



Serendipity Wildlife Foundation  
CSIwildlife.org

# Join our Cheetah Research Team in Kenya

Summer of 2020



Serendipity Wildlife Foundation will be conducting a cheetah project to monitor, count, identify each cheetah, and determine territory.

The project will be conducted at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, from July 3 -16, 2020. Vacancies exist for 12 people to be actively involved in this project by travelling to Kenya and engaging in field activity and being part of the team.

Applications are now being accepted, and those interested should read the eligibility requirements before applying.



## ELIGIBILITY

Participants should be at least 18 years of age on the day of travel. While preference will be given to students studying zoology, anyone meeting the eligibility and requirements may apply. Team members should have a love for nature and a positive attitude with an understanding and respect for other cultures.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Be able to travel in a 4WD vehicle for several hours each day, and travel over rough terrain and through water.
- Be able to speak and write in English.
- Have a valid passport which expires more than 6 months after your arrival in Kenya, and have at least three blank pages.
- Be able to stand for long hours, squat, reach above your shoulders, and lift 25 lbs if needed.
- Be a team player and be able to work together with the rest of your team, which will be from different countries.
- Prior to the departure from your home country, familiarize yourself with the reading material that will be sent to you.
- Be able to pay the deposit within four weeks of selection.
- Understand that you are a visitor in another country, and respect their culture.
- Complete all assignments in a timely manner.

THERE IS A STRICT NO SMOKING POLICY WHILE AT CAMP OR IN A REASEARCH VEHICLE.  
THERE IS ALSO A NO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS OR PROHIBITED ITEMS INTO THE COUNTRY.



## WHAT WILL TEAM MEMBERS BE DOING?

Team members will assist in going out on patrol in a vehicle and locating and tracking cheetahs and monitoring and documenting their behavior. Your driver will stay with the cheetah as long as the terrain will allow him. Your team will be responsible for taking photographs for identity purposes, documenting behavior, and documenting territory. Teams will be going out into the field from dawn to dusk, sometimes returning to base for lunch or taking a boxed lunch with them.

Teams will also be setting up several trap cameras in the area, collecting data from them, and returning to base to download photographs and input data. Identification and inputting data would sometimes be done during the afternoon at base, or while at a stationary observation station in the field. Team members will also be observing any unusual behavior with certain other animals as well, and reporting any injuries.

While on field monitoring duties, teams will have several opportunities to see other wild animals such as elephants, rhinos, lions, giraffes, zebras, antelopes, gazelles, warthogs, leopards, buffaloes, hyenas, baboons, and a variety of birds. Sometimes, animals such as baboons and hyenas have been known to visit camp. While there is no guarantee of seeing a particular animal, you never know what you will see as the jungle is full of surprises. Team members are welcome to take as many photographs they want for their personal use.

During your stay, you will also have the opportunity to visit the Anti-Poaching Unit and see how they operate, and also visit the tracking dogs. We will also have the opportunity to visit the last two remaining north African white rhinos on earth, both living within a few minutes drive from our base camp.

Evenings will be spent at leisure, where you will have the opportunity to relax, communicate with family at home, or update your personal diary. Please keep in mind that every team member will be assigned approximately two hours of data updating every evening, and you could be on the roster 2-3 shifts during your entire stay.

We will visit Nanyuki town on one day, which is the closest town to the conservancy. We will also visit the Giraffe Center while we are in Nairobi, which will give all participants an opportunity to hand feed giraffes and learn more about them.

Every day in the bush is different, and you never know what you will come across or what will happen. There will be certain days that we can be trying hard to locate cheetahs and certain days that we could find many. There could also be a day where we could find another

endangered species that need to be photographed. We are dependent on game guard reports, trap cameras, and on our software location app, and there are no guarantees on sightings. Some observations could extend through the whole day where we will track one single cheetah for several hours over a long distance.



## ACCOMMODATION

Base camp for our research will be at the Stables, inside Ol Pejeta. Some of the rooms are shared, and some are private. Each room has a bed, desk, chair, electricity, and a single power outlet. Showers and bathroom are shared by all, and male and females are separate. Wi-fi is available, but can be slow sometimes. A shared fridge is available.

Power is supplied by generator, and is turned off at midnight, and turned back on at 7 am. Wi-fi is available only when the generator is turned on. There are certain times during the day that the generator will be turned off. Meals are provided as a set menu.

Laundry service is available two days a week at a cost of \$5 a bucket. Snacks and cold drinks can be purchased by credit/debit card or Paypal.



Team members are not permitted to leave base camp on foot at any time due to the danger of wild animals that frequent the outskirts of camp.

**WE ARE AN ECO-FRIENDLY FOUNDATION, AND REQUIRE ALL TEAM MEMBERS TO BRING THEIR OWN REUSEABLE WATER BOTTLE. NO STRAWS WILL BE PROVIDED, AND WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING A RE-USABLE STRAW KIT, IF NEEDED. IN ADDITION, ALL OUR PACKED LUNCHES WILL BE IN BIO-DEGRADABLE BOXES.**

## **COST**

\$1625 for two weeks (July 3 – 16, 2020) and include the following:

Accommodation (single room or shared room, as assigned by us)  
Breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day (starting from July 3 lunch to July 16 breakfast)  
Transport from Nairobi to Base Camp in Ol Pejeta, and back to Nairobi  
Ground transportation within Ol Pejeta Conservancy, and a trip to Nanyuki, the closest town  
Visit to different attractions at Ol Pejeta, some with hands on activity  
Visit to the Giraffe Center in Nairobi  
Three team t-shirts (to be worn on certain days)

### **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED**

Airfare from your country to Kenya and back  
Snacks, soft drinks, beer/alcohol (except filtered drinking water)  
Travel and medical insurance  
Telephone calls  
Overnight stay in Nairobi, if needed

NOTE: At \$116 a day you get everything included, and extras, including a drive in the wild for 13 days. Add to that, a unique experience to include in your resume!

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

Once your application has been received, it will be reviewed by our selection committee. If you are selected, you will be notified via e-mail. A deposit of \$200 will be required within 4 weeks to secure your spot. If you have not been selected, you will be notified as well.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

It is suggested that team members arrive at Nairobi airport the day before (July 2). If you do arrive after 12 noon the day before, we will arrange for a subsidized overnight accommodation, breakfast the next day, and transport from the airport and pickup the following morning. This will give a good nights sleep and ready for the adventure ahead. Team members can continue arriving late into the night and early hours of the morning.

We will visit the Giraffe Center in Nairobi on July 3, which will give all participants a hands on experience of learning and also personally hand feeding giraffes, before setting off on our four-hour trip to Ol Pejeta, arriving in time for lunch.

On July 16, please arrange on taking a flight out of Nairobi anytime after 8 pm. Booking a room close to the airport for an added fee is possible, where a free shuttle to the airport is available for next day departures. Please keep in mind that hotel check-out time in Nairobi is 10 am.

Optional extended safaris to Amboselli National Park and to Nairobi National Park are available, starting on June 16 from Nairobi. Details will be sent to you if you are selected as a team member.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### IS A PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE?

Yes, a monthly payment plan is available after your initial registration deposit of \$200 has been paid.

### I APPLIED, SO HOW DO I KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN SELECTED?

We anticipate many applications coming in, as people have started to contact us even before the dates were confirmed. After your application has been received and reviewed by our selection committee, we will send you an e-mail anytime between 4 to 10 weeks that you have been selected, put on hold for further review, or not selected. Depending on the number of applications received, this process could take as long as three months.

#### WILL A FRIEND OR MY FAMILY BE ABLE TO JOIN ME?

Friends and family will not be able to join you on the team unless they have been selected or registered. However, they are welcome to book a stay at the luxurious Sweetwaters Camp (which is also inside Ol Pejeta) or any of the other camps available. Friends and family can also join the extra option safaris commencing on July 16. The aforementioned options can be arranged by us at a reduced cost.

#### WILL I BE ABLE TO SHARE A ROOM WITH MY FRIEND WHO WAS ALSO SELECTED?

Most of the rooms will be single rooms with one bed, with probably a couple of rooms being double rooms (2 beds). If requested early, we will try our very best to accommodate you if a double room is available, otherwise you will be assigned your own single room.

#### WILL I BE ABLE TO GO ON SAFARI?

You will be on a safari every day you stay, observing animals that safari vehicles see, and travelling to every corner of the conservancy on observation patrol. You will also be accessing areas that are not visited by safari vehicles.

#### WILL I HAVE TIME TO BUY SOUVENIRS AND GIFTS TO TAKE BACK HOME?

Yes, Ol Pejeta has gift shops. We will also stop at curio/gift shops during our restroom stops while travelling between Nairobi and Ol Pejeta.

#### WHAT TYPE OF TRANSPORT DO WE HAVE FOR OUR STAY?

We use 7 seater 4WD Toyota Landcruisers with comfortable forward facing seating and open roof hatch. These vehicles are very comfortable to sit in for long stationary observations, and even for a quick siesta, if needed!

#### HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY DO I NEED?

Since everything is included in your stay, you will only need money for snacks, extra drinks, any meals on the day of arrival, any meals after you have been dropped off in Nairobi, purchase of souvenirs, and any extra meals or treats that you want to purchase from the snack bars or restaurants within Ol Pejeta.

#### WHAT TYPE OF CLOTHING DO I NEED TO BRING?

Mornings and late evenings will be cold, while afternoons will be warm. We will send you a clothing and travel check-list if you are selected.

#### WHAT AIRLINES DO YOU RECOMMEND TO GET TO NAIROBI?

From the US, the three major middle east airlines connect you to Nairobi with a stopover in the Middle East. European and US carriers will connect you through Europe, which is a slightly shorter flight. Kenya Airways also has a direct flight from New York to Nairobi.

From South Asia and other parts of Asia, flying through the Middle East is the shortest route. Sometimes, cheaper flights can be purchased flying via India.

With all flights, be aware of those cheap flights that offer you a short transit time where you have to connect from one flight to another. If there are delays in your first flight, you will miss the second flight, which will result in missing your transportation from Nairobi to Ol Pejeta.

#### WHAT TYPE OF SHOTS DO I NEED?

Kenya requires no shots to enter the country. Since everyone's health is different, we advise you to contact your doctor and seek advice several months before travel.

#### WILL I BE ABLE TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS WITH MY PERSONAL CAMERA?

We encourage you to bring along your personal camera and take as many photographs for your personal use.

#### WILL I BE ABLE TO BRING A DRONE?

No, drones are not permitted into Kenya.

#### HOW MANY BAGS AM I PERMITTED TO BRING?

One suitcase and one cabin bag. A back pack is useful when you go out for the day, so a back pack can be brought as your cabin bag. Sometimes, as we have equipment to be transported to Nairobi and back, we will request you to carry a trap camera or other electronic device.

#### DO YOU HAVE TO BE A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY STUDENT TO VOLUNTEER?

Even though there will be several college/university students applying, the program is open to anyone 18 years and older.

#### WILL I BE ABLE TO CONTACT MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY BACK HOME?

There is cell phone reception from most areas of Ol Pejeta. There is also Wi-fi available.

#### WHERE DOES MY MONEY GO?

The research program is 100% dependent on funding from volunteers. Your payment goes towards accommodation, 3 meals a day, fuel, driver's pay, and the cost of running two vehicles 13 hours a day.

#### WILL I BE ABLE TO TOUCH ANY ANIMALS?

As we are dealing with wild animals, you will not be able to touch any animals. The only animal that you could get a chance to touch would be Barack, the blind rhino who is within a fenced area.

#### WILL I BE ABLE TO PURCHASE FOOD OR EAT FROM RESTAURANTS?

There is a restaurant and snack shack where food can be purchased, and if time permits and our work takes us to that area, you will be able to purchase hot dogs, hamburgers, sandwiches, pies, pastries, and a variety of drinks. A limited amount of snacks and drinks will be available for purchase at camp. Sweetwaters Luxury Camp also has a buffet meals, but expect to pay premium prices for for meals.

#### IS A VEGETARIAN CHOICE AVAILABLE?

If you let us know once you are selected, we will accommodate your meal request.

#### WHAT LEVEL OF ENGLISH IS REQUIRED?

It is an essential requirement that you have a good ability to speak and understand English. Your level of English must be adequate to understand oral information and instructions, communicate with other team members and professional staff, and in case of an emergency.

#### HOW DO I CHANGE MY MONEY TO LOCAL CURRENCY?

The Kenyan local currency is the Shilling. We recommend that you not carry a large amount of cash with you, and instead use a credit/debit card. Local money can be withdrawn from an ATM machine after arrival in Kenya.

#### WILL I BE ABLE TO GO ON SAFARI TO OTHER LOCATIONS?

If you are selected, your information package will contain additional details on optional tours after you have completed volunteering.

#### I AM A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER. WILL I BE ABLE TO JOIN TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS ONLY?

No. We do not have space for anyone not involved in team member duties.

#### DO I NEED TO PURCHASE MEDICAL INSURANCE?

Yes, if selected, medical insurance is mandatory. We will provide you with a link to reliable coverage, or you may purchase your own.

#### WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET SICK?

If it is something minor such as a stomach upset, fever, cough and cold, you will receive medical assistance in camp. If it is something more than that, and a visit to the emergency room is needed, this is when your insurance kicks in.

#### DO YOU OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS?

We do not offer scholarships, but we can certainly recommend methods of fundraising to make your trip a reality. Depending where you live, everything listed below may not be possible, and these are suggestions only.

- Start a Gofundme page and tell everyone you know about it.
- Have a car wash, with family and friends assisting.
- Have a BBQ and raise funds through ticket sales.
- Post on social media and get the word out for sponsorships and donation.
- Have a 50/50 raffle.
- Have a garage sale. You will be surprised how much you can raise.
- Babysitting
- Tutoring
- Ask your neighbor if they need their grass cut every week.
- Being a Lyft/Uber driver, if you have a reliable vehicle.
- Ask for donations from family members.
- Ask a church group or a group such as Rotary or Lions to sponsor you.

Remember, you have more than 9 months to fundraise. Start early!

**I AM DIABETIC AND NEED REGULAR INSULIN AND MEDICATION, CAN I STILL PARTICIPATE?**

Yes, you can. All medication that you bring needs to be clearly marked and brought in their original container. You can bring a small insulated box for your insulin with two cold packs, where you can use one while the other is in the fridge.



## I WANT TO PARTICIPATE!

If you have read the information carefully, and think that you will be a suitable participant and be able to contribute to the program, we invite you to submit your application to be a member of our cheetah research and monitoring team in the summer of 2020.

To submit your application for selection, go to <https://www.csiwildlife.org/2020-cheetah-project> and complete the online application.

Within 2 months of submitting your application, you will receive an e-mail stating that you have been selected, your application is being held for further review, or that you have not been selected. Please understand that we will receive far more applications than we can accommodate, and only 12 applicants will be selected.

If you receive an e-mail that you have been selected, your deposit payment of \$200 is due within 4 weeks of receiving your acceptance e-mail. Instructions for payment, and all other relevant information regarding your trip, and information on payment plans will be sent at this time.

Questions? Please e-mail Linda Croce, Program Administrator at [mail@CSIwildlife.org](mailto:mail@CSIwildlife.org)



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A non-profit foundation registered in California

***“Working together with others, so that future generations will see in the wild, what we see today”***