

# AFRICAN INSIGHT

EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY (DOMESTIC)





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## Introduction

*This Journey offers a unique opportunity to learn a variety of skills from experienced rangers that will enhance your knowledge and appreciation of wildlife, conservation and the African bush. The course incorporates unique opportunities for participants to engage in practical hands on activities whilst being immersed in the African bush.*

## Somkhanda Game Reserve

When the Gumbi Tribe won a successful land claim over a substantial tract of prime Zululand bushveld, the result was the consolidation of a number of privately owned game and hunting ranches into a 12000ha game reserve. This magnificent Zululand wildlife reserve, being ideal habitat for white and black rhino, was identified by the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project as being suitable for the introduction of a founder population of this rare and endangered species.

**African Insight** has been awarded an exclusive concession over the entire reserve to develop a range of wildlife experiences that add to the financial sustainability of the reserve as well as aiding in the collection of vital scientific data on the fauna and flora required to inform the reserve's management. A variety of ongoing research and conservation management projects makes Somkhanda an ideal location for a ranger training program.

Rhino and elusive leopards are the only members of the Big 5 on the reserve which has a comprehensive range of all the common game that historically occurred in this region. This unique situation affords the opportunity for participants, in relative safety due to absence of lion, buffalo and elephant, to get hands on experience.

Our accommodation for the first night is a traditional tented safari camp supplied with running water communal showers and eco-loos. Thereafter you will embark on an adventurous bush journey where you will spend each night setting up camp at various locations around the Game Reserve.





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## Day 1:

**Arrive at King Shaka International Airport Durban** An African Insight representative will meet you on arrival at **King Shaka International Airport, Durban** and transfer you to **Somkhanda Game Reserve** where your adventure will begin. Upon arrival at Somkhanda we settle in to camp and have a brief introduction to the programme as well as an overview of the itinerary for the next few days.

Flights need to arrive at King Shaka before 11h00

## Day 2:

**Somkhanda Game Reserve Student Camp**

Breakfast (Somkhanda)

### Morning Activity:

3 session rotation

Comfort/growth/ panic zone awareness + hidden numbers + Scorpion activity.

Observation and conservation + Crime scene activity

Full Value Contract + team ID and song + activity? (bus stop and or caterpillar traverse)

Lunch (Somkhanda)

### Afternoon Activity:

Orientation activity in groups to 6 positions on roads around main camp. The team completes tasks and collects points that they will use later to "buy" food etc. for the pooitjie competition.

Some activities at each position include: All Aboard, Pellet Gun, change a Tire, get up High, Impala and Wild dogs crossing...

### Evening Programme:

Pooitjie competition

Conflict awareness: Animal cards and Dramas

Full review activity.

**Dinner: Pooitjie**

**Overnight: Student Camp**

## Days 3:

**Scotia Bush Camp**

Participants will spend today journeying through the bush. Along the way, an overall understanding of some basic bush skills, tracking, wildlife conservation and hunting (understanding the value of both hunting and conservation and issues around concepts) Navigation & Bush awareness, understanding important skills for moving through the bush and bush environment.

### Activities covered on the Bush Camp outing:

**Tracking, signs and spoor identification; Snares & Poaching education; Fire making and lunch over fires; Rope making; First Aid; Water finding; Hunting vs Conservation debate; Sleep out – under the stars; Sundial; Navigation using natural features; Navigation using map & compass Navigation using GPS; Tracks identification and making a mold; Tree identification; Droppings identification; Scavenger hunt for other bush items; Build a simple hide and sit in it over sunset time (reflection/journal time)**

We ensure that all participants operate safely in the bush and rangers carry a rifle with them on bush walks. The bush environment, unlike the city, has no artificial light, making star gazing a popular activity when enjoying an evening braai or a sleep out. Dinner will be prepared by yourselves and will be enjoyed around a camp fire.

Clear nights offer the perfect opportunity for star gazing.

**Overnight: Scotia Camp**



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## Day 4 & 5:

### Kosi Bay

Kosi Bay lies in the northernmost part of the KwaZulu-Natal coast. Situated close to the border of Mozambique, it is one of the most remote, yet beautiful places in the country. It is not a bay at all but actually a complex estuarine ecosystem comprising of four inter-linked lakes fed by the Siyadla and Nswamanzi Rivers.

This unique ecosystem offers some of the most exciting birding opportunities in southern Africa, as well as unique wildlife opportunities. The flora on this part of the coast is fantastically rich and varied and some of the most diverse mangrove swamps can be found here, as well as wild figs and raffia palms. The estuary at the northern end of the lake system opens into the sea. The sandbanks and mudflats are a wonderful habitat for interesting specimens

Where the lakes enter the sea at Kosi Bay is famous for its pristine beach for which it is possibly best known. It is one these beaches we find the breeding ground for the world's largest marine turtle, the Leatherback.

It is also well known for its fascinating fish kraals in the estuary used by the local Tonga people for 700 years.

After Breakfast the group will be transferred to Kosi Bay where they will do the following hikes.

**Day 1** - circular hike via lake Zilonde, forests, swamp, dunes, beach and snorkelling

**Day 2** - hike to Lake 1 where they will be collected by boat for a cruise through the channels, lake 2 and lake 3 and drop off at Bhanga Neck. They will then hike down to Bhanga Neck and spend some time on the beach where they will be collected by 4x4 vehicle and driven back to Utshwayelo

Students will carry daypacks with their lunch and refreshments

## Day 6:

### King Shaka International

After Breakfast you will be transferred to OR Tambo for your return flight on time and ready to return home.

