



# GAP AFRICA PROJECTS



**SOMKHANDA  
CONSERVATION RESEARCH**

**PRE DEPARTURE INFO**



## ARRIVAL

### Arrival by AIR to Johannesburg Airport – Transfers Arranged by Gap Africa Projects

Upon arrival to Johannesburg Airport you will be met by a representative from Gap Africa Projects (They will have a board with your name/group name on), who will assist you to the transfer location. Should, for any reason, you not be able to locate the representative please call +27 81 816 2541.

Your flight arrival and departure times that we have for you are detailed on your "Travel Plan" and e-Ticket, a copy of which will be sent to you, should your flight information change or differ from those detailed on this form you must let us know immediately. Should your flight be delayed, please call Lundy at +27 81 816 2541 (or from a South African phone or sim card 081 816 2541 ) so that the transfer company can be informed about your delay. For any problems regarding transfers, please inform Lundy.



## ARRIVAL

### CONTACT DETAILS

### USEFUL INFORMATION

### ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

### RECOMMENDED KIT LIST

### ANY QUESTIONS?

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**CONTACT DETAILS**

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South Africa

**Somkhanda Landline**

Telephone: +27 (0)81 816 2541

**Mobile**

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Lundy Bredberg (*Project Manager*)

**Gap Africa Projects**

+44 (0) 797 657 5949  
**24 Hour Emergency Only**



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## USEFUL INFORMATION - CLIMATE

### Summer (November-April)

Expect intense heat in the daytime with occasional thunderstorms in the afternoon. Vegetation is dense and lush because of summer rains, and the bush teems with newborn animals. A very good time for bird watching.

### Autumn

At the end of the summer rains the water holes are full. Temperatures begin to drop at night and the vegetation starts to change colour.

### Winter (May-October)

Daytime temperatures are pleasant and nights are cold. Visibility in the bush is very good, making winter an excellent time for game viewing.

### Autumn

The dull bush changes to lively green vegetation at the start of the rainy season. Temperatures are pleasant.

## CREDIT CARDS, PHONES & CURRENCY

### Credit Cards

All major credit cards are accepted as a valid form of payment.

### Currency

The South African Rand (ZAR) is the local currency. There are 100c to every rand. Foreign exchange may be arranged at the airports, or in major centres / cities. It is not recommended that travellers carry large sums of cash. Rather keep a reasonable amount on hand, and primarily use credit cards. There are many road-side vendors along the major routes in the country selling local hand-crafted products. These vendors trade in cash only. Its highly recommended that you do not stop in informal settlements along your journey.

### Direct Dial Telephones

Similarly, laptop computers may be connected to the internet via Wi-Fi. Cellular reception is limited at the volunteer accommodation

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## HEALTH RISKS

There are a number of health issues that you should be aware of, especially if you are from the northern hemisphere. Immunisation: When entering South Africa, no international immunisation is required. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over 21 years of age if they enter South Africa within 6 days of leaving an infected country. Our advice: Visit your local (travel) doctor to get up-to-date information about requirements when travelling. DTP inoculation (diphtheria, tetanus and polio) is essential. Please visit the following web page for advice from the UK Foreign Office:

[http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/201/south-africa#Vaccine\\_recommendations](http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/201/south-africa#Vaccine_recommendations)

### HIV/Aids in south Africa:

As in other countries, HIV/Aids is a serious concern in South Africa and one you must be aware of. You should at all times be careful when dealing with an injured person to avoid the risk of infection. Always take necessary precautions and avoid sexual contact.

### Malaria:

The region of Kwazulu Natal that Somkhanda is located is malaria and bilharzia free – protection would only be required if you travel further afield, e.g. to parts of the Kruger Park, the Northern Province, Mpumalanga, northern KwaZulu Natal and Zululand. The risk of contracting the disease is negligible provided you take the standard precautions. Malaria tablets, a good insect repellent and particularly in the evening, long-sleeved shirts and mosquito coils are advisable precautions.

<http://www.sa-venues.com/malaria-risk-areas.htm>

### Sun:

We have a warm sunny climate and you should wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are out of doors during the day, particularly between 10am and 4pm - regardless of whether there is cloud cover or not. Even if you have a dark complexion, you can still get sunburned if you are from a cooler climate and have not had much exposure to the sun. Sunglasses are also recommended, as the glare of the African sun can be very strong.

### Drinking Water:

Drinking water is available at the project, either in the form of purified tap water or rain water from collection tank – both are perfectly safe for consumption.

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## INSURANCE

Personal travel insurance is compulsory. Travel insurance does not need to be expensive and there are many good deals available for backpackers etc. Always be sure to check the insurance plan details and ensure that you are covered for theft, loss, illness and injury. Check to see if your medical benefits are paid out as they incur or on your return home. Also, automatic coverage received when booking your flight by credit card will not be sufficient. Please follow this link to our preferred insurer

<https://www.endsleigh.co.uk/personal/gap-africa-projects/>

## PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

It can take up to 6 weeks to obtain a passport - remember to start this process timorously. Important: Your passport needs to be valid for 30 days after your return to your home country and have one fully blank pages side by side.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

At present, a temporary visitor's permit, valid for up to 90 days is granted for nationals from the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. This is granted on presentation of your passport at arrival. If you are intending to stay for longer than 90 days, it is recommended that you apply for a visa at your local South African Consulate.

The latest visa requirements are available at this link:  
([http://www.homeaffairs.gov.za/visa\\_detail.asp](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.za/visa_detail.asp))

Remember: As a volunteer, you are not paid to work and should therefore declare your purpose of visit as 'holiday' or 'tourism'.

## UNDER 18'S TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Anyone under the age of 18 travelling to or through South Africa will now require further documentation that will need to be presented on all leagues of your journey. It is very important that you have the correct documentation in place in preparation for your travels. Please visit the following link for further information:

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/621-advisory-new-requirements-for-children-travelling-through-south-african-ports-of-entry-effective-1-june-2015>

## STAY SAFE OVERSEAS - KBYG

The better prepared you are when you travel abroad, the safer you will be. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office offers 'Know before you go' travel advice, including simple precautions you can take before and during your trip.

To find out more, check out their website:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/travel-abroad>

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## ACCOMMODATION AT SOMKHANDA

In keeping with the Safari Adventure theme, groups are accommodated on the reserve in comfortable safari tents, with communal hot and cold showers and regular flushing toilets. All meals are provided in a communal dining room. If student opt to sleep out there are basic camps around the reserve that can be used for sleep outs; Sleeping out under the stars and learn how to make a fire and cook on it! There is also a lodge available for students and lecturers at an additional surcharge.



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## ST LUCIA- COASTAL ADVENTURE

The coastal town of St. Lucia is situated on the northern side of the estuary, the largest in Southern Africa, and is totally surrounded by the Greater St. Lucia Wetlands Park and World Heritage Site. South of the estuary is Mapelane Nature Reserve, which forms the southern boundary of the Park and stretches northwards 220km to the Mozambique border.

The area is famous for its wetlands and is a fantastic opportunity to witness Crocodiles and Hippos in their natural environment.

St Lucia is also home to the Crocodile Research centre and students will enjoy a day of hands on volunteer work at the centre.

You will also have the opportunity to visit the beautiful beach and sand dunes as well as enjoy a Whale Watching trip to see Southern Right and Humpbacks.

**Accommodation:** St Lucia Hostel

**Activities:** Estuary Hippo & Croc boat trip, snorkelling, Whale Watching, Crocodile Research Centre.



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## SUGGESTED KIT LIST

- Short sleeve shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts (Or work trousers with zip-off longs)
- T shirts
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Rain jacket
- Sweat shirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker - warm (it can get very cold on an open vehicle - even on a summer evening)
- Daypack rucksack
- Sleeping Bag – for sleep out / camping in summer months (weather dependent)
- Socks
- Warm Hat (in winter only) /Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Working gloves
- Gloves for warmth (in winter only)
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Bath towel
- Beach towel
- Swimming costume
- Toiletries
- Tick / insect repellent

### Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Good torch
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Personal medical goodies
- Cards/CD's
- Sunscreen
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen

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