GAP AFRICA PROJECTS

SHAMWARI GAME RESERVE

PRE DEPARTURE INFO

SHAMWARI GAME RESERVE

ARRIVAL

Arrival by AIR to Port Elizabeth Airport – Transfers Arranged by Gap Africa Projects

Upon arrival at Port Elizabeth Airport you will be collected by a representative from Wargan Shuttle Service (they will have a board with your name on), the Airport is relatively small in comparison to many domestic terminals and the representative will be easy to spot. Should you not be able to locate the representative for any reason please call Wargan Shuttle Services on +27 (0) 82 375 3597. Your flight arrival and departure times are detailed on your "Important Information Document", a copy of which will be sent to you, should your flight information change or differ from those detailed on this form you must let us know immediately. Should your connecting flight from Johannesburg or Cape Town be delayed, please call Nadia at +27 72 1416 495 (or from a South African phone or sim card 072 1416 495) so that the transfer company can be informed about your delay. For any problems regarding transfers, please inform Nadia.

Arrival by other travel means – Not arranged by Gap Africa Projects

By Road

The drive is approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours from Port Elizabeth and is on tarred main roads.

From Port Elizabeth

Follow the N2 to Grahamstown for 65kms, turn left at the Shamwari sign on to a gravel road (R342) for 7 kms, turn right at the main gate for the Student Centre.

From Johannesburg

(R32) turn left at Paterson (R342), follow the road for 11kms, turn left at the Shamwari sign and report to the main gate for the Student Centre.

From Grahamstown

Follow the N2 towards Port Elizabeth for 58kms, turn right at the Shamwari sign onto a gravel road (R342) for 7kms, turn right at the Shamwari sign and report to the main gate for the Student Centre.

ARRIVAL

CONTACT DETAILS

USEFUL INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

RECOMMENDED KIT LIST

ANY QUESTIONS?

+44(0) 207 193 7819

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MAP

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SHAMWARI GAME RESERVE

CONTACT DETAILS

Address

Shamwari Private Game Reserve

P.O.BOX 93
PATERSON
EASTERN CAPE
6130

Shamwari Landline

+27(0) 42 203 1185

Fax

+27(0) 86 667 9745

Mobile

+27(0) 67 305 7767
Kate Stuart *(Volunteer Manager)*

Gap Africa Projects

+44 (0) 797 657 5949
24 Hour Emergency Only

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USEFUL INFORMATION - CLIMATE

Summer (November-April)

Expect intense heat in the daytime with occasional thunderstorms in the afternoon. Vegetation is dense and lush because of summer rains and the bush teems with newborn animals. A very good time for bird watching.

Autumn

At the end of the summer rains the water holes are full. Temperatures begin to drop at night and the vegetation starts to change colour.

Winter (May-October)

Daytime temperatures are pleasant and nights are cold. Visibility in the bush is very good, making winter an excellent time for game viewing.

Spring

The dull bush changes to lively green vegetation at the start of the rainy season. Temperatures are pleasant.

CREDIT CARDS, PHONES & CURRENCY

Credit Cards

All major credit cards are accepted as a valid form of payment.

Currency

The South African Rand (ZAR) is the local currency. There are 100c to every rand. Foreign exchange may be arranged at the airports or in major centres / cities. It is not recommended that travellers carry large sums of cash, rather keep a reasonable amount on hand and primarily use credit cards. There are many road-side vendors along the major routes in the country selling local hand-crafted products. These vendors trade in cash only. It is highly recommended that you do not stop in informal settlements along your journey.

Direct Dial Telephones

Laptop computers may be connected to the internet via telephone lines. Cellular reception is available and of good quality at the volunteer accommodation

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HEALTH RISKS

There are a number of health issues that you should be aware of, especially if you are from the northern hemisphere.

Immunisation: When entering South Africa, no international immunisation is required. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over 21 years of age if they enter South Africa within 6 days of leaving an infected country. Our advice: Visit your GP surgery to get up-to-date information about requirements when travelling. DTP inoculation (diphtheria, tetanus and polio) is essential. Many people have this inoculation as a child, but a booster tetanus shot is a very good idea.

HIV/Aids in south Africa:

As in other countries, HIV/Aids is a serious concern in South Africa and one you must be aware of. You should be careful when dealing with an injured person at all times to avoid the risk of infection. Always take necessary precautions and avoid sexual contact.

Malaria:

The Eastern Cape Province is malaria and bilharzia free – protection would only be required if you travel further afield, e.g. to parts of the Kruger Park, the Northern Province, Mpumalanga, northern KwaZulu Natal and Zululand. The risk of contracting the disease is negligible provided you take the standard precautions. Malaria tablets, a good insect repellent and particularly in the evening, long-sleeved shirts and mosquito coils are advisable precautions.

http://www.sa-venues.com/malaria-risk-areas.htm

Sun:

We have a warm sunny climate and you should wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are out of doors during the day, particularly between 10am and 4pm - regardless of whether there is cloud cover or not. Even if you have a dark complexion, you can still get sunburned if you are from a cooler climate and have not had much exposure to the sun. Sunglasses are also recommended, as the glare of the African sun can be very strong.

Drinking Water:

Drinking water is available at the project, either in the form of purified tap water or rainwater from a collection tank – both are perfectly safe for consumption.

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INSURANCE

Personal travel insurance is compulsory. Travel insurance does not need to be expensive and there are many good deals available for backpackers etc. Always be sure to check the insurance plan details and ensure that you are covered for theft, loss, illness and injury. Check to see if your medical benefits are paid out as they incur or on your return home. Also, automatic coverage received when booking your flight by credit card will not be sufficient. Please follow this link to our preferred insurer
https://www.endsleigh.co.uk/personal/gap-africa-projects/

PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

It can take up to 6 weeks to obtain a passport - remember to start this process timeously. Important: Your passport needs to be valid for 30 days after your return to your home country and have two blank pages side by side for visa stamps.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

At present, a temporary visitor's permit, valid for up to 90 days is granted for nationals from the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. This is granted on presentation of your passport at arrival. If you are intending to stay for longer than 90 days, it is recommended that you apply for a visa at your local South African Consulate.

Remember: As a volunteer, you are not paid to work and should therefore declare your purpose of visit as 'holiday' or 'tourism'.

STAY SAFE OVERSEAS - KBYG

The better prepared you are when you travel abroad, the safer you will be. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office offers 'Know before you go' travel advice, including simple precautions you can take before and during your trip.
To find out more, check out their website:
www.fco.gov.uk/travel

FCO TRAVEL ADVICE know before you go gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo

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YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Whilst conducting your Group Conservation Project you will 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 that often has 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 also 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.

As part of you programme a weekend excursion is included and will be confirmed to you closer to the time of departure.

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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Code of Conduct:

All participants are obligated to abide by the rules of the centre and adhere to the spirit of the programme. If for any reason an individual compromises the experience of the group or any individual, the individual can after suitable warning, counselling and following the process of disciplinary action, be withdrawn from the programme and returned home. No refunds in this case will be issued and any additional cost incurred will be at own cost.

Nearest Town:

Grahamstown is about 40km from Shamwari, and is almost equidistant from the major cities of the Eastern Cape it lies in one of the most historically important areas of the country, at the first point of major contact between the bantu tribes and white settlers. Grahamstown has all the facilities you will need for you to spend a few days there, as well as offering small-town hospitality and warmth. Port Elizabeth is within an easy drive of an hour and a half.

Kenton-On-Sea is a beautiful small coastal town about an hours drive from the reserve. The beaches are absolutely breath taking and pristine. Your local "hang-out" is a pub / restaurant overlooking the stunning beach! After their Saturday morning shopping in Kenton (volunteers can stock up on everyday essentials), volunteers often laze around on the beach, swim in the waves or sit in the beach bar while sipping a cold drink and taking in the scenery. There are the following services in Kenton-On-Sea: small grocery store, ATM, pharmacy, post office, police station, doctor, stationary shop, internet café (closed on Saturdays) and a small beach clothing shop.

Banking:

First National, Standard Bank and ABSA in Grahamstown and Port Alfred. Cash points for Mastercard, Visa etc. in Kenton-On-Sea. Travellers cheques in a foreign currency are not recommended as there is nowhere to exchange them. The best way to handle your finances while you are out here is to have a credit/debit or currency card enabling you to draw cash from an ATM on your Saturday town outing as you need it. Travellers cheques (or bringing any foreign currency) is not worth it!

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KIT LIST

- Short sleeve shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts (Or work trousers with zip-off longs)
- T-shirts
- Hiking boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Rain jacket
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker - warm (it can get very cold on an open vehicle - even on a summer evening)
- Daypack rucksack
- Sleeping bag – for sleep out / camping in summer months (weather dependent)
- Socks
- Warm hat (in winter only) /Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Working gloves
- Gloves for warmth (in winter only)
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Bath towel
- Beach towel
- Swimming costume
- Toiletries
- Tick / insect repellent
- Sunscreen

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Good torch
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Personal medical goodies
- Cards/CD's
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen

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