



PLUMPTON COLLEGE INFORMATION PACK



Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course Entabeni (Vet Nurses)



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

TRIP OVERVIEW

AFRICA

Plumpton College – Booking Reference 4856

Travel Dates:

28th March 2027 – 10th April 2027

Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
TBC	28/03/2027	London Heathrow (LHR)	TBC	Johannesburg (JNB)	TBC + 1 Day
TBC	10/04/2027	Johannesburg (JNB)	TBC	London Heathrow (LHR)	TBC

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage Allowance – TBC

Project:

Waterberg Wildlife & Veterinary Course

Trip Cost:

TBC * Based on a group of 12 (confirmed once flights have been held)

£300.00 deposit

50% Instalment due 07/12/2026

50% Balance due 01/02/2027



AFRICA

PROJECT LOCATION

The Waterberg
overview

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

AFRICA

A place that promotes the connection between people and nature

The Waterberg contains pristine habitats, abundant bird and wildlife and has a natural unspoilt beauty. The Waterberg is an escarpment of massive sandstone buttresses and outcrops, incorporating many rivers, streams and wetlands, stretching for 150 km in a long arc.

The Waterberg has many special and unique characteristics which is why UNESCO approved the area for biosphere reserve status in 2001.

The Waterberg is a critical conservation area for African wild dogs, with the last free-roaming pack in South Africa; black and white rhino, with the third largest population within South Africa; and the Cape Vulture, with the largest colony of 800 breeding pairs.



ABOUT HANOVER

AFRICA

Hanover Nature Reserve

A Hub for Research, Conservation and Education

Nestled in the heart of the Waterberg region, the Waterberg conservation research programme is a pioneering conservation initiative dedicated to preserving South Africa's rich biodiversity while fostering ecological research and community engagement. Covering over 2,000 acres of pristine wilderness, this collaborative project works in unison with the neighbouring SwebeSwebe Wildlife Reserve. Together, these areas form a unified conservation space of 15,000 acres, removing barriers to wildlife movement and creating an uninterrupted haven for flora and fauna.

Our mission extends beyond preservation. We believe in taking direct action to safeguard natural ecosystems, which is why we've invested in integrating cutting-edge conservation technologies, enhancing infrastructure and building strong partnerships with local and international stakeholders. The reserve is a hub for international academic research and student engagement, offering participants the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to conservation while gaining hands-on experience in a diverse ecological setting.



ABOUT ENTABENI

AFRICA

ENTABENI SAFARI CONSERVANCY

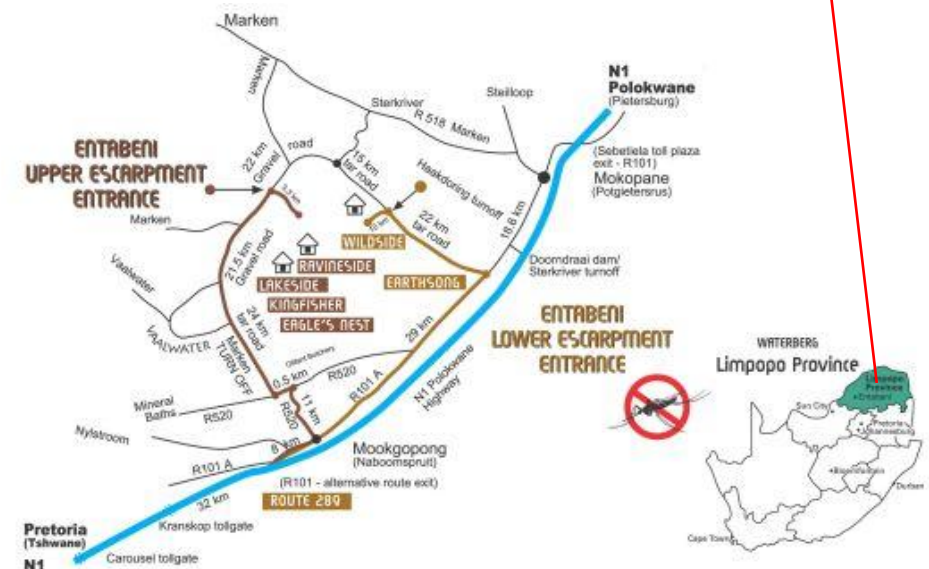
Location

The Waterberg Wildlife and Veterinary Course – Entabeni is based at the 22,000-hectare Entabeni Safari Conservancy in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

Located a pleasant 4 hour drive from Johannesburg; in the **malaria-free** area of the Waterberg, Limpopo Province

Entabeni is set within a tranquil, natural setting boasting changing vistas, diverse eco-systems and a breathtaking mountainous backdrop. Entabeni is the integration of a 22,000 hectare Big 5 Game Reserve, a resort and luxurious lodges.

It boasts spectacular scenery, with mountains, waterfalls and unspoilt ravines.





AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

AFRICA

Your three project locations

Your trip is split between three locations, in two neighbouring provinces of South Africa. You will first visit Gauteng Province where you will have a tour of the Johannesburg Wildlife Vet – the only small animal practice in the country that only works on wildlife; assist with some shelter and community cases and learn about a K9 conservation unit. You will then travel to the Limpopo Province staying at two different reserves in the Waterberg Biosphere – the **Hanover Nature Reserve** (unique to GAPAfrica projects, with no tourist lodges) and the **Entabeni Safari Conservancy**. Project locations and duration are as follows:

Project locations and duration are as follows:

Module 1

Gauteng Veterinary Impact – Gauteng Province

Module 2

Hanover Conservation Research – Hanover Nature Reserve – Limpopo Province

Module 3

Entabeni Safari Conservancy – Waterberg – Limpopo Province



AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT: GAUTENG

Our conservation work
in more detail

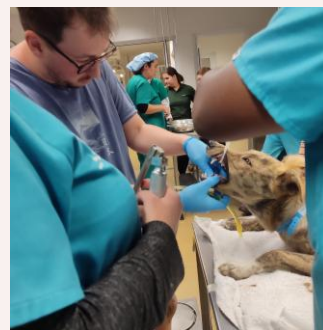
ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Gauteng Veterinary Impact

- Visit to Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary hospital
- Assist with sterilising at a charity animal hospital (dependant on case load)
- Visit the Dogs Trust shelter for dogs from disadvantaged areas to assist
- K9 conservation unit talk and demonstration

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



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

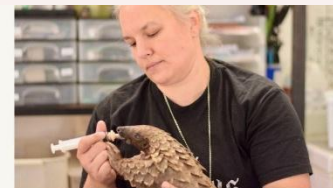
Gauteng – Johannesburg Wildlife Vet

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 pangolin pup's journey back to the wild.*



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Gauteng - 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 animals particularly with spaying and neutering.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Gauteng – Dogs Trust

The Dogs Trust is a charity caring for township dogs in need. It Provides, Protects, and Educates.

The focus is on finding animals that are abused, neglected or injured, removing and rehoming severe cases, and improve living conditions by providing shelters, food and water.

Students may assist with deworming (dogs and rescue goats), walking, socialising, cleaning, and preparing meals for the pups.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Gauteng – 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.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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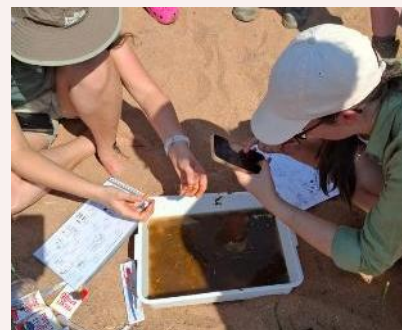
ABOUT THE PROJECT: HANOVER NATURE RESERVE

Our conservation work
in more detail

Hanover Nature Reserve

- Introduction to Hanover Nature, its Research and Ecological Biomonitoring
- Free-roaming Waterberg Wild Dog Talk
- Introduction to Wildlife Veterinary work in the Context of African Wildlife (Dr Zoe Glyphis – Local Wildlife Vet)
- Dart gun shooting practice
- Lectures
- Hands-on biodiversity monitoring
- Animal health monitoring and interventions
- Supplementary feeding and parasite control

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Project Overview – Hanover Nature Reserve

The Hanover conservation research programme serves as a living laboratory for ecological research, offering students and researchers a chance to work alongside experts in the field.

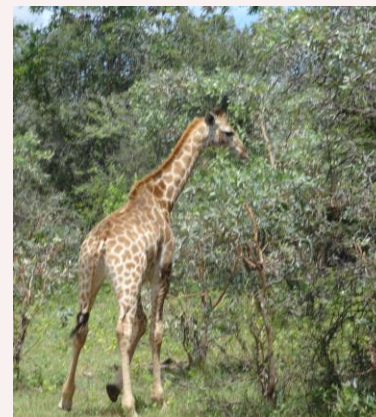
Participants will play an active role in a variety of immersive conservation and research activities. Through activities like wildlife monitoring, vegetation surveys and data analysis, students gain practical experience using tools such as GPS devices and biomass sampling equipment. Each project offers a unique opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the reserve's ecological goals while developing valuable skills in fieldwork and conservation management.

Beyond research, the programme fosters community empowerment and sustainable conservation practices, inspiring future generations to protect this remarkable landscape while equipping participants with valuable skills for careers in conservation.



Project Overview – Hanover Nature Reserve

- Alien Plant Mapping
- Small mammal monitoring
- Camera trap surveys
- Vegetation Surveys
- Butterfly Surveys
- Bird Ringing
- River health surveys
- Giraffe Monitoring
- Game Counts
- Scorpion Hunt
- Invert Sweeps
- Regen Cattle Project



Fauna: Wildlife and Ecological Projects – Hanover Nature Reserve

Objective:

To monitor and protect animal populations and their habitats, contributing to a deeper understanding of species behaviour, ecological roles and conservation needs.

Activity Descriptions:

1. Known Animal Group Counts:

- Conduct surveys to monitor population dynamics of key wildlife species
- Use GPS devices and observation techniques to collect data on herd sizes, locations and behaviours

2. Camera Trap Study and Surveys:

- Deploy camera traps in strategic locations to capture images and videos of wildlife
- Analyse data to identify species occurrence, use of space, home range, population, feeding behaviour and more.



Fauna: Wildlife and Ecological Projects – Hanover Nature Reserve

3. Reptile Pitfall Trap Study

- Install and monitor pitfall traps and ecological drift fences in predefined locations to safely capture small reptiles
- Identify species using field guides and photographic records
- Record environmental conditions to assess habitat preferences and seasonal activity

4. Bird Ringing and Ornithology:

- Set up mist nets in various habitats to capture birds for ringing and data collection
- Record physical measurements, health indicators and unique identification details before safely releasing birds
- Blood samples from some birds for DNA barcoding
- Bird Point Count surveys



Fauna: Wildlife and Ecological Projects – Hanover Nature Reserve

5. Wild Dog Project (Collaboration with WWDI):

- Talk on the free-roaming wild dogs of the area
- Track wild dogs using GPS and VHS technology (if in area)

6. Dung Beetle and Butterfly Collections:

- Collect, identify and catalogue dung beetles and butterflies to assess their roles in nutrient cycling and pollination
- Focus on species unique to the Northern Waterberg region

7. Small Mammal Project

Humanely capture, photograph and identify small mammals

- Develop species list and occurrence
- Assess ecological niches and predator-prey relationships



Other Possible Activities: Non-Research

Beyond research, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in unique and enriching experiences:

San Rock Art Talk and Trail:

Learn about the fascinating history and cultural significance of ancient San rock art, followed by a guided trail to a rock painting site for an up-close exploration.

Stargazing:

Experience the breathtaking clarity of the southern hemisphere's night sky, free from light pollution and discover the stories and science behind its constellations.

Fresh Water Swimming:

Enjoy the serenity of our 20 km stretch of pristine riverine habitat, with scenic swimming spots perfect for relaxation and connection with nature.

Potjie Cooking Competition:

Embrace South African tradition with a lively potjie (cast-iron pot stew) cooking competition. Students will team up to prepare their own creations over open fires.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Dr Zoe Glyphis – Wildlife Veterinarian – Endangered Species Specialist

Dr Zoe Glyphis has become one of South Africa's leading predator specialists and is on the forefront with veterinary medicine and veterinary assistance of wild dog, hyena and cheetah conservation all over South Africa.

She is 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.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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YOUR PROJECT

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Practical Sessions

Learn the basic principles for darting wildlife.
Each student will have the opportunity to use the gas-powered dart gun at the range.
Students may also have the opportunity to observe a Post-Mortem / Necropsy demonstration.



Possible Lectures & Debate

- Status of endangered species
- Drugs used in wildlife medicine
- Calculating doses in wildlife
- Logistics of wildlife transportation: customised vehicles, crates and equipment
- Game capture systems
- Darting wildlife
- Boma management and rehabilitation
- Poached rhino wound rehabilitation
- Parasite control
- State veterinary disease control in practice





AFRICA

ABOUT THE PROJECT: ENTABENI SAFARI CONSERVANCY

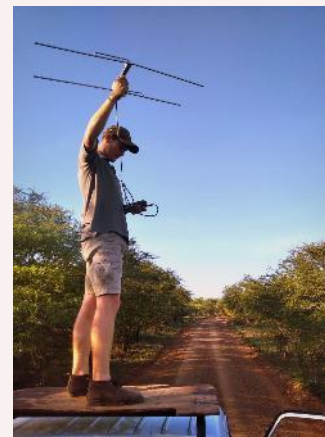
Our conservation work
in more detail

Waterberg Wildlife and Veterinary Course – Entabeni

This course provides the opportunity for hands-on practical wildlife experience for pre-vet/vet nurses/technicians or those studying in the veterinary field.

Based at the reserve's student camp working directly with the monitoring team; this department runs and manages the day-to-day decisions and monitoring of the wildlife and ecosystem of the reserve.

The team and their work are crucial to the management and welfare of all wildlife on the reserve, as they monitor the animals' conditions, herd structures, locations and behaviours.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

AFRICA

Entabeni Safari Conservancy

- Introduction to Entabeni Safari Conservancy and Research Projects
- Rhino orphanage – assist with orphaned rhino calves
- Time spent with the research team conducting conservation activities
- Predator monitoring
- Rhino monitoring
- Elephant monitoring and impact assessments
- Game Drives
- Leopard tortoise and rare cycad plant projects

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



The Rhino Orphanage

The Rhino Orphanage was the first-ever specialised, non-commercial centre dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, raising and release of orphaned rhinos back into the wild.

Although newborn rhinos can weigh up to 50kgs, they are essentially “helpless” and require protection so that they may survive and ultimately thrive.

Rhino calves and rhino mothers are closely bonded. Rhino young are fiercely protected by their mothers in the wild, so when a rhino mother is killed, the rhino orphan becomes particularly vulnerable, and their longevity is endangered. Under normal circumstances, rhino calves will stay with their mothers for around 3 years. For this reason, the rhino orphans in their care typically require the same intensity and timeframe of nurturing from the carers.





AFRICA

DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

Centre for Global Citizenship
Studies (CGCS).

Diploma in International Volunteering with a Wildlife Conservation specialism

Delivered by the Centre for Global Citizenship Studies (CGCS), this Level 3 Diploma is designed to turn your hands-on experience in South Africa into a recognised qualification, giving you academic credit and evidence you can use for university applications, personal statements and job interviews.

Beyond the subject knowledge, you'll build and evidence skills in: leadership, adaptability, teamwork, critical thinking, cultural intelligence, and personal resilience.

The course is designed to fit around your trip with online learning completed at your pace. The modules include:

- Prepare (Before your trip)
- Specialise (Pre-trip learning)
- Participate (During your trip)
- Reflect (After your trip)

Each module comes with course notes, videos, recommended readings, and compulsory assignments.

You will cover: Biodiversity & Ecosystem, Wildlife Protection, Community Engagement, Legal & Ethical Considerations.

Cost: £425
Enrolment upon
payment of the fee





AFRICA

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

AFRICA

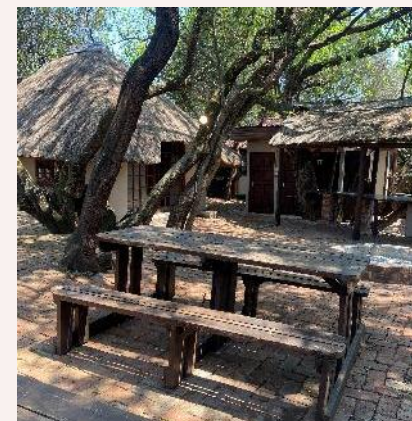
Gauteng – Lodge Stay

You will be staying in accommodation with 2 or 4 beds with en-suite facilities.

The lodge offers comfortable areas to relax and unwind. It has WiFi and is ideally located for the various project locations in and around Gauteng.

Food at the Project

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



Hanover Nature Reserve Accommodation

You will stay at our purpose-built Camp Letimoga in 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 is a cosy 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.



Waterberg – Entabeni Accommodation

You will stay in twin bedded rooms with ensuite facilities.

There are 4, 5 and 6 bedroom units each of which has an open plan layout with lounge and dining area and a fully equipped kitchen.

Evenings are spent at leisure around the campfire.

Only Sunday will be an off day to 'chill' in camp or do extra activities.



Food at the Project – Hanover and Entabeni

Ingredients for three meals a day are provided, on a self cook basis. Students will take part in communal cooking and keeping the kitchen tidy. This creates a vibrant and social camp atmosphere.

Some days lunch will be at the accommodation; other days lunch will be brought into the field to be taken as a picnic. This depends on the activities either planned or unscheduled.

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.





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

- UK transfers
- 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.

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

Other useful items:

- Camera
- Power bank
- Stethoscope

* 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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