

TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

version date: 17.05.2025



Content

[Aim](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[Accommodation](#)

[Meals](#)

[Day in the Life](#)

[Itinerary](#)

[Pricing](#)

[Safety](#)





Aim

The FALCOPOLIS volunteer program starts in Hungary with a 4 week long course, where we train our volunteers to become Wildlife Conservation Field Assistants (referred later as Volunteers). The training will end with a final exam at the end of the 4th week. Passing this exam and being awarded the diploma will allow you to apply for one of the volunteer jobs in Angola.

Please note: if you have a university degree in Biology or related fields you may apply to go directly to the Exam phase. To confirm this opportunity please contact us at office@falcopolis.org



Curriculum

Conservation Theory: Fundamentals of wildlife conservation, focusing on global biodiversity, endangered species, and habitats in Hungary and Angola.

Species-Specific Study: Field study of the Red-footed Falcon (breeding biology, conservation practices, catching, ringing, deployment of satellite tags).

Sustainable Tourism: Principles of eco-tourism, responsible tourism practices, and community-based conservation efforts.

Practical Skills: Volunteer management, data collection, bird monitoring, species identification, nature photography and film and eco-tourism operations.

Angola-Specific Topics: Overview of Angola's flora, fauna, and the socio-economic, health/ sanitary and environmental challenges facing the country.

Cultural Sensitivity: Training on cultural awareness, community engagement, and ethical interactions with local populations.



Accommodation

During your time in Hungary, you will stay in Jászboldogháza Bath and Camping (Address: Alkotmány u. 5, 5144 Jászboldogháza, Hungary). The village is located in the Hungarian plain, about 1-1,5 hours away from the capital, Budapest.

The accommodation is basic but comfortable. The camping has X barracks. Bedrooms have bunk beds, accommodating up to 6 people per room on a single-sex basis. Bathrooms are shared and include showers and Western-style toilets. It can get chilly during the night, so be sure to pack warm clothing. We provide a bedsheet blanket and pillow, but feel free to bring a sleeping bag.

The Volunteer House includes a communal area where you can relax at the end of the day and there is a swimming pool just nearby the accommodation.



Meals

During your trip, breakfast (at the camping) **lunch** (at the local cafeteria) **and dinner** (at the camping) **will be provided.**

Our team will do their best to suit your diet, but this cannot always be guaranteed, you may need to purchase additional ingredients at your own expense. The Volunteer House has a fridge and a kitchen too, so you can prepare your food if you would like to.

Please put any dietary requirements in your application and check with us upon arrival.

For major concerns (like allergies), contact us by email at office@falconpolis.org.

Here is an example of your meals:

Breakfast: breakfast is usually going to be bread, egg, fruits and vegetables, cheese, ham.

Lunch: for lunch you are going to have a hot meal like goulash soup, chicken paprikash, breaded chicken with potatoes and salad.

Dinner: For dinner you are going to have a mixture of hot and cold meals.

Let's see a day in the life of the training in Hungary

May or September

05:30 AM – Wake-up Call with the Dawn Chorus

Every day begins with the dawn chorus over the Great Hungarian Plain and a quick breakfast of fresh bread, cheese, and tea with fellow volunteers to start the day.

Morning session from 7 AM-12 PM

Field Observations/ Ringing and deployment of GPS tags/ Habitat mapping/ Live trapping of rodents / Nest box Maintenance / Building Photo hides / Nature Photography Practice / Habitat restoration works / Tree plantation / Design eco-trails / Rescue and care of injured wild animals / Project works (own research topic) / Lectures

12:30 PM – Lunch and Rest

For lunch we head to a local cafeteria for a warm meal. You take an hour to relax, nap, or chat with fellow volunteers from around the world, exchanging bird stories and learning about local culture.

02:00 PM – Data Entry and Educational Work

In the shade of a tent or cabin, you help log your field data into the central database, double-checking coordinates and behavioural notes. After that, you will help out in the local school with some English teaching and spreading the word about the importance of the Red-Footed Falcon. This will be a wonderful way to connect with the local community and to get to know the rich culture of Hungary.

04:00 PM – Monitoring and Evening Patrol

As the sun begins its descent, the team heads back out. You monitor bird species or patrol to ensure no human disturbance or predation threat is affecting the nesting areas. In September, night roost counts of Red-footed Falcons and late evening bird catching and ringing are practices on the field.

07:00 PM – Dinner and Community Time

After a hot shower everyone gathers for a relaxed dinner, often with stories, music, or even a language exchange around the campfire. The atmosphere is peaceful, filled with the sense of purpose that comes from contributing to something meaningful.

09:00 PM – Lights Out

After reviewing plans for tomorrow, you retreat to your cabin or tent under a starry sky. The sounds of night birds and insects lull you to sleep, ready to rise again with the falcons.

A typical field day

Armed with binoculars and research equipment the team heads out across the open grasslands and farmlands of Jászboldogháza. You're assigned to a pair of falcons nesting in a nearby artificial nest box. Quietly, you observe their behaviour—feeding patterns, prey delivery, chick activity—and record your findings. Under the supervision of our professional staff, you assist with ringing (banding) chicks, capture and deployment of adult falcons with GPS devices under supervision or checking remote camera traps. After the morning observations, you join others in repairing or cleaning older nest boxes. With ladders and tools in hand, you travel by 4x4 or bike to more remote locations.

A typical lecture day:

Depending on the weekly topics you will attend 5x45 minute presentations to establish a solid theoretical background of the diverse activities you will need in your conservation career. All participants will choose a research topic to develop as their own project work during the training.

Itinerary

WEEK I – The Red-footed Falcon and Conservation

	Topic	Activity	Location
Monday	Introduction to Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management	Classroom lecture and discussion	Indoor classroom/ seminar room
Tuesday	Red-footed Falcon (RFF) Species Facts	Field observations and species identification	Outdoors On-site fieldwork in natural habitat
Wednesday	Monitoring Methods	Hands-on training in monitoring bird populations	Outdoors Field-based training
Thursday	Research Methods, Data Collection and Handling	Collecting and organising field data; data entry workshop	Combination of field and lab/computer work
Friday	First Aid and Wildlife Rescue Workshop	Practical workshop with rescue scenarios and case studies	Indoor workshop space with animal models/supplies
Saturday	Excursion to Lake Balaton	Birdwatching, local conservation efforts, ecosystem exploration	Outdoors Lake Balaton and surrounding habitats
Sunday	Rest day		

Itinerary

WEEK II – Ecotourism

	Topic	Activity	Location
Monday	Introduction to Ecotourism	Seminar on ecotourism principles, sustainability, and examples	Indoor classroom
Tuesday	Building Wildlife Observation Hides	Fieldwork on hide construction techniques	Outdoors Designated ecotourism zones
Wednesday	Guiding Ecotourists / Building Hides	Practice tours and continued construction work	Outdoors Field setting
Thursday	Building Wildlife Observation Hides	Finishing hide builds, incorporating eco-materials	Outdoors Fieldwork
Friday	Wildlife Photography Workshop	Instruction on techniques and practice sessions	Outdoors Field + indoor photo review
Saturday	Continued Field Work on Hides	Final adjustments and assessments of hides	Outdoors Field site
Sunday	Rest day		

Itinerary

WEEK III – Angola and the FALCOPOLIS Project

	Topic	Activity	Location
Monday	Angola Facts and Introduction to the FALCOPOLIS Project	Lecture on geography, biodiversity, and project goals	Indoor classroom
Tuesday	Fundraising and Project Writing	Grant writing, brainstorming, group work	Workshop setting
Wednesday	Ecotourism Guiding & Wildlife Photography	Practice guiding tourists, capturing key moments	Outdoors On-site field exercises
Thursday	Ecotourism Guiding & Wildlife Photography	Continued practical sessions, feedback loops	Outdoors Field and group feedback session
Friday	Satellite Tagging Workshop	Live demonstration, equipment handling, data applications	Outdoors
Saturday	Excursion to Hortobágy National Park	Comparative learning on ecosystem management and ecotourism	Outdoors National-park tour
Sunday	Rest day		

Itinerary

WEEK IV – Project Week and Evaluation

	Topic	Activity	Location
Monday	Project Work	Students develop and refine independent or group projects (e.g., ecotourism plans, conservation strategies, funding proposals)	Independent workstations, mentors available
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday	Final Exam		
Saturday	Excursion to Mátra Hills	Celebratory outing and final reflection in nature	Mátra Hills, guided hike
Sunday	Rest day		

Pricing

Price Includes

Accommodation
Meals (breakfast/ lunch/ dinner)
Airport transfer
24 hours support
Volunteer starter package
Local tax fees
Exam Certificate
Learning experience

Price excludes

Flights
Travel insurance
Visa (if needed)
Background check*

Payment

A non-refundable advance payment of 50% is required at the time of reservation. The remaining 50% is due upon arrival.

The learning experience encompasses both field-based and theoretical training, providing a comprehensive and immersive educational approach. The program includes weekly workshops and weekly professional excursions, ensuring that students gain hands-on, real-world insights alongside classroom knowledge.

Throughout the training, participants will utilize a wide range of scientific field equipment, educational materials, and teaching aids tailored to support effective learning. Practical training sessions (such as bird monitoring technics, wildlife photography or project-based assignments) are conducted using specialized tools and materials essential for fieldwork and applied research.

his integrated approach fosters a deep understanding of both scientific concepts and practical methodologies, preparing participants for advanced academic or professional engagement in their respective fields.

* (all volunteers must have clean criminal record)

Addressing Safety Concerns in Hungary

Although Hungary is a welcoming and generally safe country for international volunteers, it's helpful to be aware of a few health, safety, and cultural considerations. Here's what to keep in mind to help you stay safe and comfortable during your stay.

Health and Hygiene

- **Tap Water:** Tap water is clean and safe to drink across the country, including in rural areas. If you have a sensitive stomach, you might prefer bottled water at first, but it's not necessary for most people.
- **Healthcare:** Hungary has a good healthcare system. In case you need medical care, doctors and clinics (especially private ones) often speak English. It's a good idea to have travel insurance that covers medical services.
- **Vaccinations:** No special vaccinations are required to enter Hungary. Just make sure your routine vaccinations (like tetanus and MMR) are up to date.

General Information

General Safety: As mentioned above Hungary is considered very safe. Most visits are trouble-free, and violent crime is rare.

Pickpocketing: Like in any popular destination, it's smart to keep an eye on your belongings, especially in crowded places like markets, train stations, or public transport.

Taxis and Tourist Scams: Stick to official taxis (such as those booked through an app) and be cautious with unsolicited offers from strangers. These are easy to avoid with a little awareness.

Weather and Nature

- **Seasons:** Hungary has four distinct seasons. Hot summers, snowy winters, and pleasant springs and autumns. Pack accordingly and stay hydrated during the summer months (please pack rainboots, and a jacket for the wind)
- **Nature Safety:** wear insect repellent to avoid ticks. Hungary's natural areas are beautiful and safe when explored with basic care.

Public Transport: Trains, buses, and trams are safe and reliable. Remember to validate your ticket when boarding to avoid fines.

Legal Matters: Hungary has strict rules regarding drugs and public conduct. It's best to avoid any risky situations and enjoy local nightlife and culture responsibly.



Through volunteer programs, eco-adventures, and community initiatives, we empower people to become protectors of the natural world, not just visitors.

Every tour, every project, and every partnership fuel a future where humans and wildlife thrive together.

Discover how one small act can ripple into lasting change for generations to come.

Join us!

Explore! Learn! Protect!