



NESCOT COLLEGE PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research

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



TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

Nescot College – Booking Reference 4687

Trip Dates:

19th July 2026 – 03rd August 2026

Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
QR328	19/07/2026	London Gatwick (LGW)	14.55	Doha (DOH)	23.35
QR1363	20/07/2026	Doha (DOH)	02.35	Johannesburg (JNB)	10.00
TBC	02/08/2026	King Shaka Int: Durban (DUR)	TBC	Johannesburg (JNB)	TBC
QR1378	02/08/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	20:40	Doha (DOH)	06:00 + 1 Day
QR327	03/08/2026	Doha (DOH)	08.10	London Gatwick (LGW)	13.25

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage Allowance – 1 piece of checked baggage @20kgs, 1 piece of hand baggage @ 7kgs max dimensions 56x36x25 cms

Project:

KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research – Nambiti Game Reserve, Zingela Wilderness Reserve & St Lucia

Trip Cost:

£2950.00 per person (to be confirmed once flights are available)

- £300.00 Deposit
- £1325.00 Instalment due 30/03/2026
- £1325.00 Balance due 25/05/2026



AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Overview and location
of the project

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research

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 13-day academic module split between the two conservation reserves plus 3 nights at St Lucia Coastal Unit



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

The project split and duration are as follows:

13 Day Itinerary

Days 1 – 6

Namibiti Big 5 Conservation Research

Days 6 – 10

Zingela Wilderness Conservation and Adventure Activities

Days 10-13

St Lucia Coastal Project

ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Nambiti Game Reserve (Days 1 – 6)

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 an unprecedented diversity of wildlife.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Zingela River Safari (Days 6 – 10)

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. There is also the opportunity to participate in a host of adventurous activities during your stay such as, rafting and abseiling.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

St Lucia Wetlands (Days 10 – 13)

St. Lucia is situated on the northern side of the estuary, the largest in Southern Africa and is totally surrounded by the Greater St. Lucia Wetlands Park and World Heritage Site. The area is famous for its wetlands and is a fantastic opportunity to witness Crocodiles and Hippos in their natural environment. Snorkelling at Cape Vidal is tide and current dependent.

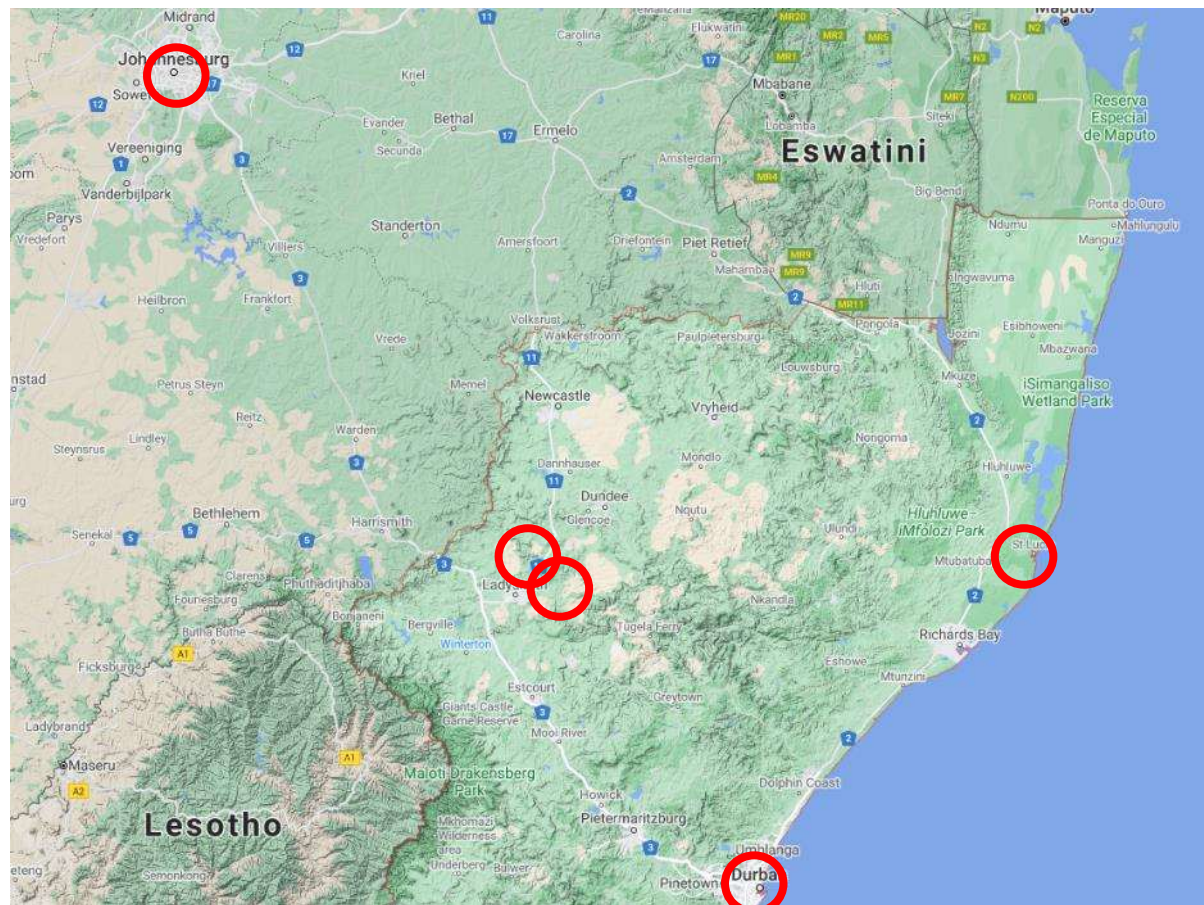


ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Project- Location

South Africa a world leader in conservation





AFRICA

6 Days at Nambiti Game Reserve

A Big Five Game Reserve

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
- Bush Walk
- Habitat and Prey Selection of Predators
- Tracks, Signs and Spoor
- Community Development



Additional Research Projects

Aardwolf Research – A new project for 2024/25 monitoring the aardwolf on Nambiti. Aardwolf are a nocturnal, insectivorous species of hyena. Through night drives, camera traps and collaring we hope to gain a better understanding of the species and their behaviour. Termite mounds have also been logged as well as possible den sites along fence lines

Birds of prey research – Identification of a key species on the reserve. Epicollect forms have been made, these forms contain nest sites, locations, GPS coordinates, species, number, road name.

Animal Vigilance in Antelope: Response to Predation Risk – Focusing on vigilance behaviour in antelope, specifically impala and blue wildebeest, as a predator avoidance strategy. This study is particularly timely with the planned introduction of cheetah and African wild dogs onto the reserve, providing a unique opportunity to observe changes in antelope vigilance in response to increased predation threats



Research Projects

Small Predator Management – All species need to be identified, mainly via camera trapping. A catalogue of animals is being made so we can identify as many individuals as possible on the reserve. More information is desperately required by the reserve, especially in relation to prey species.

Large Predator Management – Lion, Leopard, Spotted Hyena, Brown Hyena and Caracal have an impact that needs to be identified and recorded. Mapping their home ranges and activities.

Conservation Management – Aspects of the physical management of the environment and other supporting infrastructure needed to manage a game reserve. Fencing, road and tracks, erosion, planning and mapping.

Mega Herbivore Management – Feeding habits and their impact on the ecosystem need to be reported on.



YOUR PROJECT

AFRICA

Community Projects & Zulu Culture

A chance for academic groups to meet the locals living around the game reserves

The opportunity to meet chiefs and experience traditional Zulu culture first hand

Projects: Move Africa, Jabong Hats, Project Rhino and Rhino Art





AFRICA

4 Days at Zingela Nature Reserve

River Research and Adventure

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
- Educational Bush Walks – Ecology & Botany
- Tracks, Signs and Spoor
- Community Development
- Camera Trapping and Data Processing



Activities and Adventure– Zingela

- Abseiling
- Rock Climbing
- Swimming
- Kayaking / White water rafting



Research Projects

Giraffe Research Project – In the past five years, considerable progress has been made in compiling and producing a species-wide assessment of population size and distribution. The continued growth of these populations however is limited by the ability of that ecosystem to support a particular number of Giraffes due to space, water and forage availability (i.e. limited carrying capacity).

Over population of Giraffe can have deleterious effects on indigenous flora which may in turn adversely affect other animals within the conservation area; it is necessary to calculate a sustainable carrying capacity for a specific area.

Through our ongoing Giraffe Conservation Project, we aim to gather all the data necessary for generating a conservation plan for our Giraffe. This will help in planning for the future expansion of conservation areas or for reducing the population size through game capture.



Bush Walks and Ecology Trails

One of the unique aspects of the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation project is the ability to utilise the reserves for walking trails and ecology lessons.

Groups will be accompanied by professional guides as they navigate through the reserve observing the smaller aspects of the flora and fauna that the African Bush has to offer.



Wilderness Trail Experience

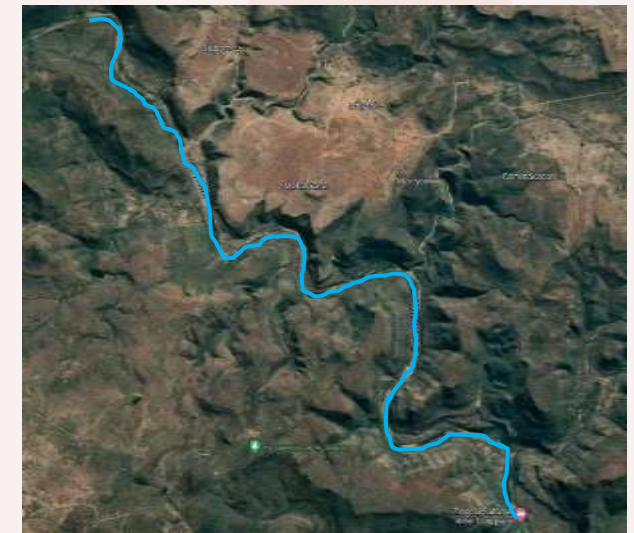
As part of your conservation experience, groups will have the opportunity to take part in a breathtaking wilderness trail between Nambiti and Zingela.

Those choosing the adventurous route* will embark on a 7km hiking trail from Nambiti to a designated point on the Tugela River.

From there, our river guides will meet the group and assist you to navigate across the stretch of river into Zingela.

A true Adventure!!!

* A road transfer will also be available between reserves for anyone who doesn't wish to participate in the trail.



Adventure Activities – Zingela

White Water Rafting & Kayaking

There is an excellent 20km stretch of rapids and pools in this section of the Tugela Canyon including the intimidating Washing Machine and Finger Rock rapids.

Abseiling & Rock Climbing

The cliffs overlooking the Tugela Canyon provide dizzying abseil sites. Face your fear or watch other participants step over the edge. Registered, experienced guides are there to provide reassurance and safety.





AFRICA

3 Days at St Lucia

A Coastal Adventure

YOUR PROJECT

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Your Conservation Programme – St Lucia

Whilst at St Lucia you will get the opportunity to take part in some amazing activities but also time to relax in the beautiful coastal resort of St Lucia.

- A Hippo and Crocodile tour in the Estuary
- A visit to Cape Vidal Nature Reserve with a chance to snorkel in the Indian Ocean
- Tour and Talk at the Crocodile Research Centre
- Whale Watching Tour (Seasonal, weather dependent and additional cost)





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!



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.

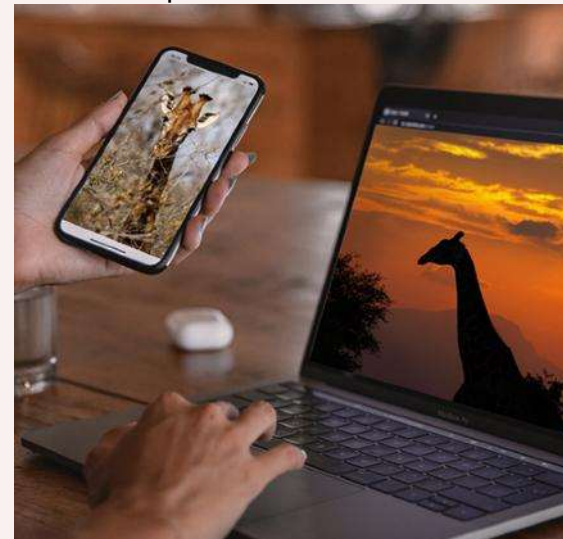
Course Start Dates:

5 January 2026

30 March 2026

22 June 2026

14 September 2026





AFRICA

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION

AFRICA

Game Reserve Camp – Nambiti

Groups are accommodated in a rustic bush camp situated in a safe, dangerous-game-free section of the reserve.

Students stay in shared, comfortable safari tents with access to communal hot and cold showers and regular flushing toilets.

Students can gather in the communal dam-side tent, around the fireplace, or in the pool. At night, you may hear wildebeest grunting near camp and the distant roar of Nambiti's lions.



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

Food at the Projects

Three meals a day are provided and prepared by the kitchen staff. Breakfast typically includes toast and cereals; lunch may include pasta, wraps, burgers; and dinners feature meat and vegetables served with rice, potatoes, or pasta (some red meat will be free-range venison). Some meals are cooked over an open fire or in traditional BBQ (braai) style.

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

St Lucia Coastal Accommodation

Guest House style accommodation is provided during your time in St Lucia. Rooms are shared and have communal ablutions.

The guest house is located in the heart of St Lucia's Main Street and is the ideal location to explore the surrounding areas.

Meals

Three meals a day are provided with the exception of 1 lunch and 1 dinner.





AFRICA

USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
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
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 In country support



NOT Included

- Personal Travel Insurance *
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project
- One dinner and one lunch in St Lucia
- 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.

- **Wellington boots** (long or short for travel Jan – April)
- 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 (Jun – Aug) – pack plenty
- Padded jacket/windbreaker (Jun – Aug) although it can get very cold on an open vehicle
- Socks and Underwear
- Change of casual clothes for evenings
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Warm hat (Jun – Aug / Hat for sun protection (all year)
- Gloves for warmth (Jun –Aug)
- Working gloves
- Daypack rucksack
- Micro-fibre sleeping bag liner (extra warmth Jun –Aug)
- Swimwear
- Beach Towel (micro-fibre takes less space)
- Sunscreen and Sunglasses
- Personal medical items
- First aid kit
- Toiletries
- Tick / Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Binoculars
- Good torch (headlamp/torch is best)

Other useful items:

- Camera
- Power bank
- Water shoes

* 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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