



Career Opportunity

JOB TITLE: HEAD GUIDE
DEPARTMENT: TOURISM

The Head Guide is responsible for leading and managing the guiding team to deliver exceptional, safe, and educational safari experiences. The role ensures the highest standards of guiding, conservation practice, and guest engagement while supporting operational efficiency and team development in a remote wildlife environment. The Head Guide serves as the senior field authority on guiding standards, safety, and environmental interpretation, aligning safari activities with lodging objectives and conservation principles.

Location: Ongava Game Reserve
Reports To: Lodge Manager
Employment Type: Full-time

The responsibilities of this position include but are not limited to the following:

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Lead by example in delivering world-class game drives, walking safaris, and specialist experiences.
- Set, monitor, and maintain guiding standards and best practices.
- Ensure strict adherence to safety protocols and ethical wildlife interactions.
- Supervise, mentor, and develop the guiding team.
- Support succession planning and development of junior guides.
- Engage with guests in a knowledgeable, professional, and engaging manner.
- Promote interpretive storytelling and educational experiences.
- Oversee daily safari logistics, including guide allocation and activity planning.
- Coordinate closely with lodge management on guest movements and requirements.
- Ensure full compliance with reserve rules, conservation standards, and company policies.
- Lead emergency response in the field when required.
- Maintain guiding records, training logs, and incident reports.
- Assist in developing SOPs and continuous improvement initiatives.

Requirements:

- Grade 12 or Equivalent
- Relevant qualification or training as a field guide
- Extensive experience as a qualified field guide (senior level)
- FGASA Level 2 (minimum) or equivalent recognized qualification
- Advanced walking safari qualification (preferred/required)
- Valid driver's license and PDP
- Valid First Aid certification and Firearm competency
- Proven leadership experience within a guiding team
- Strong experience with international guests
- Physically fit and able to work in remote environments.
- Willingness to work irregular hours and live on-site.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates who meet the above application criteria are requested to apply for this vacancy by sending an updated CV, motivational letter, qualifications to apply@ongava.com

Closing date: 28 July 2026 (only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted)
For any enquiries, please contact +264 (0) 83 370 9775
Ongava Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd is an Equal Opportunity Employer.