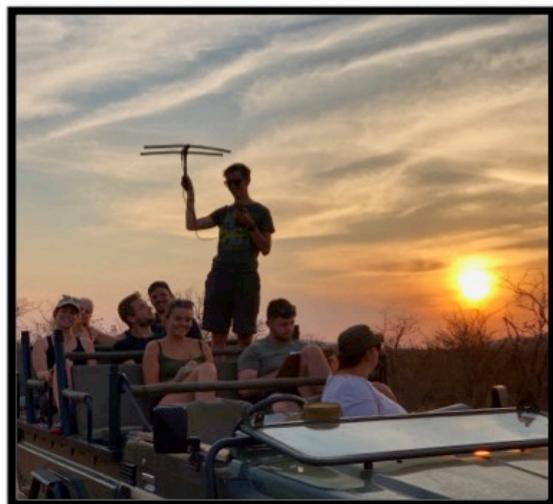




Selati Research

Wildlife Conservation Project
South Africa



Brochure 2021



WELCOME TO

Selati Research Volunteer Programme

Selati Research invites you to join us on our quest to understand how to protect and manage this diverse ecosystem. By getting involved in our ongoing research projects and monitoring programmes, you will enjoy an uplifting, conservation-based wildlife experience in a beautiful reserve.

Volunteers are at the core of the work we undertake and are key in enhancing the Reserve's conservation efforts. By helping us in the field and supporting us financially, volunteers are incorporated into the research team. The team is given direction and purpose by the reserve management, with all wildlife monitoring and data collection supporting the management's decisions on the reserve's ecosystems.

While working on the reserve volunteers have the chance to see lion, leopard, elephant, white and black rhino, spotted and brown hyaena, cheetah, giraffe, eland, zebra, black backed and side striped jackal, wildebeest, kudu and so much more.



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“From incredible sightings to stunning scenery, no two days are the same, whether it's trying to find the lions or carrying out elephant impact surveys, you will never have a dull moment.”

Tom, 2017

Why choose Selati Research?

At Selati Research you will make a real contribution to the ongoing conservation work on Selati. As part of a passionate and dedicated team, you will get the opportunity to work on a 27000ha privately owned game reserve in South Africa.

Passionate and experienced team:

The volunteer programme is run directly under the reserve management and therefore has input from wildlife managers, scientists, ecologists and qualified field guides. Our friendly and passionate staff will quickly incorporate you into the team to make your contribution meaningful and your experience amazing.

Learn about practical conservation

At Selati Research we aim to share our knowledge about practical conservation and the day-to-day challenges we face on the ground. With ongoing research projects on the reserve we are continually learning more and more about the environment and how best to manage it. We would love you to be involved and learn with us through a wide range of activities and surveys (see p7).

Exclusive and private reserve

The human footprint on the reserve is minimal; with no operating lodges, very low development density and relatively low occupancies from the landowners, making the game viewing excellent.

Meet volunteers from around the world

At Selati Research you will create lasting friendships with volunteers from all around the world and in years to come you will be able to reminisce about the amazing sightings and unforgettable experience you shared together!



Check out our reviews

Don't just take it from us! Our previous volunteers have all had an incredible time and many of them have left us a review on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/SelatiResearch/

“I learnt so much about conservation and management of the bush in such a short space of time, all while out in the field enjoying the stunning reserve.”

Jordan, 2017

The Reserve

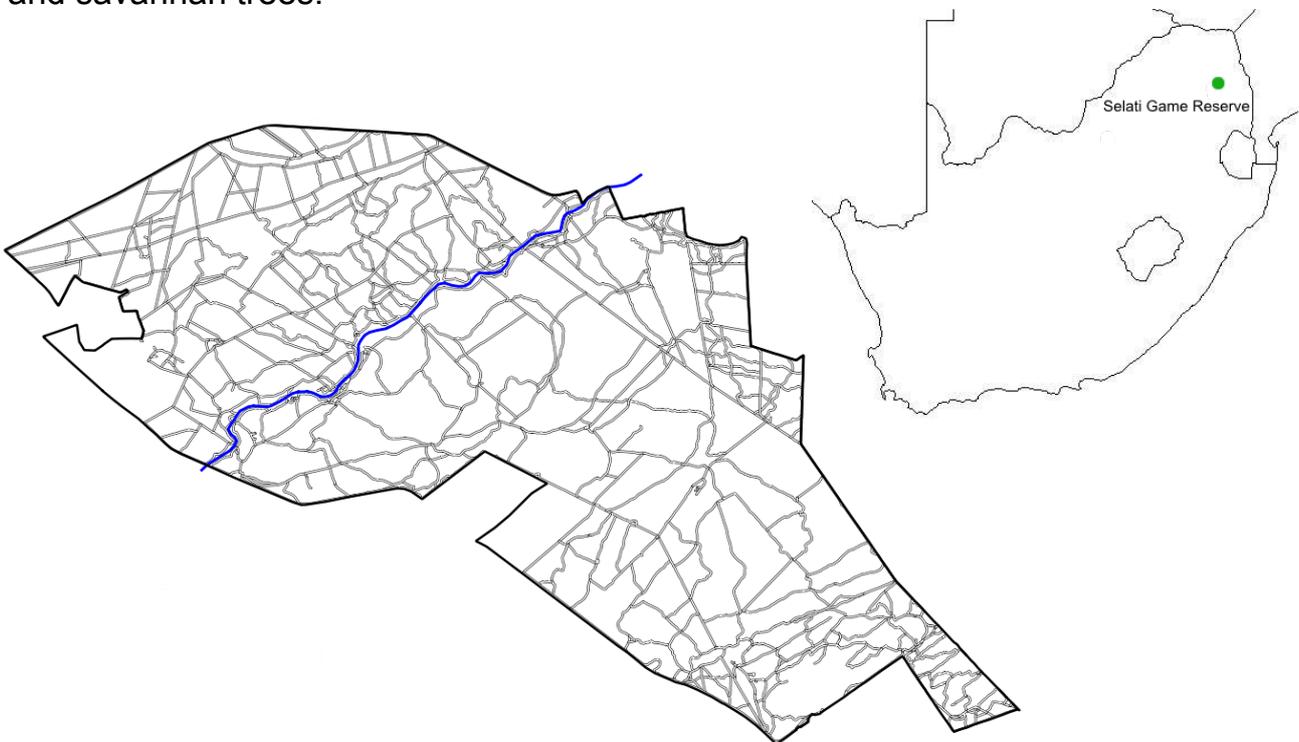
Description

The reserve takes its name from the Great Selati River which traverses the northern sector of the reserve from east to west. The river was named after the Selati Gold Fields and was the scene of a minor gold rush in 1865. The gold fields were named after Shalati, the female chief of the small Tebula tribe who lived in the bush around the Murchison Range to the north of the area.

The Selati Game Reserve is located in the Lowveld region of Limpopo and falls within the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere area. Founded in 1993, the 27000ha reserve is typical of the savannah woodland biome with six different veld types offering a great diversity of habitats that support over 50 species of medium to large sized mammal.

Diversity

Wildlife likely to be encountered while staying on the Selati Game Reserve includes lion, leopard, elephant, white and black rhino, cheetah, spotted hyena, sable, eland, reedbuck, kudu, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, nyala, black-backed jackal, and several smaller antelope. Birdlife in the reserve is prolific (current recorded sightings at over 280 different species) and the region has endemic cycads (*Encephalartos dyerianus*) and an impressive range of beautiful riverine and savannah trees.



***“I learnt so many new things during two-week stay, and enjoyed every moment. Truly a magical, wonderful place!”
Arina, 2017***

The role of Selati Research

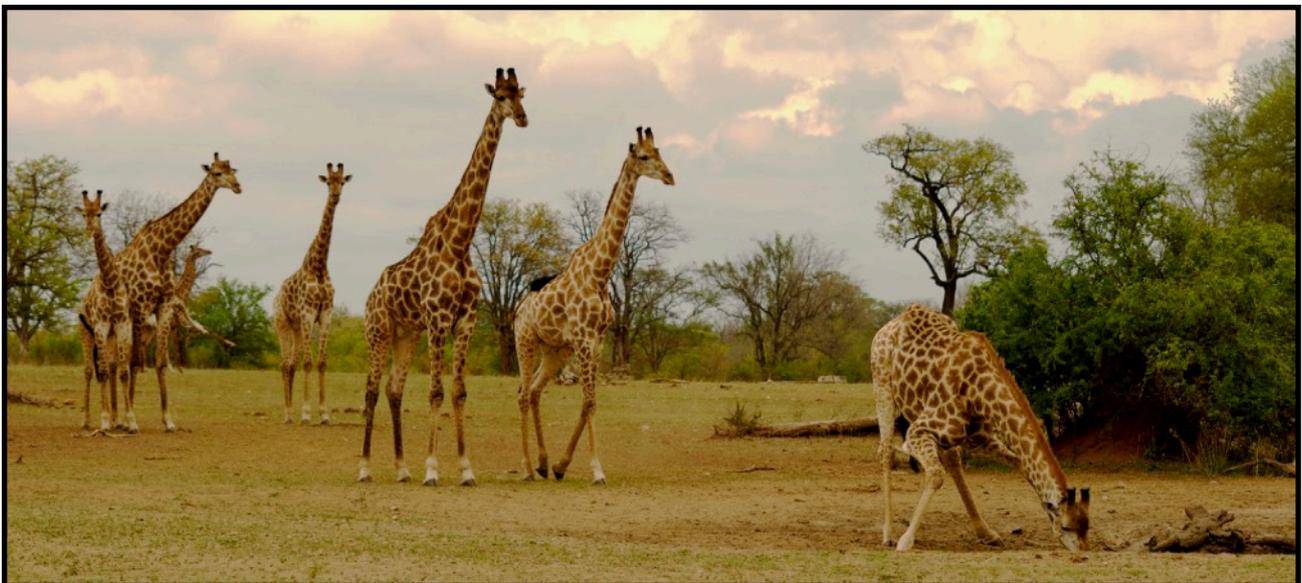
The needs and aspirations of the Selati Research are informed strongly by our vision to create an enduring legacy. We aim to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the ecosystem through the astute and sustainable management of resources.

The well-being of the ecosystem is underpinned primarily by the dynamic interplay between climate, geology and the populations of fauna and flora species. Good management decisions rely on us developing a better understanding of our natural environment.

The research team aims to support the ongoing management of the fauna and flora of Selati Game Reserve through monitoring and a wide range of scientific surveys and studies.

Through the data collected in the field, we are able to write reports and inform the reserve management, giving them the best information on how to manage the reserve.

Selati Research also aims to be financially sustainable, with all of the monitoring equipment, vehicle costs, salaries, and wildlife operations paid for through the volunteer programme.



“It was really an unforgettable experience and one of the most magical places I’ve been! It was amazing to be part of the brilliant work Selati do and know that our research there has contributed to a wider picture of conservation.” Rhys, 2017

The role of the volunteer

Volunteering at Selati Research has been described as “an opportunity of a lifetime” offering a unique and rewarding experience like no other. Every volunteer contribution is valued and without the extra hands Selati Research would not be able to meet our objectives. Volunteers aid us in the following ways:

In the field

As a volunteer you will be directly involved in the field work, including getting involved with a large variety of wildlife surveys, data collection on game drives, wildlife monitoring using radio telemetry and so much more.

At the office

We aim to spend as much time as possible in the field (where all the action happens!), however without the data processing and analysis back in the office it would be fruitless. With each day different from the last, volunteers can get involved with camera trap processing, data logging, and updating ID kits.



Financially

Selati Research has to be financially sustainable in order to operate on a long term basis. All of the money generated from the volunteer programme enables us to carry out the work that we do. Without the financial support of the volunteers the scale of our monitoring and conservation efforts would be significantly decreased.

Ambassadors

When our volunteers depart we encourage them share their African experience with their friends and family spreading the conservation message and promoting the work we do. As a reward, returning volunteers that bring a friend will receive a discount!

Is it for me?

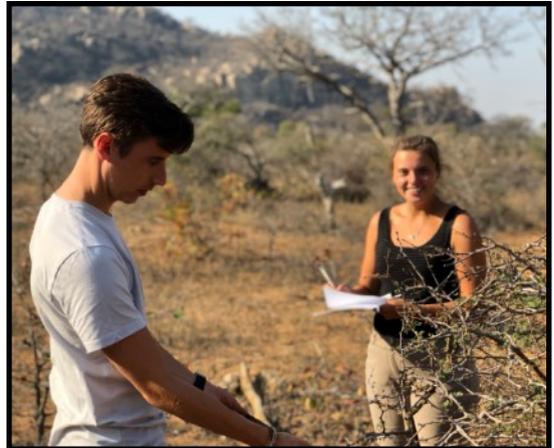
Passionate about wildlife and conservation? Do you want something different from your average safari holiday? Need work experience or want your CV to stand out from the crowd? If you answered ‘yes’ to any of the above Selati Research is for you! Anyone between 18-80 years old can get involved with no previous experience required! A reasonable level of fitness is required however, none of the activities are over-challenging. Whether its your first time in Africa or your 30th we believe you will enjoy a unique, unforgettable experience!

“Enjoyed every second of it... an amazing reserve with a commendable goal of conserving the whole ecosystem” - Ali, 2018

Volunteer activities

Day to Day

At Selati Research each day is different. Some days there will be two game drives roughly 3-4 hours long (morning and afternoon/evening), other days the team will be in the field all day and get back mid afternoon. The programme is varied as different surveys need to be conducted from season to season and working with wildlife is always unpredictable so flexibility is required. Evenings and free time is generally spent relaxing around the camp, watching the regular visitors to the waterhole and chatting around the fire, under the star-lit sky.



Assist the ongoing research

As a general rule, the longer the research study the more significant and useful the data. We have regular and ongoing studies each year in which the volunteers are key to enabling us to collect the data. We also work with university students with personal projects and as a volunteer you will have the chance to help them out in the field. Some of the current research studies include: elephant impact surveys, water quality assessments, drive counts, and raptor nest surveys.



Monitoring

Selati Research is responsible for the reserve monitoring efforts. This includes monitoring our populations of lion, white and black rhino, cheetah and collecting data on leopard, elephant, hyaenas and more. As a volunteer you will be directly involved with the monitoring and radio tracking in the field.



“Selati is truly a magical place...My highlight was being a part of collaring a hyena for a PhD study, myself and the other volunteers got to carry the hyena on a stretcher through the bush at night!”
Sally, 2017

Camera Traps

There are a large number of camera traps around the reserve. Selati Research has to maintain and upkeep these cameras, including the changing of batteries, swapping SD cards in the field and processing the photos in the office. Volunteers get the opportunity to see some of the more elusive species on the reserve through our camera trap eyes!



Veterinary Experience

From time to time, animals have to be darted, collared, moved or released onto the reserve. Volunteers will get the chance to experience this incredible encounter, directly being involved. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee a darting experience for your time with us.

Night Drive

Occasionally we may do a night drive where we set off after 9pm in search for some of the nocturnal animals, subject to request and how many volunteers are interested.

Office

In the midday break, volunteers will help with data input and processing camera trap photos, enabling a better understanding of the work that we do.



Sleep outs

From time to time, we enjoy a sleep out in the middle of the African bush under the open sky. We have a number of safe sleep out locations around the reserve giving volunteers the chance to fall asleep under the stars and listen to the wild sounds of Africa. A truly amazing experience, subject to the availability of field guides.



“...And of course, nothing is better than waking up to a roar of a lion or falling asleep to the sounds of elephants...”

Karmel, 2017

Research Students

Selati Research invites university students requiring a thesis or dissertation project to conduct their field work with us. Our team consists of scientists, wildlife managers, ecologists and field guides to assist you in the field. We have limited spaces each year, and operate on a first come first serve basis. Researchers pay a reduced rate to the volunteers, please see rates on the booking page (p.11)

We have a range of projects from 6 weeks to 1 year studies, depending on your requirements. We welcome all ideas and will happily work with you to develop your project. To enquire about conducting a research project on Selati Game Reserve please send us an email using the address provided below.

Resources are limited, therefore projects will be considered on a logistical and feasible basis.

We request that you submit a one page project proposal clearly outlining your methodology and requirements in the field.

Please email all proposals and enquiries to the following address:

enquiries@selatigamereserve.co.za



“I was lucky enough to volunteer for just under 8 weeks. Those weeks were some of the most rewarding that I have ever had. Within the first week I had already decided that I wanted the opportunity to come back and be part of the team again.” Oliver 2018

Where do I stay?

Accommodation

The conservation and research effort at Selati Game Reserve provides an amazing opportunity for you to live and volunteer on a beautiful South African game reserve. Volunteers are accommodated in a comfortable tented camp overlooking a waterhole. The sleeping arrangements consist of two people sharing a room. Women and men do not share rooms unless booked as a couple. Volunteers requesting single accommodation are required to pay a supplement.



Left: The Selati Research camp offering luxury safari tents under the milky way. **Right:** The interior of one of the safari tents where volunteers are accommodated.

Electricity and water

Electricity is readily available at the camp with South African 3-pin plugs. The water supply is pumped from an underground borehole on the reserve, making it safe to drink from the tap.

Laundry

A laundry service is provided free of charge on certain days of the week. Alternatively, there are facilities to hand wash clothing.

Meals

The project caters for three meals a day – breakfast, lunch and dinner. Extra snacks can be purchased during the weekly shopping excursion.

Communication

Wifi is available and accessible within the camp as well as the office. We find Vodacom or MTN the best networks for signal across the reserve.

“Selati Game Reserve is absolutely Phenomenal! I spent two weeks in this incredible reserve where I learnt so much about conservation and African wildlife.” Cameron 2017

Booking

When to visit Selati?

There is lots of debate as to when is the best time of year to visit South Africa. With each season the environment changes and with it the behaviour of the animals. In the drier months, animals tend to rely on waterholes making their movements predictable and with the lack of leaves on the trees, sightings tend to be good. With the arrival of rain in the summer months the migrant birds return, fresh leaves, grass and flowers emerge and many mammals birth, giving a sense of life around the reserve.

Seasons	Temperature	Rainfall
Spring (Sept - Nov)	Mild to warm in the day, still cool at night	Mostly dry, rain showers in Oct - Nov
Summer (Dec - Feb)	Hot days and warm nights	Rain and thunderstorms common
Autumn (Mar - May)	Mild to warm days and mild to cool nights	Chance of rain reduced towards May
Winter (Jun - Aug)	Mild to warm days and cold nights	Usually clear and dry

Booking & Rates

Booking your place at Selati Research is simple. Request a booking via email to enquires@selatigamereserve.co.za and should availability allow, a registration and booking email will be sent to you which will include the payment information and necessary forms.

Duration	Rate
2 weeks	R19,500
3 weeks	R28,250
4 weeks	R37,000
4+ weeks	Please Enquire

Included

- Accommodation.
- Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Tea, Coffee & Cordials.
- Laundry service.
- All activities on Selati.
- Private paramedic service
- Transfers from & to Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport or the Ashton Tours Shuttle bus service drop off point at Three Bridges restaurant – on Tuesdays only.
- Wifi access

Excluded

- Flights & Travel
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Any related travel costs such as visas.
- Vaccinations and medications.
- Transfers/transport to Selati Game Reserve on days other than Tuesdays.
- Any group excursions.
- Any accommodation before and/or after the stay.
- Personal kit and equipment.

We offer discount for all returning volunteers!

“The Staff that lead the research programme, are true professionals with so much knowledge about the reserve and pretty much everything that lives within it.”

Zoe, 2017

Travel

How to get here?

From Johannesburg international airport the easiest way to get to Selati is by a connecting flight into Hoedspruit Eastgate airport, however a cheaper and more scenic route is one if the shuttle services below that runs daily to and from OR Tambo airport to our drop off point at Three Bridges restaurant or Hoedspruit town centre, where we will collect you on a Tuesday. During the booking process please remember to send your journey details so we can be sure to be waiting for you upon arrival.

Ashtons Tours Shuttle Service

www.ashtonstours.com/

Safari Link

<http://safarilinksa.com>

When to arrive?

Our programme runs from Tuesday to Tuesday so we ask volunteers to arrive then if they would like to make use of the free transfer to the reserve from the local pick up points.

Insurance

It is compulsory to get travel insurance before arrival at Selati Research. Ensure you use a reputable insurance provider and proper coverage.

Vaccinations

Please consult with your doctor regarding which vaccinations you will require however, no vaccinations are compulsory for South Africa. Selati Game Reserve is in a low risk malaria area.

Excursions

There are lots of tourist attractions in the area surrounding Selati Game Reserve, including the world renowned Kruger National Park, and the scenic panoramic route. Upon request and availability we can organise excursions to a wide range of different local attractions. A set cost is charged per volunteer for each excursion.



“Having volunteered in South Africa in the past, I feel that this time the work I did really went towards the conservation of African animals.” Sally, 2017

What to bring to Selati Research?

What we provide:

- Bedding
- All equipment for the surveys and wildlife monitoring
- Selati Research T-shirt
- Reference books

What you should bring:

- A sleeping bag is useful (only for sleep-out)
- Roll matt (also for sleep-out)
- Camera (and batteries / charger etc.)
- Towel & swimwear
- Neutral coloured clothing for the bush
- Casual clothing
- Warm clothing, hat, gloves etc (especially for winter)
- Rain & wind proof coat
- Sun hat
- Sturdy and casual footwear
- Torch or head torch
- Sunglasses
- Suncream
- Day-pack rucksack
- Water bottle (+1 litre)
- Insect repellent
- Binoculars (8x42 or 10x42 work best)
- Plug adapters
- Personal items (medication, toiletries, snacks etc.)
- A sense of humour



***“It is safe to say that it was whilst visiting Selati Game Reserve that I fell in love with the incredible fauna of Africa! “
Jenni, 2017***



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South Africa

We look forward to hearing from you!
You can get in touch via our Facebook page or
our email address below.

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SelatiResearch/

Email Address: enquiries@selatigamereserve.co.za

Physical address: Selati Research, Selati Main Gate, Arundel Farm, Selati Game Reserve, Gravelotte, 0895, Limpopo

Postal Address: Selati Research, Selati Game Reserve, P.O Box 296, Gravelotte, 0895



“One of the best experiences of my life, I would highly recommend it to other students and/or volunteers who are looking for an experience of a lifetime..“

Adam, 2017