KAINGO
Game Reserve



Eco Camp

Research and Education in the heart of the Waterberg

Research · Education · Conservation · Wilderness







Eco Camp at a Glance

- Fenced camp within Kaingo Game Reserve
- 10 Accommodation units, sleeps 40 people
- 22 bedrooms, 19 bathrooms
- Central hub with meeting and dining halls
- Central recreation area with swimming pool
- Eco friendly camp powered by solar electricity
- Set within the 28 000 ha / 70 000 acre reserve
- Internet and limited cell phone signal



Learning in a Living Wilderness

Set within Kaingo Game Reserve in the Waterberg, Eco Camp places students inside a functioning Big 5 conservation landscape, where elephants, lions, buffalo, leopard and rhino share the reserve with giraffe, zebra, other antelope and an extraordinary diversity of birdlife.

Here, the natural environment becomes part of the classroom. Days are spent in the field, moving through bushveld, valleys and other habitats while learning to observe the species, landscapes and ecological processes around them.

The fenced camp is located within the greater Big 5 reserve, yet only a few minutes from Kaingo's safe botanical section which provides a setting for walking, observation and teaching in a safe natural area.

After dark, the sounds of the reserve continue around camp: insects and frogs in the night, the movement of wildlife and, at times, the unmistakable call of lions in the distance.

For students travelling to South Africa, this is more than a place to stay while studying. It is an opportunity to experience the African bush as a living system, and to learn from the landscape itself.



The Kaingo Landscape

Kaingo Game Reserve spans 28,300 hectares / 70,000 acres across the Waterberg of Limpopo, encompassing bushveld savannah, mountains, valleys and riverine landscapes. The Mokolo River runs for 30 kilometres through the reserve, shaping rocky ravines, cliffs, sandy banks and varied habitats.

Kaingo is a declared protected area with a Critical Biodiversity 1 classification and forms part of the core area of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, officially recognised by UNESCO in 2001. The reserve is home to more than 50 mammal species and over 250 bird species, alongside a rich diversity of plant life.

The reserve also holds a remarkable record of human history, with rock art found across numerous sites and archaeological evidence dating back to the Acheulean Period. Ongoing research into Kaingo's ecology, biodiversity and archaeology continues to deepen our understanding of the Waterberg.

Conservation is at the heart of Kaingo. With a primary focus on natural resource conservation and a deliberately low development footprint, the reserve provides a living landscape for research, education and practical conservation. Eco Camp forms part of this environment, allowing groups to learn within a landscape where conservation and research are actively taking place.









The Experience

An Eco Camp programme is designed around learning by doing. Rather than a collection of activities, each visit can be shaped around the group's academic level, interests and objectives.

A structured programme brings together field sessions, practical work, specialist presentations and time to observe and discuss what has been encountered in the landscape.

Students may begin by learning how to read the reserve, its habitats, species and ecological relationships, before taking that knowledge into the field.

From there, learning becomes practical. They may follow animal tracks, deploy camera traps, record observations, work with field equipment, participate in biodiversity studies, attend specialist lectures or contribute to research already taking place at Kaingo.

The exact programme can vary according to the group and current projects, but by the end of a stay, students should have more than a collection of experiences. They should have a deeper understanding of how field observations become knowledge, and how that knowledge can contribute to conservation.

The Field Programme

The field programme introduces students to the practical methods used to understand a living landscape and explore how information gathered in the field can help us understand ecosystems and make better-informed conservation decisions.



Reading the Landscape

Learn to look beyond individual animals and understand the relationships between vegetation, water, terrain, climate and wildlife.



Tracking & Observation

Use tracks, signs, calls, behaviour and other evidence to interpret what is happening around you.



Field Research

Gain practical experience with techniques such as camera-trap deployment, field observations, monitoring and data collection.



Biodiversity

Explore the diversity of plants, mammals, birds, insects and other organisms that make up the Waterberg ecosystem.



Specialist Sessions

Learn from people with experience of the reserve and the subjects being studied, connecting classroom concepts with real field situations.



Archaeology & Heritage

Discover the human history of the landscape alongside its natural history, including the archaeological and rock-art sites of the Waterberg.



A Reserve Where Education and Research is Central to the Mission

Eco Camp is part of a wider research and education environment at Kaingo.

The Kaingo Research Centre provides a base for researchers and academic groups working in the Waterberg, with research spanning conservation ecology, biodiversity, climate change, archaeology and other aspects of the natural and cultural landscape.

Students therefore arrive in a place where research is not simply being demonstrated for their benefit. It is already happening around them. They may encounter ongoing projects, researchers working in the field, specialist equipment or areas that have been studied over many years.

Research at Kaingo ranges from biodiversity and ecological monitoring to archaeology, wildlife studies and investigations into the landscape's past and present.

This connection gives students an opportunity to see how questions are developed, how evidence is collected and how knowledge grows over time. Research is not separate from the reserve. It is part of how we understand it.

Learn From Those Who Know the Landscape

Field learning is shaped by the people who work in the landscape every day. Eco Camp programmes draw on the knowledge of experienced field guides, researchers, conservation practitioners and specialist presenters, depending on the focus of each group.

Their knowledge brings context to what students encounter in the field, from understanding animal behaviour and reading tracks and signs to recognising ecological relationships and the challenges involved in conserving a complex landscape. Questions that begin in the classroom can be explored in real time, in the places and conditions where they occur.







A Base for Living and Learning

Eco Camp provides the practical infrastructure needed to run a field-based programme, giving groups space to learn, work, eat and spend time together between sessions in the reserve.



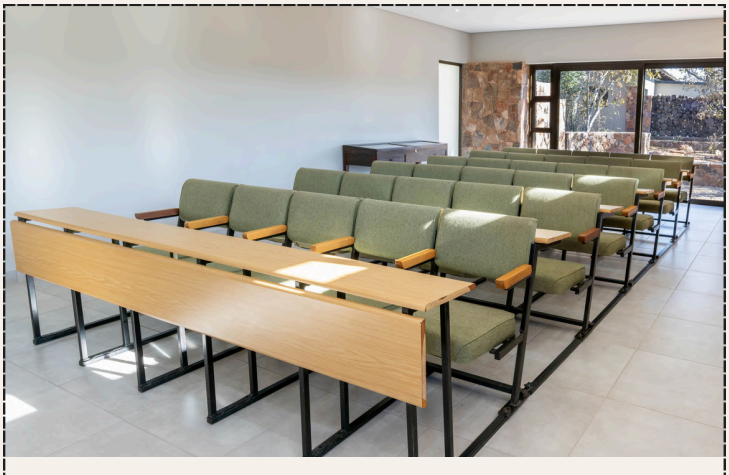
Group Facilities

A central kitchen and dining area provides a shared space for meals, while the camp's layout allows groups to operate independently.



Fieldwork & Equipment

Equipment storage and practical facilities support groups bringing their own field equipment or working on ongoing projects.



Learning spaces

A dedicated lecture room provides space for presentations, discussions and structured teaching, while additional workspace allows groups to process observations, prepare projects and work between field sessions.



Time to Recharge

After long days in the field, students can make use of the swimming pool and surrounding outdoor areas before returning to the next session or settling in for the evening.







Accommodation in the Bush

Eco Camp offers comfortable, practical accommodation designed for students and groups spending extended periods in the field. The camp comprises of 10 accommodation houses, with one to four bedrooms per house, each furnished with twin beds. Every house has its own kitchen, living and dining space, patio and one to two bathrooms, giving groups the freedom to live together while retaining their own space. The houses are set within the bushveld, with natural surroundings and views from the accommodation, while remaining close to the camp's shared facilities and learning spaces.

The accommodation is intentionally functional, providing a comfortable base for long days of fieldwork, study and exploration. Its layout works particularly well for school and university groups, allowing students and accompanying staff to stay together within their own house while larger groups can use the camp as a shared base.

Why Come to Kaingo

Kaingo brings together elements that are rarely experienced together in a single student programme.
Kaingo brings conservation with context, students can begin to understand not only what is being conserved, but why it matters and how research and observation help shape conservation.



Working Big 5 Reserve

Students live within a functioning wildlife landscape, rather than visiting a reserve only for occasional field trips.



Specialist Knowledge

Students learn from people with direct experience of the reserve, its wildlife and the Waterberg landscape.



Established Research

The Kaingo Research Centre connects student programmes with an active environment of research, fieldwork and academic collaboration.



Safe Botanical Section

Eco Camp is only minutes from the botanical section, providing opportunities for walking, observation and teaching in a safe setting.



Structured Programme

Field activities are connected into a broader learning experience, giving students the opportunity to build knowledge progressively rather than simply collecting experiences.



Africa as the Classroom

Wildlife, landscapes, night sounds, archaeology and biodiversity are not illustrations in a textbook. They are part of the environment in which students are learning.



Eco Camp Layout

The camp is arranged across a spacious, fenced site, with accommodation houses positioned around the central facilities. The layout provides clearly defined areas for sleeping, dining, teaching, recreation and equipment, while allowing groups to move easily between them.



A Place to Learn in Nature

Study the landscape. Work in the field. Experience Africa.

Eco Camp welcomes school groups, university groups, student programmes and educational organisations seeking a practical field-learning experience in the Waterberg.

Programmes can be tailored to the group's age, academic focus, duration and objectives.

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