



BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE PROJECT PRESENTATION



Dinokeng/ Shamwari Group Expedition

AFRICA

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

TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

Berkshire College of Agriculture – Booking Reference 4705

Trip Dates:

1st February – 15th February 2026

Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
VS449	01/02/2026	London Heathrow (LHR)	19:40	Johannesburg (JNB)	08:40 + 1 Day
TBC	09/02/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	11:10	Port Elizabeth (PLZ)	13:00
TBC	14/02/2026	Port Elizabeth (PLZ)	15:25	Johannesburg (JNB)	17:05
VS450	14/02/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	22:00	London Heathrow (LHR)	07:20 + 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:

Dinokeng and Shamwari Group Expedition

Trip Cost:

£2795.00 per person

£300.00 deposit

£1247.50 Instalment due 13/10/2025

£1247.50 Balance due 08/12/2025



AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT DINOKENG GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Dinokeng

A Groundbreaking Big Five Conservation Partnership

Dinokeng Game Reserve is Gauteng Province's first free-roaming Big Five reserve – a 21,000-hectare (51,900 acres) conservation area where landowners, tourism operators, and local communities collaborate to protect biodiversity and create sustainable livelihoods. Its name, meaning “place of rivers,” reflects the region's natural beauty and ecological value.

This pioneering public-private partnership combines government-supported infrastructure with privately owned land to rewild former farmland, boost tourism, and generate economic opportunities for nearby communities – all within easy reach of Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Over the years, Dinokeng has achieved notable conservation successes, including the reintroduction and ongoing protection of priority large mammals and predators, and the revival of vital grassland and wetland ecosystems.



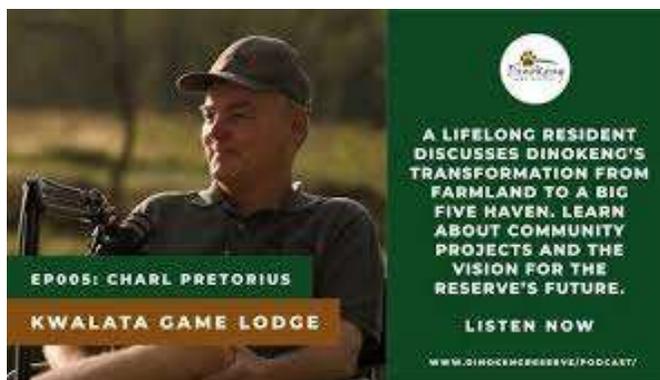
ABOUT DINOKENG GAME RESERVE

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Kwalata

The founder, Charl Pretorius, first ran a "Back to Basics Bush Camp" in 1987 on his family farm, with pupils camping under the stars and sleeping out around the fire. Over time that evolved into what is now Kwalata Adventure Camp and Kwalata Game Lodge.

Kwalata supports both wildlife tourism and extended stays, while also serving as a base for community engagement and conservation learning. Together, the Adventure Camp and Lodge combine immersive outdoor education with modern comfort, giving students the full spectrum of bush and learning experiences.



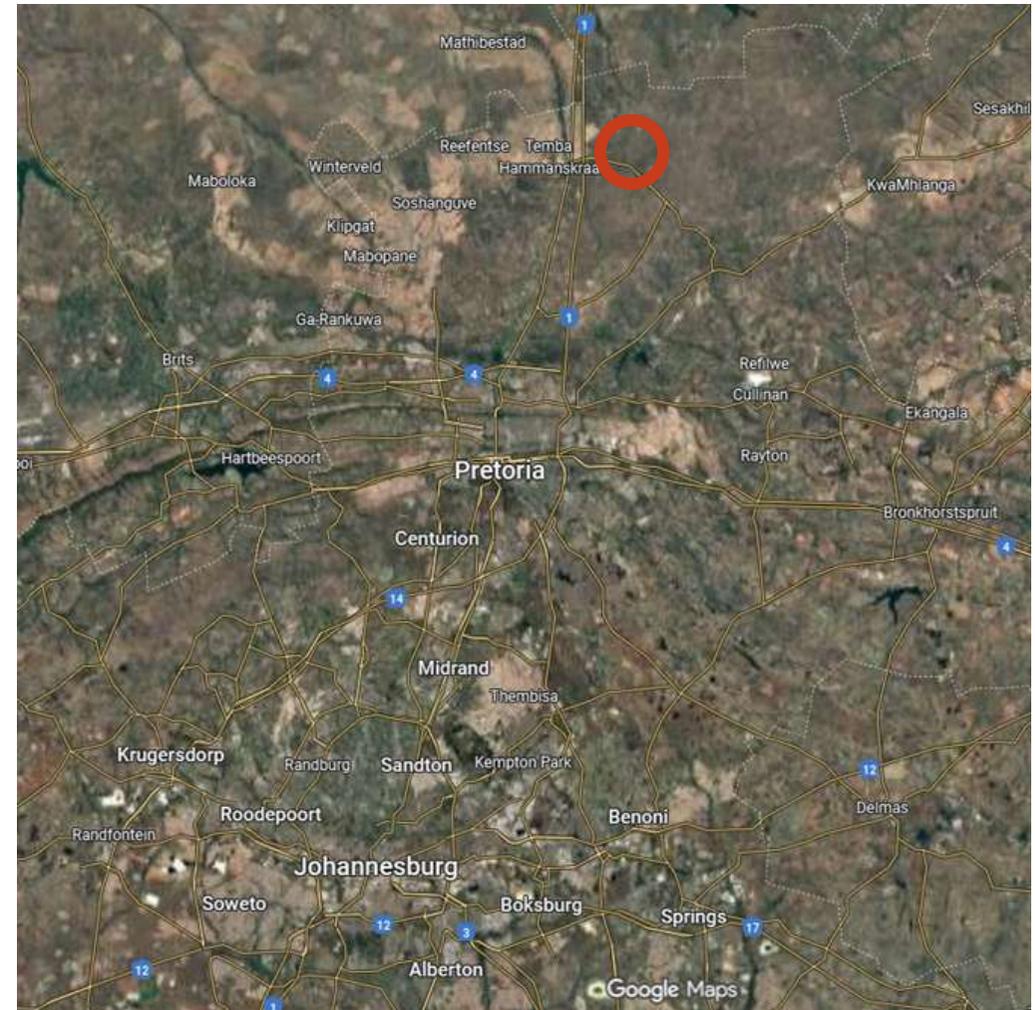
ABOUT DINOKENG

AFRICA

Kwalata – Road Transport

The group will be met at OR Tambo International Airport by Shuttle King for a seamless transfer to Kwalata Game Lodge. The journey offers a comfortable and convenient start to their trip, giving them time to relax and enjoy the passing bushveld scenery as they head to the lodge.

The transfer from the Airport to Kwalata Game Lodge covers approximately **80 km (50 miles)** and typically takes around **1 to 1.5 hours** by road, depending on traffic on mostly tarred highways.



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.

- Priority Species monitoring: Rhino, Elephant and Predators
- Camera trapping
- Tracking collared animals with telemetry collars
- Game sex and ratio recordings
- Tracks, signs and spoor
- Field/bush skills
- Game drives
- Bush walks
- Talks/lectures
- K9-antipoaching unit talk and demo
- Body condition scoring of priority species and game



Biodiversity Monitoring

Dinokeng is a relatively new reserve so rewilding and monitoring various ecological changes is vital

You will be involved in one or more of the following:

- Bird ringing with an expert
- Reptile capture and surveys
- Arachnid surveys
- Bird surveys
- iNaturalist biodiversity recording
- Vegetation surveys
- Butterfly surveying and preserving
- MiniSASS river surveys



YOUR PROJECT

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Team Building Activities

The leaders will include fun team building activities for the group themed around conservation and African tradition.



Community Project

Students will take part in community engagement activities with the **Kwalata Community Development Initiative (KCDI)**, based next to the Hammanskraal community. Projects may include supporting local entrepreneurs, assisting in schools, helping with community facility upgrades, and contributing to sustainable initiatives such as the **Kwalata Honey Project**, which promotes local beekeeping and income generation.

The work highlights the close link between **communities living on the borders of game reserves and effective conservation management**, offering valuable insight into how community involvement supports long-term sustainability.



Sample Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive at Kwalata, check in, lunch, orientation and first Game Drive.

Introductory potjie in Boma.

Day 2: Tracks and signs session.

Learn how to use the telemetry set and then go into field to track collared priority species. Set up camera traps

Day 3: Early morning Bird ringing session

Afternoon community project visit.

Day 4: Body condition scoring of priority species and plains game

Alien plant removal

Day 5: Early morning Big 5 bush walk

Bird Hide stop to record birds.

Day 6: Game counts and census

Erosion control

Day 7: K9 anti-poaching demonstration and talk.

Collecting of camera traps and reviewing the footage together.

Farewell boma braai.

Day 8: Depart after breakfast



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 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 during your stay.

- Game monitoring: Rhino, Elephant and Predators
- Camera trapping
- Use of telemetry tracking
- Research projects
- Game sex and ratio recordings
- Tracks, signs and spoor
- Field skills
- Insect, rodent and bird surveys
- Nocturnal animal monitoring (night-drive)
- Rifle handling and shooting (additional cost on weekend)



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



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

In the classroom:

- South Africa's Captive Lion Industry
- Rhino Poaching in South Africa
- Ecological Management of Game Reserves
- Elephant Conservation

In the Field

- Medicinal plants and trees
- Wildlife tracks and signs
- Basic Wildlife Conservation ecology and management principles
- Astronomy
- Animal behaviour



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/road maintenance. Braai (BBQ) night
- Day 3 – Visit Vulpro. Presentation on tracking and the use of telemetry equipment followed by telemetry and species surveys. After dinner night drive patrol
- Day 4 – Group 1 : Physical conservation work and monitoring; Group 2 : Visit the Born Free Foundation. Groups swap for the afternoon. After dinner, its Film Night
- Day 5 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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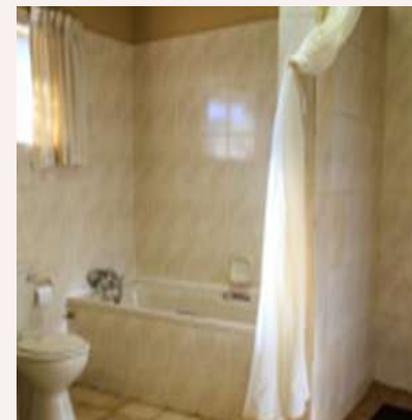
Dinokeng

You will be accommodated in comfortable thatched chalets (2 per room) at Kwalata Game Lodge, located within the Dinokeng Game Reserve.

Rooms are shared and feature en-suite bathrooms. The lodge has a communal lounge, bar, and dining area, with all meals served in the on-site restaurant.

The grounds include a swimming pool, boma, and spacious garden area, perfect for relaxing or sitting around the fire in the evenings.

WiFi is available.



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.





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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
- 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
- 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
- Binoculars

Other useful items:

- Camera
- Power bank
- Good torch (headlamp)

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



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