UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER

INFORMATION PACK

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING 2025

KwaZulu-Natal

Conservation Research Field Trip

AFRICA

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

TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

University of Chester – Booking Reference 4575

Travel Dates:

27th April – 8th May 2025

Flights:

EK018 - 27th April Manchester – Dubai International arriving 28th April *

EK761 - 28th April Dubai International - Johannesburg

EK764 - 8th May Johannesburg - Dubai International arriving 9th May *

EK017 - 9th May Dubai International - Manchester

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage allowance: 1 piece checked baggage @23kgs, 1 piece hand baggage @ 23kgs, max dimensions 55x38x22 cms

Project:

KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research Field Trip – Zingela Reserve & Nambiti Game Reserve

Trip Cost: £2,114.00 per person

£300.00 deposit

£90700 Instalment due 06/01/2025

£907.00 Balance due 03/03/2025

AFRICA

KWAZULU-NATAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

Overview and location of the project

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Your Conservation Field Trip Explained

- A unique academic conservation experience based in South Africa
- Live and work in the wild of Africa
- The opportunity to experience hands on wildlife conservation
- Bespoke, tailor made projects to suit research requirements
- Project Activities include:
    - Pioneering conservation research
    - Conservation activities
    - Cultural enrichment
- Full 10 Days in South Africa
- All inclusive experience
- The most incredible wildlife experience you will ever have

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research Field Trip

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

We set out the basis of the trip, comprising of a 10-day academic module split between the two conservation reserves.

This is not a Safari Holiday!

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

The project split and duration are as follows:

10 Day Itinerary

Days 1 – 6
Zingela Wilderness Conservation

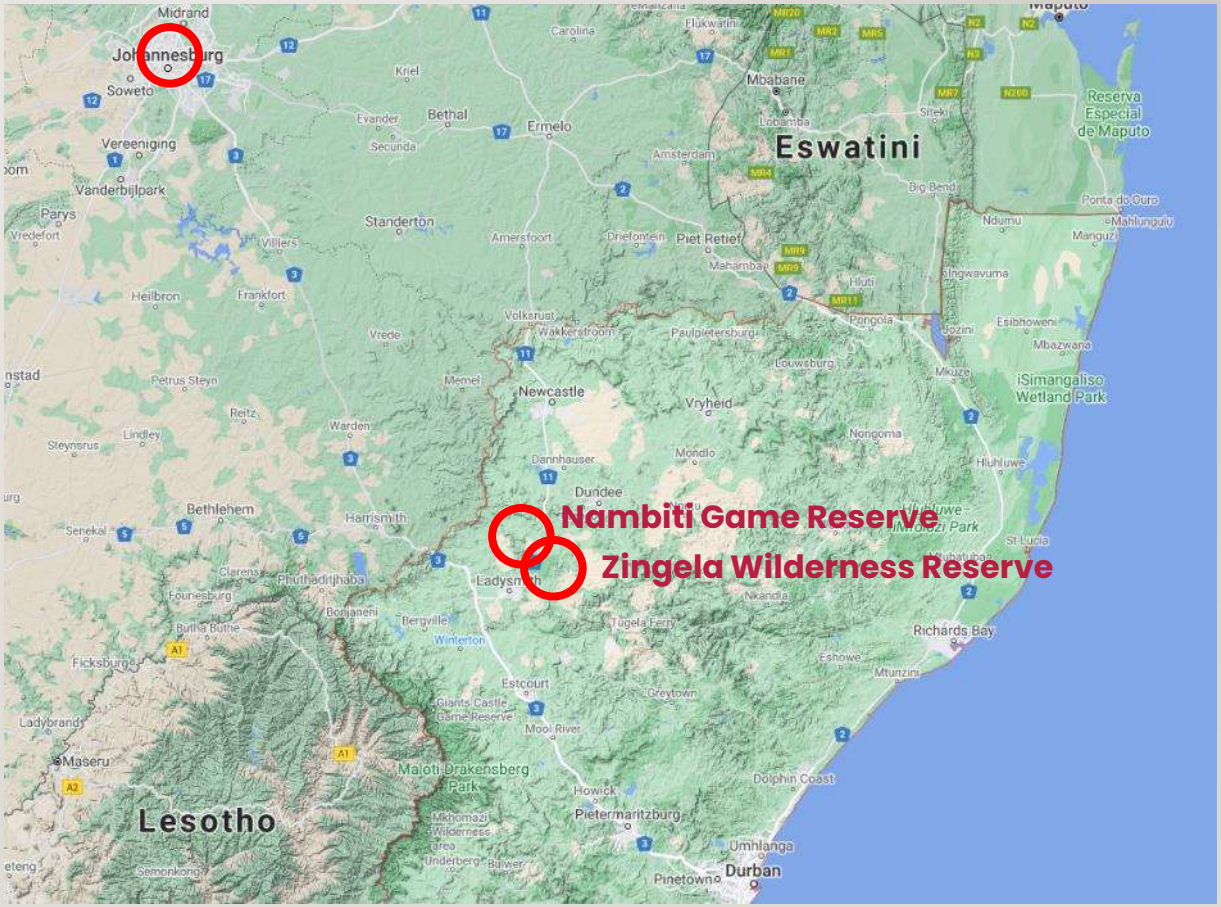
Days 6 – 10
Nambiti Big 5 Conservation Research

PROJECT OVERVIEW

AFRICA

KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research Field Trip

- South Africa a world leader in conservation
- Malaria free KwaZulu-Natal



AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work in more detail

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

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.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Zingela River Safari (Days 1 – 6)

Zingela Wildlife Reserve covers 12,500 acres of predator free, pristine African bushveld. You will have the opportunity to be involved with the research that takes place at the property;. You will also have the chance to participate in a host of activities during your stay.

ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

Giraffe Migration and Research Project

- Population data and database for individuals
- Migration and range data through unfenced territories
- Diet and vegetation impact assessment
- Genetic diversity

ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

River Assessments – Eel Project

- Fresh water eel project – understanding life cycle using GPS data
- Fish tagging and release
- Collecting biometric data
- SASS – South African Scoring System

ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

Reptile Research and Trapping

- Data collection started in 2022 with annual projects planned
- Species frequency
- Herpetofauna succession during vegetation rehabilitation
- Comparing herpetological diversity

ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

Educational Bush Walks – Ecology and Botany

ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

Rafting and Kayaking for research

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Nambiti Game Reserve (Days 6 – 10)

Nambiti Game Reserve is a magnificent 23,000 acres of unspoiled wilderness boasting the Big 5 and incredible biodiversity (grasslands, riverine bush, savannah and thornveld) offering unprecedented diversity of wildlife.

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Home to over 40 Species of Mammal

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Nambiti Research Team

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Use of Telemetry Tracking

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Ecology Trails: Tracks, signs and spoors

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Research – Habitat and Prey Selection: Predators

- Focus on Lion and Cheetah populations:
- GPS coordinates from tracking collars
- Can be used for movement/spatial/home range analysis

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Wildlife Monitoring – Elephant Impact Assessment

- Research into impact of elephant on the eco system:
- Matriarch collared so GPS range data available
- Herd population data
- Elephant impact assessments from February '23
- Long term ongoing project looking at elephant impact on vegetation

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Rhino Monitoring – Awareness and Anti-Poaching

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Camera Trap – Research and Study

- Set out own camera traps
- Learn about correct placement, best location etc
- Never know what we'll find!

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

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Night Game Drives

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Possible Wildlife Interventions

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Community Projects & Zulu Culture

- Learn about traditional Zulu culture
- Community engagement essential for long term conservation
- Positive impact supporting not for profit initiatives
- Projects: Move Africa, Jabong Hats & Rhino Art

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Community – GAP Donation Bags

YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

Management Documents

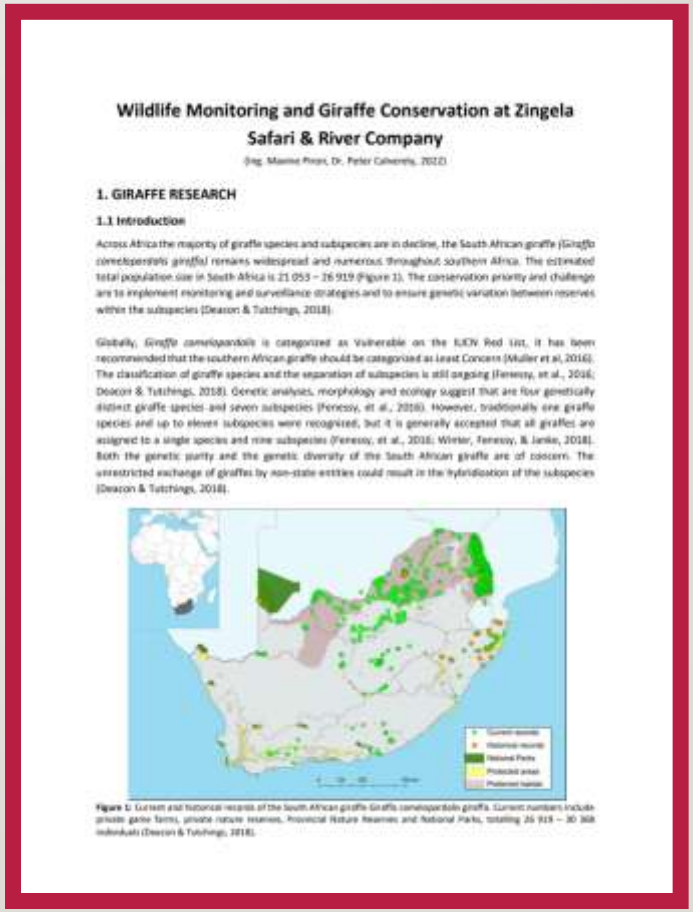
Selected management documents will be made available to you ahead of departure to allow for personal, study before arriving in South Africa.

Zingela Wilderness Reserve

- Reptile pitfall and funnel trap survey
- Wildlife monitoring and giraffe report

Nambiti Big 5 Game Reserve management plans

- Nambiti Game Reserve
- Elephant
- Predator
- Erosion
- Alien plant
- Road
- Fire



Wildlife Monitoring and Giraffe Conservation at Zingela Safari & River Company

1. GIRAFFE RESEARCH

1.1 Introduction

NAMBITI

Nambiti Private Game Reserve

KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

Elephant Management Plan

NAMBITI

Nambiti Private Game Reserve

KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

Protected Area Management Plan
2022-2032

Prepared by

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:

Invitations will be issued throughout 2025

AFRICA

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION

AFRICA

Game Reserve Camp - Zingela

Zingela is a warm, family-run riverside camp with friendly faces and even friendlier dogs.

Students will stay in one of the tented camps, in shared but comfortable safari tents, with access to communal hot and cold showers and regular flushing toilets.

There are welcoming communal spaces for students to spend time together, along with plenty of quiet breakaway spots to relax.
At night, you can fall asleep to the sounds of the Tugela River and the chorus of frogs.

ACCOMMODATION

AFRICA

Game Reserve Camp - Nambiti

In keeping with the Safari Adventure theme, groups are accommodated on the reserve in comfortable safari tents, with communal hot and cold showers and regular flushing toilets.

All meals are provided in a communal dining room. If student opt to sleep out there are basic camps around the reserve that can be used for sleep outs; Sleeping out under the stars and learn how to make a fire and cook on it!

ACCOMMODATION

AFRICA

Food at the Project

Three meals are provided a day prepared by the kitchen staff. All meals are provided in a communal dining area. Students are expected to help clear up after meals.

Breakfasts will consist of toast and cereals; lunch may include pasta, wraps, burgers, stir fry; dinners include meat, fish and vegetables with rice, potatoes or pasta. On weekends a braai (BBQ) is often organised

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

Life on project – Life long memories

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

Life on project – Life long memories

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

A true life experience

AFRICA

USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/exclusions and recommended kit list

WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

What is included?

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- ATOL protection
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 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 that you take out personal travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.

10890 ATOL PROTECTED

USEFUL INFORMATION

AFRICA

Suggested kit list

- Short sleeve shirts
- Long work trousers
- T shirts
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Rain jacket
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker - warm (it can get very cold on an open vehicle - even on a summer evening)
- Daypack rucksack
- Socks
- Warm Hat (in winter only) /Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Working gloves
- Gloves for warmth (in winter only)
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Swimming costume
- Toiletries
- Tick / insect repellent

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Head torch
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Sunglasses
- Personal medical items
- Cards/Games
- Sunscreen
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen

* All work clothes should be neutral or earth tones for working in the bush. No skimpy or bright-coloured clothing to be worn

GAP
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