



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE INFORMATION PACK



Waterberg Equine and Wildlife Experience

AFRICA

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

TRIP OVERVIEW

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Sparsholt College – Booking Reference 4723

Travel Dates:

17th May 2026 – 28th May 2026

Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
VS449	17/05/2026	London Heathrow (LHR)	20:50	Johannesburg (JNB)	08:50 + 1 Day
VS450	28/05/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	20:25	London Heathrow (LHR)	06:30 + 1 Day

Baggage Allowance – 1 piece of checked baggage @23kgs, 1 piece of hand baggage @ 10kgs max dimensions 56x36x23 cms

Project:

Waterberg Equine & Wildlife Project

Trip Cost:

£3125.00 per person

£300.00 Deposit due 04/07/2025

£1412.50 Instalment due 26/01/2026

£1412.50 Balance due 23/03/2026



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our Equine and wildlife conservation work in more detail

ABOUT WATERBERG HORSE TRAILS

AFRICA

Waterberg Horse Trails

Location

Waterberg Horse Trails is based at Waterberg Cottages, located near Vaalwater in the Waterberg Region of the Limpopo Province, just 3 hours from Johannesburg Airport. The project is set in a 3000-hectare 'bushveld' nature reserve.

The Limpopo Province is the northmost province in South Africa, and it borders Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The Waterberg Region is Malaria free and the property is included in the UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve.

The reserve neighbours the Boschdraai Village, a local small community.



ABOUT WATERBERG HORSE TRAILS

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Your Equine Project Explained

- A unique equine and wildlife project based in South Africa
- Live and work on a Game Reserve that specialises in Horseback safaris
- Tailor-made projects to suit your needs and interests
- Project activities include
 - Equine Welfare
 - Equine Management
 - Conservation activities
 - Community Development
- Dedicated horses, staff, and vehicles
- 10-night experience
- The most incredible mix of equine and wildlife experience you will ever have

ABOUT WATERBERG HORSE TRAILS

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Waterberg Horse Trail – History, Horses and Wildlife

Waterberg Horse Trails, based at Waterberg Cottages, has been a beautiful and safe bush destination for self-catering guests for over 30 years.

They are situated in a 3000-hectare game reserve with a large list of wildlife including buffalo, giraffe, zebra, eland, wildebeest, blesbok, ostrich as well as the rare and elusive aardvark.

The reserve forms part of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve and the vegetation is savanna bushveld.



Waterberg Equine and Wildlife

The Horses

The herd of 16 horses is a lovely mix of all ages. They are free to graze in the open 'veld' (wild fields/bush).

Most of the horses are a South African breed called 'Boerperd', which stand at about 14 – 16 hands in size and are known to be robust and trustworthy.

Because of the remote location all care, maintenance and most veterinary care is done on-site by the team.

The reserve's wildlife is often monitored from horseback as the animals are comfortable with the horses' presence.

The reserve has a good combination of thicker bush, sandy roads and open areas, making for excellent riding terrain.



Community Work

Boschdraai Village which is located on the farm, only a few hundred metres, from the Cottages. The peaceful village consists of around 350 residents, many of whom are unemployed or subsistence farmers growing their own small crops and raising chickens. Some residents have donkeys which they use for transport of people and firewood. Students will join the team in checking on the community members' donkeys and offer input into the donkey's care and well-being. They will treat wounds and give the donkeys food/treats. There are also often pregnant mares who need extra care or attention.

In the community, there are many children who make village visits a delight. Dora from the cottages offers guests a village tour where one gets to visit the young and old and sample some local village food.



YOUR PROJECT

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Waterberg Equine and Wildlife Project

Equine activities

- Grooming
- Feeding
- Outrides (game monitoring on horseback)
- Herding (bringing horses in and moving camps)
- Basic farriery and trimming of hooves
- Lunging
- Horse desensitising
- Poisonous plant removal
- Collecting wire and dangerous objects in bush
- Filling dangerous holes
- Basic veterinary care
 - Wound treatments
 - Preventative treatments
 - Injections
 - Deworming
 - Weekly tick dipping of horses

Wildlife Conservation Activities

- Interpretive bush walks and tracking
- Game (wildlife) drives
- Full Day Big 5 Game Drive
- Aardvark Safari
- Telemetry Skills
- Bush Walks
- Spoor and Dung Tracking



Other Activities

- Astronomy show
- Evening Sundowners



Big 5 Game Reserve

A day in the second week will be dedicated to visiting a 36000ha big-5 game reserve, also in the Waterberg – there, students will have the opportunity to see two other types of *perissodactyls*; and the very successful **white rhino** and **plains zebra** populations and their positive effects on the Reserve's ecology as 'ecosystem engineers'.

The reserve is also home to large predators; lion, cheetah, hyena and leopard as well as other megaherbivores including elephant and black rhino.



Sample Itinerary

- Upon your arrival at Johannesburg Airport, transfer by private charter to the Waterberg region. Enjoy an introduction lunch and meet and greet your guides and host. In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the wonders of a game drive followed by a delightful dinner.
- Begin the day finding and herding the horses to tend to their needs. Engage in a guided walk, honing your tracking skills on spoor and dung. The afternoon unfolds with a captivating horse safari, offering a unique perspective of the breathtaking landscape.
- Embark on a cultural exploration with a visit to the rural village of Boschdraai. Connect with the locals, their donkeys, and horses. After lunch, delve into a comprehensive lecture covering types of diseases, presentation, and treatment. The evening is dedicated to a demonstration on desensitizing horses and lunging using voice commands, followed by an Astronomy show under the stars with cozy mattresses and hot water bottles in the bush.
- Venture to Horizon Horseback, where a herd of over 100 horses awaits. Gain insights into veterinary care with a tour of the pens and a demonstration rooted in Monty Roberts' teachings. A lecture on the psychology of horses sets the stage for lunch at Morgans Rock in the bush. The afternoon brings activities such as dipping horses to prevent and remove ticks.
- Participate in meaningful work in Boschdraai Village, focusing on recording numbers, owners, and conditions of donkeys while offering valuable advice. Conclude the day with an adventurous horseback safari.

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

Sample Itinerary

- Kick off the morning by removing any wire and hazardous items from the bush. After lunch, indulge in a captivating talk on Aardvarks, followed by a game drive to locate Aardvark dens. The day culminates in an evening "steak out" to witness these intriguing creatures feeding.
- Dedicate the day to community work in the village, contributing to the beautification of the community center or engaging in other activities beneficial to the local community.
- Immerse yourself in the art of farriery with a demonstration and talk on basic hoof trimming. Engage in lunging and grooming the horses, followed by a memorable ride through the bush.
- Experience a seamless transfer to a Big 5 reserve, where exhilarating game drives await. Participate in the monitoring of white rhino and plains zebra populations, gaining a deeper understanding of their habitats.
- Conclude your unforgettable journey with a private transfer back to Johannesburg Airport for your flight home, carrying with you the memories of a transformative and enriching adventure.

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



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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life at the project

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Accommodation

The group will be accommodated in the beautiful historic thatch cottages surrounded by gardens, horses, animals and views of the bushveld.



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Food at the Project

All meals are provided. Hosts create wholesome home-cooked style meals made with local ingredients. Dinners are served in the evenings, lunches will be made by the group and breakfast will be self-service.

There will be opportunities to taste local dishes including the traditional 'braai' (BBQ) and to enjoy meals outdoors.

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

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Life on the farm

In your spare time you can enjoy the heated swimming pool, play volleyball, enjoy an outdoor bonfire, relax in the garden with the family farm dogs, watching birds or go on the walking trails. You can play board games and cards or just lounge at the cozy indoor fireplace on colder evenings.

There will be many opportunities to enjoy your morning tea or coffee while watching the sunrise or watch the sunset with a drink; *sundowners* are quintessential in the African bush.



WATERBERG EQUINE & WILDLIFE

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Photo gallery





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USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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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
- Riding hat, boots, gloves, body protector – see kit list

* 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 *
- 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
- Riding hat
- Jodhpurs
- Riding boots

- Swimwear
- Sunscreen and Sunglasses
- Personal medical items
- First aid kit
- Toiletries
- Tick / Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Good torch

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Power Bank

* All work clothes should be neutral or earth tones. **No** skimpy/revealing or brightly-coloured clothing.



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