

A Day at Monkeyland

Volunteers usually work five days per week, they may be asked to work additional hours over peak season. Please note that off days may not fall on a weekend.

Day-to-day activities vary depending on what is needed at any given time. However, the detail below gives a good idea of the type of work that our volunteers will help with.

8:00

Arrive at Monkeyland and help the permanent staff with feeding and cleaning the enclosures of primates that are, for different reasons, not released into the main 12 hectare forest (e.g. on pre-release rehabilitation). Carry out a 'rubbish run' - walking through the forest picking up papers that the monkeys may have stolen and dropped on the forest floor as well as cleaning our car park of any litter that was left behind by the visitors.

9:00 to 17:00

Most volunteers will spend the majority of their time, conducting guided tours, in their home language, English or both. This involves taking guests to our sanctuaries on a one-hour tour through our 12 hectare forest, looking for the 500+ primates that roam freely there. During the tours, our guests will be able to observe the primates up close and personal in a natural setting, whilst the guide provides information about the species and the threats these animals face.

All guests at Monkeyland are escorted from the main entrance to the reception area. During this short walk, the guests are given a quick introduction to our sanctuary and our rules (no touching, feeding etc.) are explained. When not conducting guided tours, our permanent staff and volunteers are positioned at the main entrance so that they may escort visitors to the reception area.

Additional tasks that the volunteers may get involved in include:

- distributing peanuts through the forest;
- maintenance of forest walkways and the suspension bridge;
- marketing in town and at shows and functions;
- assisting the curators in observations, vet visits and treatment etc.

There's a long list of activities that the volunteers may be able to get involved in, depending on their aptitude and willingness to help out. Not all of these though are daily occurrences.

14:30

Those volunteers not on a guided tour will help unload the food truck, storing the next day's food into the cool room. They may also help out with the afternoon feed of the primates that are in enclosures.

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16:00

Those volunteers not on a guided tour can help top up the feed in the main forest.

17:00

Close of day and return to accommodation.

Coffee/Tea Breaks and Lunch

We don't have set times for breaks as the timing will depend on how many staff and volunteers are out on guided tours. Generally, volunteers will be able to take a short break in the morning, after the cleaning and before the first tour commences.

The same is true of lunch, although volunteers will always be given preference when it comes to ensuring they have a lunch break.

NB At no time will humanisation of the primates be allowed; we are clinical in our "HANDS OFF" approach toward the animals in our care.