

Workshop Angola FAQs



Version date: 04.08.2025

Benefits of ecotourism

In Angola, in the capital of the Red-footed falcons, human communities face significant protein shortages, turning to bushmeat to sustain their diets. Roosting falcons are easy prey. When flushed with lights on rainy nights, they fall to the ground with wet wings, from where they can be collected with bare hands in the morning.

With ecotourism, we can bring the necessary capital to the local people to secure the conservation of this unique place and the falcons instead of hunting and eating this natural treasure.

Project Location Angola

FALCOPOLIS is situated in Huambo Province, in central Angola. This area provides ideal conditions for the falcons, including tall trees for roosting and abundance of termites for feeding. This is where up to 1 million of Red-footed Falcons gather each year in a single roosting site nearby a small city. We are not giving out the exact location of FALCOPOLIS until you are confirmed for the program. The reason for this is to keep the place as protected as possible.

Recommended length of stay?

Usually, 3 days are enough for this unique wildlife experience. However, if you want to take memorable pictures of the extraordinary mass of falcons in the African sunset, you are recommended to stay 6 days with us. Longer your stay, more the chance to have beautiful evening lights.

What's a typical day like?

Every day is different! We organise guided bird watching walks, hide photography, daily workshops, cultural experience and many more. For a more detailed breakout for Day in the Life in Angola please download the workshop documentation of the project.

Flights, Insurance, VISA Angola

[\(https://www.angola-visa.com/visa-free-countries/\)](https://www.angola-visa.com/visa-free-countries/)

After we confirmed your application and provided the dates, we strongly advise you to book your flights as early as you can. You should book your flight to Luanda International Airport. It's very important to have appropriate travel insurance during your time abroad. All of our participants must be appropriately covered during all of their trip dates, including your travel to and from Angola. Although we do everything to ensure your trip is safe, unexpected things can happen. Therefore, having travel insurance helps you effectively deal with any problems you may encounter during your time with us.

On disembarking the plane, you will be transported by bus to the terminal building where you will join the immigration queue. There are usually two queues: one for foreigners and another for nationals. These are easily identifiable. Now, there is no requirement to fill in any immigration forms before arrival in Angola. The new tourist visa system allows for European (and 98 other American, European and Asian) nationals to enter Angola without a prior visa

application. Your passport will be stamped at arrival with a 30-day visa. You will not be required to pay for your visa. You might be asked why you come to Angola. It is appropriate to say that you are coming for tourism to Huambo to visit the RFF roosting site. You might be required to provide a local phone number and address, but those will be given to you prior to your arrival.

SME-Angola Immigration Services

Make sure you always have your passport on you! Immigration officers can demand to see your passport. Sometimes they even take your passport to their office for photocopying. If it happens, someone from our local team will escort the officer to their office to ensure your passport does not get lost.

In order to avoid any hassle, we would appreciate it if you could send us a copy of your passport in advance. We will photocopy them and carry a few copies to handover to immigration as and when asked. Alternatively, you can hand carry your own copies for the entire trip. Five copies should be enough.

Is there an entry fee to FALCOPOLIS?

Each day you visit FALCOPOLIS, you contribute to the conservation of this unique site. The workshop participation fee you pay includes a community contribution, which we transfer directly to the municipality's account for each visitor. The process is fully transparent and supports local efforts to reduce bushmeat consumption by offering ecologically sustainable sources of protein.

Your stay at our campsite also provides meaningful work for our volunteers, who offer free English classes, ecology lessons, and bird identification training in local schools throughout the year. We do not take any profit. 100% of your contribution remains available for Red-footed Falcon conservation through the FALCOPOLIS Fund.

How to get to FALCOPOLIS?

We offer bus transfers between Luanda and FALCOPOLIS. You just need to book your spot and then enjoy our all-inclusive service.

If you're arriving with your own vehicle, we'll provide a recommended itinerary once your booking is confirmed.

Food and Water

You will be provided breakfast, lunch and dinner, which will be a mixture of Angolan dishes as well as Portuguese. In most cases, you will have rice, potatoes, sweet potatoes, spaghetti, pork, beef, chicken, fish, soup, manioc (cassava), corn (maize), vegetables, fruit and cereals. If you have an allergy or dietary requirement and should avoid anything listed above, please let us know on office@falcopolis.org

The water from the mains is unfortunately poor quality in most Angolan cities. We encourage you to drink bottled water that we will supply, including to brush your teeth.

Fruits produced in Angola are remarkably tasty. Before eating the fruit, please make sure you wash it with bottled water.

Accommodation

Stay in luxury safari tents (from 2 to 6 pers.), designed to ensure safety and comfort in the field. The camp includes: a fully equipped kitchen tent, a designated area with hot showers, reliable solar-powered electricity, on-site internet access and mosquito nets provided for all sleeping areas. We urge you to bring your own sleeping bag. You are also welcome to come with your caravan or camping car. Please contact us to make a reservation before your arrival, otherwise we cannot guarantee your tent or campsite.

Security and Safety in Angola

The security situation in Angola has improved markedly since the end of the civil war. Travel in many parts of Luanda is relatively safe by day. Other towns and cities are remarkably friendly and safe. However, always store your packages out of sight. Street crime may occur in Luanda. The most common crimes are pick-pocketing, purse-snatching and vehicle break-ins.

Angola offers a rich cultural experience and valuable opportunities for meaningful volunteer work. While the country is developing and welcoming to international visitors, it is important for volunteers to be aware of and prepared for specific safety considerations. Your health and security are our priority, and we work to ensure a safe and supportive environment throughout your stay.

Health & Injuries

Medical facilities in Angola vary in quality, especially outside major cities like Luanda. Volunteers should arrive with valid international health insurance and be prepared with a basic first aid kit and any necessary personal medications. In the event of an injury or illness, program staff will assist in accessing appropriate care.

Sickness Prevention

Volunteers should take preventive measures against tropical illnesses. Malaria is present throughout Angola, so antimalarial medication, insect repellent, and mosquito nets are strongly recommended (there will be nets around the tents). Tap water is not considered safe to drink, so always use bottled or filtered water. It's also important to stay current on vaccinations such as yellow fever (required), typhoid, hepatitis A and B, and tetanus.

Wildlife & Natural Hazards

While Angola does not have a high risk from large or dangerous animals, insects like mosquitoes and ticks can transmit diseases. Avoid walking barefoot and be cautious in rural or overgrown areas. During the rainy season (including March), flooding and

muddy roads can pose logistical challenges—volunteers should wear appropriate footwear and follow local guidance.

Crime & Personal Safety

Urban areas, particularly Luanda, can experience higher levels of petty crime such as pickpocketing and theft. Avoid displaying valuables, do not walk alone at night, and use reliable transportation. Violent crime is less common but can occur—always follow the safety briefings provided during orientation. In rural project areas, the risk is significantly lower, and communities are often welcoming and peaceful.

Respect and Boundaries

Volunteers are expected to uphold mutual respect and clear personal boundaries. Any form of unwanted physical or sexual contact is taken very seriously. Volunteers should never feel pressured or unsafe—report any concerns immediately to program staff, who are trained to handle such issues with confidentiality and care.

Emergency Services

Emergency response infrastructure in Angola is limited, especially in remote areas. Volunteers will be provided with local emergency contacts, including the program coordinator and nearest medical facilities. The national emergency number is 112 or 116 and police is 113, though response times may vary. Program staff will be available 24/7 for assistance.

Dealing with Authorities and Police

The basic rule is to always be polite and always stay calm. Be respectful and never be arrogant or display anger. You will achieve far more with a smile. Angolans are friendly and pleasant people; they expect others to be so as well. If you get into difficulty with the police let someone on our local team know. Avoid taking photographs of sites and installations of military or security interest, including government buildings, since this can result in fines and possible arrest. If we need to take pictures of such buildings, please inform us and we will ask for permission.

Communication

There are three mobile network carriers in Angola: Unitel, Africell and Movitel. The first two companies work fine in Huambo Province. In the other provinces, only Unitel works, although with a poor network quality. We suggest you download WhatsApp on your phone, to make communication with our team the smoothest. We will provide free Wifi access at the camp.

Local Currency

The local currency is kwanza. There is always a difference between the official and street exchange rates. The current exchange rate is 912kz / \$. The street exchange rate is 1000kz/\$. Do not try to change your money on the street, as it can be dangerous. If you wish to have kwanza for incidental expenses, please let us know. We will facilitate changing the money for

you. Please note smaller value bills are given a lower exchange rate than the bigger value ones. \$50 and \$100 bills get the full rate. \$5, \$10 and \$20 get 20% less value.

Climate

Luanda: has a tropical savanna climate with distinct wet and dry seasons. March marks the height of the rainy season in Angola. Temperatures are warm to hot and vary little throughout the year. Luanda has high humidity. Hence, during the wet season people tend to sweat. Huambo Province has a subtropical highland climate, characterized by mild temperatures year-round with a distinct wet season from October to April. Due to its high altitude, the climate is significantly cooler than other parts of Angola, with average temperatures ranging from 19°C to 21°C. Huambo receives substantial rainfall in March and April. If possible, please bring an umbrella or raincoat; also bring sturdy boots, jeans trousers, t- shirts for the field. Add a jumper or fleece, as it can get chilly in the evening.

The climate is tropical, with weather conditions that can affect daily activities, especially for our travellers or volunteers in the region.

Daytime temperatures average around 30°C and can occasionally rise above 32°C, while night time temperatures remain warm, typically around 24°C. The combination of heat and humidity makes the environment feel even warmer, with heat index values often reaching up to 37°C.

The chance of it raining during your stay both in March is likely, so do not forget to pack a waterproof coat and wellies.