

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

STUDENT TRIP SOUTH AFRICA

14 Days | 13 Nights

Dinokeng Game Reserve | Karoo Gariep



DINOKENG GAME RESERVE



The name of the Dinokeng Game Reserve (DGR) is derived from the languages of the baTswana and baPedi people who traditionally inhabited the area. Meaning “a place of rivers”, Dinokeng lies in the catchment area of two rivers that flow into the Olifants and Limpopo rivers and on to the Indian Ocean.

The destruction of our environment, rampant pollution and the loss of natural resources has to be the biggest threat to humankind. Human encroachment into wilderness areas has led to habitat loss and the accelerated extinction of species. Conservationists around the globe are fighting a battle for open ecosystems. These endeavors need universal support. While the human race continues to grow in numbers the struggle for the survival of our environment has to be supplemented with new models of conservation where people and nature exist in harmony.



The Dinokeng Game Reserve presents a rare opportunity to develop a model for future conservation. The DGR is unique in a sense that we are the only residential Big5 game reserve worldwide located within the boundaries of a metro city and just half an hour from the city center. We are pioneering a model where the Big5 roam freely and live in harmony with resident landowners.



KAROO

Extending across 400 000 square kilometers of the country, the Karoo is South Africa's largest ecosystem and its semi-arid scrublands shelter a surprisingly rich diversity of plant, bird and animal life.

Composed of the Great and Little Karoo, this vast semi-desert region may seem harsh and unforgiving to some, but to others, it's a sanctuary of peace and silence with its own unique, compelling beauty.

The Karoo's landscape is characterized by rugged mountains hiding ancient caves giving way to vast undulating plains peppered with indigenous succulents and grazing ostrich and sheep.

Highlights of the area are the fossil trail in the Karoo National Park and the annual Olive Festival in the small town of Prince Albert.



A Hayward's Game Lodge
B Karoo Gariep New Holmes



DAY 1 : HAYWARD'S GAME LODGE

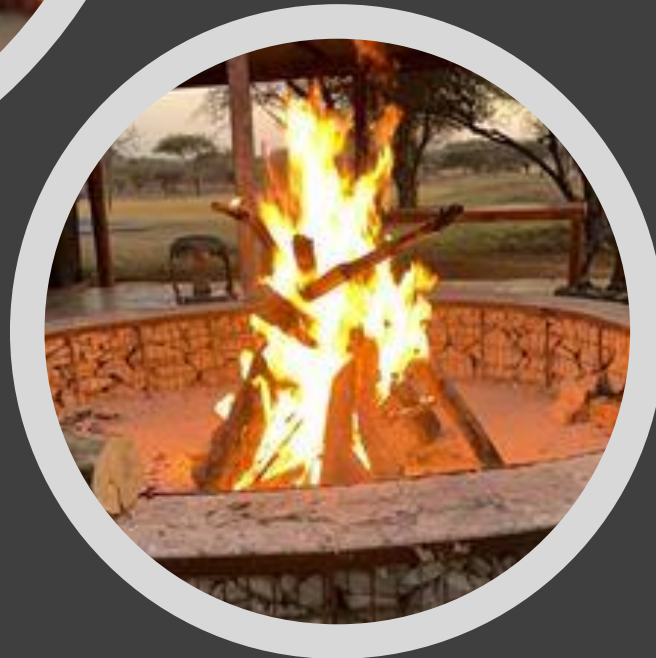
Welcome to South Africa!

Arrival will be at O.R. Tambo International Airport.

Students will be met by their driver immediately after passing through customs, baggage claim and once through the arrival doors, transfer to Hayward's Game Lodge will be just over 1 hour's drive.

Upon arrival the students will have time to unpack, settle in and relax.

Dinner will be served in the evening.





DAY 2 & 3 (AM): HAYWARD'S GAME LODGE

At around 5:30am, a knock at your door gets you springing from your bed.

Yes! A day of adventure awaits!

The vehicles leave at 6:00am – the best time for animal activity, and to increase the chances of an encounter with nocturnal and crepuscular species.

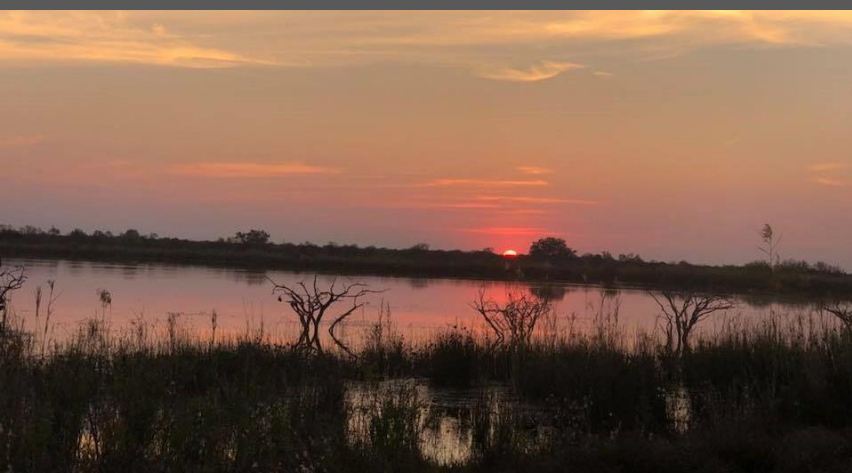
You will leave the camp in the darkness, and soon the first faint hints of the coming sunrise are apparent, but not before your guides and trackers have pointed out an array of animals and birds for you to search for in these unique surroundings and conditions.

When the sun has risen over the horizon, a stop for a welcome cup of hot coffee or tea, with delicious rusks and biscuits is enjoyed as you listen to the dawn chorus of birds.

Back on the vehicle, you will again have the opportunity to see a variety of wildlife in their natural habitat. Hippo, cheetah, hyena, giraffe, impala, kudu, waterbuck, bushbuck, vervet monkeys, baboons, and a seemingly endless list of wildlife in addition to the lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant that make up the Big 5.

A splendid brunch back at the lodge is followed by a few hours for you to relax.





DAY 2 & 3 (PM): HAYWARD'S GAME LODGE

Somehow, whatever you do, the time seems to fly past, and you find yourself clambering back onto your vehicle, heart pounding with excitement, for your afternoon adventure.

Your game drive is punctuated by a brief stop as you watch the sun dip majestically to the horizon.

Back on your vehicle you look out for the many animals that are most active at this time, followed by a return to the lodge for your evening activity and meal.

And this is how you will spend your first 2 wonderful days, deep in the African bush, with a superb blend of Africa experienced at its most luxurious.



DAY 4 : KAROO GARIEP

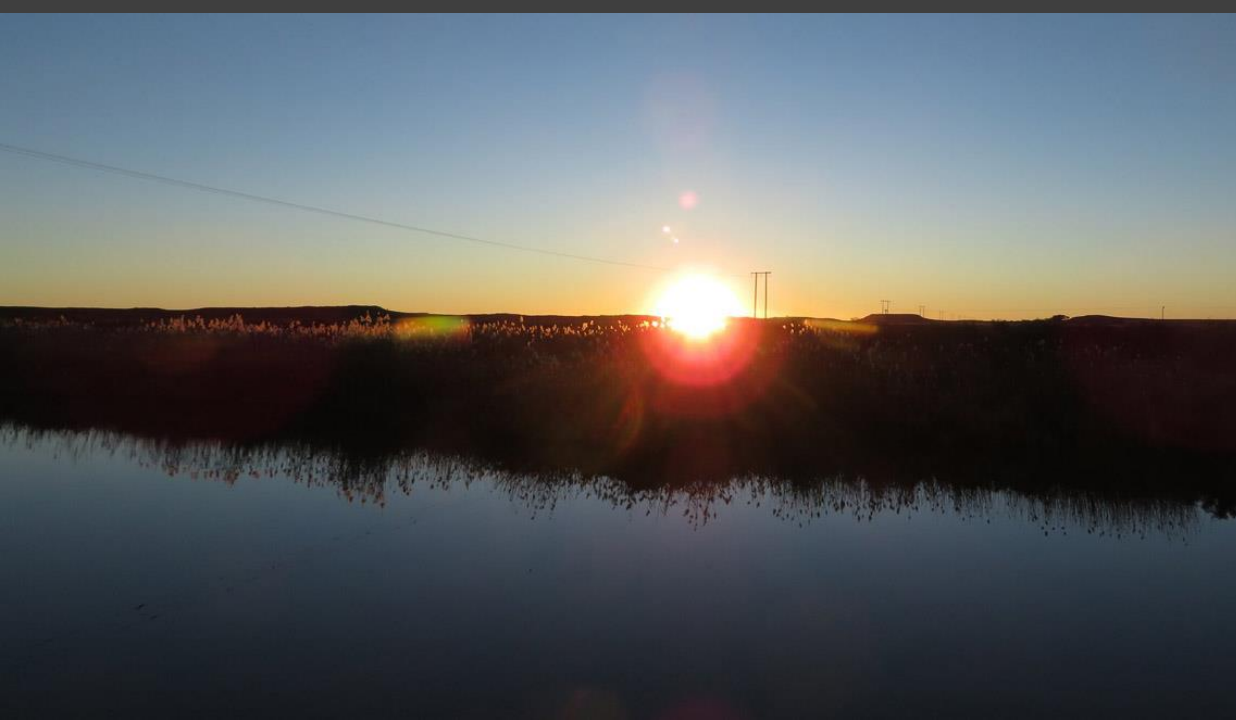
After breakfast the students will pack up, check out and be transferred to New Holme Karoo Guest House.

The next 10 days in the Northern Karoo is going to be truly exciting.

Upon arrival, students will have a meet and greet with the staff and be given an opportunity to unpack and rest before embarking on a sunset drive. Be sure to be on the lookout for hippos and buffalo. Enjoy some snacks and refreshment as you watch your first Northern Karoo sunset.

Dinner will be enjoyed later in the evening at the lodge.

After dinner there will be a “Shy Five” night drive to meet some or if you are fortunate enough all of the “Shy Five” night mammal species - Aardwolf, Aardvark, Black Footed Cat, Porcupine and Bat-eared Fox.



DAY 5 : KAROO GARIEP

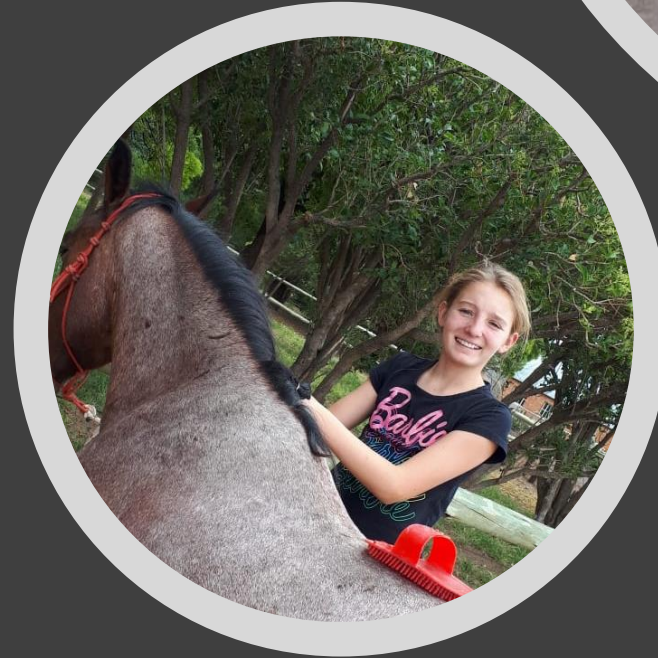
Breakfast will be served in the morning followed by exciting activities that will all come together and be very rewarding for the final day of this trip.

Horse Experience 1

The program is designed to take students from conscious incompetent (knowing nothing about a horse) to conscious competent (understanding a horse and caring for it).

Today the students will meet their horse and start at the basics - horse handling - with the aim of working towards the goal of grooming their horse and gain its trust.

Dinner will be enjoyed in the evening.





DAY 6 : KAROO GARIEP

After a hearty farm breakfast and good nights rest the students will commence on a visit to two kindergarten schools in the local rural community of Hanover and get involved with the Community Service Project Day 1. (3 days are allocated on this trip for community service work).

The ideal community service project is one that allows a mixture of hard work on sustainable projects that are meaningful, sustainable, fun and mutually beneficial whilst getting to know the local community. Community service projects provide a unique experience for students to grow and engage in an unfamiliar setting. . Each service project gets approached with an attitude of engagement, open mindedness and mutual respect.

What do we want students to gain from this experience?

- Leadership.
- Critical thinking.
- Cultural competence.
- Effective communication skills.
- Community Engagement.
- Passion for service.

After a full day of community service work, the groups will have time to reflect on the work they've accomplished and the relationships they've formed whilst enjoying dinner and sitting around a campfire later in the evening





DAY 7 : KAROO GARIEP

Breakfast as usual before the students pack their hiking gear and get ready for a truly amazing experience.

Experience a combination of authentic Karoo meals, hospitality, desert wildlife and world class fishing. Some adrenaline induced activities on the Orange River awaits those who want to make this trip unforgettable.

Share the hidden treasures of this arid landscape which is a combination of sheep farming and unique fauna and flora.

Canoeing takes place on the last 27 km's of the Gariep River with mild rapids and pools before it flows into Vander Kloof Dam. This beautiful stretch offers some of the best waters in South Africa for sport and fly fishing (catch and release) for large and small mouth yellows, birding and spectacular scenery. Students will assist with setting up camp on the riverbank after doing a 15 km row.

Dinner will be next to the river and the night sky.





DAY 8 : KAROO GARIEP

Today the adventure continues on the Orange river, but first breakfast will be enjoyed to ensure energy and stamina for a full days rowing and fishing.

Students will embark on the final 15 km row to the beautiful Doornkloof Nature Reserve.

After 2 full and fun days of fishing and rowing the students will return back to New Holme Karoo Guest House where they will have an opportunity to freshen up and get ready for dinner later in the evening.





DAY 9 : KAROO GARIEP

Today students will enjoy a second opportunity with their horse.

Some aspects that will be discussed and practiced:

Basic riding skills.

Building confidence.

Gaining trust.

At the end of the theoretical training students will have an opportunity to apply these new skills gained in a practical way by riding on their horse in a small arena.

Dinner will be enjoyed in the evening.





DAY 10 : KAROO GARIEP

Today the students will have the privilege and opportunity to uplift and help the local communities as they continue with the community service project.

Dinner will be enjoyed in the evening.





DAY 11 : KAROO GARIEP

Early morning wake up call with the smell of coffee and rusks to get students going followed by a morning birding drive.

Students will enjoy taking pictures and collecting data for all types of wildlife. There are currently 2 projects running in South Africa which requires this type of effort; the Virtual Museum and one is the MAPS project. It is important to build a complete data and picture basis of the Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve.

Return to the lodge at 10am for a warm hearty farm breakfast.

After breakfast a Khoi etching walk (a 10km drive and 1 km walk) will be a good way to walk of the day and collect some more pictures, insects, butterflies, birds and animals to upload in the evening at the lodge.

Return to the lodge at 6pm to refresh and enjoy dinner.

After dinner the data and pictures will be uploaded onto the system.





DAY 12 : KAROO GARIEP

After breakfast the students will have the privilege and opportunity to uplift and help the local communities as they continue with the last day of the community service project.

Dinner will be enjoyed back at the farm.





DAY 13 : KAROO GARIEP

The last and most exciting day awaits the students. Students will prepare and pack for their outside. It will be one night surviving out in the wild. Students will ride for 5 km to the safari camp which is called Karoo Spaces Horse Bush Camp - an open stretch of remote land.

Students will light a campfire and braai (barbecue) Karoo lamb - the best lamb meat in the world.

Stargazing will be phenomenal as there will be no city lights but only pitch-black African skies with stars feeling so close you could almost reach out and touch them.

Accommodation will be at bush camp in tents called a Sleep out.





DAY 14 : END OF ITINERARY

Early morning pack up and return to the lodge where a warm hearty Farm style breakfast awaits you.

It is our wish that you leave the African continent with renewed zest for life and friendships that will last a lifetime. May the rhythm of Africa and her stories be forever treasured in all your shared experiences and always be a place you can escape to and one day perhaps call home.

After breakfast you will depart back to OR-Tambo International Airport for your flight back home.

