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## Australia Rainforest Wildlife Volunteers

Adventure



Relaxation



Culture



**Trip Name:** Australia Rainforest Wildlife Volunteers    **Trip Code:** OZRW    **Duration:**

### Trip Highlights

- Become part of a dedicated team and make a genuine contribution to the conservation and care of native Australian wildlife at a wildlife habitat in North Queensland
- Get a real hands-on experience behind the scenes with some of Australia's amazing animals
- Immerse yourself in an exotic environment and observe up close a diverse range of wildlife and flora
- Explore the beautiful beaches and lush rainforest in the surrounding area of Port Douglas
- Experience the turquoise waters of the Great Barrier Reef in your free time whether it be snorkelling, diving, sailing or just relaxing



### Overview

Become part of a dedicated team at a wildlife habitat in Port Douglas in tropical North Queensland where the Great Barrier Reef meets World Heritage Rainforest.

As a volunteer you'll work with native and endangered wildlife in a naturally replicated habitat and assist one of the wildlife keepers to care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. This fantastic opportunity allows you to have a real hands-on experience behind the scenes with some of Australia's amazing animals and ultimately the time of your life down under!

### Destination Info

#### Cairns

With the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef right on its doorstep, a vibrant economy and a passionate local population, it's no wonder Cairns remains Australia's favourite tropical holiday destination.

## Itinerary



To get you settled into Aussie life and the tropical North, you'll spend the first night in Cairns. Upon arrival at the airport you'll be met by a project representative and transferred to your accommodation. You will be staying at a modern backpacker hostel situated right in the heart of the Cairns city centre for the first night and the last 2 nights.

A project representative will perform a meet and greet session the following day. Take this opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. You'll then be transferred to Port Douglas to start your volunteer placement in Port Douglas!



Once you've settled into Aussie life in Cairns you'll be transferred to Port Douglas where you will stay during your volunteer project.

Each year the sanctuary cares for sick, injured or orphaned animals brought into the habitat by the local community. Their wildlife rescue programme is run by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Without this facility, the chances of survival for the animals would be limited.

The work that you will be involved in at the wildlife habitat will be extremely hands-on and varied. Typical duties performed by volunteers will include;

# Australia Rainforest Wildlife Volunteers

- Preparing food for native wildlife (this is often a daily task)
- Cleaning and maintenance of animal enclosures
- Koala leaf collection and distribution
- Upkeep of displays and exhibits
- Park maintenance

Volunteers may also be given the chance to participate in:

- Animal handling
- Plant identification and collection
- Caring for injured and orphaned animals
- Assist with record keeping duties under supervision

Please note: Itineraries and activities are subject to change.



Your volunteer work will start at 7am and you will work five days a week. You will need to get a bus to your placement.

Once you have arrived at your placement, you will be teamed with one of the project's experienced wildlife keepers for the day, which means that you will learn a variety of skills from different keepers. Each wildlife keeper will assign tasks for you to complete and will help you when necessary.

Each morning you will get a 20-minute break followed by a 30-minute lunch break.

Your working day will finish mid afternoon allowing you time to relax in Port Douglas.

## Accommodation

All your accommodation is included during your time on the programme.

Your first night and last 2 nights will be spent at a backpackers resort in Cairns. For the remainder of the programme you will stay in Port Douglas.

## **Cairns Accommodation**

Centrally located in Cairns city centre, you will stay at a backpackers resort which is the ideal base from which to explore the tropical north. It is also situated in a great location to explore the inner-city streets with its shops, cafes, night markets and eateries as well as the Esplanade Lagoon to relax and cool off in the heat!

You will stay in a dorm room with ensuite bathroom and air conditioning. The hostel prides itself on having friendly local staff and modern, clean facilities which include a Swimming Pool, Bar, Outdoor Entertainment Deck, 24 hour reception and check in, Travel Desk, Big screen TV area, Chill Out area, Laundry with free iron hire, dining and lounge area, communal kitchen and Games Area.

## **Port Douglas Accommodation**

During your time on the project you will stay in a friendly lodge in Port Douglas. The lodge is situated within walking distance to the heart of Port Douglas Village, Four Mile Beach and the marina.

You will stay in a dorm room with a shared ensuite bathroom and air conditioning. Facilities include a tropical lagoon style pool, bar & bistro, internet access, laundry room and a communal kitchen. Linen is provided.

## **Programme Services and Facilities**

### **Internet**

Internet access and wireless internet facilities are available at both accommodation in Cairns and Port Douglas (paid locally).

### **Telephone**

The international telephone access code for Australia is +61.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164.

### **Laundry**

Laundry facilities are available at your accommodation in Cairns and Port Douglas where you can do all your

washing.

## Money

There is access to banking and money changing facilities in Cairns and Port Douglas. Don't forget to budget for food that is not included in the programme price.

## Meals

Breakfast and lunch will be provided at your placement on your volunteer days, however you will need to arrange this yourself for your days off. Dinner is not included in the programme. You can either visit one of the great restaurants and bars in the centre of Cairns or Port Douglas or you can make your own dinner with food from the local supermarket and using the kitchen at your accommodation.

## What's Included

- Airport transfer on arrival
- Transport to and from your project
- Breakfast and Lunch on volunteer days
- Accommodation
- Comprehensive orientation day
- Information pack
- 2 uniform shirts



## What's Not Included

- All flights
- Personal travel insurance
- Visas
- Dinner
- Return transfer to airport



## Is This Trip For You?

Prior experience is not necessary to take part in this programme, as you will receive on-the-job training during your time at your project. An orientation session will be conducted on your first day of the programme, this will provide you with information regarding what activities you will be involved in during your time your volunteer work. Shirts will be given to you during this session for you to wear while working.

## What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

## Personal Admin

- Documents
- Passport
- Driving Licence
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service, or the German Krankenversicherungskarte
- Insurance Policy document or card
- Credit Card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

## General

- Journal or diary
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Alarm Clock
- Headtorch
- Sleeping bag
- Sun block
- Small padlock to secure luggage
- 2L Water bottle

## Clothing

- Clothing suitable for all weather conditions (remember long sleeved trousers and tops to protect you from the sun)
- Waterproof raincoat
- Working clothing (items you don't mind getting dirty!)
- Fully enclosed work boots are required for volunteering (suitable for rugged and wet conditions) and thick socks.
- Cargo style shorts or trousers for daily work wear (beige, khaki or brown)
- T-shirts (the sanctuary will provide you with 2 working t-shirts)
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Casual clothes
- Swimming costume

## Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent

## Minimum Age

Minimum age 17 with parental consent, maximum decided on potential participants health.

## Flights

Your flight to Australia should arrive at Cairns Airport on your programme start date, and your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day. Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

**Please note:** If you are flying to Australia via the USA you will need to obtain Travel Authorisation by registering online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) no later than 72 hours before departure. This is compulsory and will cost USD\$14 to register. To register, please visit: [www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov](http://www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov)

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

## FAQs

### 1. What visa do I need?

If you are just visiting Australia as a tourist you will need to apply for the 3 month e-visitor visa. If you are planning to work whilst you are out there after your programme you will need to apply for the 12 month Working Holiday Visa.

### 2. How many volunteers tend to take place each month?

The sanctuary is a very popular place for volunteers and spaces fill up very fast. They are able to accept 10 volunteers per month.

### 3. I have certain dietary requirements, will this be a problem?

Not at all! Special dietary requirements can be catered for.

## Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programmes have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimised.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our UK staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

## Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience and Real Travel are part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Beware: Don't book with an organisation that has no financial protection for their clients. Not only are they breaking the law, you could lose all your money or be stranded overseas.

Our ATOL licence (6527), offers complete financial protection for any flight inclusive trips. To acquire an ATOL licence we have to undergo a very rigorous inspection from the Civil Aviation Authority, so you know that we tick all

of the boxes. The ATOL license means that no matter what happens to us, your money will either be returned or if you've already left, your trip will be guaranteed.

We are also a Member of ABTA which means you have the benefit of ABTA's assistance and Code of Conduct. Many of the travel arrangements that we sell are protected in case of the financial failure of the travel company. If you have any questions about the financial protection that applies to your booking then please ask our team and they'll be happy to help.

## Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

## Money Matters

The unit of currency is the Australian Dollar. Changing foreign currency or travellers cheques is usually no problem at banks throughout Australia or at licensed moneychangers.

Australia is affordable by Western European and American standards, but if you are travelling on from Southeast Asia you'll notice a big increase in costs!

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 13.37 \$

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 5.04 \$

Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 2.40 \$

Water (0.33 litre bottle) 2.14 \$

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

## Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

All visitors to Australia need a visa – only New Zealand nationals are exempt, however you will receive a 'special category' visa on arrival.

For entry into Australia you will require an eVisitor visa. UK passport holders can apply for a 90-day tourist visa online at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) All other nationalities should consult the relevant embassy.

If you intend to look for work in Australia you will be required to apply for a working holiday visa.

## Working Holiday Visa

The working holiday visa is available to anyone age 18-30. The emphasis is on casual employment: you are meant to work for no more than six months at any one job. If you want to stay in Australia for up to 24 months, this is now possible for some nationalities. Speak to one of our sales advisors for more information.

### To be eligible for a Working Holiday Visa, you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 30 years at the time of application
- Have a valid passport for one of the countries listed at Australian Immigration, [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)
- Have no dependant children
- Have not previously entered Australia on a working holiday visa
- Meet health and character requirements
- Be outside Australia at the time of visa grant

### To be granted a working holiday visa you must also agree that:

- Your main reason for coming to Australia is to holiday
- You must not undertake studies or training for more than 4 months
- You will leave Australia at the end of your authorized stay
- You must have sufficient funds to support yourself for the initial part of your stay. AUD\$5000 minimum is regarded as sufficient. You may have to provide evidence of this in the form of a bank statement.

For the most up to date information on visa requirements, please visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/>

If you are from the UK we can help you apply for your Working Holiday Visa, just ask a sales advisor for more information.

## Cultural Considerations

Australia is a melting pot of different cultures. It has a population of over 21 million people with most of the population living on the east coast between Adelaide and Cairns. High waves of immigration from England, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Malta and Eastern Europe have occurred during Australia's brief history, particularly after World War II, and the later waves from the Middle-East, East, and South-East Asia, as well as the Indian subcontinent, have created a truly diverse population.

Although Australia has no official language, English is spoken by 80% of the population. Chinese, Italian and Greek are respectively the next most common languages, reflecting Australia's cultural diversity and concentration of nationalities. Australians have very strong attitudes and belief systems which are reflected in their culture. Australians traditionally have a very ironic sense of humour.

## Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your General Practitioner or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

A useful website to visit in the first instance is <http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk>

## Zika Virus

Zika virus is transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes and whilst the infection often occurs without symptoms it can cause an illness similar to dengue fever. There has recently been reported a possible link between exposure to Zika virus (ZIKV) in pregnancy and microcephaly and other congenital malformations and investigations are ongoing. We recommend you visit the [FCO website](#) and select your destination country for the latest travel advice prior to booking.

If you are already pregnant it is recommended you seek medical advice from your GP as [The National Travel Health Network and Centre \(NaTHNaC\)](#) advises you should consider avoiding travel to areas where ZIKV outbreaks are currently reported.

## Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you keep safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts
- Do not pick up hitchhikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK and American customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

USA: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

## ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

## Language Guide

Here are some Australian terms and phrases that you might find useful:

Bottle Shop - *Off-licence/Liquor store*

Bonzer - *Good*

Bush - *Unsettled country area*

Dag - *Nerd*

Esky - *Portable insulated box to keep food/drink cold*

Fair Dinkum - *Honestly, truly*

Pokies - *Gambling machines*

Pom - *Person of English descent*

Singlet - *Sleeveless cotton vest*

Smoko - *Tea break*

Thongs - *Flip flops/Sandals*

Ute - *Utility vehicle/pick-up truck*

## Food & Drink

You will find food in Australia to suit all taste buds, with the larger cities in particular offering a great range of places to eat. Due to the large amount of British settlers, Australian food is reasonably similar to that in Western Europe, but if you are feeling particularly adventurous get involved in some bush tucker (kangaroo, emus) or the infamous vegemite. For less scary Aussie food, look out for fresh seafood and of course, a typical Aussie barbecue!

Please let Real Gap Experience know before you depart if you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements.

## Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for Australia, please see the link below:

[www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/)

## Weather

Australia is located in the southern hemisphere, where seasons are the opposite of those in the northern hemisphere.

The summer months in Australia (November to March) can get very hot. Up north, in Queensland for example, the summer period brings the rainy season and the weather can be very hot and humid with lots of rainfall. The winter months (June to August) in Queensland bring much dryer weather but still heat. The further south you go the colder and wetter winter becomes and in some mountainous areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania skiing is possible.

## Time

Australia is such a big country that it has three time zones:

Eastern Standard Time (Queensland) – 10 hours ahead of GMT depending on Daylight Savings

Central Time – 9.5 hours ahead of GMT

Western Time - 8 hours ahead of GMT

## Electricity

Electricity in Australia is 240 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.



Sockets in Australia are V-shaped flat prongs.

## Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of Foreign and Commonwealth Travel Advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

## Volunteer numbers

Please note: You may be the only volunteer at your chosen project at any one time. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact us.

## Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.



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