



ST JOHN'S SCHOOL PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



Shamwari Group Expedition

AFRICA

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

TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

St John's School – Booking Reference 4698

Travel Dates:

29th March – 11th April 2026

Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
VS449	29/03/2026	London Heathrow (LHR)	20:50	Johannesburg (JNB)	08:50 + 1 Day
FA534	30/03/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	13:05	Port Elizabeth (PLZ)	14:50
FA363	11/04/2026	Port Elizabeth (PLZ)	13:50	Johannesburg (JNB)	15:35
VS450	11/04/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	20:25	London Heathrow (LHR)	06:30 + 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 56x36x23cm

Project:

Shamwari Group Expedition



AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT SHAMWARI GAME RESERVE

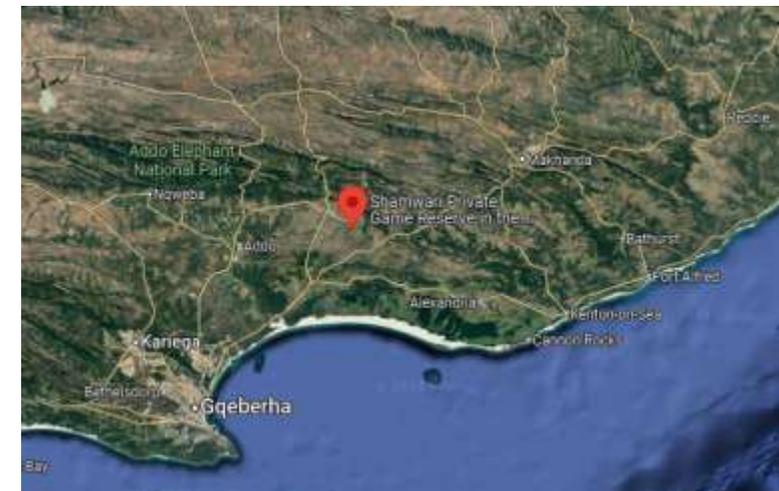
AFRICA

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, Vulpro 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. This is a working field trip, and you will be taking part in hands-on activities based on the requirements of the reserve.

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.



Conservation Management

Whilst on your placement you will become members of the conservation department and will 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.

- Game monitoring: Rhino, Elephant and Predators
- Camera trapping
- Anti-poaching patrols
- Use of telemetry tracking
- Game sex and ratio recordings
- Telemetry
- Tracks, signs and spoor
- Field skills
- Rifle handling and shooting (additional cost)



YOUR PROJECT

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Reserve Maintenance

Several activities include hands-on work in the field, which is vital to the conservation work at Shamwari

- Restoring degraded thickets and landscapes
- Erosion Control
- Fence inspections
- Alien vegetation control
- Reserve clean-ups
- Road Maintenance
- Assist with cleaning and maintenance of bomas and water troughs



YOUR PROJECT

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Community Project

Conservation does not stop at conserving nature alone but includes a responsibility to uplift local communities. Weekly trips are made into the local community to assist in various projects

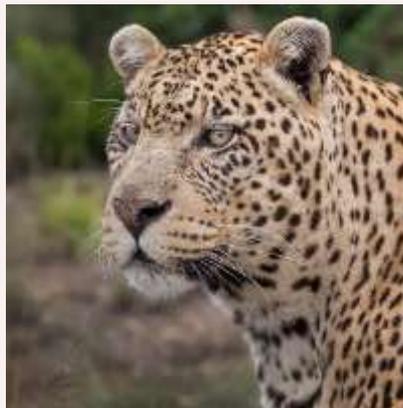
- Painting Classrooms
- Recycling Projects
- Building Jungle Gyms
- Creating and Maintaining Vegetable Gardens
- Sports Activities



Possible Rehabilitation Centre Visits

Born Free Sanctuary

- A UK-based charity that rescues animals from captivity
- Born Free at Shamwari acts as a sanctuary for a number of big cats rescued from poor conditions across Europe who are unable to be reintroduced into the wild
- Possible activities include
 - Presentation on the work of the sanctuary
 - Guided tour of the sanctuary by one of the keepers.
 - Visit to the gift shop



Hands-on at Vulpro

- VulPro (Vulture Rehabilitation & Breeding Centre) is a leader in Vulture conservation in Africa, dedicated to reversing the decline in vulture populations
- VulPro at Shamwari is a dedicated centre for managing and supporting populations of vultures in the area
- Possible activities include
 - Maintaining Waterholes and Enclosures
 - Collecting Nesting Material
 - Upgrading Perches
 - Feeding Vultures
 - Photographing Birds



Various talks and presentations

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



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 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!



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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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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

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Food at the Project

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

Dietary Requirements

Provision can be made for Vegetarian & Vegan diets and for those who have a medical condition such as Coeliac disease that requires a Gluten Free Diet and for those with severe allergies to dairy, eggs or nuts.



OPTIONAL WEEKEND EXCURSIONS

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Weekend Options will be confirmed in advance of your departure.





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USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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What is included?

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- 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
- Visas/travel documents
- Tips

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

Suggested kit list

To allow for ease of transfer to the project a soft holdall/ soft suitcase is preferred.

- Short and long sleeve t-shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts (or work/zip-off trousers)
- Hiking boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Waterproof jacket
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Padded jacket/windbreaker (Winter months) although it can get very cold on an open vehicle even in summer
- Socks
- Underwear
- Change of casual clothes for evenings
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Warm hat (Winter only) / Hat for sun protection (all year)
- Gloves for warmth (Winter only)
- Working gloves
- Daypack rucksack
- Swimwear
- Sunscreen and Sunglasses
- Personal medical items
- First aid kit
- Toiletries
- Tick / Insect repellent
- Water bottle

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Power bank
- Good torch

* 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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