



PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



Shamwari Vet Eco Experience

AFRICA

GLOBAL reach. ADVENTURE for all. PROJECTS to inspire.

AFRICA

CONTENTS

ABOUT THE PROJECT 3-4

PROJECT DETAILS 5-9

ITINERARY 10

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE 11-13

USEFUL INFORMATION 14-16





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 bio-diversity 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.

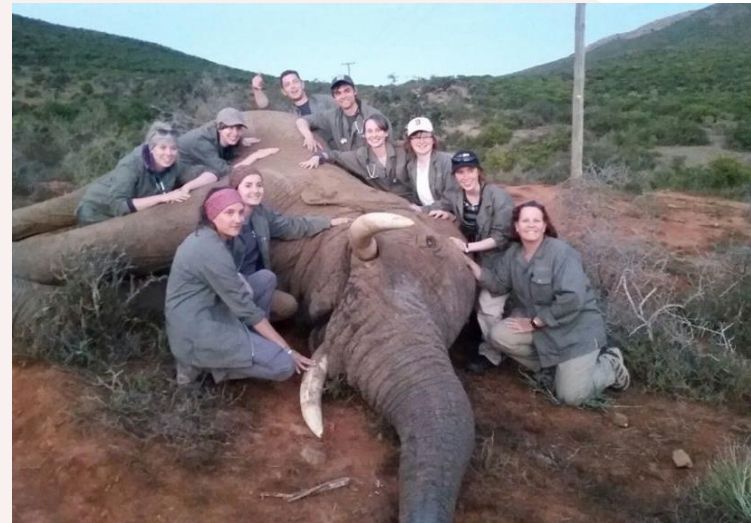


Project Details

This project offers you the opportunity to work alongside the award winning conservation department and pioneering veterinary staff at the reserve. You will be faced with unpredictable and unusual practices that are considered the norm to a wildlife vet in South Africa.

If you are looking for hands on experience in the wildlife veterinary field that will contribute towards your EMS then this is the programme for you. The programme is split into both theoretical and practical activities based around veterinary science and conservation in the context of African wildlife.

Your course is based on a structured itinerary; however, these activities can change depending on the requirements of the Shamwari veterinary team; it is important to understand and appreciate that working with wildlife is unpredictable and circumstances can often change very quickly on the reserve.



Your programme objectives

- Gain invaluable experience through exposure to practical and hands on skills in the wildlife veterinary field
- Expose participants to behind the scenes veterinary wildlife practices at Shamwari Game Reserve
- To educate the principles of wildlife veterinary decisions in comparison to domestic circumstances and the large conservation ethics that govern these procedures
- Gain a first hand insight into the award winning wildlife department in conservation, ecology and wildlife management
- Introduce pharmacology with the emphasis on wildlife drugs
- Provide an understanding of the drugs and techniques required to incorporate veterinary procedures into wildlife management
- Introduce disease producing agents and the affects on wildlife species
- Techniques and methods of wildlife immobilisation whilst limiting stress factors during interventions
- Immobilisation and darting techniques used for various wildlife species

Veterinary activities may include

- ❖ Introduction to darting techniques – various darting techniques used for game capture and immobilisation, learning to handle the various darting systems and target practice
- ❖ Rhino darting – accompany the conservation team as they dart and immobilise white rhino to perform ear notching for ID purposes and collection of DNA for research
- ❖ Immobilisation of large carnivore – work with the veterinary team to immobilise one of the large predator species on the reserve, learn respiratory monitoring and use of drugs
- ❖ Translocation of antelope species – techniques used for mass capture and translocation of antelope species
- ❖ Passive game capture – practical techniques on passive game capture of various species
- ❖ Post-mortems – conduct post-mortems with veterinary staff for research and assessment.
- ❖ Be the Vet – you will be required to put your skills, learnt in immobilisation and game capture, to the test as you act as the wildlife vet to manage the procedures on the reserve
- ❖ Emergency veterinary procedures – as required by the veterinary team



Conservation activities may include

- ❖ Game monitoring – rhino, elephants, predators; regular monitoring allows for ID of individuals, compile information on family structure and determine feeding a special ecology. Data is used to assist in decision making for the managing of the reserve
- ❖ Telemetry tracking – Monitor high profile animals such as cheetah and leopard, tracking is essential due to the elusive nature of some of the species and the proximity to neighbouring properties
- ❖ Management of breeding centre – this can cover veld condition assessment, mapping of area and alien vegetation, monitoring animal numbers and managing water points
- ❖ Volunteering at Born Free Foundation – the mission of the BFF and Shamwari is to promote the conservation of species and protection of habitat whilst maintaining a humane and compassionate approach to animal welfare whilst creating awareness of exploited wildlife. An opportunity to volunteer at the Born Free Big Cat Sanctuary
- ❖ Animal rehabilitation centre – the centre was set up to aid in rehabilitating injured animals found on the reserve and surrounding community. They aim to provide short term care and release back into the environment. The centre boasts avian, large and small stock bomas (enclosures) which house various species that have found their way to Shamwari



Presentations

- ❖ Introduction to wildlife conservation in South Africa
- ❖ Rehabilitation of wildlife
- ❖ Pharmacokinetics
- ❖ Anaesthetic drugs in wildlife
- ❖ Tranquilisers used in wildlife
- ❖ Elephant management
- ❖ Selected wildlife diseases
- ❖ Intensive vs free roaming wildlife
- ❖ Wildlife monitoring
- ❖ Understanding the principles of eco systems
- ❖ Basic wildlife conservation, ecology and management principles
- ❖ Facilities and drugs to reduce stress
- ❖ Animal population dynamics
- ❖ Capture techniques and relocation of wildlife
- ❖ Use of Bomas
- ❖ Hand rearing of orphaned animals
- ❖ Anti-poaching methods
- ❖ Stress factors in handling and containment
- ❖ Animal husbandry
- ❖ Veterinarian's role in conservation
- ❖ Conservation of flagship species of Africa
- ❖ Biomes of the Eastern Cape
- ❖ Wildlife tracks and signs
- ❖ Darting techniques
- ❖ Animal welfare in relation to capture and containment

Sample itinerary

Week One

Arrive Port Elizabeth airport and transfer by coach to Shamwari Game Reserve followed by orientation of the reserve

Lectures:

- ❖ Role of veterinarian on game reserves
- ❖ Game capture techniques – mass capture, passive capture and chemical immobilisation
- ❖ Immobilising drugs
- ❖ Darting and translocation equipment
- ❖ Husbandry of captured animals
- ❖ Game translocation

Practical Experience:

- ❖ Target shooting with dart gun
- ❖ Assisting with darting of specific animals
- ❖ Translocation of captured animals from reserve to bomas

Weekend – at leisure relaxing at the reserve or book an additional activity to enjoy at the weekend

Week Two

Lectures:

- ❖ Important infectious diseases in wildlife
- ❖ Wildlife sanctuaries and rehabilitation
- ❖ Community work at disadvantage communities
- ❖ Poaching and veterinary implications of survivors of poaching incidents

Practical Experience:

- ❖ Necropsies
- ❖ Mass capture and translocation of antelope
- ❖ Target shooting from helicopter (dependant on prevailing conditions and if required)
- ❖ Community day – basic veterinary care & treatment of community animals
- ❖ Visits to Shamwari Rehabilitation Centre and Born Free Sanctuary

Final day – Transfer to Port Elizabeth airport for your flight home



AFRICA

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

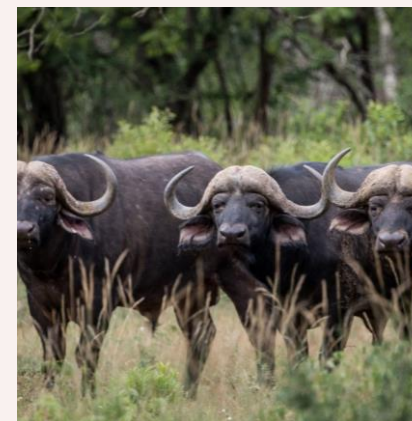
Shamwari

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.

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



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.





AFRICA

USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

What is included?

- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- 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

* 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 – 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 | • Personal medical items/First Aid kit |
| • Good torch | • Cards/music |
| • Camera | • Sunscreen |
| • Spare batteries | • Mammal/bird book |
| • Sunglasses | • 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 on the reserve.

PHOTO GALLERY

AFRICA

Life-Changing Experience Saving Wildlife



ANY QUESTIONS?

INFO@GAPAFRICAPROJECTS.COM | +44 (0)207 1937819

INFORMATION PACK 17



GLOBAL reach. ADVENTURE for all. PROJECTS to inspire.

Explore our network of Global Adventure Projects:



GLOBALADVENTUREPROJECTS.COM

