



HOSTED BY SFW IN LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

# CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

An immersive educational journey



# EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW.

## **READY TO GO BEYOND THE DOCUMENTARIES AND HEADLINES?**

SFW's **Conservation Experience** offers a transformative 10-day adventure, where you'll have the unparalleled opportunity to walk alongside African wildlife and participate in active wildlife conservation efforts that seek to protect them.

Set in the stunning landscapes of Kruger National Park and its surrounding areas, this program provides an intimate look at the daily work of SFW's dedicated field partners, each who play an essential role in providing solutions towards local community empowerment, ranger training, and wildlife conservation.

You'll gain firsthand insights into their missions and challenges, with daily excursions guided by their seasoned experts from the field. Each day will be filled with new opportunities to deepen your understanding of the interconnected nature of wildlife conservation. As you learn and participate first-hand, **you will also leave your own lasting, positive impact on our organization.**

In curating this once-in-a-lifetime journey, we want you to experience the incredible value of the natural world, the dedication required to protect it, and the work that goes into ensuring its future existence.

## **SFW VISION:**



**PIONEER AN ENDURING, INTERDISCIPLINARY BIODIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION MODEL THAT DISRUPTS THE CONVENTIONAL NON-  
PROFIT PARADIGM AND EMPOWERS LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO BE  
CONSERVATION LEADERS.**



# WHO SHOULD JOIN THIS EXPERIENCE?

- **Conservation Enthusiasts:** Individuals eager to support wildlife conservation in Africa and explore career and professional opportunities within this field
- **Curious Learners:** Those seeking an authentic, immersive experience to strengthen their understanding of wildlife conservation in Southern Africa, including everyday challenges and complexities
- **Networkers:** Anyone looking to engage and connect with like-minded individuals and professionals actively involved in conservation efforts



## WHAT TO EXPECT.



Participants will enjoy a dynamic blend of wildlife observation and direct engagement with our conservation partners. You'll spend half or full days with these organizations, learning about their unique missions and witnessing their work up close. This hybrid approach provides opportunities to experience nature *and* enjoy meaningful interactions in the field.

### ***TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE***

Each visit includes a donation to the organizations you engage with, ensuring that your participation directly supports their ongoing efforts. This model not only enriches your experience but also helps strengthen the region's conservation community. Your contribution drastically impacts our organization's goals on our wildlife reserve.

# WHY CHOOSE US?

Our conservation journey began with a steep learning curve – coming from the US to the African bush, where we have built enduring relationships with local partners. The past near-decade in Africa has taught us what it takes to be successful here, and our organization’s hard-earned progress is what drives us to offer this uniquely curated program that can bridge the knowledge gaps for newcomers.

**By immersing yourself in this experience, you'll gain valuable insights and contribute to lasting positive change in wildlife conservation.**

## ACTIVITIES.

Get to know SFW’s dedicated field partners and experts, who will guide you through each experience. We offer a wide variety of **included activities** and **optional add-on activities** that are dependent on your group’s size and activity availability.

**Included Activities:** Independent of group size & availability, no added cost



### Game Drives (2-3)

Join our partners on several exhilarating game drives that will take you on a journey into the landscapes of the “**Big Five**.” Board the comfortable 6-8 seater game viewer vehicle, accompanied by an experienced field guide, and prepare to soak in knowledge and capture incredible wildlife sightings. As the sun begins its descent, our late afternoon to sunset game drives provide the perfect opportunity to learn, relax, and create cherished memories. Share the day’s adventures and discoveries against the backdrop of a stunning African sunset and let the magic of our region’s wildlife captivate you.

Learn more: <https://matumidestinations.com/>



### Conservation Aviation



Meet the experienced pilots at the forefront of conservation efforts in our region. These skilled aviators are vital to protecting our environment, using aerial operations to tackle a variety of challenges in the conservation space. Listen to their inspiring stories and discover how they make a difference in safeguarding our wildlife.

For an additional cost, you can elevate your experience with a thrilling short flight alongside Gerry, taking in breathtaking views during an anti-poaching flyover or soaring over the stunning Blyde Dam nestled in the Drakensberg mountains.

This is an amazing chance to witness the beauty of our unique landscape from above!



### Global Conservation Corps



**Global Conservation Corps** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bridging the gap between communities and wildlife through education, technology, and partnerships. Their mission is to protect endangered wildlife by educating and empowering children living alongside wildlife reserves. Our guests will have the opportunity to engage with GCC's initiatives, such as the Future Rangers Program, which connects local youth to nature through education, experiences, and mentorship, fostering a new generation of conservation leaders.



### Rhino Revolution

SFW Conservation is excited to offer this opportunity to engage in meaningful rhino conservation efforts through our collaboration with **Rhino Revolution**. As a participant, you will not only learn about the organization's efforts, but you will also take a journey into the bush to locate some of the rhino that have been rescued over the years and now live freely in the bush.





### Ranger Day

SFW Conservation (formerly Soldiers for Wildlife Inc.) was initially founded to provide support for those on the front lines of wildlife conservation, which is where our organization's name originated. The role of conservation rangers has drastically evolved over the years into a paramilitary-style force to meet extreme challenges. Unfortunately, depending on the region and threat level, this is sometimes the only immediate solution until better long-term measures can be implemented.

Inside this eye-opening experience, you will meet a local ranger, hear his story, and learn about the challenges he is navigating in his career.

### Kruger Day/Night

During your stay at the SFW Conservation facility, you'll embark on an unforgettable journey through the world-famous **Kruger National Park**. Explore Africa's untamed wilderness, and witness the beauty of wildlife, including lions, elephants, and leopards in their natural habitat. Immerse yourself in the sounds of the wild and gain insights into the park's intricately woven ecosystems from expert guides. As a grand finale to your adventure, enjoy an overnight stay in the park.







### Walking Safari

Get out of the vehicle and join SFW for a guided walk on foot in the “**Big Five**” landscape. See the wilds of Africa from a whole different perspective led by professionals who will educate you about the delicate balance of nature, from the termites to the elephants. This guided walk will last several hours. It is not physically demanding and is more of a leisurely walk through the wilderness, where the group will stop multiple times to view wildlife or participate together in other interesting educational opportunities.

### Blyde River Boat Cruise



Venture alongside SFW Conservation into the nearby Blyde River Canyon for an experience that will take your breath away. This gravity-fed lake sits inside the largest green canyon on the planet with its subtropical foliage and is the third largest canyon in the world. It is one of South Africa’s #1 tourist destinations located just outside the town of Hoedspruit. After a stunning drive with mountain views, you will embark on a boat cruise and view this epic canyon and wildlife from the water.



**Add-on Activities:** Dependent on group size & availability, may have additional cost

### Moholoholo Rehabilitation Center

Visit local rehabilitation center with wildlife from the local area. In addition to a tour of the facility, you will also learn about **Moholoholo's** rescue and rehabilitation work. This is also an opportunity to view animals that are not commonly seen in the bush. You will get face-to-face with these animals and learn their stories as well as the challenges these species face for survival.



### Animal Relief for Rural Communities

Take a trip into the rural communities of South Africa with the ARRC team who focus on providing veterinary care, food, and shelter to animals in need, while also supporting and educating the communities they call home. The goal of ARRC is to strengthen the human and animal bond through education, community outreach and essential medical care. On this rewarding trip, you will assist the ARRC team and meet and interact with the people in the local communities.





### Working Dog Enrichment

Get to know the brilliant canines working in conservation. Canines in this space have been a game changer in defending our precious ecosystems. Guests will have the opportunity to learn exactly how these dogs operate in the field and why they are so crucial in conservation efforts. All guests will have a chance to participate in tracking and detection exercises, and after their training, the dogs love positive reinforcement and play from guests!





# THE LOGISTICS.

## What does a day look like?

Schedules will adjust as needed depending on daily activities. Below are example daily itineraries:

### **DAY 1 – ARRIVAL**

0700: Breakfast  
0800: Depart for Moholoholo Tour  
1030: Return to lodge  
1200 Lunch  
1230 – 1430: Personal time  
1445: Depart for game drive  
1530 – 1800/1830: Game drive  
2000: Dinner  
2130: Bedtime

### **DAY 2 – RANGER DAY & RHINO REVOLUTION**

0530: Breakfast  
0600: Depart  
0730 – 1000: Ranger experience  
1000: Return to lodge  
1200: Lunch  
1315: Depart for Rhino Revolution  
1400 – 1800: Rhino Revolution  
2000: Dinner  
2130: Bedtime



## How much does it cost?

**\$2,750 per guest for our 10-day experience**

### **ALL INCLUSIVE**

This all-inclusive experience

**INCLUDES** the following:

- Pick-up and drop-off to and from the local airport
- All fuel and experience expenses
- Food and soft drinks

It does **NOT INCLUDE** the following:

- Aviation experience flight
- Alcoholic beverages
- Eating out at restaurants
- Flights
- Hotel costs in Johannesburg

### What should I bring?

The suggested packing list below will help you decide what to bring to camp. All clothing should conform to game management/industry standard (earth tone colors). Sensible shoes and a hat to be worn at all times in the field. Clothes must be neat and clean. No bright colors (such as football shirts and white trainers/shoes) should be worn in the bush. If you are unsure about any of this, please ask. We are here to help!



### TOILETRIES

- Shampoo
- Sunscreen
- Soap
- Toothbrush
- Hairbrush
- Toothpaste
- Mosquito repellent
- Towel
- Personal toiletries (razors, deodorant etc.)

### CLOTHING

- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Warm jacket/fleece (seasonal)
- Waterproof Jacket (seasonal)
- 4 x shirts (durable and neutral colors)
- 2 x T-shirts
- 4 x pairs of shorts
- 1 x pair of trousers – seasonal
- 4 x pairs of socks
- Comfortable walking boots
- Sandals (for in camp)
- Gloves and beanie (seasonal)
- Watch
- Underwear
- Sleeping clothes
- Head torch/torch (with spare batteries)

### REQUIRED

- Water bottle
- Day pack

### RECOMMENDED

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Small personal first aid kit (band-aids, tweezers, analgesic tablets etc.)
- Reading book
- Plug adaptor (South African 3-point 'round' plugs are used)
- Portable power bank
- Positive attitude



## SFW CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

### Accommodations

Shinzela Wildlife Reserve, home to SFW Conservation, is a full lodge located adjacent to the Greater Kruger Area and just 30 kilometers north of the town of Hoedspruit, South Africa.

Our lodge consists of several thatch buildings, guest quarters, two communal full bathrooms, an entertainment area (pool table included), bar, TV, dinner table, a kitchen, and two braai areas. The buildings are all concrete thatch buildings with fans for the hot weather.

**Each guest will have their own bedroom with lighting, a nightstand, a desk, and a place to store their belongings.**

**You will have access to Wi-Fi and mobile signal is good in the area.**

### Meals

Please let us know of any strict dietary restrictions or allergies in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Because some of our experiences can last longer than anticipated, meal times may vary and will not be exact each day.





### How to get here?

When booking this experience, our program coordinator will guide you through the logistics of travel.

- **Step 1** is booking your journey to O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa. More than likely, your flight will come in during the afternoon or evening.
- **Step 2** is to book your flight from O.R. Tambo to Hoedspruit (East Gate) Airport. The airlines that fly to and from Hoedspruit are both AIRLINK and CEMAIR. These flights will begin from mid-morning to the middle of each afternoon. Therefore, upon arrival to O.R. Tambo, we suggest all guests stay at the City Lodge airport hotel.

***Please book the hotel in advance.***



**Upon arrival to Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport, our team will be waiting to receive you.**

We will do our best to help everyone coordinate getting on the same flight to minimize waiting time. Once everyone has arrived, we will bring everyone out to eat lunch or we will have lunch prepared at the lodge. We will do official introductions and brief all guests on what to expect throughout the journey.

Depending on the group's arrival time, we can either start off the trip with a local game drive in Big 5 or let everyone settle in, make dinner, and prep for the rest of your stay.

### **TAKE NOTE**

While at the City Lodge at O.R. Tambo, please secure all checked luggage. We strictly advise all guests to stay inside the hotel at night and avoid wandering around the city of Johannesburg, as it is not a safe place.

# OUR CAMP RULES

## Expectations and conditions of stay

Upon your arrival in Hoedspruit, South Africa, we assume responsibility for your well-being and aim to ensure you have an exceptional experience throughout your visit. In exchange, we kindly request that your conduct reflects positively on SFW and our dedicated team.

Many of the experiences we offer are unique to this region, made possible through our diligent efforts and steadfast commitment in the field, as well as the support of our valued partners. These collaborations are immensely important to us, and each partner is going above and beyond to facilitate these opportunities. Once you are in Hoedspruit, you will be representing our organization, so we ask that you always keep this responsibility in mind. If your behavior is found to be detrimental to the experience and our project, you will be asked to leave immediately without a refund.

- Everyone must clean up after themselves in facilities that are used by others, i.e. the shared kitchen and bathrooms
- Snacks, treats, and alcohol will need to be purchased at your own cost
- Be respectful of the other people in rooms nearby
- This facility runs on solar power, so we ask that you keep this in mind and shut off lights or fans when not using them
- Laundry will be done for guests 1-2 times during the experience

## Code of conduct – behavior in camp

- An attitude of respect towards people and the environment
- All activities should be conducted in such a manner as to cause the least damage to the environment as possible
- Substance abuse: At all times refrain from and avoid substance abuse, smoking in inappropriate areas, or use of any narcotic drug
- Avoidance of discriminatory action
- Adherence to the dress code
- Be on time, reliable, honest, conscientious, and tactful



### Other things to know

#### **Medical Assistance:**

There are several First Aid trained staff on the camp. If you feel unwell or require medical assistance, please make the staff aware. In case of a medical emergency, treatment can be sought at the hospital in Hoedspruit, which is approximately 30km away.

#### **Eating Out:**

There will be days when the group will not be returning to the lodge and will need to eat out in town to have sufficient time to travel to the next experience. There are nice restaurants in town that are very affordable. We will give the group the option of eating at certain restaurants that we recommend.

#### **Scheduling:**

“African Time” is real and can be unpredictable, but we do our best to stick to our schedule. In the event of an emergency in the field, it may impact several of the organizations that will be hosting our experiences. Therefore, there is always a small chance that we will need to cancel an experience or find a way to reschedule. It is unlikely but possible.

#### **Power:**

South Africa does occasionally have what is called “load shedding,” which is essentially a rolling blackout. There are power issues in the country, and depending on the time of year, this can result in the power system shutting down for several hours at a time. This will only affect charging ports and lighting. However, our Wi-Fi will still work and we anticipate having solar power installed by the time these programs begin. Load shedding has not occurred in over four months.