BISHOP BURTON COLLEGE
INFORMATION PACK

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

PROJECT LOCATION

The Waterberg overview

ABOUT THE WATERBERG

A place that promotes the connection between people and nature

The Waterberg is an escarpment of massive sandstone buttresses and outcrops, stretching some 150km in a long arc and incorporating numerous rivers, streams and wetlands. It holds intact habitats, abundant birdlife and wildlife, and a natural, unspoilt beauty — the special and unique characteristics that led UNESCO to approve biosphere reserve status for the area in 2001.

The Waterberg is a critical conservation area for black and white rhino, African wild dog, and the Cape Vulture, which has a major breeding colony in the region.

ABOUT WATERBERG HORSE TRAILS

Waterberg Horse Trails

Location

Waterberg Horse Trails is based at Waterberg Cottages, near Vaalwater in the Waterberg region of Limpopo Province, around 3.5 hours' drive from Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport. The project is set in a 2,500-hectare bushveld nature reserve.

Limpopo is South Africa's northernmost province, bordering Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The Waterberg region is malaria-free, and the property falls within the UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve.

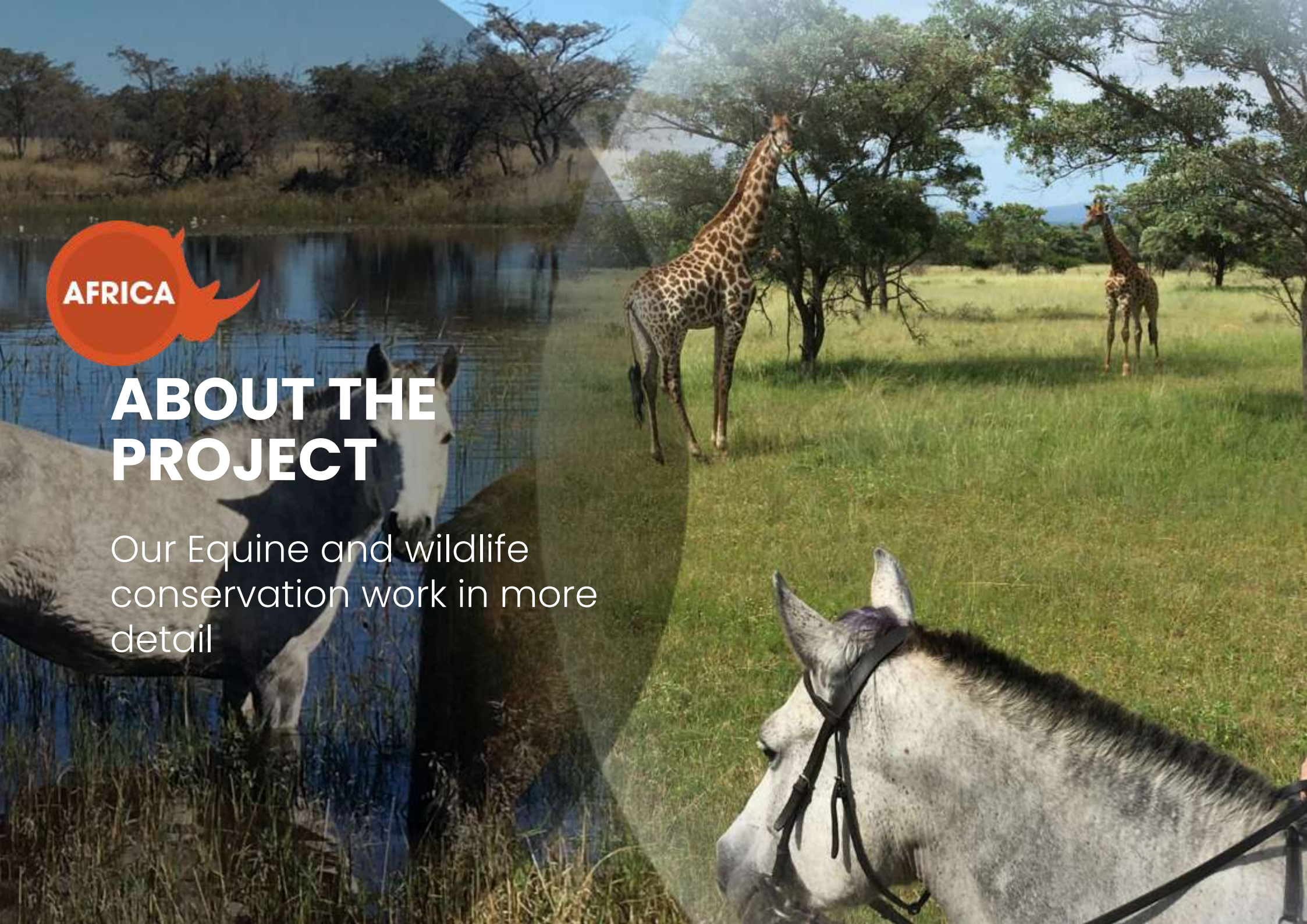
The reserve neighbours Boschdraai Village, a small local community.

ABOUT WATERBERG HORSE TRAILS

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.

Set in a 2,500-hectare game reserve of savanna bushveld, part of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, it is home to a wide range of wildlife, including white rhino, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, eland, wildebeest, blesbok and ostrich, as well as the unique aardvark.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our Equine and wildlife conservation work in more detail

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Your Project Locations

For the duration of your trip you will be staying in the Limpopo province of the Waterberg, in South Africa. You will spend 10 nights at Waterberg participating in the Waterberg Equine and Wildlife Project. You will play an active role in Equine Welfare, Equine Management, Conservation activities and Community Development whilst living on a Game Reserve that specialises in Horseback safaris

Project locations and duration are as follows:

10 Nights

Waterberg Equine and Wildlife Project – Waterberg Cottages – Waterberg – Limpopo Province

ABOUT THE PROJECT: WATERBERG COTTAGES

Our equine and wildlife work in more detail

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Waterberg Cottages

- A unique equine and wildlife project based in South Africa
- Live and work on a Game Reserve that specialises in Horseback safaris
- Tailor-made project to suit your needs and interests
- Project activities include
    - Equine Welfare
    - Equine Management
    - Conservation activities
    - Community Development
- Dedicated horses, staff, and vehicles
- An incredible mix of equine and wildlife experience
- There is a 75kg weight limit for riding the horses

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

YOUR PROJECT

Waterberg Equine and Wildlife

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 lies on the farm, only a few hundred metres from the Cottages. Home to around 350 residents, many of whom are subsistence farmers growing small crops and keeping chickens, it is a peaceful place. Some households keep donkeys, used to transport people and firewood.

Students join the team in checking on these donkeys and contributing to their care and wellbeing, including basic wound care and feeding, with pregnant mares often needing extra attention. Each group also sponsors a new set of harnesses for the area's cart-pulling donkeys, which makes a lasting difference to the animals' comfort and reduces harness-related injuries. Groups may take on other practical animal welfare projects in the community as needs arise, such as building kennels for village dogs.

The village is also full of children, who make visits there a delight — and guests are offered a village tour, meeting residents young and old.

YOUR PROJECT

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

These are examples of activities you may have an opportunity to undertake.

Please Note: Rider weight limit of 75kg

YOUR PROJECT

Wildlife Conservation Activities

- Interpretive bush walks and tracking
- Full Day Game Drive
- Aardvark Safari
- Telemetry Skills
- Spoor and Dung Tracking
- Bush Walks

Other Activities

- Astronomy show
- Evening Sundowners

These are examples of activities you may have an opportunity to undertake.

YOUR PROJECT

Big 5 Game Reserve - Safari

One day is dedicated to a safari at a Big Five game reserve, also in the Waterberg. The setting is spectacular — towering sandstone cliffs and escarpment falling away to open valley below — and students will have the opportunity to see two further perissodactyl groups, white rhino and plains zebra, and to consider their role as 'ecosystem engineers' within the reserve's ecology.

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:

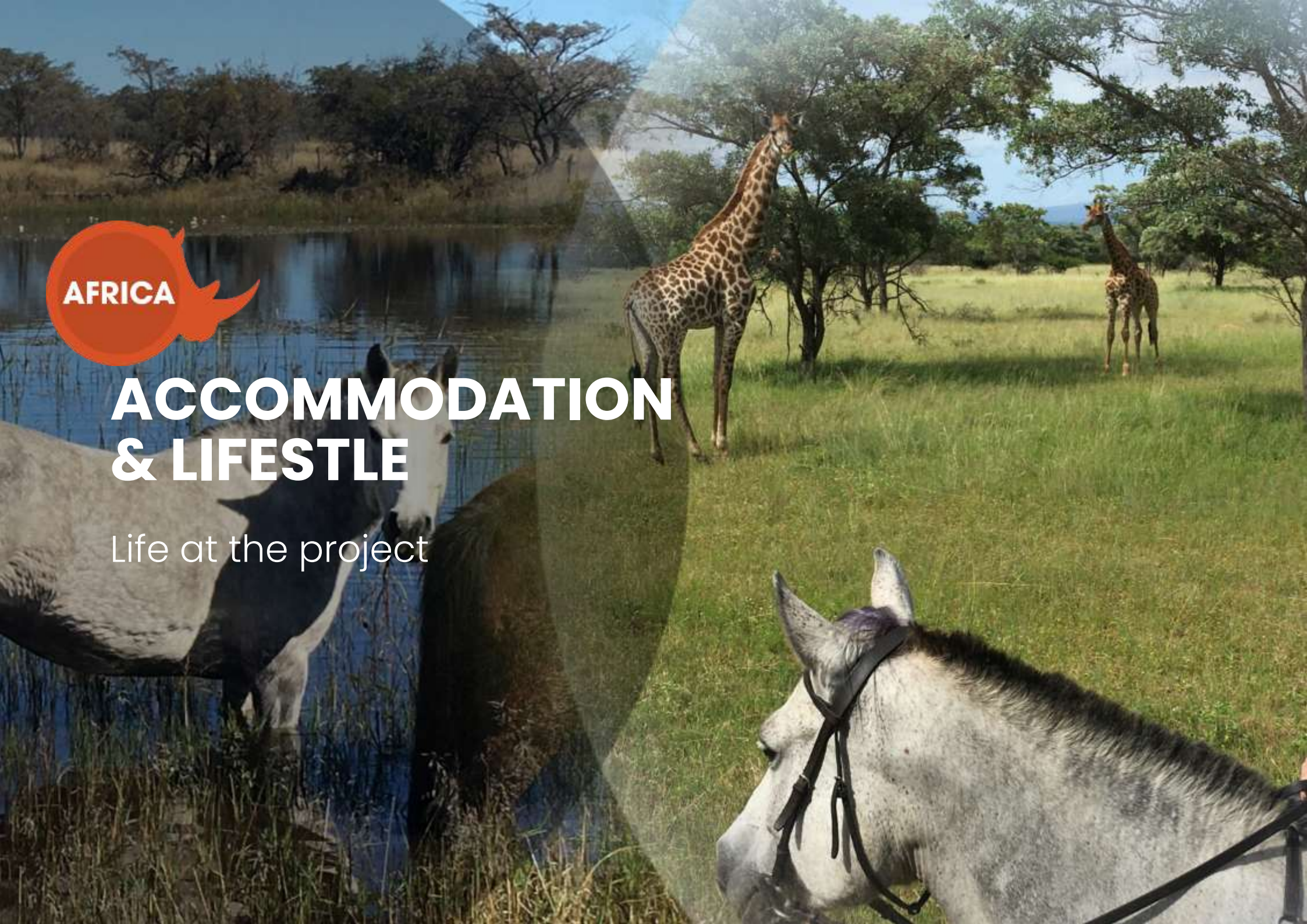
- Prepare (Before your trip)
- Specialise (Pre-trip learning)
- Participate (During your trip)
- Reflect (After your trip)

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 & LIFESTLE

Life at the project

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Waterberg Cottages Accommodation

The group will be accommodated in beautiful historic thatched cottages, surrounded by gardens, freely roaming animals and views over the bushveld.

Students share rooms, with two or three per room.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Food at the Project (Prepared Meals)

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

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.

The projects serve wholesome fresh food and do not rely on processed food, so we encourage you to explore new flavours, sample unfamiliar dishes and venture outside your food comfort zone.

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. We cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment.

We do suggest that, if you have particular snacks or foodstuffs that you prefer, you take some items with you as the choice is limited in South Africa, particularly Gluten Free items.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life on the Farm – Waterberg Cottages

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.

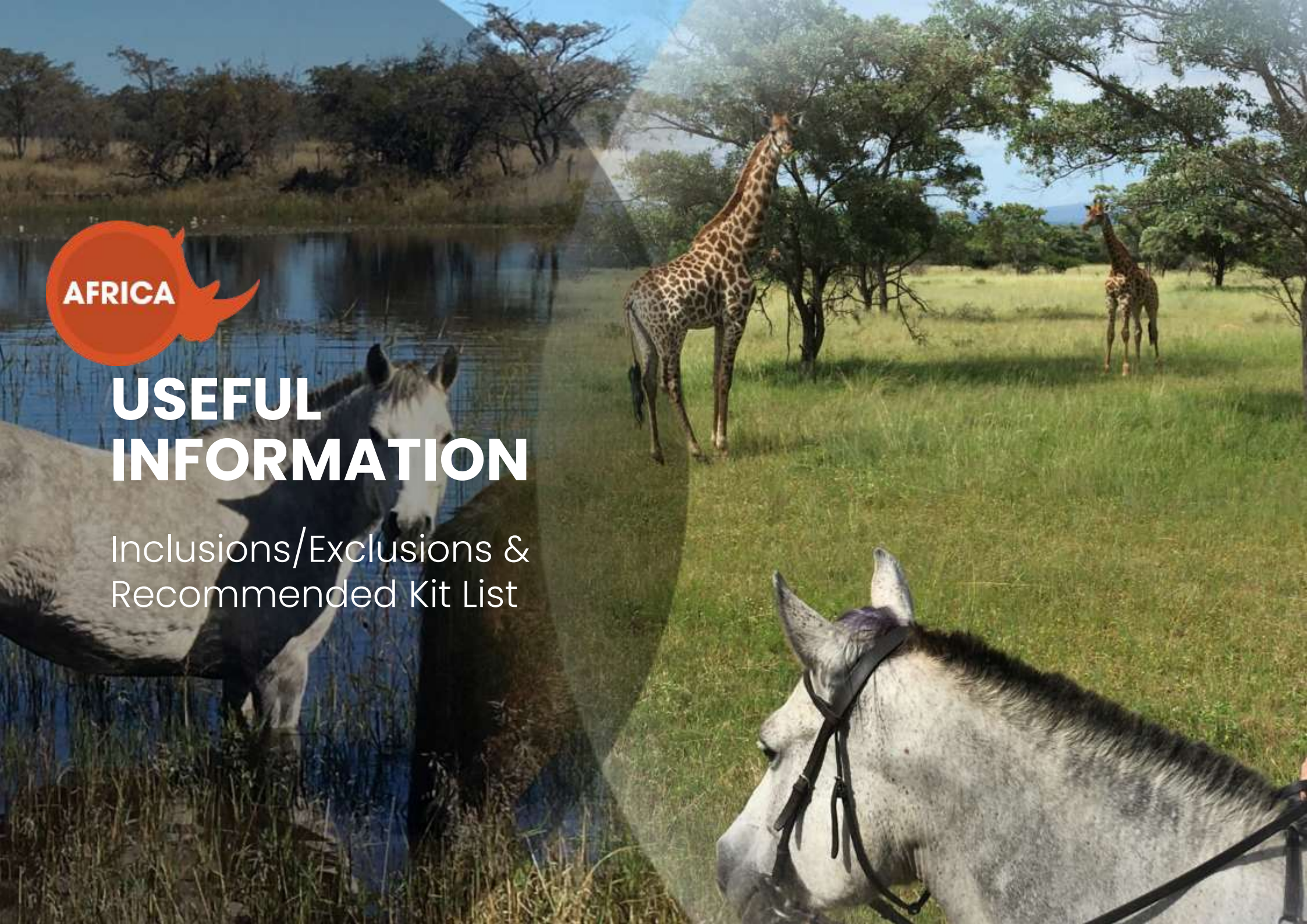
There will be many opportunities to enjoy your morning tea or coffee while watching the sunrise or watch the sunset with a drink; *sundowners* are quintessential in the African bush.

WATERBERG EQUINE & WILDLIFE

Photo gallery

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Photo gallery



USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

What is Included?

- UK transfers
- Flights
- Transfer to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day unless specified
- All activities as part of the project

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, jodhpurs, body protector

* Insurance is a condition of travel

WHAT'S INCLUDED

ATOL Protection

All schools, colleges and universities are covered by ATOL when we arrange flights and land arrangements. Every group booking will receive an ATOL certificate.

What is ATOL?

- ATOL stands for Air Travel Organiser's Licence.
- It is a financial protection scheme managed by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) when you book a package trip which includes a flight.

What Does ATOL Protection Do?

- **Refunds you**: If your travel company collapses before you travel, you get your money back.
- **Brings you home**: If your provider goes bust while you are already abroad, the scheme arranges and pays for your flight home, so you are not stranded.
- **Supports your stay**: ATOL helps you if your trip is interrupted mid-trip by a company failure.

YOU ARE NOT GOING ON HOLIDAY

You are travelling overseas on a working placement. Our projects run in remote, unpredictable places alongside real conservation teams and local communities — not resorts. You will need to be adaptable.

Plans change - sometimes weeks out, sometimes on the day

- A vet call-out depends on whether an animal actually needs treating
- A game capture depends on weather, transport availability and the reserve's own priorities
- A community placement depends on the school term and who turns up; weather can cut village activities short
- Wild animals are wild. Sightings are never guaranteed, and no animal is there to perform for you

What we do when plans change Timings and the order of activities flex, sometimes without notice. We rebuild the day with our local partners, so you are never left with an empty one — the alternative will be beneficial. If a destination, reserve or type of work changes, we tell you as soon as we know and explain your options under your booking conditions.

What to expect day to day

- Accommodation is comfortable but basic: shared rooms, shared bathrooms, limited hot water at times
- Power cuts and water interruptions are normal, particularly in South Africa, and are not an emergency
- Wi-Fi and phone signal are patchy to non-existent — tell people at home now
- Early starts, long days, dust, insects, heat and cold — sometimes all in 24 hours

Flights sit with the airline Delays and cancellations are the airline's responsibility. We will still get you there, reshape the programme around the time you have

If something isn't right, say so there and then Tell your group leader or the Project Staff the same day. We can almost always fix it while you are still there; we can't once you are home.

Remember You represent your college, GAP Africa Projects and the UK, and local staff will remember how you treated them. The students who get the most out of these trips say yes to what is in front of them rather than measuring it against what they expected.

USEFUL INFORMATION

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 (May - August)
- Padded jacket/windbreaker (May - August) although it can get very cold on an open vehicle any time of year
- Socks
- Underwear
- Change of casual clothes for evenings
- Comfy shoes to wear after work hours (no open-toed shoes to be worn around Welgevonden camp)
- Warm hat (May - August) / Hat for sun protection (all year)
- Gloves for warmth (May - August)
- Working gloves
- Daypack rucksack
- Riding hat
- Jodhpurs
- Riding boots
- Riding gloves
- Body protector
- 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.

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

This is about creating measurable, positive change for people, wildlife, and the environment. Our commitment to sustainability, ethics, and community empowerment is embedded in everything we do.

Reducing Environmental Impact through Local Empowerment - We actively minimise unnecessary international staff travel by training and empowering local guides, coordinators, and support teams to deliver programmes on our behalf, reducing our carbon footprint in line with sustainability goals while directing income into local economies to ensure the communities where we operate benefit directly from tourism.

Direct Reinvestment into Conservation – We have reinvested and purchased a private nature reserve, directly supporting a global rewilding pledge. This will help safeguard critical wildlife habitats in line with global biodiversity targets, enable long-term research and conservation projects that strengthen rewilding efforts, and provide a secure, collaborative space for local conservationists and researchers to advance habitat restoration and ecosystem protection.

Funding Wildlife and Research Projects - We support urgent conservation work and scientific research through sponsoring wildlife interventions, including anti-poaching efforts and veterinary care, partnering with registered non-profits to fund biodiversity research, habitat restoration, and wildlife monitoring, and providing financial backing for academic research that advances both global conservation knowledge and local sustainability.

Community Development & Education Commitments - We are dedicated to ensuring that communities benefit from sustainable tourism and conservation by committing a portion of annual profits to local education and empowerment programmes.

Sustainable Business Model - We are not a generic travel company; we take a purpose-driven approach by carefully selecting projects that align with our values, ensuring that every trip and partnership creates jobs, supports livelihoods, and builds local capacity, drives education and training to equip people with skills to progress, and maintains direct and transparent financial impact so we know exactly where our support goes and the difference it makes.

Ethical Partnerships & Fair Labour - We only collaborate with partners and projects that actively engage in wildlife conservation and community education. We require partners to demonstrate fair labour practices by ensuring staff receive appropriate wages, benefits, and working conditions aligned with local employment standards, and share our ethos of responsibility, transparency, and long-term impact.

GLOBAL ADVENTURE PROJECTS

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

Explore our network of Global Adventure Projects:

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