

Headmaster Anthony Wallersteiner MA, PhD

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Biology Department are delighted to offer a trip to South Africa, which will take place during the summer of 2020. We have held the two week slot in July departing on the 4 July returning to the UK on the 18 July 2020 depending on availability of flights etc.

The trip lasts for two weeks and comprises of two elements. The first week will be based at Goondwana Reserve in the Western Cape (a Big 5 Reserve), where the students will be monitoring the numbers and impacts that the large Herbivores such as Elephants have on the grazing pressure in the area. This will be carried out both on foot and by vehicle. Each day, students will also have lectures on the issues facing African Wildlife in terms of their Conservation and management.

The second week will be at a different location and will be based on the Coast of the Indian Ocean. During the week, students will have either the opportunity to qualify for their PADI Open Water Certificate and will usually have two dives each day. As a prerequisite to taking this course, students must complete the Theory Exam, which can be completed before they leave for South Africa, but can also complete during their stay. Those who already have their PADI Open Water Certificate will have the opportunity to follow a course in Marine Ecology. This will include two dives per day where students can then use the knowledge they learnt in the lectures taught and apply it in that field. Students who do not wish to Dive will have the opportunity to Snorkel instead.

The flights will be from London to Johannesburg or Capetown depending on availability. Accommodation will be in dormitory style tents and students will be expected to get involved in preparing their own meals. Students must be confident swimmers if they wish to take part in any water based activities.

The cost of this trip will be in the region of £2,800 but is dependent on the numbers participating. The price includes Flights, Accommodation, Instruction, Meals, transfers within South Africa and PADI Instruction. Students will have to make their own arrangements to get to the airport in the UK.

The cost does not include:

- PADI Membership and Theory Course cost, this is completed online.
- Wet suit.
- Vaccinations if required.
- Personal spending money.

For more detailed information please use the link below to open the on-line 'Schools Brochure' for this trip from OPWAL. Once we are confident that this trip will take place, we will send out more detailed information:

https://www.opwall.com/uploads/2017/12/Operation-Wallacea-South-Africa-Balule-Sodwana-Schools-Booklet.pdf

If you would like your child to participate in this trip, please complete the following details and include a deposit of £200. If the trip is unable to go ahead, then this deposit will be refunded. However, if the trip does go ahead, then refunds will only be made if your child cannot attend and the place can be filled if another student takes your child's place. There is also a staged payment process, which also has implications for cancellations, which will be sent out once we know the trip is able to go ahead.

If you have any questions regards this trip, please e-mail mrighton@stowe.co.uk

I would like ______ to participate on the Biology Field Trip to South Africa in 2020.

I am sending a deposit of £200, which is non-refundable if the trip goes ahead. Deposits must be in no later than Friday 27 September 2019.

- My child is a competent swimmer Yes/no (please circle as appropriate)
- My child already has the PADI Open Water Certificate Yes/No (please circle as appropriate)
- Please send an electronic copy of your child's main photo page of their passport. This can be done using a Smart phone and forwarded to <u>mrighton@stowe.co.uk</u>

Account: Stowe School Ltd (Cheques payable to Stowe School Ltd)

Bank: Barclays Bank Plc

Sort Code: 20-03-50

Account: 90849375

BIC/SWIFT: BARCGB22

IBAN: GB97 BARC 200350 90849375

Please quote pupil name, School pupil number, plus details (Trip name Biology South Africa 2020)

Yours sincerely

Mr Michael Righton