



# PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



## Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course



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

**AFRICA**

# INDEX

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>ABOUT THE PROJECT</b>	<b>6-9</b>
<b>ITINERARY</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION &amp; LIFESTYLE</b>	<b>11-12</b>
<b>USEFUL INFORMATION</b>	<b>13-16</b>







**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

AFRICA

## Location

The Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course is based at the Welgevonden Wildlife Reserve, (Dutch for "well found"), is a 36,000ha Wildlife reserve in the Waterberg District of the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

A pleasant 4-hour drive from Johannesburg makes Welgevonden one of the most accessible premier **malaria free** wilderness reserves in the country. It forms part of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve which was officially declared by UNESCO in 2001 and currently covers an area in excess of 4000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The reserve comprises of mountainous terrain that is dissected by deep valleys and kloofs while flat plateaus characterise most hilltops. Altitude varies from 1080 m in the north to  $\pm$ 1800 m in the southern section of the reserve.





## Welgevonden Wildlife Reserve

Welgevonden is home to over 50 different mammals, including the Big Five. There are rare and unusual species too, such as brown hyena, pangolin, aardwolf and aardvark – all best seen at night.

The grassy plains abound with antelope from the largest eland to the diminutive duiker; cheetah, lion and leopard are always close by. It is the diversity of habitat on the reserve that encourages such a wide range of wildlife as well as over 300 bird species, including rare blue cranes.

At 36,000ha in size, Welgevonden Wildlife Reserve lies in the Waterberg plateau, about 250km north of Johannesburg. Here guests enjoy unlimited traversing through the reserve and experience an environment where biodiversity conservation and wildlife viewing are managed in harmony. Welgevonden protects a unique and special environment and the reserve's management is deeply committed to ongoing conservation research and development.



## Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Nurse/Technician Course

This course provides the opportunity for hands on practical wildlife experience for pre-Vet/vet nurses/technicians or those studying in the veterinary field. Based at the reserve's research camp working directly with the conservation and research team; this department runs and manages the day to day decisions and monitoring of the wildlife and eco system of the reserve. The team and their work is crucial to the management and welfare of all wildlife on the reserve; selecting which animals need to be removed from the reserve and which need to be added to maintain a balanced ecosystem.

Time will be spent working with local wildlife vets and specialists with whom the research team work.

One of the main objectives for our groups is white rhino monitoring including identification of individuals and body condition scoring. On occasion, groups will assist in the darting, DNA sampling and ear tagging rhinos on the reserve. This work is carried out by Dr Pierre Bester a rhino expert specialist & Dr Peter Caldwell, a world famous carnivore vet; both have a wealth of knowledge in the wildlife industry and it is an amazing opportunity for the students to learn from them.

With specialists in conservation and wildlife as well as veterinary surgeons, the project provides a wealth of informative lectures and practical experiences.





## Your Conservation Programme – Conservation Research Team

As part of your project, you will be heavily involved with the day to day field work conducted by the research team.

Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Wildlife transects – estimates of numbers, body condition and herd structure
- Use of telemetry tracking
- White Rhino monitoring research
- Elephant behaviour study
- Camera Trap Surveys (Black Rhino and other cryptic animals)
- Nocturnal species ID and night wildlife drive
- Wildlife breeding management (buffalo, rhino & big cats)
- Visit to temporary holding bomas for rhino and predators
- Animal tracking
- Collecting faecal samples for research
- Local wildlife auction (Only on certain weekends)
- Alien plant species eradication
- Land capacity exercise – number of animals vs land support

## Your Conservation Programme – Veterinary Activities

Welgevonden Game Reserve utilises the services of several wildlife veterinarians, depending on the nature of the work. Veterinary interactions are never guaranteed and the below are given as examples only.

- Darting simulation and shooting practice exercise
- Wildlife immobilisation – darting buffalo/sable/zebra/impala
- Immobilisation of white rhino for DNA tagging, ear notching and samples
- Elephant contraception study
- Supplementary feeding of Buffalo and Rhino
- Wildlife capture and relocation as part of Meta Population Management
- Replacing/fitting of tracking collars on various antelope species
- Observe helicopter darting of large wildlife species i.e. white rhino
- Postmortem of a wildlife species (not guaranteed)



## Lectures

- Managing wildlife reserves and land capacity model
- Species control – predator pits
- State veterinary disease control in practice – Notifiable disease sampling; TB, Foot & Mouth, Brucellosis, Corridor Disease
- Documentation – what is required, Red Cross permits etc.
- Drugs used in wildlife medicine
- Dosage calculation for wildlife
- Logistics of wildlife transportation – vehicles, crates and equipment
- Wildlife trade auction and value of livestock
- Wildlife capture systems
- Darting wildlife
- Boma management and rehabilitation







**AFRICA**

# **LIFESTYLE & ACCOMMODATION**

Inclusions/Exclusions &  
Recommended Kit List





## Welgevonden

The student centre and camp is based on the reserve and boasts twelve tents that sleep up to four people per tent in single beds, each tent also has lighting and electricity supply. There are communal hot and cold showers and regular flushing toilets. There are communal facilities including a lecture room, canteen, lounge, entertainment area and storage fridge. The centre also has access to Wi-Fi. The camp is fenced off inside the boundaries of the reserve, check out the aerial shot of camp! You can wake up and find an elephant 10 meters from your door!



## Welgevonden

All meals are provided in the communal dining room, there is an outside area for dining as well.

Three meals are provided daily on a self cook basis, prepared communally by the group. Students will take part in communal cooking and keeping the kitchen tidy. Meals will either be served at the facility or as a pre-packed serving, this depends on activities either planned or unscheduled.

Most evenings are spent at leisure around the camp enjoying the sounds of Africa.

The research team often work 6 days a week so time off is often limited to Sundays only.





# WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

## What is included?

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

## NOT Included

- Flights
- 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.

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

## Course dates are:

12<sup>th</sup> July – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021

26<sup>th</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021

9<sup>th</sup> August – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021

23<sup>rd</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021

3<sup>rd</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Trip Cost:

**\$1,549.00 per person\***

\*This price can be taken as indicative only and is based on a group size of 10 students. No reservations are being held on behalf of the group.

## What is included?

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

## NOT Included

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

\* We recommend you take out as soon as your booking is confirmed





## 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 (especially during summer months)
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Buff/neck warmer useful all year round
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker - warm  
(it can get very cold on an open vehicle - even on a summer evening)
- Daypack rucksack
- Sleeping Bag - for extra warmth in winter
- Socks
- Warm Hat (winter only) /Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Gloves for warmth (winter only)

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

### Other useful items:

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

## Feedback from previous students

### Favourite parts of the trip -

'Rhino and Zebra capture were the highlights and being able to work with animals up close'

'Anything that involved working hands on with wildlife! Also the camp and staff were amazing'

### Skills that they were able to practice -

General life skills

Communication

Patience

Tracking and identifying exotic species, body scoring, anatomy and physiology (bone ID and dissections)

Darting

TPR on wildlife

Handling and restraint

Species ID and body conditioning

Medicating

Monitoring sedation/anaesthesia

*A number of students commented that 'this course gave them a real confidence boost'*





# BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

AFRICA

Please visit our website to access the Trip Booking Form:

<https://gapafricaprojects.com/booking-form-waterberg-wildlife-vet-ind/>

## Why Choose Global Adventure Projects?



Passionate about travel, wildlife and conservation



Believers in the power of education



Wealth of travel experience



Expert knowledge and diverse specialisms



Committed to customer service



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

Explore our network of Global Adventure Projects:



[GLOBALADVENTUREPROJECTS.COM](http://GLOBALADVENTUREPROJECTS.COM)

