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info@totallytravel.com.au | 03 8743 1215

African Wildlife Veterinary Experience

"10/10 The entire experience was hands on from beginning to end, I honestly can't recommend this program enough!" **Nikita**

"10/10 I felt like I learnt more within the 3 weeks about veterinary nursing than I have in the last year I've been studying." **Ash**



This special Wildlife Veterinary Experience program is specifically designed for students or professionals in the fields of veterinary, vet nursing or animal sciences wishing to gain more insight into the world of veterinary care at an African wildlife sanctuary. Offered 4 times per year, the program is capped at 10 participants per intake to ensure all members of the group have plenty of practical opportunities.

You can expect to be trained for and participate in the capture and anaesthesia of a variety of resident animals for health check purposes, and other veterinary activities which may arise. Previous groups have been involved in lion health-checks, de-horning of rhino, baboon castrations, meerkat surgery, relocations of cheetah, immobilisation of elephant +++.

Extend your stay by combining your 2 weeks veterinary program with a week or more of general wildlife volunteering at the sanctuary and/or time spent at one of the remote wildlife research projects. Refer to the **African Wildlife Sanctuary and Research Weeks** info packs for details of these add-on options.

Only 10 places each intake - plan ahead to secure your spot – Interest free Payment Plan

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Your base for this exciting 2 week Veterinary Experience is Namibia's finest wildlife sanctuary, a location which boasts an incredible variety of magnificent wildlife, all on a 3,500 hectare reserve located in the heart of the Namibian bush. With lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dog as well as baboons, vervet monkeys, oryx, kudu and countless other species in need of the care that the sanctuary provides there is plenty of work to be done.

Each animal has its own story... whether rescued from a farmer's trap, surrendered or seized from illegal captivity, injured or orphaned there are many paths to this rehabilitation centre. They specialise in rescue and rehabilitation so that animals, once ready and where possible are able to be returned to the wild – where this is not possible, they get to live out their days at the sanctuary in a safe and caring environment where they are given a life as much in tune with their natural instincts as possible.

Animal welfare and quality of life is of the utmost importance, with the veterinary team rigorously monitoring each animal's health, meticulously maintaining both physical and emotional wellbeing and intervening where necessary to address any health or behavioural issues. The resident veterinarian also conducts a stringent annual check-up on each animal - this involves all animals being anaesthetised, weighed, checked, and vaccinated, with samples taken and any health or dental issues addressed.



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Snapshot

- **2022 Dates :** 13-26 Feb, 27Jun-09Jul, 18 Sep-01 Oct, 07-19 Nov
- **2023 Dates :** 12-25 Feb, 26Jun-08Jul, 17-30 Sep, 06-18 Nov
- **Pricing:**
 - **2 weeks Veterinary program** AU\$2,845
 - **3 weeks (inc 1 week Sanctuary program)** AU\$3,835
 - **3 weeks (inc 1 week Research program)** AU\$4,165
 - **4 weeks (inc 1 week Research + 1 week Sanctuary)** AU\$4,995
 - **Additional Sanctuary weeks + \$990**
- **Minimum Age :** 18
- **Fly In/Out :** Windhoek (WDH)
- **What's included:** All meals, accommodation, return airport transfers, 24/7 support
- **What's not included:** Flights, travel insurance
- **Accommodation:** Twin-share rooms or safari-style tents (with proper beds)
- **Food:** 3 delicious meals per day are provided, most dietary needs are catered for



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Itinerary (February and September)

Sunday Arrive at Windhoek Airport (airport code WDH) and after clearing customs you'll be met by our driver and taken straight to the sanctuary, a journey of around 40 minutes. Depending your time of arrival, there should be plenty of time to freshen up and make yourself at home before your official welcome and induction session, then dinner !!

Mondays to Fridays After breakfast next morning, participants will come together for orientation – this important session will talk you through the history of the sanctuary, its short and long-term aims and the important program safety rules. Then we'll get started !

The Veterinary Experience runs for 10 days, Mondays through Fridays with the weekend off in between. Your days will be filled with practical activities such as the capture and anaesthesia of various resident animals for sampling and health checks, shadowing our resident vets on their daily activities including any emergencies which may arise. Practical sessions are interspersed with engaging presentations about wildlife capture and anaesthesia, behavioural patterns and pharmacology.

At weekends there's lots to do...or do nothing at all! Take a walk, swim in the pool or book one of the many optional activities available – what better than a horse ride in the desert, mingling with giraffes and watching the beautiful African sunset? You may like to join a daytrip into Windhoek city or to visit the San skills academy to try your hand at a range of ancient tribal activities and traditions.

Saturday On your last day with us, having said your goodbyes and packed your bags, we'll whisk you off to the airport in plenty of time for your flight onwards, or home.

Extend your stay by combining your 2 weeks veterinary program with a week or more of general wildlife volunteering at the sanctuary and/or time spent at one of the remote wildlife research projects. Refer to the **African Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Research Weeks** info packs for details of these add-on program options.



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Itinerary (June & November)

The June and November trip itinerary contains a broad cross-section of veterinary, wildlife rehabilitation, sightseeing and cultural activities.

Monday Arrive at Windhoek Airport (airport code WDH) and after clearing customs you'll be met by our driver and taken straight to the sanctuary, a journey of around 40 minutes. Depending your time of arrival, there should be plenty of time to freshen up and make yourself at home before your official welcome and induction session, then dinner !!

Tuesday Horse ride on the reserve, stable maintenance & grooming. Animal Husbandry and Welfare Presentation.

Wednesday Carnivore feed (caracals, lions, cheetahs, African wild dogs, leopards) and conservation practical. Dart gun introduction and practical.

Thursday Animal rehab practical (injections, etc). Cheetah immobilisation presentation

Friday Cheetah immobilisation practical. Zoonotic disease & ethical dilemma presentation

Saturday Baboon walk. Our rescue baboons adore the interaction and bounding through the bush on their daily walks. Later join wildlife volunteer activities.

Sunday Free morning. Afternoon visit to the Ancient San Skills Academy - visit the San Bushmen in their traditional village and witness their ancient culture and traditions first hand.

Monday Research - Telemetry tracking on reserve. Rhino / elephant presentation & boma visit

Tuesday Animal feed and nutrition practical. Snake bites in captive animals

Wednesday African Wild Dog - IDs, ethograms, feeding, BCS checks (practical). Carnivore conflict work – the role of research, rapid response unit, etc

Thursday Animal enrichment practical. Game drive on reserve, rhino tracking

Friday Free day – kick back and relax, book one of the many optional activities available or join in with wildlife volunteer activities.

Saturday Departure day – fly out any time today

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Accommodation and Meals: Your accommodation will be one of our large, raised safari tents, basic but very comfortable with a proper bed and all bedding provided. Some have power, others don't. Rooms are twin-share, with communal shared bathrooms – if travelling solo you'll be paired with a roomie of the same-gender.

Three delicious catered meals are included each day, so you'll enjoy the luxury of having your breakfast, lunch and dinner prepared for you. Most dietary needs are catered for, and participants are often pleasantly surprised at the quality and variety of the meals on offer. You can look forward to some authentic African braais (BBQ) on a weekend too !



Is it safe? This location is one that we regularly and quite comfortably send solo, female travellers – often on their first overseas trip.

Namibia is one of the safest countries in Africa, one of 6 countries on the continent that Australia's DFAT Smartraveller rates "Green" for safety and security - that's as safe as Singapore and Fiji ! You're picked up as soon as you fly in and dropped back at the airport at the end, so there is really no time during your stay that you are on your own. The sanctuary is a large operation with many permanent paid staff working alongside a large team of international volunteers (anything from 30–50 at any given time). It's a very social and friendly environment. They operate strict health and safety procedures to ensure there are no issues around the animals.

You stay on the sanctuary grounds, which are fenced and with 24/7 security guards. Rooms are twin-share, and when travelling solo you'll be paired with a room-mate of the same gender.

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Wildlife Research week

As part of your stay, we recommend you combine time at the sanctuary with a stint at at the Kanaan wildlife research project in the south of the country. 6-7 hours drive south from the sanctuary, Kanaan is a photographer's paradise, with spectacular scenery and night skies to take your breath away. Its contrasting landscapes include endless red sand dunes, towering mountain ranges and vast open plains. The main flagship species here are cheetah, brown hyena, spotted hyena and leopard.

Operating Saturday to Saturday, research weeks are undertaken as a small group escorted by members of the sanctuary team. All transport, accommodation, meals and training are provided, and a range of activities. A more detailed Info Pack is available, so do please ask.

Hiking and trekking the mountainous terrain make up a large part of the daily activities, so a good level of fitness is recommended. You may have the chance to track and monitor animals in the area, contributing to invaluable research that will help mitigate human-wildlife conflict in Africa. Volunteers will be involved with all aspects of the research program, inc.:

- wildlife population census
- mapping and exploring the terrain and environment
- radio telemetry / GPS tracking
- cheetah feed (semi-habituated rescued cheetah)
- assisting with capture and releases
- setting camera traps and analysing image data
- night drives and sleep-outs
- data processing
- maintenance and security on the reserve



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