



# SPARSHOLT COLLEGE PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



## KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Research

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



# TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

## Sparsholt College – Booking Reference 4763

### Travel Dates:

21<sup>st</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026

### Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
VS449	21/06/2026	London Heathrow (LHR)	22:25	Johannesburg (JNB)	10:25 + 1 Day
VS450	04/07/2026	Johannesburg (JNB)	20:25	London Heathrow (LHR)	06:30 + 1 Day

\*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

**Baggage Allowance** – 1 piece of checked baggage @ 23kgs & 1 piece of hand baggage @ 10kgs and max dimensions 56x36x23cms

### Project:

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

### Trip Cost:

£2625.00 per person (to be confirmed once flights are available)

£300.00 Deposit

£1162.50 Instalment due 02/03/2026

£1162.50 Balance due 27/04/2026



**AFRICA**

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

Overview and location  
of the project



## 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 12 night academic module split between the two conservation reserves.



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:

### 12 Night Itinerary

#### 6 Nights

Nambiti Big 5 Conservation Research

#### 6 Nights

Zingela Wilderness Conservation and Adventure Activities

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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## Nambiti Game Reserve (6 Nights)

**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 (6 Nights)

**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.

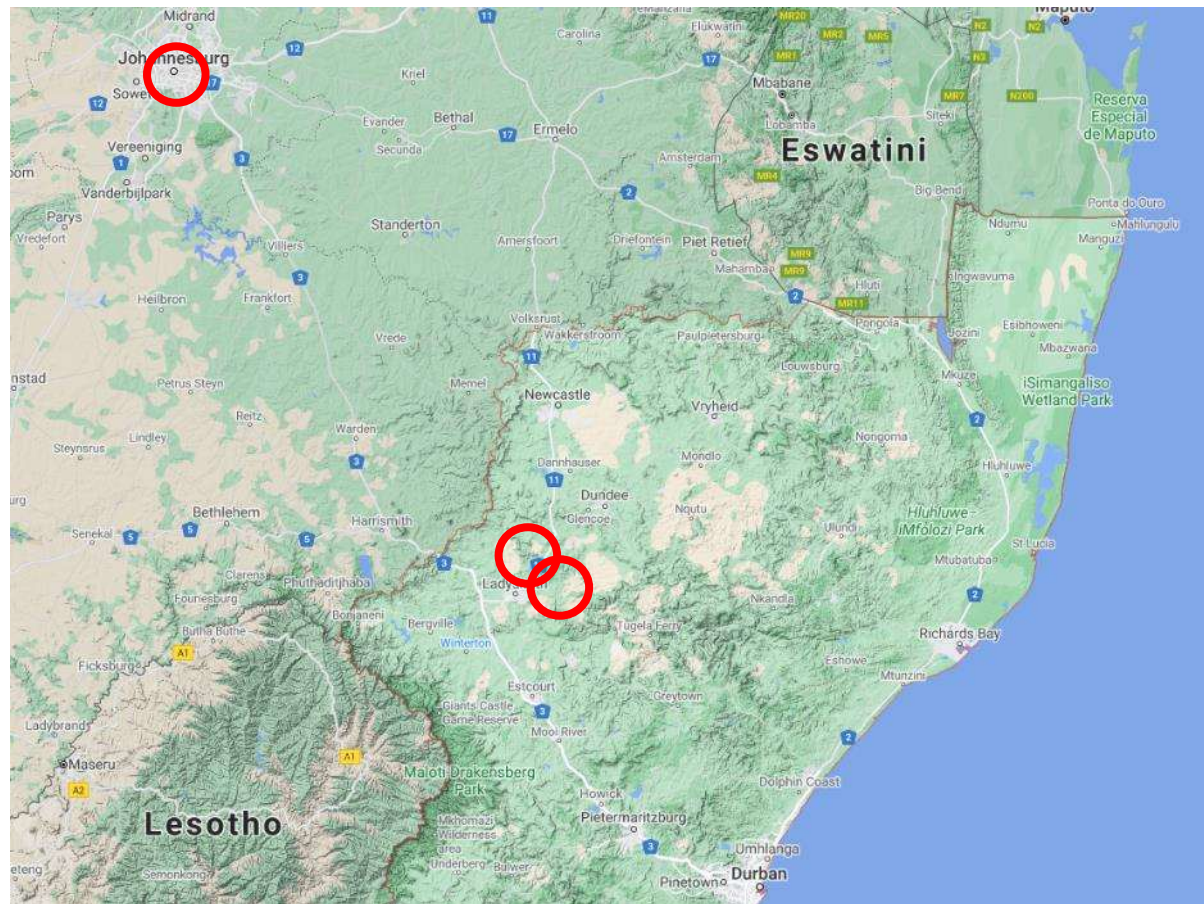


# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Project- Location

South Africa a world leader in conservation





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# 6 Nights at Nambiti Game Reserve

A Big Five Game Reserve

# YOUR PROJECT

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## 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 female cheetah 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, 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 is needed to manage a game reserve. Fencing, road and tracks, erosion, planning and mapping all need monitoring to ensure the success of the reserve's biodiversity.

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



# YOUR PROJECT

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## 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





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# 6 Nights 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.

Along the way the guide will identify edible and poisonous plants, as well as those of cultural significance, enhancing the educational value of the hike.



## Wilderness Trail Experience

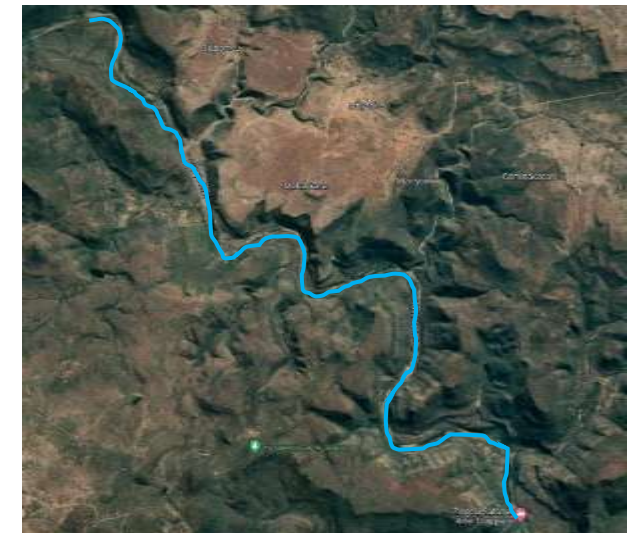
As part of your conservation experience, groups will have the opportunity to take part in a breathtaking wilderness trail between Nambiti and Zingela.

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.





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# **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!



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





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# **ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE**

Life in the African Bush

## 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

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## 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.



## 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.





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# **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Inclusions/Exclusions &  
Recommended Kit List



# WHAT'S INCLUDED

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## 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
- 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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