



WESTON COLLEGE PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



WHITE SHARK

Marine
Conservation &
Community
Field Trip

AFRICA

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

TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

Weston College – Booking Reference 4840

Travel Dates:

21st June 2027 – 4th July 2027

Flights:

| Flight No | Flight Date | Dept. | Dept. Time | Arr. | Arr. Time |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| TBC | 21/06/2027 | London Heathrow (LHR) | TBC | Cape Town (CPT) | TBC + 1 Day |
| TBC | 04/07/2027 | Cape Town (CPT) | TBC | London Heathrow (LHR) | TBC + 1 Day |

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage Allowance – TBC

Project: Marine Conservation & Community Field Trip

Trip Cost:

£3,550.00–£3,850.00 per person

£300.00 deposit

50% instalment payment by 01/03/2027

Balance payment by 26/04/2027

A group of people are on a boat, some waving and some taking photos. In the background, a large whale is breaching the water, creating a massive splash. The boat has a yellow stripe and text on its side. The scene is set on a body of water with a cloudy sky.

AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

DTC 2044 D (P)(S)

TEAM

ABOUT WHITE SHARK PROJECTS

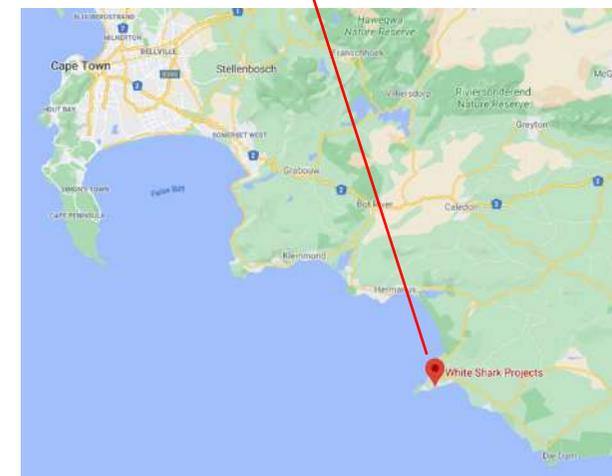
AFRICA

White Shark Projects

White Shark Projects is a world leading organisation founded in 1989 purely as a research centre and has now broadened its reach by establishing a commercial arm and by funding a non-profit organisation, the South African Shark Conservancy.

The project is dedicated to the exploration and conservation of the world's greatest predators, the white shark and all other shark species in its environment.

The project works with students, eco-tourists, conservation organisations and marine resource users (subsistence fishermen, sport divers and dive operators) to gather data on shark species, correct negative misconceptions about sharks and stop the needless slaughter of over 100 million sharks annually.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Location

The project is based at Kleinbaai which is located just outside Gansbaai, South Africa; a seaside village approximately two hours southeast of Cape Town on the Atlantic Ocean coast.

Shark trips primarily take place off Dyer and Geyser Islands which are located approximately 6 nautical miles off shore. Dyer Island is a breeding ground for the African penguin, Cape cormorants and the Cape gannet while Geyser Island is a breeding ground for the Afro-Australian Fur Seal (Cape fur seal) with approximately 60,000 locally.

The boats anchor in the deep channel between the islands, this channel is called "Shark Alley" and is a magnet for many shark species including the copper shark, the broadnose sevengill shark and the elusive migratory white shark due to the breeding colony of fur seals; this is a great area for cage diving as the islands, reefs and huge kelp beds all provide protection from the sea swell and wind.



ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

Your two project locations

Your 13 night project is split between two locations, in the **Western Cape Province** of South Africa. You will first work as a volunteer with White Shark Projects in Gansbaai to assist in the conservation of the world's greatest predators, the white shark and all other shark species in its environment. You will then travel to Cape Town where you will have a chance to explore the city over two nights. Project locations and duration are as follows:

Itinerary

10 Nights

White Shark Projects – Gansbaai – Western Cape Province

3 Nights

City Tour – Cape Town – Western Cape Province

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

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Your Programme

On arrival you will receive a full induction into the programme and meet the team you will be working with on land and out at sea.

Trips out to sea on the commercial shark vessel are weather dependent but the aim is for a minimum of four trips out to sea on the group programme, one of which will be exclusive, just the volunteers and crew on the boat.

You will be taught how to collect data on free-swimming sharks. At sea you will focus on working with the sharks from above and below the water. Cage divers are responsible for recording observations on all sharks including species, sex, size, markings and behaviour.

Lectures will include basic shark biology and ecology, shark behaviours, research projects and conservation initiatives, local Cape fur seal and whale behaviour; depending on the season you may be lucky enough to see southern right whales which migrate to the area to mate and calve.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Your Programme – ‘Shark Days’

Training will be given on how to monitor sharks and on working on the shark cage diving vessel. The duties you undertake may change from day to day however you will always be working in conjunction with a qualified crew member from White Shark Projects.

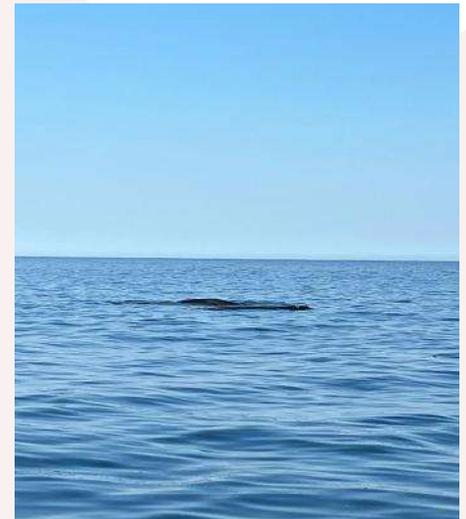
- Boat and cage preparation pre- and post-trip
- Equipment check – diving equipment, bait, food etc.
- Preparation and distribution of wet suits for clients
- Assist with anchoring, cast off
- Constant shark spotting to assist crew, clients and fellow volunteers
- Data recording & weekly collation of all data
- Post trip boat clean
- Clean and tidy away wet suits post trip
- Client assistance as required
- Provide information to clients and generally interact with them
- Write for the project’s blog & share pictures for social media
- Assist at the recycle swop shop one day per week (contributions are always welcome)
- Trip to South African Shark Conservancy with possible small species shark dissection and talk by the founder
- Lectures from the project’s marine biologist

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

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Life at sea....or on land



ANY QUESTIONS?

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Your programme – ‘No Sea Days’

On the days you are unable to go to sea due to weather or sea conditions alternative excursions or activities may be arranged; you will alternate between staying in the local area, data entering, lectures and watching appropriate documentaries or choose optional activities

Local activities include:

- Lectures – ecology and conservation, shark research methods, shark tagging methods
- Rock pool and coastal walks and cave visits to identify species found in and around the rockpools and to collect and identify shark egg cases
- Coastal litter clean ups
- Shark capture-mark-recapture
 - On land – fishing from the Klenbaai harbour to ID, record and tag small sharks (during the day and after dark)
- Shore based whale watching during the southern right whale season (June – November) locally at De Kelders or Hermanus
- Weekly visit to BARC, local animal shelter. Walk and socialise the dogs giving and receiving much needed love and attention
- Visit the local African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary

Optional activities:

- Betty's Bay
- Visiting the African penguin colony
- Crocodile Tour
- Crocodile Diving Experience – **additional cost**
- Boat based whale watching in season (June – November) – **additional cost**
- Cape vineyard tour and tasting – **additional cost**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Life at sea....or on land



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Life at sea....or on land



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Cape Town – 3 Nights

Visit the beautiful city of Cape Town. You will stay in the heart of the bustling waterfront and have the opportunity to explore the city over two days/nights.

You will explore the cultural and historical delights of Cape Town with a Hop-on Hop-off Bus ticket.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

You will have some free time/days off, to do some activities at your own cost. These are optional.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

AFRICA

Crocodile Diving Experience

Crocodile Cage Diving experience: free dive with crocodiles, separated by stainless steel netting (if crocs are active)

Includes an underwater viewing cave and elevated walk-way to observe crocodiles in close range.

Approximately R550.

You will book and pay for for this (by card) locally.

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 public liability insurance.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

AFRICA

Cape Vineyard Visit

Embracing the cultural side of the Western Cape you can visit a local Cape vineyard.

Beer and cider tasting (non-alcoholic options for under 18s)

Cost

Approximately R140-R250

You will book and pay for for this (by card) locally.

Your travel insurance **must** cover you for any additional activities you choose to do.

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

AFRICA

Whale Watching (seasonal and weather dependent)

Enter the natural habitat of the Marine Big 5 in South Africa, for the opportunity to observe whales in their natural habitat.

You may even get to see you have the chance to see dolphins, cape fur seals, african penguins and great white sharks.

Cost

Approximately R2145

You will book and pay for for this (by card) locally.

Your travel insurance **must** cover you for any additional activities you choose to do.

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

AFRICA

Table Mountain Cable Car

Ride the cable car up Table Mountain for panoramic views of the mother city. There are four retail outlets stocking a selection of merchandise, as well as several food outlets, offering various meals, snacks, and beverages.

Cost

Approximately R450-r550

You will book and pay for for this in advance (by card) locally.

Your travel insurance **must** cover you for any additional activities you choose to do.

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

AFRICA

Two Oceans Aquarium

Experience the incredible diversity of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans at one of Cape Town's top tourist attractions, the Two Oceans Aquarium. Your day ticket allows you to return to the Aquarium on the day of your visit.

Cost

Approximately R265-R300

You will book and pay for for this (by card) locally.

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

AFRICA

Robben Island

Experience a guided tour of Robben Island, discovering the island's 500 year old history, including a viewing of Nelson Mandel's cell. The tour takes 3.5 hours, including the ferry trip to and from the Island. Buses will transport you to all the historical sites around the Island.

Cost

Approximately R600

You will book and pay for for this (by card) locally.

Your travel insurance **must** cover you for any additional activites you choose to do.

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A group of people are on a boat, some waving and some taking photos. A large shark is visible in the water in the foreground. The boat has a yellow stripe and text on its side. The background shows a coastal town and a large dome structure.

AFRICA

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life at White Shark
Projects

DTC 2044 D (P)(S)

TEAM

White Shark Project – Ocean View Volunteer House

The accommodation, located two minutes from the harbour, is in dorm rooms with shared bathroom facilities. There is a comfortable lounge with TV, kitchen, dining area, rooftop terrace and a garden.

There are lockers available to store your valuables and WiFi access.

It is located in a very safe area where you can walk freely around anytime of the day or night.



Food at White Shark Project

Basic breakfast items are provided (choice of cereals, teas, coffee, juice, bread, milk, yogurts) but you can visit the Gansbaai supermarket or the local shop nearby.

A light lunch of soup and toasted sandwiches is provided each day.

The accommodation includes a large kitchen to cook all your own evening meals.

Volunteers normally buy provisions and prepare meals together.

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

AFRICA

Cape Town – Never at Home Backpackers



ANY QUESTIONS?

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Food in Cape Town

Breakfast is provided in your accommodation.

The V & A Waterfront is within walking distance from the accommodation and is a perfect place to find somewhere to eat for lunch and dinner.

There are eateries for all tastes nestled in a beautiful picturesque area with a view of Table Mountain.

All are easily accessible and safe and provide a lovely place to eat or to grab a quick coffee to sit and watch the world go by.

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

DTC 2044 D (P)(S)

TEAM

WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

What is Included?

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Basic breakfast and lunch at the project
- Basic breakfast in Cape Town
- All activities as part of the project
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 In country support

NOT Included

- UK transfers
 - Personal Travel Insurance*
 - Evening meal at the Project
 - Lunch and Dinner in Cape Town
 - Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project
 - Any activities not specified as part of the project
 - Weekend/Free Time activities
 - 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 sleeve shirts – for uniform
- 3 x long work trousers and shorts – for uniform (or work trousers with zip-off trousers)
- Short and long sleeve t-shirts
- Waterproof non-slip shoes/crocs
- Waterproofs – jacket and trousers
- Sweatshirt/fleece, thermal base layers (April–October)
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker (*A volunteer warm jacket can be provided by WSP with a deposit*)
- Socks
- Underwear
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Warm hat, scarf, gloves (May–October)
- Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Daypack rucksack
- Beach and Bath towels
- Swimwear
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen (+30 factor) – essential
- Polarised sunglasses
- Personal medical items, including seasickness tablets
- First aid kit
- Insect repellent
- Headtorch
- Water bottle

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Camera and/or GoPro
- Power bank

Please note wetsuits and snorkels will be provided at the project

* All work clothes should be neutral or blue tones for working at the coast. No skimpy or bright-coloured clothing to be worn



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