WRITTLE COLLEGE
INFORMATION PACK

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

TRIP OVERVIEW

Writtle College– Booking Reference 4656

Trip Dates:

2nd June to 12th June 2025

International Flights:

TBC 1st June London Heathrow (LHR)– Johannesburg (JNB) arriving 2nd June 2025*

TBC 12th June Johannesburg (JNB) – London Heathrow (LHR) arriving 13th June 2025*

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage Allowance – 1 piece of checked baggage @23kgs, 1 piece of hand baggage @ 23kgs max dimensions 56x36x25 cms

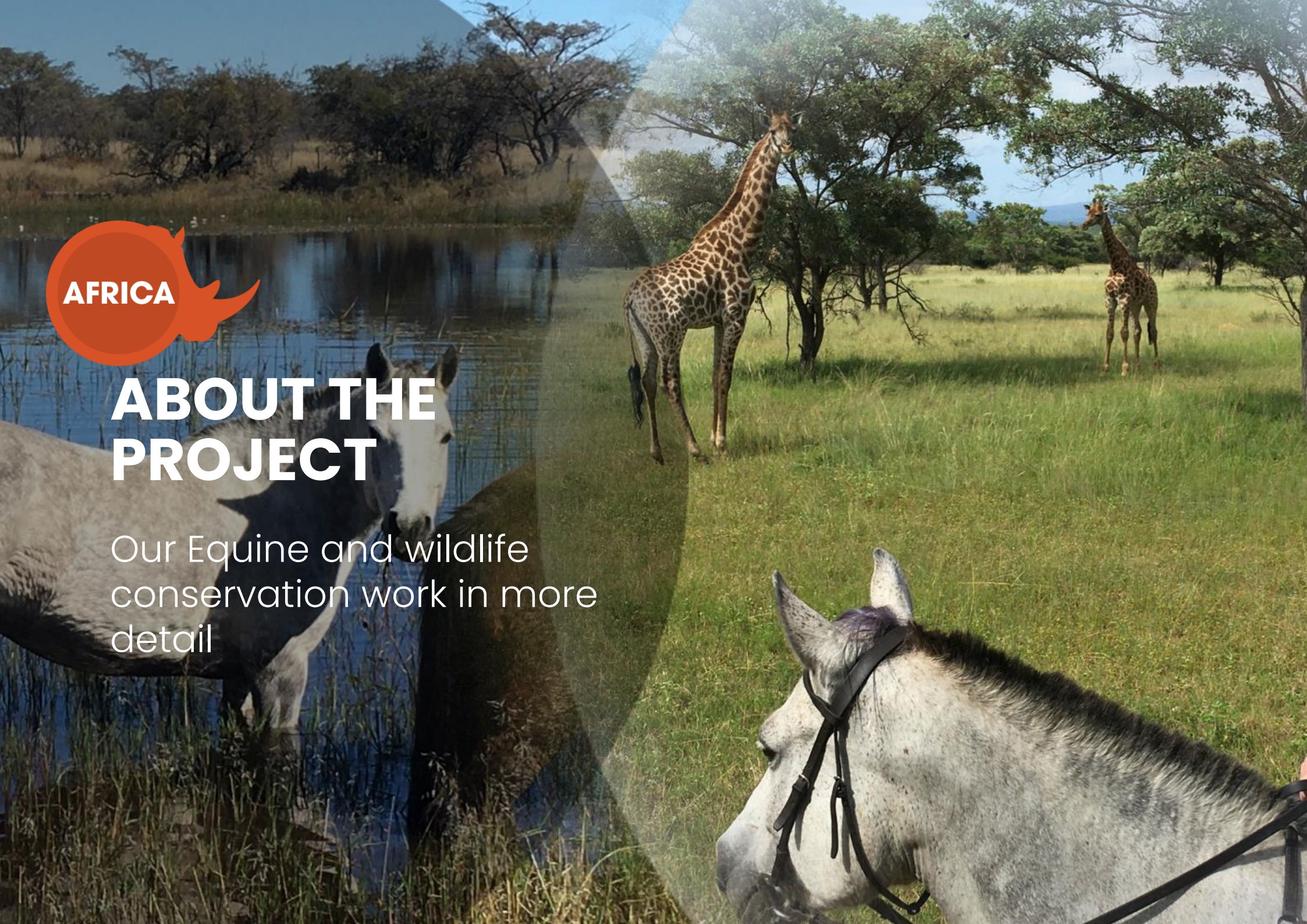
Project:

Waterberg Equine and Wildlife Project

Trip Cost:

£2895.00 per person (to be confirmed once flights are available)

- £300.00 Deposit
- £1297.50 Instalment due 10/02/2025
- £1297.50 Balance due 07/04/2025



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our Equine and wildlife conservation work in more detail

ABOUT WATERBERG HORSE TRAILS

Waterberg Horse Trails

Location

Waterberg Horse Trails is based at Waterberg Cottages, located near Vaalwater in the Waterberg Region of the Limpopo Province, just 3 hours from Johannesburg Airport. The project is set in a 3000-hectare 'bushveld' nature reserve.

The Limpopo Province is the northmost province in South Africa, and it borders Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The Waterberg Region is Malaria free and the property is included in the UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve.

The reserve neighbours the Boschdraai Village, a local small community.

ABOUT WATERBERG HORSE TRAILS

Your Equine Project Explained

- A unique equine and wildlife project based in South Africa
- Live and work on a Game Reserve that specialises in Horseback safaris
- Tailor-made projects to suit your needs and interests
- Project activities include
    - Equine Welfare
    - Equine Management
    - Conservation activities
    - Community Development
- Dedicated horses, staff, and vehicles
- 10-day all-inclusive experience
- The most incredible mix of equine and wildlife experience you will ever have

ABOUT WATERBERG HORSE TRAILS

Waterberg Horse Trail – History, Horses and Wildlife

Waterberg Horse Trails, based at Waterberg Cottages, has been a beautiful and safe bush destination for self-catering guests for over 30 years.

They are situated in a 3000-hectare game reserve with a large list of wildlife including buffalo, giraffe, zebra, eland, wildebeest, blesbok, ostrich as well as the rare and elusive aardvark.

The reserve forms part of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve and the vegetation is savanna bushveld.

Waterberg Equine and Wildlife

The Horses

The herd of horses is a lovely mix of all ages. They are free to graze in the open 'veld' (wild fields/bush).

Most of the horses are a South African breed called 'Boerperd', which stand at about 14 – 16 hands in size and are known to be robust and trustworthy.

Because of the remote location all care, maintenance and most veterinary care is done on-site by the team.

The reserve's wildlife is often monitored from horseback as the animals are comfortable with the horses' presence.

The reserve has a good combination of thicker bush, sandy roads and open areas, making for excellent riding terrain.

YOUR PROJECT

Community Work

Boschdraai Village which is located on the farm, only a few hundred metres, from the Cottages. The peaceful village consists of around 350 residents, many of whom are unemployed or subsistence farmers growing their own small crops and raising chickens. Some residents have donkeys which they use for transport of people and firewood. Students will join the team in checking on the community members' donkeys and offer input into the donkey's care and well-being. They will treat wounds and give the donkeys food/treats. There are also often pregnant mares who need extra care or attention.

In the community, there are many children who make village visits a delight. Dora from the cottages offers guests a village tour where one gets to visit the young and old and sample some local village food.

YOUR PROJECT

Horse activities

- Grooming
- Feeding
- Outrides (game monitoring on horseback)
- Herding (bringing horses in and moving camps)
- Basic farriery and trimming of hooves
- Lunging
- Horse desensitising
- Poisonous plant removal
- Collecting wire and dangerous objects in bush
- Filling dangerous holes

Basic veterinary care

- Wound treatments
- Preventative treatments
- Injections
- Deworming
- Weekly tick dipping of horses

YOUR PROJECT

Wildlife Conservation Activities

- Telemetry tracking and handling
- Interpretive bush walks and tracking
- Game (wildlife) drives
- Game capture (seasonal)

Other Activities

- Astronomy show

YOUR PROJECT

Big Five Game Reserve

A day in the second week will be dedicated to visiting a 36000ha big-5 game reserve, also in the Waterberg – there, students will have the opportunity to see two other types of *perissodactyls;* and the very successful **white rhino** and **plains zebra** populations and their positive effects on the Reserve's ecology as 'ecosystem engineers'.

The reserve is also home to large predators; lion, cheetah, hyena and leopard as well as other megaherbivores including elephant and black rhino.

Sample Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrive Johannesburg Airport and transfer to the Waterberg. Introduction lunch to meet and greet your guides and host. Afternoon game drive and dinner

Day 2 – Find and herd the horses, tie up and feed them before a guided walk tracking spoors and dung. Afternoon horse safari

Day 3 – Visit the rural village of Boschdraai, meet the people, their donkeys and horses. After lunch a lecture on types of diseases, presentation and treatment. Demonstration on desensitizing horses and lunging using voice commands only. Evening Astronomy show in the bush with a hot water bottle!

Day 4 – Visit to Horizon Horseback to see their herd of over 100 horses. Tour of the veterinary pens with a talk and demonstration based on Monty Roberts teaching. Lecture on the psychology of the horse. Afternoon activities include dipping of horses to prevent and remove ticks

Day 5 – Day off/ Relaxing by the pool, playing volleyball or walking trails (optional town trip or zipline adventure at own cost)

- Day 6 – Working with the donkeys in Boschdraai Village; recording numbers, condition and providing advice to the owners. Afternoon horseback safari
- Day 7: Morning working in the bush to remove wire and other dangerous items. After lunch a talk on Aardvarks followed by a game drive to find Aardvark dens, the day completes with an evening "stake out" to watch the Aardvarks feeding
- Day 8 – Community work in the village, painting the community centre or other activities that are beneficial to the local community.
- Day 9 – Demonstration and talk on basic farriery and trimming of hooves. Lunging and grooming the horses then a ride out in the bush.
- Day 10 – Transfer to the Big 5 reserve for game drives and monitoring of white rhino and plains zebra populations
- Day 11 – Transfer to Johannesburg Airport for your flight home.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTLE

Life at the project

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Accommodation

The group will be accommodated in the beautiful historic thatch cottages surrounded by gardens, horses, animals and views of the bushveld.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Food and Meals

All meals are provided. Hosts create wholesome home-cooked style meals made with local ingredients and cater for all dietary requirements.

Dinners are catered and served to the students in the evenings, lunches will be made by the group in teams and breakfast will be self-service.

There will be opportunities to taste local dishes including the traditional 'braai' (BBQ) and to enjoy meals in unique outdoor locations.

ACCOMMODATION AND LIFESTYLE

Life on the farm

In your spare time you can enjoy the heated swimming pool, play volleyball, enjoy an outdoor bonfire, relax in the garden with the family farm dogs, watching birds or go on the walking trails. You can play board games and cards or just lounge at the cozy indoor fireplace on colder evenings.

There will be many opportunities to enjoy your morning tea or coffee while watching the sunrise or watch the sunset with a drink; *sundowners* are quintessential in the African bush.

WATERBERG EQUINE & WILDLIFE

Photo gallery

USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

What is included?

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

NOT Included

- Personal Travel Insurance *
- Meals on travel days - before arriving & after departing from the project
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Visas/travel documents
- Tips
- Riding hat, boots, gloves, body protector – see kit list

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

USEFUL INFORMATION

Suggested Kit List

- Short and long sleeve T-shirts *
- Long work trousers and shorts *
  (Or work trousers with zip-off longs)
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Rain jacket
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Riding hat
- Jodhpurs
- Riding boots
- Gloves
- Daypack rucksack
- Socks
- Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Gloves for warmth (winter only)
- Water bottle (filtered rainwater provided)

* All work clothes should be neutral or earth tones for working in the bush. No skimpy or bright-colored clothing to be worn

- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Beach towel
- Swimming costume
- Toiletries
- Tick / insect repellent
- Personal medical items/First Aid Kit
- Sunscreen and sunglasses

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Good torch
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Cards/music
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen

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