



# SCOTLAND'S RURAL COLLEGE PROJECT PRESENTATION



## Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course



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

# ABOUT US:

AFRICA

## GAP Africa Projects

- We are a specialised travel company that offers academic trips and volunteering opportunities for groups and individual travellers, in a number of locations worldwide
- We pride ourselves on curating experiences which are personalised to your needs and requirements
- Our first project travelled in 2012
- Full ATOL Bonding
- Working with over 55 Colleges and Universities around the UK
- A small dedicated team in the UK and South Africa





**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT THE WATERBERG**

Project overview and  
location

## Your Conservation Field Trip Explained

- A unique conservation experience based in South Africa
- Live in research camps on a wild African game reserve
- 12-night programme specifically tailored for VN students
- Three project locations
- Learn about conservation management
- Project Activities include:
  - Pioneering Conservation Research
  - Conservation Activities
  - Veterinary interventions and activities
- Dedicated vehicles and conservation staff
- The most incredible wildlife experience you will ever have

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Waterberg Wildlife and Veterinary Course (Vet Professionals) – Location



# ABOUT THE WATERBERG

**TRUE WILDERNESS**

AFRICA



ANY QUESTIONS?

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## 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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## Your Three Project Locations

This unique 12-night project will allow you to experience three different project locations in two neighbouring provinces of South Africa. You will first stay in the Gauteng Province before travelling to the north of the country staying at two different reserves in the Waterberg Biosphere – the **Welgevonden Game Reserve** (the core, Big 5 monitoring and conservation experience) and the **SwebeSwebe Game Reserve** (unique to GAPAfrica projects, with no tourist lodges), in the Limpopo Province.

Project locations and duration are as follows:

### 2 Nights

Kyalami, Midrand and surrounding areas – Gauteng Province

### 4 Nights

SwebeSwebe Wildlife Conservation Project – Hanover Nature Reserve – Waterberg – Limpopo Province

### 6 Nights

Waterberg Biomonitoring Project – Welgevonden Game Reserve – Waterberg – Limpopo Province



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# **ABOUT THE PROJECT: KYALAMI, MIDRAND AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Kyalami, Midrand and surrounding areas – Gauteng

- Visit Johannesburg Wildlife Vet
- Assist with some shelter and community cases
- Assist in the K9 conservation unit.

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



## Kyalami – Johannesburg Wildlife Vet

A registered wildlife veterinary hospital and rehabilitation centre in South Africa, dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing indigenous wildlife.

Led by Dr Karin Lourens, a wildlife vet with 22 years of experience, the non-profit treats small to medium mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and arachnids—free of charge. Their mission combines expert care with conservation, education, and research.

📺 *Featured in a Netflix documentary about a baby pangolin's journey back to the wild.*



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Kyalami – Society for Animals in Distress

Care is provided by vets, vet nurses, animal health technicians, and welfare assistants.

The focus: accessible veterinary care for vulnerable communities and rescue organisations.

Students assist professionals in treating rescued horses, dogs, cats, and small animals—rehabilitated for rehoming.



## Kyalami –Pit-Track K9 antipoaching unit

A registered non-profit dedicated to wildlife protection through skilled K9 units and frontline anti-poaching operations.

Students will meet the K9 team, attend a talk on the poaching crisis, watch a live demo, and assist with physio care for working dogs.





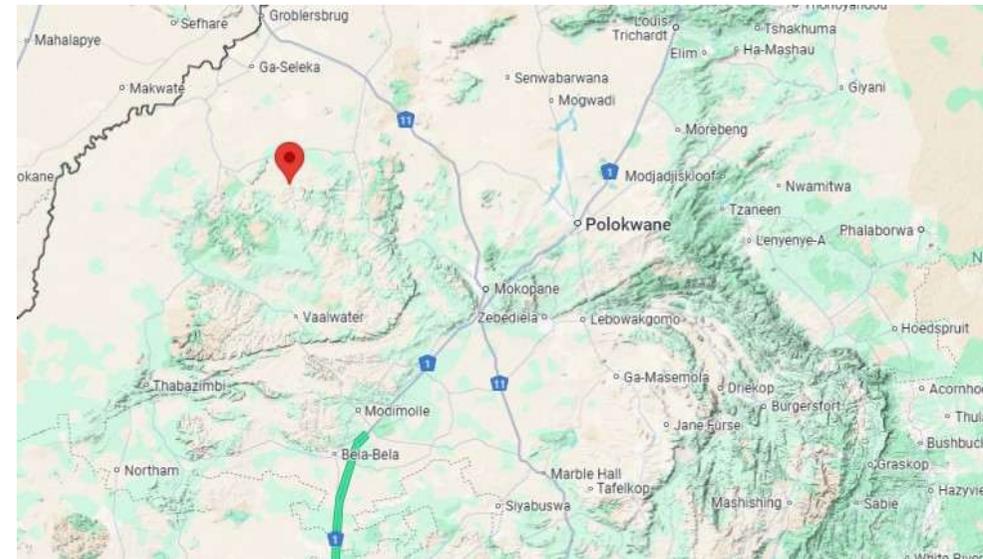
**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT THE PROJECT: SWEBESWEBE NATURE RESERVE**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

## Hanover & SwebeSwebe Nature Reserve

- 9,000 Hectare Privately Managed Reserve
- Forming part of the Waterberg Biosphere
- Unique to GAP Africa Projects
- Work alongside the conservation team including:
  - Wildlife Vets
  - Conservation Researchers
  - Ecologists
  - Anti Poaching Unit
- Located in a Malaria free zone
- Proclaimed Protected Conservation Area
- Savannah Eco System
- Research Camp Accommodation



## SwebeSwebe – Hanover Nature Reserve – Gauteng

- Introduction to Hanover Nature, its Research and Ecological Biomonitoring
- Introduction to Wildlife Veterinary work in the Context of African Wildlife (Dr Zoe Glyphis – Local Wildlife Vet)
- Explore the kit and clinic of a mobile wildlife vet
- Dart shooting practice
- Lectures from Dr Zoë Glyphis – Wildlife Veterinarian

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



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Wildlife and Ecological Projects



ANY QUESTIONS?

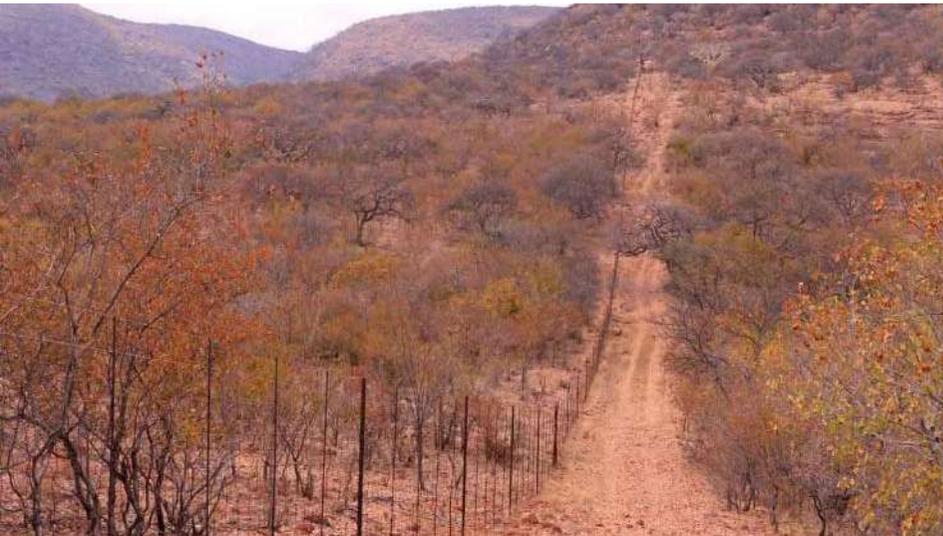
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PROJECT PRESENTATION 18

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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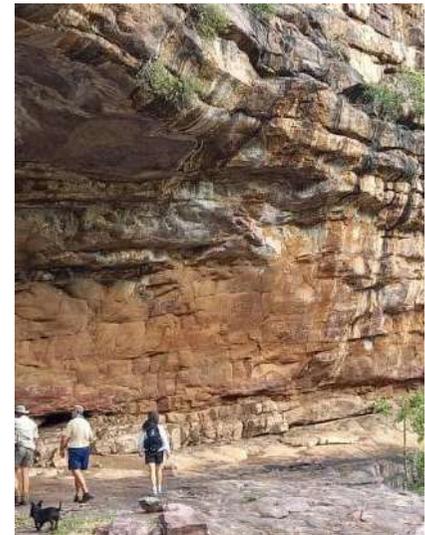
## Practical Management



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Rural Development and Support



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Dr Zoë Glyphis – Wildlife Veterinarian

Dr Zoë Glyphis is a Gauteng based wildlife veterinarian and travels all over South Africa to treat mainly priority, endangered species.

She has extensive experience in helping and assisting several NGO groups and organisations with their efforts to increase predator ranges and to establish safe and genetically viable populations in new conservation areas as well as treating surviving poached rhino.

She enjoys sharing her knowledge with students and is a patient teacher in this regard.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Practical Sessions

- Dart shooting practice
- The kit and clinic of a mobile wildlife vet
- Q & A

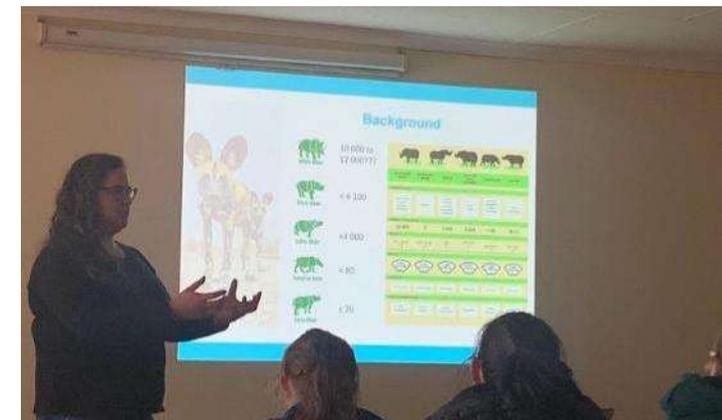


# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Lectures – Dr Zoe Glyphis

- Conservation in Africa
- Wildlife poaching
- Wildlife diseases
- Rhino wounds and case studies
- Wildlife capture systems – Darting wildlife
- Drugs used in wildlife medicine
- Dosage calculation for wildlife
- Logistics of wildlife transportation – vehicles, crates & equipment
- Boma management and rehabilitation
- State veterinary disease control in practice
- Wildlife trade auction & value of livestock





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# **ABOUT THE PROJECT: WELGEVONDEN GAME RESERVE**

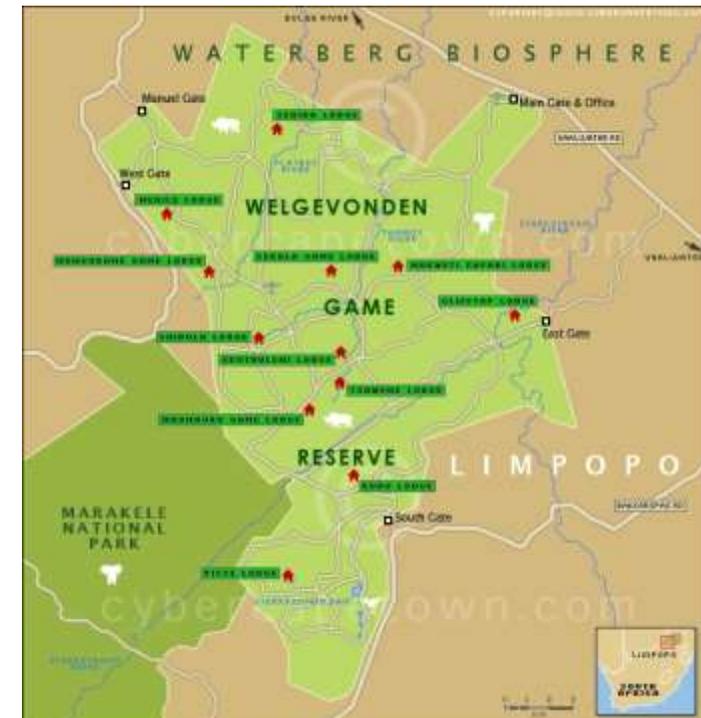
Our conservation work  
in more detail

# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

AFRICA

## Welgevonden Game Reserve

- Privately Managed Game Reserve
- Forming part of the Waterberg Biosphere (4,000sq/km)
- Work alongside the conservation team including:
  - Wildlife Vets
  - Conservation Researchers
  - Ecologists
  - Anti Poaching Unit
- Located in a Malaria free zone
- Proclaimed Protected Conservation Area
- Savannah Eco System
- Research Camp Accommodation



## Welgevonden Game Reserve

- Over 36,000 hectares
- Home to 100+ mammal species, including the Big Five and rare and endangered species.
- Its diverse habitats support a rich variety of antelope and over 300 bird species.
- Dedicated to conservation, balancing biodiversity protection with responsible tourism.
- The reserve's management focuses on habitat restoration, anti-poaching initiatives, and ongoing wildlife research to ensure a sustainable future for its unique ecosystem.



# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

AFRICA

## Home to the BIG 5



ANY QUESTIONS?

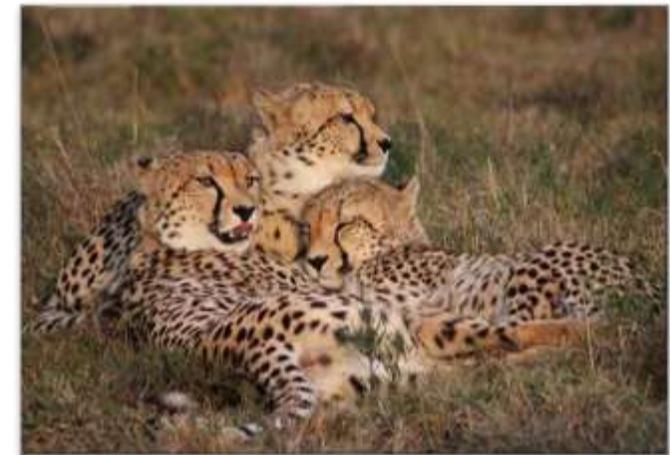
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# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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Home to over 60 Species of Mammal



ANY QUESTIONS?

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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Welgevonden Game Reserve

- Introduction to Welgevonden Game Reserve and its Research and Ecological Biomonitoring
- Introduction to Wildlife Veterinary work in the Context of African Wildlife (Dr Peter Caldwell - Wildlife Specialist Veterinary Surgeon)
- Time spent with the research team conducting ecological biomonitoring,
- Wildlife conservation, research and veterinary work (Dr Peter Caldwell)
- Build up to possible intervention and planning

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

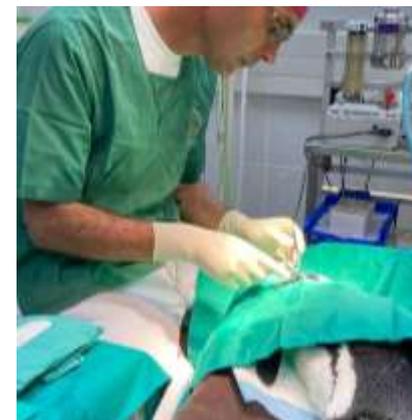


# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Dr Peter Caldwell – Wildlife Specialist Veterinary Surgeon

Dr. Peter Caldwell is a leading wildlife veterinary surgeon based in Pretoria. He owns and operates a small animal clinic and travels extensively across South Africa and beyond, treating priority and endangered species. He specialises particularly in cheetahs and serves as the primary veterinarian and advisor at Welgevonden Game Reserve. Dr. Caldwell is actively involved in wildlife conservation and research, contributing to studies on fertility control and disease management in wild animals. His expertise is frequently sought by reserves and conservation organisations.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Welgevonden Veterinary Intervention

A management veterinary intervention will be scheduled during your group's time on the reserve. This may include rhino DNA collection and ear-notching, the removal or fitting of tracking collars, fertility procedures, or capture for translocations. If a priority species is injured, it will receive necessary treatment. Students are encouraged to participate as ground crew and veterinary assistants if possible. However, please note that this procedure is not guaranteed, as wildlife is unpredictable, and animals will never be sedated without a valid reason.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Bush Skills – Bush Walks, Tracking Wildlife



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Research – Habitat and Prey Selection: Predators



ANY QUESTIONS?

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PROJECT PRESENTATION 41

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Camera Trap – Research and Study



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PROJECT PRESENTATION 42

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

## Anti-Poaching Unit



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Research – Habitat and Prey Selection: Predators



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Waterberg Wild Dog – Boma Visit



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# **ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE**

Life in the African Bush

# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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## Roosters Nest

The group will be accommodated in twin bedded accommodation with ensuite bathrooms. The guesthouse is set in beautiful, tranquil surroundings and boasts a beautiful lush garden with a pool and trampoline.

You will be offered traditional South African meals and hospitality.

### Food at the Project

All meals will be provided; a packed lunch will be provided if the group are not returning to the accommodation at lunch time.

### 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.



## SwebeSwebe – Hanover Nature Reserve Accommodation

Students and academic groups will be accommodated at our purpose-built camp on Hanover Nature Reserve, designed to provide comfort and foster community living. The camp features shared twin and triple rooms with communal ablution facilities. At the heart of the camp is a spacious communal area, equipped with a shared kitchen and dining space, which also serves as a hub for relaxation, lectures, and group activities.

For evening gatherings, there's a cozy firepit/boma area where students can unwind and cook meals over the fire under the stars. On weekends, groups are welcome to enjoy the main farmhouse and pool area for some well-deserved relaxation. Ingredients for meals are provided, and students cook together, creating a vibrant and social camp atmosphere.



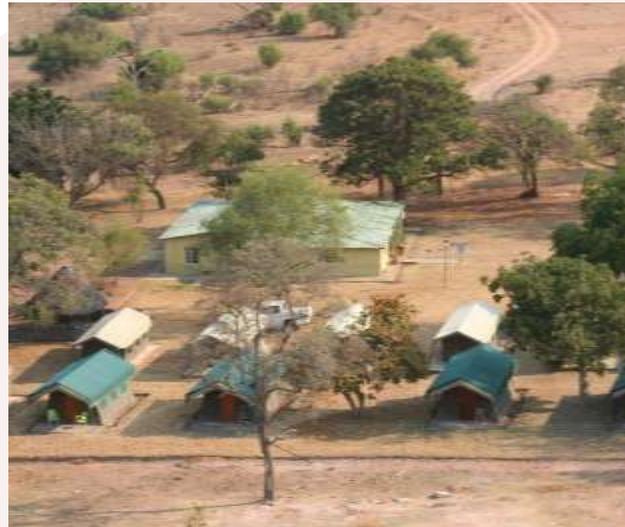
## Welgevonden Accommodation

The student centre and camp is based on the reserve and boasts ten tents that sleep two people per tent in single beds, each tent also has lighting and electricity supply.

There are communal hot and cold showers and regular flushing toilets. There are communal facilities including a lecture room, canteen, lounge, entertainment area and storage fridge.

The centre also has access to Wi-Fi.

The camp is fenced off inside the boundaries of the reserve.



# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

## Meals – SwebeSwebe and Welgevonden

All meals are enjoyed together mostly in the outside eating area and sometimes inside on colder evenings.

Three meals are provided daily on a self-cook basis. The evening meal is prepared by the group in small teams. Students are responsible for the communal cooking and washing up.

Evening meals and breakfast are served at the facility and lunch is normally brought into the field and taken picnic-style in the bush.

The research team normally work 6 days a week so time off is often limited to Sundays only.

Most evenings are spent at leisure in camp mostly outdoors at tables and benches or around a campfire.





**AFRICA**

# **BOOKING YOUR ADVENTUR**

The next steps to the trip of a  
lifetime!

# WHY SHOULD I TRAVEL?

AFRICA

## What do previous travellers say about the Wildlife and Veterinary Course (Vet Professionals)?



"Staying at Welgevonden really developed my knowledge of animal behaviours."



"Everything exceeded my expectations, and the trip was life-changing."



"The staff were amazing, we got the opportunity to take part in practicals and demonstrations."

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

# WHY SHOULD I TRAVEL?

AFRICA

## What do previous travellers say about the Wildlife and Veterinary Course (Vet Professionals)?



"It has inspired me to look into overseas **volunteering** opportunities next year."



"Being up close and **assisting** with an intervention will stay with me forever."



"I am more **self-aware**. I also feel more **confident** about my future plans."

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

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFRICA

## What is Included?

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day (self prepared)
- 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
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Visas/travel documents
- Tips

\* We recommend that you take out travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.

# THE NEXT STEPS

AFRICA



## Project dates & key deadlines

### Confirmed travel dates:

Depart UK: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 | Arrive SA: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Depart SA: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 | Arrive UK: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Trip cost:

£2495.00\* Based on a group of 18 (confirmed once flights have been held)

### Key deadlines are:

- Return online booking form by 17/10/2025
- Deposit payment, £300.00 by 16/11/2025
- 50% instalment payment of £1097.50 to be paid by 13/01/2026
- Balance payment of £1097.50 to be paid by 10/03/2026
- 21/04/2026 e-Tickets & final documents will be issued

# BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

AFRICA

## Booking Form

- Please submit by 17/10/2025
- No deposit required at this stage of booking
- Passport fields not mandatory

## Key deadlines are:

- Deposit of £300 to confirm placement
- Instalment payment of 50% due 16 weeks before departure
- Balance payment due 8 weeks before departure

**GAP Africa Projects**

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### BOOKING FORM

(NB: Your name should be given as displayed on your passport)

Title \*

Name \*

Date of birth \*

Address \*

Telephone \*

Mobile \*

Email 1 \*

Email 2 \*

(NB: Please note that all booking correspondence will be sent via Email!)

Passport no.

Passport Issue Date



# BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

AFRICA

## Group Web Page

<https://gapafricaprojects.com/26-4768/>



## Booking Form

<https://gapafricaprojects.com/booking-form-26-4768-src-wgv-scotlands-rural-college/>



**BOOKING FORM**

Your Global Adventure Starts here!

Please use the form below to submit your provisional booking to your selected project. You have the option to pay your initial deposit with the submission of your booking form, or we will contact you for payment once your project placement has been secured.

If you'd like to contact us to ask any initial questions or find out more about what project you'd like to go on and when, you can get also get in touch using our short enquiry form, or by calling +44 (0) 207 193 7819.

(NB: Your name should be given as displayed on your passport)

Title \*

Name \*

Date of birth \*

Address \*

## Sustainability & Social, Economic Responsibility

**Local employment from rural communities** – our project partners employ a high percentage of staff from local communities. They advocate training to advance careers in hospitality, wildlife and conservation.

**Low environmental impact camps** – our project bush camps are built with minimal impact on the environment. Resources from the surrounding area are utilised for buildings, water is (where possible) pumped from local river sources and green energy supplies, such as solar are championed.

**Community donations and support** – we encourage all our international study groups to be proactive in donation collections and arrange for excess baggage for said donations to be taken out to South Africa in support of the local communities.

**Move Africa, supporting young females** – 3 in 10 girls in South Africa miss a week of school every month because they cannot afford basic sanitary products. Our project partners work with Move Africa alongside their partner NGOs, to distribute menstrual cups to the local communities and provide education workshops.

**Rhino Art** – Project rhino realises the enormous responsibility the youth have to ensure our wildlife is protected for many generations to come. They ensure they can reach and educate as many kids as possible through Rhino Art, using art workshops to teach about conservation. This initiative is supported by our local project partners.

**Food/crop education** – our project partners encourage food and crop education to rural communities, where cost of living to low income families and distance travelled to obtain basic resources can prove problematic. Projects include community allotments and providing education on best practice for crop rotations, harvest seasons and nutrition.

**Recycling workshops** – Litter, and in particular plastics, is a major issue and threat to the ecosystem in Southern Africa. Rural communities have limited waste removal available and it is therefore a problem escalating at an alarming rate. Recycling workshops are provided through local schools to help educate children on the importance of correctly disposing of litter and recycling plastics.



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