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South Africa Veterinary Experience

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. 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..



"I had a wonderful time in South Africa. The staff were so accommodating and welcoming, and the property was extremely well maintained. I enjoyed going out on the safaris at various times of the day, it was interesting to see the activity levels of different species change throughout the day/night. The staff were very knowledgeable and were able to answer any questions about species we had! The veterinary experience was also fantastic, and Dr Thys was happy for us to get hands on with different treatment and/or routine procedures. I was able to perform different procedures on reserve animals that I have done on domestic species, and realise the difference in factors I never really considered before; eg skin thickness/toughness, drug dosage etc. I absolutely loved going to the school and especially the Township tour !!!"

Mikayla, June 2023

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

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Extend your stay with a week or more of conservation volunteering or take an exciting adventure tour linking South Africa with spectacular Victoria Falls via Botswana's bucket-list destinations Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park.

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.

This program is designed 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.



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Snapshot

- **2023** : 29 Oct – 11 Nov
 - **2024** : 11-24 Feb, 07-20 Apr, 16-29 Jun, 30Jun-13Jul, 15-28 Sep, 03-16 Nov
 - **Pricing:**
 - **2 weeks Veterinary program** AU\$3,905
 - **Vic Falls Tour** from AU\$1,499 (tour price varies seasonally)
 - **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
 - **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 full-day guided tour of Port Elizabeth – a morning walking tour followed by beer tasting at 2 local craft breweries and a guided township tour which includes lunch with a local family, a fantastic cultural experience.

On Sunday we head on safari to the renowned Addo Elephant National Park – 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. Spend a full day exploring the 3rd largest National Park in South Africa with our expert guides!

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



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

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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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Victoria Falls tour

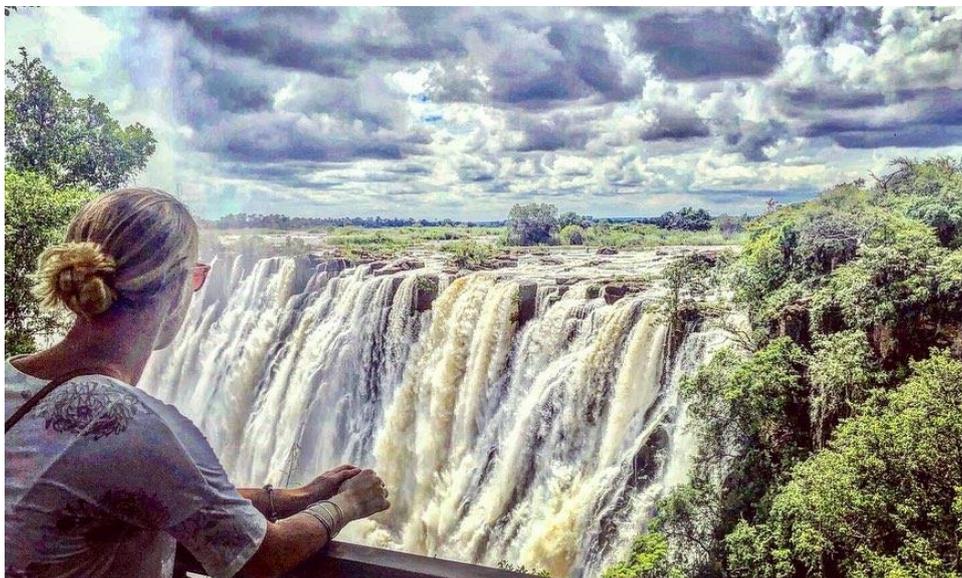
The tour starts in South Africa and finishes in Zimbabwe, travelling via wonderful Botswana. 3 countries, 8 days...nice !

With three bucket-list African destinations in a week this adventure tour offers the very best experiences available in Southern Africa. We'll have you to Port Elizabeth airport nice and early Saturday morning for your short flight to Johannesburg (not included) ready to join your group. The adventure tour is mainly camping (equipment provided) with one budget hotel night and most meals are included as well as a heap of activities (with others available to book as optional extras).

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. Operated by our partner G Adventures, the tour price varies month to month but is usually in the range AU \$1,499 - \$1,749.



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