

Kit and equipment list

This kit list will give you some idea of what to bring with you. What you actually need will vary depending on the course you do. Items such as toiletries may be bought at the local town, so there is no need to stock up on these items.

IMPORTANT! We strongly urge all students/volunteers to take the equipment listed below. Our sleeping bags (which are not warm enough for winter trails) and roll mats can be hired for a nominal fee (£2.50) to cover loss or damage.

- **Day pack:** useful for carrying personal kit, as the accommodation is usually some distance from reserves other than the Esingeni Nature Reserve, where you will be based.
- **Rucksack or hiking bag (about 35 litre capacity)** is essential for the wilderness trail. Pack a **desert spoon** too.
- **Sleeping bag** for camp-outs. If traveling in summer (October to April), a light-weight all-seasons bag will be suitable. During the colder months (May to September) the nights can be very cold, and an insulated sleeping bag is required. We recommend a 4 season or a -10 degree bag.
- **A light sleeping or roll mat** for camp outs.
- **A good reliable torch** (can be bought here) with spare or rechargeable batteries.
- **Penknife:** not essential, but very useful. (Remember to stow it in your luggage for the plane trip – don't try to carry it on to the plane!)
- **Watch: it is** best to take a cheap water-resistant watch on a canvas strap.
- **Compass:** for the bush survival week/course.
- **Sunglasses** with effective UV filter – also good protection against flying stones on game drives.
- **Camera (35mm or digital)** for your personal use. Bring a couple of films to start you off, but they are available in Grahamstown and most other towns. You can charge digital cameras on site, but bring a plug adaptor. South African 13-amp (240 volts) plugs are three-pronged and round in cross section.
- **Toiletries** to start you off. You can buy fresh supplies locally.
- **Towels:** 2 medium-sized.
- **Sun cream / sun block:** essential, but can be bought locally.
- **Water bottles:** two 1lt or 1½ lt hard-wearing bottles, for the wilderness trail and general field work. It gets very hot here in summer (September to March).
- **Good binoculars** are essential for all course work.
- **Spare clothing:** for everyday wear, choose neutral colours (green, khaki, etc); bring also smart wear for going out on weekends.
- **Walking boots** of good quality leather (walk them in first if possible to avoid blisters).
- **Work gloves.**
- **Shoes** for casual wear and sandals / slops.
- **Socks:** 3 to 5 pairs.
- **T-shirts:** 5 or 6.
- **Sweatshirt** for cooler weather and early mornings.
- **Fleece, woollen hat, and gloves:** necessary for the winter months.
- **Trousers:** 2 pairs for work, and 2 pairs for social occasions.
- **Shorts:** 2 pairs of medium length.
- **Shirts:** 3 to 4 each for summer and winter.
- **Underwear:** 4 pairs.
- **Swimming costume** (respectable, please!)
- **Rain jacket:** essential, especially for game drives and field work.
- **Hat:** also essential.
- **Stationery:** notepaper and pens for your course work. You might also want to bring a small, cheap, pocket-sized field journal for recording field observations.

You should also bring a washing or laundry bag. This makes it simpler to transport dirty washing. Please ensure that all clothing is well marked.

Please do not forget:

- **Passport, and visas** where required
- **Air tickets**
- **Insurance documents**
- **Cash and credit cards**
- **International driver's licence.** Please note that the old pink British driver's licence is not valid.
- **Baggage:** We advise you to use a rucksack. Remember the 20kg weight limit on domestic flights.
- **Pocket money:** you will need about £80 a week.