KESGRAVE SCHOOL
PROJECT INFORMATION PACK

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TRIP OVERVIEW

Kesgrave School – Booking Reference 4693

Travel Dates:

12th July – 26th July 2026

Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
VS449	12/07/2026	London Heathrow (LHR)	22:25	Johannesburg (JNB)	10:25 + 1 Day
FA262	13/07/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	17:15	Port Elizabeth (PLZ)	19:00
FA365	26/07/2026	Port Elizabeth (PLZ)	14:10	Johannesburg (JNB)	15:55
VS450	26/07/2026	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

Trip Cost:

£2950.00 per person

£300.00 deposit

£1350.00 Instalment due 23/03/2026

£1350.00 Balance due 18/05/2026

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.

YOUR PROJECT

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.

YOUR PROJECT

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 spoors
- Field skills
- Rifle handling and shooting (additional cost)

YOUR PROJECT

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

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

YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

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

YOUR PROJECT

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

YOUR PROJECT

Sample itinerary

- Introduction presentation and drive though the reserve followed by manual work, making pine poles
- Group 1: APU talk and snare finding activity; Group 2: Rhino monitoring. Groups swap for the afternoon
- Group 1: Manual work, road maintenance; Group 2: Visit the Born Free Foundation. Groups swap for the afternoon. After dinner, its Film Night
- All: Community day, the group will be assigned a specific project to undertake
- 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
- Presentation on tracking and the use of telemetry equipment followed by predator monitoring. In the afternoon learn to make beads
- Group 1: Elephant debate and information prep; Group 2: Elephant monitoring. Groups swap for the afternoon
- All: Manual work and predator tracking in the afternoon. After dinner night drive patrol
- Game capture talk, view the bomas and capture system and then cleaning of water holes
- All: Community day, the group will be assigned a specific project. Braai (BBQ) night

It's important to remember that wildlife does not work to an agenda, therefore activities may change at short notice!

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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

Meals

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.

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 weekend and visit attractions nearby or you can just relax at the reserve and enjoy the sights and sounds of Africa.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Activities/Excursions (own cost and optional)

There will be free time/days off, where you'll be able to do some additional activities at your **own cost**. These are **optional**.

Most activities are booked and paid for in advance (before leaving the UK). Others will be booked and paid for (**cash** or, sometimes, **card**) at the project.

More information will be given closer to the time.

Your travel insurance **must** cover you for any additional activites you choose to do.

Any activities booked and paid for locally are not covered under GAPAfrica Project's personal liability insurance.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

USEFUL INFORMATION

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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