



International Animal Rescue

Dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of suffering animals

Registered Charity Number 1118277

Bangalore, India

Volunteer Guide

Edited by Marie Saint-Arnoult

1 Introduction

- 1.1 International Animal Rescue
- 1.2 IAR's partner: Wildlife SOS
- 1.3 Volunteers

2. Wildlife SOS

- 2.1 History
- 2.2 Wildlife SOS's work
- 2.3 The centre
- 2.4 How to contact Wildlife SOS

3. Volunteer Programmes at Wildlife SOS

- 3.1 Wildlife SOS India requirements
- 3.2 Legal requirements
 - 3.2.1 Visa
 - 3.2.2 Recommended vaccinations
 - 3.2.3 Insurance
- 3.3 Activities as a volunteer with Wildlife SOS
- 3.4 Travel recommendations
- 3.5 Language
- 3.6 Accommodation
- 3.7 Transport
- 3.8 Useful links and references

Appendix 1: Map of Karnataka and Bangalore

Appendix 2: Visa application

Appendix 3: Vocabulary

1 Introduction

1.1 International Animal Rescue

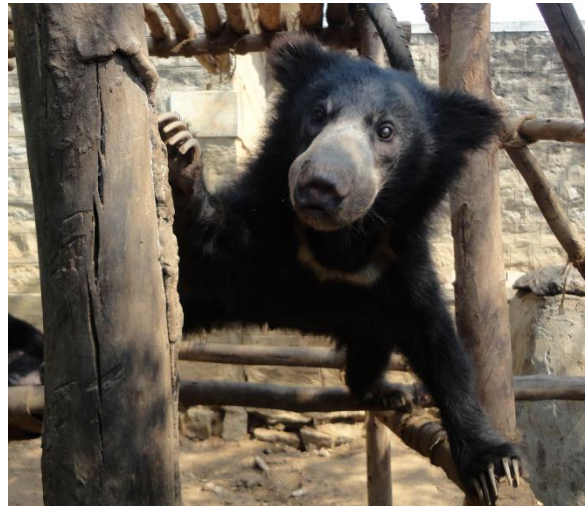
The aim of International Animal Rescue is to come to the aid of suffering animals around the world. Wherever possible we return rescued animals to their natural environment, but we also provide permanent sanctuary for animals that can no longer survive in the wild. IAR also specialises in comprehensive sterilisation and vaccination programmes for stray dogs and cats to control populations and prevent the spread of disease. We work with other like-minded organisations and government departments to develop sound legislation to protect animals from cruelty and neglect.

International Animal Rescue strives to educate the public in the compassionate and humane treatment of all animals. We use sound scientific evidence to inform our decisions and determine the course of our rescue operations. In all that we do we seek to find practical solutions that benefit both animals and people. We have offices in the UK, India, US, the Netherlands, Indonesia and Malta.

1.2 Wildlife SOS

Wildlife S.O.S was founded in 1998 by Geeta Seshamani and Kartick Satyanarayan to initiate urgent action to curb wildlife crime and help wildlife in distress. Wildlife S.O.S's highly successful landmark project is to bring an end to the age old brutal practice of 'Dancing Bears' in India. Wildlife S.O.S has successfully rescued and rehabilitated over six hundred (600) Indian Bears till date.

Wildlife S.O.S is one of India's most effective non-profit charitable organization (NGO) established for and dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of India's wildlife from illegal captivity and cruelty while protecting them in their natural habitat through anti-poaching work and habitat conservation programs.



Kuber - 1 year old cub

1.3 Volunteers

Through our volunteer programme we recruit valuable extra support at the centre and provide an opportunity for students and other individuals to gain experience in the care of animals. IAR and WSOS also benefits from the knowledge and new ideas of volunteers from overseas. Any volunteers who have specialist skills, whether in the veterinary profession or in other fields, are always a great help to us.

2. Wildlife SOS

2.1 History



Geeta Seshamani, Co-Founder

Wildlife SOS was established in 1995 by Geeta Seshamani and Kartick Satyanarayan, inspired to start a movement and make lasting change to protect and conserve India's natural heritage, forests and wildlife wealth. Today, the organization has evolved to actively work towards protecting the Indian wildlife, conserving habitat, studying biodiversity, conducting research and creating alternative and sustainable livelihoods for erstwhile poacher communities.

India's wildlife is under severe threat - every animal from the majestic elephant and the tiger, to the shy sloth bear and rare pangolins have fast become "the hunted". While time is running out for these creatures, it's not too late to help.

We can make a difference if every single one of us consciously decides to give back to the planet, to give back to nature and help protect the environment and wildlife that we have neglected so far.

Although Wildlife SOS is mainly known for the work with 'dancing bears', they also have active projects to help leopards, elephants, reptiles and other animals. They also work on various projects targeted at environment and biodiversity conservation, as well as, reducing our carbon footprint.

They believe in working with organizations and individuals that share their philosophy. Wildlife SOS has formal 'co-operative' agreements in place with state governments and forest departments in more than nine states in India.



Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-Founder

2.2 Wildlife SOS's work

WSOS has established 8 projects across India which help wildlife conservation:

- Agra Bear Rescue Facility, Agra
- Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre, Bangalore
- Van-Vihar Bear Rescue Facility, Bhopal
- The Moon Bear conservation Project in Srinagar
- Wildlife Rescue Centre, Haryana
- Wildlife Rescue Project, Delhi
- Habitat Conservation Project, Hospet, Bellary, Karnataka

Other projects undertaken are

- India Sloth Bear Conservation Effort
- Anti-Poaching Unit in collaboration with One Voice France
- Elephant Conservation & Welfare Project
- Wildlife Research & Conservation Projects
- Eradication of Dancing Bear practice & preventing bear cub poaching
- Management of the Hyderabad Bear Rescue Transit Facility
- Reptile Rescue Cell
- Leopard Conservation & Welfare Project
- Informer Networking to uncover wildlife trade
- Tribal Rehabilitation through alternate employment
- Gurgaon Reptile and Raptor rescue Facility
- Reptile Protection & Conservation
- Raptor Rehabilitation
- Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Projects



Lava and Dhony, rescued sloth bears

2.3 The centre

Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre is located 25kms south of Bangalore city. It was established in 2005, and homes 104 sloth bears up to date. It is a 68 acres of land, carefully designed to arrange bears depending on their compatibility. It has one fully equipped vet clinic including optalmic and dental equipment, for the treatment of rescued sloth bears. It also has lab, computer room, staff quarters, office, kitchen, and bathroom.



There are 17 staff members. Dr Arun Sha is the director and veterinary officer since 2005, Dr Kieran C.M is another veterinary officer, Nadhi Lakmali is the outreach coordinator, Shuyab Ahmed is the enclosure coordinator and volunteer coordinator. The rest of the staff are bear handlers and carers.

2.4 How to contact Wildlife SOS



Address: D-210, Defence Colony, New Delhi, India 110024
Mobile phone numbers : +91 9810114563, +91 9868862310
Office phone numbers: 011-24644231 / 011 - 24621939
Fax: 011- 51550480
E-mail: wsos@vsnl.com, kartick@wildlifesos.org

Local contact Details:

Dr.A.SHA.ARUN, Director – Veterinary Operations & Senior Wildlife Veterinary Officer,
Wildlife SOS, BBRC, Bangalore -83.

arun@wildlifesos.org

Mobile phone number +91 99801 45785 or +91 92412 71714

3 Volunteer Programmes at Wildlife SOS

3.1 Wildlife SOS India requirements

To become a volunteer for IAR and Wildlife SOS, you must first send your curriculum vitae to the IAR UK head office at info@internationalanimalrescue.org or:

International Animal Rescue
Lime House Regency Close
Uckfield East Sussex TN22 1DS.
Tel : 0044(0) 1825 767688

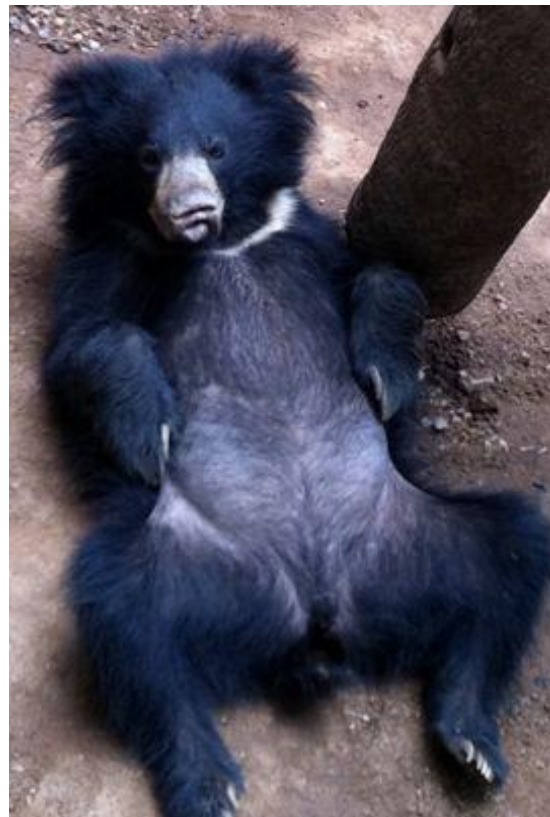
You will then be invited to attend an interview with an appropriate member or members of IAR's team. Interviews can be arranged in IAR's main office in the UK or by Skype if you live abroad.

You will need:

- A love of animals
- A willingness to dedicate time, patience and care to the animals and to the tasks given to you
- To provide yourself with money for flights, accommodation and food etc. Lunch will be provided for volunteers on duty
- To enjoy working with other people as a member of a team
- A sense of humour!

➤ Adjusting to the country

Bangalore is the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka. Located in the south-eastern part of Karnataka, Bangalore is India's third most populous city and fifth-most populous urban agglomeration, with more than 8 million inhabitants. Bangalore is well known as a hub for India's information technology sector.



Tulsi, almost 2 years old female cub

India is an undeveloped country and won't provide all the commodities and conveniences that you enjoy at home. If you have not travelled here before, on first arrival you may suffer something of a 'culture shock' and you will have to get used to several changes from your normal way of life:

➤ Climate

Bangalore has a tropical savanna climate with distinct wet and dry seasons. The coolest month is December with an average low temperature of 15.4 °C and the hottest month is April with an average high temperature of 32.8 °C.

➤ **Social status**

Women in India are entitled to vote and own property. Although professions are male dominated, women are steadily making inroads, especially in urban centres.

➤ **Sacred cows**

The Hindu faith holds cows (and snakes) in high esteem and they worship these sacred animals. As a result, the consumption of beef is avoided in the Hindu faith.

➤ **Dress sense**

Most Indians are modest in the clothes they wear and it is important not to abuse their hospitality or offend their religious beliefs by wearing clothes which are inappropriately revealing / tight / short etc.

The ideal dress code at work is large army pants with a tee shirt (not sleeveless) and some slippers (bring walking shoes just in case), forest colors are encouraged.

The ideal dress code outside of work is loose trousers with a long loose top and a scarf. Slippers can be worn everyday.

Your shoes must be removed before entering a Hindu temple and it is also polite to do so at someone's house, and even at the centre's kitchen.

➤ **Behaviour at religious sites**

One must be respectful, particularly at religious services. Do not smoke or talk loudly and never touch a statue or carving of a God. Remember to

dress respectfully and do not take photographs inside a temple. Leave your shoes outside.

➤ **Different work rhythm**

Here everything is done in a more relaxed fashion than in Europe. You may find this hard to adjust to at first. You will have to be very patient!

➤ **Telephone and Internet:**

It costs 1 rupees to get an Indian sim card. International call costs are very cheap so we suggest that you get one once you arrive. Common providers are Airtel, Aircel and Vodaphone. For Internet, if you stay at the guesthouse we suggest that you get a dungle (approximately 1200 rupees), and if you stay at Eco-Haya there is free WiFi. Please note that very few public places offer free WiFi.

➤ **Rupee conversion rate**

1GBP is around 88 rupees (June 2012)



Nadhi, outreach coordinator

1€ is around 71 rupees (June 2012)

➤ **Diet**

Although we do not insist that you are vegetarian, we do expect you to refrain from eating any meat whilst on duty. All food served at the centre is vegetarian and consuming meat at our premises is a major offence.

The typical lunch at the centre will be rice or roti (Indian bread), with vegetable curry or curd (Indian yogurt).

➤ **Arrival/Departure**

Karnataka's main airport is Bangalore. There is a pre-paid taxi booth at the arrival. We recommend that you use these. The centre is approximately a 2 hours drive from the airport depending on the time of the day. One way is around 1500-2000 rupees.

3.2 Legal requirements

3.2.1 Visa

For information regarding visas please see Appendix 2.

3.2.2 Recommended vaccinations

The World Health Organisation recommends these vaccinations for people travelling to India (also you should be up to date with measles, mumps and rubella):

- Adult diphtheria and tetanus
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Polio
- Typhoid
- Varicella
- Japanese B Encephalitis
- Meningitis
- Rabies (could be useful)
- Tuberculosis (TB)

NB: If only travelling to Bangalore, some of these vaccinations may not be relevant or necessary so as an additional precaution please check with a medical professional first.

3.2.3 Insurance

You will need relevant travel and health insurance (including a return flight home in case of an emergency.)

3.3 Activities as a volunteer at Wildlife SOS

Duties as a volunteer wishing to work in contact with bears include:

- Setting up morning porridge for the bears (pick up at kitchen, pouring, mixing, transporting, serving)

- Feeding morning porridge
- Cleaning up plates and enclosures (water, sweeping, fixing enrichments, picking up foreign objects, rearranging the socializing pens if necessary)
- Weighting and feeding watermelons
- Preparing safari feeding: watermelons and honey
- Feeding safari bears
- Setting up afternoon porridge, feeding, cleaning
- Propose enrichment ideas
- Building enrichments
- Bear observations
- Sorting out meal worms
- Planting trees
- Sorting out / cutting fruits

Duties as a volunteer wishing to do office work include:

- Accompanying awareness programmes
- Helping filling in the guest register
- Assisting guests during centre's visits
- Assisting fundraising activities



Shuyab - Volunteer coordinator

3.4 Travel recommendations

We recommend that you take with you:

- Comfortable clothes (in Karnataka there are three main religions: Hinduism (84%), Islam (12%) Roman Catholic (2%) – in some of these religions women are not expected to wear some types of clothes; it is best not to wear short tops, skirts and shorts, tight or revealing clothing etc.) Long comfortable trousers and loose shirts are advised.
- Raincoat (in monsoon season only)
- Sheet or travelling blanket (sleeping bag will be too hot!)
- Torch (a head torch is a good idea as it leaves your hands free)
- Mosquito repellent and net
- Towels

Don't worry if you forget something. Most things can be purchased locally and at cheaper rates than in Europe.

You may feel that you need to purchase various medicines at home to bring with you such as Paracetamol, Immodium and other emergency products. This is not necessary as all the basic remedies you could possibly need are available at local pharmacies at a fraction of the cost.

NB: There are many ATM cash points in Karnataka where most major credit cards will be accepted.

3.5 Language

While it is not compulsory to learn the Indian language to be a volunteer with IAR and Wildlife SOS in India, it may be useful to learn a few basics. The official language in India is Hindi, however Kannada is the language of Karnataka. You could buy a basic phrasebook and/or look at the vocabulary list provided in Appendix 3.

3.6 Accommodation

You only have a few choices regarding accommodation. Please note that Bannerghatta is a small village outside of Bangalore city, hence commuting everyday is not possible. It would take between one and two hours to reach by bus or taxi. You can either stay at the centre's guesthouse, which is located in a safe compound in front of the director family's house (Dr Arun). There are two bedrooms, one bathroom, as well as a kitchen and living room. The cost for this accommodation is:

£250 a week (min of 4 weeks)

£300 a week (min of 3 weeks)

£325 a week (min of 2 weeks)

£350 a week for 1 week.

3.7 Transport

Bannerghatta is south of Bangalore city. It is about 25kms away. If you want to visit, you may take the bus, rickshaw or taxi. Buses pass by every 5 minutes.

We don't advise for you to rent a scooter or motorbike. The traffic in the city is very dense and you really need to know the ways.

If you stay at the guesthouse, you won't need transportation since you will leave every morning with Dr Arun (Director of the centre) in the jeep, who lives in front with his family. Entering the sanctuary can only be done by jeep, as there are wild animals on the way. Hence all the staff comes together in the morning.

3.8 Useful links and references

www.wildlifesos.org

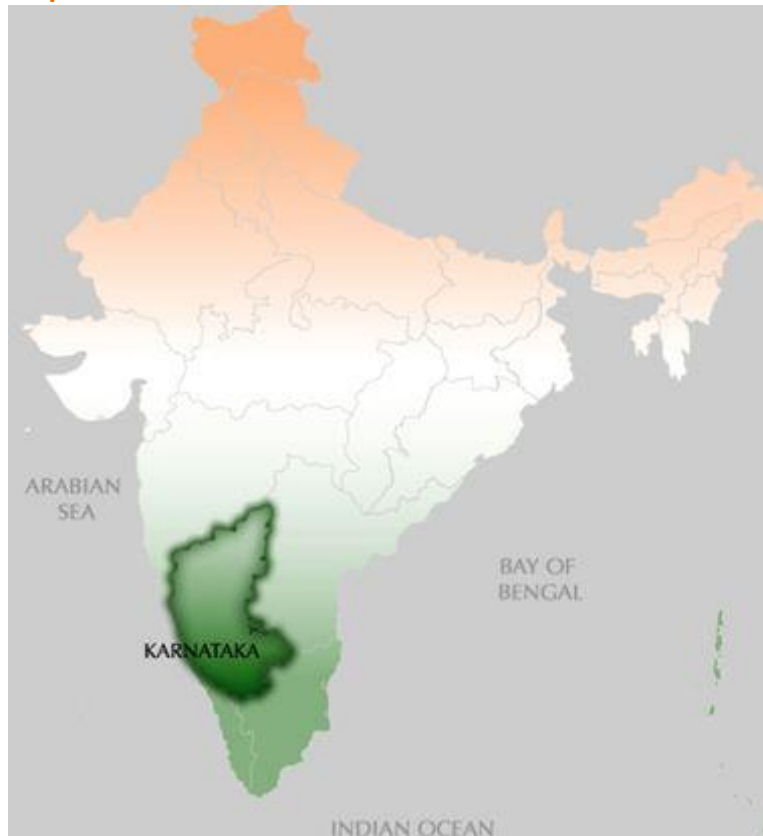
www.internationalanimalrescue.org

www.lonelyplanet.com/india/bengaluru-bangalore

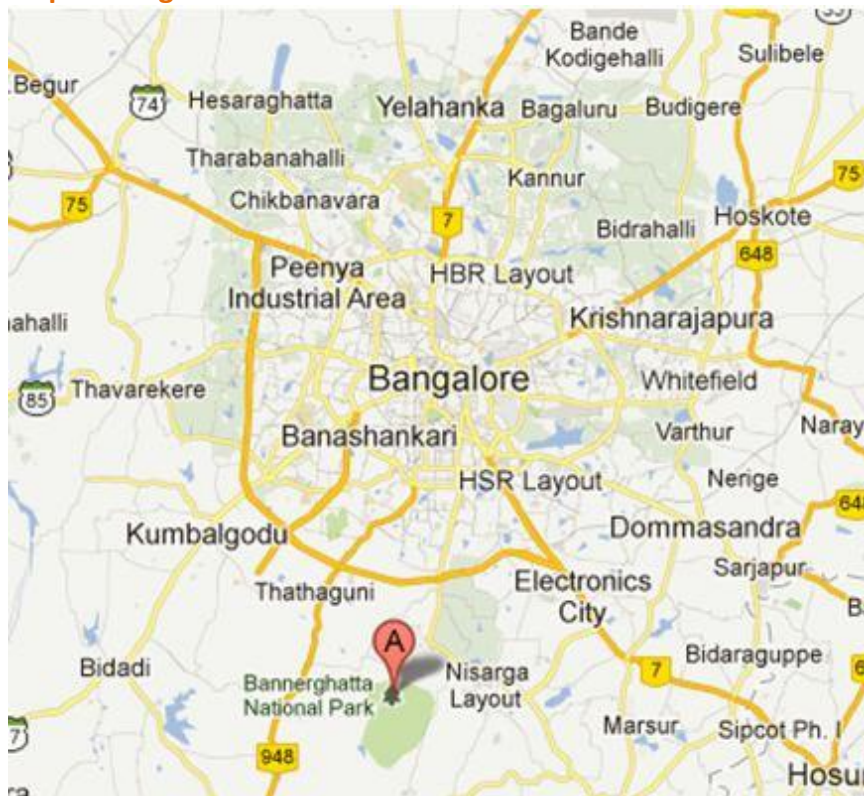
www.indiawildliferesorts.com/national-parks/bannerghatta-national-park.html

Appendix 1

Map of India and Karnataka



Map of Bangalore



Appendix 2

Volunteer visa application

In May 2008 the Indian High Commission contracted out their visa application service to VFS Global UK Ltd - <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk>

The main difference between the old and new system is that you can no longer get the visa on the same day. The website explains the new procedure. You need to apply online and either deliver your passport with the fee and new photos (2 photos 2"x2" are now required). This is because they now include a picture on the visa inside your passport. Passport photos are no longer accepted. They do have a machine that produces the 2" x 2" photos in the visa hall if you go in person.

The law now states that all volunteers for NGO's require an employment visa which will cost around £350. There is a special section on the application form that allows you to tick working for an NGO.

You will need a letter from IAR requesting that a visa is granted and also you will need a letter from Wildlife SOS inviting you to volunteer. In 2012 we were instructed that you also will need a copy of the charity registration document for Wildlife SOS, this is available if you need it.

You may need two references from India for the application:

Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-Founder
Wildlife SOS D210 Defense Colony New Delhi 110024
Kartick@wildlifesos.org
Mobile phone number: +91 9810114563

Dr.A.SHA.ARUN, Director – Veterinary Operations & Senior Wildlife Veterinary Officer,
Wildlife SOS, BBRC, Bangalore -83.

arun@wildlifesos.org
Mobile phone number +91 99801 45785 or +91 92412 71714

Once you have completed the online application you can either send your passport and photos in with the relevant letters from us or arrange for an appointment to visit one of the several visa centres around the UK. You then have to wait up to 3 days for your visa. You can either pick it up or pay for a courier service to return it to you.

Appendix 3

Vocabulary

Key words

Hello	Namaste
Goodbye	Hogi Bartini
Please	Dayavittu
Yes	Howdu
No	Illa
Thank you	Dhanya vada
Big	Doddadu
Small	Chikadu
Today	Ivattu
Day	Dina
Night	Ratri
Week	Vara
Month	Tingalu
Year	Varsha
Medicine	Oushadhi
Bear	Karadi
Snake	Havu
Tiger	Huli
Water	Neeru
Fruit	Hanu
Lunch	Uta

Useful phrases

How are you?	Hegiddera
Very well, thank you	Hennagiddini, dhanyavada
What's your name?	Nimma hesaru yenu
Do you speak English?	Nevu English matadtira
I don't understand	Nanige artha aagtailla
Where is a hotel?	Illi hotel yalli ide
How far is...?	Yashtu doora
How do I get to...?	(city) ge hege hoga beku
How much?	Yeshtu
What is the time?	Time yeshtu

Numbers

One	Ondu
Two	Yeradu
Three	Muuru
Four	Nalku

Five	Aiidu
Six	Aaru
Seven	Yelu
Eight	Entu
Nine	Ombattu
Ten	Hattu
Eleven	Hannondu
Twelve	Hannerdu
Thirteen	Hadimuru
Fourteen	Hadinalku
Fifteen	Hadinaidu
Sixteen	Hadinaaru
Seventeen	Hadineelu
Eighteen	Hadnentu
Nineteen	Hattombattu
Twenty	Ippattu
Thirty	Muvattu
Fourty	Nalavattu
Fifty	Aiivattu
Sixty	Aravattu
Seventy	Yeppattu
Eighty	Yembattu
Ninety	Tombattu
One hundred	Nooru
Two hundred	Inuru
One thousand	Ondu saavira