



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE

SCOTLAND FIELD TRIP PRESENTATION



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 for overseas trips
- Working with 55 Colleges and Universities around the UK
- A small dedicated team in the UK and South Africa





ABOUT SCOTLAND

Project overview and
location



ABOUT SCOTLAND



Your Conservation Field Trip Explained

- A unique academic conservation experience in Scotland
- 5 Day (4 Night) highland adventure with dedicated local ecologist host
- Visit wildlife parks and community woodlands
- Take woodland walks and hikes
- Stay in hotel accommodation on the banks of a Scottish loch
- The opportunity to experience hands on wildlife conservation in the UK
- Focus on education and field based studies

LOCATION



Scottish Highlands Wildlife Expedition – Location





ABOUT THE PROJECT

Your expedition and conservation work in more detail



PROJECT DETAILS



Your Conservation Programme

- Camera trapping and tracking techniques for small mammals
- Owl spotting
- Animal behaviour research and data recording
- Learn techniques for monitoring elusive species
- Lectures on human – animal conflicts
- Wildcat breeding programme
- Wildlife hike along an old railway line
- Wild animal rehabilitation
- Learn about rewilding and repopulating mammals in the Scottish Highlands
- Conservation and management of the red squirrel population
- Monitor feeding activity and behaviour of red kites from an animal hide
- Animal management for endangered animals within a wildlife park

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



AQUILA WILDLIFE & NATURE : Our Ecology Partner & Your Project Host

Based in the beautiful surroundings of St Fillans

Through their network of experienced and qualified Associate Ecologists they undertake ecology survey work throughout Scotland and other parts of the UK

Their passionate team are your dedicated guides and educators

Andrea Hudspeth

Director, Tour Guide & Principal Ecologist

Studied at Bishop Burton College and the University of Hull, she has a degree in Wildlife and Countryside Conservation. She has worked for the RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Edinburgh zoo



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Wildlife Walks and Studies

- Discussion on Feral Goats and their impact
- Invertebrate studies
- Look for raptor species flying above mountain ridges
- Visit a community woodland at Comrie, owned by Comrie Development Trust



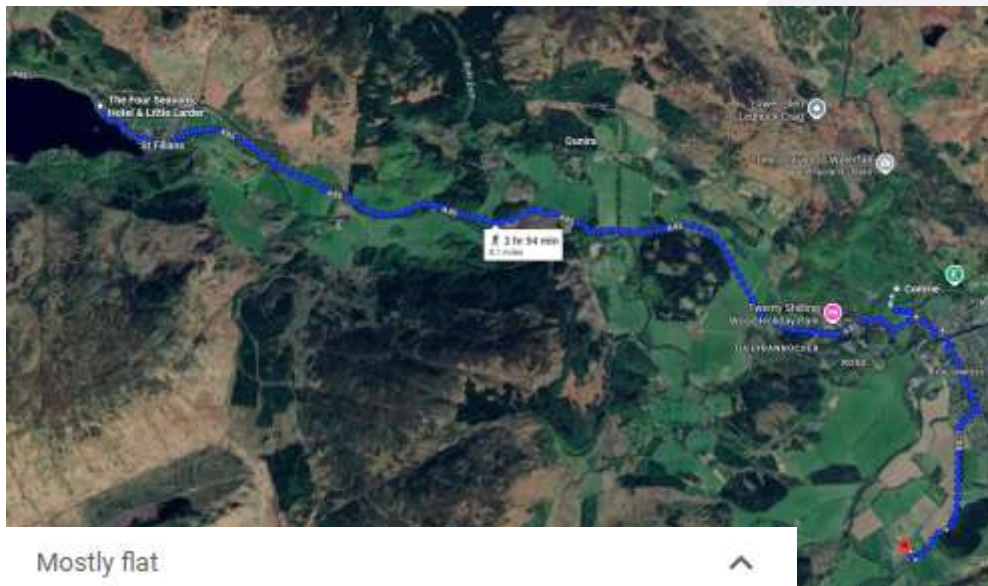
ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Walking Map

Walking the old railway line:

St Fillans -> Comrie -> Cultybraggan -> Transport back to accommodation



Mostly flat

↑ 138 ft · ↓ 240 ft



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Camera Traps and Review

- Set up camera traps
- Hotel grounds, near the loch and surrounding areas
- Review and discuss camera footage the following day
- Understand how the information is used in real life ecological surveys



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Beaver Translocation and Studies – Argaty Estate

Tour and presentation of the local beaver relocation and rewilding centre



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Red Kites – Argaty Estate

Central Scotland's only red kite feeding station



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Red Squirrels Safari

- Conservation and management of the red squirrel population
- Talk on Saving the Red Squirrel project
- Comrie Croft has 230 acres of protected woodlands



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Hogscroft Hedgehog Rescue

- Small, local Hedgehog rescue centre
- Just under 200 hedgehogs in 2023



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Camperdown Wildlife Centre

- Rewilding
- Wild Cat Breeding programme
- Rehabilitation
- Nutritional science
- Welfare and ethics
- Genetic diversity and biology
- Behavioural studies
- Enrichment techniques
- Wildlife rehabilitation



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Itinerary

- **Day 1 – Monday 23rd February** – Depart from London Kings Cross at approximately 08:30 hrs. Arriving Dunblane train station at approximately 14:00 hrs. Transfer to St. Fillans. Arrive at Four Seasons hotel mid afternoon with welcome talk and introduction to the week ahead. Local walk late afternoon to take in the area, habitats, history and management. Dinner and free time.
- **Day 2 – Tuesday 24th February** – Morning at a wildlife centre to visit the wildcat breeding programme and hear from the on-site experts; packed lunch at park (if dry); afternoon tour of Hogscroft Hedgehog Rescue Centre; pre-dinner presentation on reintroduction programmes in Scotland. After dinner set up wildlife camera traps around hotel grounds
- **Day 3 – Wednesday 25th February** – After breakfast review camera trap footage. Visit to Argaty Red Kites to see a working farm that is rewilding and managing a visitor attraction and is home to a family of beavers; packed lunch in visitor centre with a talk on human-wildlife conflict and the beaver family that were relocated to Argaty in 2021. Viewing the feeding kites in the hide. After dinner walk around the hotel environs looking and listening for owls using thermal aids with talk enroute.



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



Itinerary

- **Day 4 – Thursday 26th February** – After breakfast walk to Comrie along the old railway line and look for signs of species using the line, also look for raptor species along the mountain ridge – discussion on life cycles, ecology and behaviour en route. Packed lunch in Comrie then walk to Comrie Community Woodland. Learn about the woodland project so far and try out some species ID and recording apps. Transport back to St. Fillans for dinner. After dinner, take part in some fun learning activities based on the events of the week. Say goodbye to the Aquila team.
- **Day 5 – Friday 27th February** – After breakfast visit Comrie Croft to learn about a sustainable business and how to integrate activities with nature. Wildlife spotting with Colin. Lunch at the café before the coach transfer
- Depart Comrie Croft at 14:00 for Dunblane train station for the train home, departure at approximately 15:00 and arriving at Kings Cross during the evening.





ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Details on accommodation
and meals



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



St. Fillans and The Four Seasons Hotel

You will be accommodated in comfortable rooms which can accommodate 2 – 4 people with ensuite bathrooms

The hotel is located at the edge of Loch Earn with stunning views over the Loch and the hills beyond



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



Food at the Project

Three meals a day will be provided. Breakfast and dinner will be provided at the hotel; a daily packed lunch (except Friday) will be provided for you to take on your activity.

Dietary Requirements

Provision can be made for Vegetarian & Vegan diets and for those who have a medical condition such as Coeliac disease that requires a Gluten Free Diet and for those with severe allergies to dairy, eggs or nuts.



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



Travelling by train* (*not included in cost)

Travelling by train gives you the opportunity to see some of the beautiful scenery as you travel North through England to Scotland.

The journey is direct from London Kings Cross to Edinburgh Waverley with a change there to the local service to your final stop at Dunblane.

Costs around £160 – £200*

Do not book
your
train ticket
yet

| OUT Mon 23 Feb 2026 London Kings Cross to Dunblane | | RETURN Fri 27 Feb 2026 Dunblane to London Kings Cross | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Earlier | | Earlier | |
| Standard | 1st class | Standard | 1st class |
| 07:30 → 13:06 London Kings Cross Dunblane 5h 36m, 1 change | £49.20 Limited availability | 14:55 → 21:02 Dunblane London Kings Cross 6h 7m, 1 change | £75.10 Only 4 left |
| 07:33 → 13:38 London Kings Cross Dunblane 6h 5m, 2 changes | Tickets coming soon | 15:25 → 21:11 Dunblane London Kings Cross 5h 46m, 1 change | £84.30 Limited availability |
| 08:30 → 14:05 London Kings Cross Dunblane 5h 35m, 1 change | £71.70 Limited availability | 16:24 → 22:01 Dunblane London Kings Cross 5h 37m, 1 change | £87.50 Limited availability |

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| London North Eastern Railway | GR614000 |
| 4 bike spaces • Reservation required | |
| 08:30 | London Kings Cross |
| 4h 7m | View stops |
| 12:37 | Edinburgh (Waverley) |
| 29m transfer time | |
| ScotRail | SR712500 |
| 4 bike spaces • Reservation required | |
| 13:06 | Edinburgh (Waverley) |
| 59m | View stops |
| 14:05 | Dunblane |



BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

The next steps to this
amazing and unique
experience



WHAT'S INCLUDED



What is Included?

- Transfers to/from project from Dunblane
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day (except Friday)
- Coach transport for activities where applicable
- All activities as part of the project
- 24/7 support

NOT Included

- Return train journey to/from Dunblane*
- Personal Travel Insurance *
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project and lunch on Friday
- Any activities not specified as part of the project

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

THE NEXT STEPS



Project Dates & Key Deadlines

Confirmed Travel Dates:

Monday 23rd February 2026 – Friday 27th February 2026

Trip Cost:

£1045.00* Based on a group of 17

Key Deadlines are:

- Return online booking form by 10/11/2025
- 50% Deposit payment by 17/11/2025
- Balance payment to be paid by 29/12/2025
- 02/02/2026 Final documents will be issued

BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE



Booking Form

- Please submit by 10/11/2025
- No deposit required at this stage of booking

Key deadlines are:

- 50% Deposit payment by 17/11/2025
- Balance payment to be paid by 22/12/2026

GAP AFRICA PROJECTS

BOOKING FORM

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

Title *

Name *

Date of birth *

Address *

Telephone *

Mobile *

Email 1 *

Email 2 *

(NB: Please note that all booking correspondence will be sent via Email)

Passport no.

Passport Issue Date

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.

Gap Africa Projects

10 Oct 2022
Ref: Z3-ALA-LAL7-03-02

Dear Chloe,

Thank you for wanting to book with Gap Africa Projects as part of the United Kingdom Zulu Land Conservation Research. Please take the time to look through this document and check that everything is correct.

We have received your deposit payment and your placement is now confirmed as per the details below. The first balance and due date is detailed on your invoice.

Please remember that you can contact me to discuss anything in this document as well as any other aspect of your expedition and I am on hand as your personal travel advisor for the entirety of your placement.

Warm regards,
The GAP Africa Team

Passengers Travelling
Miss Chloe Capstick
Placement(s)
Zulu Land Conservation Research (05/03/23 - 18/03/23)

Inclusions
Flights, shared road transfers to and from Project, accommodation for duration of travel and all project activities.

Exclusions
Insurance, any activities undertaken that are not included in part of the project.

Your Flight(s)

| Flight No. | From | To | Class | Time | Notes |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------|-------------------|
| 05/03/2023 BA1309 | London Heathrow (LHR) | Manchester (MAN) | D: 13:00 A: 16:00 | | |
| 05/03/2023 BA25 | London Heathrow (LHR) | London Heathrow (LHR) | D: 18:20 A: 19:25 + 1 D | | Overnighting (1N) |
| 18/03/2023 BA25 | London Heathrow (LHR) | London Heathrow (LHR) | D: 18:20 A: 19:25 + 1 D | | Overnighting (1N) |
| 19/03/2023 BA1300 | London Heathrow (LHR) | Manchester (MAN) | D: 09:30 A: 10:40 | | |

Your Banking Advice

10 Oct 2022

And spellings

Passport expiry date

Passport Copies

Travel Insurance

+44 (0) 207 193 7819

mark.bottell@gapfricaprojects.com

GAP AFRICA PROJECTS
PO Box 444
Chesham
Bucks
HP8 4JH

SAFARI

CONFIRMATION INVOICE

Gap Africa Projects
PO Box 444
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Bucks
HP8 4JH
Tel: +44 (0) 207 193 7819
Email: info@gapfricaprojects.com

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SAFARI

BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE



Group Web Page

<https://gapafricaprojects.com/26-4816/>



Booking Form

<https://gapafricaprojects.com/booking-form-26-4816-mwa-sco-merrist-wood-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 inquiry 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 *

Suggested kit list

- Long-sleeve shirts/T shirts
- Trousers
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes
- Rain jacket
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Thermals
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker – warm
- Daypack rucksack
- Socks
- Warm Hat (winter only) / Hat for sun protection
- Gloves for warmth (in winter only)
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear

- Comfortable shoes to wear for evenings
- Toiletries
- Tick / insect repellent
- Swimwear – you may want a dip in the loch!

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Good torch
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Personal medical items
- Sunscreen
- Notebook/diary and pen



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

Explore our network of Global Adventure Projects:



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