

Shamwari Game Reserve

Part of the
Shamwari Group



As seen on TV's
Animal Planet

Paterson
South Africa

Safari made simple

Forget malaria meds and don't worry about insect repellent. Just take your camera and bring your appetite.

For a once in a lifetime trip, special occasion, or a spur of the moment add-on to the Garden Route - Shamwari Private Game Reserve is the place to head for glamping, pampering, and the best chance of viewing the 'big five' along the Cape Peninsula.

Sleeping under a beautiful thatched roof with canvas walls, or retreating to one of several five star game lodges, is simply the start of an all-round luxury African experience.

Check-in and unwind before meeting your game ranger over afternoon tea, then head out in a 6 seater open sided viewing jeep, to spend 3 or 4 hours in the bush. With more than 25,000 hectares to cover, you can expect to cross all-sorts of terrain. Bumping along dirt roads in search of white rhino, following the edge of thickets for giraffe, down to the river for zebra and across the plains in search of lion - with tons of free roaming springbok, blesbok and red hartebeest's leading the way.

Outdoor sundowners round off the day, before returning to base where warm fingertip towels and a welcome drink await. Refresh and change while chef prepares your evening meal.

An early wake up call allows time for a hearty breakfast before a morning of game viewing. Return with a list of sightings before choosing from a list of options for lunch.

The ranger stays with you for your trip - in addition to providing wildlife expertise - he packs water, blankets, hot water bottles and if necessary poncho's.

We have taken several African safari's, but a cheetah has always been the one that got away. Determined to deliver a perfect adventure, our cheery guide, with eyes like a hawk, lead us to not one, but two cheetahs - before tracking down both black and white rhino. Needless to say, after waiting almost 30 years to see a cheetah in it's natural habitat - we were thrilled.

The reserve works in cooperation with the Born Free foundation. A visit to the education centre followed by a short walk through the sanctuary, caring for big cats rescued from appalling captive conditions, gives a better understanding of the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep wildlife in the wild. If time allows, it is well worth the stop.

Shamwari, means friend in Shona, and thanks to the attentive staff, we felt special from the moment we arrived, to the second we left. And yes, they really did think of everything, right down to the unused insect repellent in our suite.

