



WORK OUTLINE

BRC Internship

Full Time: 16th April – 31st September (optional till October 16th)

1) Background to Role

BRC is a conservation NGO that has been monitoring Batumi's incredible autumn raptor migration since 2008. Over 800,000 birds of prey migrate over this region every autumn and BRC organises a camp of international volunteers to record and monitor the migration. From undertaking these counts it has become apparent that the shooting of migratory birds is a widespread practice and is of a large enough scale to have conservation implications for many of the species involved. BRC has therefore, expanded its activities to include not only monitoring of the migration but to also include conservation activities that aim to reduce local hunting pressures. The key to the success of these activities is that we work with, not against, local communities and we hope to encourage local people to value their migratory birds.

Our conservation actions are varied and include children and adult education programmes, ranger training and the promotion of ecotourism. We work with many local partners, including the regional government and local NGOs, however; up to now the work of BRC has been conducted by a group of international board members and volunteers who are not based in Georgia. In order that we can increase the efficiency of our efforts we seek to establish a permanent presence in Georgia and we are currently recruiting local staff members. However, to help co-ordinate the activities of our local staff, partners and volunteers we require an international volunteer to be based in Georgia from April to September/October 2012.

2) Intern Tasks

Fixed

- Act as a permanent representative of the BRC in Georgia and undertake all the tasks that this requires. This includes acting as the liaison between Board Members and local government officials, NGOs and local community members
- Assist with practical organisation of the Batumi Bird Festival 2012 [20th-23rd September 2012]. This includes assistance with logistical tasks including accommodation and creation of publicity material. This is a major project for BRC which, in collaboration with the state tourism department, aims to firmly cement Batumi's reputation as one of Europe's leading birdwatching destinations.
- Assist with the training of local staff member(s). This includes assisting with staff member(s) familiarisation and understanding of BRC aims and activities.
- Co-ordinate with local schools for our in-school educational activities

- Promote and assist with logistical organisation of the University Student Exchange programme - with special focus on promotion of our activities at the Ajara State University
- Monitor the possible development of Choroki Delta
- Assist with the organisation of the 2012 Batumi Raptor Count
- Act as support during the 2012 Batumi Raptor Count from late August to the end of September

Optional

- Undertake Spring Raptor Migration Counts
- Act as support to the Batumi Raptor Count 2012 during October (till October 16th)
- Assist with the training of local bird guides
- Undertake monitoring of migratory and resident birds in the Choroki Delta

3) What's in it for the Intern?

There's no hiding it – this is much more than your average conservation volunteer position! This role is essentially that of a local organiser of BRC activities and as BRC's main "man/woman on the ground" there will be a considerable amount of responsibility on your shoulders. As BRC's long-term volunteer we will expect you to maintain existing BRC contacts and develop relationships with a wide variety of people, including Ajaran government officials, and you will play a key role in realising our various conservation objectives across the region.

But don't be put off by the demanding nature of the role! This is an incredible (and quite possibly unique) opportunity for a well motivated individual to learn many of the skills that are essential for working in the conservation sector and it's also an opportunity to have an adventure of a lifetime.

By undertaking this volunteer position with us you will:

- Have an amazing cultural experience by living and working with local Georgians
- Be recognised for playing a major part in developing a successful conservation strategy for the area
- See some of the most amazing wildlife Eurasia has to offer – the migration of up to 80,000 raptors a day is only the beginning of what's on offer!
- Get an incredible insight into how conservation projects are organised and managed
- Have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate your skills in a variety of areas including; project management, supervising staff and volunteers, interacting with key stakeholders, identifying and monitoring wildlife, developing education programmes and organising an international birdwatching festival
- Be able to demonstrate to future employers that you can work successfully in the conservation sector

The founders, and many of the current board members and volunteers of BRC, are young, passionate conservationists who understand the difficulties of getting work in the conservation sector and therefore; BRC will help you in any way we can with future volunteer and employment opportunities once you've successfully finished volunteering with us.

Additionally, as BRC activities grow by undertaking this volunteer position you will obviously be looked upon favourably if any paid positions become available with BRC.

Please see **section 5** for information on what support we will provide during your stay in Batumi and please see **section 6** for what minimal costs we will expect the intern to cover.

4) Intern Requirements

Essential Skills

- A passion for conservation
- Excellent organisational skills
- An ability to work independently with little direct supervision
- Able to work in a team
- A willingness to live, work and become immersed in another culture – the Georgia outlook and way of going about tasks can be very different for people used to a Western European way of life
- A sense of adventure – you'll be visiting a country and experiencing a culture that very few other westerners have been to!
- An ability to meet and develop relationships with a wide range of people
- Fluent in spoken and written English
- You must be available to volunteer for us throughout the core volunteering period i.e. 16th April – 31st September

Desirable Skills (i.e. please apply even if you don't have these as they are not crucial!)

- Good birdwatching skills – ability to identify most Western Palearctic species you'll come across in Georgia
- Knowledge of Georgian and/or Russian languages
- Previous volunteer experience
- Previous conservation work experience – either paid or as a volunteer
- Previous experience of developing ecotourism projects
- Previous experience of monitoring wildlife – especially migratory birds

5) BRC Support

BRC recognises that being left to work independently in a foreign country is a challenging experience and we will try and support you as much as we can. BRC also recognises that by volunteering with us

you will be making a huge personal contribution to our activities with no monetary reward therefore; we will aim to reduce your costs as much as we possibly can.

BRC will provide the following support during your stay:

- Cost of your travel to and from Georgia
 - Accommodation in a local family's house with your own private room, although you will have to share bathroom and kitchen facilities with the family
 - This family will also provide you with three meals a day i.e. we will cover you food costs
 - We will provide you with computer facilities (probably a laptop) and a free internet connection (note: this Georgia so don't expect 40mb broadband!)
 - We will facilitate your access to cars + drivers (note: we don't expect you to drive yourself)
 - Although you will be BRC's only permanent presence in Batumi, with the exception of a limited number of local Georgian employees, we will aim to provide you with a comprehensive support network in the unlikely event that anything goes wrong. From five years of working Batumi we have many local contacts that will be able to assist you with any problems you may have. A BRC board member also lives in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, and will also be able to provide support.
- We believe it is essential that you keep in contact with board members throughout your stay – not only so that we can keep up to date with your work but also so that you feel you're work is being valued by us. Therefore, we will arrange for you to have a weekly Skype meeting with a nominated board member, along with regular thematic meetings to organise specific tasks. It is hoped the board member in Tbilisi will be able to meet you face to face very regularly as well.
- In order that you do not feel isolated, especially at the start of your stay, we will help as much as we can to put you in touch with other international volunteers in Batumi taking part in programmes such as the Peace Corps, the "Teach and Learn English in Georgia" programme and working at the State University.
 - We will provide you with as much support and advice as you need in order that you can successfully complete your tasks – hopefully many questions will be answered during your introductory visit, see below

Introductory Visit

It is essential that you can start in Georgia on the 16th April as the Board will be in Georgia the 16th - 22nd of April for a Board Meeting and to also make preparations for our various activities. During this time we'll show you around, introduce you to relevant people and generally help you settle in. We think this is an excellent opportunity for you to acclimatise to Georgia with people who have a great knowledge and experience of the country.

Holiday/Trips Away

Georgia is an incredible country that all BRC Board Members are passionate about. We believe it would be ridiculous for you to visit the country and not have a chance to explore. Therefore, BRC will be happy for you to have breaks from your work to travel and visit other areas. The exact length and timing of these holidays will obviously be negotiated at the time depending on your current and expected workload but we hope that you will be able to see a considerable amount of the country during your stay. We'll also be happy to provide you with tips and advice on where to stay.

6) Intern Costs

As you can see in **section 5** BRC will make every effort to pay for your costs while in Georgia; however, we will require the intern to pay for their own clothing/equipment and for any extras they pay for in country e.g. trips away, nights out, eating at restaurants. It is also essential that the intern pays for a comprehensive travel insurance package, which includes medical evacuation from the country.

7) Application Procedure

If you are interested in applying for the internship position please e-mail Danny Heptinstall (BRC Board Member responsible for volunteer recruitment) djheptinstall@googlemail.com with a CV and a covering letter (max. 500 words) explaining what interests you about this position and how you think you are suitable for the position. Deadline for applicants is the 29th of February. Several candidates will be selected for interview by the Board and if you have been chosen for interview you will be contacted by the 4th of March to arrange an interview between the 5th and 10th of March.

All emails to Danny Heptinstall with a CV and covering letter attached will receive an acknowledgement of receipt. If you do not get acknowledgement please resend your details. After this you will only be contacted if you have been selected for interview.

Good Luck! And we look forward to working with you in Batumi ☺