

**SOUTHERN SKY  
ADVENTURES**  
AFRICA...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

# STUDENT TRIP SOUTHERN AFRICA

15 Days | 14 Nights

South Africa | Mozambique





# JOHANNESBURG

Johannesburg is one of Africa's biggest and most vibrant cities. It is the economic capital of Africa and the gateway to Southern Africa. Although not as famous as other South African destinations, there is plenty to do in Johannesburg and nearby Pretoria.

The old city is a multi-cultural mixture of traditional medicine shops, Chinese restaurants, taxi ranks and ultra-modern skyscrapers. There are excellent museums, art galleries and organised tours of historical and political interest. The shopping is Southern Africa's best and the many restaurants cater for all tastes. The nearby township of Soweto is Johannesburg's most popular tourist attraction.



# MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK

Meaning 'place of sanctuary' in Tswana, Marakele National Park is just that. Set in the heart of the Waterberg Mountains, the park's position in a transitional zone between the dry western and moist eastern regions of the country, ensures great natural diversity.

Majestic mountains, grassy hills, deep valleys and stately, often rare, trees create an peaceful natural environment in which elephants, rhino, big cats and a variety of birds thrive, including one of the biggest colonies of the endangered Cape Vulture in the world.







# THE WATERBERG BIOSPHERE

Situated amidst the towering Waterberg Mountains in the Limpopo Province, the Waterberg Biosphere, as the name suggests, serves as a water reservoir for the region. Renowned for its rugged beauty, the landscape is characterised by low-lying mountain ranges and escarpments, as well as a network of streams, rivers and lakes.

It is the home of South Africa's first-ever savannah biosphere reserve and is also home to many other nature reserves which provide a protected habitat for an array of wildlife. Visitors can enjoy a relaxing soak in natural hot springs, discover the ancient World Heritage-listed archaeological site in Makapans Valley, and view abundant bird life at the Nyslvley Wetlands.



# INHAMBANE

The Imhambane Province is known for its wide, almost land-locked bay and its beautiful but crumbling Portuguese architecture. Points of interest include the vibrant local market, intriguing heritage museums, charming mosques and the nearly two-century old Cathedral of our Lady of Concepti.

Located within close proximity are the popular beach destinations of Barra, Tofo and Guinjata Bay, which offer excellent snorkelling, diving, fishing and watersports; and the tiny, remote Ilha dos porcos which is home to traditional villages and a few of the remaining namesake wild pigs.

Tofo is also an ideal destination for animal lovers, as it is home to manta rays and whale sharks, while Barra features an incredible bird estuary. It is possible to take traditional dhow boats across the bay, allowing visitors to experience it in the same way it was hundreds of years ago.





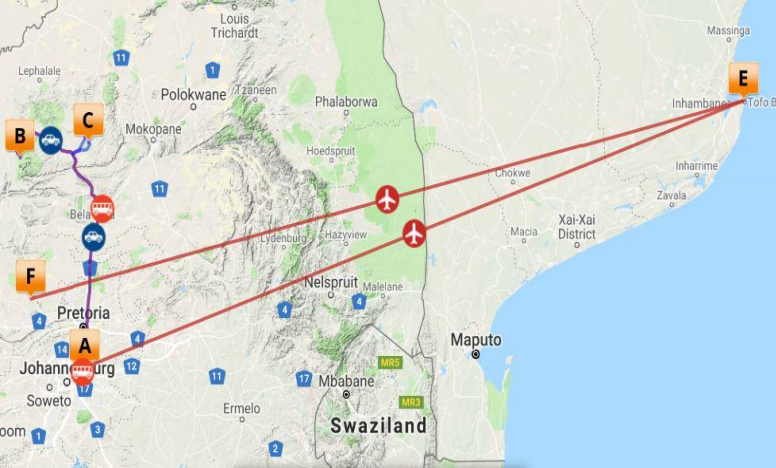
# NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Bordering Botswana, the North West Province is an inland South African Province best-known for its mineral wealth, wildlife reserves and natural beauty. The landscape is characterized by tree-dotted bushveld and the rugged Magaliesburg Mountains.

The province is home to the famed Sun City, a Las Vegas-esque destination boasting a casino, numerous luxury hotels, golf courses, and a water park.

Visitors can also look forward to visiting the Madikwe Game Reserve and the Pilanesberg National Park for a chance to spot the world- renowned Big Five as well as an array of other wildlife





- A Afton Guest House
- B Elephant Camp at Marataba
- C Waterberg Cottages
- E Casa Anlija Guest House
- F Ukutula Lion Park & Lodge





# DAY 1 : JOHANNESBURG

Late evening arrival at OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA on Delta Airways flight. The group will be met at International Arrivals by the Afton Guesthouse driver and then transferred to Afton Guesthouse, Kempton Park (5 mins by road).

On arrival guests will be welcomed by their Southern Sky Adventures representative, who will also collect the group's electronic items for safekeeping. Guests are shown to their rooms to settle in and freshen up before dinner. Dinner will be a traditional South African braai (BBQ).







# DAY 2 : MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK

After enjoying Afton's famous cooked English breakfast the group will head for Bela Bela (60 – 90 mins by road) to enjoy a once in a life time wildlife interaction at Adventures with Elephants.

Once acquainted with these gentle giants, the group will enjoy an unforgettable safari on the backs of the mighty African Elephants. You will then depart for Marataba Private Game Reserve (Waterberg Mountains) with the staff at NJ More Field Guide College waiting to welcome you to Monkey Camp, your base camp for the duration of your Safari adventure.







# DAY 3 : MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK



The day starts with an early morning game drive. A hotbox of tea/ coffee & rusks/ muffins will be prepared in the camp kitchen and sent along to enjoy at sunrise over a vast unspoiled African vista. Return to camp for a cooked brunch followed by a midday discussion on animal tracks/ tracking and general animal behavior.

Following afternoon tea and sandwiches in camp, the group will set out using their newly found tacking skills. The activity will include driving and walking in big game country while animal signs are identified and large game are tracked.







## DAY 4 : MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK

The excitement continues as the group heads out early on a game drive with specific emphasis on survival skills and bush craft. Learn what it takes to survive in the wild! Finding food, sourcing and purifying water, medicinal use of plants and folklore in preparation of an evening under the stars in the African wilderness. Return to camp for a cooked breakfast/ brunch followed by a briefing on the day's events, preparation, set up and packing requirements for a sleep out in dangerous game area. Guests will have time to gather basic belongings, before an earlier than usual high tea. Thereafter the group will assist the camp staff in packing for the much-anticipated sleep out. Time to head out by open top game vehicle for Mambo area. Game sightings are frequent along this route. Time to set up camp, start the trickle fire and enjoy a solitude exercise before nightfall. Individuals will each have chance to stand guard, using the moon to determine when their shift is complete. The group will prepare their own dinner on the trickle fire and sleep on ground mats under the African stars.







# DAY 5 : MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK

---

Watch the sun rise in silence, true to African tradition, whilst reflecting on this unforgettable encounter with nature. The group will breakdown camp leaving no footprint of their stay in nature, before heading back for a cooked breakfast. The remainder of the morning will only allow for a quick visit back to the tents and freshening up with a swim in the camp pool, before a thorough briefing on the afternoon's planned visit to Save the Waterberg Rhino. The focus of the day will be Wildlife Conservation. After lunch, the group will be collected from camp and driven to Vaalwater (1 hour 30 mins by road). The afternoon will start with a thrilling snake and reptile presentation then followed by a heart wrenching and unforgettable encounter with African White Rhinos. The visit will include personal interaction with these magnificent creatures as well as a guided tour of the facilities and a brief presentation on the organization and its commitment to saving Rhinos from extinction. Return to camp for a much needed debrief and a relaxed dinner/ evening around camp. The guests will be briefed on the community project planned for the following two days.

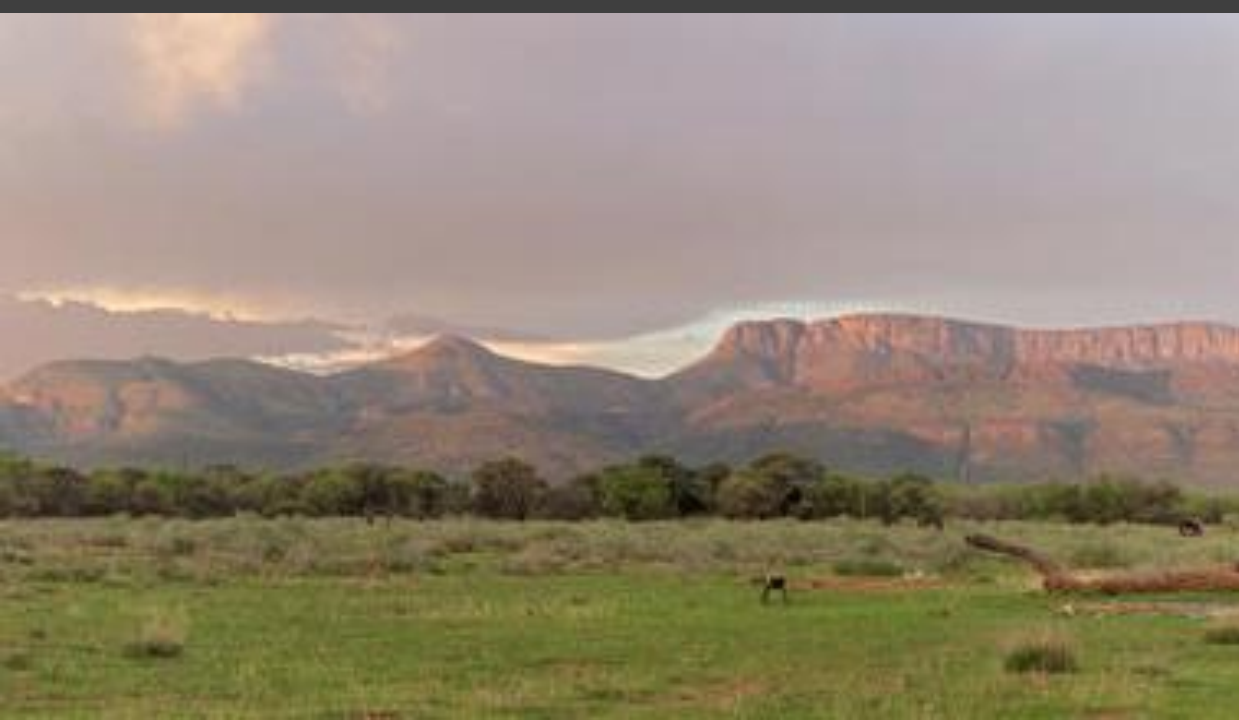




# DAY 6 : MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK

After a light breakfast the group will depart (90 mins by road) for Bushveld Mission Children's Home located in Vaalwater. On arrival, the group will be welcomed by the volunteer staff and care givers. The days' program is outlined below:

- 09h00 Arrival
- 09h00 - 10h00 Introduction & walk about
- 10h00 - 12h00 Paint name boards for above bedrooms
- 12h00 - 13h00 Lunch (prepared and sent along by camp)
- 13h00 - 16h00 Installation of new sink and reinforcing of shelves in pantry
- 16h00 - 16h30 De-brief and good bye







# DAY 7 : THE WATERBERG BIOSPHERE

Enjoy another full day at Bushveld Mission Children's Home, upgrading the facilities and interacting with the resident children. The days' program is outlined below:

- 09H00Arrival
- 09h00 - 12h00Sanding walls on boy's accommodation and applying damp proof treatment
- 12h00 -13h00Lunch (prepared and sent along by camp)
- 13h00 - 16h00Re-upholster chairs and couches
- 16h00 - 16h30De-brief and good bye

Depart directly from the center for Waterberg Cottages. Evening arrival will allow for the group to settle in and freshen up for dinner. The Waterberg offers some of the darkest skies in the world, and clear cloudless nights to see them as well. Using an advanced modern telescope and astronomical video camera the group will enjoy a star tour by a specialist guide in astronomy. He will introduce the Waterberg night sky - from the comfort of your chair with a spectacular view of the planets in our solar system, the Milky Way and various other colorful constellations. There is also a heated pool for those brave enough to face the evening chill!







For the more energetic we have arranged an early morning bush walk to enjoy the beautiful bushveld, bird and wildlife of the farm. Say goodbye to the Waterberg by enjoying her peace, tranquility and delightful views. Say goodbye to your instructors after breakfast and hit the road for Johannesburg and the much anticipated Alexandra Township Tour.

The group will spend the day visiting the sights of this vibrant township while accompanied by senior community members. Stops will include the community vegetable garden and the drama center, where guest will have chance to interact with the local children... playing sport, helping with homework and/ or reading to them. Lunch must be purchased on route. Return to Afton Guesthouse (40 – 60 mins by road) for a braai dinner and overnight accommodation.

## DAY 8

# JOHANNESBURG





## DAY 9 : INHAMBANE

Enjoy a full English breakfast before making your way to OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg (5 mins by road) for an internal flight to Inhambane International Airport (120 mins FLIGHT). Tofo Scuba will meet and greet the group on arrival at Inhambane Airport and transfer them immediately through to Tofo.

Lunch must be purchased on route. The group will be welcomed and enjoy dinner at Casa Anlija. Tofu Scuba will prepare dinner this evening.







# DAY 10 : INHAMBANE

After a cooked breakfast participants will be split into two groups. Group 1 will spend the morning completing a DSD Pool session. DSD stands for Discover Scuba Diving in which participants get a first hand diver's experience in the safe confinement of a pool. Group 2 will enjoy their first ocean safari.

After lunch Group 1 will enjoy the DSD dive session and Group 2 will have their surf lesson. After a fun day in the sun and under water both groups will return to the lodge for dinner which they will need to prepare!! Tofo will ensure that all the ingredients are available.





# DAY 11 : INHAMBANE

The groups will swop over today – Group one will enjoy the morning on an ocean safari and the afternoon learning to surf. Group 2 will have their morning DSD pool session and afternoon DSD dive session. Dinner will once again be prepared by the participants, with all fresh ingredients made available by the team at Tofo Scuba.







## DAY 12 : INHAMBANE

All participants will enjoy an early morning ocean safari, hopefully getting a glimpse of the local marine giants!! Following this, our group can look forward to game of beach volley ball.

After a light lunch of burgers/ sandwiches or similar, enjoy the afternoon at leisure on the beach, surfing or visiting the local Tofo market or attractions.

Dinner will be back at the lodge, again to be prepared by the participants. Consolidation and storytelling around the camp fire as the group spends their last night in Mozambique.





## DAY 13 : NORTH WEST PROVINCE

After a light breakfast the group will pack their belongings, say their goodbyes to the team at Tofo Scuba and make their way by road transfer from Tofo to Inhambane Airport for their flight back to Johannesburg. Lunch must be purchased on route. On arrival, the group will be met by Spurwing and transferred to Ukutula Lion Park (2 hours by road).

Late afternoon evening arrival will allow for the group to be welcomed, settle in and freshen up before dinner. Thereafter the evening can be spent at leisure. Fall asleep to the resonating roar of the resident lions. A taste of what tomorrow has in store!



# DAY 14 : NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Start the morning with a guided walk through the small cat enclosure. Meet the resident Karakul, Serval and rare African Black Foot cats. Return to the main area for a cooked breakfast and head straight out for an unforgettable and up close interaction with lion cubs of varying ages in their respective bomas. The guests will break for a quick tea and then return to the interaction. Lunch is again served in the main area, followed by a tour of the large cat enclosures. Meet true White lions, Brown lions and Bengal tigers and finally visit the newly built laboratory and lion research center. The onsite wildlife vet and reserve warden will explain Ukutula's ongoing conservation efforts – if available to do so. Break again for tea and something sweet before the much anticipated LION WALK!! The keepers will thoroughly brief the group and once considered safe to do so, the guests will head out on a gravel trail through the African veld escorted by 4 – 6 rather enthusiastic adolescent lions. This is for most the pinnacle of their visit to South Africa. The walk will last just under an hour. Dinner is served and the remainder of the evening will be spent discussing the day's events around the camp fire.







## DAY 15 : END OF ITINERARY

Enjoy a cooked breakfast and game drive before making your way to back to OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg (120 mins) by road for outbound flight to the USA.

Today can be used for some last minute gift shopping and lunch must be bought on route.

