



TEEN PROGRAM IN SOUTH AFRICA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



OVERVIEW

This project gives you a real and unfiltered look into South Africa's iconic wildlife. However, unlike a traditional tourist safari, you will learn about conservation issues in the region and what is being done by local organization like the South African National Parks authorities and international organizations like the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Panthera, to conserve the habitat of these animals as well as South African species under threat.

This wildlife conservation volunteering program is designed for teens between the ages of 15 and 17, to teach them what a career in conservation would really look like. The NGO has successfully been operating ethical and responsible programs for under 18s since 2012. Since then, it has treated health and safety as a number one priority and takes extra measures for its under 18 programs. As such, it is also a British Standards 8848 compliant provider.

Learn how to identify South African animals and how tracking them and recording data on their location and behavior assists with their conservation. The program also includes a visit to the Kruger National Park and adventure activities in the Drakensberg mountains. Teens will be led by experts in their field who have been chosen for their mix of relevant experience and ability to mentor and inspire young people.

Although all teen participants are greeted by the NGO staff at their arrival destination, flight chaperoning services are also available upon request. Chaperones provide on-flight accompaniment, and in-airport assistance. To book this service please contact one of our enrollment managers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Go on a wildlife safari adventure in a private South African nature reserve.
- Learn about conservation issues in Africa and what a career in conservation is really like.
- Visit the famous Kruger National Park and go hiking, climbing, or kayaking in the Drakensberg Mountains.
- Live with a group of teens from around the world and make new life-long friends.
- Successfully complete this program and get a professional reference from your program manager. You'll also have the option of earning a certificate endorsed by the University of Richmond if you choose to complete our included online leadership course, which is valued at €345.
- Listen to the quiet hush of the wild open spaces, waking each morning to a chorus of savannah birds and drifting off to the nighttime hum of endemic frogs and crickets.
- Learn to identify predators, like lions, cheetahs, and leopards, as well as megaherbivores like elephants and rhinos.
- Master radio telemetry techniques and learning how to track and record animal movements.
- Live and work alongside Field Guide Association of South Africa, FGASA, qualified guides, growing personally and professionally by learning from their experiences.
- Sleep under the star-filled Southern night sky, its beauty enhanced by the lack of light pollution, and wake to a golden African dawn.

ITINERARY

SATURDAY

Arrive in the South African province of Limpopo, known for its abundant wildlife. A staff member will be waiting to take you to your overnight residence. Your first night will be spent getting to know your new friends over a welcome feast.

SUNDAY

Hop onto a safari vehicle for your first drive out onto the South African savannah. Spot lions, leopards, and other iconic wildlife species. Watch the sun set over the African plains.

MONDAY - TUESDAY

Find out how to identify South African animals based on their appearance, as well as any paw prints or other evidence they leave behind.

WEDNESDAY

Help to engage local primary school students in protecting the local natural environment. Your lunch will be a traditional South African barbeque, known as a braai.

THURSDAY

Help to engage local primary school students in protecting the local natural environment. Your lunch will be a traditional South African barbeque, known as a braai.

FRIDAY

Explore the South African wild on foot during an early morning walk. Learn how indigenous plant species are used in traditional South African cultures.

SATURDAY

Create educational resources for the local primary school. Sleep under the stars and feast on a traditional South African potjie dinner, a stew cooked in the open air.

SUNDAY

Head out on your second bushwalk. Take a different route and put your knowledge of plants to the test. Complete a lecture to learn about wildlife. Go on a game drive.

MONDAY

Visit a reptile rehabilitation sanctuary to learn about the important role this organisation plays in engaging the local community in the protection of snakes and other reptiles.

TUESDAY

Visit the famous Kruger National Park. Spot the African “Big Five”: lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, buffalo, and rhino. Leave the park just as the African sun sets over the horizon.

WEDNESDAY

Head out in the early morning, one of the best times to spot local wildlife, on a safari drive. In the afternoon and evening, work on educational resources for local primary school learners.

THURSDAY

Go hiking, climbing, abseiling, and kayaking in the Blyde River Canyon, part of the Drakensberg or “dragon’s mountain” range.

FRIDAY

On your final morning walk and afternoon safari drive put your newly acquired knowledge of the South African environment to the test.

SATURDAY

Leave the South African wilds behind as you, and your new, life-long friends, travel back to the airport with staff for your return flight home.

Please note that this itinerary may vary depending on many factors.

YOUR IMPACT

All of our programs have short, mid and long-term objectives that fit with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** or UN SDGs. This enables us to report on our collaborative impact across the world in a streamlined manner, measuring which UN SDGs we are making a substantial contribution to. Furthermore, this will help our local partners and communities measure and visualize their contribution to the UN SDGs.

Upon arrival to base, you will be educated about the history of the UN SDGs. You will learn about the specific goals of your location, the long-, mid- and short-term objectives, and also clarification of **how your personal, shorter-term involvement contributes to these goals on a global level.**

Our aim is to educate you on local and global issues, so that you continue to act as active global citizens after your program, helping to fulfil our mission of building a global network of people united by their passion to make a difference.

Life on base

Live in the heart of the South African savannah, sharing a renovated farmhouse with qualified guides from the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa, other staff, and

participants from around the world. The base is incredibly remote, and tourists are unable to visit. Completely open to the bush and close to a dam, animals frequently visit the property, including elephants, buffalo, impala and leopards.

Boasting more than 20 thousand acres of open savannah, Karongwe features some of the best wildlife viewing of any private South African wildlife reserve. It's home to all of the Big Five, including the elusive leopard, as well as cheetahs and spotted hyenas.

Rise each morning to the sound of African birdsong at dawn, before heading out in an open-topped safari vehicle to conduct research vital for the conservation of key predator species, like cheetahs and lions. Heading back to camp when the sun is at its height, you'll input data, study, assist with cooking or tidying, or relax with the team in our shared outdoor social space. In the early afternoon, when the sun starts to set over the Drakensberg mountain range, you'll head out again to conduct further research. Returning when the stars are at their brightest, you'll share a meal and the day's stories with your team. In your free time, visit Kruger National Park, an hour's drive from your accommodation, or travel to the scenic Panorama Route, which takes you through the magnificent Blyde River Canyon.

With one of most biodiverse ecosystems in the world, and home to many of the most threatened African wildlife species, South Africa is a nature, wildlife, and adventure lover's paradise.

Accommodation

Lodgings consist of large dorm-style rooms with shared bathrooms. The base is solar-powered to ensure less impact on the environment. When it's time to relax, there are hammocks, a swing chair, and a projector for watching movies and documentaries. The base also has a volleyball court, footballs, skipping ropes, weights, and yoga mats, should you want to stay active. In addition, there are card games, board games and books as well as a braai area (the South African equivalent of a barbeque), and a firepit. To preserve firewood, we braai once a week (supervised by staff).

For working spaces we have data and research rooms, as well as the education room, which houses preserved bones, textbooks, scientific papers and tourism guides. There is also an intern corner with a desk space and charging stations.

Transportation

Transport to conduct field research is provided by our vehicles and drivers. We have one 15-seater taxi for organised transfers, which includes weekly trips into town, fortnightly airport runs, emergencies, planned side trips, and COVID-19 tests. In your free time, should you wish to travel off the base outside of scheduled town runs with the taxi you can either hire a vehicle or organise a transfer with one of our local transfer companies

in Hoedspruit. Depending on the group size, a one-way transfer will cost between R100 – R200 (\$6 – \$13/ £5 – £10) per person. In order to hire a vehicle, participants must be 18 or older, hold a valid driver's licence, and have a credit card in their name. For safety reasons, only our staff is permitted to drive any of our vehicles, as we hold the required driving licence.

Communication

Our base has good connection to local cell phone towers, and participants with unlocked mobile devices can purchase local SIM cards during weekly trips into town. There is Wi-Fi available, but bandwidth is limited. For Wi-Fi use on personal devices, participants can purchase Wi-Fi vouchers from the staff on base.

Meals

Participants make their own breakfast, which is continental style, including bread and spreads. For lunch, it's usually sandwiches and salads. Dinner might be anything from a traditional South African "potjie" stew to pastas and stir-fries.

Climate

Limpopo is well-known for its warm climate. Sunny days and low rainfall are the norm on most days throughout the year. Summer, starting in October and ending around March, coincides with the rainy season. Temperatures during this season can reach a sweltering 35°C (95°F) or higher – our temperature gauges have recorded temperatures in the 40s (over 100°F)! During this time the heat is often interrupted by a short thunderstorm, which is usually a welcome respite. The start of the rainy season, in October, is the perfect season to spot baby animals as many animals give birth during spring. During the dry season, in the cooler winter months, it's worth bringing warm layers for travelling in the open safari vehicles. These drives are done first thing in the morning and at night when the wind chill is a factor to consider.