



ZOO PROFESSIONALS' PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



Waterberg Wildlife Course



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

TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

Zoo Professionals – Booking Reference 4689

Travel Dates:

1st February – 17th February 2026

Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
KQ0101	01/02/2026	London Heathrow (LHR)	17:25	Nairobi (NBO)	05:00 + 1 Day
KQ0760	02/02/2026	Nairobi (NBO)	07:45	Johannesburg (JNB)	10:55
KQ0765	17/02/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	01:15	Nairobi (NBO)	06:20
KQ0100	17/02/2026	Nairobi (NBO)	09:10	London Heathrow (LHR)	15:30

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage allowance: 1 Piece checked baggage @ 23kgs, 1 piece hand baggage max dimensions 55x35x25cms

Project:

Waterberg Wildlife Course – Zoo Professionals



AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

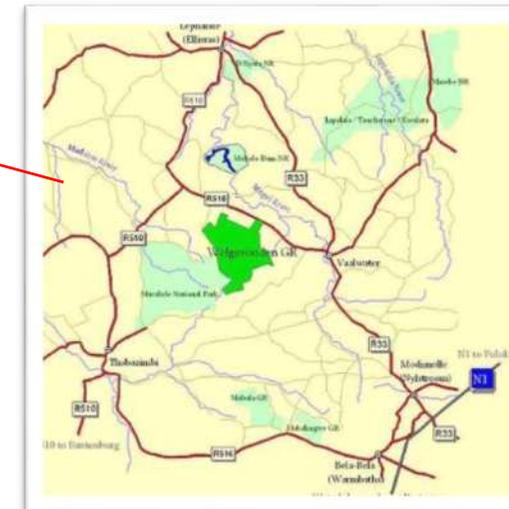
AFRICA

Location

The Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Nursing Course is based at the Welgevonden Wildlife Reserve, (Dutch for "well found"), is a >36,000ha Wildlife reserve in the Waterberg District of the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

A pleasant 3.5-hour drive from Johannesburg makes Welgevonden one of the most accessible premier **malaria free** wilderness reserves in the country. It forms part of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve which was officially declared by UNESCO in 2001 and currently covers an area in excess of 4000 km².

The reserve comprises of mountainous terrain that is dissected by deep valleys and kloofs while flat plateaus characterise most hilltops. Altitude varies from 1080 m in the north to ±1800 m in the southern section of the reserve.



Welgevonden Wildlife Reserve

Welgevonden is home to over 100 different mammals, including the Big Five. There are rare and unusual species too, such as brown hyena, pangolin, aardwolf and aardvark – 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.



Waterberg Wildlife Course

This course provides the opportunity for hands on practical wildlife experience and biomonitoring work for zoo professionals. Based at the reserve's research camp working directly with the conservation and research 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 is crucial to the management and welfare of all wildlife on the reserve; selecting which animals need to be removed from the reserve and which need to be added to maintain a balanced ecosystem.

Time will be spent working with local wildlife vets and specialists with whom the research team work.

One of the main objectives for our groups is white rhino monitoring including identification of individuals and body condition scoring. On occasion, groups may assist in the darting, DNA sampling and ear tagging rhinos on the reserve. This work is carried out by Dr Pierre Bester a rhino expert specialist & Dr Peter Caldwell, a world famous carnivore vet; both have a wealth of knowledge in the wildlife industry and it is an amazing opportunity for the students to learn from them.

With specialists in conservation and wildlife, the project provides a wealth of informative lectures and practical experiences.



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 research 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
- Wildlife breeding management (buffalo, rhino & big cats)
- 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

Possible Lectures

- Managing wildlife reserves & land capacity model
- 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
- Species control – predator pits
- State veterinary disease control in practice
- Documentation – what is required, Red Cross permits etc.
- Wildlife trade auction & value of livestock



Conservation Activities

Anti-poaching protocols are of vital importance; students will contribute to this by actively searching for rhino and updating identification guides. This activity takes place all year round is an incredible experience and an opportunity to make a difference in conserving the white rhino. Welgevonden takes pride in its large investment in the security of the reserve, you will have the opportunity to attend a talk on the latest methods of anti-poaching, co-ordinating ambushes, gaining intelligence and receive an update on the latest statistics.

Elephant identification and behavioural monitoring is an important task on the reserve; with elephants living in close proximity and regularly coming into contact with humans there is the potential for conflict. Research will determine the best way to reduce and avoid this potential conflict through individual and herd identification which ensures the correct implementation of management intervention.

The cheetah population at Welgevonden is the largest most successful wild cheetah population in the Waterberg cluster. Students will be actively involved in the conservation of this species by updating their identikits.



Conservation Activities

Herbivore body condition will be another activity that students will be involved in; collecting samples which will be analysed to determine levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in their diet, this takes place year-round on the reserve. Herbivore herd structures are monitored with the data collected used in a model to predict future herbivore population densities, the data is collected by means of road transect game counts. Species include greater kudu, white rhino, elephant, blue wildebeest to name a few.

The San people were existing in the Waterberg region more than 2500 years ago and Welgevonden has 2 known sites where there is evidence of this! A guided walk and talk can be arranged for students to interpret the meanings of the paintings and to understand the spiritual life of the San people.

There is the opportunity to learn more about the art of tracking, a traditional skill that you can experience.





AFRICA

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

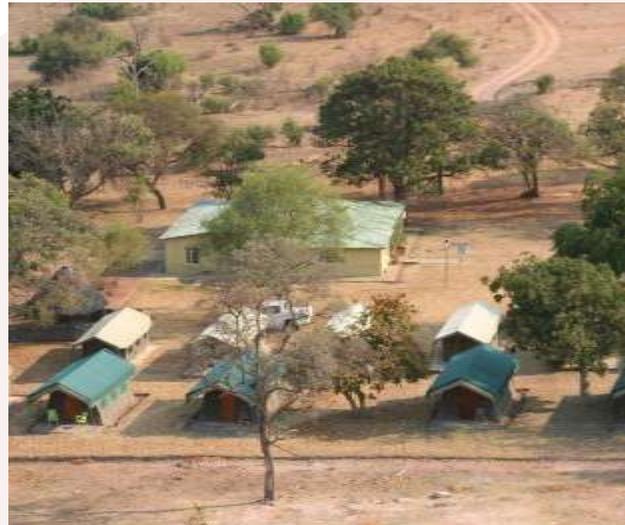
Life in the African Bush

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.



Food at the Project

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.

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.





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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Your free time on the project

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

AFRICA

Activities/Excursions

There will be free time/day off, where you'll be able to do some additional activities. These are included in the price of your trip.

More information will be given closer to the time. Your travel insurance **must** cover you for any additional activities you choose to do.

Any activities booked and paid for locally are not covered under GAPAfrica Project's personal liability insurance.





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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