

AFRICAN INSIGHT

EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



AFRICAN INSIGHT ACADEMY: INTERNSHIP ECO-TOURISM & HOSPITALITY



INTERNSHIP: ECO-TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

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

The Gumbi tribe, having lost their land during Apartheid, successfully won an ancestral land claim over a large area of prime Zululand bushveld and established a 12 000 hectare conservation area they called Somkhanda Game Reserve. The game reserve is a formally proclaimed nature reserve and home to rare and endangered black rhino, white rhino and full complement of wildlife that historically occurred in the region. In 2016 introductions of buffalo and elephant will make Somkhanda a Big 4 reserve, lions are not present.

African Insight has 20 years' experience in tourism. The company has a tour operating division and a destination management division offering interns experience and insight into a variety of concept/practices that are on the cutting edge of this industry, such as:

- **Responsible / Sustainable tourism.**
Although African Insight does not hold a formal accreditation in RT the principles are entrenched in the business model.
- **Community tourism**
Using tourism as an economic driver for rural communities is entrenched in the company's mission.
- **Conservation / Academic tourism**
African Insight has pioneered the concept of academic tourism focusing on conservation, environmental management and wildlife management study areas.
- **Experiential Tourism**
African Insight does not view tourism from the traditional self-indulgent point of view but rather as a two way opportunity (between client and destination) that offers experiences with tangible benefits to both sides of the transaction.

The groundbreaking work African Insight has done in the above areas led to African Insight being approached to develop a partnership with Somkhanda Game Reserve to develop and manage a suitable tourism business model. For African Insight this was an ideal opportunity to take the concept of the academic tourism model to another level – the establishment of a unique and comprehensive eco-tourism model based on academic and experiential youth tourism that adds to financial sustainability of the community, the reserve as well as aiding in the collection of vital scientific data of the fauna and flora. African Insight dubbed this model as “**Science on Safari**”.

This internship 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 tourism and are looking for an opportunity to make a contribution this important community conservation initiative.

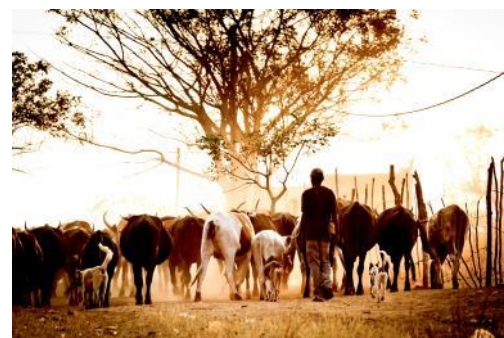
All applicants need to motivate why they want to do this tourism internship and should provide references from reliable sources that vouch for their interest in this field and that they are robust and reliable of character.

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 play an active role in the hosting of 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.

Traditionally community conservation areas have been locked into a hunting economic model where professional hunting outfitters are contracted to remove excess wildlife on a sustainable basis. The Somkhanda model is a ground-breaking departure from this model offering a suite of additional socio-economic benefits.



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Some other activities you might be involved in are:

- Reception - Checking in guests and showing them to their rooms
- Hosting - Ensuring the guests are looked after during evening dinner service, the fire is lit, and meals come out timeously and hot
- Office administration – often the make or break of an organization is the systems that it uses to manage all aspects of the business.
- Catering - Placing food orders, town shopping trips
- Room Checks - Ensuring that the rooms are properly prepared and ready for guests arrival
- Safari camp setup - some groups / programmes require the setting up of mobile safari camps and fields kitchens
- General maintenance and repairs – running a camp in a remote location means that there is option of calling out the local plumber, carpenter, handyman etc. Being able to handle the basics is essential.

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 1,560.00
- ZAR 24,300.00

Included in the fees are:

- Pick up upon arrival at Durban International airport
- Accommodation in our bush camp. Ablutions & 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 interns 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

