

**totally
travel**

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info@totallytravel.com.au | 03 8743 1215

Big 5 Veterinary Experience South Africa

"I could not have asked for a better experience - the staff were all so knowledgeable and the hands-on activities we were able to participate in were absolutely incredible. I can't recommend this experience any more highly." **Sarah**



One of Africa's finest private game reserves, Shamwari is home to the coveted Big 5 and a wide range of other iconic African species. What better location to learn veterinary related wildlife, reserve and conservation management during this 2 week specialist program, working alongside world renowned African wildlife veterinarian Dr Johan Joubert and his award winning wildlife conservation and veterinary team.

3 start dates are offered in June each year, offering participants a combination of veterinary and conservation activities, with a maximum of 10 each time for a more focussed experience. Suitable for vets, vet nurses, vet techs, pre-vet and students studying vet science, nursing and other related disciplines such as animal sciences and animal management.

The specialist support team offers participants a balanced learning and upskilling experience, with a keen focus on hands-on participation through practical tasks as well as through observation. Lectures and interactive talks are presented and hosted by members of the Veterinary, Conservation and Anti-Poaching teams.

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

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Snapshot

- **2024 Dates:** ~~27 May – 10 Jun~~, **10-24 Jun***, ~~24 Jun – 08 Jul~~
- **2025 Dates:** 19 May - 02 Jun*, 02-16 Jun*, 22 Jun – 05 Jul*

** need to be back for work/Uni on the Monday? Easy, as the final weekend is free time so you can fly home on Saturday without missing any of the program activities **

- **Pricing:**
 - **2024 AU** \$5,945 / £3,145 / €3,645 / US \$3,945
 - **2025 AU** \$6,689 / £3,535 / €4,100 / US \$4,445
 - **Botswana & Vic Falls Camping Safari** from AU \$1,969 / £1,025 / €1,195 / US \$1,295
- **Minimum Age :** 18
- **What's included:** Return airport transfers, accommodation, all meals and activities
- **Accommodation:** Basic twin / triple-share rooms with ensuite bathrooms
- **Food:** Three catered meals per day are provided



"Every minute was jam packed full of information and experiences I will never forget ! My dream has been completed and I 100% will be back !" **Steph**

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The logo for 'totally travel' is located in the top left corner. It consists of the word 'totally' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a yellow speech bubble shape, and the word 'travel' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a red speech bubble shape below it.A collage of three images is positioned at the top of the page. The left image shows a woman smiling next to an elephant. The middle image shows a woman and a man smiling together. The right image shows a person administering a syringe to a monkey.

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Itinerary

Day 1 (Monday) Arrive into Port Elizabeth on Monday morning where you'll be met by our team at 1pm and then we'll drive directly to the reserve, a journey of around 90 minutes. On arrival, you'll settle in to your new surroundings and get to know the other participants and staff members before orientation and dinner.

An internationally renowned 22,000 hectare game reserve, Shamwari features five different fauna and flora habitats (biomes). Facilities include an animal rehabilitation centre, an animal hospital and anti-poaching unit. The reserve is also the host to the Born Free Foundation's *Big Cat Rescue and Education Centre* for lions and leopards, which we visit.

The Wildlife Veterinary Experience runs for 10 days, Mondays through Fridays, with the weekend off in between. Due to the nature of working with wildlife and other conditions out of our control plans may be adapted as we go, however the typical experience involves most or all of the following activities:

Practical Experience

- Wildlife drives on reserve
- Assistance with immobilisations
- Health-checks and translocations
- Visits to Shamwari Rehab Centre and Born Free Sanctuary
- Basic veterinary care and treatment of community animals
- Mass capture and translocation of antelope
- Target shooting with dart gun – both on foot and from helicopter
- Necropsies

Lectures & group discussions

- Role of the veterinarian on game reserves
- Wildlife management, monitoring and ecology
- Species identification
- Game capture techniques (mass capture, passive capture, chemical immobilisation)
- Game translocation
- Immobilising drugs, darting and translocation equipment
- Husbandry of captured animals
- Important infectious diseases of wildlife
- Wildlife sanctuaries and wildlife rehabilitation
- Community work at disadvantaged communities
- Poaching and veterinary implications of survivors of poaching incidents

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Weekends are free time, there's lots to do in the area or just kick back and relax – the choice is yours. If you're keen to get out and explore the area the team will help you to arrange a tour - from a safari day at the wonderful Addo Elephant National park to exploring the forests, gorges and coastline of the Tsitsikamma National Park, skydiving, bungee jumping or a day in Port Elizabeth city.

Last day (Monday) Having said your goodbyes and packed your bags, we'll whisk you off to the airport in plenty of time for your flight home. A great alternative is to depart on the Saturday and join an amazing 1 week camping adventure from Johannesburg through Botswana to the mighty Victoria Falls (details below).



Accommodation and Meals: The basic but comfortable shared rooms all have private bathrooms – if travelling solo you'll be paired with another participant of the same gender. Three meals a day are included so you'll enjoy the luxury of having your breakfast, lunch and dinner prepared for you. Vegetarians and other dietary requirements can be catered for, provided we're notified in advance.

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Botswana & Vic Falls Camping Safari

22-29 June 2024 / 07-14 June 2025 / 21-28 June 2025 / 05-12 July 2025

With three bucket-list African destinations in a week this camping tour includes some of the very best experiences available in Southern Africa.

We'll have you to Port Elizabeth airport on Saturday for your short flight to Johannesburg ready to join your group in the evening. The adventure tour is mainly camping (equipment provided) with a budget hotel for your first night. Most meals are included as well as a heap of activities (with others available to book as optional extras during your tour).

Our journey starts in Johannesburg before we drive north, with an overnight at Khama Rhino Sanctuary and onward to the world-renowned Okavango Delta. Here we undertake a unique and exciting overnight wildlife safari by dugout canoe, watching the myriad species as they gather at the water's edge to drink.

Chobe National Park is another A-list safari location, here we hope to see herds of elephant, rare antelopes, lion, hyena and African wild dog. A Chobe River Sunset Cruise and a National Park Safari Drive are both exciting inclusions to your tour.

We finish our journey at the wonderful town of Victoria Falls where there is so much to discover that it's highly recommended you stay a few days. The entrance fee to the falls is a bit steep, but for the mother of all waterfalls it's well worth it.

Whilst in Vic Falls don't miss white water rafting the Zambezi, the gorge swing or bungee jump, the Devils Pool swim at the very edge of the mighty falls or for something a bit more tranquil take a sunset dinner cruise along the upper Zambezi River as you watch the African bush go by. Tour operated by our partner G Adventures.



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