



YOUTH 4 CONSERVATION
CONNECTING YOUTH TO NATURE

**SOUTHERN SKY
ADVENTURES**
IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS



GANSBAAI GUARDIANS: A Marine Conservation Journey



Immerse yourself in South Africa's majestic coastline, actively participating in the conservation of the Marine Big 5: whales, sharks, seals, penguins, and dolphins.



Learn & Experience
Conservation



www.southernskyadventures.com



13 Days / 12
Nights



+1 (770) 324-0068



info@southernskyadventures.com
volunteer@ssa.email

Tour Route

South Africa



Penguins



Sharks



Seals



Dolphins



Whales

ACTIVITIES

Become immersed in the activities of a marine conservationist - learn alongside marine scientists and experts while being exposed to some of the world's most iconic marine species.



RESEARCH

Be exposed to cutting-edge marine research with well-respected scientists and learn about key challenges and debates being tackled in the marine sector. Collect data and get involved in local research studies.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Different activities will include exposure to a range of projects aimed at protecting the marine environment. This may include penguin rehabilitation, marine pollution and environmental awareness.



WILDLIFE

This is the only coastline in the world where you will have the opportunity to observe five iconic marine species: sharks, whales, dolphins, seals and the endangered African penguin.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Interact with schoolchildren in the adjacent community to expose them to marine science and the beauty of the marine environment. Work together and get excited about marine conservation!



DISCOVER

Learn about marine species from the tiny intertidal creatures to the massive whale - the world's largest marine mammal. Engage in discussions with experts on a wide diversity of topics and expand your understanding of the marine environment.



WHY VISIT GANSBAAI?



South Africa, on the continent's southern tip, is the 25th-largest country in the world, and boasts a lengthy coastline stretching more than 1,500 miles (almost 3000km).

South Africa is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, with a rich marine environment. The high diversity of marine species is largely attributed to the fact that South Africa is located at the confluence of three great oceans: the Indian, Atlantic and Southern Oceans.

Gansbaai, located in South Africa's Western Cape province, was once considered the great white shark capital of the world! It is a unique habitat that is internationally recognized as home to a wide diversity of marine species. This program partners with a local marine conservation organisation that has received numerous awards and accolades in relation to their internationally recognized research and conservation initiatives.

All activities undertaken in this program will directly contribute to the objectives of our marine conservation partner while providing a hands-on learning experience in a unique marine environment.

Day to Day

Day 1

Upon landing you will jump on a bus and start your journey towards the seaside town of Gansbaai leaving the bustling city of Cape Town behind. Settle into your cozy accommodation, feeling the ocean breeze. Kick off with an eye-opening lecture about the Dyer Island ecosystem, followed by an exhilarating Marine Big 5 Boat Trip. Imagine the possibility of encountering sharks, whales, and seals in their natural habitat. After the voyage, enjoy delicious warm vegetable soup with freshly baked bread, capping off your day with relaxation and anticipation for the days ahead.



Day 3

Today is filled with learning about marine biology, starting with estuary monitoring and bird identification at Uilkraal Estuary, guided by expert biologists. Post-lunch, you will learn snorkeling in a diving pool, prepping for underwater exploration. An informative lecture on small sharks follows, highlighting ORI tagging, a crucial part of shark research, which involves tagging sharks to track their movements, providing invaluable insights into their migration patterns, habitat utilization, and behavior. You will also learn about BRUV, or Baited Remote Underwater Video, which offers a fascinating glimpse into the underwater world. This knowledge is pivotal for shark conservation and understanding the health of marine ecosystems. In the evening, a local astrologer leads a captivating journey into the cosmos on a peaceful farm, offering a unique view of the Southern summer night sky, away from city lights.



Day 2

Rise and shine for a day filled with penguins and sharks! Start with a behind-the-scenes tour at the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary. Here, you will gain hands-on experience in caring for these endearing birds, contributing to their conservation. Following a satisfying lunch, immerse yourself in the thrilling world of sharks. Engage in a unique shark egg collection activity, where you will gather eggs and assist in crucial conservation efforts. Delve deeper with an informative lecture on shark eggs, enhancing your understanding of these mysterious creatures. The day offers more than just observation; it is an opportunity to actively participate in meaningful wildlife conservation and make a real impact on the natural world.



Day 4

Begin your day with a nourishing breakfast, fueling up for an exhilarating underwater adventure. Dive into the ocean's depths with a kelp snorkel session, where you will explore the vibrant marine life nestled within the kelp forests. Engage in species identification, learning about the diverse array of sea creatures that call this ecosystem home. This exploration offers a unique opportunity to observe and understand the intricate relationships within this underwater habitat. After surfacing from your underwater journey, enjoy a well-deserved lunch, sharing stories of your aquatic discoveries. The afternoon brings a change of pace with horse riding on the pristine Pearly Beach, riding through coastal dunes and beach. As the day winds down, gather for a delightful dinner, reflecting on the day's adventures and the incredible diversity of life, both under the sea and along the shore.



Day to Day

Day 5

Discover Earth's history on the Geotrail, a journey from our planet's fiery birth to the present. Guided by expert geologists, traverse a 46-meter path, symbolizing 4.6 billion years, with signs detailing our world's geology, life evolution, and human impact. The trail leads to Klipgat Cave, revealing early Homo sapiens remains. After exploring, unwind with a beachside swim, picnic lunch, and a volleyball game. This day combines educational exploration with leisure, offering insights into our planet and species.



Day 7

Dive into the world of sharks with an enlightening lecture on shark research, covering fin identification and safety protocols. The day's highlight is an exhilarating shark cage diving experience, offering a thrilling yet intimate view of these majestic creatures. Observe and learn about shark behaviors and characteristics, while actively contributing to crucial shark research. This adventure combines excitement, education, and a significant contribution to marine conservation.



Day 6

Immerse yourself in the local flora with a guided fynbos hike on a reserve, uncovering the secrets of this unique biome. The Cape Floristic Region is one of six global floristic kingdoms, boasting the world's densest plant diversity. Take in the beauty and serenity of the mountain paths and learn about the biodiversity of this important ecosystem. After lunch, you will get the opportunity to feed and help out at the sanctuary with penguins and seabirds. Conclude your day with a tranquil swim at the picturesque Franskraal beach, a perfect end to an enriching day.



Day 8

Engage with local school children in a community project focused on marine environmental issues. Join forces in a beach clean-up, collecting and analyzing litter for marine pollution research. Post-cleanup, enjoy a refreshing lunch before participating in a beach art workshop led by local artist, Blue. Utilize materials from the clean-up to create unique, eco-friendly art pieces. This session is not just a chance for creativity, but also a way to embody your environmental experiences and awareness. Take home your artwork as a lasting reminder of your impactful marine journey and commitment to environmental stewardship.



Day to Day

Day 9

Start your day with a guided exploration of the intertidal zone at low tide, uncovering rich marine life along the shoreline. Next, visit the historic Dangerpoint Lighthouse to learn about maritime history. Depending on availability, a necropsy session may also be part of the morning's activities. In the afternoon, enjoy kayaking on the Uilenkraal Estuary, a haven for birdlife and a key site for estuary sampling. This carefully planned schedule ensures a full immersion in each unique and educational experience.



Day 10

Set off post-breakfast on a captivating 2-hour drive towards the heart of Cape Town, a route that offers breath-taking landscapes and a moment to reminisce about the unforgettable memories, invaluable knowledge, and enriching experiences gathered on this journey. Upon arrival in Cape Town, settle into your new accommodation, a perfect sanctuary to relax and rejuvenate. Here, you will gear up for the grand finale of your extraordinary marine adventure!



Day 12

Experience the underwater world with a "Snorkel for Science" adventure in Simonstown, exploring False Bay's kelp forests and collecting data on shysharks with a biologist. After this thrilling and contributive marine research activity, visit the charming Boulders Beach. End your day with a delightful dinner, enjoying Cape Town's exquisite culinary flavors and capturing the essence of this vibrant city.



Day 11

Start your day with a behind-the-scenes tour at the Two Oceans Aquarium, exploring marine life mysteries. Then, take a cable car ride up the stunning Table Mountain for panoramic views. Spend the late afternoon and evening at the lively Waterfront area, enjoying shopping, local cuisine, and vibrant market scenes. Your Cape Town adventure blends history, culture, and urban excitement, ending with a delightful dinner reflecting on the day's experiences in this charming city.



Day 13

As your extraordinary journey concludes, take time after breakfast to bid farewell to South Africa's beautiful landscapes and cherish the memories, knowledge, and friendships gained. While you begin your journey home, the experiences and insights from this trip will forever inspire future adventures and a deeper appreciation for the marine world. Safe travels and hold these memories as lasting treasures in your heart.

TERMS

Included

- Accommodation
- All meals
- All activities & boat trips
- Marine lectures & discussions
- All ground transfers
- Youth 4 Conservation t-shirt & cap
- Programme certificate

Excluded

- International flights
- Visa if required
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses (such as laundry, snacks in transit, etc)

...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS...

TESTIMONIALS

LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

"This whole experience was life-changing. I have always wanted to do something like this as part of my bucket list! Thank you to every member of the team - who are so passionate about their work"

- Student



DEFINITELY RECOMMENDED

"My daughter loved this program. She had an amazing time! She learnt a lot from the facilitators who had extensive knowledge in their area of expertise. She had new experiences every day and made great new friends. I would definitely recommend this program."

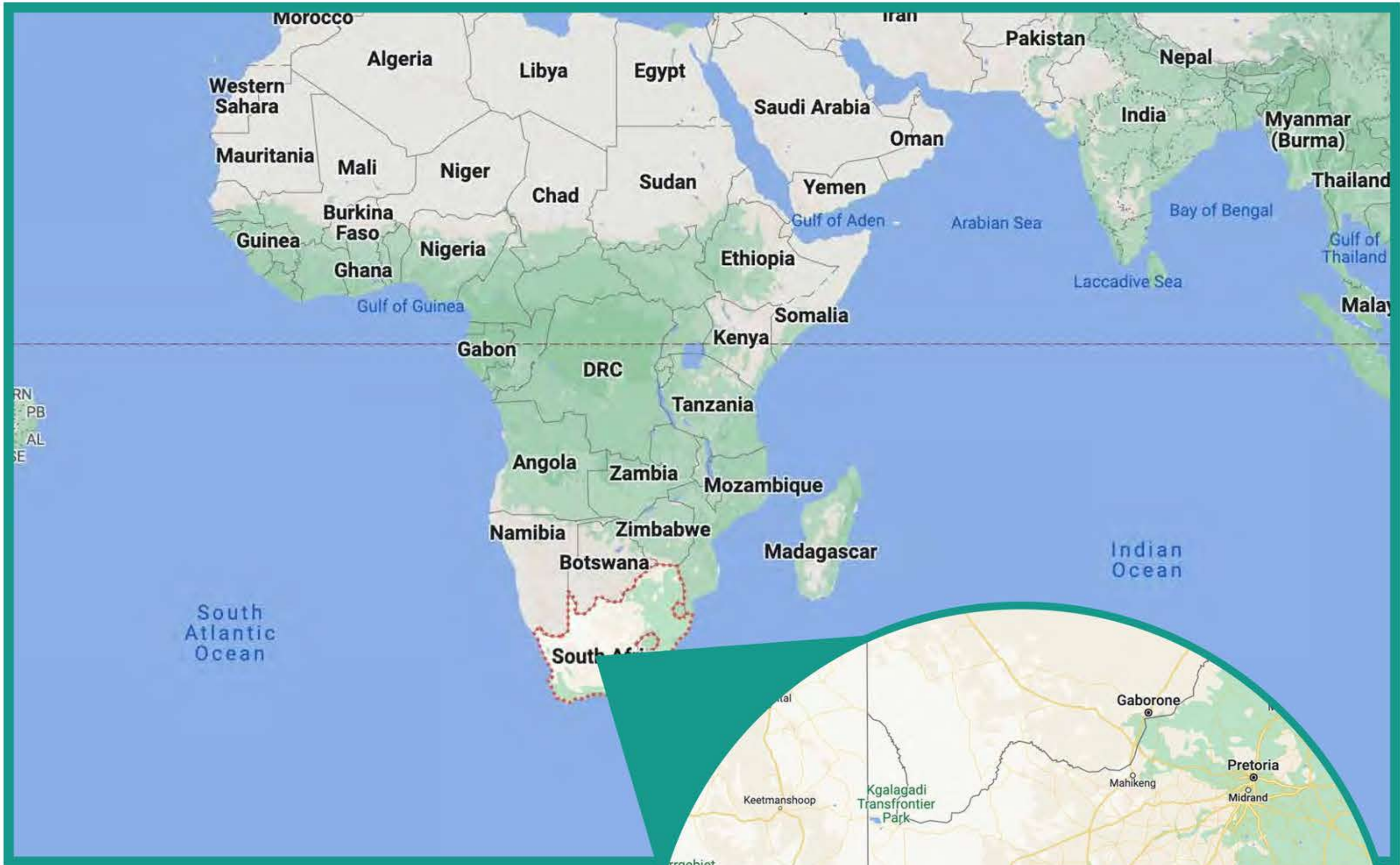
Parent



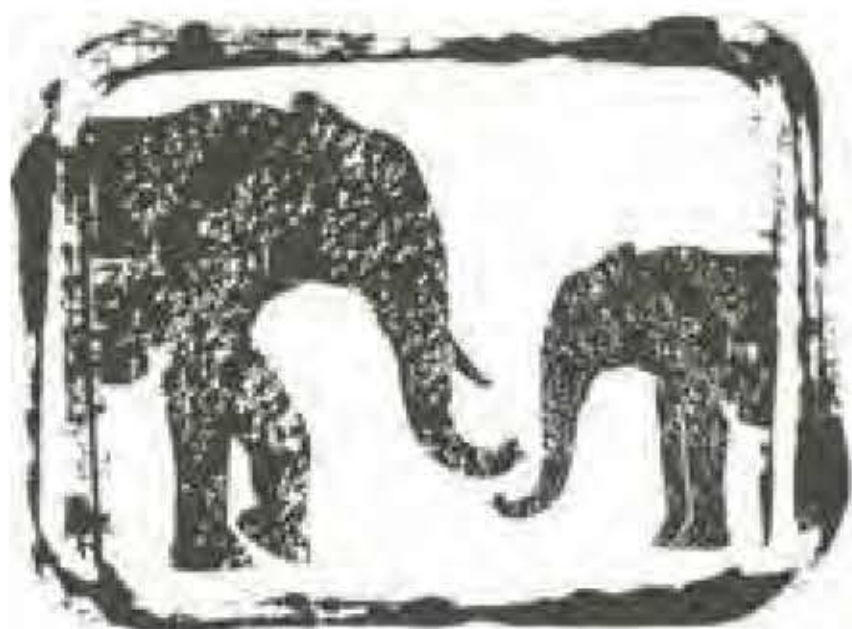
UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY

"Students on this program get an unparalleled opportunity to learn from marine biologists and conservationists on their home turf. If you're looking for incredible wildlife encounters, while learning about and contributing to their conservation, this program is for you!"

- Teacher



YOUTH 4 CONSERVATION



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ADVENTURES**
IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS

*All itineraries can be adjusted/customized to suit your specific needs

Photos were provided by Youth 4 Conservation & Marine Dynamics Academy

ABOUT US

SOUTHERN SKY ADVENTURES

For almost two decades Southern Sky Adventures has introduced discerning travelers to the sheer magnificence of AFRICA. A land of warm welcomes, breath-taking sunsets, pristine wilderness areas and diversity as colorful as the local artwork.

Our tailormade and expertly-guided safaris showcase Africa's finest hidden gems, the elusive BIG 5, wild remote locations and a natural space to unplug from the stress of modern-day living. We pride ourselves on the delivery of exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime and truly memorable travel experiences for not only families, honeymooners and friends but also business travelers, school- & university groups and adventure seekers.

Although passionate about travel, we care deeply for the preservation of these untouched wild areas, the inhabiting wildlife and the surrounding communities. Sit back, relax and allow our team of destination specialists to design and deliver your dream vacation!

  Southern Sky Adventures
 www.southernskyadventures.com



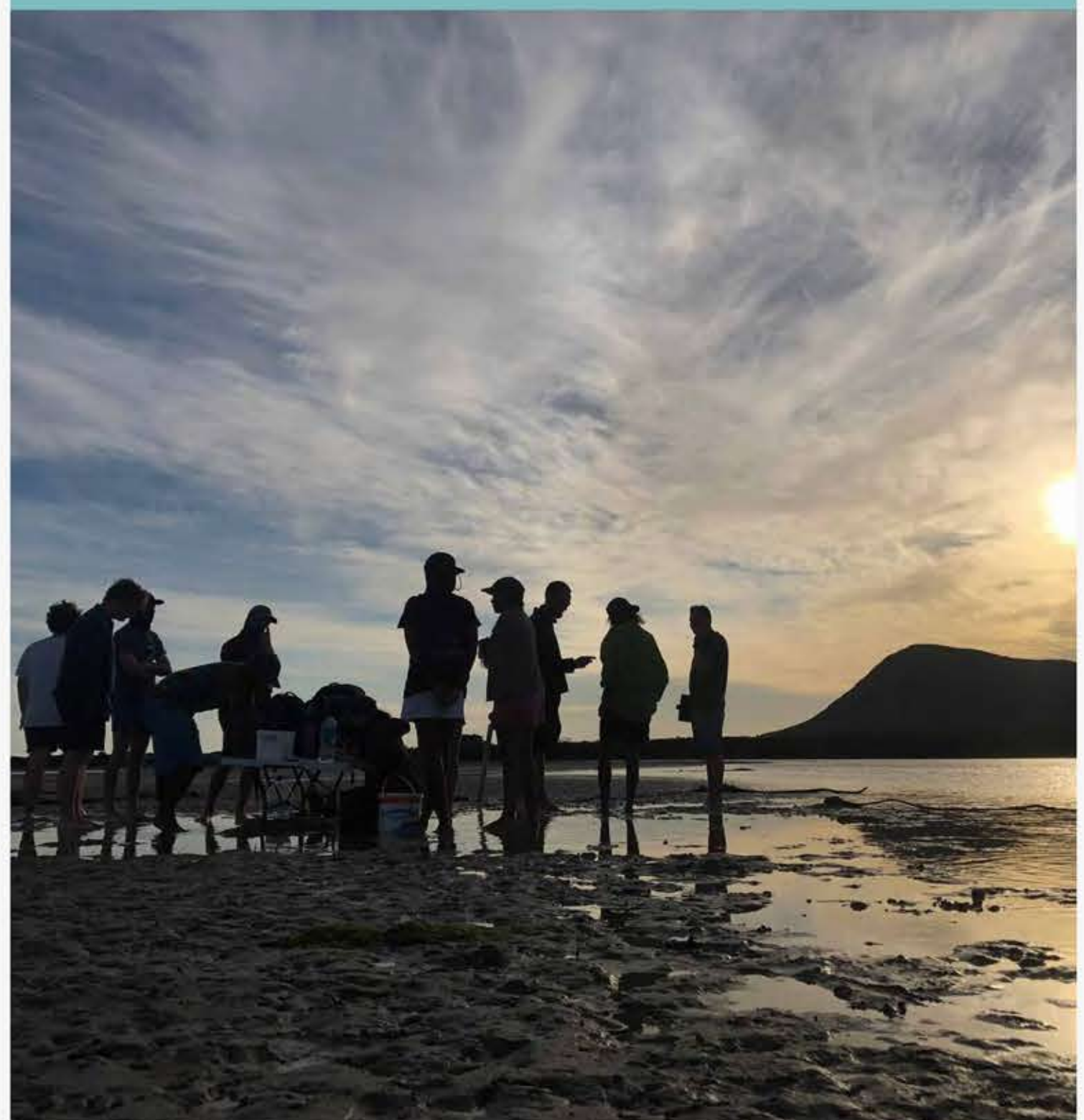
YOUTH 4 CONSERVATION

Youth 4 Conservation is a non-profit organisation based in South Africa, committed to creating meaningful conservation experiences for youth while ensuring tangible impacts on the ground.

We began with a vision to connect young people, through their schools and youth groups, to immersive conservation experiences in Africa. This provides an opportunity for personal enrichment while also providing direct support to important conservation projects. This is what we call a 'win-win'!

This marine program ignites an interest in marine conservation issues - ultimately making a real contribution to the future of our seas, the species that live there, and the people whose livelihoods depend on it.

  Youth 4 Conservation
 www.youth4conservation.co.za





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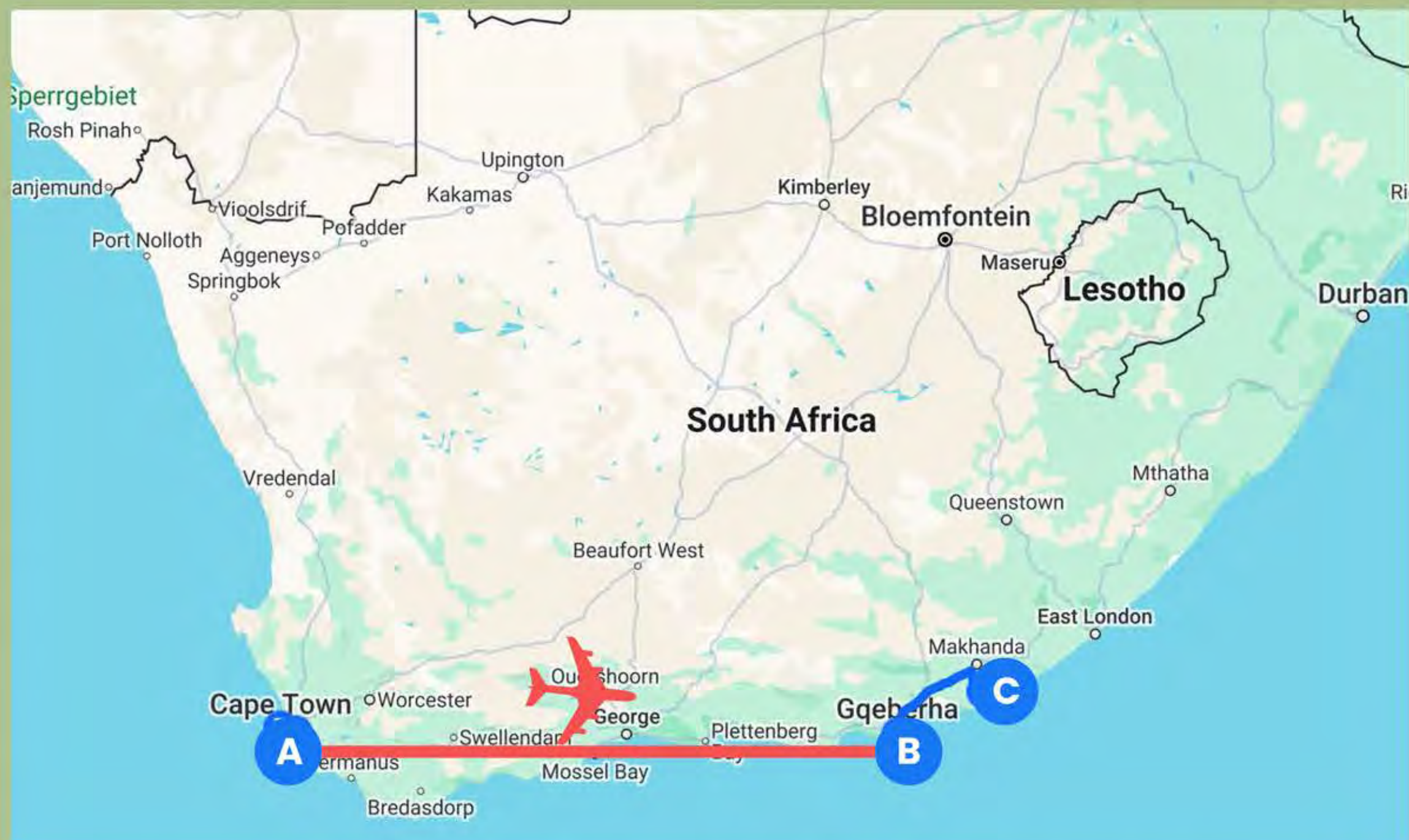


4 Days / 3 Nights

Wildlife Conservation ADD-ON



**Explore, Conserve, Connect: A Journey of
Wildlife, Community, and Conservation at
Kariega**



Embark on a captivating four-day African adventure at Kariega Game Reserve, a gem in South Africa's rich tapestry of biodiversity. This journey is more than a safari; it's an immersive experience in wildlife observation, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.

Kariega Add-on Overview:



Dive into hands-on conservation efforts, vital for maintaining the region's diverse flora and fauna. Witness the majestic Big-5 wildlife species – that include lions, rhinos, elephants. Your adventure goes beyond just observing; it involves active participation in projects crucial for protecting Africa's biodiversity.

A highlight of your journey will be learning about Thandi, a survivor of poaching, symbolizing resilience and hope for wildlife conservation. Meeting the anti-poaching team, you'll get a first-hand view of their crucial work and challenges, including tracking Thandi herself.

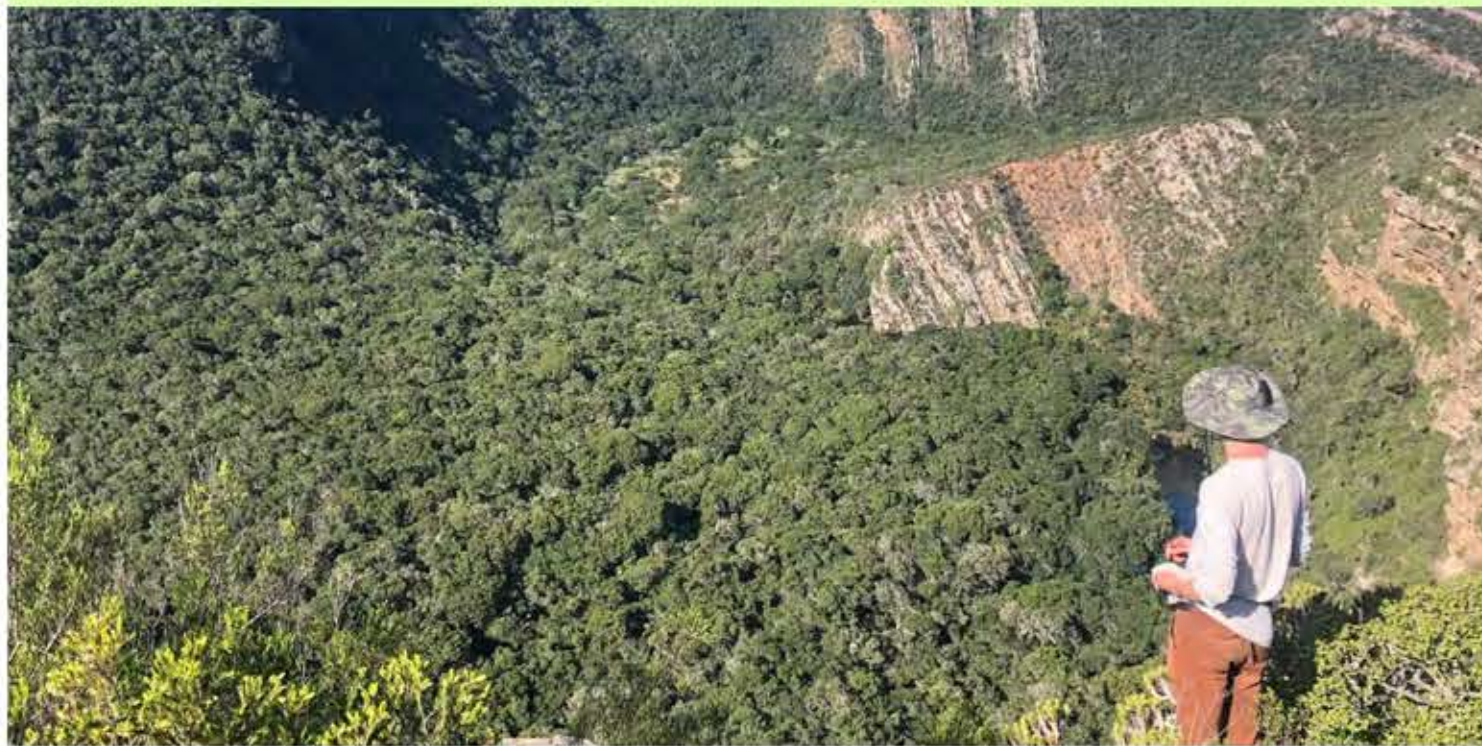
Chosen for its unparalleled natural beauty and conservation significance, Kariega stands as a testament to successful biodiversity preservation in South Africa. This program, developed in partnership with the Kariega Foundation, not only supports the reserve's ecological goals but also uplifts local communities, illustrating a harmonious balance between ecotourism, community development, and advanced conservation practices.

This unique adventure intertwines thrilling wildlife experiences with meaningful conservation work and cultural immersion, offering a profound understanding of the intricate link between community and conservation.

ADD-ON

Day 1

Board a flight to Port Elizabeth, where your adventure begins. Upon landing, embark on a scenic 2-hour drive to the stunning Kariega Game Reserve. Settle into your accommodation and acclimate to your new surroundings with a warm welcome at the Kariega Conservation Centre. End your day with a sumptuous dinner, offering the perfect opportunity to refuel and anticipate the exciting days ahead.



Day 3

In the first half of the day, participants will immerse themselves in vital conservation efforts, engaging in hands-on activities like alien plant clearing and habitat restoration. This will be a time to actively contribute to the reserve's natural resource management. After a midday break, the afternoon will shift to cultural engagement. Participants will delve into the local culture, interacting with the communities living adjacent to the reserve. They'll have the opportunity to work alongside school children, participate in community projects, and learn traditional sports. The day will be enriched with a traditional lunch and an introduction to local dance, providing a well-rounded experience of both environmental conservation and cultural immersion.



Day 2

Kick off your day in the Kariega Game Reserve with a dawn game drive, an ideal setting for observing a variety of wildlife in the fresh morning breeze. Encounter the dedicated anti-poaching K9 unit and delve into the inspiring tale of Thandi the rhino. Midday brings a relaxing break, featuring a picnic lunch and an opportunity for a refreshing swim in the river. As evening falls, gather around the fire for enlightening chats with the anti-poaching team, offering a deeper understanding of the intricacies, challenges, and triumphs of their conservation efforts.



Day 4

Conclude your adventure with either a final game drive or an immersive bush walk, where you'll learn to decipher the tracks and signs of the wilderness, encountering a diverse array of both large and small animals. Following lunch, begin preparations for your departure back to Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), setting the stage for your onward journey home or back to Cape Town, taking with you a collection of unforgettable memories from this extraordinary adventure.

