



# Gap Year Opportunities



# A Bit About Me...

- I took a gap year after A-levels during which I spent 4 months travelling.
- 2 months were spent in South Africa
- 2 months were spent in Madagascar
- I am now in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the University of Birmingham studying Biology



# What I gained...

- Independence
- Confidence
- Communication Skills
- New Interests
- Motivation
- Knowledge of other cultures
- Friends
- Work Experience
- Photos
- First Aid Qualification



# What is a Gap Year?

- Doesn't have to be a year
- Minigaps in the Summer
- 15 months if you defer a year



# Why take a gap year?

- A break from education
- Enhanced CV
- Learn new skills
- Gain Independence
- Allows you to think about the future
- Have Fun!!

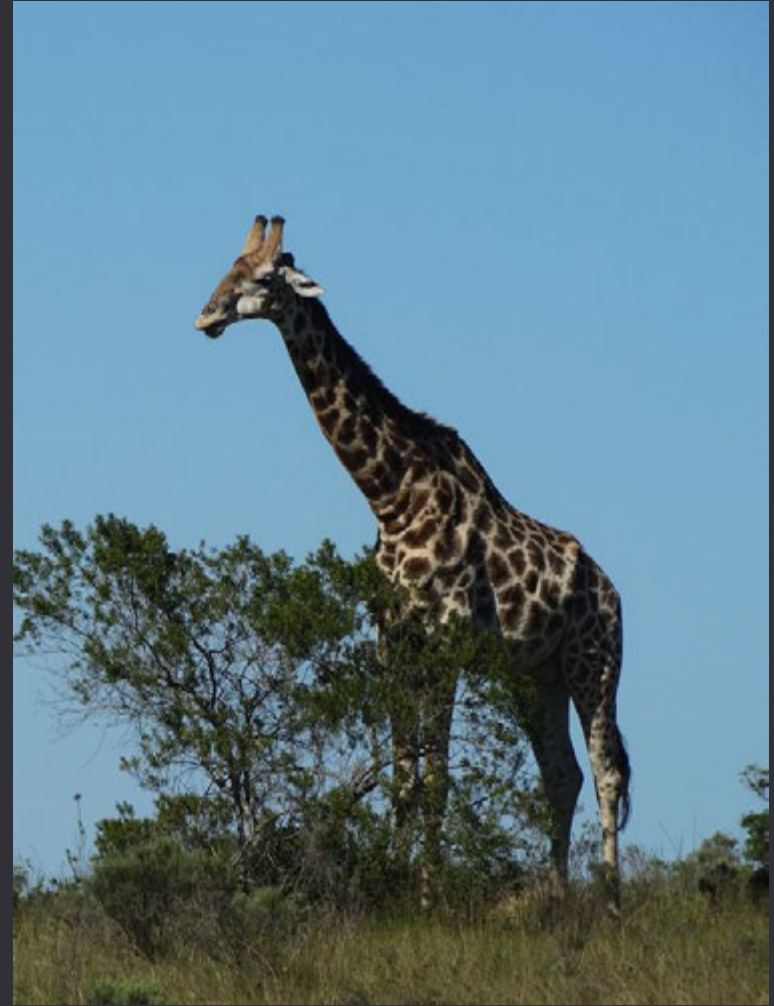


# What can you do?

- Travel
- Work
- Volunteer
- Apprentiships
- Conservation
- Expeditions
- Anything Constructive



# Oyster Worldwide







# Borneo and Malaysia



- Orangutan protection – one of 3 places in the world you can see them!
- Zoo internship- live life as a Malaysian zoo keeper!
- Sun bear volunteering – help the smallest and cutest species of bear.
- Wildlife conservation volunteering- work in the Borneo rainforests to help protect local wildlife and rainforest
- Help





# Turtles

- Impacted by human pollution and development, industrial fishing and natural predators.
- Make a genuine contribution to the conservation of turtles.
- Live on a golden beaches.
- Head to Costa Rica and practise your Spanish.
- Our Thailand turtle programme is based on a stunning remote island.
- Travel after



# Elephant conservation



- Based in Sri Lanka and Namibia
- See elephants in the wild
- Camp in the desert in the Namib
- Help to encourage better relationships between locals and elephants
- Work with the multiple-award winning charity in Sri Lanka.
- Promote elephant conservation in local communities



# Elephant Welfare Programmes

- Exciting hands on experience with the elephants.
- Based in Thailand and South Africa
- Help to protect injured and abused animals
- An amazing experience for elephant lovers!
- Really popular so book early.



# Volunteers with baby monkey and baboons



- Our most popular programme
- Look after baby orphaned monkey and baboons
- Help to bottle feed them
- Prepare to get mucky
- Spend time with these adorable but mischievous creatures.



# Help protect bears in Romania

- Work in magical Brazov – a real hidden European gem
- Work with 80 rescued bears
- Many bears used as performers in horrible conditions
- Many of these bears can't go back to the wild
- Head to Transylvania





# Gain a PADI and conserve marine life

- Head out with a PADI or gain one out there
- Work with experts to protect coral and marine life
- See the impact of climate change and make a genuine impact
- Based on the idyllic and exciting island of Ko Phanghan







# Volunteer with Sharks

- Based 1 hour and 30 minutes from amazing Cape Town
- Work with a leading ecotourism organisation
- Shark dive
- Learn about these majestic animals.





# Veterinary and Wildlife experiences

- Big 5 - Open to all animal lovers. Work on a reserve helping to maintain the area and work alongside the game rangers
- Game Ranger - Gain a FGSA (Field Guide Association of South Africa) Level 1 on this 8 week course.
- Veterinary internship - shadow a vet on the reserve
- Veterinary Experience- Open to those who have experience. Help on a mobile veterinary unit on local farms, vet clinics and reserves







# Tips

- Book early
- Places fill fast during the summer
- Most programmes do not require prior experience – just enthusiasm and hard-work



# What now?

- Ask questions
- Take some information away with you
- Look online
- Get in touch, we are always happy to help

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[www.oysterworldwide.com](http://www.oysterworldwide.com)