



KWANDWE

Rhino Conservation Experiences

Rhino Monitoring Drive, Rhino Conservation Safari and Backstage Kwandwe Experiences

Kwandwe offers guests the rare opportunity to help in the conservation of these endangered species with three unique rhino conservation experiences.



KWANDWE

In the heart of South Africa's Eastern Cape lies Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, 30,000 hectares of pristine wilderness stretched out on either side of the meandering Great Fish River.

Renowned for quality guiding, authentic and diverse experiences, and the thousands of animals and wildlife that call the reserve home, Kwandwe offers a range of meaningful activities and accommodation options to create lifelong memories.



Conservation at Kwandwe

Kwandwe's purpose as a tourism-conservation entity is to contribute sustainably to the environment, protect the incredible biodiversity of the Eastern Cape, and positively impact the surrounding communities. Several procedures and activities must take place daily for us to do this.

Kwandwe currently supports a healthy, growing population of black and white rhinoceros, which we reintroduced to the reserve in 2000. The succulent thicket provides black rhinos with ideal nutrition and the Great Fish River Game Reserve, neighbouring Kwandwe, has an important population of black rhinos, exhibiting the significance of this region in conservation. To help protect and preserve this important work, Kwandwe offers guests the rare opportunity to observe and participate in this important conservation work.

Kwandwe offers three unique and immersive conservation experiences for guests:

[Rhino Monitoring Drive](#), [Rhino Conservation Safari](#) and [Backstage Kwandwe](#)



KWANDWE RHINO
CONSERVATION TRUST

www.kwandwerhinotrust.org.za

Rhino Monitoring Drive

Available year-round, subject to availability.

KWANDWE

The Experience

Tracking and locating each of our rhinos to get an eyes-on check is a critical part of the monitoring and managing of the species in a private reserve.

Each rhino is identified through ear-notching and guests have the opportunity to join the rhino monitoring team as they skillfully use resources of bush skills, telemetry, drones and even AI as they locate individuals.

This is a drive with a difference, it is a fun and interactive learning experience as you are focused on the task at hand and have a mission to accomplish alongside the Kwandwe team.

Up-Close & Personal

On this flexible, private rhino monitoring drive you learn the fascinating details of caring for these critically endangered animals. Their survival depends on the combined efforts of dedicated professionals, innovative technology, and crucial funding – with your support making a vital difference.

Tracking & Teamwork

Observe these animals through personal experience and radio telemetry, drones and even AI - used by your guide, ranger, and tracker for identification. Share in their knowledge and learn the personalities of each rhino you encounter.



Private guide
& tracker



Identify & track
individual animals.



Keystone species
conservation
through observation
& telemetry.



Up-close & personal
monitoring
experience with
Rhinos.



Specialist safari
with private
vehicle.



Meet & spend time
with the Kwandwe
Eco-team
specialists.

The Rhino Monitoring Drive Package

Available year-round, subject to availability.

TOTAL ADDITIONAL COST

2024

R 4 950 pp

2025

R 5 450 pp

Prices exclude accommodation.

Contact us for more information or to enquire.

Overview

- Suited for: 2-6 guests
- Duration: 3-4 hours
- Recommended minimum stay: 2 nights
- Best time of year: All year round
- Children: All ages welcome
- Prior booking required

Inclusions

Private Guide & Tracker | Private Vehicle | Specialist Safari | Identify & Track Individual Animals | Refreshments on drives | In-vehicle only

Exclusions

- Accommodation for stays at all lodges and villas.
- Flights; transfers; and visas.

** All procedures are undertaken for conservation research only and the welfare of the animal is of primary concern.*

Sample Itinerary

Day 1:

Arrive, settle in and relax before an afternoon game drive.

Day 2:

Set out early morning for the Rhino Monitoring Drive in a private vehicle. Monitor and track rhinos and gather valuable information to be used for ongoing conservation efforts. Continue on a game drive or return for breakfast.

After a busy morning of conservation and game viewing, enjoy lunch at your own leisure. Late afternoon game drive and potentially revisit rhinos that were monitored earlier in the day.

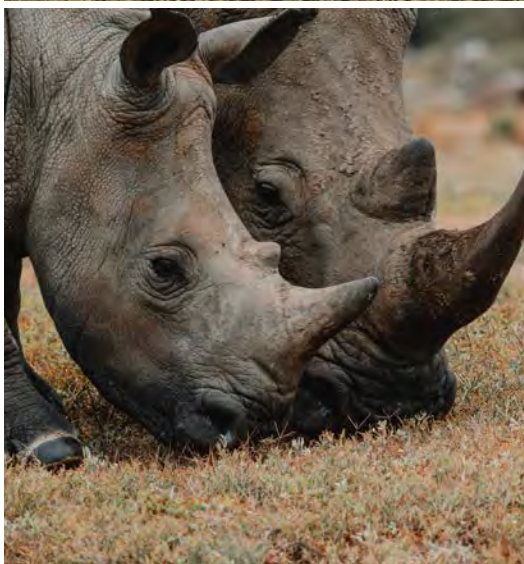
Day 3:

Onward travel to your next destination or stay a little longer and explore Kwandwe Private Game Reserve.

** All experiences are weather-dependent and the order of events may vary.*



“ This is a drive with a difference, it is a fun and interactive learning experience as you are focused on the task at hand and have a mission to accomplish. ”



Rhino Conservation Safari

Available year-round, subject to availability.

KWANDWE

The Experience

As the world of conservation integrates with technology and the power of AI, Kwandwe has embraced leading tech applications to preserve and protect their rhinos.

Besides the required DNA sample, each young rhino has to be ear-notched for ID purposes before it leaves its mother. The adult rhinos are also being fitted with state-of-the-art solar-powered ankle collars that feed critical information to the conservation team on the movement, stress levels and behaviour of the rhinos.

This is a crucial tool for conservation and can only be done through the immobilisation of the rhino, providing a unique opportunity for Kwandwe guests to participate actively.

Prepare & Team Roles

Prepare for action with a comprehensive conservation briefing. Then, alongside Angus Sholto-Douglas (Managing Director) Craig Sholto-Douglas (Environmental Manager) and a veterinarian, you'll all be assigned roles for the day's rhino monitoring efforts.

Assist & Protect

Once the rhinos are located and sedated, assist the specialists on the ground with administering medication, taking scientific measurements, fitting ankle collars and monitoring the rhino's well-being. This is the most technologically advanced conservation system in place to protect rhinos and has yielded invaluable insights and learnings about rhino behaviour.



Comprehensive conservation briefing.



Identify & track individual animals and prepare for darting.



Keystone species conservation through rhino darting & notching.



Up-close & personal experience with Rhinos.



Specialist safari with private vehicle.



Meet the Kwandwe vets & spend time with the conservation team.

The Rhino Conservation Safari Package

Available year-round, subject to availability.

TOTAL ADDITIONAL COST

2024	2025
R 68 750 per group	R 75 625 per group

Prices exclude accommodation.
Contact us for more information or to enquire.

Overview

- Suited for up to 8 guests
- Recommended minimum stay: 3 nights
- Available year-round but ideal time of year: May - September
- Children: Ages 6+
- Prior booking required

Inclusions

Private Guide & Tracker | Private Vehicle | Specialist Safari | Full Briefing & Assignment | Identify & Track Individual Animals | Refreshments on drives | In and out of vehicle | Rhino Darting | Ear Notching | Microchip Horn | Administer Medication | Take Measurements of the Rhino

Exclusions

- Accommodation for stays at all lodges and villas.
- Flights; transfers; and visas.

** All procedures are undertaken for conservation research only and the welfare of the animal is of primary concern.*

Sample Itinerary

Day 1:

Arrive, settle in and relax before an afternoon game drive. A full briefing in the evening before the conservation safari the following day.

Day 2:

Set out early morning for the Rhino Conservation Safari in a private vehicle. Upon completion of the procedure, continue on a game drive or return for breakfast.

After a busy morning of conservation and game viewing, enjoy lunch at your own leisure. Late afternoon game drive and potentially follow up on the rhino that was darted earlier that morning.

Day 3:

Day at leisure to explore the reserve, either during game drives or on foot with qualified rangers and trackers.

Day 4:

Onward travel to your next destination or stay a little longer and explore Kwandwe Private Game Reserve.

** All experiences are weather-dependent and the order of events may vary.*



“ This process is a crucial tool for conservation and can only be done through the immobilization of the rhino, providing a unique opportunity for Kwandwe guests to participate actively. ”



Backstage Kwandwe

Available on set dates with limited availability

KWANDWE

22 – 25 September 2025 and 25 – 28 September 2025

Backstage Kwandwe is a unique and exclusive opportunity to join the Kwandwe team and get a glimpse into the full suite of conservation efforts. With two set dates and limited participation, this is a rare opportunity to gain a first-hand understanding of the commitment required to sustain and conserve a private wilderness area in South Africa.

The Experience

Backstage Kwandwe is a week dedicated to Kwandwe's behind-the-scenes activities, on offer for a limited number of guests. Two fixed arrivals and 3-night stays are available during the week, and participants will work alongside the Kwandwe team in an exclusive dive into keystone species conservation. Along with important Rhino conservation work, guests will be able to learn about the K9 APU dog team, the Spekboom planting project and the advanced technology and AI initiatives being used in this important work.

Accommodation

Guests enjoying the Backstage Kwandwe experience will stay in the luxurious Ecce Lodge, a vibrant and intimate lodge with a breathtaking view of the reserve. Newly refurbished, Ecce Lodge offers an indoor-outdoor lifestyle embracing the African wilderness. Set in the heart of the Private Reserve overlooking a valley, the lodge is the perfect base to come back to after a day of conservation experiences. A highlight of the main guest area is a wooden viewing deck that showcases the exceptional views and surrounding wilderness.



Delve into the Kwandwe conservation story with Angus and Craig Sholto-Douglas.



Meet the anti-poaching team and see the K9 dogs in action.



Plant Spekboom and offset your carbon.



Get involved with the setting of camera traps.



Keystone species conservation through rhino darting & notching.



Interact with drone technology & the Earth Ranger software.



Meet the Kwandwe vets & spend time with the conservation team.



The Backstage Kwandwe Package

22 – 25 September and 25 – 28 September 2025

TOTAL: R 51 675 (R103 350 for two people sharing)

3-nights at Ecca Lodge: R 36 675 pp
(including 25% discount)

Conservation Contribution:
R 15 000pp
(rhino conservation fee + C&C levy)

Rate breakdown:

- 3-night accommodation (arrive on the 22 Sep or 25 Sep) with a saving of 25% at Ecca Lodge
- Daily conservation & community levy: R 2 400 (R 800 pppn)
- Rhino Conservation fee: R 12 600
- Single supplement applies to accommodation (40%)
- Children: Suited for ages 12+

Inclusions

- All conservation and safari activities including hands-on participation in rhino conservation work | Day & night game drives | Technology interaction | Informative presentations from the conservation team | APU K9 dog team | Spekboom planting.
- Accommodation and VAT.
- All meals, soft drinks, South African wines, spirits, beers, & game drive refreshments.

Exclusions

- Champagne & cigars; telephone calls; gratuities; massage treatments; and all items of a personal nature.
- Flights; transfers; and visas.

The Itinerary

Day 1: Mon 22nd or Thu 25th

- Afternoon game drive
- Sundowners with Angus and Craig Sholto-Douglas and an introduction to the Great Fish River Valley and the Kwandwe conservation story.

Day 2: Tue 23rd or Fri 26th

- Morning experiences:
 - Set up of rhino monitoring camera traps.
 - Spekboom planting.
 - APU dog demonstration
- Afternoon experiences:
 - Rhino walking safari
 - Demonstration of the thermal drones, Earth Ranger technology and Rouxcell collars.
 - Dinner with veterinarian Dr Will Fowlds.

Day 3: Wed 24th or Sat 27th

- Full day of rhino conservation experiences, including notching, darting and collecting DNA samples.
- Dinner with the rhino conservation team.

Day 4: Thu 25th or Sun 28th

- Morning game drive and departure.

NB All experiences are weather-dependent and the order of events may vary.

