



PROJECT INFORMATION PACK

The background image shows a savanna landscape with several elephants. In the foreground, a person is seen from the side, wearing a cap and sunglasses, holding a camera up to their eye to take a photograph. Other people are visible in the background, some looking at their phones. The scene is set in a dry, open area with some trees in the distance.

Shamwari Conservation Experience Elephant Study Group

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT SHAMWARI GAME RESERVE

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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 biogeographic 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 Elephant Study Group 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 to monitor and study the elephant population on the reserve.

The project will be focus on the 4 elephant herds, comprising over 100 elephants.

Participants will have an elephant focused experience; the information collected is extremely important to the running of the reserve, however you will also have the opportunity to learn about the management of game reserves and how to interpret tracks and signs.

There will be the opportunity to view other species on the reserve including the Big 5 while undertaking the elephant monitoring.

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 a voluntary member of the conservation department and therefore work with the wildlife's best interests in mind at all times

Elephant-specific activities

- Finding & identifying herds
- Elephant monitoring
- Elephant ear ID's
- Mapping of movements
- Feeding observations & vegetation assessments
- Recording new births
- Visit to Addo Elephant National Park(*TBC)
- Making elephant dung paper

Other activities

- General management of the reserve
- General game drives & monitoring
- Wildlife tracks and signs
- Night drive
- VulPro husbandry & maintenance
- Conservation volunteer day
- Community day

Various talks and presentations

- Introduction to the Shamwari elephant herds, monitoring books & how to monitor elephant
- Elephant game capture
- Elephant care at the wildlife rehabilitation centre
- A veterinarian's perspective on providing elephant care at the reserve
- The big elephant talk and debate – 'Culling vs. chemical castration?'



Sample itinerary*

- Day 1 – Arrive Port Elizabeth airport and transfer to Shamwari Game Reserve followed by orientation of the reserve
- Day 2 – Introduction reserve, and game drive followed by instruction on using the elephant monitoring books
- Day 3 – Elephant monitoring & talk on elephant game capture followed by a night drive
- Day 4 – Elephant monitoring
- Day 5 – Community day
- 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 – Elephant monitoring followed by a visit to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, talk with animal carer on elephant care at the centre
- Day 9 – Lecture on the big elephant debate followed by elephant monitoring
- Day 10 – Elephant monitoring followed by a talk by the Veterinarian
- Day 11 – Visit to the Born Free Sanctuary followed by elephant monitoring
- Day 12 – Community day
- Day 13 /14 – Addo Elephant National Park / 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!***

YOUR PROJECT

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The joy of monitoring elephants



ANY QUESTIONS?

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A visit to Addo Elephant NP



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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Shamwari Rippon's Lodge

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 they are in the UK.



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Shamwari Rippon's Lodge

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



ANY QUESTIONS?

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OPTIONAL WEEKEND EXCURSIONS

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**Weekend options
will be sent in
advance of your
departure.**

**Pre-booked or
paid locally**





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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
- ATOL protection
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 In country support



NOT included

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- 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 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

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

- 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



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