



# PRE- DEPARTURE INFORMATION PACK

## Merrist Wood College

The background is a collage of African wildlife and landscapes. On the left, a large adult rhinoceros and a smaller calf are in a grassy field. In the center, a large acacia tree stands against a sunset sky. On the right, a herd of elephants is crossing a river, with a safari vehicle visible in the foreground.

**Shamwari**

Group  
Expedition

**AFRICA**

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

# TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

## Merrist Wood College – Booking Reference 4596

### Trip Dates:

23<sup>rd</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
BA57	23/02/2025	London Heathrow (LHR)	21:15	Johannesburg (JNB)	10:20 + 1 Day
FA373	24/02/2025	Johannesburg (JNB)	13:05	Port Elizabeth (PLZ)	14:50
FA363	08/03/2025	Port Elizabeth (PLZ)	13:50	Johannesburg (JNB)	15:35
BA56	08/03/2025	Johannesburg (JNB)	19:45	London Heathrow (LHR)	05:00 + 1 Day

\*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



### Arriving in South Africa

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

You will be met by the GAP Africa representative who will assist you in checking in for your onward flight at the Domestic Terminal, Terminal B, for your onward 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 approximately 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  
Reception: +27 (0) 42 203 1183  
Emergency: +27 (0) 42 203 1187/1283  
(Out of hours and Weekends)

## Mobile

+27(0) 78 107 4143  
Cindy Stadler (Project Manager)

## Gap Africa Projects

+44 (0) 744 260 1694

## 24 Hour Emergency Only

## Gap Africa Projects In Country contact:

+27 (0) 79 313 2276 Carmen Warmenhove



## 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>

### Malaria:

The Eastern Cape Province is malaria and bilharzia free.

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

### 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.

### Drinking Water:

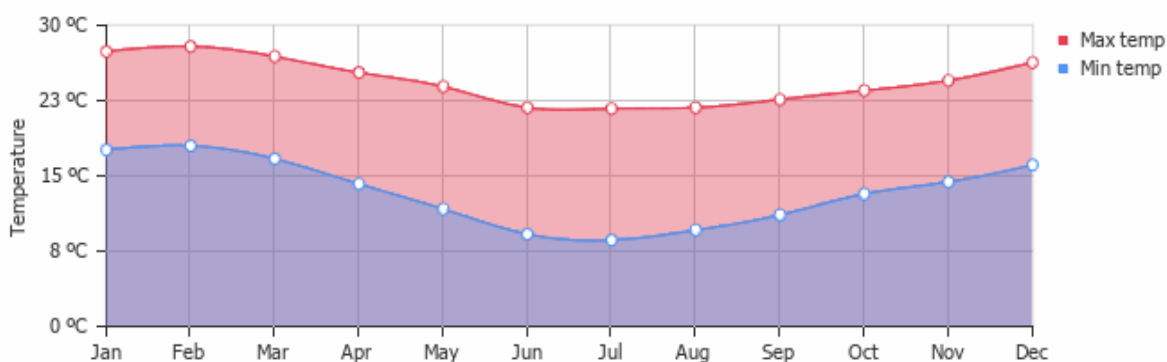
Drinking water is available at the project (filtered rainwater); always make sure you keep hydrated.



# USEFUL INFORMATION

AFRICA

## Climate



Average temperatures in the Eastern Cape are shown on the graph.

During the months of April – November you should experience good weather. February is the warmest month and July the coldest. May is the driest month.

## Tipping

Whilst there is no obligation, it is a nice gesture to show your appreciation for the rangers and housekeeping staff by leaving a small tip/donation for the staff at the reserve when you leave; any amount is always appreciated.

On day trips/excursions it is also a nice gesture to show your appreciation for the guide and a 10% tip in restaurants/cafes is normal.

## Currency & Credit Cards

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.

Travel Cards are very useful; preload before travelling and the best exchange rate is used.

Wise Travel Card offers up to £500.00 with no transfer fee for GAP Africa Projects travellers:



<https://wise.prf.hn/l/XZJx9qq>

# USEFUL INFORMATION

AFRICA

## Phones & Internet

Mobile phone coverage is good at the accommodation, although there may be some areas on the reserve where there isn't any coverage. eSIM or purchasing a SIM card at the airport is another option

Wi-Fi is available at the accommodation however internet speeds are not up to international urban standards but are effective for communication.

We have partnered with Holafly, an eSim provider who have offered a 5% discount when you use the code GAPAFRICAPROJECTS

## Benefits of an eSIM

Holafly

- Unlimited Data Plans
- Keep your WhatsApp number
- Immediate Delivery
- Uses both Vodacom and MTN the two major networks in South Africa



<https://shorturl.at/sxE29>

-5% discount applied to all plans		
<b>5 Days</b> Unlimited data £22.80 <del>£24.00</del> GBP 5%	<b>7 Days</b> Unlimited data £32.30 <del>£34.00</del> GBP 5%	<b>10 Days</b> Unlimited data £35.15 <del>£37.00</del> GBP 5%
<b>15 Days</b> Unlimited data £37.05 <del>£39.00</del> GBP 5%	<b>20 Days</b> Unlimited data £46.55 <del>£49.00</del> GBP 5%	<b>30 Days</b> Unlimited data £63.65 <del>£67.00</del> GBP 5%

# USEFUL INFORMATION

AFRICA

## 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 Covid 19, theft, loss, illness and injury. Check to see if your medical benefits are paid out as they occur or on your return home.

Please follow this link to our preferred insurer:



<https://www.true traveller.com/backpackers-insurance?tag=4480>

You should select 'Adventure Pack' as this will cover you for the type of activities you will undertake during your trip. For other providers you need to ensure you are covered for 'Light Manual Work'.

## 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 many 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 exit date and have at least two blank pages. You can check requirements by using the IATA Travel Centre site.

[www.iatatravelcentre.com](http://www.iatatravelcentre.com)

## 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>



## 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
- 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 whilst on the reserve.

# 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.





# 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



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