

Elephant Peace Sanctuary Nepal Volunteer Program

At our sanctuary, we offer the opportunity for volunteers to be part of our two elephants' daily care and to learn more about the majesty of elephants.



**Lucky Kali, our matriarch elephant.
Immerse yourself in a beautiful natural setting
and become part of a respectful and friendly team.**

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Lucky Kali enjoying the forest

Introduction to the program

Welcome to our Elephant Peace Sanctuary Nepal Volunteer Program at Association Moey in Harnari, situated just outside of Chitwan National Park. Here we provide our 2 elephants sanctuary where their only job is to be elephants. The goal of our volunteer program is to involve committed volunteers with improving the elephants' welfare through caring for their daily needs and sanctuary maintenance. The volunteer's labor and program fees all go directly towards ensuring that our elephants live as naturally as possible as elephants.

The sanctuary is home to both the elephants and mahouts, the elephants' caretakers who live alongside the elephants. The volunteers' time, effort, passion and financial contributions will directly support the lives and homes of both our elephants and their mahouts. They will make a tangible difference in the lives of our elephants when they are here and even after they leave, both because of the impact they made during their time at the sanctuary and as elephant ambassadors. Their contributions will allow future generations to enjoy the elephants that they have cared for as well as future generations of elephants we will care for.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to observe the elephants in their natural habitat and learn about their natural behaviors, elephant biology, their role in ecology, the foundations of hands-off elephant tourism, the plight of captive working elephants in Asia, the ongoing human-elephant conflict, the complex socio-cultural-historical human-elephant relationship in Nepal, the challenges of elephant conservation in Nepal, and how they, as elephant ambassadors, can help to spread the word and



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educate the world about how to contribute to elephant welfare in spite of the rapidly diminishing Asian elephant population. After they leave our sanctuary, they can continue to be involved remotely to support our sanctuary. We always welcome support with document translations, communication support, video editing, fundraising, or sourcing equipment - there are many ways to help, and how the volunteer would like to continue to support us is tailored to their individual skills and availability.

The volunteers work hard, use their body and will get down and dirty, but they will bond with other volunteers and staff while working hands-on as a team to maintain the sanctuary for our elephants. They will contribute to mutual capacity building by exchanging their knowledge and skills with staff and volunteers. While here, in addition to the hard work they will put in, there are many activities to enjoy such as exploring the local Chitwan area, having cultural exchange opportunities, taking forest walks, connecting with staff and other elephant ambassadors, and watching the elephants be elephants in the forest and river. We also have a half day guest volunteer program (7 AM - 11:00 AM), and these guest volunteers will be working alongside the regular volunteer and the staff. Regular volunteers will be providing oversight to these guest volunteers, showing them their expertise as volunteers!

We operate year round, are open to applicants who are at least 18 years of age and in excellent physical health who can tolerate high temperatures and hard physical labor, and require a two week minimum commitment with longer durations preferred.

Arrival information

Volunteers will fly into Kathmandu airport, then can either fly to Bharatpur airport (about a 25 minute flight) or take a ~6 hour bus ride from Kathmandu to Bharatpur. There are taxis for hire from the Bharatpur airport to the accommodations in Harnari. It is about a 30 minute ride from the airport to Harnari. We ask volunteers to please arrive at their accommodations the day before they start the volunteer program.

Typical day and duties

Breakfast is at 6:00 AM, lunch at 11:30 AM and dinner is at 6:00 PM.

It will be a 6 day work week from Tuesday-Sunday. Volunteers have a rest day on Monday to relax or explore the surrounding area. The volunteers' schedule mirrors the mahouts as we work as a team. The work day is typically from 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM, with a tea and lunch break. The half day guest volunteers are here from 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

The volunteer is an integral part of the elephant team. Each day they will help plant, harvest and prepare our elephants' food. They will also clean the enclosures and general sanctuary areas, and build and maintain structures as needed. They will also clean the river.



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A typical day could look like the following (depending on the season.) We are always open to feedback and suggestions to improve our program:

6:00 AM - 6:45 AM

- Breakfast at the hotel.

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

- Collect wood for fire as needed.
- Help cook our elephants' special treats (rice and pumpkins).
- Help clean their night shelters (remove dung, leftover bamboo, stalks and branches, etc.).
- Help rearrange their night beds.

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

- Tea break

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

- Cut fresh grass, collect bamboo, banana leaves and branches for Lucky Kali and Begam Kali.
- Do gardening.
- Maintain paths for ease of movement.

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

- Lunch and rest at the hotel.

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

- Walk alongside the river to spot Lucky Kali and Begam Kali in their natural surroundings.
- Observe them while they bathe in the river and simply be elephants.
- Learn about elephants' natural behavior. Create your own pictures and videos.
- Clean the river.

2:30 PM – 5:30 PM

- Help with the garden (water trees, plant new crops and trees, etc.)
- Clean enclosures.
- Replace substrate for elephants' beds.
- Maintain sanctuary facilities and security (fence repair, water management, etc.).

6:00 PM

- Dinner at the hotel.

**Breaks are always possible in the schedule (we are happy to adjust to your specific needs).

All volunteers should be prepared to help at the sanctuary as necessary to the best of their ability while also being flexible to the ever changing nature of life in the Nepali jungle, all with a positive attitude!

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Accommodations and meals

The accommodations will be at a nearby hotel where the volunteer may share their room with one other person, each having their own bed, and most rooms have an en suite Western style toilet and shower. The food is traditional Nepali and vegetarian. Volunteers will be provided a simple breakfast and 2 vegetarian dal bhat meals a day.

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What we provide

- Standard shared accommodation with an en suite Western style toilet and shower
- Three meals and one bottled water per day
- WiFi - generally available in hotel and sanctuary areas and depending on weather and power
- Association Moey Volunteer program T-shirt
- The life-changing opportunity to contribute to elephant welfare in practical hands-on ways

What you provide

- A full passport valid for the duration of your stay and at least 6 months of validity remaining
- Travel Insurance required (e.g., World Nomads, Allianz)
- All flights and independent travel costs
- Any amenities



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- A tourist visa (usually can obtain visa on arrival; check your country's specific visa requirements to enter Nepal)
- Check CDC website for vaccine recommendations
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/nepal>
- There are ATMs available in KTM, Bharatpur and Sauraha. Cash can be exchanged for Nepali rupees at currency exchange shops at a better rate.
- A great attitude!

The suggested packing list

Comfortable, neutral colored clothing	Hiking boots
Sun Hat and sunglasses	Sandals/flip flops
Sunscreen	Towel
Toiletries	First aid kit
Bug repellent	Daypack
Camera	Binoculars
Waterproof jacket	Headlamp/flashlight
Gardening gloves	Rain boots or waterproof shoes
Refillable water bottle	Medications if needed
Your laptop and mobile phone	A plug adapter
Rain gear (June - September)	Warm clothes (November - February)

**Please keep in mind that Nepal is a conservative country so please kindly respect the customs by having modest dress. Please no tank tops or shorts above the knees; shoulders and legs should be covered.*

Volunteer fee and payment

The cost for the regular volunteer program is \$400 USD per week, with a 2 week minimum time commitment. Full payment is due at time of booking. At least one month prior to the start of the volunteer placement, the full payment must be made. Payment is completed via wire transfer. Bank Information below:



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Bank Information
<p>Association Moey Beneficiary Name: Association Moey Beneficiary Address: Rue de la Sagne 21 1347 Le Sentier Switzerland Bank Name: PostFinance SA Bank Address: Mingerstrasse 20 3030 Bern Switzerland Account Number: 14-90985-7 IBAN: CH30 0900 0000 1409 0985 7 BIC / SWIFT: POFICHBEXX</p>

Rebookings, cancellations, no shows and refunds

Please speak with us about rebooking your placement and we will try to accommodate you. All bookings when canceled are irreversible, all payments are non transferable and non-refundable. No shows forfeit all fees. You forfeit the fees if you leave earlier than originally booked.

FAQs

1. How do I get to my accommodations?

Flights and buses are available from Kathmandu to Sauraha. We recommend staying in KTM the night prior to the journey to your accommodation. This will allow you to rest after a long travel. In addition, flights and buses are often late so this gives you leeway so that you do not miss your flight or bus.

Please arrive directly at the hotel, there are taxis for hire from the airport. We can also assist you if needed.

2. Can I fly my drone to take video or photos?

The use of drones at our site is strictly prohibited.

3. Is there internet and cell phone service?

Because we are in the jungle, both internet and cell service may be intermittent. There is generally WiFi available in the hotel and sanctuary areas.



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4. Is there laundry service?

There is a laundry machine you can use for a fee at the hotel.

5. Is there air conditioning or heat?

No, there is not. There are fans available.

Your contributions create a better world for elephants. We look forward to your time with us as a volunteer. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Namaste.

