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South Africa Veterinary Experience



For students of veterinary science, vet nursing, animal science, zoology; for anyone working in any role within the veterinary industry (vet nurses, techs, assistants, admin staff, etc) or for anyone interested in a career in the industry. No experience or qualifications required.

The South Africa Veterinary Experience gives participants exposure to hands-on wildlife veterinary work, animal and reserve management as well as preventative care techniques and practices. Each group takes a maximum of 10 participants, so book early to secure your spot.

You can expect to gain an insight into life on a Big 5 game reserve with sessions and activities that may include game capture, darting of animals for health and welfare checks, contraceptive procedures, predator anatomy, domestic animal treatment, game drives, walking safaris, rhino monitoring, anti-poaching patrols and much more. Plus, you'll be on hand to assist and monitor any other veterinary activities which may arise during your stay, emergencies, necropsies. Etc..

Extend your stay with a week or more of conservation volunteering or choose from two exciting adventure tours linking South Africa with spectacular Victoria Falls, via either world-famous Kruger National Park or Botswana's bucket-list destinations Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park. Or head to Cape Town via The Garden Route.

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

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Your base for the South Africa Veterinary Experience is a 6,000 hectare private Big 5 game reserve in the Eastern Cape province. The beautiful reserve is set in a mix of grasslands, fynbos, valley bushveld and sub-tropical vegetation which is home to a wide variety of African wildlife such as the Big Five (lion, rhino, elephant, leopard and Cape buffalo) as well as cheetah, hippo, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, eland, impala, kudu, springbok, warthog, lynx, caracal, jackals, meerkat and a great diversity of birdlife.



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Snapshot

- **2022 Dates** : 30 Oct – 12 Nov
- **2023** : 12-25 Feb, 09-22 Apr, 18Jun-01Jul, 25Jun-08Jul, 17-30 Sep, 29Oct-11Nov
- **Pricing:** (+\$220 for optional Sunday daytrip)
 - **2 weeks Veterinary program** AU\$3,295
 - **3 weeks (inc 1 week volunteer program)** AU\$4,195
 - **4 weeks (inc 2 weeks volunteer program)** AU\$4,995
 - **3 weeks (inc Garden Route Tour)** AU\$4,195
 - **3 weeks (inc Vic Falls Tour)** AU\$4,744 - \$4,995 (seasonal)
- **Minimum Age** : 18
- **Fly In/Out** : Port Elizabeth (PLZ)
- **What's included:** All meals*, accommodation, return airport transfers, activities
- **What's not included:** Flights, travel insurance, off-site activities
- **Accommodation:** Spacious semi-private single-gender bunk rooms. Private room upgrade may be available at an extra cost.
- **Food:** 3 delicious meals per day are provided, most dietary needs are catered for.
*Meals in Port Elizabeth at the weekend are not included.



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Itinerary

The Veterinary Experience is intended to allow participants to experience the life of an African wildlife vet, giving exposure to the role as well as related tasks. The specific experiences and any exposure to our experts will of course depend on the work required at the time. Participants can expect to spend their time with our vet, rangers and field guide team, engaged in direct and secondary veterinary activities as well as reserve management sessions. As you will understand, wildlife reserves are dynamic environments and as a result our plans can and probably will change, though the essence of the program will remain. You will of course be there for any unexpected veterinary situations which arise, including emergency call-outs, rescues or necropsies. An example itinerary is as below:

Sunday Arrive at Port Elizabeth Airport (airport code PLZ) by midday, where you'll be met by our driver and taken straight to the reserve, a journey of a little over an hour. Make yourself at home before your welcome and orientation in the late afternoon !!

Monday Game drive on the Big 5 reserve and introduction to the facilities and environment

Tuesday Meet with our vet and receive vet induction. Darting of animals for health and welfare checks. Bloods and faecal samples. Fence patrol.

Wednesday Game reserve management lecture. Rifle handling skills (pellet gun).

Thursday Walking safari and wildlife information session

Friday Predator darting and examination, possible contraceptive dosing / vasectomy of lions



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Weekend excursion to Port Elizabeth. Return transport and backpacker accommodation provided (no meals), plus a Saturday morning guided walking tour of Port Elizabeth. Extend to a full-day guided tour for +\$90 – follow on with beer tasting at 2 local craft breweries then a guided township tour inc lunch with a local family, a fantastic cultural experience.

The Sunday optional daytrips (\$220) are:

- Addo Elephant National Park Safari – Addo is home to the 'Big 5' and one of the densest elephant populations in Africa, offering unrivalled biodiversity and a magnificent game viewing experience.
- Tsitsikamma National Park, arguably the most beautiful National Park in South Africa. This tour includes a 2-3 hour Kayak and Lilo experience up the Storms River gorge and a guided hike through the pristine indigenous forest.

Monday Early morning game drive. Lion / predator anatomy session.

Tuesday Breeding lecture. View and monitor the buffalo breeding program. Welfare checks on domestic animals.

Wednesday Community Outreach, delivery and provision of meals to local primary schools.

Thursday Anti Poaching activity / lecture. Removal of alien vegetation

Friday Rhino monitoring. Evening game drive.

Saturday Departure day, transfer to add-on tours or join the volunteer program



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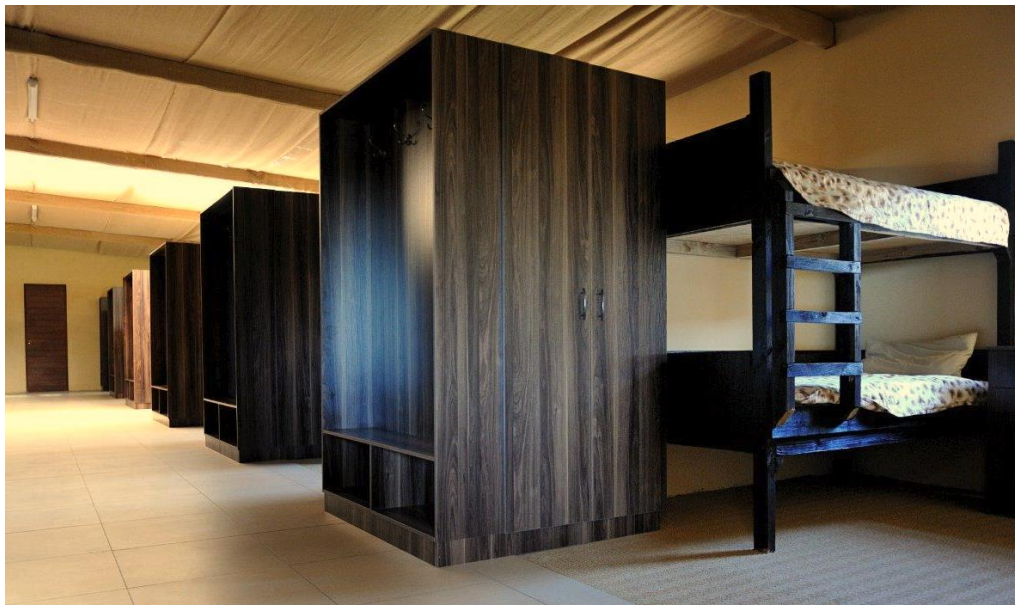
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Accommodation and Meals: Your accommodation will be one of our comfortable and spacious single-gender dorms. A private room upgrade is available on request for an extra charge. There's a large pool and tennis courts, plus DVDs in the lounge area. Laundry services and internet access are available for a small fee.

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. It is important to note that the reserve is strictly alcohol-free.



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Garden Route tour

Saturday: Port Elizabeth to Jeffreys Bay Today we take a short scenic drive from Port Elizabeth towards the surfing capital of Africa, Jeffreys Bay. With ivory sands, sparkling surf and a temperate climate, J'Bay is the perfect fix for a beach addict. It is home to some of the most perfect waves, but it's also a shell collectors dream.

Sunday: Jeffreys Bay to Sedgefield After an optional activity morning, we head to the gorgeous town of Sedgefield in the heart of the Garden Route. Along the way we will stopover at the Bloukraans Bridge, here you will have the opportunity to bungee jump off the world's highest bungee bridge (216m). Don't miss this chance! We will arrive in time for sundowners on the beach.

Monday: Sedgefield to Oudtshoorn After a relaxing morning exploring the first official "slowtown" in Africa and the fossilized dunes of Myoli Beach we will then make our way to the ostrich capital of the world, Oudtshoorn via the scenic Outeniqua pass. Here we will visit the Cango Caves and a local ostrich farm.

Tuesday: Oudtshoorn to Cape Agulhas After breakfast we depart for Cape Agulhas. This is the true southernmost point of Africa and the rest of the day is free to explore the area. The coastline is dotted with shipwrecks, the birdlife is exceptional, with a choice of fynbos, wetland and coastal birds and you can climb the infamous lighthouse.

Wednesday: Cape Agulhas to Cape Town Today we head to Cape Town via the beautiful R44. We will stop for lunch in the scenic town of Hermanus, afterwards we will stop over in Betty's Bay to view one of only 3 land based African penguin colonies in South Africa. We will arrive in glorious Cape Town late in the afternoon where your guide will say goodbye. You'll have 2 full days and 3 nights to explore this amazing city.

Thursday & Friday: Cape Town Your days and nights are free to make the most of all that Cape Town has to offer. Climb Table Mountain (or take the cablecar), take a fascinating tour of Robben Island, wander the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront or visit the Cape of Good Hope.

Saturday Departure day.

Tour includes transportation with an experienced guided from PE to CT, 7 nights backpacker accommodation, 4 breakfasts, visits to Cango Caves, Ostrich Farm, Fossilized Dune Tour and Agulhas National Park

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Victoria Falls tour

With three bucket-list African destinations in a week, and a choice of two itineraries to tempt you, this adventure tour offers the very best experiences available in Southern Africa. Both options run Saturday to Saturday and whichever you choose, we'll have you to Port Elizabeth airport nice and early for your flight to Johannesburg / Vic Falls ready to join your tour. The adventure tours are mainly camping (equipment provided) with one hotel night, and the trip cost covers most meals and a heap of activities along the way (with others available to book as optional extras).

The Northbound tour starts in South Africa and finishes in Zimbabwe, travelling via Botswana. 3 countries, 8 days...nice !

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.

We finish our journey with an adrenalin fix as you peer over the sheer edge of the thundering waters of Victoria Falls. Go wild if you wish, leap off bridges, take a thrilling white water rafting adventure through rampant rapids of the Zambezi or experience the grandeur of raging Victoria Falls from up high in your micro-light aircraft. Then, cool off with a tranquil sunset cruise along the upper Zambezi River as you watch the African bush go by.

The Southbound tour starts in Vic Falls and finishes in Johannesburg. If you've always dreamed of visiting Kruger National park, then this is the option for you.

On arrival at Vic Falls, drop your bags and head straight to the Victoria Falls National Park to take in this awe-inspiring wonder of the world ! Make the most of the afternoon and evening as tomorrow we head south, driving the length of beautiful Zimbabwe.

In Matobo National Park, you'll track rhinos on foot and see the resident wildlife on an open-vehicle safari drive.

With nearly 5 million acres, South Africa's Kruger National Park offers some of the best access to wild animals in Africa, so prepare for an epic time. Here we'll also enjoy a cultural evening with the local community, with traditional dinner and local dancing.

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