



PROJECT INFORMATION PACK

Nambiti Research & Conservation Volunteer programme



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

Established in 2000, Nambiti Private Game Reserve, herein named 'Nambiti' was forged from a vision to create a Big 5 game reserve close to Durban. After 17 years of careful restoration, and the restocking of native flora and fauna, the reserve is one the country's most exciting conservation initiatives today. With sustainable developments ensuring the livelihood of its local people remains intact, Nambiti has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Visitors of Nambiti revel in the smouldering beauty of a landscape boasting 22,000 acres of spectacular wildlife. Nambiti is truly a magnificent tapestry of landscapes. From former battlefields to majestic mountains, it is the only game reserve in the area boasting the Big 5, as well as over 40 other species of game including cheetah, giraffe, hippo, hyena, impala, eland and zebra. In addition, over 300 bird species thrive here.



ABOUT NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

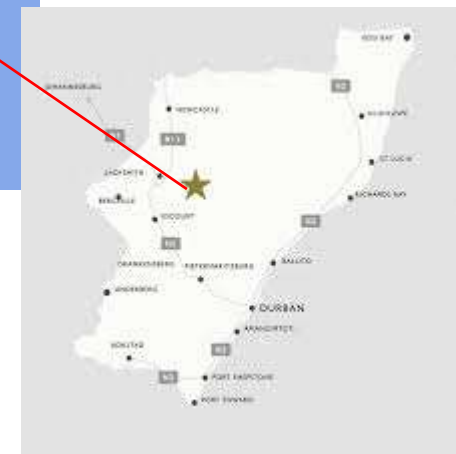
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NAMBITI GAME RESERVE – LOCATION

Nambiti Private Game Reserve is located in KwaZulu-Natal Province, near Ladysmith.

The reserve and camp are situated in the Natal Midlands, close to the stunning Drakensberg Mountain Range, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Conveniently accessible from Johannesburg & Pretoria, a 3.5 – 4-hour journey time and from Durban approximately 2.5 hours.



YOUR PROJECT

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Project Overview

A variety of exciting bush adventures are accessible from the reserve. Hosted by professionally trained guides; volunteers quickly become immersed in the daily life of a conservationist and researcher, experiencing hands on, behind-the-scenes reserve activities.

Our volunteers form part of the research and conservation team and assist with daily responsibilities of the ongoing monitoring, data collection and reserve maintenance.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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Volunteer duties

Camp maintenance and duties

While staying in camp, your home base, there will be general duties that everyone will need to help with:

- Washing your own dishes
- Tidy up after yourselves (i.e. the communal lounge & firepit area)
- Tents will not be serviced; keep them tidy and free of food & rubbish
- You may be required to help with some of the group meals i.e. braais & potjies (collect firewood, make the fire, braai the meat)
- Rubbish removal
- Cleaning the pool
- Cleaning the bathrooms
- Facilitating activities for visiting groups/community kids camps etc.
- Sweep out tents before departure

Social media content

- Collect social media content while out having fun on the reserve and around camp
- Assist with the social media weekly posts by sharing updates (i.e. which spider was in your tent last night, what you are preparing for lunch....)



Duties of a volunteer

As a volunteer your core duties will be to assist with the day-to-day monitoring of wildlife & conservation work undertaken by the team at Nambiti

Wildlife research

- Collection of wildlife data to assist in conservation decision making
- Monitor key species in the reserve
- Assist reserve management with ongoing projects i.e. elephant impact assessments, leopard, lion & elephant ID kits
- Collate and formulate collected data into reports and maps
- Assist with identification (ID) kits of key species

Reserve maintenance

- Assist the reserve management team with bush clearing, road maintenance & alien invasive removal
- Routine boma maintenance in preparation for game capture season

Community outreaches

- Visit local communities and assist with wildlife education and other upliftment programmes
- Use of the volunteers' individual skillsets to help with workshops towards empowering the community

Your volunteer programme

Species monitoring & research activities

- Tracks and signs practical activity
- Anti-poaching snare-sweeps & fence patrols
- Game counts
- Wildlife monitoring & data collection
- Developing ID kits for priority species including; African wild dog, cheetah, elephant, leopard, lion & rhino (black and white)
- Nocturnal monitoring & researcher habituation for aardwolf & leopard

- Elephant vegetation impact assessments
- Compiling of reports, maps, ID kits

Practical & conservation activities

- Alien invasive plant removal
- Bush clearing & road maintenance
- Boma (animal enclosure) maintenance
- Community workshops
- Social media content collection
- Game/wildlife capture (*in season*)

Key requirements for our volunteer programme

- Physically fit, healthy and able to endure long days in the field
- Ability to work as part of a team
- A positive attitude
- A keen interest in African biodiversity, species ecology and conservation
- Previously travelled on a GAP Africa Projects/Global Adventure Projects expedition to Nambiti as part of a college/university trip
- Qualified with, or working towards, a suitable qualification in Agriculture, Animal Management, Conservation, Ecology or similar



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Life on the Reserve



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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Nambiti Research Camp

Volunteers will be accommodated in the tented research bush camp in single tents with a proper bed (linen and towels provided). Friends are welcome to share tents.

There are communal hot and cold showers and regular flushing toilets.



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Nambiti Research Camp

Three meals per day are provided with group participation required for some meals

Breakfast is self-service with cereals, toast, fruit (eggs available to boil)

Lunches includes making your own sandwiches, salads, fruit soup etc.

Dinners are cooked and sometimes will be a group participation braai (BBQ) & potjies (stews)

Tea, coffee & juice station open 24/7

Laundry service available once a week



Working hours, time off and town visits

- A full 6 to 8 hour working day, 5 days per week with 2 days off each week
- Work and schedule will depend on reserve management tasks at the time
- Time off may be spent in camp relaxing, swimming in the camp pool or walking/fishing at the dam on Elandsvlei where the camp is situated
- One trip to Ladysmith (a 20-minute drive) will be available per week for volunteers to pick up anything they may need from town. Any extra trips will be at own expense.
- WiFi is available at a fee



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Camp Life



ANY QUESTIONS?

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WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

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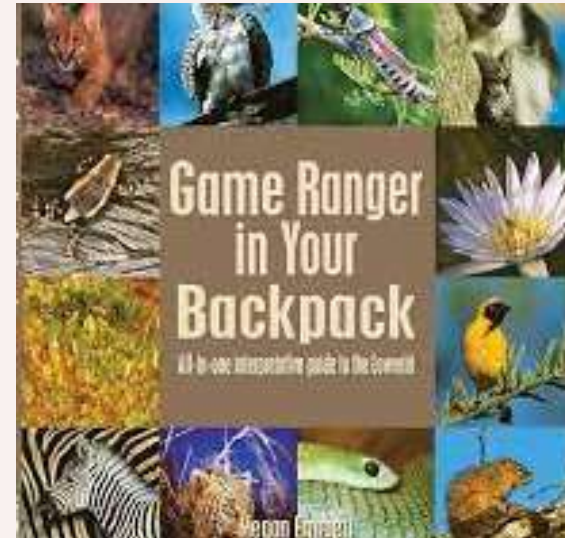
Track and signs workshop

Discover the art of tracking: over two immersive days; you'll learn the ancient skills of tracking animals and following their signs.

This is based at your camp, so no need to travel!

A privilege to be taught by renowned naturalist, trails guide and author of '*Game Ranger in your Backpack*' , Sean Pattrick (2014)

Extra options to
be booked and
paid for locally



WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

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Nearby attractions

Drakensberg: hiking in mountains, horse riding, visit waterfalls, Drakensberg canopy tour, birds of prey, Drakensberg Boys Choir, Four Rivers rafting

Durban: relax on the beaches, Golden Mile restaurants (Florida Rd), Ushaka Wet n Wild/Aquarium Diving, beach horse ride, Moses Mabida Stadium Big Rush Urban Adrenaline, shopping, Victoria Street market/ Gateway Theatre of shopping, Umhlanga Village & promenade, Umhlanga Sharks Board.

Zingela: river swims, rafting, canoeing, walks, giraffe monitoring

St Lucia: Hippo Croc Boat Trip, iSimangiliso Wetland Park, Cape Vidal, Horse riding (Bush/Beach) Croc Centre, Butterfly Dome, beach & bush

Extra activities to be booked and paid for locally – at the volunteers own responsibility



USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
recommended kit list



WHAT'S INCLUDED

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What is included?

- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- 24/7 In-country support

NOT Included

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project (we can facilitate)
- Personal travel insurance *
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Weekend activities
- Visas/travel documents
- Tips

** We recommend you take insurance out 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
- Swimming towel
- Swimming costume
- Toiletries
- Tick/insect repellent
- Personal medical items & first aid kit
- Sunscreen & sunglasses
- Binoculars

Other useful items:

- Good torch/headlamp
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Cards/music
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen
- Power bank

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

PROJECT DATES

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2025 OPEN DATES

- 22nd Sept – 20th Oct 25 (4 w)
- 22nd Sept – 16th Nov 25 (8 w)
- 20th Oct – 16th Nov 25 (4 w)
- Arrival day – Monday
- Dates for 2026 will be released later in the year





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