



# ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



## Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course



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

# TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

## Aberystwyth University – Booking Reference 4820

### Travel Dates:

5<sup>th</sup> July 2026 to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2026

### Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
KQ0101	05/07/2026	London Heathrow (LHR)	17:25	Nairobi (NBO)	05:00 + 1 Day
KQ0760	06/07/2026	Nairobi (NBO)	07:45	Johannesburg (JNB)	10:55
KQ0765	20/07/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	01:15	Nairobi (NBO)	06:20
KQ100	20/07/2026	Nairobi (NBO)	09:05	London Heathrow (LHR)	16.15

\*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

**Baggage Allowance** – 1 piece of checked baggage @23kgs, 1 piece of hand baggage @ 12kgs max dimensions 55x35x25 cms

### Project:

Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course (Vet Professionals Group)

### Trip Cost:

£2595.00 per person

£300.00 deposit

£1147.50 Instalment due 16/03/2026

£1147.50 Balance due 11/05/2026



**AFRICA**

# **PROJECT LOCATION**

The Waterberg  
overview

# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

AFRICA

## A place that promotes the connection between people and nature

The Waterberg contains pristine habitats, abundant bird and wildlife and has a natural unspoilt beauty. The Waterberg is an escarpment of massive sandstone buttresses and outcrops, incorporating many rivers, streams and wetlands, stretching for 150 km in a long arc.

The Waterberg has many special and unique characteristics which is why UNESCO approved the area for biosphere reserve status in 2001.

The Waterberg is a critical conservation area for African wild dogs, with the last free-roaming pack in South Africa; black and white rhino, with the third largest population within South Africa; and the Cape Vulture, with the largest colony of 800 breeding pairs.



# ABOUT ENTABENI

AFRICA

## Entabeni Safari Conservancy

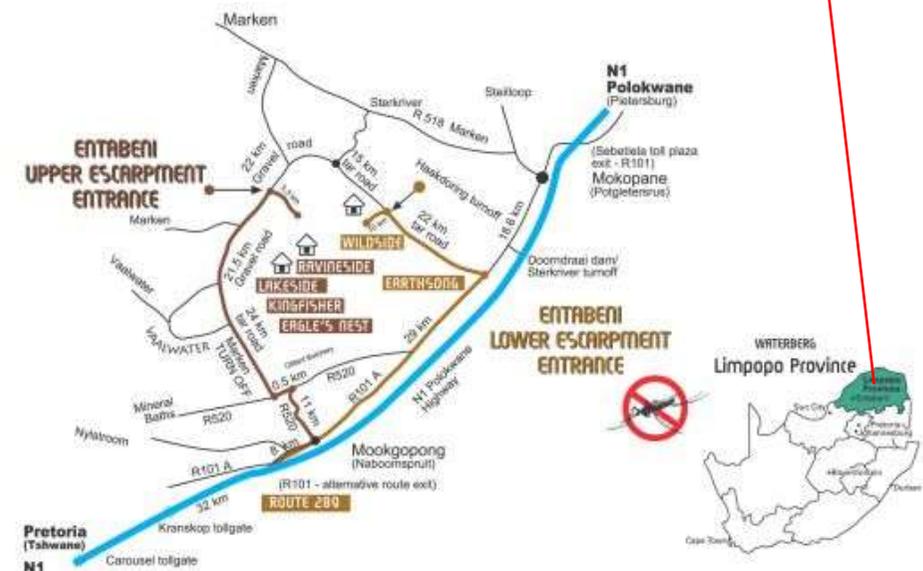
### Location

The Waterberg Wildlife and Veterinary Course – Entabeni is based at the 22,000-hectare Entabeni Safari Conservancy in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

Located a pleasant 4 hour drive from Johannesburg; in the **malaria-free** area of the Waterberg, Limpopo Province

Entabeni is set within a tranquil, natural setting boasting changing vistas, diverse eco-systems and a breathtaking mountainous backdrop. Entabeni is the integration of a 22,000 hectare Big 5 Game Reserve, a resort and luxurious lodges.

It boasts spectacular scenery, with mountains, waterfalls and unspoilt ravines.



# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

AFRICA

## Welgevonden Game Reserve

Welgevonden is home to over 100 different mammals, including the Big Five. There are rare and unusual species too, such as brown hyena, aardwolf and armadillo – all best seen at night.

The grassy plains abound with antelope from the largest eland to the diminutive duiker; cheetah, lion and leopard are always close by. It is the diversity of habitat on the reserve that encourages such a wide range of wildlife as well as over 300 bird species, including rare blue cranes.

At >36,000ha in size, Welgevonden Wildlife Reserve lies in the Waterberg plateau, about 250 km north of Johannesburg. Here guests enjoy unlimited traversing through the reserve and experience an environment where biodiversity conservation and wildlife viewing are managed in harmony. Welgevonden protects a unique and special environment and the reserve's management is deeply committed to ongoing conservation research and development.





**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Your Three Project Locations

This unique 14-night project will allow you to experience three different project locations in two neighbouring provinces of South Africa. Starting in the **Highveld region** you will tour South Africa's only faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort. You will also assist with some shelter and community cases, and a K9 conservation unit. You will then travel to **The Waterberg, Limpopo Province** and observe a focused wildlife veterinary practice at Entabeni Safari Conservancy, before travelling to **Welgevonden Game Reserve** to experience the core, Big 5 monitoring and conservation experience

Project locations and duration are as follows:

### 4 Nights

Kyalami, Midrand and surrounding areas - Gauteng Province

### 3 Nights

Entabeni Safari Conservancy - Waterberg - Limpopo Province

### 7 Nights

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





**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT THE PROJECT: KYALAMI, MIDRAND AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Kyalami, Midrand and surrounding areas – Gauteng

- Visit to Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary hospital.
- Assist with some animal shelter and community cases
- Assist with a K9 conservation unit.

It's important to remember that wildlife does not work to an agenda, therefore activities may change at short notice!



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Kyalami – Johannesburg Wildlife Vet

A registered wildlife veterinary hospital and rehabilitation centre in South Africa, dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing indigenous wildlife.

Led by Dr Karin Lourens, a wildlife vet with 22 years of experience, the non-profit treats small to medium mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and arachnids—free of charge.

Their mission combines expert care with conservation, education, and research.

📺 *Featured in a Netflix documentary about a baby pangolin's journey back to the wild.*



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Kyalami – Society for Animals in Distress

Care is provided by vets, vet nurses, animal health technicians, and welfare assistants.

The focus: accessible veterinary care for vulnerable communities and rescue organisations.

Students assist professionals in treating rescued horses, dogs, cats, and small animals—rehabilitated for rehoming.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Kyalami – Pit-Track K9 antipoaching unit

A registered non-profit dedicated to wildlife protection through skilled K9 units and frontline anti-poaching operations.

Students will meet the K9 team, attend a talk on the poaching crisis, watch a live demo, and assist with physio care for working dogs.





**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT THE PROJECT: ENTABENI SAFARI CONSERVANCY**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

## Waterberg Wildlife and Veterinary Course – Entabeni

This course provides the opportunity for hands-on practical wildlife experience for pre-vet/vet nurses/technicians or those studying in the veterinary field.

Based at the reserve's student camp working directly with the monitoring team; this department runs and manages the day-to-day decisions and monitoring of the wildlife and ecosystem of the reserve.

The team and their work are crucial to the management and welfare of all wildlife on the reserve, as they monitor the animals' conditions, herd structures, locations and behaviours.

Time will be spent working with the reserve's veterinarian and other local wildlife vets with whom the team work.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Entabeni Safari Conservancy

- Introduction to Entabeni Safari Conservancy and Research Projects
- Rhino orphanage – assist with orphaned rhino calves
- Time spent with the research team conducting conservation activities
- Wildlife Veterinary work and intervention (Dr Pierre Bester)
- Build up to possible intervention and planning
- Lectures (Dr Zoe Glyphis)

It's important to remember that wildlife does not work to an agenda, therefore activities may change at short notice!



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Dr Pierre Bester – Wildlife Veterinarian

Rhino orphanage veterinarian, Dr Pierre Bester has a mixed animal practice treating large and small domestic animals as well as wildlife. The main scope of his work includes the immobilisation, treatment, and translocation of African wildlife, including megaherbivore: rhinos and elephants.

He has been involved with the immobilisation and translocation of thousands of rhinos, as well as countless other species.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Dr Zoe Glyphis – Wildlife Veterinarian – Predator Specialist

Dr Zoe Glyphis has become one of South Africa's leading predator specialists and is on the forefront with veterinary medicine and veterinary assistance of wild dog, hyena and cheetah conservation all over South Africa.

She is helping and assisting several NGO groups and organizations with their efforts to increase predator ranges and to establish safe and genetically viable populations in new conservation areas.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Practical Sessions

- Dart shooting practice
- The kit and clinic of a mobile wildlife vet
- Q & A



## Possible Lectures & Debate

- Drugs used in wildlife medicine
- Calculating doses in wildlife
- Logistics of wildlife transportation: customised vehicles, crates and equipment
- The Game Trade-Auction and value of livestock
- Game capture systems
- Darting wildlife
- Boma management and rehabilitation
- Orphaned Rhino rehabilitation
- Parasite control
- Managing game reserves and Land Capacity Model
- Species control - predator pits
- State veterinary disease control in practice
- Documentation required: Red Cross Permits



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Monitoring the Entabeni Rhino Population

Behavioural observations, photos and GPS locations are recorded to document where the animals are occurring; keeping tabs on the localities and activities of White and Black Rhino on the reserve.

Importantly also monitor body condition, injuries, mating, calving, behaviour, herd structure etc.



## The Rhino Orphanage

The Rhino Orphanage was the first-ever specialised, non-commercial centre dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, raising and release of orphaned rhinos back into the wild.

Although newborn rhinos can weigh up to 50kgs, they are essentially “helpless” and require protection so that they may survive and ultimately thrive.

Rhino calves and rhino mothers are closely bonded. Rhino young are fiercely protected by their mothers in the wild, so when a rhino mother is killed, the rhino orphan becomes particularly vulnerable, and their longevity is endangered. Under normal circumstances, rhino calves will stay with their mothers for around 3 years. For this reason, the rhino orphans in their care typically require the same intensity and timeframe of nurturing from the carers.





**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT THE PROJECT: WELGEVONDEN GAME RESERVE**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Your Conservation Programme – Conservation Research Team

As part of your project, you will be heavily involved with the day-to-day field work conducted by the biomonitoring team. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Animal tracking
- Wildlife transects – estimates of numbers, body condition & herd structure
- Use of telemetry tracking
- White rhino monitoring research
- Elephant behaviour study
- Camera trap surveys (black rhino & other cryptic animals)
- Nocturnal species ID and night wildlife drive
- Visit to temporary holding bomas for rhino and predators
- 'Waterberg Wild Dog Project'
- Collecting faecal samples for research
- Local wildlife auction (Only on certain weekends)
- Alien plant species eradication
- Land capacity exercise – number of animals vs land support

It's important to remember that wildlife does not work to an agenda, therefore activities may change at short notice!

## Your Conservation Programme – Veterinary Activities

Welgevonden Game Reserve utilises the services of several wildlife veterinarians, depending on the nature of the work. Veterinary interactions are never guaranteed and the below are given as examples only.

- Darting simulation and shooting practice exercise
- Immobilisation of white rhino for DNA tagging, ear notching and samples
- Lion breeding management
- Elephant contraception study
- Supplementary feeding of Buffalo and Rhino
- Wildlife capture and relocation as part of Meta-Population Management
- Replacing/fitting of tracking collars on various species
- Observe helicopter darting of large wildlife species i.e. white rhino

Some but not all of these veterinary opportunities will be carried out on the project. Working with wildlife is unpredictable and all the activities are only undertaken when required.

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## 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.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## 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.



## Rhino Monitoring Focused

Welgevonden Game Reserve is a significant sanctuary for two rhino species. The reserve is home to an important population of southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) with its conservation status of Near Threatened as well as Critically Endangered black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*).

Welgevonden has a reputation for its strong, high-tech approach to anti-poaching; preventing criminals from entering even near the Reserve.

The Biomonitoring department has the very essential function of closely monitoring the rhino populations and participants have an active role in this. Modern technology is utilised and the team is supported by experienced scientists and managers. A rhino's life expectancy can reach over 40 years so the same college/institution or individual participant that returns regularly can see the same rhino through its life stages over all the years.

An extraordinary opportunity considering the current plight of the species.

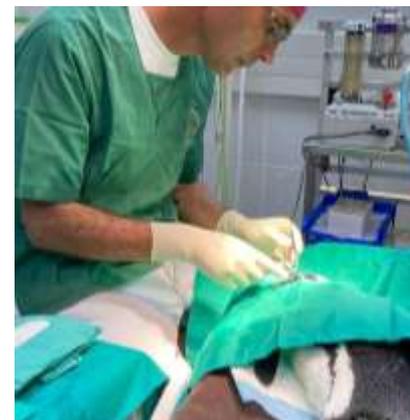


# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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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 particularly 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.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Example 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





**AFRICA**

# **ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE**

Life in the African Bush

## Gauteng – Fair Glen Guest House

You will be staying in twin bedded accommodation with en-suite facilities.

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

The guest house offers comfortable areas to relax and unwind and is based in an equestrian-themed suburb.

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

### Food at the Project

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.

### 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

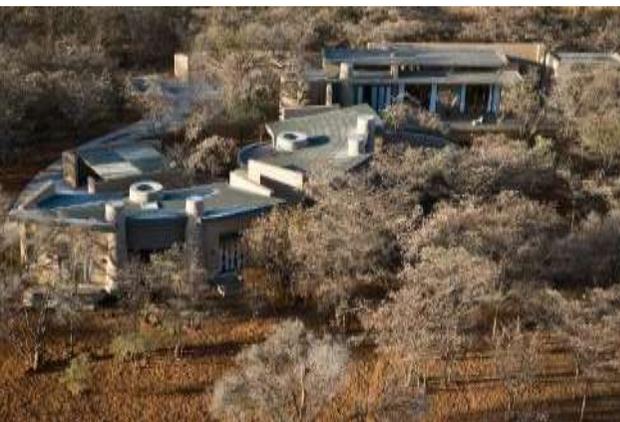
AFRICA

## Waterberg – Entabeni Accommodation

You will stay in twin bedded rooms with ensuite facilities.

There are 4, 5 and 6 bedroom units each of which has an open plan layout with lounge and dining area and a fully equipped kitchen.

Evenings are spent at leisure around the campfire.

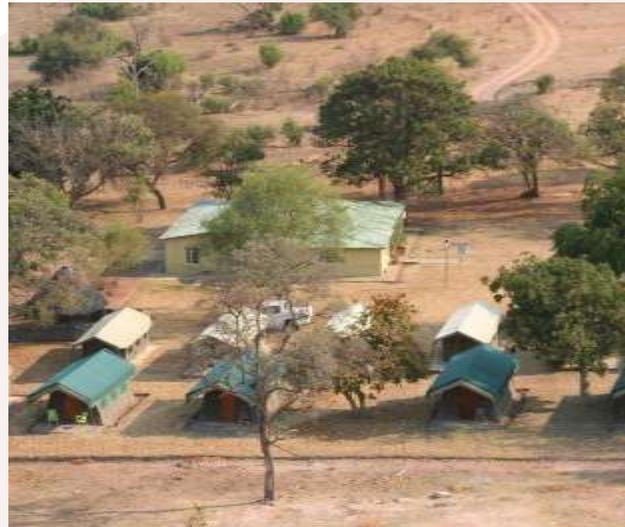


## Welgevonden Accommodation

The student centre and camp is based on the reserve and boasts ten tents that sleep two 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 and the camp is fenced off inside the boundaries of the reserve. Most evenings are spent at leisure around the camp.



# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

## Food at the Project – Entabeni and Welgevonden

Three meals are provided daily on a self-cook basis. The evening meal is prepared by the group in small teams. Students are responsible for the communal cooking and washing up.

Evening meals and breakfast are served at the facility and lunch is normally brought into the field and taken picnic-style in the bush.

## 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.





**AFRICA**

# **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Inclusions/Exclusions &  
Recommended Kit List

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

## What is Included?

- Flights
- Transfer to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- ATOL protection
- Airport meet/greet
- 24 hour 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
- Visas/travel documents
- Tips

\* We recommend you take out insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed

## Suggested kit list

To allow for ease of transfer to the project a soft holdall/ soft suitcase is preferred.

- Short and long sleeve t-shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts (or work/zip-off trousers)
- Hiking boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Waterproof jacket
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Padded jacket/windbreaker (Winter months) although it can get very cold on an open vehicle even in summer
- Socks
- Underwear
- Change of casual clothes for evenings
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Warm hat (Winter only) / Hat for sun protection (all year)
- Gloves for warmth (Winter only)
- Working gloves
- Daypack rucksack
- Surgical gloves
- Sunscreen and Sunglasses
- Personal medical items
- First aid kit
- Toiletries
- Tick / Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Good torch

### Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Power bank
- Stethoscope

\* 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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