



Askham Bryan College

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION PACK



Welgevonden

Wildlife & Veterinary Course

AFRICA

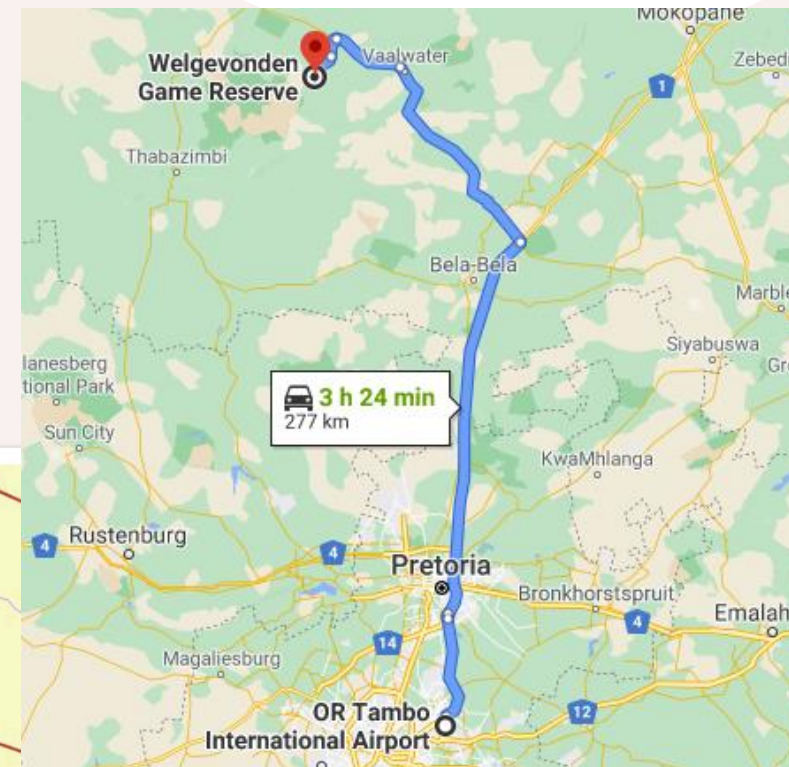
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Arrival at Johannesburg International Airport (OR Tambo)

On arrival at Johannesburg International Airport after clearing immigration, collect your bags, clear customs and make your way to the arrivals hall information desk where you will be met by a representative from Waterberg Transfers who will be transferring you to Welgevonden Game Reserve, approximately 3.5 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

Welgevonden Game Reserve
PO Box 433
Vaalwater 0530
South Africa

Welgevonden Landline

Telephone: +27 (0)87 813 0501
Alternative: +27 (0)83 407 6830

Mobile

+27(0) 82 888 6354
Margerie Aucamp (Bio Monitoring Officer)

Gap Africa Projects

+44 (0) 797 657 5949

24 Hour Emergency Only

Gap Africa Projects In Country Contact

+27 (0) 79 313 2276 Carmen Warmenhove



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 and early morning. 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 at shops, the reserve does not have a credit card facility.

Mobile phone reception is available at the accommodation, although there are some areas on the reserve where there isn't any coverage. If you purchase an SA sim/data card there is a cell booster at the research camp offices

Internet access via Wi-Fi is available, please bear in mind that it is adequate for communication, but you may not download movies or use video calling etc. as this would affect the bandwidth which would impact the reserve.

Tipping

Whilst there is no obligation, it is a nice gesture to show your appreciation for the rangers and housekeeping staff by leaving a small tip/donation for the staff at the reserve when you leave; any amount is always appreciated.

Health Risks

Immunisation:

When entering South Africa, no international immunisation is required, however, a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers 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:

<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/201/south-africa>

Drinking Water:

Drinking water is available at the project; always make sure you keep hydrated.

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 always be careful when dealing with an injured person to avoid the risk of infection. Always take necessary precautions and avoid sexual contact.

Sun:

South Africa has a warm sunny climate, you should wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are out of doors during the day, particularly between 10am and 4 pm – regardless of whether there is cloud cover or not. Whatever your complexion you can still get sunburned if you are from a cooler climate. Sunglasses are also recommended as the glare of the African sun can be very strong.

Malaria:

The Waterberg area of the Limpopo Province where Welgevonden is located is malaria free.

<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 Covid 19, theft, loss, illness and injury. Check to see if your medical benefits are paid out as they incur or on your return home.

Covid 19 Requirements

If you are unvaccinated, you must have a negative PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival in South Africa, you must have a paper copy of your test result, it is recommended that you have several copies of the test with you.

Vaccinated travellers must be able to produce evidence of their vaccination status.

Please see the link below for up-to-date information on requirements to enter South Africa:

[South Africa Covid Regulations](#)

For up-to-date information on returning to the UK after travelling abroad please click on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

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>

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>

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 (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

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

Accommodation

The student centre and camp is based on the reserve and boasts twelve tents that sleep 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. The communal facilities include a lecture room, canteen, lounge, entertainment area and storage fridge.

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!



Meals and free time

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.

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

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

Most evenings are spent at leisure around the camp.





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