

SHAMWARI

— PRIVATE GAME RESERVE —

Biomes of Shamwari

A biome is defined as a naturally occurring community of fauna and flora occupying a major habitat. Shamwari Private Game Reserve is home to five of South Africa's nine major biomes, providing rich vegetation types that are suitable for an array of animal and plant species to thrive in. These five vastly different biomes bring about a wide variety of animal, bird, and plant life for guests to catch sight of at Shamwari.

Albany Thicket

The dominant vegetation type in this area is the thicket biome, more specifically known as the Albany Thicket. This biome sustains and bolsters a healthy population of animal species including kudu, elephant, black rhino, monkey, and bushbuck. Additionally, the Addo flightless dung beetle, unique to the Eastern Cape, is another conservation success story. A recent discovery was made of the Albany Adder which is a puffadder snake endemic to this area. Spekboom and spike thorn trees are also specific to this biome.



Fynbos

There is an indicator species of the Fynbos biome at Shamwari. This biome is synonymous with the Cape Floristic Region. Animals found in this biome include as grysbok, common mole rat, leopard, chacma baboon, angular tortoise, and reptiles such as agamas. Birds are a common sight in this ecosystem, such as sugar birds and the double-collared sunbird. Stunning flora include king protea (protea cynaroides), orchid and erica.



Savanna

The Savanna biome is the largest biome in Southern Africa. There is an indicator species of this biome at Shamwari. It is characterized by a grassy ground layer and a distinct upper layer of woody plants. There are an array of mammals that call this biome home, such as the lion, nyala, buffalo, giraffe, white rhino, burchell's zebra and secretary birds. Flora such as acacia are also found in this region.



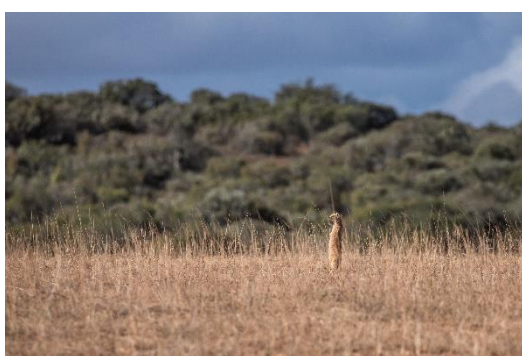
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Nama Karoo

There is an indicator species of the Nama Karoo biome at Shamwari. It occurs on the central plateau of the western half of South Africa and is the second largest ecosystem in South Africa. Fauna and flora found in this area include the yellow mongoose, aardwolf, spring hare, ostrich, guineafowl, and pale chanting goshawk. Invertebrates such as scorpions and snakes such as puff adders and cape cobras are also found in this region.



Forest

The Forest biome is in the form of an indicator species at Shamwari. Forests tend to occur in patches over smaller areas, and are most common along the Garden Route. This biome is indicative of large evergreen trees, mosses, and ferns. Animals found in this biome include bushbuck, blue duiker, cape fruit bat, monkeys, Knysna turaco, African paradise flycatcher and crowned eagle. Invertebrates such as the garden butterfly and trapdoor spider and reptiles such as the Knysna dwarf chameleon and black rain frog are also found in this biome.

