PRE- DEPARTURE INFORMATION PACK
Kesgrave High School

GAP GLOBAL ADVENTURE PROJECTS

Shamwari

Group Conservation Experience

AFRICA

GLOBAL reach. **ADVENTURE** for all. **PROJECTS** to inspire.

Arriving in South Africa

Upon arrival at Johannesburg International Airport (OR Tambo), you must collect your bags and clear immigration and customs.

A Gap Africa Representative will meet you in the arrivals hall and assist you in transferring to your onward domestic flight to Port Elizabeth.

On arrival at Port Elizabeth Airport you will be met by a representative from Wargan Tours to transfer you to Shamwari Game Reserve., the transfer will take 1.5 – 2 hours.

If for any reason you cannot locate the representative please call Wargan Tours on +27 (0) 82 375 3597.

CONTACT DETAILS

AFRICA

Address
Shamwari Private Game Reserve

PO Box 93

Paterson, Eastern Cape 6130
South Africa
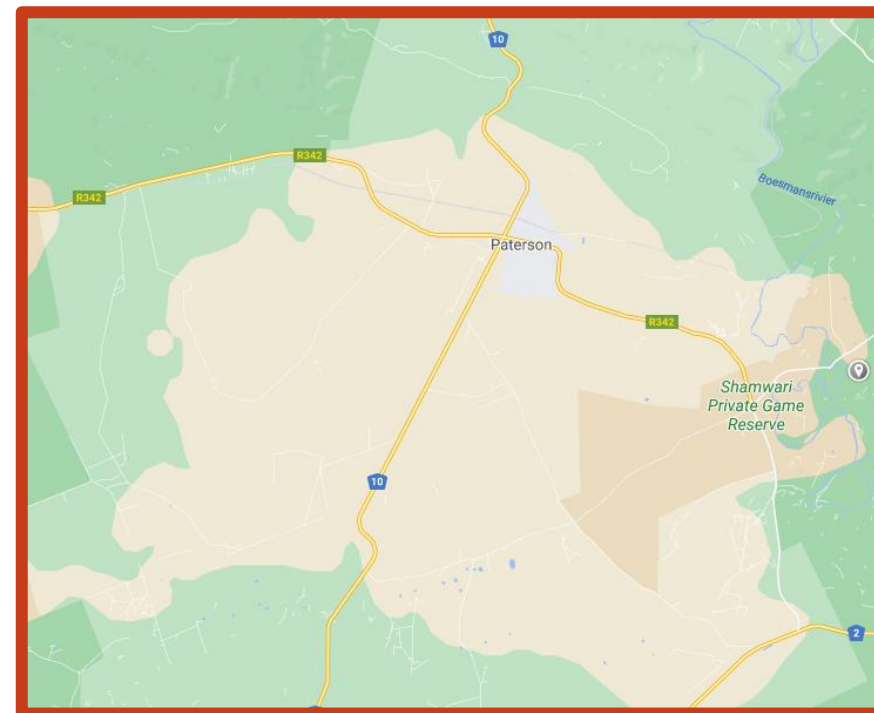
Shamwari Landline
Telephone: +27 (0) 42 235 1121

Mobile
+27(0) 72 1416 495
Nadia Muller (Volunteer Manager)

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

USEFUL INFORMATION

Climate

Summer (November – April)

Expect intense heat in the daytime with occasional thunderstorms in the afternoon. Vegetation is dense and lush due to the summer rains and the bush teems with new born 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 vegetations starts to change colour

Winter (May – October)

During winter the temperatures are pleasant during the day but cold at night. Visibility in the bush is very good making winter and excellent time for game viewing.

Spring

The bush changes to lively green vegetation and temperatures are pleasant

Currency, Credit Cards, Phones & Internet

The currency for South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR). Foreign exchange may be arranged at the airport or in major centres. It is not recommended that travellers carry large sums of cash, keep a reasonable amount on hand and primarily use credit cards.

All major credit cards are widely accepted.

Mobile phone coverage is good at the accommodation, although there may be some areas on the reserve where there isn't any coverage.

WiFi vouchers can be purchased to make use of the wireless network service. Internet speeds are not up to international urban standards but are effective for communication.

Health Risks

Immunisation:
When entering South Africa, no international immunisation is required., however, a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers if they enter South Africa within 6 days of leaving an infected country.
Our advice: Visit your local (travel) doctor to get up-to-date information about requirements when travelling.
DTP inoculation (diphtheria, tetanus and polio) is essential.
Please visit the following web page for advice from the UK Foreign Office:

https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/201/south-africa

Drinking Water:
Drinking water is available at the project (filtered rainwater); always make sure you keep hydrated.

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 always be careful when dealing with an injured person to avoid the risk of infection. Always take necessary precautions and avoid sexual contact.

Sun:

South Africa has a warm sunny climate, you should wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are out of doors during the day, particularly between 10am and 4 pm – regardless of whether there is cloud cover or not. Whatever your complexion you can still get sunburned if you are from a cooler climate. Sunglasses are also recommended as the glare of the African sun can be very strong.

Malaria:

The Eastern Cape Province is malaria and bilharzia free.

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

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 details to make sure 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.

Please follow this link to our preferred insurer:

https://www.endsleigh.co.uk/personal/gap-africa-projects/

Stay safe overseas – KBYG

The better prepared you are when you travel abroad the safer you will be. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development 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:

https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/travel-abroad

Passport Requirements

It can take up to 6 weeks to obtain a passport – remember to start this process in plenty of time.

Your passport needs to be valid for at least 30 days beyond your intended stay and have at least two blank pages.

Visa Requirements

A visa is not required for British Passport holders, all other nationalities should check the requirements via the website below, if required a visa can be obtained from the South African High Commission.

http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/exempt-countries

USEFUL INFORMATION

Suggested kit list

- Short and long sleeve T shirts *
- Long work trousers and shorts *
  (Or work trousers with zip-off longs)
- 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
  (extra warmth in winter)
- Socks
- Warm Hat (winter only) /Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Working gloves
- Gloves for warmth (winter only)
- Water bottle (filtered rainwater provided at the lodge)

- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Beach towel
- Swimming costume
- Toiletries
- Tick / insect repellent

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Good torch
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Personal medical items/First Aid kit
- Cards/music
- Sunscreen
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen

* All work clothes should be neutral or earth tones for working in the bush. No skimpy or bright coloured clothing to be worn.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Shamwari

You will be accommodated in a purpose built lodge located on the reserve. Rooms are shared with ensuite bathrooms.

There is a communal area with lounge, bar and dining area as well as a small lecture room.

The lodge grounds offer a swimming pool, large garden area and boma; enjoy sitting around the fire in the evening.

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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Shamwari

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

There is a laundry service once a week.

Most evenings and weekends are spent at leisure., you can jrelax at the reserve and enjoy the sights and sounds of Africa.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

What is included?

- Flights
- Travel Insurance
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- ATOL protection
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 In country support

NOT Included

- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Weekend activities
- Visa's/travel documents

10890 ATOL PROTECTED

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