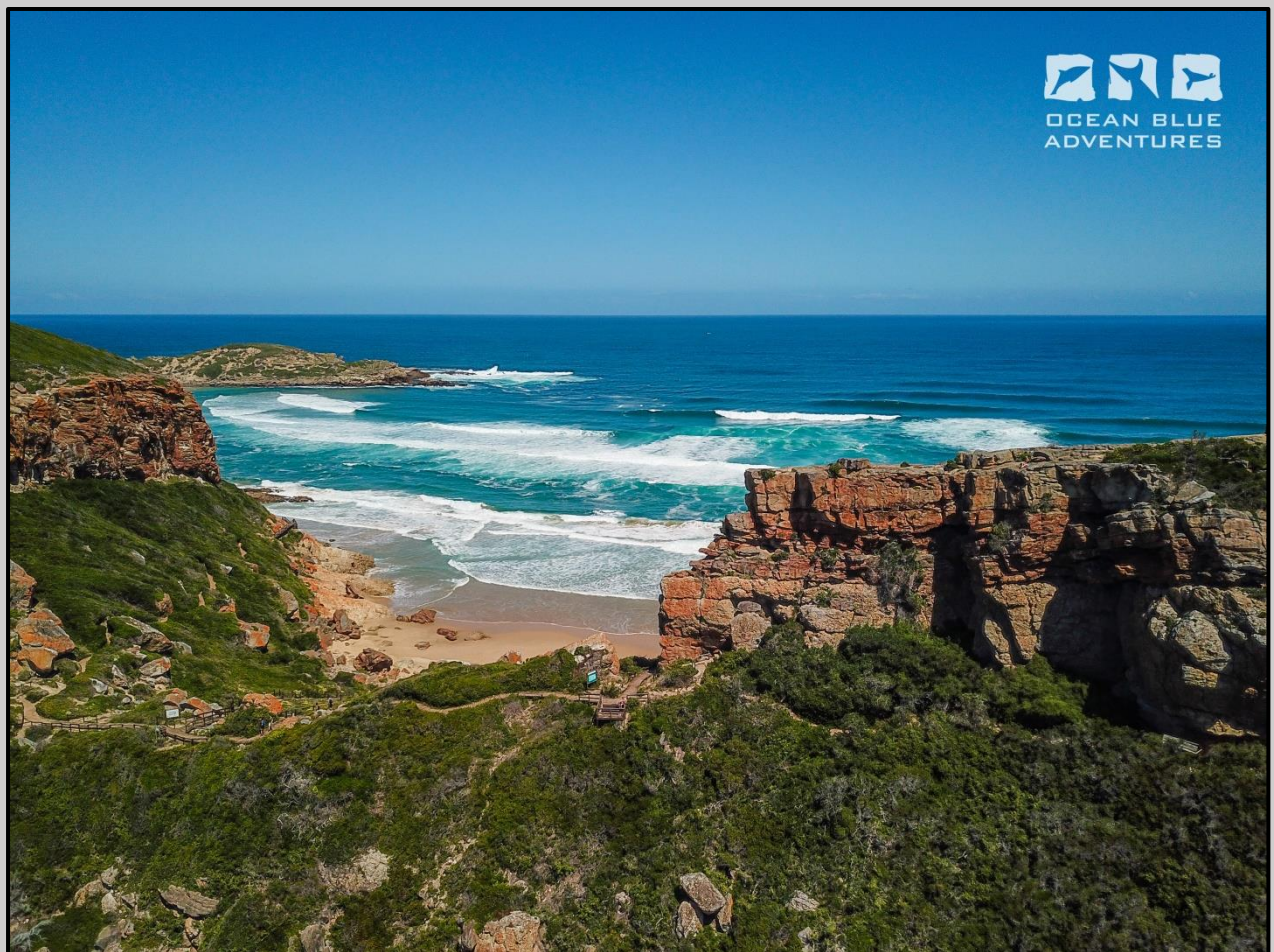
Plettenberg Bay, one of South Africa's most fashionable holiday resort locations and a beach-lover's paradise, is home to long stretches of soft sand that line an endless azure ocean. The town is characterised by sweeping, unspoilt golden beaches, a dramatic rocky peninsula, intriguing estuaries, towering 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.



Plettenberg Bay (lovingly referred to as “Plett” by locals) is home to some of the world’s most fascinating marine top predators, including southern right whales, humpback whales, Bryde's whales, bottlenose dolphins, common dolphins, killer whales, Cape fur seals and great white sharks. Your placement here gives you a unique, once in life time opportunity to observe some of these magnificent animals up close and personal while participating in research, conservation and education-oriented volunteer work.

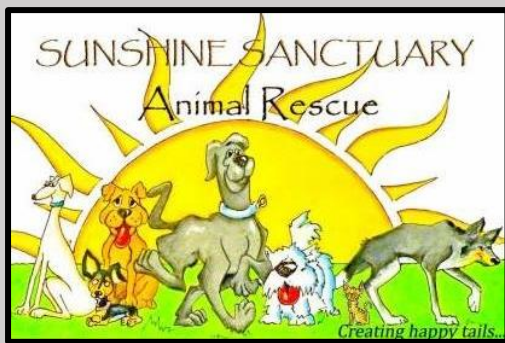
The **‘ORCA Vet program’** is a veterinary project that offers you exposure to be able to observe, assist and to learn hands on with animals in a veterinary hospital.

COME VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHILE LEARNING GREAT SKILLS!!



This amazing program is limited to a maximum of two weeks, starting from a Monday and leaving on a Sunday! Here’s what it holds. Vet Days, Marine Days, Adventure days and **LOADS MORE!!**

PROJECTS

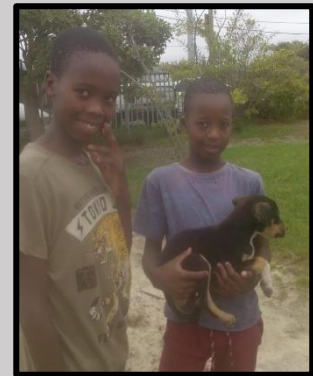


SUNSHINE SANCTUARY

Sunshine Sanctuary was born out of a passion that they have for the wellbeing of cats and Dogs in need in our Kurland Village. It is a self-funding animal welfare organisation that make recycled and up-cycled crafts to help fund the sanctuary.

Sunshine Sanctuary is a place for strays, unwanted or neglected dogs and cats from the local townships. The sanctuary provides a home environment where they can assess, rehabilitate and socialise these animals with the aim to rehoming, in a caring environment.

The approach for this project is going door to door in the local townships to educate pet owners about responsible pet ownership and the importance of sterilisation to prevent suffering. Their Vision moving forward in **"The Real World"** is to spay and neuter as many animals as possible, to prevent further pain, suffering, and unwanted litters of Cats and Dogs.



Sunshine gets an average of 10 to 15 call outs per week. You will be working at the animal rescue 3 days a week during your stay. These include home visits, from Monday to Sunday, for dogs and cats that are suffering a sickness or disease, have been hit by a vehicle or been involved in dog fights. The volunteers will accompany the team into the Kurland Village, where you will do daily door to door visits, assessing the welfare and needs of the animals.

The sanctuary deals with many sick and injured animals needing veterinary care. They register for sterilization's, and carry out vaccinations, treatment of parasites and Mange on site. They also sterilize an average of 6 dogs and cats a week. Sunshine has a quarantine area, that is used for animals that have been surrendered, or in need of a safe place during sickness, rehabilitation due to injury, or before rehoming.

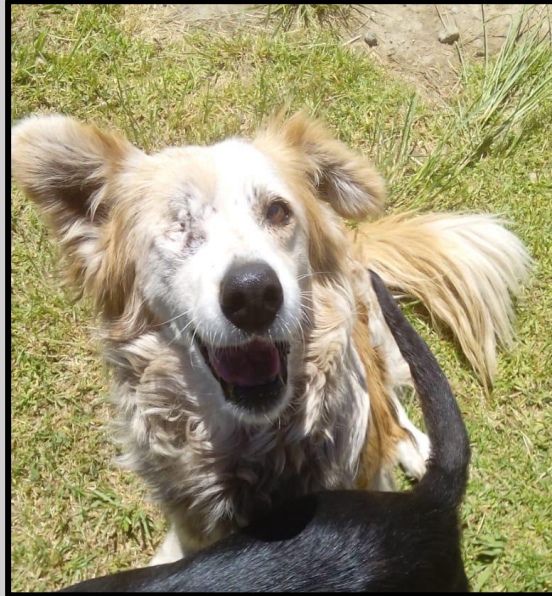
The funds that are raised are for the payment of low cost spay and neuter, primary health care needs and vet bills. It is also used to supply many homes with cat and dog food, for pet owners that really love and care for their animals, but find it difficult to feed them adequately.

**The amount of veterinary work can change day by day. Please note that animals don't go sick on demand. We all are very flexible, so when cool cases come in Jared will make sure that you can participate that day!*



DONATIONS

After your stay with Orca Foundation and experiencing the passion Sunshine Sanctuary has for looking after the community's pets, and how much they make a difference we highly recommend or ask that you take what you have learnt home with you and start an donation station from your home town and help us get funds for these animals from across the world.



Orca Foundation Projects may include the following:

Opportunistic Boat Based Data Collection with Ocean Blue Adventures

Two mornings a week you'll be heading to sweet mother ocean for marine research. We will try our best however; its weather dependant and things might change **#PlansMightChange!**



You will join Ocean Blue Adventures on their commercial whale and dolphin watching trips to record opportunistic sightings of marine animals such as whales, dolphins, seals, sharks, seabirds and turtles. When whales and dolphins are encountered you will take dorsal fin photographs for photo-identification. Sightings of injured/entangled seals at the

Robberg colonies are also recorded to tie in with ongoing seal-shark and seal-fisheries interaction research. 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.

Plettenberg Bay Humpback Dolphin Project

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.

Stranding workshop and dissections



Join our team on a great informative workshop around the stranding of sea mammals. Our very informative team will teach you how to respond and to treat stranded marine mammals. If the opportunity arises, we will ensure you tag along and get involved.

Marine Mammal Stranding Response and Necropsy

You will be able attend to dead whales, dolphins and seals ashore to assist our stranding biologists with the collection of entire carcasses, or parts thereof, to temporarily store samples for existing research projects of the Port Elizabeth Museum. Samples are used in various ongoing studies on marine mammal morphology, taxonomy, population structure, diet, health, fisheries interactions and predator-prey interactions.



The Snake Experiences

Africa is full of snakes! Especially when the rains fall, the snake eggs hatch. Result? A few weeks later there is a booming case load of cats, dogs, horses and other animals that get bitten by snakes. Some of the snake species we have antidotes for, others not, and since every antidote is species specific it's very important to know which one bit!

You will be able to visit a Snake Sanctuary where you learn all about the venomous and non-venomous snake species of Africa. How to differentiate them, how to handle one, what to do when you see one!

Scientific talk by one of our researchers of Plettenberg Bay

Learn more about marine life conservation and their animals. A researcher will tell you all about the projects they're involved in right now.

Seal-Shark Interactions

You will record the presence of Great white sharks and their interactions with seals during dedicated boat-based surveys and land-based observations in Robberg MPA. This consists of monitoring seal behaviour, shark presence and predation attempts on seals, as well as examining shark-inflicted wounds on dead seals washed ashore and those photographed on live seals that haul out at the colony. Data will be used to examine the seasonal presence of white sharks and its impact on seal behaviour.

We will also use data in an attempt to estimate shark predation rates to assess its significance as a mortality factor on the Robberg seal colony. Continued monitoring of white shark presence and the percentage of seals exhibiting bite wounds could provide a useful indicator to any changes in the abundance and behaviour of sharks in the area, especially in relation to continued local seal population growth, potential environmental changes, fluctuations in prey availability and the development of possible shark cage diving operations in future.



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. Species are 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.



If you want to have an experience of a life time, this amazing unique program is for you... For more information, email bookings@orcafoundation.co

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Sleeping arrangements- Laundry, Wi-Fi and DSTV
- All transport during the week
- Food during the week
- The most amazing time ever
- The occasional mommy hugs if necessary

NOT INCLUDED

- Air fare and visa
- Airport transport (the cost will be split between the number of students)
- Insurance
- Vaccinations and personal travel medication
NB: Tetanus and Rabies vaccinations are compulsory before arrival
- Extra activities not included in the program
- Food in the weekend

Will this cost me an ocean?!

No, it won't!

This awesome 2-week program with all its once in a life-time marine life exposure, veterinary work, food during the week and accommodation will only cost you all-included.

Airport shuttle is arranged by an external company, and is at the student's expense. If you can split it between your friends, then you'll save a lot! So, get yourself some buddies!



What do we need from you?

- *CV/resume*
- *Basic level of competency in English - whale talk won't do!*
- *Copy of return flight itinerary (only the domestic flights in Africa itself)*
- *All filled in forms sent to you booking agent or ORCA Foundation*
- A big smile on your face, cause whaaaat?? You are going to AFRICA!!!

It's of great importance to us that you feel comfortable and safe on your entire trip, and that you get the most out of it! Jared, our sensei, is a super friendly enthusiastic guy who will make sure you'll have the time of your life! He will guide you through your weeks and is your go-to person if something's up!



ACCOMMODATION, MEALS AND LAUNDRY

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 near two shopping centers with a variety of shops, restaurants and fast food outlets, both local and international.

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 ORCA volunteer house, with Skype available. You are welcome to use your own laptop computer 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 end 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.

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 programs

