



South Africa

Wildlife, Wilderness and Conservation

11 Days

Discover the rich flora and fauna of South Africa through hands-on lectures, bush walks, professional dissections and innovative conservation programmes. This trip is great for biology students to increase their understanding of grassroots ecology. Activities include an overnight wilderness trail. Learn how to catch a crocodile, dissect a shark and help feed elephants. Along the way, you visit a Zulu village and explore the role of women in traditional Zulu society and find out how this is changing. Your Zulu hosts will teach you how to cook a traditional African meal and show you the art of making African handicrafts. A trip not to be missed!



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Educational Journey

Days 1 - 2

Depart UK, Arrive in Durban, South Africa

LD

In the morning of day 2 we arrive in Johannesburg and change planes for our onward flight to Durban. On arrival at King Shaka International Airport in Durban, we will be met by our guide and transferred to the hotel, situated on Durban's newly revamped beachfront, with miles of golden beaches just across the road. En route we will have a panoramic city tour of Durban.

Day 3

Natal Sharks Board & uShaka Marine World

BLD

This morning after breakfast, we transfer to the Natal Sharks Board in Umhlanga. Here we can watch a professional shark dissection. Afterwards we visit the uShaka Marine World, where we will have access to Sea World (one of the largest aquariums in the world), attend a lecture by a resident specialist, and visit the Dangerous Creatures exhibit. uShaka Marine World is a 16-hectare beach front theme park which opened in 2004 in Durban and hosts over 10,000 animals.

Day 4

Centre for Rehabilitation of Wildlife

BLD

After breakfast, we will transfer to CROW (Centre for Rehabilitation of Wildlife) and spend the day helping at the centre. This includes feeding the animals, cleaning their enclosures and working on specific projects to be decided upon nearer the time. CROW is a wildlife hospital that cares for injured and orphaned wild animals and birds in KwaZulu-Natal. CROW was established 35 years ago and has 12 depots in and around the Province. It is considered to be one of the leading rehabilitation centres in South Africa. Almost 90% of animals admitted to CROW have sustained injuries due to human negligence. It takes time and dedication to rehabilitate these animals and to prepare them to be re-introduced to their natural environment. Some animals' injuries are so severe that they cannot be rehabilitated and therefore become permanent residents at CROW. Animals that are currently being rehabilitated are placed in enclosures far away from human activity. Please note: During the July school holidays, CROW has groups of local school children at the centre Mon-Fri until 13h00. During this time (25 Jun-17 Jul 2016), we will only be able to volunteer at CROW for a half day (Mon-Fri) or a full day on Sat & Sun.

Day 5

Transfer to Hluhluwe Game Reserve & nature walk

BLD

After breakfast we check out and say good-bye to our Durban guide, before being transferred to Hluhluwe Game Reserve. Here we will have a talk about the snakes, scorpions and spiders of southern Africa. This will be followed by a professionally presented dissection (this will most likely be a warthog, or possibly an impala). The afternoon is spent on an interpretive nature walk in a non-predator area of the reserve.

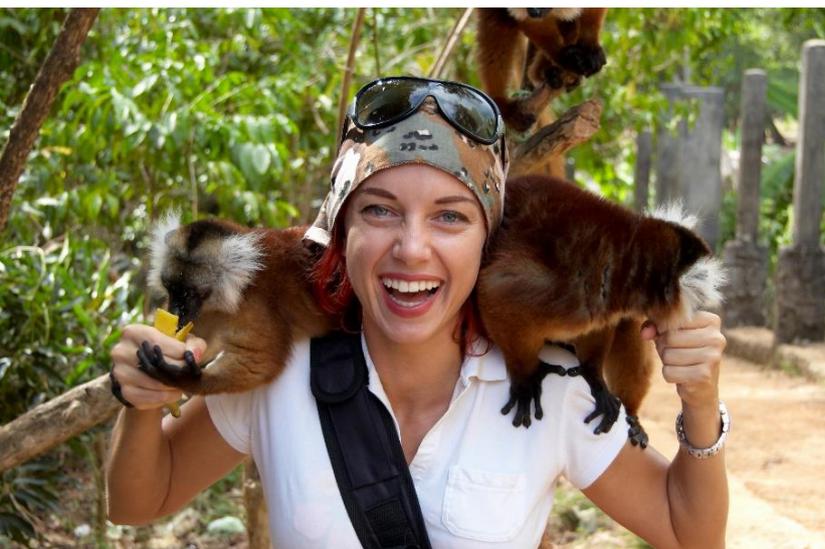
For the next four nights we will stay in a bush camp near Hluhluwe. Accommodation is in shared tents with bedding provided. All meals will be catered for and a local guide will accompany us on all our excursions.

Day 6

Full day game drive

BLD

Today we will enjoy a full day game drive in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, including a visit to the Centenary Centre.



- Day 7** **St Lucia Estuary Boat trip, Crocodile Centre, Cheetah Sanctuary** BLD
 After breakfast we transfer to St Lucia where we will take a two hour boat trip on the St Lucia Estuary. This will be followed by a visit to a crocodile centre. In the afternoon we visit a cheetah centre before heading back to camp.
- Day 8** **Elephant conservation & Zulu village visit** BLD
 A visit to an elephant conservation centre is on the cards for this morning. We will have an educational talk about the plight of elephants and the various conservation strategies that help conserve not only the gentle giants but the ecosystems which they inhabit. We hope to get a close up experience with animals that live in the wild. Afterwards, we visit a Zulu village and have the privilege of participating in aspects of daily life in the community.
- Day 9** **Wilderness Trail walk & overnight camp** BLD
 Today we embark on a wild camp-out wilderness trail. The trail is fully guided and catered. A full day's hiking will be followed by an evening in the bush.
- Days 10 - 11** **Complete wilderness trail, transfer back to Durban airport** B
 The walk continues this morning. After breakfast we will be transferred back to Durban and to catch our plane at Durban's King Shaka International Airport, connecting at Johannesburg for our flight on to the UK. Arriving back in the UK on day 11.



Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for school staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds 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

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 or Covid tests
- 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. While we are far from perfect, 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 Pre-Travel 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 this educational journey. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

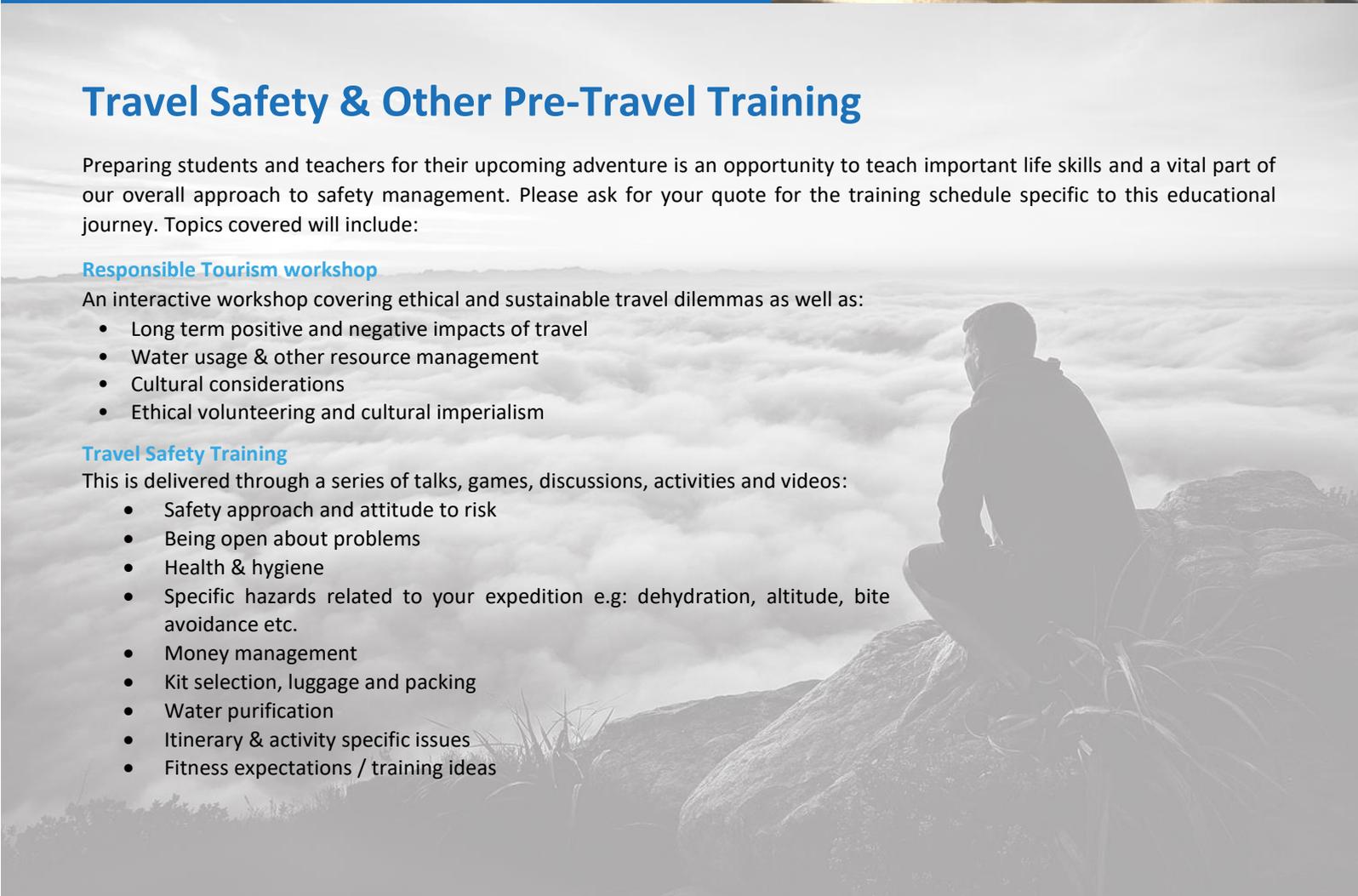
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- 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 educational journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your adventure 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 trip approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with comprehensive information 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.



Our school trips and educational tours are all about maximising the learning opportunities of travel. It's all here, the humble school tour has just come of age.



Adventures, holidays and cultural journeys for teachers looking to 'Escape the Classroom' and discover more about our amazing world, its people and places.



"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

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