



INFORMATION PACK

University of Chester

The background image is a composite. On the left, a group of four people (three men and one woman) are seen from behind, standing in tall golden grass and looking out over a savanna landscape with a river and hills under a blue sky with clouds. On the right, a close-up of a lioness's head and front legs is shown, with the lioness looking down. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is centered over the image, containing the text 'South Africa Experiential Learning Trip 2025'.

South Africa Experiential Learning Trip 2025

AFRICA

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

TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

University of Chester – Booking Reference 4575

Trip Dates:

28th April – 10th May 2025

Flights:

EK 0022 – 27th April Manchester – Dubai International

EK 0767 – 27th April– Dubai International – Johannesburg arriving 28th April *

EK 0764– 8th May Johannesburg – Dubai International arriving 9th May *

EK 0017 – 9th Dubai International – Manchester

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage allowance: 1 piece checked baggage @23kgs, 1 piece hand baggage @ 23kgs, max dimensions 56x45x25 cms

Project:

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

Trip Cost: £2,114 per person

£300.00 deposit

£907.00 Instalment due 06/01/2025

£907.00 Balance due 03/03/2025

AFRICA

INDEX

PROJECT OVERVIEW	3-6
ABOUT THE PROJECT	7-28
ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE	29-35
USEFUL INFORMATION	36-





AFRICA

KWA-ZULU NATAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

Overview and location
of the project

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Your Conservation Field Trip Explained

- A unique academic conservation experience based in South Africa
- Live and work in the wild of Africa
- The opportunity to experience hands on wildlife conservation
- Bespoke, tailor made projects to suit research requirements
- Project Activities include:
 - Pioneering conservation research
 - Conservation activities
 - Cultural enrichment
- Full 10 Days in South Africa
- All inclusive experience
- The most incredible wildlife experience you will ever have

PROJECT OVERVIEW

AFRICA

Zulu Land Conservation Research

Our academic team and qualified rangers at the Zulu Land Conservation Project offer a bespoke course to each institution dependent on their own personal objectives and learning needs.

We set out the basis of the trip, comprising of a 10-day academic module split between the two conservation reserves allowing students the opportunity to collect data and participate in various research field studies.



A full 9-hour day will be planned but will vary from day to day depending on the days task and research goals.

Project split and duration options are as follows:

10 Day Itinerary

Days 1 – 6

Zingela Wilderness Research

Days 6 – 10

Nambiti Big 5 Conservation Research

PROJECT OVERVIEW

AFRICA

Zulu Land Conservation Project- Location

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





AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

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 PROJECT

AFRICA

Zingela River Safari (Days 1 – 6)

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.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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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



ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

River Assessments – Eel Project

- Fresh water eel project – understanding life cycle using GPS data
- Fish tagging and release
- Collecting biometric data
- SASS – South African Scoring System

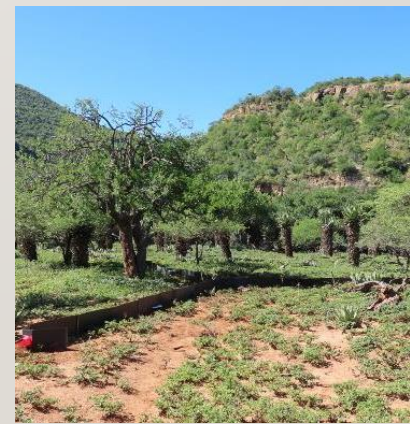


ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

Reptile Research and Trapping

- Data collection started in 2022 with annual projects planned
- Species frequency
- Herpetofauna succession during vegetation rehabilitation
- Comparing herpetological diversity



ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

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Educational Bush Walks – Ecology and Botany



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ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

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Rafting and Kayaking for research



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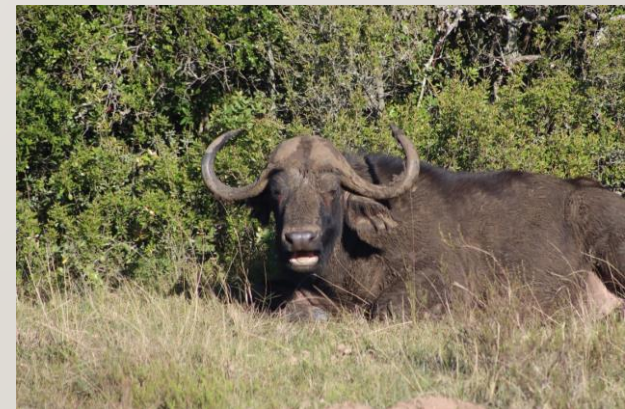
Presentation 15

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Nambiti Game Reserve (Days 6 – 10)

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.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Home to over 40 Species of Mammal



ANY QUESTIONS?

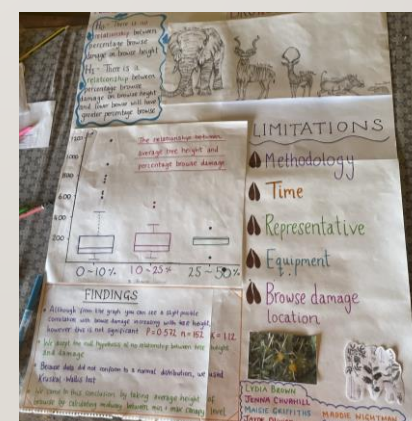
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Presentation 17

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

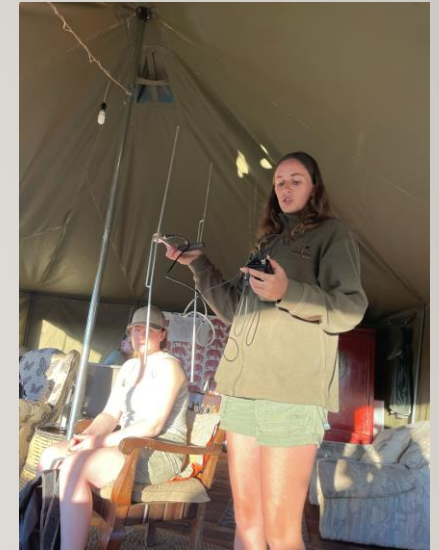
Nambiti Research Team



NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Use of Telemetry Tracking



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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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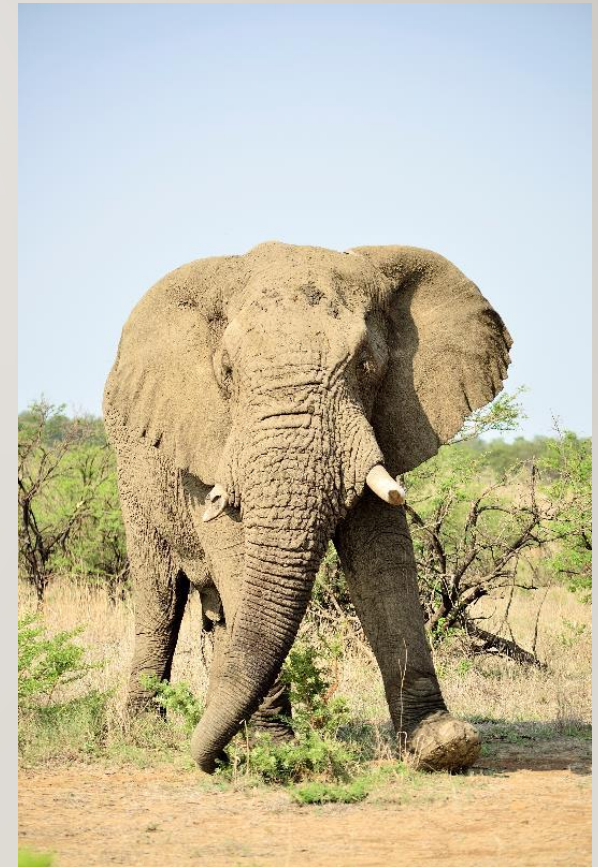
Research – Habitat and Prey Selection: Predators

- Focus on Lion and Cheetah populations:
- GPS coordinates from tracking collars
- Can be used for movement/spatial/home range analysis



Wildlife Monitoring – Elephant Impact Assessment

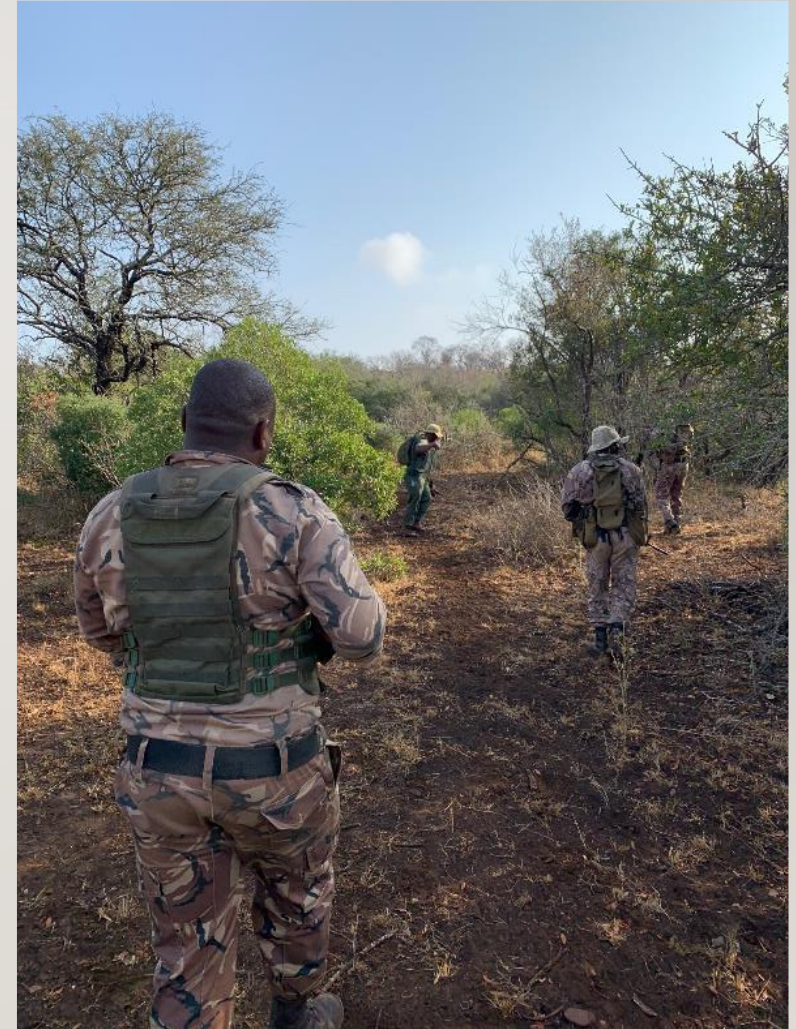
- Research into impact of elephant on the eco system:
- Matriarch collared so GPS range data available
- Herd population data
- Elephant impact assessments from February '23
- Long term ongoing project looking at elephant impact on vegetation



NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Rhino Monitoring – Awareness and Anti-Poaching



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NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Camera Trap – Research and Study

- Set out own camera traps
- Learn about correct placement, best location etc
- Never know what we'll find!



NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Night Game Drives



NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Possible Wildlife Interventions



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NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Community Projects & Zulu Culture

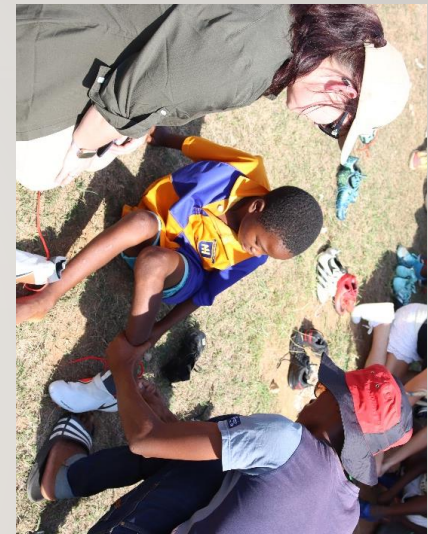
- Learn about traditional Zulu culture
- Community engagement essential for long term conservation
- Positive impact supporting not for profit initiatives
- Projects: Move Africa, Jabong Hats & Rhino Art



ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Community – GAP Donation Bags



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YOUR PROJECT

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Management Documents

Selected management documents will be made available to you ahead of departure to allow for personal, study before arriving in South Africa.

Zingela Wilderness Reserve

- Reptile pitfall and funnel trap survey
- Wildlife monitoring and giraffe report

Nambiti Big 5 Game Reserve management plans

- Nambiti Game Reserve
- Elephant
- Predator
- Erosion
- Alien plant
- Road
- Fire

Wildlife Monitoring and Giraffe Conservation at Zingela Safari & River Company

(Ing. Maxine Piron, Dr. Peter Calverely, 2022)

1. GIRAFFE RESEARCH

1.1 Introduction

Across Africa the majority of giraffe species and subspecies are in decline, the South African giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis giraffa*) remains widespread and numerous throughout southern Africa. The estimated total population size in South Africa is 21 053 – 26 919 (Figure 1). The conservation priority and challenge are to implement monitoring and surveillance strategies and to ensure genetic variation between reserves within the subspecies (Deacon & Tutchings, 2018).

Globally, *Giraffa camelopardalis* is categorized as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, it has been recommended that the southern African giraffe should be categorized as Least Concern (Muller et al, 2016). The classification of giraffe species and the separation of subspecies is still ongoing (Fennessy, et al., 2016; Deacon & Tutchings, 2018). Genetic analyses, morphology and ecology suggest that there are four genetically distinct giraffe species and seven subspecies (Fennessy, et al., 2016). However, traditionally one giraffe species and up to eleven subspecies were recognized, but it is generally accepted that all giraffes are assigned to a single species and nine subspecies (Fennessy, et al., 2016; Winter, Fennessy, & Janke, 2018). Both the genetic purity and the genetic diversity of the South African giraffe are of concern. The unrestricted exchange of giraffes by non-state entities could result in the hybridization of the subspecies (Deacon & Tutchings, 2018).

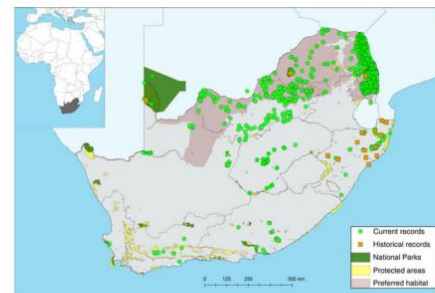


Figure 1: Current and historical records of the South African giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis giraffa*. Current numbers include private game farms, private nature reserves, Provincial Nature Reserves and National Parks, totalling 26 919 – 30 368 individuals (Deacon & Tutchings, 2018).



Nambiti Private Game Reserve

KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

Elephant Management Plan

2015



Nambiti Private Game Reserve

KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa



Protected Area Management Plan
2022-2032

Prepared by



Author: D. and M. Carr, A. (2022). Nambiti Private Game Reserve: Protected Area Management Plan, Version 1.0.



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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION

AFRICA

Game Reserve Camps – Nambiti

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

All meals are provided in a communal dining room. If student opt to sleep out there are basic camps around the reserve that can be used for sleep outs; Sleeping out under the stars and learn how to make a fire and cook on it!



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.



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Life on project – Life long memories



ANY QUESTIONS?

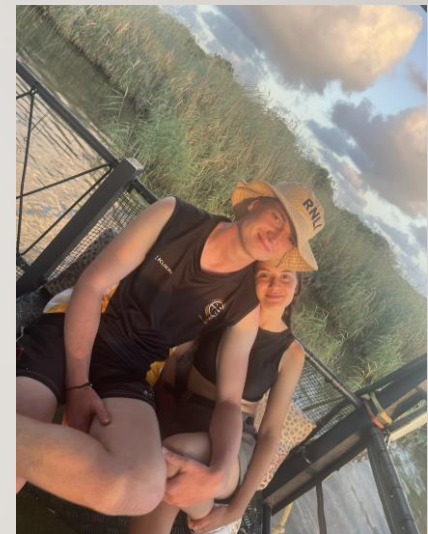
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Presentation 34

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Life on project – Life long memories



ANY QUESTIONS?

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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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A true life experience



ANY QUESTIONS?

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USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/exclusions and
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 project & lunch during transfer to St. Lucia
- 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.



USEFUL INFORMATION

AFRICA

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
- 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
- Cards/CD's
- Water bottle
- Mammal/bird book
- Camera
- Notebook/diary and pen
- Spare batteries
- Lip balm



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