

# AFRICAN INSIGHT

EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## AFRICAN INSIGHT ACADEMY: INTERNSHIP CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT



# INTERNSHIP: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

This 3 – 12 month internship, offered on Somkhanda Game Reserve in South Africa, is available to individuals that have completed, or are in the process of completing, a relevant field of study, are looking for work experience or in need of practical experience as part of their studies or are considering conservation as a future career.

The Gumbi Tribe lost their tribal land during the years of Apartheid and in 2006 successfully won an ancestral land claim over a large area of Zululand and on a section of this they established the 12,000ha Somkhanda Game Reserve.

Somkhanda is home to populations of both black and white rhino and is preparing for the reintroduction of Cape buffalo and elephant. It has a comprehensive range of all the large mammals that historically occurred in this region, including some top predators such as illusive leopards, hyena and wild dog. This unique situation affords the opportunity for volunteers to get involved in the reserve's wildlife and environmental management, ecological research and monitoring programs.

African Insight, responsible for the development and management of tourism on the reserve, has developed a Science on Safari model with the objective of developing a range of wildlife experiences that add to financial sustainability of the reserve as well as providing vital scientific data of the fauna and flora essential for the ongoing biological management of the reserve.

This project is not for those who are looking for a holiday experience where they will be entertained but it is for those who are considering a career in conservation and need work experience or have research skills and are looking for an opportunity to make a contribution to this important community conservation initiative.

All applicants need to motivate why they want to do a conservation internship and should provide references from reliable sources that vouch for their interest in this field and that they are robust and reliable of character.

Applicants that need formal practical experience, as part of their studies, are required to provide documentation from their academic institution detailing the requirements that they are required to achieve during this period. It is important that both the formal requirements and the programmes requirements can be accommodated.

In line with the objective of contributing to the sustainability of the game reserve all interns will be trained to facilitate academic field trips, Science on Safari and volunteer programs.

Interns are mentored and managed by a dedicated and highly experienced management team. They are regarded as team members and not as tourists and are expected to also respond as such – taking seriously their tasks and duties at all times.

Conservation managers are the backbone of a game reserve, the ones that keep the effective day to day running of the reserve going. A veritable "jack of all trades" requiring a very wide range of skills and experience including: water provision (for people and wildlife), road, vehicle and infrastructure maintenance, fencing, anti-poaching / law enforcement as well as biological management. They therefore require a working knowledge of what ecological and security staff do.

This internship brings all these various components together. Participants can expect to cover most of what the Ecological Research Internships offers and more. To set specific activities undermines effectiveness as it is very dependent on the time of the year and what ongoing reserve management operations are happening.



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## Some other activities you might be involved in are:

- Wildlife Monitoring Techniques
- Water management for game
- Bush craft skills – ie. Field guiding skills
- 4 x4 driving
- Firearms handling (optional)
- Game capture (seasonal)
- Community cattle dipping
- Various research data collecting
- Alien plant control
- Road and track maintenance
- Fire management
- Fence maintenance
- Working with guests

## Working Days And Hours:

A full 9 hour day is expected from interns which can vary from day to day depending on the day's task and what surprises come up. Interns get 2 days off per week and depending on what might be planned these days can be used to join our monthly group outings. Days off can be accumulated and taken together.

## Optional Weekend Excursions:

At least once a month volunteers and interns in camp have the opportunity to participate in a 2 or 3 night excursion off the reserve to other tourist attractions in the region. The cost for these is for own account and can be arranged on arrival.

## Conditions:

It is important that interns of this project understand the importance of the following:

- To be enthusiastic and independent
- To show respect towards the people and culture of the local community.
- To show flexibility towards responsibilities, tasks and activities.
- This is not a relaxing holiday but an experience where hard work is expected.

## Other Interns and Volunteers:

You will most likely be working with both local and international interns and volunteers.

## Accommodation:

During your stay you will be living in safari tents right in the bush. Single accommodation is provided. The camp supplied with running water, communal showers and toilets. Bedding and towels are provided and laundry facilities are available.

## Meals:

Catering is not provided and interns have a fully equipped bush kitchen in which to prepare their own meals. Opportunity will be provided once a week to restock on supplies from the nearest town which is 45 minutes away.

## Connectivity:

There is only one service provider that offers coverage on the reserve, however it generally has excellent connectivity. We keep a stock of a local SIM card for mobiles. We have a number of internet dongles for use of volunteers and interns into which you can insert your sim card to connect to internet.

## Costs (per 3 months):

- Euro 1, 855.00
- USD 2,075.00
- GBP 1560.00
- ZAR 24,300.00

## Included in the fees are:

- Pick up upon arrival at Durban International airport (on scheduled dates only)
- Accommodation in our bush camp. Ablutions and outdoor showers
- Professional mentors to supervise you
- Use of laundry facilities

## Excluded from the fees are:

- Meals (Self Catering- Group Participation)
- Other personal expenses
- Insurances
- Flights

## Starting Dates

The reserve is remote and therefore intern arrivals and departures are coordinated to save on transport costs. Arrival is at Durban International airport and the transfer to Somkhanda Game Reserve leaves at 10h00.

Transport is provided to departing interns (free only on the scheduled dates) back to Durban International Airport and will drop interns off at 15h00.

### 2016

11 January - 01 April  
08 February - 29 April  
07 March - 27 May  
04 April - 24 June  
02 May - 22 July  
30 May - 19 August  
27 June - 16 September  
25 July - 14 October  
22 August - 11 November  
19 September - 09 December  
17 October - 06 January 2017  
14 November - 03 February 2017  
12 December - 03 March 2017

### 2017

09 January - 31 March  
06 February - 28 April  
06 March - 26 May  
03 April - 23 June  
01 May - 21 July  
29 May - 18 August  
26 June - 15 September  
24 July - 13 October  
21 August - 10 November  
18 September - 08 December  
16 October - 05 January 2018  
13 November - 02 February 2018  
11 December - 02 March 2018

