



## PROJECT INFORMATION PACK

The background is a collage of three circular images. The left circle shows two people in field gear attending to a leopard lying on a blue tarp. The middle circle shows a savanna landscape with acacia trees under a sunset sky. The right circle shows a close-up of two rhinos in a grassy field.

# Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course

**AFRICA**

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

# TRIP OVERVIEW

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## Aberystwyth University – Booking Reference 4690

### Trip Dates:

14<sup>th</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
BA57	14/06/2025	London Heathrow (LHR)	21:25	Johannesburg (JNB)	09:25 + 1 Day
BA56	30/06/2025	Johannesburg (JNB)	19:25	London Heathrow (LHR)	05:35 + 1 Day

\*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

### Project:

Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course (Vet Nurse Group)

### Trip Cost:

£2,595.00 per person

£300.00 deposit

£2,295.00 Balance due 20/04/2025





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# **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Your three project locations

Your trip is split between three main locations, in two neighbouring provinces of South Africa. Starting at **Welgevonden Game Reserve** – the core, Big 5 monitoring and conservation experience. Followed by focused wildlife veterinary practice on a reserve also in the Waterberg (**Entabeni Safari Conservancy**) from there you travel to Gauteng where you will tour South Africa's only faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort. In **Gauteng** you will also assist with some shelter and community cases and a K9 conservation unit.

### Project locations and duration are as follows:

#### 15-30 June Itinerary

##### 15 – 22 June

Waterberg Biomonitoring Project – Welgevonden Game Reserve – Waterberg – Limpopo Province

##### 22 – 26 June

Entabeni Safari Conservancy – Waterberg – Limpopo Province

##### 26 – 30 June

Onderstepoort, Kyalami, Midrand and surrounding areas – Gauteng Province



# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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## Welgevonden Game Reserve

- Over 36,000 hectares
- Home to 100+ mammal species, including the Big Five and rare and endangered species.
- Its diverse habitats support a rich variety of antelope and over 300 bird species.
- Dedicated to conservation, balancing biodiversity protection with responsible tourism.
- The reserve's management focuses on habitat restoration, anti-poaching initiatives, and ongoing wildlife research to ensure a sustainable future for its unique ecosystem.

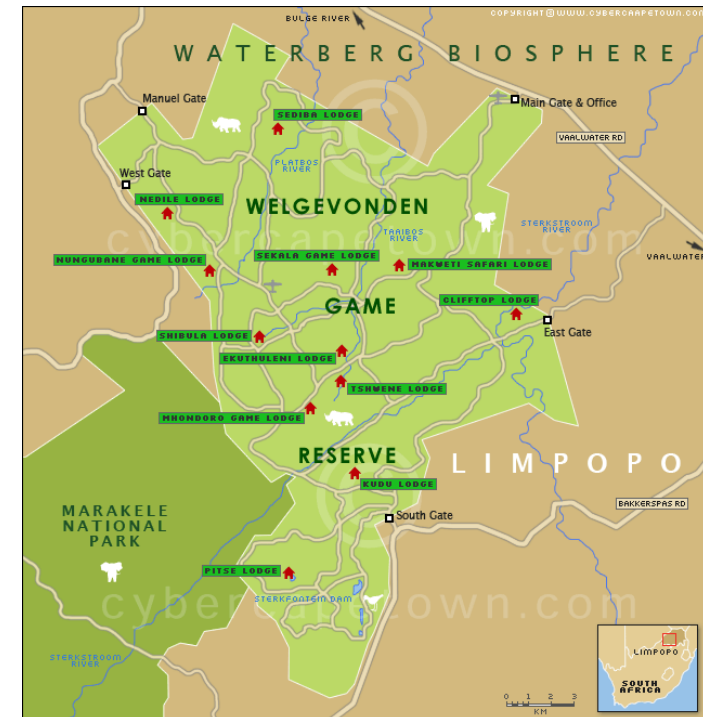


# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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## Welgevonden Game Reserve

- Privately Managed Game Reserve
- Forming part of the Waterberg Biosphere (4,000sq/km)
- 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
- Research Camp Accommodation

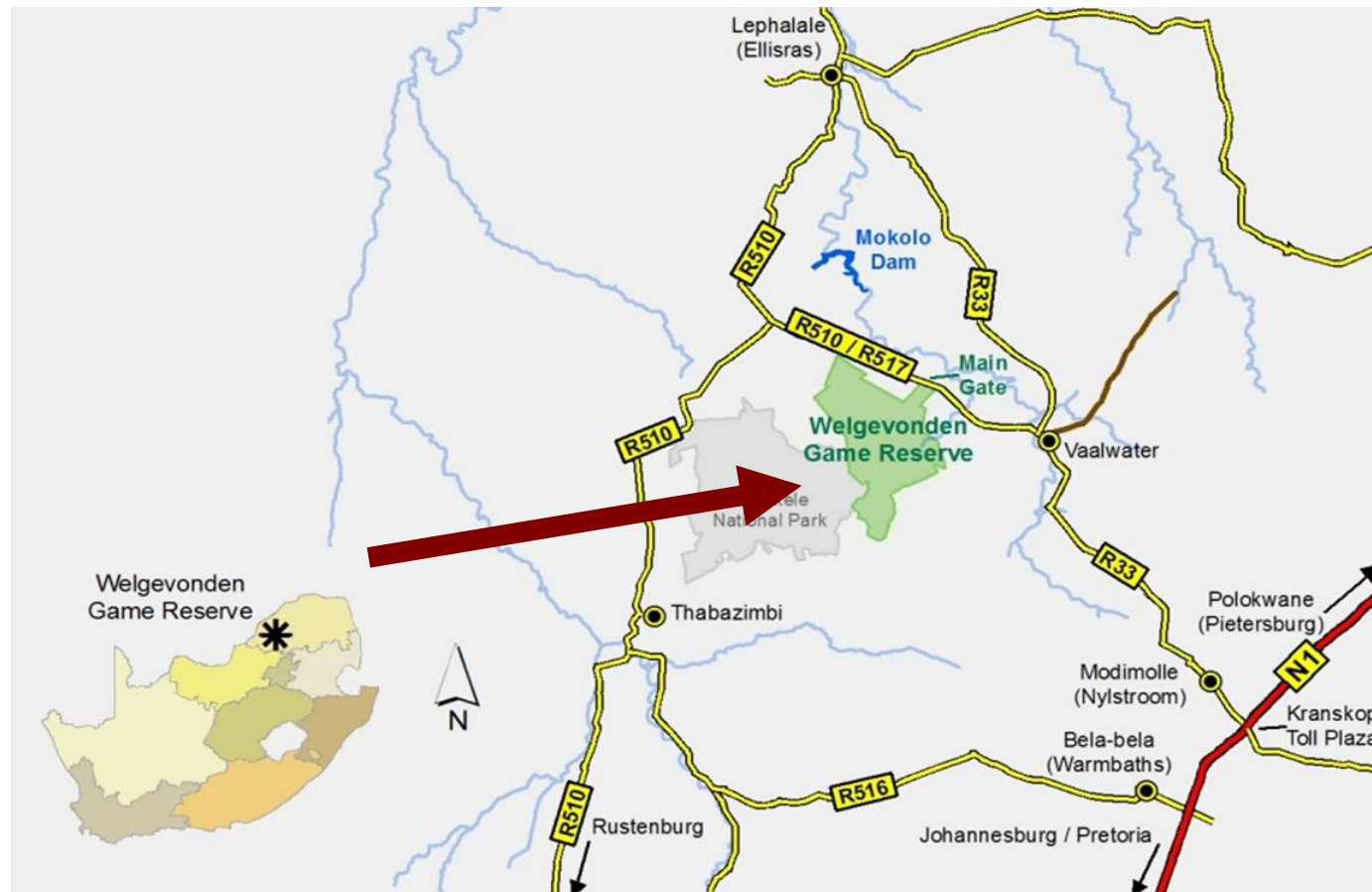


# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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## Welgevonden Game Reserve - Location

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





## Research and Ecological Biomonitoring

**Rhino monitoring** – participants identify uniquely marked individual rhinos in the field using an identikit. Data is captured electronically in the field and later automatically downloaded to a secure database. Information recorded includes animal ID, location, social groupings, body condition, etc. The data is analysed by the research ecologists and used to make informed management decisions regarding the rhino population.

**Predator monitoring** – this includes all the large predators: lion, cheetah, leopard and spotted and brown hyaena. Individuals are occasionally collared for research and/or management purposes. Participants monitor these collared individuals using telemetry or GPS tracking technology. Camera trap surveys, in conjunction with Panthera, are conducted annually to determine the range and population dynamics of the resident leopard population as part of the larger Waterberg population. These camera traps are tailored for leopards, but capture photographs of the smaller, meso-predator population of the reserve – this is useful as these cryptic species are seldom seen otherwise.





## Research and Ecological Biomonitoring

**Game transects** – pre-determined routes are driven along which game is counted. Transects are driven monthly during which the team collects data pertaining to animal species, body condition, herd structure and herd location. Analysis of this data provides an in depth understanding of the reserve's prey base and the population dynamics of the more important/common species.

**Vegetation surveys** – Grass species composition and biomass are determined on an annual basis. This information is used to understand the quality and quantity of available food for grazing species as well as helping to decide where best to establish fire breaks (an obstacle to the spread of fire). Woody (tree) monitoring occurs every five years and is used to determine: species composition, recruitment and growth rates and the impact of fire, elephant, browser and invertebrates on the woody plant layer.





## Research and Ecological Biomonitoring

**Plains monitoring** – Welgevonden Game Reserve was not always a protected wilderness area with its early history rooted in agriculture. Upon conversion into a game reserve, many old agricultural fields were rehabilitated into grazing lawns. These fields, as well as the animals that make use of them, are monitored on a monthly basis to evaluate the effectiveness of this long-term programme.

**Special Interventions** – As these interventions occur sporadically, where possible, participants and volunteers will be given the opportunity to join and witness these special veterinary interventions which could include elephant collaring, rhino notching, predator captures and animal releases.





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Monitoring the Welgevonden Rhino Population

- Individuals identified
- Behavioural observations
- Herd structure
- Natalities/Mortalities
- Photos and GPS locations
- Body condition scoring
- Feeding in winter



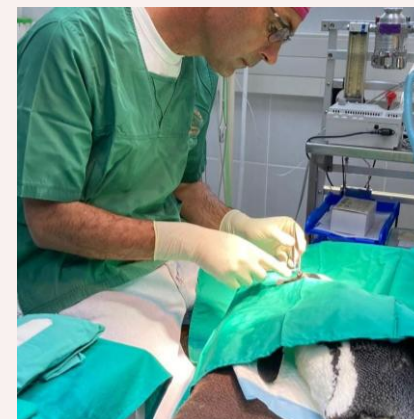


# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Dr Peter Caldwell – Wildlife Specialist Veterinary Surgeon

Dr. Peter Caldwell is a leading wildlife veterinary surgeon based in Pretoria. He owns and operates a small animal clinic and travels extensively across South Africa and beyond, treating priority and endangered species. He specialises in cheetahs and serves as the primary veterinarian and advisor at Welgevonden Game Reserve. Dr. Caldwell is actively involved in wildlife conservation and research, contributing to studies on fertility control and disease management in wild animals. His expertise is frequently sought by reserves and conservation organisations.





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Welgevonden Veterinary Intervention

A management veterinary intervention will be scheduled during your group's time on the reserve. This may include rhino DNA collection and ear-notching, the removal or fitting of tracking collars, fertility procedures, or capture for translocations. If a priority species is injured, it will receive necessary treatment. Students are encouraged to participate as ground crew and veterinary assistants if possible. However, please note that this procedure is not guaranteed, as wildlife is unpredictable, and animals will never be sedated without a valid reason.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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# YOUR PROJECT

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## Lectures – Welgevonden

- Reserve history
- Anti-poaching
- Fire to herbivore driven system
- Priority species
- Large predator management
- Managing wildlife reserves & land capacity model
- Boma management
- Fenced reserve population management





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Dr Zoe Glyphis – Wildlife Veterinarian

Dr Zoe Glyphis is a Gauteng based wildlife veterinarian and travels all over South Africa to treat mainly priority, endangered species.

She has extensive experience in helping and assisting several NGO groups and organisations with their efforts to increase predator ranges and to establish safe and genetically viable populations in new conservation areas as well as treating surviving poached rhino.

She enjoys sharing her knowledge with students and is a patient teacher in this regard.



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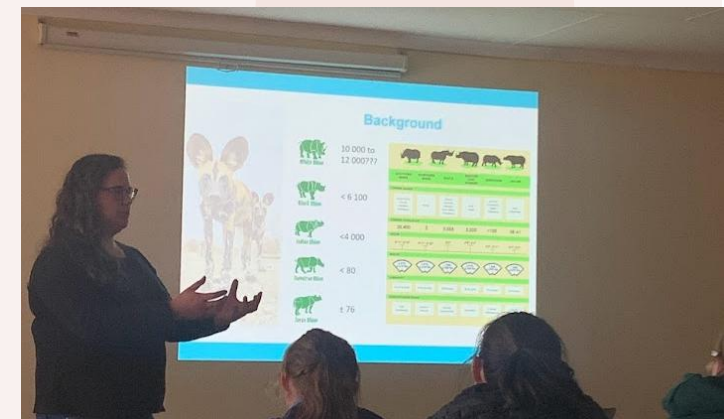
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# YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

## Lectures – Dr Zoe Glyphis

- Conservation in Africa
- Wildlife poaching
- Wildlife diseases
- Rhino wounds and case studies
- Wildlife capture systems – darting wildlife
- Drugs used in wildlife medicine
- Dosage calculation for wildlife
- Logistics of wildlife transportation – vehicles, crates & equipment
- Boma management and rehabilitation
- State veterinary disease control in practice
- Wildlife trade auction & value of livestock





# YOUR PROJECT

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## Practical Sessions

- Post-Mortem / Necropsy demonstration
- Dart shooting practice
- The kit and clinic of a mobile wildlife vet
- Q & A





## Kyalami – Rescues – and working K9s

### Society for Animals in Distress

Students assist professional Masterton method practitioner and veterinarians at this rescue centre with horses (and other animals) that have been rescued. Animals come from unfortunate (poverty) circumstances and are rehabilitated to be rehomed.

### Johannesburg Wildlife Vet

Johannesburg Wildlife Vet rescues, rehabilitates and releases indigenous wildlife in South Africa. Specialising in treating sick, injured and orphaned animals, this non-profit provides expert care while promoting conservation through education and research.

### Pit-track K9 antipoaching unit

Students will meet a leading K9 antipoaching team. A talk about the poaching crisis will be given as well as a K9 demo. Students then have the opportunity to assist these working dogs with any physio needs.





## Society for Animals in Distress

Vet care is provided by Vets, Vet Nurses, Animal Health Technicians and Animal Welfare Assistants.

For dogs, cats, small animals and equine; animals that suffer in their impoverished circumstances.

The organisations focus is to provide access to veterinary care for all, to serve vulnerable communities and animal care organisations.







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# **ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE**

Life in the African Bush



# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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## Welgevonden Biomonitoring/Research Camp

The student centre and camp is based on the reserve and boasts ten tents that sleep 2-3 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 centre also has access to Wi-Fi. 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!



ANY QUESTIONS?

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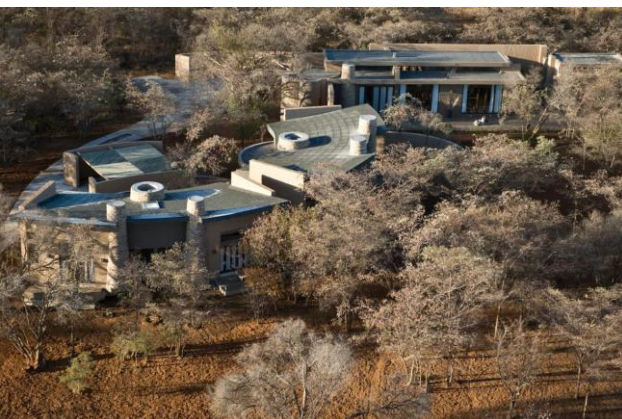
# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

## Entabeni Safari Conservancy

Students will be accommodated in twin bedded rooms; the accommodation has a variety of self-catering units comprising 3, 4, 5 and 6 bedroom units.

Each Villa offers a spacious and open plan layout, with a lounge and dining area as well as a fully equipped kitchen, one of the kitchens in a unit will be used for the food preparation for the group.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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# ACCOMMODATION

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## Gauteng – Fair Glen Guest House

You will be staying in twin bedded accommodation with en-suite facilities, the guest house offers comfortable areas to relax and unwind and is based in an equestrian-themed suburb.

There is a swimming pool and outdoor seating area and the guest house has WiFi.

Ideally situated for the visits to the Johannesburg Wildlife Vet Practice and Animals in Distress



# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

## Meals

At Welgevonden and Entabeni all meals are provided on a self cook basis prepared communally by the group, students will take part in communal cooking and keeping the kitchens tidy..

Depending on activities some meals may be pre prepared to take into the field.

All meals will be provided at Fair Glen Guest House, a packed lunch will be provided if the group are not returning to the accommodation at lunch time.

Evenings are spent at leisure around the camps and guest house.

Please ensure you advise us of any dietary requirements so we can ensure 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 project
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Visas/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 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 - (it can get very cold on an open vehicle - even on a summer evening)
- Daypack rucksack
- Socks
- Hat for sun protection / Warm hat (winter only)
- Gloves for warmth (winter only)
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear

- Swimming Towel
- Swimming costume
- Sunscreen & Sunglasses
- Sandals/comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Toiletries
- Tick/insect repellent
- Personal medical items & First Aid Kit
- Binoculars
- Torch/headlamp
- Water bottle

### Other useful items:

- Stethoscope
- Surgical gloves
- Camera
- Powerbank
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen
- Watch





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