SCOTLAND'S RURAL COLLEGE
PROJECT PRESENTATION

Waterberg
Wildlife & Veterinary Course (Vet Professionals)

AFRICA

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

ABOUT US:

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

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

Project overview and location

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

Your Conservation Field Trip Explained

- A unique conservation experience based in South Africa
- Live in a research camp on a wild African game reserve
- 12 night programme specifically tailored for Veterinary Nurse students
- Two 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

Waterberg Wildlife and Veterinary Course (Vet Professionals) - Location

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

TRUE WILDERNESS

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

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

Your Two Project Locations

This unique 12-night project will allow you to experience two different project locations in two neighbouring provinces of South Africa. You will first stay in the 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 north of the country staying in the Waterberg Biosphere – the **Welgevonden Game Reserve** (the core, Big 5 monitoring and conservation experience). Project locations and duration are as follows:

Project locations and duration are as follows:

4 Nights

Veterinary Impact Work - Gauteng Province

8 Nights

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

ABOUT THE PROJECT: GAUTENG

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Gauteng Veterinary Impact

- Tour of Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary hospital
- Assist with some animal shelter and community cases
- 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

Gauteng– Johannesburg Wildlife Vet

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Gauteng – Dogs Trust Visit

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Gauteng - Pit-Track K9 Antipoaching Unit Demonstration

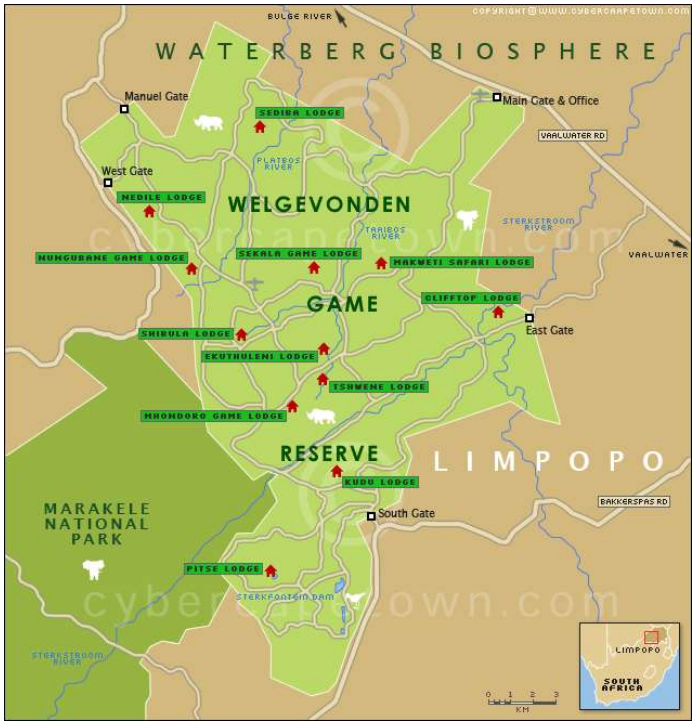
ABOUT THE PROJECT: WELGEVONDEN GAME RESERVE

Our conservation work in more detail

ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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



ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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

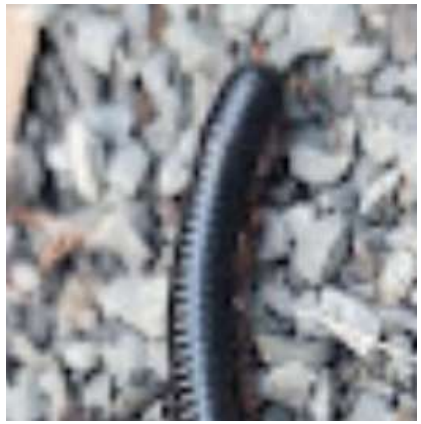
Home to the BIG 5

ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

Home to over 60 Species of Mammal

ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

Many Reptile, Insect and Bird Species



ABOUT THE PROJECT

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
- Introduction to Wildlife Veterinary work in the Context of African Wildlife (Dr Zoe Glyphis – Local Wildlife Vet)
- Dart shooting practice

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

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Bush Skills – Bush Walks, Tracking Wildlife

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Research – Habitat and Prey Selection: Predators

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Camera Trap – Research and Study

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Anti-Poaching Unit

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Monitoring the Welgevonden Rhino Population

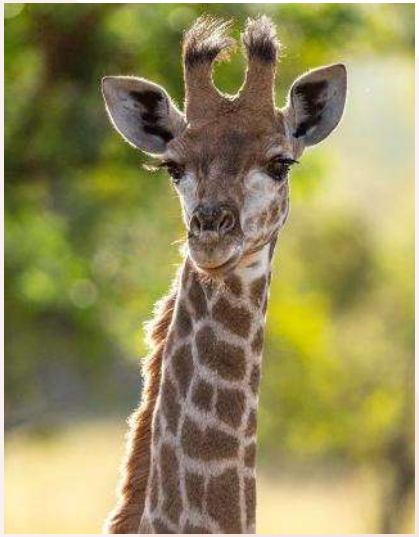
Behavioural observations, body condition, herd structure, photos and GPS locations are recorded to document where the animals are on the reserve; keeping tabs on the localities and activities of Black and White Rhino on Welgevonden.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Research – Elephant Monitoring

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Monitoring Herbivore Condition and Health



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Waterberg Wild Dog – Boma Visit

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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

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

Example Lectures - Welgevonden

- Reserve history
- Anti-poaching
- Fire to herbivore driven system
- Priority species
- Large predator management
- Managing wildlife reserves & land capacity model
- Boma management
- Fenced reserve population management

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Dr Zoe Glyphis – Wildlife Veterinarian – Predator 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 organizations with their efforts to increase predator ranges and to establish safe and genetically viable populations in new conservation areas.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Practical Sessions

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

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Possible Lectures & Debate

- Drugs used in wildlife medicine
- Calculating doses in wildlife
- Logistics of wildlife transportation: customised vehicles, crates and equipment
- The Game Trade-Auction and value of livestock
- Game capture systems
- Darting wildlife
- Boma management and rehabilitation
- Orphaned Rhino rehabilitation
- Parasite control
- Managing game reserves and Land Capacity Model
- Species control - predator pits
- State veterinary disease control in practice
- Documentation required: Red Cross Permits

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Your free time on the project

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Activities/Excursions

DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

Centre for Global Citizenship Studies (CGCS).

DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING AFRICA

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:

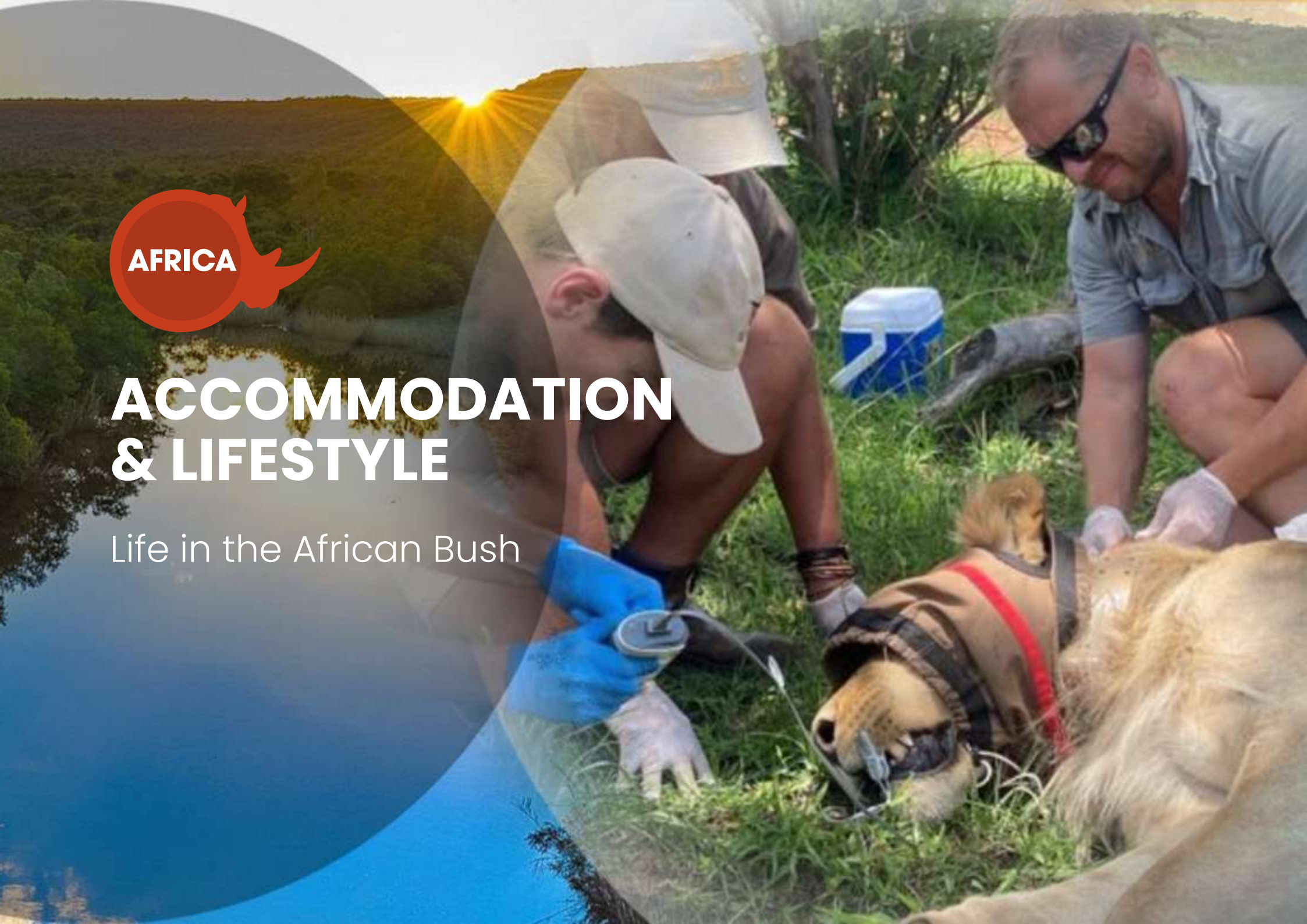
- Prepare (Before your trip)
- Specialise (Pre-trip learning)
- Participate (During your trip)
- Reflect (After your trip)

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

CGCS
CENTRE FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP STUDIES



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life in the African Bush

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Gauteng – Phahama Game Lodge

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

There are outdoor seating areas and a garden with swimming pool.

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 Phahama Game Lodge; 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.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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, storage fridge and laundry.

The centre also has access to Wi-Fi.

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

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Food at the Project - Welgevonden

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.

All meals are provided in the communal dining room, there is an outside area for dining as well. Bring your own snacks.

Meals will either be served at the facility or in the field 'picnic' style, this depends on 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.

WHY SHOULD I TRAVEL?

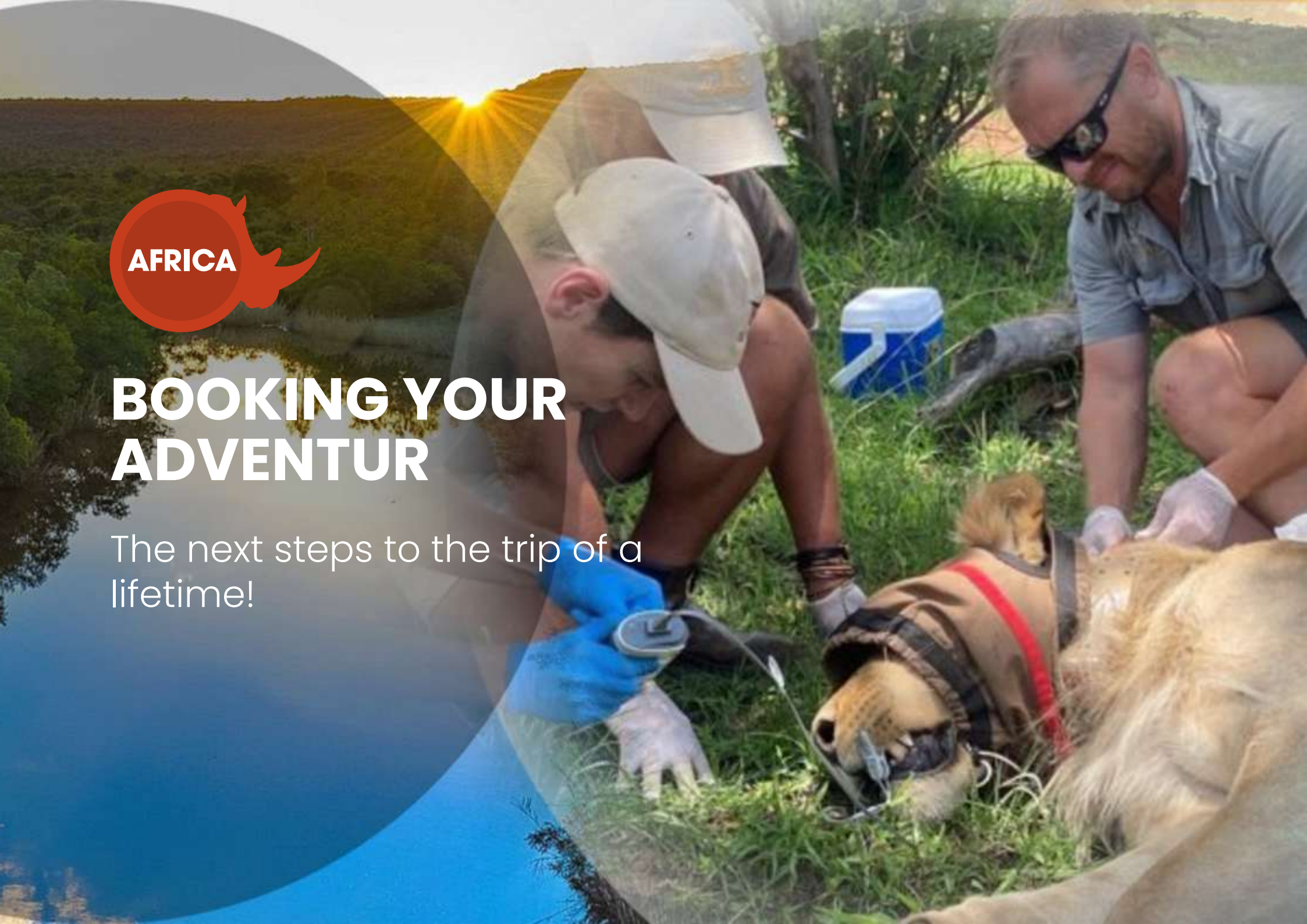
What do previous travellers say about the Wildlife and Veterinary Course (Vet Professionals)?

"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



BOOKING YOUR ADVENTUR

The next steps to the trip of a lifetime!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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 that you take out travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.

THE NEXT STEPS

Project dates & key deadlines

Confirmed travel dates:

Depart UK: 28th April 2027 | Arrive SA: 29th April 2027

Depart SA: 11th May 2027 | Arrive UK: 12th May 2027

Trip cost:

£3398.00 * Based on a group of 12 (confirmed once flights have been held)

Key deadlines are:

- Return online booking form by 08/05/2026
- Deposit payment, £300.00 by 05/07/2026
- 50% instalment to be paid by 07/01/2027
- Balance payment to be paid by 04/03/2027
- 15/04/2027 e-Tickets & final documents will be issued

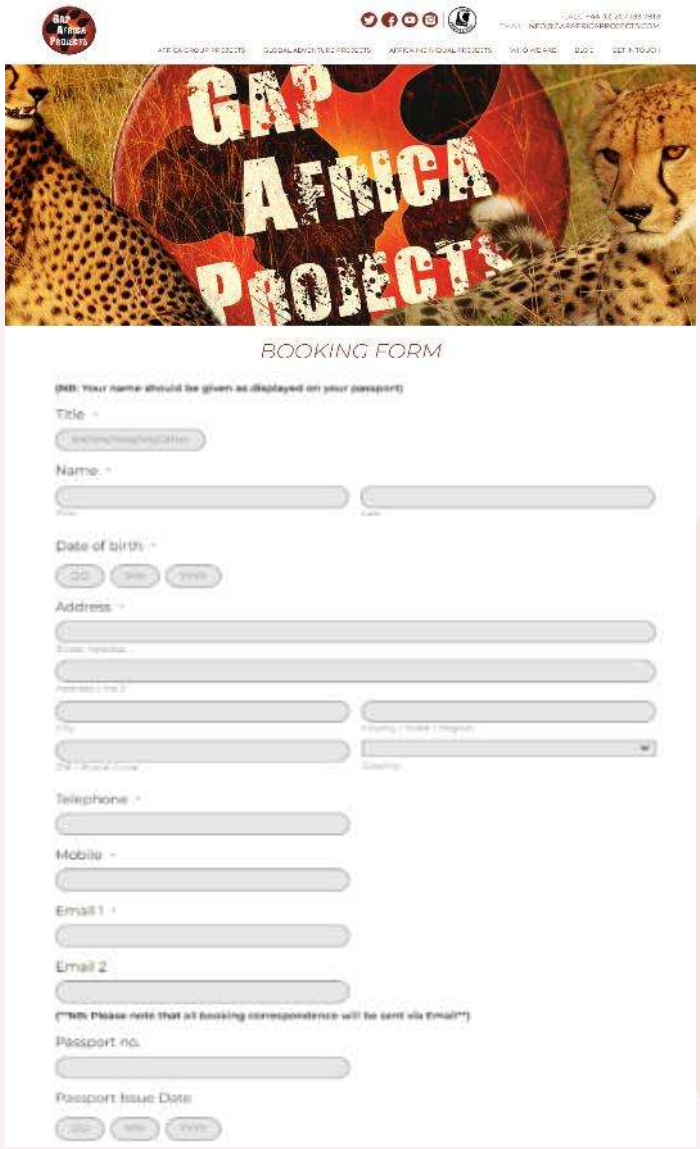
BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

Booking Form

- Please submit by **08/05/2026**
- 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

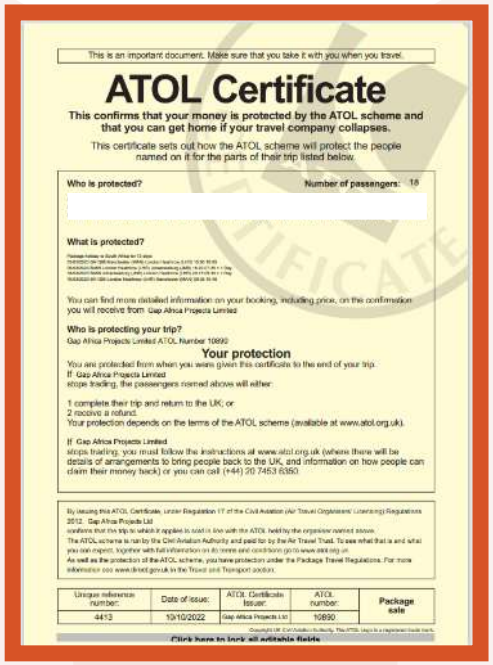


THE NEXT STEPS

Confirmation Documents

Confirmation documents will be issued and sent directly to you via email.

Please communicate with us with any questions relating to the field trip.



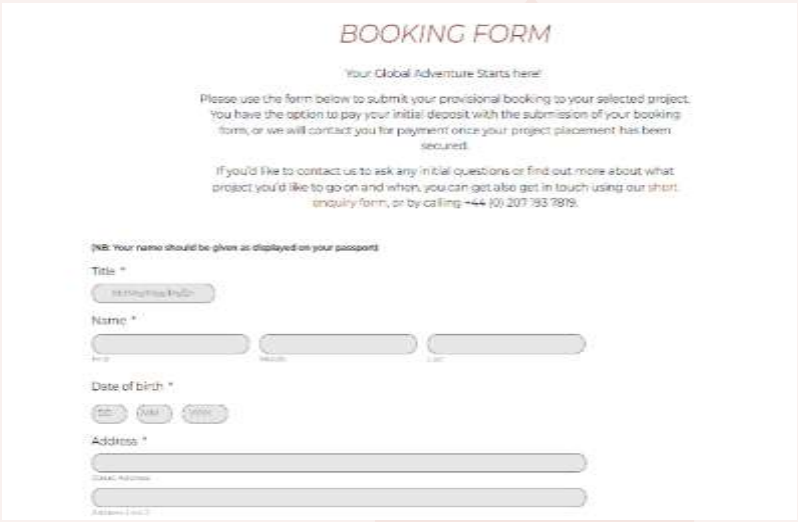
BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

Group Web Page

https://gapafricaprojects.com/27-4852/

Booking Form

https://gapafricaprojects.com/booking-form-27-4852-src-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 *

USEFUL INFORMATION

AFRICA

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 may 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.

GAP
GLOBAL ADVENTURE PROJECTS

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

Explore our network of Global Adventure Projects:

AFRICA ASIA EUROPE SOUTH AMERICA UNITED KINGDOM

GLOBALADVENTUREPROJECTS.COM