

AFRICAN INSIGHT

EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



ACADEMIC MODULE: 1

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION



MODULE 1: WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION



Introduction

This three or four night module takes place in the eastern “Lowveld” of the South Africa, adjacent to the world renowned Kruger National Park. It is the ideal introduction to a wildlife and conservation focused South Africa field trip. The first day is taken up in driving to the location. The module can be extended with additional days to include other optional modules if necessary.

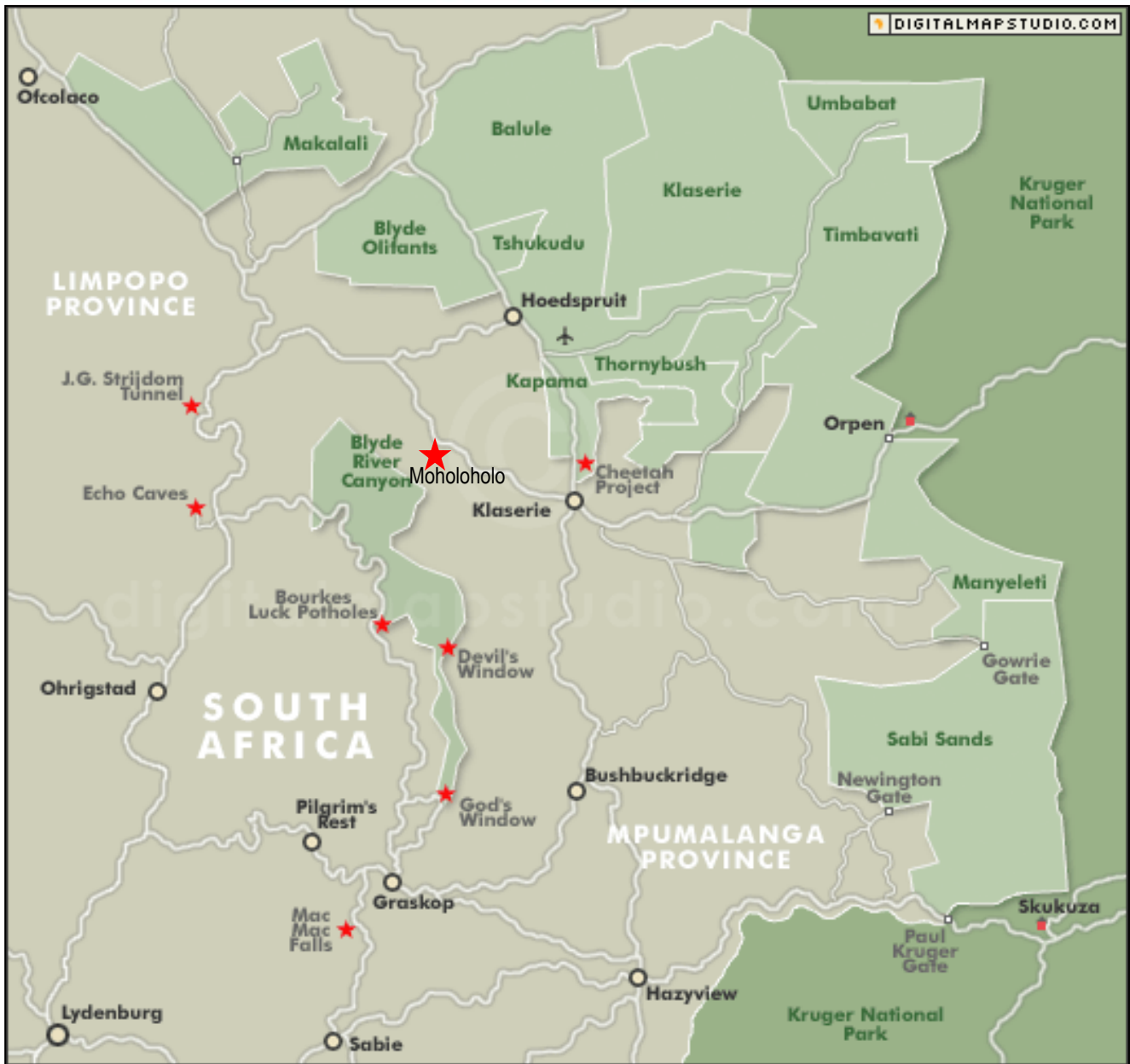
It is important that arrival flights in Johannesburg land by 08h30 the latest. This allows 2 hours to clear baggage collection and customs and to get onto the highway. For later flights we have an overnight accommodation option and visit to Pretoria Zoo (one of the top 10 zoos in the world).

Assuming Johannesburg is your point of arrival, your route to the Lowveld takes you via the Blyde River Canyon, the 3rd largest green canyon in the world. Depending on flight arrival and departure from the airport we will take in some of the highlights of this magnificent landscape before dropping down 1000m via fascinating mountain passes to the lowveld.

Our base during this module is Moholoholo Wildlife Sanctuary, home to arguably the most successful wildlife rehabilitation centre in South Africa. Here we will have our first opportunity to walk in the African bush and learn about aspects of ecology and animal behaviour. From this base we have easy access to a variety of optional experiences that will add value to your field trip.



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Wildlife Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation may not be the alpha and omega of conservation, but it offers new life to birds and animals, which have succumbed to the effects of man on their environment. It also offers a unique opportunity to study these creatures in captivity while they recuperate from their ordeals.

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is nestled in a picturesque setting at the base of the Drakensberg escarpment. The Centre was opened in 1992 and runs on a non-profit basis. It has become a haven for the rehabilitation and care of sick and injured animals and birds.

Wildlife is brought to the Centre from all corners of South Africa, and once healthy are re-introduced into their natural environment. There are however some species which have been rehabilitated but, due to the long term effects of their injuries, still stand no chance of survival in the wild. These animals and birds are kept on the premises and used in educational tours.

It is the mission of Moholoholo to educate the public through facilitated tours aimed at spreading awareness and knowledge of wildlife and biodiversity issues and threats, and through these to ultimately ensure the future survival of wildlife. Our programme includes a full day at the centre where we are exposed to every facet of the operation.

The aim of this experience is to examine the validity of the Centre's mission and to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme in terms of animal welfare, educational value and its contribution to conservation.



Endangered Species Conservation

This half day module takes a comprehensive look into a facility that is *dedicated to conservation of endangered species in South Africa*. The cheetah has become synonymous with endangered species conservation programmes and at the forefront of this sector is the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC), which we will use as a case study. Situated on over 100 hectares within the Kapama Private Game Reserve, HESC was established in the late 1980s as part of a breeding programme for the endangered cheetah. However, it has expanded to the breeding for conservation of other African species for re-introduction into the wild.

The aim of this module is to evaluate the validity of this Centre's mission, examine the methodology used in achieving this, and the contribution of endangered species breeding to global biodiversity conservation.



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Reptile Ecology & Conservation

Reptiles are often highly misunderstood and victims of unnecessary and unfounded prejudice. The Kinyonga Reptile Centre is highly reputed and is often used by National Geographic and the like. It offers an excellent comprehensive 4 hours course which covers diversity of South African reptiles, conservation challenges facing these species, physiology of reptiles, and a comprehensive session of handling of snakes and snake bite first aid.

The aim of this session is to counter act prejudice for these animals, determine and evaluate the Centre's mission and contribution (or not) to conservation.



Optional Extra:

Blyde River Canyon: A full day (non-academic) trip taking in the highlights of this World Heritage Site, such as Burkes Luck Potholes, God's Window, Berlin Falls and the Three Rondavels. After Cape Town's Table Mountain this is South Africa's most visited attraction.

Please note: The Full day Blyde River Canyon Tour is only included for those groups taking part in the full 4 day programme.

Standard Includes and Excludes Apply



RECOMMENDED MODULES

This module is an ideal first stop on a field trip that starts in Johannesburg and includes Kruger Park (Module 2) and Swaziland (Module 3) returning to Johannesburg. It is also possible to continue from Swaziland to Zululand and include any of the Module 5 – 7. However if Module 5 or 7 are the "primary modules" of the field trip it is recommended to start with these and end with Module 1. Note that it is not possible to cover the travelling distance between the Zululand Modules and Module 1, therefore the trip needs to be broken with the inclusion of either Module 3 or Module 2.

