



## About Us

Shamwari Conservation Experience (SCE) is proud to offer veterinary students studying science, nursing and related veterinary disciplines, a unique opportunity to work and interact with Shamwari Private Game Reserve's award-winning Wildlife and Conservation team.

With a 30 plus year history in pioneering the reintroduction and management of wildlife, fauna and flora to the Eastern Cape of South Africa, our specialist team can offer participants a balanced learning and upskilling experience, with a keen focus on hands-on participation through practical tasks and work, as well as through observation.

Being instrumental in the establishment and hosting of special focus veterinary courses and experiences for international and local veterinary science and nursing students, we have developed a more personalized experience, limited to 10 students, offering participants a more focused group experience.

Lectures and interactive talks are presented and hosted by members of our Shamwari Veterinary, Conservation and Anti-Poaching teams. Our experience aims to offer participants a combination of veterinary and conservation activities and to be a part of our community upliftment projects, with a core focus on offering much needed veterinary relief for domestic animals within these impoverished rural communities.

All participants receive a kit which includes a copy of the sought after veterinary book, "Chemical and Physical Restraint of Wild Animals". To ensure and maintain the desired continuity, focus, and yield for all participants in our Veterinary and Conservation Experience, **enrolment requires proof of a veterinary science, nursing, or related veterinary study diploma / or degree or proof of course registration for those intending to study in this field.**

Our passionate and dedicated team looks forward to hosting you and showcasing all that Shamwari Private Game Reserve and its abundant natural resources have to offer.

## Why Choose Shamwari Veterinary & Conservation Experience

As a result of the global difference in elective and extra mural study component requirements, roll out of veterinary study course content and modules with varying required outcomes, Shamwari has chosen not to offer a set itinerary and formalized course, but as a result has realized and proven the value in offering an experience that is intended to offer participants a host of positive

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spinoffs, which may range from gaining greater and more diverse hands-on exposure to veterinary practice in the context of African wildlife management, to affording participants the opportunity to bolster their resume as a result of participation, or merely gaining insight into a more specialized field of practice. Shamwari Veterinary Conservation Experience presents all participants with a certificate of participation, which often stands participants in good stead for future opportunities and demonstrates the fact that they have partaken to improve their portfolio of knowledge and skills sets.

Due to the nature of working with wildlife and other conditions out of our control, this overview serves as an example of a typical experience to date but may be adapted as suits the conditions at time of stay and as will be exercised at the discretion of our veterinary wildlife team to best suit and optimize the experience for all participants. **Your participation depends on your level of experience and whether you are already a vet / nurse / student or pre-vet.**

### WEEK ONE

#### Orientation

- Wildlife drives on reserve. Species identification.
- Discussions on wildlife management, monitoring, ecology, etc.

#### Lectures

- Role of veterinarian on game reserves
- Game capture techniques
  - Mass capture
  - Passive capture
  - Chemical immobilisation
- Immobilising drugs
- Darting and translocation equipment
- Husbandry of captured animals
- Game translocation

#### Practical Experience

- Target shooting with dart gun
- Assistance with darting (immobilisation) of specific animals
- Translocation of captured animals from reserve to bomas (enclosure)

### WEEK TWO

#### Lectures

- Important infectious diseases of wildlife
- Wildlife
- Wildlife sanctuaries and wildlife rehabilitation
- Community work at disadvantaged 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 availability and prevailing conditions)
- Community day: Basic veterinary care/treatment of community animals
- Visits to Shamwari Rehab Centre and Born Free Sanctuary

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Weekends are at leisure with a host of extra-mural activities and adventure activities available. We can advise and supply information on locally registered adventure and leisure operators, who can offer you a host of great off-site extra mural activities. These range from cultural tours to adventures activities which include canoeing, quad biking and horse riding on the beach, to the likes of inter-tidal coastal and marine tours. These off-site activities are undertaken on an elective basis and at an additional cost to the client.

Should our guests not elect to travel off site, they are welcome to enjoy the peace and tranquility that living on a game reserve has to offer such as afternoon game drive and sundowner stop, guided bushwalk, both are bookable directly at the lodge during stay subject to availability and weather. We even offer spa treatments from a therapist we have trained as part of our community enrichment programs.

### **Long Term Projects and Possible Activities**

Listed are a few of the general activities and tasks which may be undertaken during the minimum of two week experience.

#### **Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (WRC)**

Shamwari Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre was set up to aid in rehabilitating injured animals found on the reserve and surrounding community. The aim is to give the animal short-term care and release it back into their natural environment. No animals are kept for purposes of breeding in captivity but are hosted with the aim of giving them a second chance to take on life back in the wild.

#### **Vulpro@Shamwari**

Vulpro is the only vulture conservation organisation of its kind on the continent and is spearheading population restocking and supplementation to address the severe decline of African vulture species.

Vulpro@Shamwari offers a safe, well-balanced ecosystem for both in-situ and ex-situ conservation programmes and provides financial support and sustainability. Importantly it limits risk because the largest captive breeding population of vultures isn't concentrated in one location.

#### **Born Free Big Cat Sanctuary**

The Born Free Foundation and Shamwari Private Game Reserve are both committed to the conservation of wildlife. Creating awareness and educating our guest and local population as to the importance of the protection and conservation of wildlife. We aim to promote the protection of habitat while maintaining a humane and compassionate approach to the care and welfare of

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any captive animals. This centre offers a great opportunity to showcase and create awareness about the horrific way in which wildlife is exploited in captivity around the world. No breeding of cats is undertaken at the centre which is a sanctuary for Lions and Leopards who are unable to be reintroduced back into the wild.

#### Community Projects

The role of conservation does not stop at conserving nature alone, but also includes a responsibility to uplift local and impoverished communities. Participants will also assist in our pet outreach in our local communities where we provide free health check-ups, vaccinations, deworming and basic healthcare treatment for those who can't afford veterinary services for their pets.

#### Research Projects (short-term focus)

Undertakings of research projects with a focus on a value-added outcome for the reserve, or conservation as a whole, are viewed as an incumbency. These projects are often undertaken in conjunction with both local and foreign research studies to capturing data on lesser-known species such as the Brown Hyena.

Other Possible Activities may include:

- Guided nature walks
- Night drives

#### Accommodation and Facilities

**Proctors Safari Lodge** hosts a maximum of 30 guests in the Northern extent of Shamwari Private Game Reserve with comfortable rooms sleeping up to 4 per room (same sex basis) sharing ensuite shower or bath, toilet and basin per room. Shared cupboard space, airconditioned bedrooms and communal safe. The lodge facilities include communal lounge with fireplace, dining room, lecture or study room and swimming pool area, with outside boma (enclosure), for enjoying a relaxing evening around the fire and under the stars.

#### Laundry

Laundry services are provided on average once a week, with laundry bags supplied on arrival. It is advised that no delicate or high value clothing is brought or laundered. Although every care is taken with this guest service, SCE will not be held responsible for any damages to apparel as result of hard water, colour runs, shrinkage or marking due to chemical cleaners. We do not have facilities for participants to do their own laundry, so please pack accordingly.

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## Meals

Three meals are provided on a daily basis. Meals will be served either at the lodge or as a pre-packed serving, depending on planned and unscheduled activities. Vegetarians and other dietary requirements can be catered for, if notified in advance.

Cooked breakfasts are served once weekly – generally on Fridays, subject to programme change. Please note there are no facilities to service Kosher or Halaal requirements, but the supply of such meals can be serviced on request and availability.

Meals are prepared with exposing participants to an array of local dishes in mind and are generally taken on a self-service basis, with the option of juice, tea or coffee and filtered rain water. Soft drinks are available for purchase onsite and with greater selection, from local trading stores.

## Sample Menu

### Breakfast:

cereal and toast, muesli and yoghurt, muffins and toast, cooked breakfast

### Lunch:

sandwiches, wraps and potato salad, quiche and pasta salad, burgers and chips

### Dinner:

macaroni and cheese with green salad, roasted chicken with vegetables, traditional meals for example braai and potjie (local type of meal similar to stew).

## Internet

Wi-Fi access is free of charge. Due to the relatively rural nature of the facility and position of the lodge, although internet speeds are certainly not up to international urban standards, however have been proven to be more than effective for access and communication.

## Smartphones and Tablets

As most participants have access to mobile and other electronic devices with which to communicate via data capabilities, bringing such a device would be best suited with which to communicate. Purchase with access to the local Vodacom mobile network service has proven to best serve off-site generic use for communication via mobile telecom and it is advised that this is done at a local airport outlet or local general dealer before arriving at the reserve.

## Gift Shop Smalls

On-site purchase of small consumables such as soft drinks, chocolates and other snack items are available. Also for sale are SCE branded items as well as various curios. There is a limited selection of alcoholic beverages on sales for those 18 years and older.

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## Spa Treatments

Facials, manicures, pedicures, massages can be arranged on weekends with a therapist we have had trained as part of our local community support projects. It is a very worthwhile indulgence after long days in the African bush!

## General Information

What to Pack (exercised at the discretion of participants)

- Binoculars - essential for the best experience!
- Short and long sleeve t-shirts
- Long/short work trousers
- Hiking/work boots and trainers
- Sweatshirt/fleece
- Windbreaker/rain jacket
- Daypack rucksack
- Warm hat for winter and cap for sun all year
- Working gloves
- Winter gloves
- Changes of casual clothes for the evening
- Beach towel
- Swimming costume (summer months!)
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen / Insect Repellent
- Relative supply of any personal medication as required.
- Personal first aid kit
- Torch and water bottle (**note, we offer filtered rainwater at the lodges**)
- Camera
- Reference books and notebooks
- Hair dryer
- 3-point round plugs or adaptor plugs for South African electricity
- Games, playing cards.
- Rehydrate powder or drinks.
- If you are a fussy eater, please bring snacks and drinks.
- Bring your own coffee if you are a fussy coffee drinker

**NB -** All work clothes must be of suitable colour for working in the bush, neutral or earth tones colours are the most suitable. No brightly coloured or skimpy clothing to be worn whilst on the reserve.

Participants under the age of 18 years will need the consent of their legal guardian if wishing to enter the property and participate in any activities offered by SCE or their service providers. Please note 16 years and older are permitted to participate in the conservation experience.

All participants under the age of 18 years are advised to contact their local or nearest South African Embassy to confirm any current or required visa regulations and need for dual parental consent or to produce unabridged birth certification.

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