UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER

PROJECT PRESENTATION

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING 2025

KwaZulu-Natal

Conservation Research Field Trip

AFRICA

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

AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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
  - Wildlife, Livestock and Domestic Community Work
- 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

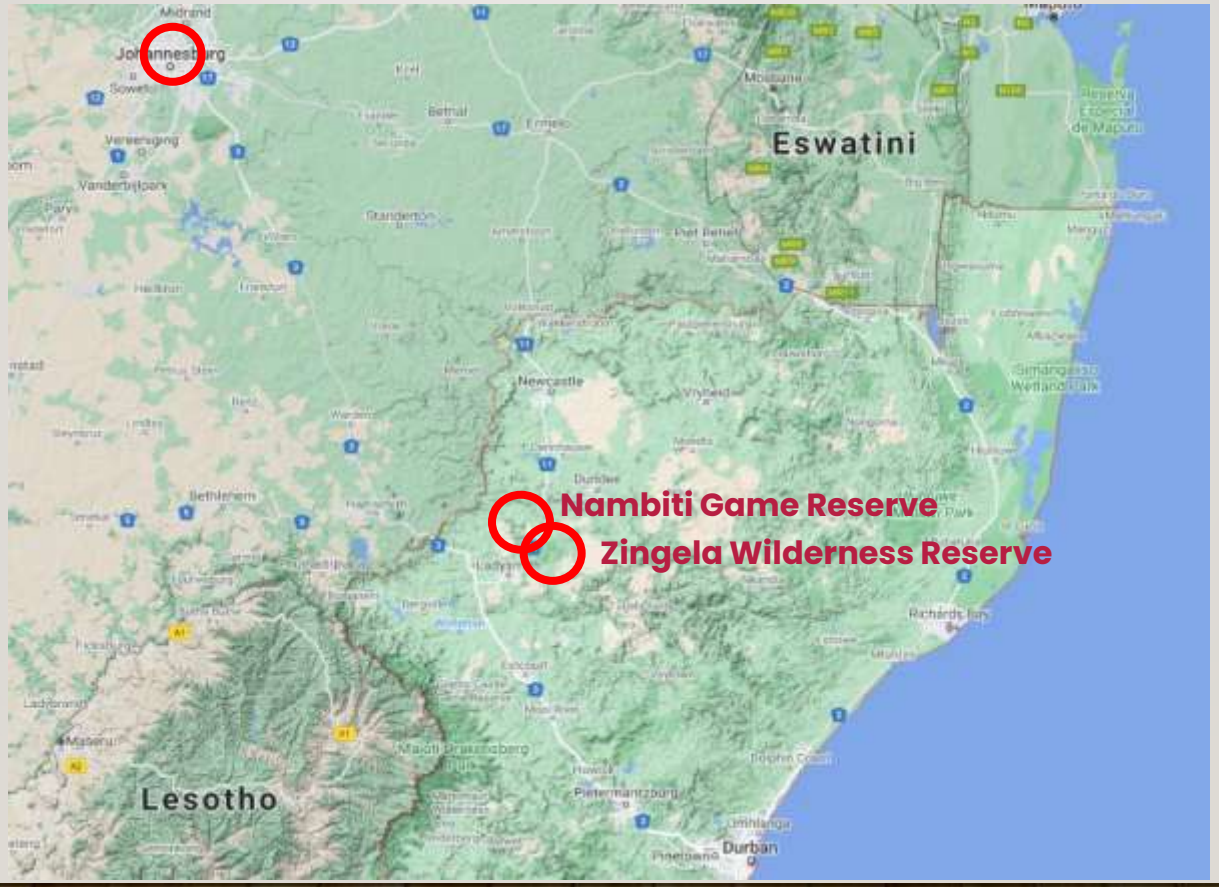
Days 6 – 10
Nambiti Big 5 Conservation Research

PROJECT OVERVIEW

AFRICA

KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research Project- Location

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



AFRICA

Zingela Nature Reserve

River Research and Ecology

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Zingela River Safari

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.

YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

Your Conservation Programme – Zingela

Students will be taught and work alongside the field guides and scientific team. The following examples depict the day-to-day activities that may be undertaken as part of the project at Zingela Reserve.

- Spatial Distribution and Habitat use of species
- Use of Telemetry Tracking
- Giraffe migration and Conservation Project
- Reptile pit fall traps
- Freshwater Ecology
- Mini SASS
- Fish Tagging
- Bird Ringing
- Educational Bush Walks – Ecology & Botany
- Tracks, Signs and Spoor
- Community Development
- Camera Trapping and data processing

YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

Potjie Cooking Competition

A traditional South African experience, the Potjie competition involves cooking a stew in three-legged pots over an open fire..

The winning dish, judged by our expert cooks, will be served for dinner, allowing everyone to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

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 –

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

YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

Animal Welfare Outreach Program

Participants will join the camp's in-house veterinarian to assist local Zulu farmers in caring for their livestock, primarily goats, but also including dogs, cats, sheep, and cattle, depending on the participants' qualifications and experience.

Vaccinating and Caring for Local Farmers' Goats

Working with Various Animals at the Homestead

Animal Welfare Education at Local Schools

YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

Animal Welfare Outreach Program

ZINGELA WILDERNESS RESERVE

AFRICA

River Safari – Rafting and Kayaking

AFRICA

Nambiti Game Reserve

A Big Five Game Reserve

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Nambiti Game Reserve

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.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

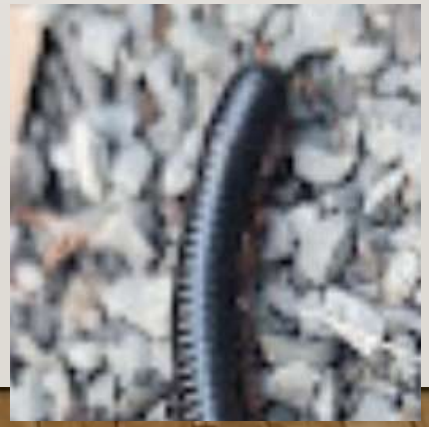
AFRICA

Home to over 40 Species of Mammal

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Many Reptile, Insect and Bird Species



YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

Your Conservation Programme - Nambiti

Students will be taught and work alongside the field guides and conservation team. The following examples depict the day-to-day activities that may be undertaken as part of the project at Nambiti.

- Alien Vegetation Control & Reserve Maintenance
- Use of Telemetry Tracking
- Elephant Monitoring / Population Study
- Rhino Monitoring – Awareness
- Anti-poaching talk and fence walk
- Camera Trapping
- Night Drive
- Big Five Bush Walk
- Habitat and Prey Selection of Predators
- Tracks, Signs and Spoor
- Community Development

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Nambiti Research Team

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Use of Telemetry Tracking

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Ecology Trails: Tracks, signs and spoors

NAMBITI GAME RESERVE

AFRICA

Big Five Bush Walk

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Research – Habitat and Prey Selection: Predators

Focus on Lion and Cheetah populations:

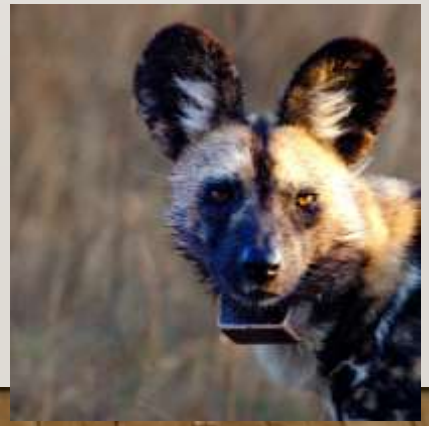
GPS coordinates from tracking collars

Can be used for movement/spatial/home range analysis

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Introduction of Wild Dog



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

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Rhino Monitoring – Awareness and Anti-Poaching

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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

Community Projects & Zulu Culture

Learn about traditional Zulu culture

Community engagement essential for longterm 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

AFRICA

ONLINE NATURE GUIDE COURSE

Bushwise

ONLINE NATURE GUIDE COURSE

AFRICA

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 - Zingela

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.

ACCOMMODATION

AFRICA

Game Reserve Camp - Nambiti

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

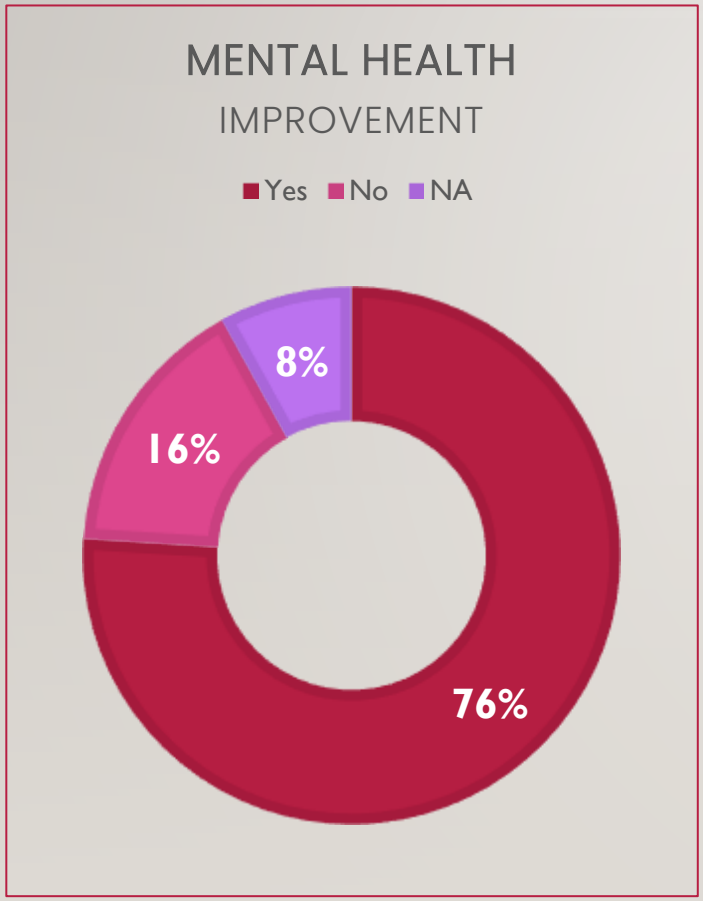
AFRICA

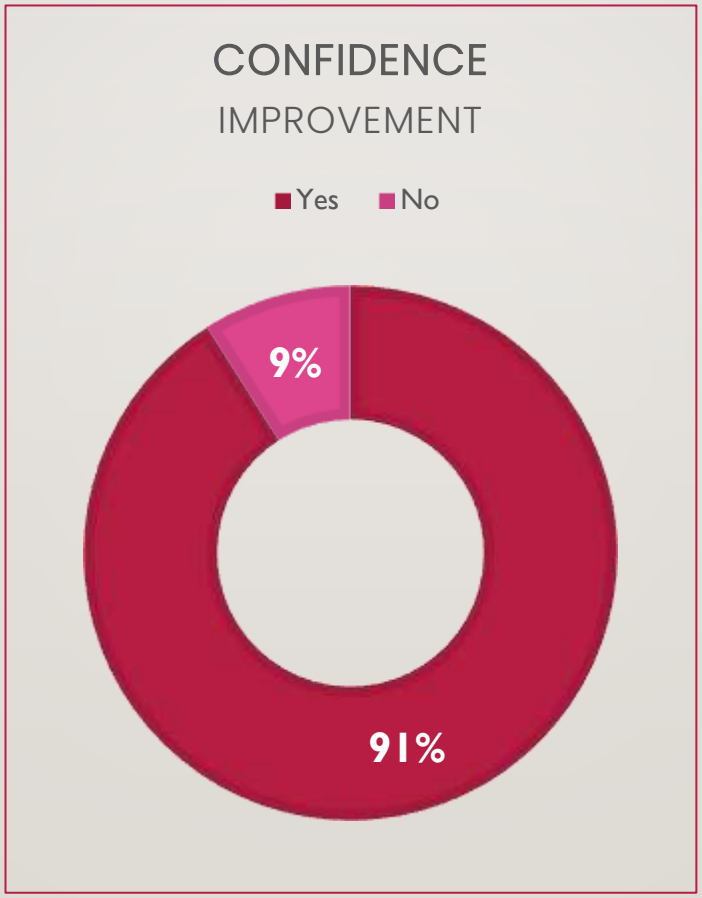
Life on project – Life long memories

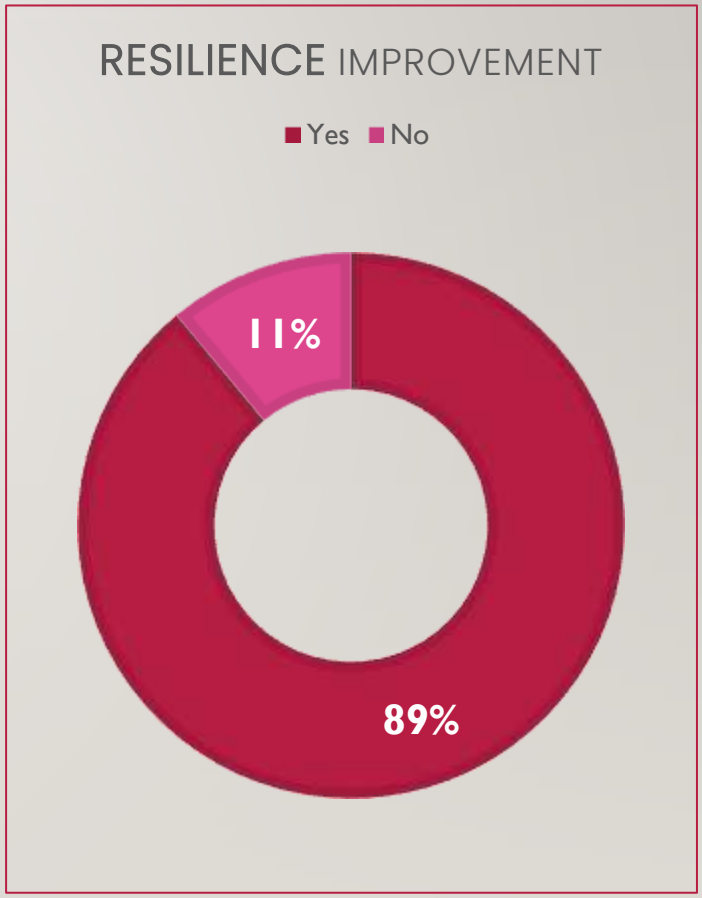
WHY SHOULD I TRAVEL?

AFRICA

Personal Development







Reference: GAP Africa Projects Post Project Trip Questionnaire 23/24

TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

University of Chester – Booking Reference 4575

Travel Dates:

27th April – 8th May 2025

International 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

Project:

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

Trip Cost:

£2,114.00 per person

- £300.00 Deposit
- £907.00 Instalment due 06/01/2025
- £907.00 Balance due 03/03/2025

Group webpage & booking form

https://gapafricaprojects.com/4575-cha/

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