



# USP College Project Information Pack



## KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research Project

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



# TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

## USP College – Booking Reference 4638

**Trip Dates:** 6th July – 19th July 2025

### Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
VS449	06/07/2025	London Heathrow (LHR)	22:00	Johannesburg (JNB)	10:00 + 1 Day
VS450	19/07/2025	Johannesburg (JNB)	18:55	London Heathrow (LHR)	05:00 + 1 Day

\*Always check your timings on your final documents

**Baggage Allowance:** 1 piece of checked baggage @ 23kgs, 1 piece of hand baggage @ 10kgs max dimension 56x36x23 cms

### Project:

KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research – Nambiti Game Reserve & Zingela Wilderness Reserve





**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Overview and location  
of the project





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife & Veterinary Project

Our academic team and qualified rangers at the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research Project offer a bespoke course tailored to each institution's personal objectives and learning needs. We structure the trip as a 12-day academic module, split between two conservation reserves.

As part of the experience, we bring in wildlife veterinarians who spend time with the group, sharing their expertise and offering hands-on learning opportunities. Additionally, we involve the group in local community projects, where they assist in caring for livestock and domestic animals, providing a broader understanding of the local ecosystem and community needs.

A full day will be planned but will vary from day to day depending on the days task and research goals.

The project split and duration are as follows:

### 12 Day Itinerary

Days 1 – 6  
Nambiti Big 5 Conservation Research

Days 6 – 12  
Zingela Wilderness Conservation and Adventure Activities



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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## KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research Project- Location

- South Africa a world leader in conservation
- Malaria free KwaZulu Natal







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# 6 Days at Nambiti Game Reserve

A Big Five Game Reserve



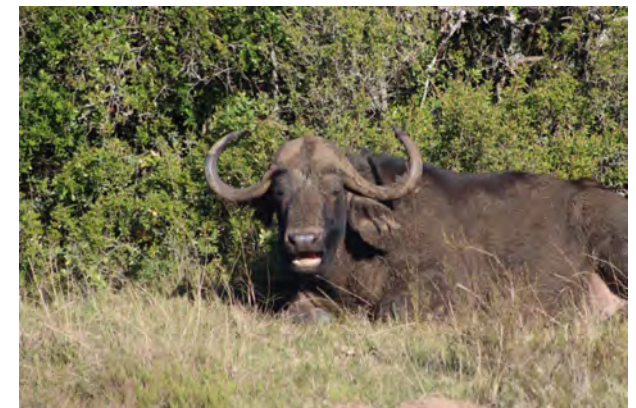
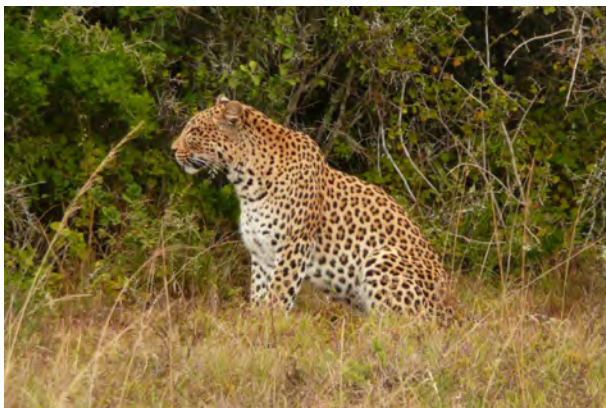


# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Nambiti Game Reserve

**Nambiti Game Reserve** is a magnificent 23,000 acres of unspoiled wilderness boasting the Big 5 and incredible biodiversity (grasslands, riverine bush, savannah and thornveld) offering unprecedented diversity of wildlife.





# YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

## Your Conservation Programme – Nambiti

Students will be taught and work alongside the field guides and conservation team. The following examples depict the day-to-day activities that may be undertaken as part of the project at Nambiti.

- Alien Vegetation Control & Reserve Maintenance
- Use of Telemetry Tracking
- Elephant Monitoring / Population Study
- Rhino Monitoring – Awareness
- Anti-poaching talk and fence walk
- Camera Trapping
- Night Drive
- Big Five Bush Walk
- Habitat and Prey Selection of Predators
- Tracks, Signs and Spoor
- Community Development
- Veterinary Interaction – Possible Wildlife Intervention

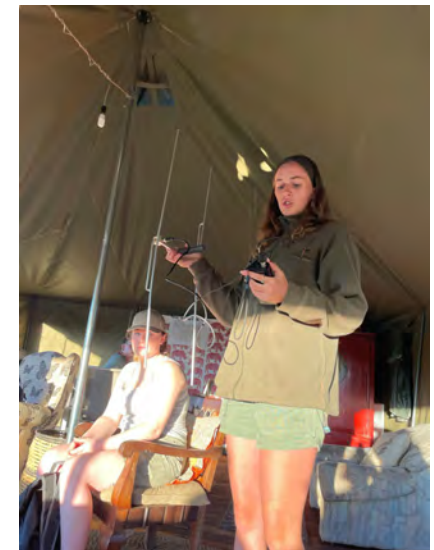




# NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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## Use of Telemetry Tracking



ANY QUESTIONS?

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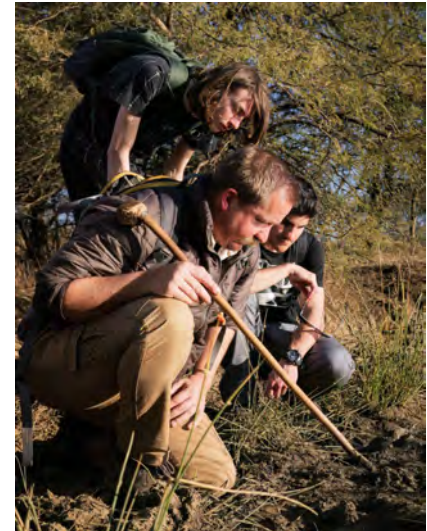
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# NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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## Ecology Trails: Tracks, signs and spoor



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Research – Habitat and Prey Selection: Predators

Focus on Lion and Cheetah populations:

GPS coordinates from tracking collars

Can be used for movement/spatial/home range analysis





## Camera Trap – Research and Study

Set out own camera traps

Learn about correct placement, best location etc

Never know what we'll find!





## Wildlife Monitoring – Elephant Impact Assessment

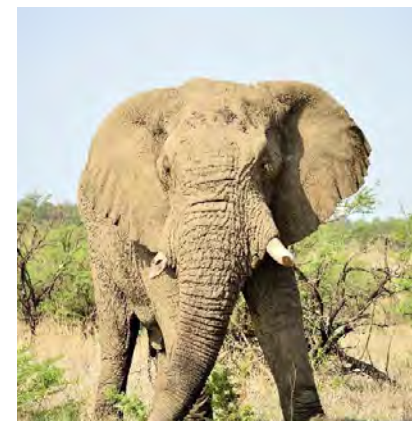
Research into impact of elephant on the eco system:

Matriarch collared so GPS range data available

Herd population data

Elephant impact assessments from February '23

Long term ongoing project looking at elephant impact on vegetation





# YOUR PROJECT

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## Community Projects & Zulu Culture

A chance for academic groups to meet the locals living around the game reserves

The opportunity to meet chiefs and experience traditional Zulu culture first hand

Projects: Move Africa, Jabong Hats, Project Rhino and Rhino Art



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Community – GAP Donation Bags



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# 6 Days at Zingela Nature Reserve

River Research and Adventure





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Zingela River Safari

**Zingela Wildlife Reserve** covers 12,500 acres of predator free, pristine African bushveld. You will have the opportunity to be involved with the research that takes place at the property;. You will also have the chance to participate in a host of activities during your stay.



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## Your Conservation Programme – Zingela

Students will be taught and work alongside the field guides and scientific team. The following examples depict the day-to-day activities that may be undertaken as part of the project at Zingela Reserve.

- Spatial Distribution and Habitat use of species
- Use of Telemetry Tracking
- Giraffe Migration and Conservation Project
- Reptile Pit Fall Traps
- Freshwater Ecology
- Mini SASS
- Fish Tagging
- Bird Ringing
- Educational Bush Walks – Ecology & Botany
- Tracks, Signs and Spoor
- Community Development
- Camera Trapping and Data Processing





# ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

## Giraffe Migration and Research Project

Population data and database for individuals

Migration and range data through unfenced territories

Diet and vegetation impact assessment

Genetic diversity





## River Assessments –

Fresh water eel project –  
understanding life cycle using GPS  
data

Fish tagging and release

Collecting biometric data

SASS – South African Scoring System





# ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

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## Reptile Research and Trapping

Data collection started in 2022 with annual projects planned

Species frequency

Herpetofauna succession during vegetation rehabilitation

Comparing herpetological diversity





## Bush Walks and Ecology Trails

One of the unique aspects of the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation project is the ability to utilise the reserves for walking trails and ecology lessons.

Groups will be accompanied by professional guides as they navigate through the reserve observing the smaller aspects of the flora and fauna that the African Bush has to offer.

Along the way the guide will identify edible and poisonous plants, as well as those of cultural significance, enhancing the educational value of the hike.





## Animal Welfare Outreach Program

Participants will join the camp's in-house veterinarian to assist local Zulu farmers in caring for their livestock, primarily goats, but also including dogs, cats, sheep, and cattle, depending on the participants' qualifications and experience.

Vaccinating and Caring for Local Farmers' Goats

Working with Various Animals at the Homestead

Animal Welfare Education at Local Schools





## Activities and Adventure– Kayaking

A recreational activity offering a break from the academic schedule, participants will kayak 3km down the Tugela River, navigating beginner-friendly Grade 1 & 2 rapids.

This relaxing excursion also provides excellent birdwatching opportunities from the water.

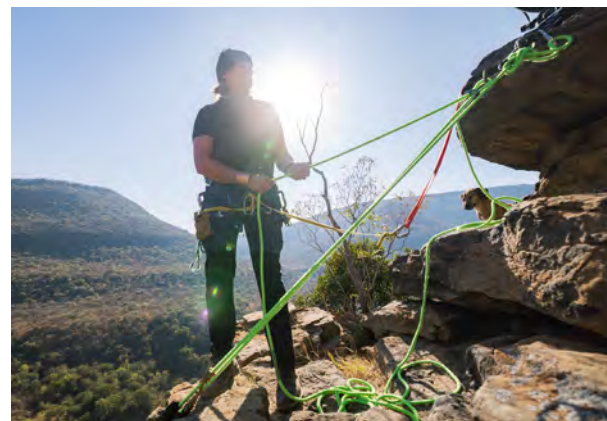




## Activities and Adventure– Abseiling

The 35m abseil at Zingela offers stunning views and an exhilarating descent led by accredited expert guides.

This activity provides a unique opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the Tugela River Valley from a new perspective.





## Potjie Cooking Competition

A traditional South African experience, the Potjie competition involves cooking a stew in three-legged pots over an open fire. Teams of 6-8 participants will compete, starting with the challenge of lighting the fire. This activity promotes teamwork and serves as a fun icebreaker in a relaxed, festive environment. The winning dish, judged by our expert cooks, will be served for dinner, allowing everyone to enjoy the fruits of their labour.





## Animal Welfare Outreach Program

### Vaccinating and Caring for Local Farmers' Goats

This activity is suitable for all animal management students. Participants will assist in catching goats for health inspections and administering necessary treatments. Even those with minimal experience can contribute – on a previous trip, two students managed to catch 11 goats each on their first outing.

### Working with Various Animals at the Homestead

Ideal for vet nurses, particularly those who have been vaccinated against rabies and tetanus. This aspect involves treating domestic animals such as dogs, cats and chickens at local homesteads.

### Animal Welfare Education at Local Schools

This educational initiative is aimed at children, who are often responsible for the care of young animals. By providing education on proper animal care, participants can make a lasting impact on the community. This activity is suitable for all animal management students.

In addition to these specific activities, the group will also visit local schools to further engage with students and promote responsible animal care, focusing on livestock as well as domestic pets.







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# **ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE**

Life in the African Bush





## Game Reserve Camps - Nambiti

In keeping with the Safari Adventure theme, groups are accommodated on the reserve in shared comfortable safari tents, with communal hot and cold showers and regular flushing toilets.

All meals are provided in a communal dining area. Students are expected to help clear up after meals.





# ACCOMMODATION

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## Game Reserve Camps - Zingela



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# ACCOMMODATION

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## Food at the project

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.

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







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# **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Inclusions/Exclusions &  
Recommended Kit List





# WHAT'S INCLUDED

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## 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 the project.
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Visa's/travel documents
- Tips

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





## Suggested kit list

- Short sleeve shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts  
(Or work trousers with zip-off longos)
- T shirts
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Rain jacket
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker –(it can get very cold on an open vehicle – even on a summer evening)
- Daypack rucksack
- Microfibre sleeping bag liner – useful for extra warmth in winter
- Socks
- Hat for sun protection / Warm Hat (winter only)
- Working gloves
- Gloves for warmth (winter only)
- 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 and First Aid Kit
- Binoculars
- Sunscreen & Sunglasses

### Other useful items:

- Good torch
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen
- Lip balm

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





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