



Merrist Wood College

PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



Shamwari

Group Expedition



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TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

Merrist Wood College MWA – 4569

Trip Dates:

10th March – 22nd March 2025

Flights:

BA057 09th March London Heathrow – Johannesburg arriving 10th March 2025*

BA056 22nd March Johannesburg – London Heathrow arriving 23rd March 2025*

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage Allowance – 1 piece of checked baggage @ 20kgs & 1 piece of hand baggage @ 7kgs and max dimensions 56x36x25 cms

Project:

Shamwari Group Expedition

Trip Cost:

£2639.00 per person

£300.00 deposit

£1169.50 Instalment due 18/11/2024

£1169.50 Balance due 13/01/2025

AFRICA

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AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT SHAMWARI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Shamwari Game Reserve

Shamwari, meaning 'my friend' in Shona, is the pinnacle of game reserves stretching 25,000 hectares over a malaria free landscape, it offers an award-winning nature experience and is one of the largest private conservation initiatives in Southern Africa.

Located in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, an area which is unmatched in Southern Africa in terms of its biodiversity covering 5 bio geographic regions of the 7 found worldwide, from the semi-desert Karoo in the interior to the lush green forests of the Garden Route.

Shamwari has a dedicated wildlife and conservation department with a wildlife veterinarian and ecologists who run the wildlife breeding, animal rehabilitation and rhino awareness centre, they also operate an anti-poaching unit and animal hospital. Offering the 'Big 5' it also hosts the Born Free Foundation Big Cat Sanctuary for rescued lions and leopards.



Project Overview

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 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. 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.



Your Conservation Programme

Whilst on your placement you will become members of the conservation department and 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 and ensure that all activities chosen by your group will be covered over the two week period.

- Anti-poaching patrols
- Use of telemetry tracking
- Restoring degraded thicket and landscapes
- Game counts
- Sex and ratio recordings
- Rifle handling and shooting (additional cost)
- Possible game capture
- Visit to Born Free Sanctuary
- Community projects
- Fence inspections
- Alien vegetation control
- Reserve clean ups
- Field skills and survival sleep out
- General game drives
- Possible veterinary interaction
- Assist with cleaning and maintenance of bomas and water troughs

Various talks and presentations

- ❖ Introduction to wildlife conservation in SA
- ❖ Principles of Eco systems
- ❖ Capture techniques and relocation of wildlife
- ❖ Stress factors in handling and containment
- ❖ Veterinarians' role in conservation
- ❖ Biomes of the Eastern Cape
- ❖ Astronomy
- ❖ Facilities and drugs to reduce stress
- ❖ Darting techniques
- ❖ Wildlife monitoring
- ❖ Animal population dynamics
- ❖ Use of Bomas
- ❖ Wildlife tracks and signs
- ❖ Parasites and disease in nature
- ❖ Animal Welfare



Sample itinerary

- ❖ Day 1 – Arrive Port Elizabeth airport and transfer by coach to Shamwari Game Reserve followed by orientation of the reserve
- ❖ Day 2 – Introduction presentation and drive through the reserve followed by manual work, making pine poles
- ❖ Day 3 – Group 1: APU talk and snare finding activity; Group 2 : Rhino monitoring. Groups swap for the afternoon
- ❖ Day 4 – Group 1 : Manual work, road maintenance; Group 2 : Visit the Born Free Foundation. Groups swap for the afternoon. After dinner, its Film Night
- ❖ Day 5 – All : Community day, the group will be assigned a specific project to undertake
- ❖ Day 6/7 – Weekend at leisure. Additional activities can be arranged away from the reserve, or you can relax at the reserve enjoying the sights and sounds of Africa making the most of the swimming pool and garden
- ❖ Day 8 – Presentation on tracking and the use of telemetry equipment followed by predator monitoring. In the afternoon learn to make beads
- ❖ Day 9 – Group 1 : Elephant debate and information prep; Group 2 : Elephant monitoring. Groups swap for the afternoon
- ❖ Day 10 – All, Manual work and predator tracking in the afternoon. After dinner night drive patrol
- ❖ Day 11 – Game capture talk, view the bomas and capture system and then cleaning of water holes
- ❖ Day 12 – All, Community day, the group will be assigned a specific project. Braai (BBQ) night
- ❖ Day 13 /14 Weekend at leisure.
- ❖ Day 15 Transfer to Port Elizabeth airport for the journey home to the UK.

It's important to remember that Wildlife does not work to an Agenda, therefore activities may change at short notice!



AFRICA

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

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.

Internet access is available although speeds are not as good as in the UK.



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

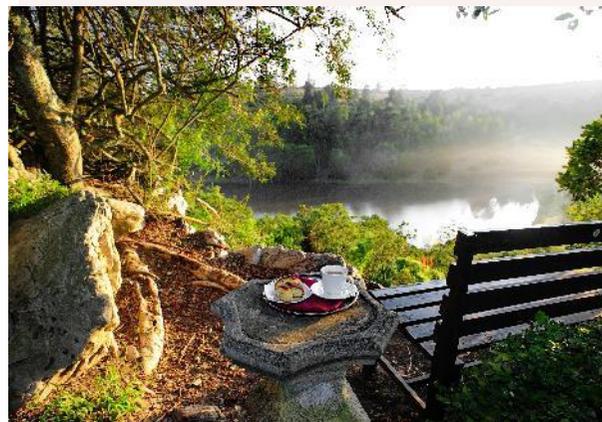
AFRICA

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. There is the opportunity to experience additional activities during the weekends and visit attractions nearby or you can just relax at the reserve and enjoy the sights and sounds of Africa.



OPTIONAL WEEKEND EXCURSIONS

AFRICA



Weekend Options
will be sent in
advance of your
departure.

Pre-Booked or
Paid Locally



ANY QUESTIONS?

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INFORMATION PACK 13



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USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

What is included?

- Flights
- 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

- Personal Travel Insurance *
- 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
- Tips

* We recommend you take out insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed

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 - (it can get very cold on an open vehicle - even on a summer evening)
- Daypack rucksack
- Socks
- Hat for sun protection (all year round) / Warm Hat (winter only)
- 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
- Personal medical items & First Aid Kit
- Sunscreen & Sunglasses
- Binoculars

Other useful items:

- Good torch
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Cards/music
- 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.



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