



# South Africa

## Coastal Ecology

10 days

We take part in an exciting South African expedition that blends conservation, culture, and adventure. We explore diverse landscapes through wildlife experiences, bush walks, and ethical encounters while learning about conservation. We also connect with local communities through school visits and a beach clean-up. Highlights include a Big Five game drive, an elephant experience, and a boat cruise spotting hippos and crocodiles.



[Learn more about our  
Carbon Labels](#)

# Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Arrive in Durban and Transfer to Albizia Camp</b> On arrival in Durban, we head straight up to the north of the province to Albizia Camp where we will settle in and go through a safety and orientation briefing.	BLD
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Environmental Awareness, Snake Talk and Bush Walk</b> Today we start our Environmental Awareness Programme covering the many facets of conservation and wildlife management of game and game reserves in Africa. We will have a snake talk - an interpretative talk about the various species of scorpions, spiders and snakes found in South Africa. We will go through basic species identification, venom types and first-aid protocols. This will be followed by an interpretative walk. We will learn basic bush skills and tracking. While we are in the field we start our camera trap study. We'll set a little competition to see which group finds the most animals by placing the camera traps in the best positions!	BLD
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Pineapple Farm and Elephant Interaction</b> A visit to a pineapple farm is an immersion into the world of tropical agriculture. Surrounded by rows of neatly arranged pineapple plants, the farm is a verdant landscape dotted with the spiky tops of these unique fruits. The Elephant Interaction Programme is designed to offer a close and ethical encounter with these magnificent creatures. Set in a natural environment, this programme focuses on educating participants about elephant behaviour, conservation, and the importance of responsible tourism.	BLD
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Sodwana Bay – beach clean-up and culture</b> Today we'll visit the students of a poorly funded rural private school and learn about their school life and home life. After that we'll go to the beach where we split up in teams and comb the beach for any debris washed up on the shoreline. We spend time together with local children, playing football and other sports which is a great way of getting to know them.	BLD
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Full day game drive in Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park</b> Set in the heart of Zululand, this is the oldest game reserve in Africa where Zulu kings such as Dingiswayo and Shaka hunted and put in place the first conservation laws and where today the "big five" of African legend stalk the verdant savannah. Today we will head out for a full-day game drive to see the wildlife in its habitat! Established in 1895, game viewing is the prime attraction. Viewing hides overlook waterholes enabling visitors to see animals at close range. The Park covers some 96,000 ha and contains an immense diversity of fauna and flora. Hluhluwe is characterised by hilly topography, and this northern section of the park is noted for its wide variety of both bird and animal life. As the home of Operation Rhino in the 1950s and 60s, the Park became world-renowned for its white rhino conservation.	BLD
<b>Day 6</b>	<b>St Lucia Estuary – Boat Cruise</b> A two-hour boat cruise on the Estuary gives us the opportunity for close-up encounters with hippos, crocodiles and the many bird, mammal and plant species that make this a World Heritage Site.	BLD
<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Kosi Bay</b> Today, we continue with our water-based theme as we transfer to Kosi Bay. Kosi Bay is a tropical paradise of crystal-clear blue water and marshland, raffia, wild date palm trees, sycamore fig forest and mangrove swamps that combine to provide a home for approximately 250 species of birds. Bushbuck, Duiker and monkeys inhabit the forested parts whilst hippos and crocodiles bask in and around the lakes further inland and fish teem beneath their surfaces. Humpback whales can be seen off the beaches in winter on their northerly migration to calve in Mozambique and in December and January both Loggerhead and Leatherback turtles come onto the beaches to lay their eggs. We have an evening briefing and relax and settle into our beautiful surroundings.	BLD

**Day 8****Kosi Bay Hike**

BLD

After breakfast we head down to the forests and the lakes on a guided hike to really explore the ecosystems that make this a World Heritage Site. Spend the day learning how the coastal system combines with the lakes and tidal estuarine environment and into the coastal dune forest.

**Day 9****Kosi Bay Mouth**

BLD

Kosi Bay Mouth, located in KwaZulu-Natal within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, is where a chain of coastal lakes meets the Indian Ocean near Mozambique. It is known for its clear waters, sandy beaches, and rich biodiversity, including fish, birds, hippos, and crocodiles. A key cultural feature is the traditional fish traps built by the Thonga people, reflecting sustainable local practices. The area is protected for its ecological importance, making it one of South Africa's most pristine coastal environments. The guides will take us to the rock pools and explore the rocky shores ecology. They support diverse marine life such as crabs, mussels, algae, and small fish adapted to harsh conditions. These shores play an important role in coastal ecosystems, providing habitat, protecting the coastline, and contributing to the region's rich biodiversity.

**Day 10****Depart South Africa**

BLD

We transfer to Durban Airport for our return flight home, with time for last-minute souvenir shopping if schedules allow.



## Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel information sessions
- ATOL financial protection
- Group first aid kit and prescription medication pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination on request

## What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance



## A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk few truly walk the walk. We are far from perfect, but we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit:

<https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>

Trees for Life

## Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 2



Some low-level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

## Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



## Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

### Responsible Tourism workshop

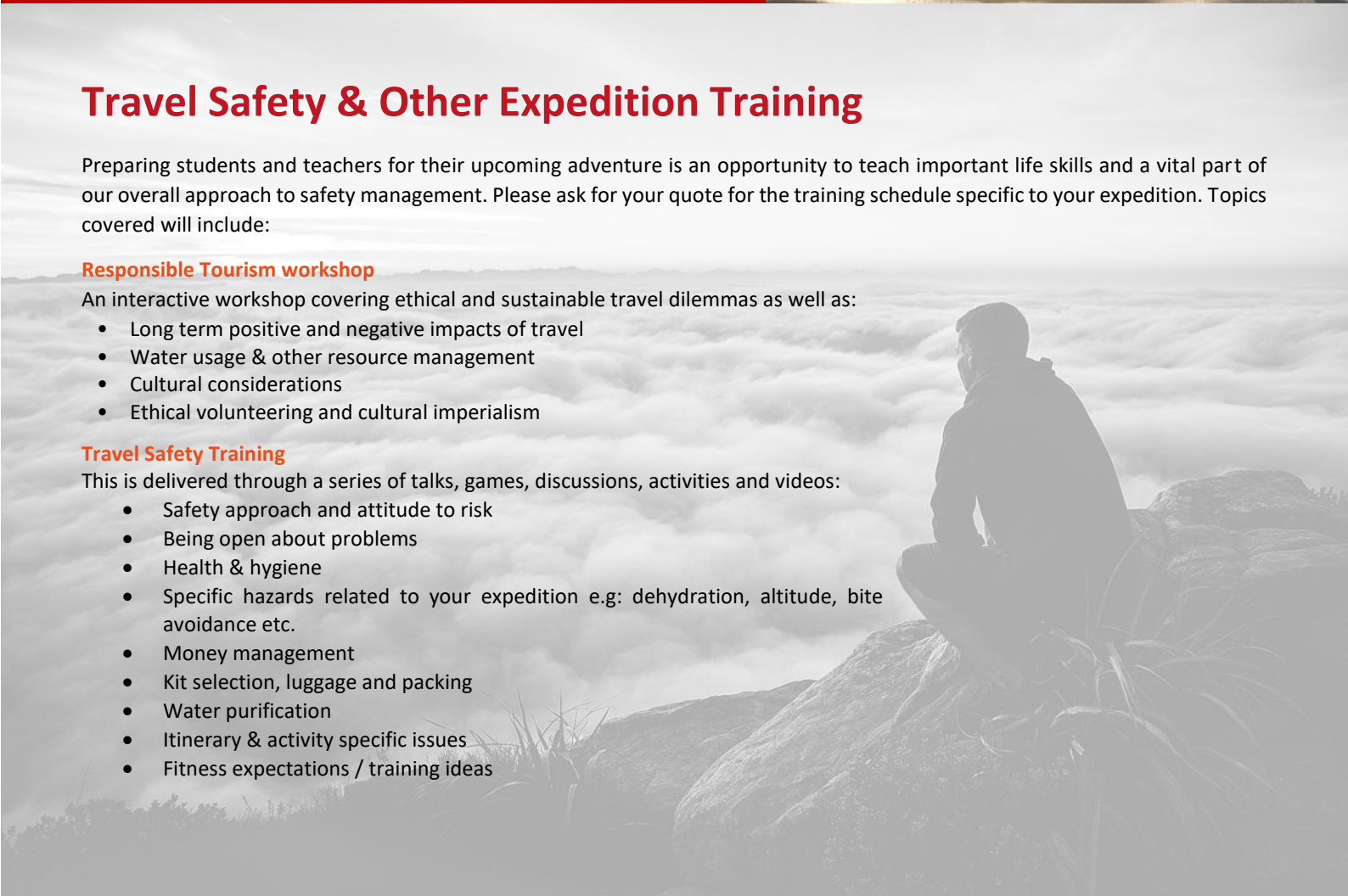
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

### Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





# A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

## 1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

## 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

## 3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.



*"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."*

**Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick**

## Contact Us:

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