

Live-in Volunteers: Introduction Document

Contacts & Website

- **Eastern Cape:** kerri@vulpro.com | +27 82 808 5113 (Whatsapp)
- **Hartbeespoort:** alistair@vulpro.com | +27 82 254 4162(Whatsapp)
- **Website:** www.vulpro.com

Welcome

Welcome to Vulpro, the Vulture Programme. This document outlines the expectations for your volunteer experience. You will also receive the Volunteer Contract and House Rules. Please read both carefully.

Travel & Base Information

Hartbeespoort / Pretoria Base	Eastern Cape Base
OR Tambo Airport (Johannesburg)	Port Elizabeth Airport
Approximately 1 hour 50 minutes from OR Tambo International Airport, and 40 minutes from Pretoria	Transfers can be arranged at visitor's expense
Approximately 10 minutes from Hartbeespoort town	Accommodation and daily arrangements will be communicated prior to arrival
Shuttle available (not included). Suggested shuttle service: Andries +27 73 173 2773	Supervised trips to nearby reserves or release sites may occur
Please advise your estimated time of arrival well in advance	

Volunteer Contribution

- Monthly accommodation fee: R7,500 per person (approximately R250 per day).
- Non-refundable deposit: 50% required to secure placement; the remaining balance is payable by debit or credit card on arrival.
- Minimum stay: 2 weeks (fee adjusted accordingly).

Important Notes

- No refunds.
- Contributions must be paid in full on arrival.
- Travel changes due to unforeseen circumstances may be rescheduled, subject to availability.
- On arrival, volunteers must report directly to Alistair or Kerri and provide a copy of their medical insurance.

Included

- Single or shared accommodation with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities
- Linen, Wi-Fi, water, electricity, and bathroom cleaning
- Training and supervision by Vulpro staff
- Participation in research and conservation activities

Not Included

- Travel to and from South Africa
- Airport shuttle (to be arranged by the volunteer)
- Passport and visa fees (visas required for stays exceeding 90 days)
- Travel, medical, and cancellation insurance (mandatory)
- Vaccinations (tetanus required)
- Food, snacks, drinks, personal hygiene items, towels, and laundry detergent

Living & Household Responsibilities

- Accommodation is typically private or shared, with communal kitchen and bathroom facilities.
- Smoking is permitted only in designated areas and is not allowed in rooms.
- Volunteers are expected to share household chores, purchase and prepare their own food, and use utilities responsibly.
- Volunteers are expected to plan and manage their weekly shopping accordingly.

Volunteer Requirements

- Flexibility, enthusiasm, independence, patience, perseverance, and a positive attitude.
- Disclosure of any medical conditions, disabilities, phobias, or special needs prior to arrival.
- Willingness to undertake physical work and care for equipment responsibly.

Weather Guidance

- Summer temperatures may reach up to 35°C, with hot and sunny conditions.
- Winter temperatures average around 15°C during the day and may drop to approximately 5°C at night.
- Volunteers should bring clothing suitable for sun, rain, and cooler mornings and evenings.



What to Bring

Essential	Recommended
Passport, visa & copies	Binoculars, camera, laptop, memory cards
International driving licence	Pocketknife, alarm clock
Travel and medical insurance, emergency contact details	Lightweight indoor shoes
Electrical adapter (South Africa)	Personal first-aid kit
Warm clothing, jumpers, fleece, gloves, scarf, and slippers	Comfortable evening clothing
Long trousers and long-sleeved shirts	
Walking or closed-toe shoes, work boots, or wellington boots	
Insect repellent	
Torch or flashlight with spare batteries	
Sunscreen, sunglasses, and sun hat	
Work gloves, including heavy-duty long-sleeved gloves for handling	
Reusable water bottles, personal medication, notebook, pen or pencil, and a daypack	
Towel and washcloth (linen is provided)	

Volunteer Activities

Husbandry	Cleaning & Maintenance	Enrichment & Rescues	Data & Research
Feed and care for vultures and other large birds	Remove unconsumed food and bones	Daily enrichment activities	Record daily activities and behaviour
Clean enclosures	Monitor and maintain water ponds	Assist with rescues under supervision	Enter data into the digital database
Prepare food and assist with offloading carcasses	Carry out minor repairs	High season: November – April	Report any unusual behaviour immediately
Clean vehicles	Inspect perches and enclosures		Conduct standardised counts from the viewing hide

Work Schedule:

8 hours per day, 6 days per week, with 1 day off (not always over a weekend).

Social Media & Communications

We encourage volunteers to follow and engage with Vulpro responsibly. Increased awareness leads to greater support and improved conservation outcomes.

Official Platforms:

- Facebook: Vulpro
- Instagram: @vulpro
- LinkedIn: Vulpro
- X (Twitter): Vulpro
- Website: www.vulpro.com

Data & Media Guidelines:

- All data, photographs, and media remain the property of Vulpro
- All content must be submitted to Kerri Wolter: kerri@vulpro.com
- Publication requires prior authorisation
- Public sharing is subject to written approval



Volunteer Stories & Biographies

Volunteers are invited to share a short reflection on their experience.

Example Reflection:

Volunteering at Vulpro has been a meaningful and rewarding experience. I assisted with feeding, enrichment, and enclosure maintenance, while also recording behaviour and learning from the team. This experience provided valuable insight into vulture conservation and contributed to the protection of these remarkable birds.

Visual Content:

High-resolution photographs or quality video clips are welcome.

Notes:

Submitted material may be used in Vulpro communications and remains the property of Vulpro. Content may be edited for clarity and consistency.

General Information – South Africa

- Tap water is generally safe to drink
- Malaria is not a concern at Vulpro (except in certain areas such as Kruger National Park)
- Currency: South African Rand (ZAR)
- Language: English (Afrikaans and isiZulu are also widely spoken)
- Safety: exercise common-sense precautions; avoid displaying valuables; do not hitchhike; exercise caution when using ATMs
- Wildlife: snakes and other wildlife may be present; do not handle any animals unless trained to do so

Shopping Excursions – Hartbeespoort

A shopping trip will be arranged on your day of arrival and then once per week thereafter.

Thank You

Thank you for volunteering and contributing your time to Vulpro. Through your dedication, support, and collaboration, you play an important role in safeguarding these iconic birds.

Circling Together for Vultures