2020

Chitwan Work Camp

Friendship Foundation Nepal
**Elephant care program in Nepal to Chitwan National Park**

1. LMTV-Nepal Elephant cure

Volunteer project:

The volunteers in this project will be working with elephants at Chitwan National Park in Nepal. In the early morning and late evening, the volunteers would assist in the direct care of the elephants. In the hours between they may be asked to assist with numerous other tasks involving the care and maintenance of the elephants.

Elephants eat around 250 kilograms of food each day and drink about 200 liters of water. An elephant has to eat most of the day because of its poor digestive system.

Elephants also need to provide moisture to their hard, rough exterior at least once a day and therefore they are taken for a bath daily. This is truly an enjoyable time for all, as elephants love water and swimming.

The duties of an animal sanctuary assistant volunteer at Chitwan may involve assisting the “Mautes” (elephant drivers) in the care for baby elephants, helping to bathe the elephants, as well as feed them (grass is the main food of elephants and they also eat leaves, twigs, bamboo, bark, roots, fruit, seeds and flowers). Volunteers may also be asked to assist with duties at the bee hives.

Volunteers don’t need any specialized training for this placement but should have educated themselves about the care and conditions prevalent in elephants prior to arriving in Nepal.

Chitwan National Park is an exciting and diverse wildlife haven. Chitwan National Park is located 175 km south-west of Kathmandu. It provides excellent opportunities to view rare species such as the sloth bear, bison, leopard and the elusive tiger. The common species such as deer, rhinoceros and wild boar are in abundance. A serene float down Rapti river in dugout canoe offer the chance to view many of the more than 450 species of exotic birds including Giant Hornbill, Lesser Florican and Paradise flycatcher.
The area is covered with lots of tourist hotel and Tharu lodges, Tourist information centre, restaurant etc. This is a small tourist spot.

Volunteer tasks:
- Prepare Food for the Elephants: An animal sanctuary assistant volunteer would be expected to help to prepare food for the elephants. This may involve gathering logs for the fire, as well as assisting in the cooking of the food. Basically, their food is a mixture of grains and cover grass.
- Elephant Bath: This is a very exciting and fun time for an animal sanctuary assistant volunteer. An elephant's skin is very rough and hard so with the help of small stones, dirt is cleaned from their bodies.
- Elephant Diseases: An animal sanctuary assistant volunteer may be asked to teach (with the help of a translator) the “Maute” elephant rider about the signs and symptoms of different kinds of elephant diseases and when it is necessary to call a veterinarian. The volunteer may be able to point out ways and means on how some of these diseases can be prevented. Please research about care and treatment of elephants prior to your placement.
- Teach English to Mautes: Since “Mautes” are always around tourists who are wanting elephant rides, an animal sanctuary assistant volunteer may be asked to teach the “Mautes” basic English language skills. By improving their English this would enhance the experience of the tourist, as well as themselves.

Language:
English

Duration of the project:
1-5 months. The program starts on the first Friday of every month.

Accommodation:
Host Family / Lodge. Volunteers will get their own single room with hot and cold shower. Three meals a day are provided. Free Wi-Fi available.

Arrival and orientation:
All volunteers are requested to participate in a training in Kathmandu. 3-night accommodation (hotel/guest house/training center), breakfast and dinner are provided. Full day culture and heritage tour in Kathmandu to see a UNESCO World Heritage Site is included.

Location:
Chitwan National Park, Sauraha

Age range:
18 and over

Extra fee:
Euro 250 for the office + Euro 500 for every next month (3 days orientation seminar in Kathmandu and airport pick-up are included). The extra fee is intended to support the local host of the project who does not have sufficient funds. It is due upon arrival.

Our postal address in Nepal is as follows:

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Thank you very much.