



# Bath College Group Presentation



## Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course

**AFRICA**

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





AFRICA

# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

Project overview and  
location

# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

AFRICA

## Your Conservation Field Trip Explained

- **A unique conservation experience based in South Africa**
- **Live in a research camp on a wild African game reserve**
- **12 day programme specifically tailored for VN students**
- **Learn about conservation management**
- **Project Activities include:**
  - Pioneering Conservation Research
  - Conservation Activities
  - Veterinary interventions and activities
- **Dedicated vehicles and conservation staff**
- **All inclusive experience**
- **The most incredible wildlife experience you will ever have**



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## What is a Game Reserve?

- A game reserve is a large area of protected land where wild animals can live safely.
- Wildlife is free roaming throughout the reserve allowing them to thrive in their natural habitat.
- Reserves are either Government Owned (National Parks) or Privately Owned/Managed.
- Most reserves will have physical boundaries i.e. electrified fence line.
- Due to physical boundaries, wildlife must be managed due to restraints on population growth, migration and resources.
- Wildlife is protected but also utilised as a tourist attraction (Eco Tourism) which creates funding for conservation efforts and research.



# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

AFRICA

## Entabeni Safari Conservancy

- 22 000 Hectare Privately Managed Game Reserve
- Forming part of the Waterberg Biosphere (662 059 ha)
- Work alongside the conservation team including:
  - Wildlife Vets
  - Conservation Researchers
  - Ecologists
  - Anti Poaching Unit
- Located in a Malaria free zone
- Proclaimed Protected Conservation Area
- Savannah Eco System
- Student Camp Accommodation

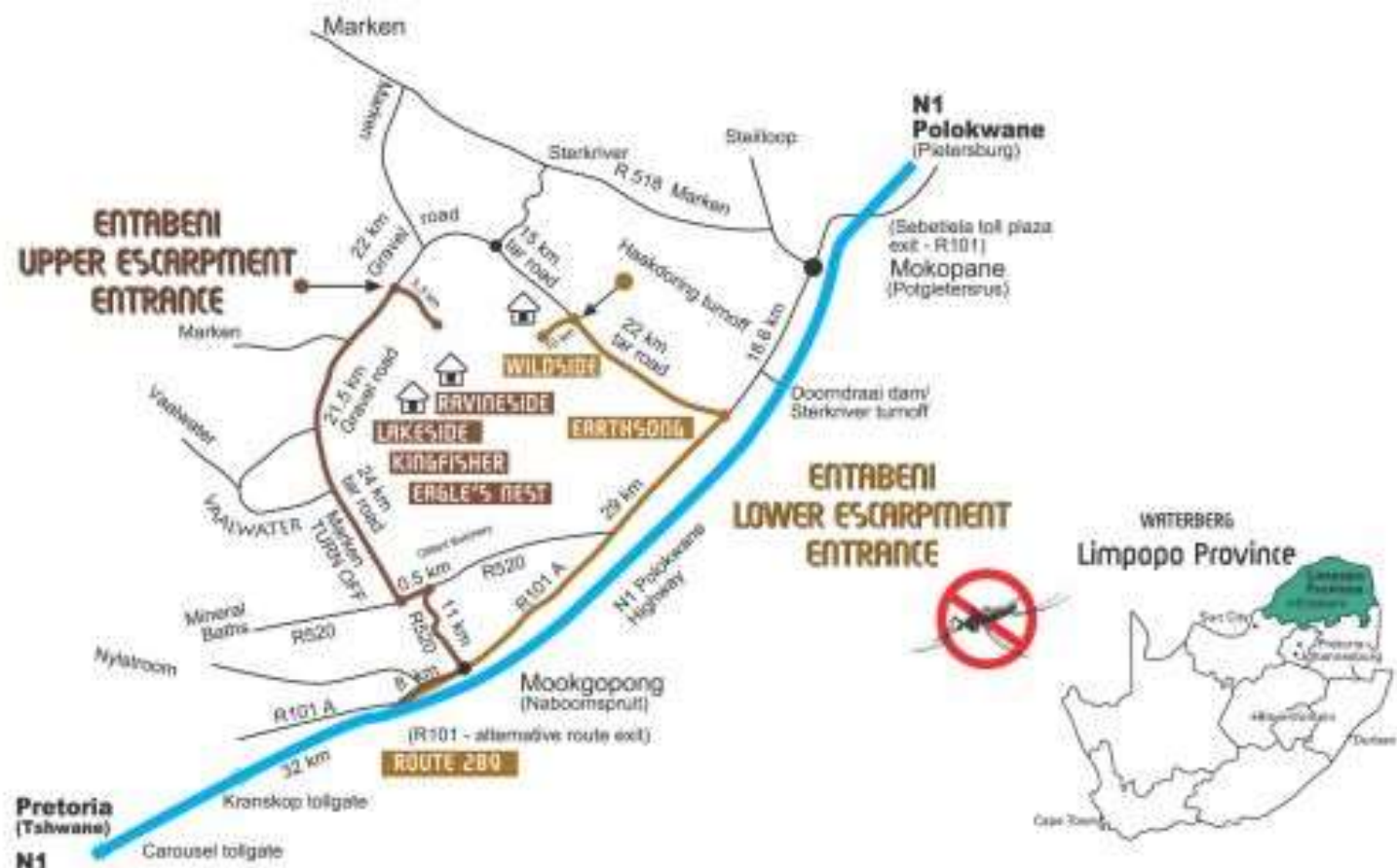


# ABOUT ENTABENI

AFRICA

## Entabeni Safari Conservancy – Location

- South Africa a world leader in conservation
- Malaria free Waterberg Plateau





# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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*TRUE WILDERNESS*



ANY QUESTIONS?

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# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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*TRUE WILDERNESS*



ANY QUESTIONS?

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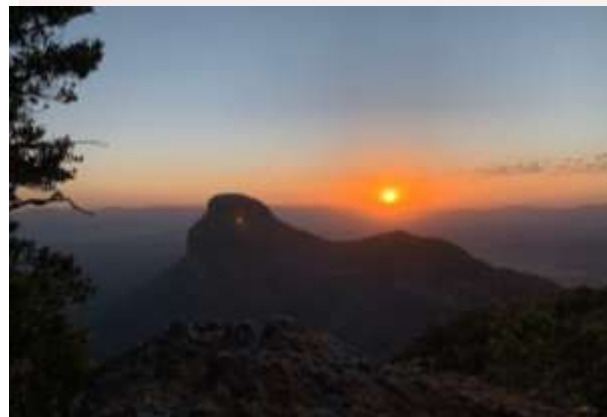
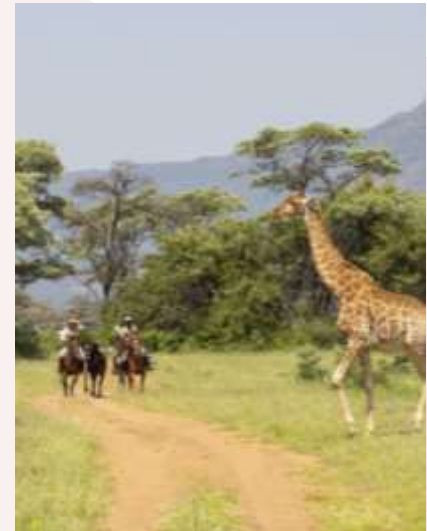
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# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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**Known for its dramatic landscape**



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# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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## Home to the BIG 5



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# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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Home to over 60 Species of Mammal



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# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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**Many Reptile, Insect and Bird Species**







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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work  
in more detail

## Course Fundamentals and Structure

- **Gain understanding of wildlife research and management that govern veterinary practices on reserve**
- **A Wildlife Vets role and responsibilities**
- **Expose participants to behind the scenes wildlife conservation and veterinary work**
- **Immobilisation and capture techniques used for various wildlife species**
- **Rhino protection through Veterinary Management**
- **Conservation Research**
- **Wildlife management and conservation challenges**
- **Appreciate the importance of herd health and intensive wildlife breeding**
- **Gain experience of a variety of veterinary wildlife and conservation working environments**
- **Vegetation types suitable for wildlife**
- **Tracks and tracking of Big Five**
- **Waterberg Wild Dog Project**
- **Rhino Rehabilitation**



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Course Study Manual



### GAP AFRICA PROJECTS

#### CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE AND VETERINARY

##### Course Manual

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Research Papers: Cited



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#### History of Conservation in South Africa

##### Introduction

South Africa's national protection system includes 178 protected areas, of which 18 are national parks. Ecotourism has direct and indirect benefits to the economy in terms of job creation, rural development, and the emergence of secondary industries involving local communities and remains the fifth largest earner of foreign exchange. Approximately 5.1% of South Africa's land area is currently under statutory protection. Although land claims are permitted in these areas, the land must remain in perpetuity as a national protected area, and the state has the power to block residential development and veto commercial operations which they deem detrimental to the conservation area.

Current conservation management structure in South Africa is as follows:

- National – Department of Environmental Affairs
- South African National Parks
- Provincial Authorities
- Private Reserves
- Non – Governmental Organizations



##### Pre-Colonial Era

South Africa has a history of conservation; traditionally people lived in harmony with nature and the philosophies of sustainability and conservation were inherent in society. As hunters and gatherers, the indigenous people of this country depended on natural resources for their survival. Prior to European colonisation access to natural resources was controlled and influenced by religious and cultural beliefs. There were superstitions against killing certain species like hyaena, hamarokop or chameleon and people were prohibited from hunting or eating their totem animals (these included eland, zebra, monkeys, squirrels or crocodiles). Scarce or valuable products like ivory, pangolin meat or leopard pelts were used by chiefs and kings only. Chiefs and tribal councils were responsible for making and enforcing the rules for resource control. Chieftaincies were powerful institutions that were respected and obeyed by local people and their authority was absolute. The combination of different types of controls regulated the use of natural resources and protected the resource base.

##### Colonial Era

This period saw the natural resources of the country being exploited and in 1656 Jan van Riebeeck gave instructions to regulate hunting in the Cape. The Southern Cape forests were valuable to the British Navy and from 1811 measures were introduced to conserve the forests around Plettenberg Bay. By the 1830s rapid deforestation led to increased conservation awareness and by the mid-19th century there was an active and influential conservation community in the Cape and the first game reserves in Africa were declared in the Kynna and Tsitsikamma forests in 1896.



The creation of parks resulted in communities being forcibly relocated to new areas, or losing their land. Conservation became elitist and access to parks required social privileges with game reserves being fenced off and communities losing their rights and access to resources within the reserves. Wild animals would escape from the parks into community land and damage crops and livestock and this increased feelings of resentment by local communities towards conservation authorities.

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At the higher end of the spectrum you will find professional poachers.

They have well-structured operations and use high technology methods which involve -

- tranquilizer guns,
  - helicopters,
  - veterinary drugs, and
  - high caliber weapons to kill rhinos.
- Many of the poachers seem to have had military training.

Often they have had prior access to information about the farm/reserve they intend to target. Unfortunately due to the fact that highly controlled and regulated veterinary drugs are often used in cases of rhino poaching it indicates that there is some involvement of veterinary professionals.



When they land the helicopter, they hack off the horns with a chainsaw. The use of a helicopter allows for easy access and quick getaways. Several media reports have indicated that the registration numbers on the tail of the aircraft get covered up or falsified during the operation. The rhino subsequently dies either from an overdose of tranquilizers or bleeds to death.

One troubling fact is that the methods being used by the syndicates often reflect those used by wildlife capture operators in professional rhino management operations.

The rhinos are normally darted with a dosage of lethal drugs that may result in a quick death, although some evidence shows that the animal suffered great stress before death.

If the drug dosage had been too low to kill the rhino the animal is likely to wake during the brutal removal of the horns with a chainsaw.

The severely maimed rhino will then attempt to breathe through a cavity in its nasal passage between its eyes. This rhino will have no sense of smell and if it survives will have a great battle to fight off any secondary infection.

##### Wildlife industry insiders part of the problem?

Increasing evidence links South Africa's rhino poaching with wildlife industry insiders.

These individuals are obviously in a great position to run wildlife crime syndicates and are typically also well funded and connected within the industry.

There are also rumors that rhino poaching syndicates are penetrating the hunting industry.

The hunting industry obviously has access to guns, permits, vehicles and charter aircraft making them target for rhino poaching syndicates.

These rumors seem to have merit because of the increasing number of arrests of -

game ranchers,  
safari operators and  
professional hunters.

##### How to stop rhino poaching?

Unfortunately there is no simple and obvious solution to this problem.

There is currently numerous proposals in the pipeline and some heated debates around opinions which include the following:

Strong differences of opinion between people calling for legalized trade in rhino horn (to turn it into a commodity) and those against it.

Addressing the issue of educating the end user in Asia.

To establish a database of all rhino horn DNA samples.

etc.

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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Course Fundamentals and Structure

### WEEK 1

Introduction to Entabeni Safari Conservancy and Research Projects

Introduction to Wildlife Veterinary work in the Context of African Wildlife (Dr Zoe Glyphis – Local Wildlife Vet) – 1 Day

Rhino orphanage – assist with orphaned rhino calves

Time spent with research team conducting conservation activities – 4 Days

### Week 2

Time spent with research team conducting conservation activities – 3 Days

Further insight into Wildlife Veterinary work (Dr Pierre Bester) – 1 Day

Build up to possible intervention and planning

Specialist Wildlife Vet to conduct intervention with group\*\*  
(Dr Pierre Bester) – 1 Day





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Bush Skills – Bush Walks, Tracking Wildlife



ANY QUESTIONS?

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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Monitoring the Entabni Rhino Population

Behavioural observations, photos and GPS locations are recorded to document where the animals are occurring; keeping tabs on the localities and activities of White and Black Rhino on the reserve.

Importantly also monitor body condition, injuries, mating, calving, behaviour, herd structure etc.





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Research – Elephant Monitoring & Fertility Study



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Research – Habitat and Prey Selection: Predators



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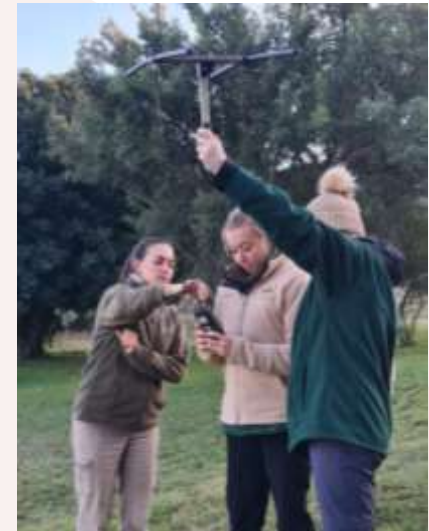
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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Population Management – Cheetah



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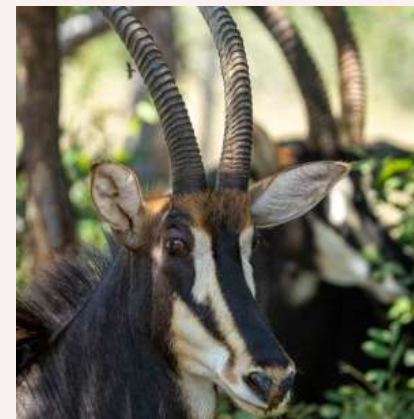
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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Monitoring Herbivore Condition and Health



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Camera Trap – Research and Study



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Night Game Drives



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Bushman Paintings & Reserve History



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Dr Pierre Bester – Wildlife Veterinarian – Rhino Expert

He has a mixed animal practice (small and large domestic as well as wild) where the scope of his work includes the immobilisation, treatment, and translocation of African wildlife; specialising in rhino.

He's been involved with the immobilisation and translocation of thousands of rhinos, as well as countless other species.





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Learning about a Veterinarians role in the field



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Introduction of Darting Techniques

Learn the basic principles for darting wildlife. Each student will have the opportunity to use the gas powered dart gun at the range.





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Introduction to Pharmacology



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## The Rhino Orphanage

The Rhino Orphanage was the first-ever specialised, non-commercial centre dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, raising and release of orphaned rhinos back into the wild.

Although new-born rhinos can weigh up to 50kgs, they are essentially “helpless” and require protection so that they may survive and ultimately thrive.





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Rhino – DNA Collection, ID and Ear Notching



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Elephant immobilization & collar change



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Lion immobilisation & collaring/removal



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Cheetah Relocation – Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Game Release and Introductions



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Necropsies



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Free-roaming Waterberg Wild Dog – Talks



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## Possible Lectures & Debate

- **Drugs used in wildlife medicine**
- **Calculating doses in wildlife**
- **Logistics of wildlife transportation: customised vehicles, crates and equipment**
- **The Game Trade-Auction and value of livestock**
- **Game capture systems**
- **Darting wildlife**
- **Boma management and rehabilitation**
- **Orphaned Rhino rehabilitation**
- **Parasite control**
- **Managing game reserves and Land Capacity Model**
- **Species control – predator pits**
- **State veterinary disease control in practice**
- **Documentation required: Red Cross Permits**
- **Notifiable disease sampling and control hands-on:**
  - Tuberculosis
  - Foot and Mouth
  - Brucellosis
  - Corridor Disease





**AFRICA**

# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Living in the African Bush



## Entabeni Student Bush Camp

The student camp is in the middle of the reserve and consists of modern shared accommodation units.

The one-bedroom units have a lounge/study area 2/3 students per bedroom unit.

Communal washing machine for students to do their laundry, as well as an outdoor communal living space for relaxation.

Two sets of linen and towels are provided per student for the entire period of stay.





## Student Bush Camp

All meals are included, and there is a communal kitchen where food will be prepared in groups.

Some days lunch will be had back at camp, other days lunch will be brought into the field to be had as a picnic.

Evenings are spent at leisure around the campfire.

Only Sunday will be an off day to 'chill' in camp or do extra activities.





# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

## Weekends – Sunday only

### Vaalwater Town and Township Tour

10h00 – 13h00: Visit local art gallery, curio shop, craft market, cultural heritage museum.

13h00: Lunch (For own account).

14h00 – 16h30: Traditional beer brewery and visit to Lapa for traditional dancing and music.

### Horse Riding Excursion

2 hour bush ride from 08h30 – 10h30  
Lunch included

**Weekend Activities can be booked and paid for locally. Or pre-booked with GAP Africa and paid locally.**





# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

## Life on Reserve



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# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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## A true life experience



ANY QUESTIONS?

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# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

## A true life experience



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**AFRICA**

# BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

The next steps to the trip of a  
lifetime!



# BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

AFRICA

## Proposed dates & key deadlines

### Proposed trip 2025 dates are:

**Depart UK: 6<sup>th</sup> July | Arrive SA: 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**Depart SA: 19<sup>th</sup> July | Arrive UK: 20<sup>th</sup> July**

### Trip cost:

**TBC £2,395 – £2,595 est**

*Based on a group size of 16 students*

## 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.





# BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

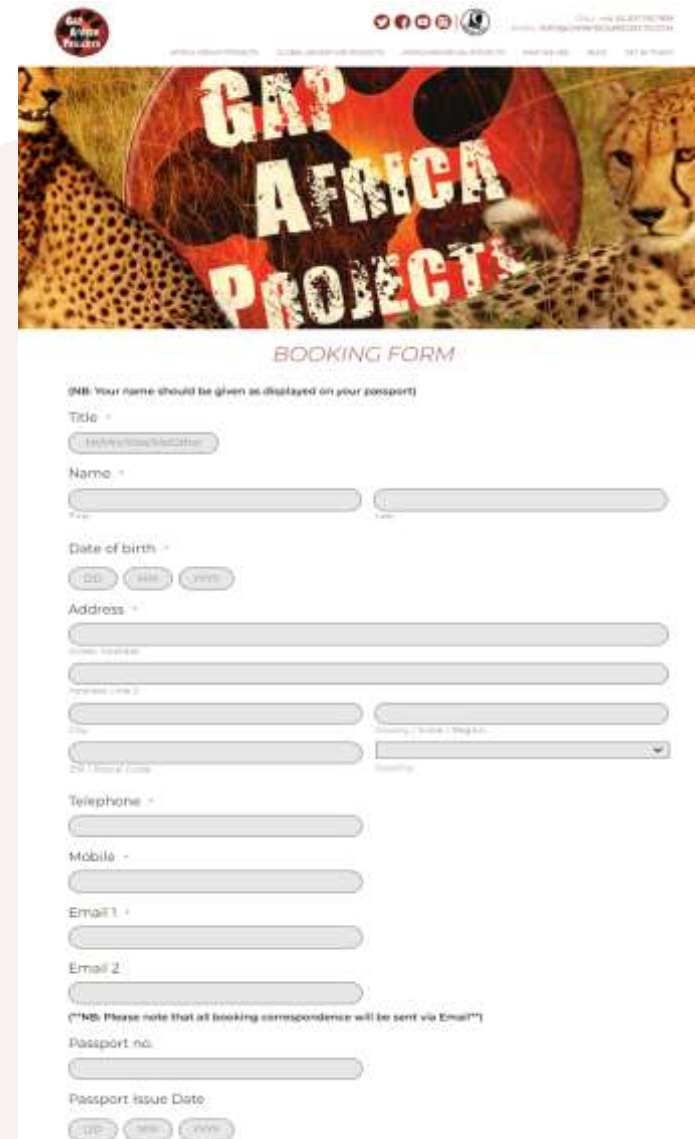
AFRICA

## Booking Form

- Please submit by 14/12/2023
- No deposit required at this stage of booking
- Passport fields not mandatory

## Key deadlines are:

- Deposit of £300 to confirm placement
- Instalment payment of 50% due 16 weeks before departure
- Balance payment due 8 weeks before departure



The screenshot shows the 'GAP Africa Project' booking form. At the top is a banner with a cheetah and the text 'GAP AFRICA PROJECT'. Below the banner is the title 'BOOKING FORM'. The form includes fields for Title, Name (first and last), Date of birth (with dropdowns for DD, MM, and YYYY), Address (with multiple lines for street, city, and country), Telephone (with fields for main and mobile), Email (with fields for Email 1 and Email 2), and Passport details (Passport no. and Passport issue Date with dropdowns for DD, MM, and YYYY). A note at the bottom states: '(\*NB: Please note that all booking correspondence will be sent via Email\*)'.



## AFRICA



## Sustainability & Social, Economic Responsibility

**Local employment from rural communities** – our project partners employ a high percentage of staff from local communities. They advocate training to advance careers in hospitality, wildlife and conservation.

**Low environmental impact camps** – our project bush camps are built with minimal impact on the environment. Resources from the surrounding area are utilised for buildings, water is (where possible) pumped from local river sources and green energy supplies, such as solar are championed.

**Community donations and support** – we encourage all our international study groups to be proactive in donation collections and arrange for excess baggage for said donations to be taken out to South Africa in support of the local communities.

**Move Africa, supporting young females** – 3 in 10 girls in South Africa miss a week of school every month because they cannot afford basic sanitary products. Our project partners work with Move Africa alongside their partner NGOs, to distribute menstrual cups to the local communities and provide education workshops.

**Rhino Art** – Project rhino realises the enormous responsibility the youth have to ensure our wildlife is protected for many generations to come. They ensure they can reach and educate as many kids as possible through Rhino Art, using art workshops to teach about conservation. This initiative is supported by our local project partners.

**Food/crop education** – our project partners encourage food and crop education to rural communities, where cost of living to low income families and distance travelled to obtain basic resources can prove problematic. Projects include community allotments and providing education on best practice for crop rotations, harvest seasons and nutrition.

**Recycling workshops** – Litter, and in particular plastics, is a major issue and threat to the ecosystem in Southern Africa. Rural communities have limited waste removal available and it is therefore a problem escalating at an alarming rate. Recycling workshops are provided through local schools to help educate children on the importance of correctly disposing of litter and recycling plastics.



# BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

AFRICA

## Group Web Page

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