

## Volunteer Testimonials

Read what Samara volunteers had to say about their experience:



experience-it made such an impression that I might try to come back next Summer”

Hector (17 - UK) “I had a fantastic time and met some wonderful people, whilst living a brand new experience. I had an immense amount of fun, whether climbing up a mountain (or cliff to see that eagle's nest), crazy night drives, rhino capture, doing those long river walks, or cleaning monkey excrement from the oven! Hayley and Alwyn were great hosts, and wonderful fun as well-I'm truly grateful for all the effort you both put in. Thank you very much again for a magnificent



Megan (21 - RSA) “I had so much fun and learnt a lot! It was great to see the 'other' side of conservation management. Thank you for making me feel at home and feeling so comfortable. I think its so great that you guys do this and I hope to come back again!”



volunteers. We gained knowledge and insight from a number of highly educated and trained experts which made every moment of the programme worthwhile. Putting into practice what we'd learned just reinforced the learning and made it more evident how valuable that knowledge really is. Absolutely brilliant all round. I will recommend this programme to everyone who has an interest in or passion for the environment. Being "the old lady" was never an issue and I was welcomed so warmly and made to feel part of the team from the start. Thank you so much for everything.”

Andy (40 - RSA) “Not knowing what to expect, I'd run through many scenarios in my head about what the Volunteer Programme would be like, but you guys have surpassed them all. The combination of personal attention and hands-on experience is a winner, and I'm sure all the volunteers who attend this programme will be personally enriched, and will gain an enormous amount of knowledge about the environment (and respect for the land) ... I was amazed by the resources that were made available to us as lowly



Veerle (21 – Belgium) “My trip to Samara was the biggest experience I’ve taken so far. It was my first visit to Afrika, my first time 7 weeks away from home, my first step into the big world by myself. When I was sitting on the plane, I was thinking to myself: What am I doing? What if this is a big mistake? What if... Then I met Hayley. She made me feel welcome the first time I saw here. The trip to Samara was awesome! When you go into the Karoo, you see the nature changing. But I liked it. Then I met Alwyn and some other volunteers. They just came back from some land rehabilitation and looked exhausted. I was still thinking that I was in over my head. Then my 6 weeks of volunteering started. I didn’t know what to expect. When I saw my first kudu, gemsbok, eland, rhino, giraff, I knew why I was there. I learned so much about nature conservation and about how a private game reserve works, and how many people work behind the scenes. This gives you another perspective when you think about a game reserve in Afrika. It’s not always ‘milk and honey’ at a reserve, it’s about hard work and kind of playing God. I learned a lot about nature, but I learned so much more about myself. This experience has been an eye-opener for me in so many ways. And I think everyone should have this kind of experience in their lives once.”