







# 2016 Volunteer Trip

**CONSERVE | CONNECT | PROTECT**

*DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION OF THE RED PANDA*

Thank you for taking an interest in our inaugural 2016 Volunteer Trip in Nepal. As the Red Panda becomes increasingly threatened by anthropogenic actions it is more important than ever to focus our attention on this unique species. Endemic to the Himalayas the Red Panda is the only species of its kind in the world and our volunteer trip will give you the opportunity to positively impact this species. The Red Panda Trust was established in 2014 with the aim of fulfilling the need for research-based conservation for this species. This trip represents a high milestone for our organization and will allow us to trial our experimental design for our Population Study. The trip will take place in Langtang National Park in Central Nepal an area, which is well known for its Red Panda populations. Unfortunately in the last 12 months many Red Pandas have been killed for their pelts in a small village called Ghyangphedi in the National Park, which identifies a need for more to be understood about the illegal trading in this species. Again thank you for your time in taking an interest in the Red Panda Trust and for considering our volunteer trip.

Regards

*Emma Dale*

President and Founder of the Red Panda Trust

## **Fast Facts**

- Our first volunteer trip is now accepting applications
- The three weeks of volunteering costs \$1,800 This excludes International Flights, Insurance (Essential), Immunizations and Visas.
- The trip will run in Langtang National Park in a rural village
- You will participate in research developing and testing methods to be used in the Red Panda Behavioural Study as well as other education initiatives
- **Full payments must be received by May 2016**

## **Field Work**

While in Langtang National Park you will have the opportunity to assist in a number of projects. The major project that we will be undertaking is our Behavioural Study. Within this study you will be establishing quadrats and transects, installing camera traps, assessing microhabitat structure and performing other basic ecological techniques. Additional to our behaviour study you will help implement education programs in the region to engage the community in Red Panda Conservation. We will also undertake anti hunting patrol training and research training with our partner the Red Panda Network. Furthermore we will have the opportunity to assess sites in the region to construct our Conservation Centre. The center will ultimately act as a rehabilitation center for Red Pandas but will also function as a research hub and education center.

## **Location of the Field Work**

Ghyangphedi is a village development committee in Nuwakot District in the Bagmati Zone of central Nepal (Figure 1). This area has been identified as an area of concern in regards to the management and conservation of the Red Panda. Populations in this area are constantly targeted by the illegal hunting trade in Red Panda skins as well as interesting behavioral observations (recent articles:

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=)

83189;[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=73345](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=73345)). We are excited to launch our population pilot study in this area in the hopes that we can learn more about the Red Panda populations in this delicate region.



Figure 1: Location of Ghyangphedi

### **Proposed Itinerary**

August 25<sup>th</sup>: Arrive in Kathmandu

August 26-28th: A few days to settle in Kathmandu, exploring etc.

August 29th: Catch Bus/jeep to KutumbKhola, Nuwakot and hike to Ghyangphedi and stay the night at Ghyangphedi (Homestay)

August 30th: Hike to Multhala Bhanjyang (Main red panda potential site) and Please note accomodation in Ghyangphedi will be tents (provided), due to the recent natural disasters.

August 31st- September 10th: Main bulk of trip. We will be doing some research (behavioural analysis- focusing on reproductive ecology). As well as spotting red pandas

September 11th: Hike and drive to Kutumbkhola, Nuwakot

September 12th: Nuwakot to KTM

September 13th: Free Day in Kathmandu

## Application Form

If this opportunity is of interest to you please complete the following form and send to [volunteer@redpandatrust.org](mailto:volunteer@redpandatrust.org)

### 1. Applicant Details

First Name: .....Surname: .....

Postal Address: .....

Mobile: ..... Home Telephone: .....

Email: ..... Passport No: .....

Date of Birth: ..... Profession: .....

### 2. Emergency Contacts

A)

Name: .....

Relationship to you: .....

Mobile: .....

Home Telephone: .....

B)

Name: .....

Relationship to you: .....

Mobile: .....

Home Telephone: .....

### 3. Experience and Motivation

Have you previously participated in voluntary activities? Please detail:

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Why are you interested in volunteering in this project with the Red Panda Trust?

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What do you think you can contribute on the volunteer program?

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Have you ever travelled or lived abroad? (please describe)

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Do you have any knowledge of foreign languages?

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#### *4. Medical Information*

Help us put in place the appropriate supports for you by answering the following questions. Once you have confirmed your placement, please note

that you will need to have a medical form completed, before travel, by your GP.

Do you require any ongoing mediate treatment? If yes, please specify:

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Do you suffer from any allergies? If yes, please describe which kind and what the symptoms are:

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Do you have any special dietary requirements? If yes, please specify:

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Have you ever been prescribed medication or received counseling for a mental health condition?

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Please give details of any other relevant information regarding your health:

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Are you physically fit? Will you cope doing intensive field work at high altitudes? What is your current exercise regime?

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Please give the contact details for your family doctor:

Name: ..... Telephone: .....

**Please also attach the following:**

- A copy of your front passport page
- A current CV

### *Terms and conditions*

#### **Travel**

The volunteer is solely responsible for arranging and paying for their own travel, specifically including all airfares or other transport costs to and from the host country as well as any local transport costs. It is the responsibility of the volunteer to carry all necessary documents when traveling abroad. While the Red Panda Trust may advise the volunteer on required travel documentation, the Red Panda Trust is not responsible for any supporting documents necessary for the volunteer's travel needs or other purposes. Volunteers are responsible for ensuring their travel documents are up to date and valid for travel.

#### **Insurance**



The Red Panda Trust does not provide the volunteer with insurance of any kind. Travel insurance is mandatory for each volunteer, and the volunteer will purchase this prior to departing on the trip. The volunteer is solely responsible for evaluating and determining the type, extent and levels of any insurance coverage they need or desire for their planned volunteer travel period. However, it must cover their entire travel period.

- Travel insurance is a compulsory requirement for travelling on our volunteer abroad program. Travel insurance should include:

- Unlimited medical and hospital treatment abroad

- Repatriation costs

- Any medical costs resulting from an accident

- Limited life insurance, accidental disability and emergency dental treatment cover

## **Personal Risks**

The volunteer acknowledges and accepts the responsibilities and risks associated with their agreement to travel to, temporarily live in and provide volunteer services in a developing country. Such travel and volunteer work can be often hazardous and involves a certain degree of risk, inherently dangerous activities and personal perils to the volunteer, both foreseen and unforeseen, all of which are fully accepted by and solely assumed by the volunteer. Therefore, the Red Panda Trust including any and all of its employees, managers, directors, shareholders, host families and host country partner organizations are not liable, to the maximum extent of the law, for any loss or harm the volunteer or associates may suffer, including but not limited to loss caused directly or indirectly by:

- Personal injury;
- Emotional injury;
- Death;
- Illness or disease;
- Damage to or loss of property;
- Hostage situations; or
- War or terrorism.

## **Indemnity**

The volunteer agrees to indemnify the Red Panda Trust against any and all liability which the Red Panda Trust incurs arising directly or indirectly out of, or

in connection (in any way) with, the volunteer's travel to, living in and providing services in the volunteer's nominated country.

### **Drug and Alcohol Use**

The volunteer must abide by the rules put in place by the Red Panda Trust and host family in regards to alcohol consumption. Drug use (unless prescribed by a doctor) is strictly prohibited and will result in instant dismissal from the program with no refund.

### **Miscellaneous**

The volunteer agrees to comply with the partner organization's code of conduct and waiver.

The Red Panda Trust reserves the right to use feedback and images provided by volunteers for website materials such as testimonials.

To the full extent permissible at law, all representations, terms, warranties, guarantees, or conditions whether implied by statute, common law or custom of the trade or otherwise, including, but not limited to, implied warranties and guarantees, are excluded.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in any agreement, the liability of the Red Panda Trust to the volunteer shall not in aggregate exceed the amount of the registration fee paid by the volunteer.

The Red Panda Trust reserves the right to refuse acceptance to any application.

The Red Panda Trust reserves the right to remove the volunteer from the program.

### *Generic Terms:*

- The Red Panda Trust reserves the right to refuse participation on any program to any person(s) demonstrating discriminatory attitudes relation to gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, race, membership of the Traveller community or disability.

- Participants agree at all times to consider themselves ambassadors for their country and to respect the property of their hosts.
- Participants agree to contact their Volunteer Coordinator in the event of any difficulties or problems arising during the program.
- Participants are responsible for booking and purchase of flights, and the organisation of any required visa for the relevant country.
- Participants travelling to all destinations agree to seek medical advice on any vaccinations or medical/dietary issues prior to departure.
- Applicants should be as flexible as possible in their requirements regarding placements. Every effort will be made to meet specific requirements but these can never be guaranteed.
- All prices are quoted in Australian Dollars. The balance of the program fee should be paid not later than 6 weeks before departure.
- The Red Panda Trust reserves the right to cancel any program for which full payment has not been received 28 days before departure.
- The Red Panda Trust accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss, illness or accident suffered by a participant during the program howsoever caused.
- If you cancel your program before your departure, the cancellation charges depend on how much notice you give us before your originally preferred departure date: notice of more than 12 weeks – full refund of amount paid less deposit; notice of 9 to 12 weeks – 50% of total cost; notice of 5 to 8 weeks – 75% of total cost; less than 5 weeks – no refund.
- No refund will be given for any participant cancelling or withdrawing from the program after departure.
- Refunds for participants forced to withdraw during the program because of serious illness will be considered on a case by case basis.
- No refund will be given to participants dismissed for misconduct.
- The possibility exists of transport delays or cancellations due to weather conditions, industrial disputes or other causes; whilst the Red Panda Trust greatly regrets any inconvenience caused to participants, it can not be held responsible for any repercussions, financial or otherwise caused by weather conditions, war, fire, flood, strike, industrial dispute, terrorist activities, hostilities, political unrest, riot, civil commotion, inevitable accident or other circumstances amounting to force majeure....

#### Declaration

Do you have any prosecutions pending or have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution or of a bound over order? If

yes, please state the nature and date(s) of the offence(s):

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*I confirm that nothing within my personal or professional background deems me unsuitable for a post which involves working with children and vulnerable adults. I declare that I have read and accept the terms and conditions of this program.*

Signature: .....

Name:..... Date: .....