

Junior African Ranger Field Trip



Are you looking for an academic fieldtrip for your student groups that will complement their science curriculum and enhance the learning outcomes, practical skills, knowledge, experiences and forever-lasting memories while making a real difference in wildlife conservation and community development? Our Lush Safaris team have extensive experience, networks and expertise in providing specialised services for fieldtrips to Africa.

We are 'UK based' African Safari Consultants and as Senior Lecturers in the animal sciences and wildlife conservation field, together with 20 years of experience in organising and running African Safaris for our own students, we are fully able to support and guide you throughout the planning and organisation process. We are aware of the additional responsibilities trips can impose on your time and if you want us to, we will use our experience to guide you through the initial planning, meeting learning outcomes, risk assessments, costing, itinerary design, arrangements for supporting individual needs, safeguarding and facilitating the evaluation of the trip on your return. We are also highly experienced in any additional requirements in terms of the travel arrangements for minors.

We have attached an example itinerary for you to peruse at your leisure, however, a bespoke itinerary can be arranged around your specific requirements. We are very proud to confirm that all our guided trips adhere to international responsible tourism and H&S standards. We ensure that both the local communities and conservation programs benefit from these trips.

Lush Safaris Ltd and our partners in South Africa take safety very seriously and we ensure that our partners hold a British Standards Institute accreditation for **“adventurous activities outside the United Kingdom” (BS8848)**. Adventure travel is supposed to be challenging, but regardless of age, destination or chosen activity, your safety and the junior rangers' safety is of paramount

importance to us. BS 8848 sets standards to minimize the risks of adventure travel. Knowledge of the standard is important to anyone organizing, or taking part in, an overseas venture.

Your students will be working with and taught by, fully trained FGASA guides when in the field and supervised by reserve staff at all times. All staff are fully trained in terms of safeguarding, including safeguarding and child protection protocols that adhere to UK standards.

The itinerary is designed to promote youth development and team building skills and we find that the young people that come on the trip have an invaluable experience not only in terms of what they learn, but also their development as people with regards to maturity and understanding of cultural differences, protection of the environment and conservation concerns.

If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss this further or would like us to speak to you and your students in person about these opportunities, then please do not hesitate in contacting us.



Contact:

Maureen: maureen@lushsafaris or call 07834764440

Lorraine: lorraine@lushsafaris or call 07725981961

Web site: www.lushsafaris.com

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Itinerary

Day 1: Overnight flight to Johannesburg.

Day 2: Arrive at OR Tambo International Airport where school staff and students will be greeted by our guides and transferred to your accommodation at Moholoholo Mountain View camp. Lunch en-route to Mountain View are at own expense.

MOHOLOHOLO (Mountain View)

You arrive at Mountain View for an evening to relax and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere. Your accommodation at Moholoholo Mountain View Camp is in self-contained, en-suite thatched cottages, each with a small fridge, fan and a bbq area. Time can be spent on the deck overlooking the waterhole with beautiful views of the northern Drakensburg Mountains and your evenings around a campfire listening to the beautiful sounds of Africa at night.

Overnight: Moholoholo Mountain View

Meals: Dinner

Day 3-7: After breakfast, students will start their junior ranger course. The course is designed to benefit the science curriculum and learning outcomes of the subjects contained therein as well as support developmental and cultural learning skills.

Whilst on the course, the students will get the opportunity to track some of Africa's Big Five like Buffalo, Rhino and Leopard. Sleep-out under the African stars is a big highlight of the course, but be warned, sleeping usually isn't much of a priority! Colin Patrick conducts and oversees all courses. He is an accredited FGASA trainer and assessor. As a field guide, he has achieved the top qualification of "scout" and is also a senior tracker and external evaluator with over 20 years of experience in the conservation industry. Colin heads up the Moholoholo team who are extremely passionate about teaching and sharing their knowledge and experiences, especially young people who we hope will be the scientists and passionate conservationist of the future. All students, and staff, will receive a certificate for this course.



The ranger course details include:

- Safari / game ranger activities
- Tracking (using cyber tracking software) for scientific purposes
- Insect identification
- Identification & importance of trees
- Making bush fires for cooking
- Team building skills
- Spoor identification
- Animal and bird behaviour in the wild
- Animal diseases
- Animal nutrition and reproduction
- Habitat evaluation
- Nature & conservation
- Lesson and practical Poaching dilemmas
- Study of animal feeding signs
- Close up study of wildlife behaviour at the Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre
- Community development project
- Sleep out under the stars
- Night sky and stars identification
- Classroom activities including lessons and discussion
- Reflection of course learning



Overnight: Moholoholo Mountain View

Meals: Full Board



Day 8-9: Departing early from Moholoholo. Watch the sunrise over the bushveld before packing up for your drive to the Kruger National Park. Breakfast and packed lunch are included. Where nearly 2 million hectares of unrivalled diversity of life forms fuses with historical and archaeological sites. The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. The Kruger National Park has a particularly rich faunal community, offering more species of wildlife than is found in any other African game sanctuary. It is truly the flagship of the South African national parks, home to an impressive number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals.

The aims of this section are to:

- Observe and study the behaviour and ecology of a range of animals in their natural habitat.
- Gain insight into the current management objectives and challenges of one of Africa's greatest wildlife areas.
- Evaluate the roles (and differences) of public and private conservation areas.

Most of this afternoon will be spent on safari in open top vehicles through the park, game viewing as you go, making your way to camp in the southern section of the park.

The next day incorporates an early game drive and a bush breakfast. The rest of this day will be spent with your guides exploring Kruger National Park at your leisure, providing an excellent opportunity for observing wildlife at its best. An opportunity to spend some time in the famous and most beautiful bird hide. 'Lake Panic'. In addition, an optional night drive can be arranged. Game drives provide an excellent opportunity for observing and discussing the following: conservation, animal behaviour, biodiversity, differing forms of learning seen in animals, animal communication, social structures, dominance hierarchies, social conflict, competition and avoidance mechanisms, predator/prey relationships, plus capture and avoidance mechanisms.

Overnight: Moholoholo Mountain View

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 10: A morning departure from the Kruger National Park includes a last game drive and you're on your journey back to Johannesburg for your overnight flight back to the UK.

Day 11: Arrive at a UK airport early morning.

Cost: £1500pp (based on 10 paying and 1 free tutor)

Includes: Course, guides, tutors, transfers, meals as above, accommodation, hire vehicle, Entrance and conservation fees, taxes.

Excludes: International flights, travel insurances and some lunches.

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