

REAL
Gap Experience

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Australia Wildlife Sanctuary - Kangaroo Island

Adventure



Relaxation



Culture



Trip Name: Australia Wildlife Sanctuary - Kangaroo Island **Trip Code:** OZKI **Duration:** From 2 weeks

Trip Highlights

- Help protect one of Australia's wildlife hotspots
- Safeguard Kangaroo Island's flora by conserving its trees and plants
- Make a direct contribution to the island's economy
- Stay in fantastic, pristine bushland
- Work close-by wallabies, kangaroos, possums, echidnas and koalas
- Learn about the endangered animals of Australia



Overview

Become a wildlife volunteer in Australia and help protect some of Australia's unique wildlife. You'll be involved in full-on essential conservation work from hard-core tree planting and maintenance to counting koalas!

Eco tourism is at its best in Australasia and our wildlife sanctuary programme on Kangaroo Island offers a unique blend of tourism and conservation and ultimately an amazing experience for you!

Want to read more information on this trip Down Under? Download the full trip notes [HERE](#).

Destination Info

Kangaroo Island (or KI as the locals know it) really is an unspoilt wilderness, with a quarter of the island conserved in protected parks providing a home to many different endangered animals. Thankfully, the island has been spared the damage done on the mainland by foxes and rabbits, ensuring the integrity of native bushland.

Australia Wildlife Sanctuary - Kangaroo Island

The Wildlife Sanctuary is in the western end of the Island, close to Flinders Chase National Park, Remarkable Rocks, Admirals Arch and Kelly Hill Caves. It's also only a short distance away from a beautiful beach where you can swim and fish. There's plenty of bush-walking opportunities and mountain-biking too.

Itinerary



The Wildlife Sanctuary is situated at the Western end of Kangaroo Island, South Australia. The Sanctuary was first established in 1997, covers an area of 2,230 hectares, with 6km of spectacular coastline and is the largest privately owned conservation property on KI. Within the sanctuary you will find many different species including wallabies, kangaroos, pigmy possums, echidnas, koalas and possums. The area is also a bird watcher's paradise, with many species calling the sanctuary home.

The sanctuary's conservation work is funded by beachfront accommodation; a backpacker lodge, guided nocturnal tours and self guided koala tours. This is truly an exceptional place with its abundant wildlife and pristine coastline. The animals live free in their natural habitat and environment, which the sanctuary offers them. Nocturnal tours are conducted each evening to give visitors to the Island the ultimate wildlife experience.

How have previous volunteers helped the project? We asked our in-country team...

"Our Volunteer participants have been involved in many areas of Conservation and Animal Protection.

From endless amounts of native tree planting, which helps to provide food for our beloved Koalas and habitat for our wildlife, to important collection of data from our Surveys that are carried out regularly.

The volunteers actions have helped to provide vital information to groups such as "Dolphin Watch KI"&" Department of Natural Resources SA.

Our Volunteers have done extensive erosion control, seed collections and helped to create nature Walks that enable visitor's to experience and fall in love with what's so special about the sanctuary.

Australia Wildlife Sanctuary - Kangaroo Island

We have a growing population of wildlife that has returned to our Sanctuary now that so much work has been achieved, from echidnas to bandicoots and of course our Koalas.

Without the contribution from our volunteers towards this commitment, we would not have been able to come this far.”



Once you have arrived at the sanctuary, you will be given a detailed orientation and tour by the programme coordinator. This is a great opportunity to ask questions. Topics covered will include;

- An introduction to the sanctuary
- Health and safety briefing
- Workplace ethics
- Meals and accommodation
- An introduction to the area
- What you can do in your free time

Throughout your stay you will have the support and guidance of the sanctuary staff and coordinator. They will provide you with assistance and help you with any questions or advice you need during your stay. In addition, you are also able to contact our staff 24 hours a day should you need to.



All volunteers are picked up in the morning from the main town of Kingscote or KI airport by the project staff and

Australia Wildlife Sanctuary - Kangaroo Island

transferred to the Wildlife Sanctuary.

As a volunteer, you will work various hours, weather and temperature permitting, five days a week, doing all sort of different duties depending on the priority at the time, so it's essential you go with a flexible attitude.

The feral-proof fence, which is vital to maintaining the habitats within the sanctuary, needs checking so you will walk the fence 3-4 times a week to check for minor damage at the base. Volunteers will also check on the activities along the Koala Avenue for any public hazards and rubbish as well as making sure that the bird feeders and water containers are full.

You'll also be getting involved in Koala surveys, which take place approximately 3 times a week. This involves walking along Koala Avenue and counting how many Koalas you can see and if possible if they have a tag on their ear. You can then record the data onto a computer and this helps to track the number of Koalas, sex and sterilization.



Re-vegetation of the sanctuary and other ground maintenance, including clearing and hazard reduction on the paths, is always ongoing at the sanctuary. This is vitally important to help maintain the habitat and attract tourism to the area. During these activities volunteers are encouraged to interact with the many international and local visitors to the sanctuary, have a chat and show them around.

Volunteers are encouraged to help marshal the popular nocturnal tours that run in the evenings, however this is optional so you can choose to relax instead. The tours are a great way to discover a world that comes to life while you are usually asleep! You'll learn about the nocturnal animals of Kangaroo Island in their natural habitat and environment.

Activities you may be involved in include:

Planting trees and shrubs

Sedge planting

Conservation work
Maintaining paths
Painting
Assisting with cleaning and laundry
Fence maintenance
Monitoring Koalas, observing and taking note of their behaviour
Assisting with tourists/visitors
Participating in Guided tours
Weed control
Assist in survey and monitoring of animals

Honey is made at the sanctuary so at times you can be involved in scraping and packaging honey

Please note: Itineraries and activities are subject to change

Accommodation

Volunteers are housed in the Farmhouse in shared accommodation which includes a large kitchen, lounge, dining area and games room. Volunteers will stay in single-sex shared bedrooms and there are two bathrooms in the house. There are plenty of DVDs, books and magazines to entertain you (dvd player has a USB option should you want to bring your own). There is also a wood fire for cooler evenings. Full linen is supplied during your stay. There is WiFi at the nearby Visitor Centre, which you can use when it's available.

Programme Services and Facilities

The nearest main shopping centre is Kingscote, this is visited once a week, normally on a Thursday or Friday. There is a visitor centre onsite which offers you the chance to stock-up on snacks and drinks.

Internet

The main office of Hanson Bay has limited Internet access. Volunteers are welcome to use the computer in the evening hours at a time convenient to management at no charge to check your emails.

Telephone

There isn't a pay phone at the sanctuary but emergency calls can be made at reception.

The easiest option may be to take your mobile and purchase a pay-as-you-go SIM in Australia. The only network that gives you coverage at the sanctuary is Telstra 3G so if you buy a sim make sure it's Telstra. Before you depart, ensure that your mobile is set up with international roaming and unlocked, so you may use a pay-as-you-go SIM while you are away.

Australia Wildlife Sanctuary - Kangaroo Island

The international telephone access number for Australia is +61. To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call dial +44 for the UK.

Phone calls can be made from the wildlife sanctuary for emergencies only, you must have prior permission from management and a fee for calls will apply.

Laundry

Your laundry can be done at the main laundry area of the wildlife sanctuary at no charge.

Money

There aren't any money exchanges near the wildlife sanctuary so you should exchange money prior to arrival. Please note that Traveller's Cheques are not accepted at some places so cash or card may be your preferred option.

Meals

Food provisions will be provided weekly and there is a fully-equipped kitchen in your quarters for preparing breakfast and dinners. You and your fellow volunteers will cook as a team (sharing the cooking and clean-up responsibilities).

What's Included

- Transfer from Kingscote to the sanctuary
- Volunteer project
- Food for you to prepare your own meals
- Accommodation
- Certificate of Achievement
- Volunteer t-shirt



What's Not Included

- All flights
- Return transport from Adelaide to Kingscote
- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Attraction fees



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

- Visa 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
- Towels
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush etc)
- Alarm clock
- Camera
- Torch/ batteries (necessary for bush camp and caving)
- Sun block
- Small padlock to secure luggage

Clothing

- Clothing suitable for all weather conditions (remember long sleeved trousers and tops to protect you from the sun and warm clothing if you are volunteering in winter months)
- Raincoat and/or waterproof clothing (expect some rainy days)
- Work clothing (items you don't mind getting dirty, or possibly stained or torn)
- Sturdy work boots (suitable for rugged and wet conditions) and thick socks
- Hiking or good walking shoes
- Leather work / gardening gloves
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Shorts
- T-shirts

- Swimming costume
- Laptop, ipad or similar for internet access (wifi from the visitor center)

Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent

Minimum Age

Minimum age 18, maximum decided on potential participants' health.

Flights

Your flight to Australia should arrive at Adelaide Airport at least the day before your programme start date, and your return flight should be arranged for the day after your programme end date. This is to give you time to get a ferry or flight from Adelaide to Kingscote. More details will be provided once you have booked.

To book your flights, please contact us on 01892 277037 to investigate some great deals.

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: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

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

Not at all! Special dietary requirements can be catered for. Just let us know in advance so that we can let our in-country coordinator know, as the nearest supermarket is 100km away! Please note that snacks are not included on the weekly food shop, so you will need to have sufficient funds if you require luxuries like chocolate!

3. Will I have my own room?

You will stay in a shared room with up to four people of the same gender

4. Is there Internet access at the project?

There is limited Internet which you may use to check your emails.

5. How much hands-on work can I get involved with the animals?

Australia Wildlife Sanctuary - Kangaroo Island

The sanctuary is not a zoo and many of the animals are wild therefore you should not expect to handle these animals. The focus of this project is on conservation work to help protect them and their habitat.

6. Do I need to take a sleeping bag?

No, all bedding will be provided for you.

7. Do I need to take a mosquito net?

No, a mosquito net is not necessary for this project.

8. Will there be a safe/safety deposit box available?

There is a safe in the office where you can leave anything valuable.

9. Is there anything that you recommend taking that would be useful?

It would be great if you could take a torch and warm clothes with you as you will be on an island and it experiences all weathers and it can be quite cool at night.

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 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
- 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

USA: 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/

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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