SPARSHOLT COLLEGE
GROUP PRESENTATION

Waterberg
Conservation Research

AFRICA

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

ABOUT US:

GAP Africa Projects

- We are a specialised travel company that offers academic trips and volunteering opportunities for groups and individual travellers, in a number of locations worldwide
- We pride ourselves on curating experiences which are personalised to your needs and requirements
- Our first project travelled in 2012
- Full ATOL Bonding
- Working with over 55 Colleges and Universities around the UK
- A small dedicated team in the UK and South Africa

AFRICA

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

Project overview and location

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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Your Conservation Field Trip Explained

- A unique conservation experience based in South Africa
- Live and work on a research camp on a wild African game reserve
- 10-night programme specifically tailored
- Learn about conservation management
- Project Activities include:
  - Pioneering Conservation Research
  - Conservation Activities
  - Possible Veterinary intervention
- Dedicated vehicles and conservation staff
- The most incredible wildlife experience you will ever have

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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Waterberg Conservation Project

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

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

10 Night Project

- 10 Nights at SwebeSwebe Nature Reserve

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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Waterberg Conservation Research - Location

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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TRUE WILDERNESS

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

AFRICA

TRUE WILDERNESS

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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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.

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ABOUT THE PROJECT: SWEBESWEBE NATURE RESERVE

Our conservation work in more detail

ABOUT SWEBESWEBE

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Hanover & SwebeSwebe Nature Reserve

- 9,000 Hectare Privately Managed Reserve
- Forming part of the Waterberg Biosphere
- Unique to GAP Africa Projects
- 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 THE PROJECT

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Project Overview - SwebeSwebe Nature Reserve

The Waterberg conservation research programme serves as a living laboratory for ecological research, offering students and researchers a chance to work alongside experts in the field.

Participants will play an active role in a variety of immersive conservation and research activities. Through activities like wildlife monitoring, vegetation surveys and data analysis, students gain practical experience using tools such as GPS devices and biomass sampling equipment. Each project offers a unique opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the reserve's ecological goals while developing valuable skills in fieldwork and conservation management.

Beyond research, the programme fosters community empowerment and sustainable conservation practices, inspiring future generations to protect this remarkable landscape while equipping participants with valuable skills for careers in conservation.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Vegetation Surveys and Ecological Studies

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Wildlife and Ecological Projects

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Practical Management

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Rural Development and Support

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ACCOMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Living in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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SwebeSwebe - Hanover Nature Reserve Accommodation

Students and academic groups will be accommodated at our purpose-built camp on Hanover Nature Reserve, designed to provide comfort and foster community living. The camp features shared twin and triple rooms with communal ablution facilities. At the heart of the camp is a spacious communal area, equipped with a shared kitchen and dining space, which also serves as a hub for relaxation, lectures, and group activities.

For evening gatherings, there's a cozy firepit/boma area where students can unwind and cook meals over the fire under the stars. On weekends, groups are welcome to enjoy the main farmhouse and pool area for some well-deserved relaxation. Ingredients for meals are provided, and students cook together, creating a vibrant and social camp atmosphere.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Meals

At SwebeSwebe ingredients for three meals a day are provided, on a self cook basis. Students will take part in communal cooking and keeping the kitchen tidy. This creates a vibrant and social camp atmosphere.

All meals are provided in the communal dining room, there is an outside area for dining as well.

Meals will either be served at the facility or in the field 'picnic' style, this depends on activities either planned or unscheduled.

The research team often work 6 days a week so time off is often limited to Sundays only.

Most evenings are spent at leisure around the camp.

AFRICA

ONLINE NATURE GUIDE COURSE

Bushwise

ONLINE NATURE GUIDE COURSE

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Exclusive Bushwise Nature Guide Course

Bushwise is a leading nature guide training provider, and we've partnered with them to offer an exclusive 6-week 'Explore Nature' online course – giving you a real-life insight into the training of a South African Nature Guide.

Connect with the South African bush before you even travel!

Bushwise

Modules include Introduction, Geology, Weather & climate, Astronomy, Ecology, Biomes, Taxonomy, Plants, Arthropods, Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, Mammals, Ethology, Conservation management, Historical human habitation.

Your wildlife journey starts here! Build a strong foundation in field guiding, wildlife, and ecology, so that you're fully prepared for the hands-on experience in South Africa.

Course Start Dates:
5 January 2026
30 March 2026
22 June 2026
14 September 2026

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STUDY TOURS

Sustainability Pledge

SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

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Carbon Footprint

Do you know the total carbon footprint of a flight from London to Johannesburg?

2.12 tonnes of CO2

Offsetting your own Carbon Footprint therefore, is virtually impossible. But as a student attending one of our study tours, you can still pledge to make a difference...

To offset 2.12 tonnes of CO2 you would need to:

- Plant 165 2-year-old trees
- Travel 6,625 miles less in a car
- Go vegetarian 4 days a week for a year

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SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

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So, Why Do We Offer Study Tours?

- Benefits to Conservation & Wildlife around the world.
- Local Communities in South Africa rely on tourism and community projects
- Increased awareness and education

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SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

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Sustainability Pledge

- As students attending a Study Tour with Sparsholt in 2026 we would like you to commit to our Sustainability Pledge.
- Since 2022 we have spearheaded the Winchester Sustainability Pyramid, working with all secondary schools in the local area.
- Each year secondary school students are challenged to modify their behaviour and habits surrounding Fashion, Travel, Food Waste and Recycling

WINCHESTER
SUSTAINABILITY PYRAMID

SPARSHOLT
COLLEGE GROUP

SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

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Your Challenge

Our Collective Goal

Offset **2.12** tonnes of CO2e

The same as one student's journey to South Africa

Community Collections

Bringing students together to make a collective impact through coordinated sustainability efforts and shared resources.

Onsite Sustainability Projects

Implementing green initiatives directly on campus to reduce our environmental footprint and create lasting change.

Carbon Capture Analysis

Measuring and analysing our carbon footprint to identify the most effective strategies for environmental impact.

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BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

The next steps to the trip of a lifetime!

WHY SHOULD I TRAVEL?

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What do previous travellers say about the Waterberg Conservation Research Project?

"Staying at SwebeSwebe really **developed** my **knowledge** of animal behaviours."

"Everything **exceeded** my expectations, and the trip was **life-changing**."

"The staff were **amazing**, we got the **opportunity** to take part in practicals and demonstrations."

Reference: GAP Africa Projects Post Project Trip Questionnaire 23/24

WHY SHOULD I TRAVEL?

AFRICA

What do previous travellers say about the Waterberg Conservation Research Project?

"It has inspired me to look into overseas **volunteering** opportunities next year."

"I have returned home feeling more self-confident and **independent**, it was brilliant."

"I am more **humbled**. I now know what I want to do moving forward career-wise."

Reference: GAP Africa Projects Post Project Trip Questionnaire 23/24

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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What is included?

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day (self-prepared)
- All activities as part of the project
- 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.

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THE NEXT STEPS

AFRICA

Project dates & key deadlines

Confirmed travel dates:

Depart UK: 31st May 2026 | Arrive SA: 1st June 2026

Depart SA: 11th June 2026 | Arrive UK: 12th June 2026

Trip cost:

£2395.00* Based on a group of 14 (confirmed once flights have been held)

Key deadlines are:

- Return online booking form by 03/10/2025
- Deposit payment, £300.00 by 18/10/2025
- 50% instalment payment of £1047.50 to be paid by 09/02/2026
- Balance payment of £1047.50 to be paid by 06/04/2026
- 18/05/2026 e-Tickets & final documents will be issued

BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

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Booking Form

- Please submit by **03/10/2025**
- 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 NEXT STEPS

Confirmation Documents

Confirmation documents will be issued and sent directly to you via email.

Please communicate with us with any questions relating to the field trip.

BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

AFRICA

Group Web Page

https://gapafricaprojects.com/26-4801/

Booking Form

https://gapafricaprojects.com/booking-form-26-4801-sca-swb-sparsholt-college/

BOOKING FORM

Your Global Adventure Starts here!

Please use the form below to submit your provisional booking to your selected project. You have the option to pay your initial deposit with the submission of your booking form, or we will contact you for payment once your project placement has been secured.

If you'd like to contact us to ask any initial questions or find out more about what project you'd like to go on and when, you can get also get in touch using our short enquiry form, or by calling +44 (0) 207 193 7819.

(NB: Your name should be given as displayed on your passport)

Title *

Name *

Date of birth *

Address *

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 may 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.

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

Explore our network of Global Adventure Projects:

AFRICA

ASIA

EUROPE

SOUTH AMERICA

UNITED KINGDOM

GLOBALADVENTUREPROJECTS.COM