



GAP AFRICA PROJECTS



**SHAMWARI – GROUP
CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE**

**ABINGDON & WITNEY
COLLEGE - PROJECT PACK**



INTRODUCTION

The Shamwari Group Conservation Experience is a once in a lifetime chance to get behind the scenes and involved with the conservation efforts of the world renowned Shamwari Game Reserve. The programme is a tailor made experience operating over a two week period, we work with you to put together the best possible programme in order to suit the needs and requirements of your group.

Shamwari is a fully operational reserve and the experience is based on the requirements of various short and long term projects and the need for assistance by the award winning Conservation Department.

Shamwari boasts a multi-purpose centre geared to get participants involved in various components of conservation. The experience is a true reflection of the day to day operational requirements needed to manage the game reserve.

The project specialises in conservation, with a focus on ecology, wildlife and environmental education with local community and sporting interactions as part of our social responsibility drive. The programme is as safe as it is exciting as we move about in homologated game viewing vehicles only using suitably qualified guiding and conservation staff. Shamwari is situated in a malaria free zone and is one hour away from the closest major airport, medical facilities and other amenities in Port Elizabeth.

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ABOUT SHAMWARI GAME RESERVE

-Voted World's leading Safari and Game Reserve since 1998 and World's leading Conservation Company 2012, at the World Travel Awards

- Malaria free area and one of the largest privately owned game reserves in the Eastern Cape, a 24,000 hectare conservation area covering 5 of South Africa's 7 vegetation biomes.

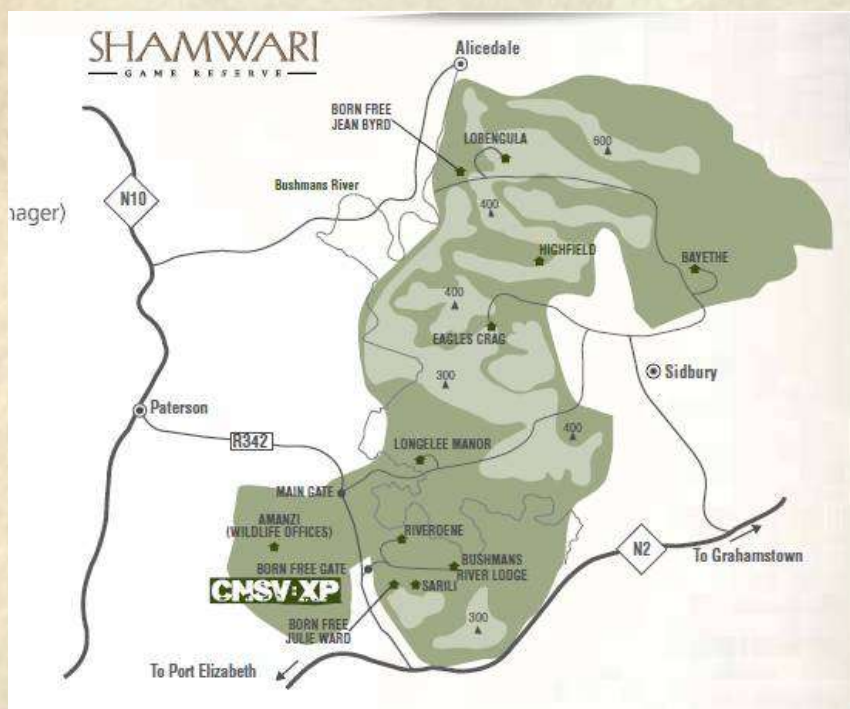
- A dedicated Wildlife and Conservation Department includes a wildlife veterinarian and ecologists with a wildlife breeding, animal rehabilitation and rhino awareness centre. Facilities also include an animal hospital and anti-poaching unit.

- Shamwari is host to the Born Free Foundation Big Cat Sanctuary for rescued lions and leopards.

- Only a one hour drive from Port Elizabeth Airport, there are several adventure and leisure activities in close proximity.

- Our student coordinators are conservation qualified and experienced as rangers and field guides to be able to maximise your wildlife experience.

- We offer a diverse experience that exposes participants to real conservation issues and tasks, with the chance to make a sustainable difference through participation



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HISTORY & VISION

In 1990, Adrian Gardiner, a successful businessman from Port Elizabeth bought a small farm as a week-end getaway for his family, this consisted of 1200 ha of African bush, a dream he had always had, growing up in Zimbabwe.

Being an avid reader, Adrian spent time researching CJ Skead's historical accounts of the Eastern Cape, as well as journals and historical diaries of the 1820 Settlers. In doing so he discovered that the Eastern Cape was once considered one of the richest wildlife areas in Africa. Over years all the indigenous fauna and flora had been eradicated by agriculture, farming, hunting and drought.

What began as a small family retreat, now possessed Adrian and captured his passion – to return the land and the area to its once proud and pristine condition, teaming with indigenous plant, insect and bird life and supporting herds of free-roaming animals of all species once prevalent in the area.

Over time Shamwari grew and established itself and by the year 2000, the Reserve was large enough and stocked sufficiently to support large predators. A dedicated and systematic re-introduction programme was launched and finally in October 2000, the first lions were brought back to the Eastern Cape and released at Shamwari to fulfil a dream.

Today over 5000 head of game range freely, having been bred and/or re-introduced into Shamwari, now a Game Reserve stretching over 25 000 ha, consisting of 6 separate lodges, employing over 325 local staff and most importantly has been returned its rightful ownership – Pristine Eastern Cape Fauna and Flora. Rather than expand the existing Julie Ward Animal Rescue Centre, a new education centre and sanctuary has been established in the Northern part of Shamwari, near the town of Alice.



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LOCATION

Shamwari Game Reserve is located in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa and is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and interesting regions on planet Earth. The Eastern Cape's biodiversity is unmatched in Southern Africa. The province covers 5 bio geographic regions of the seven found worldwide, spanning from the semi-desert Karoo in the interior to the lush green forests of the Garden Route.

The Eastern Cape offers visitors a wealth of fauna and flora, including the big 5 – Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Rhino and African Buffalo. The area also boasts some of the most luxurious and compelling Game Reserves not just in Africa, but in the world, of which Shamwari is one of the leading reserves.

For the sunseekers, the Wild Coast and the Sunshine Coast has some of the world's best beaches. For exquisite beaches try Bushman's River Mouth or Kenton-on-Sea. The Sunshine Coast is also known all over the globe for its surfing waves. Jeffreys Bay is an area with some of the country's wildest coastline, which is backed by some of Africa's most spectacular sub-tropical rainforest. Famous for its "supertubes", probably South Africa's longest and most consistently good wave, it's charged with a surf vibe as relaxed as it is friendly, this tends to soften the effect of the wealthy set who have made this part of the coast their own. Seal point, one of the best places to take surfing photos, is near Cape St. Francis.

The area boasts an array of attractions and is the ideal base to explore this wonderful region.



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PROJECT DETAILS

Due to the nature of the experience it is nearly impossible to give a day to day account of the activities you will be involved in. Wildlife does not work to an agenda! We will however ensure that all activities chosen by your group will be covered over the two week period.

Whilst on your placement you will become members of the conservation department and will therefore work with the wildlife's best interests in mind at all times. Details of possible conservation, research and veterinary based activities are detailed below, we will use these to build your tailor made experience:

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Anti Poaching Patrols	Restoring degraded thicket and landscapes
Tracking with use of Telemetry	Management of Breeding Centre
Volunteering at Born Free Foundation	Community Projects
Game Counts	Fence Inspections
Sex and Ratio Recordings	Alien Vegetation Control
Rifle Handling & Shooting (Additional Cost)	Reserve Clean Ups
General Game Drives	Field Skills and Survival Sleep Out
Possible Game Capture	Possible Veterinary Interaction

ANIMAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

Assist with cleaning and maintenance of Bomas and Water Troughs	Assist with the feeding and care of animals in rehabilitation
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POSSIBLE TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Introduction to Wildlife Conservation in SA	Wildlife Monitoring
Principles of Eco Systems	Animal Population Dynamics
Capture Techniques and Relocation Wildlife	Use of Bomas
Stress Factors in Handling and Containment	Animal Husbandry
Veterinarians Role in Conservation	Conservation of Flagship species of Africa
Biomes of the Eastern Cape	Control of Alien Invasive Vegetation
Medicinal use of Plants	Wildlife Tracks and Signs
Astronomy	Parasites and Disease in Nature
Facilities and Drugs to Reduce Stress	Introduction to Game Ranging
Darting Techniques	Animal Welfare
Hand Rearing of Orphaned Animals	Anti-Poaching Methods



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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Whilst conducting your Group Conservation Project you will be accommodated in a purpose built lodge located on the game reserve. Rooms are shared and boast en-suite bathrooms. The lodge is located in a stunning area of the game reserve and overlooks a watering hole, you will often see animals drinking from it.

A separate communal area is available which has a lounge, bar and dining area as well as a small lecture room. The lodge grounds include an outdoor boma, ideal for evening fires, a swimming pool and large garden area. Internet access is available for a nominal fee.

Three meals are provided daily. Meals will either be served at the facility itself or taken as a pre-packed serving, depending on planned, or as result of unscheduled activities.

Laundry services are provided once a week.

Weekends & Evenings:

Most evenings are spent at leisure and you will be free to explore the surrounding area of the Eastern Cape or relax at the training academy.



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