



PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION PACK



Somkhanda Conservation Field Trip



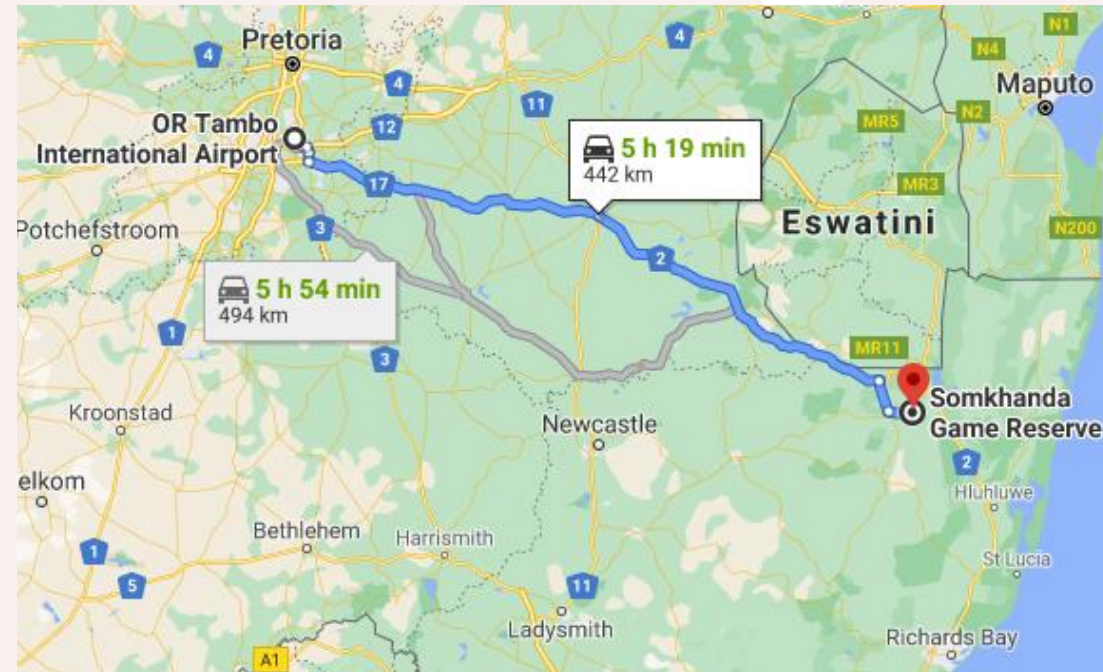
GLOBAL reach. **ADVENTURE** for all. **PROJECTS** to inspire.

Arrival at Johannesburg International Airport (OR Tambo)

On arrival at Johannesburg International Airport please clear immigration, collect your bags, clear customs and make your way to the arrivals hall where you will be met by a representative from Waterberg Transfers who will be transferring you to Somkhanda Game Reserve, approximately 5.5 hour journey.

If for any reason you are unable to locate the representative please call:

Operations on : + 27 83 227 8103 / +27 82 320 6515



CONTACT DETAILS

AFRICA

Address

R69 Candover Road,
Mkuze,
Kwazulu Natal,
South Africa

Somkhanda Landline

Telephone: +27 (0)81 816 2541

Mobile

+27(0) 81 816 2541
Lundy Bredberg (Project Manager)

Gap Africa Projects

+44 (0) 797 657 5949

24 Hour Emergency Only



Climate

Summer (November – April)

Expect intense heat in the daytime with occasional thunderstorms in the afternoon. Vegetation is dense and lush due to the summer rains and the bush teems with new born 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 vegetations starts to change colour

Winter (May – October)

During winter the temperatures are pleasant during the day but cold at night. Visibility in the bush is very good making winter and excellent time for game viewing.

Spring

The bush changes to lively green vegetation and temperatures are pleasant

Currency, Credit Cards, Phones & Internet

The currency for South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR). Foreign exchange may be arranged at the airport or in major centres. It is not recommended that travellers carry large sums of cash, keep a reasonable amount on hand and primarily use credit cards.

All major credit cards are widely accepted.

Mobile phone reception is very sporadic and large areas of the reserve have no coverage at all; on arrival in South Africa you will be able to access local providers, make sure you have advised your service provider before travelling, Cell C is the best option but please be aware that you may still not be able to get any reception at the reserve.

There is limited Internet access available while at the accommodation, you can purchase top up data for the sim cards.

Health Risks

Summer (November–April)

There are a few 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 is to 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/southafrica#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 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 in is malaria and bilharzia free. Only if you intend to travel further afield, e.g. to parts of the Kruger Park, the Northern Province, Mpumalanga, northern KwaZulu Natal and Zululand would you need to consider taking additional precautions. 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>

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 details to make sure 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.

Please follow this link to our preferred insurer:

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

Stay safe overseas – KBYG

The better prepared you are when you travel abroad the safer you will be. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development 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>

Passport Requirements

It can take up to 6 weeks to obtain a passport – remember to start this process in plenty of time.

Your passport needs to be valid for at least 30 days beyond your intended stay and have at least two blank pages.

Visa Requirements

A visa is not required for British Passport holders, all other nationalities should check the requirements via the website below, if required a visa can be obtained from the South African High Commission.

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/exempt-countries>

Suggested kit list

- Short sleeve shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts
(Or work trousers with zip-off long)
- T shirts
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Rain jacket
- Sweatshirt/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 (for extra warmth in winter)
- Socks
- Warm Hat (winter only) / Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Working gloves
- Gloves for warmth (winter only)

- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Sunglasses
- Beach towel
- Swimming costume
- Toiletries
- Tick / insect repellent

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Good torch
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Personal medical items
- Cards/Music
- Sunscreen
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen

WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

What is included?

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- ATOL protection
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 In country support



NOT Included

- Personal Travel Insurance *
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Visa's/travel documents

* We recommend that you take out personal travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.

Somkhanda Game Reserve – Main Camp

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.

If students 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!

All meals are provided in a communal dining room



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

Food at Somkhanda

Three meals are provided a day prepared by the kitchen staff.

Breakfasts will consist of toast and cereals; lunch may include pasta, wraps, burgers, stir fry; dinners include meat, fish and vegetables with rice, potatoes or pasta.

On weekends a braai (BBQ) is often organised. Tea, coffee and fruit is available all day from the volunteer area.

Please advise us of any dietary requirements in advance so we can ensure that you are adequately catered for.



Kosi Bay Coastal Research

Located at the entrance to ISimangaliso Wetland Reserve you will be staying in tented accommodation there are communal showers with hot and cold water.

Food is provided in the communal dining areas.

Solar powered electricity, so be aware that power is limited.





GLOBAL reach. **ADVENTURE** for all. **PROJECTS** to inspire.

Explore our network of Global Adventure Projects:



GLOBALADVENTUREPROJECTS.COM

