



A MANTIS IMPACT EXPERIENCE

Mantis Impact Experiences offer the adventurous traveller seeking an immersive experience the opportunity to make a real impact for conservation. You could find yourself behind the scenes at ongoing conservation programmes contributing to the protection of rare species, enrolling in a nature course, or participating in wildlife operations. This is travel out of the ordinary – making lifelong memories through rare experiences.

Rhino Conservation Experience

Munu Live Medical and Dehorning – A Mantis Impact Experience

Join us for an immersive virtual conservation workshop where you'll join Shannon Elizabeth and our team for a procedure on Munu the Rhino. Munu is a rare type of Black Rhino who was blinded during territorial fights with other rhinos and his chances of making it out in the wild looked slim. The fighting left him with both his retinas detached. Arrangements were made for his relocation to Founders Lodge where he is now homed in a secure and spacious sanctuary where he is cared for. The time has come for Munu's horn to be removed, as it poses a very real risk to his safety because of its value on the black market and the spike in poaching during the current pandemic. Rest assured that the procedure will not be painful for Munu, as rhino horn is made of keratin – the same stuff as our hair and nails. Munu is part of a bigger conservation breeding plan to increase the numbers of this rare subspecies for release into the wild. The funds raised from this masterclass will go towards caring for Munu, administered by the Shannon Elizabeth Foundation.

Quick overview

Country & Area: Founders Lodge by Mantis, adjacent to Shamwari Game Reserve
Nearest Airport: Port Elizabeth Airport, South Africa
Durations: 2 nights

What you'll learn from this experience

- o The importance of preserving biodiversity
- o What rhino conservation means for all wildlife
- o Why every rhino matters
- o What is entailed in a rhino veterinary procedure – as explained and demonstrated by veterinarian Keith Ross
- o How we are using AI – Artificial Intelligence – as a tool to fight rhino poaching – presented by Brett Barlow, wildlife security expert
- o The conservation story of Munu's home at Founders Lodge – presented by Adrian Gardiner, conservationist and founder of the Mantis Collection hospitality group
- o How lessons from wildlife conservation can be applied to business and leadership – presented by Paul Gardiner, Ecoventurer and CEO of the Mantis Collection.

Join online: 28 January 2021

Buy your tickets for this incredible LIVE virtual experience here:

<https://www.benchevents.com/events/live-darting-munu-the-rhino>

Join in person: 27 January – 29 January 2021

If you are in South Africa and would love to be a part of this experience in person, please contact us via email:

impact@mantiscollection.com

Meet Munu – the blind black rhino

Great emphasis is placed around Rhino Conservation at Mantis Founder's Lodge. Your experience gives you an intimate encounter with this near-extinct species.

An introduction to Munu the blind rhino

The south-western black rhinoceros is a subspecies of black rhino. It is estimated that around 250 of these rare, precious animals remain alive in the entire world today. Mantis Founder's Lodge is home to Munu, a blind male black rhino. In an effort to prolong his lifespan and increase his likelihood of procreation, his sanctuary has been carefully curated to provide him with a natural environment.

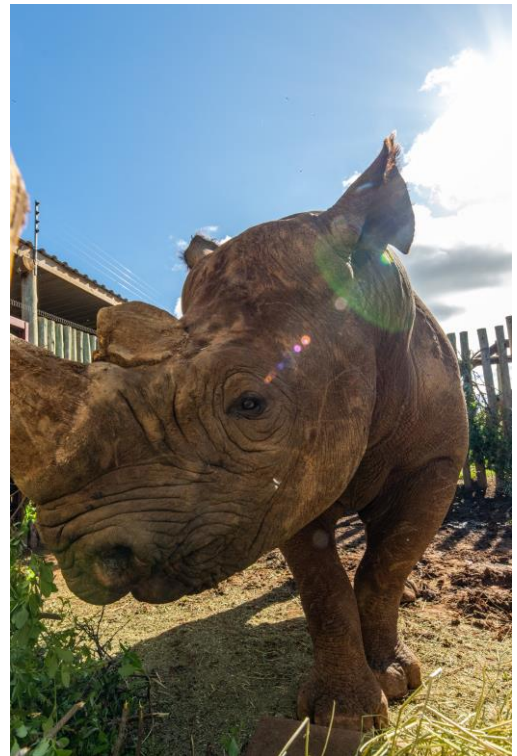
On this experience, you will have the opportunity to meet Munu and learn more about his species, his relocation from Addo Elephant National Park, and the ins-and-outs of his daily upkeep and maintenance. You will also be introduced to how modern AI (Artificial Intelligence) is being used in rhino conservation worldwide.

Join us for a behind-the-scenes rhino darting procedure

Munu the blind black rhino will be due for his health check-up, which includes blood sampling to ensure he is at optimal health for possible future breeding of his rare species.

It is also time for Munu to be de-horned. Rhinos are normally dehorned every two years to assure their chances of survival due to the poaching crisis in Africa. Munu will be sedated to ensure the procedure is as stress- and pain-free as possible. Guests will have the opportunity to get up close after the wildlife veterinary surgeon and his team are comfortable with Munu's vitals, and it is safe to do so. The entire procedure will take around thirty minutes from start to finish and you will be able to watch Munu's recovery after his check-up from the viewing deck outside Munu's custom-built boma (enclosure).

This is an incredible opportunity to learn more about the conservation efforts of our rhino from the experts, have a hands-on experience with one of Africa's gentle giants, and know that you made a valuable contribution to the conservation efforts of this endangered species.



Meet Shannon Elizabeth – Host, Hollywood actress and founder of the Shannon Elizabeth Foundation

You may know Shannon Elizabeth as a Hollywood actress, but did you know that Shannon is also passionately active in animal rescue and wildlife conservation? It was Shannon's passion for animals and our network connections in the conservation world that resulted in Shannon and Worldwide Experience connecting, when she happened to meet the Gardiner family.

Our Paul Gardiner invited Shannon to South Africa to stay at Founders Lodge by Mantis, adjacent to Shamwari Game Reserve which was founded by Paul's father Adrian Gardiner in 1992. Shannon was inspired by the story of rewilding degraded land to achieve Shamwari and by all our current conservation efforts, and we have since worked together with Shannon in pioneering an incredible conservation experience to take place at Mantis Founders Lodge, hosted by Shannon!



The roots of the Shannon Elizabeth Foundation reach back to 2001 in Los Angeles, California, when Shannon Elizabeth founded the non-profit Animal Avengers. By 2015, her awareness of broader conservation issues, particularly the developing poaching crisis in Africa, had grown to the extent that she wanted to help more animals and on a much bigger scale. This prompted her decision, in 2016, to settle in Cape Town, South Africa.

In 2018 Animal Avengers was rebranded to become the Shannon Elizabeth Foundation.

The Shannon Elizabeth Foundation has four established verticals they focus on as their own in-house initiatives. The first is the Wildlife Review Initiative aimed at involving people at all levels in the great conservation issues of our time.

The second initiative is a strong focus on law and legislation, both in the United States as well as South Africa.

The third initiative is based on land and creating community upliftment in a "for profit" structure in order for non-profit programs to continue to be created and to thrive.

The final initiative is their youth conservation program, aptly named after their founding organization's name of Animal Avengers.

The Foundation also has a grants program that supports reputable organizations through an application process.

The Shannon Elizabeth Foundation believes that the greatest achievements in conservation derive from cooperation and collective support for common goals. To this end, the Foundation is forging close associations with numerous renowned organizations around the world.

To learn more or get involved, please visit www.shannonelizabeth.org.

Meet Dr Keith Ross – Wildlife Vet

Dr. Keith Ross was born and raised in South Africa where he went on to graduate from the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. After his studies, Dr. Ross then joined Bosberg Veterinary practice in Somerset East working as their resident farm and wildlife veterinarian. Being a farm and wildlife veterinarian in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa.

Dr. Ross works very closely with conservationists on various game reserves. He has worked on various species like buffalo, plains game, and our blind black rhino, Munu.



Meet Adrian Gardiner – Founder of the Mantis Collection and owner of Mantis Founders Lodge

Born in Zambia in 1943, Adrian Gardiner's passion for nature coupled with his strong entrepreneurial skill was forged from an early age. His love of wildlife came from his father who worked for a cattle ranching business and who took his son camping in the bush from an early age.

From Zimbabwe he travelled to Cape Town to further his studies. By the age of 29 he had moved from Cape Town to the Eastern Cape where he embarked on his first venture, to help build the Spar franchise in Port Elizabeth.

And so began a love affair with the city of Port Elizabeth (also referred to as PE, now officially called Nelson Mandela Bay). As a rapidly developing location, PE offered exciting new business opportunities which Adrian relished. For the next 20 years, he embarked on a rollercoaster ride of building companies in a multitude of industries from swimming pool development to garage swing doors, pagers to crane hire. Today, as the home of his major business developments, Adrian's affection for PE continues and has caused him to keep his company HQ in the city rather than relocating to larger markets such as Johannesburg, Cape Town or London.

Having enjoyed commercial success, Adrian was able to 'return to the land' so to speak by developing a new venture into tourism in the early 1990's. He began with 2,000 hectares of eroded, degraded and abused land. A small insignificant piece of valley bushveld, and from this, he grew **Shamwari Game Reserve**, which is now 25 000 hectares in size and has seen the re-introduction of all the large game that once thrived in the Eastern Cape. He was the first person to put the Eastern Cape on the tourist map and today the area is a booming tourist destination and home to countless other private game reserves. Shamwari has since become a blueprint internationally for successful sustainable conservation tourism, and its development was instrumental in forming the next phase in Adrian's life.

Adrian then founded the parent company **Mantis** in 2000. The name Mantis relates to the San people who revere the Praying Mantis and protect it as the most important animal in their ecosystem as '*if you look after the little things, the big things take care of themselves*'.

Man And Nature Together Is Sustainable (MANTIS)



Meet Paul Gardiner – EcoVenturer and CEO of the Mantis Collection

Paul Gardiner was born in South Africa in 1973. His career began as a game ranger in South Africa in 1996 on his father's wildlife reserve, Shamwari, which is a model used by the Gardiner Family to create many reserves in Africa. On seeing the need to give their guests more experiences around the globe, the Gardner family founded Mantis. Mantis is an environmentally conscious collection of hotels, eco-escapes and waterways which is based in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Paul joined the Mantis marketing team in 1998, after four years in the business he headed up the Group's Sales & Marketing department. In 2002, he emigrated to the United Kingdom where he became the MD of Southern Africa Travel, a UK based Tour Operator and also set up Worldwide Experience. Worldwide Experiences (WWE) takes students from across the globe into Africa and places them in unique conservation-based projects where they work behind the scenes with Mantis' wildlife veterinarians, ecologists and wildlife management teams.

In 2006, Paul also co-founded Legacy Ventures – a company that specialises in taking executive MBA students on study tours into emerging countries such as China, India, and South Africa. In 2012 Paul met television personality and adventurer, Bear Grylls. Today they have several businesses together including **Bear Grylls Survival Academy**, **Bear Grylls Survival Challenge**, and **Bear Grylls Adventure**.

Mantis Media is the creative arm of Mantis Collection and they're responsible for taking what Bear does so well on television and bringing it to life for kids, adults, and corporate teams. Essentially, Mantis Media is responsible for all Bear's location-based entertainment.

Through Mantis Media, Bear recently partnered with Merlin Entertainments to develop a \$22m Bear Grylls Adventure Park in the UK.

Paul leads a team in the UK which manages Mantis' development beyond the borders of Africa. Paul is now the CEO of Mantis and works very closely with his father, Adrian Gardiner, as they strive to grow Mantis' portfolio throughout Africa and beyond.

Although Paul is based in the UK, he continues to spend some quality time in South Africa – he and the Mantis team are the driving force behind a new pioneering initiative at Mantis Founder's Lodge which will see the creation of the first ever Eco Lodge Innovation Hub. Paul has also recently launched his very own media platform called 'The Ecoventurer' to help spread the word about eco-tourism and the amazing work of conservationists from all walks of life.



Meet Brett Barlow – Conservationist and business management specialist

Having grown up on a farm in Zimbabwe, conservation and wildlife has always been in my blood, and being lucky enough to have been able to assist in several Rhino related projects in Namibia in the late 1980's as well as relocation and security projects in Zimbabwe and South Africa during the following 10 years, led me to my passion for Rhino. After purchasing my own rhino and working with them on a daily basis, I began to see the problems of rhino conservation firsthand and the need for active intervention programs. From seeing less than 50 poaching incidents per year prior to 2007, we now see more than 1000 cases annually. Visiting a poaching scene is a life-changing experience. There seems to be no respite in the poaching crisis and existing security measures are proving ineffective.

What started as a basic conversation about the plight of Rhino, ended up with a partnership with Adrian Gardiner and Mantis, in which we are focusing on new technologies involving Artificial Intelligence and analytics to form the basis of a new Rhino Protection model that could be rolled out to any reserve or Rhino facility. We are currently working closely with software development teams who are applying deep learning Artificial Intelligence algorithms and integrating various other existing systems to perfect this new concept. In order to save our rhino for future generations, we need to be able to get the perfect balance between man and machine, by making increased use of Artificial Intelligence, we can limit the weak link in security, which is almost always the human element. We believe that technology is the future for the protection of rare species and want our model to be agile and flexible in order to be able to be used for Gorillas, elephants, etc.

I am also involved with several other conservation initiatives but am concentrating on assisting with the development and testing of this amazing new technology and once fully operational, will make it available to all conservation projects.

