



GRIETJIE PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

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Introduction

Grietjie Private Nature Reserve has become one of the most sought after emerging reserves within the Ba Phalaborwa area, adjacent to the Kruger National Park. Formerly agricultural land, Grietjie has evolved into a conservation-based reserve with the removal of the Kruger National Park boundary fence and subsequent influx of wildlife into the area. The reserve encompasses some 3 000ha made up of a number of private owners, the majority of whom have acquired their properties in recent years with conservation as a priority. Its southern boundary comprises 6 kilometers of river frontage being the perennial Olifants River.



We are one of the founding members of the Balule Nature Reserve. Balule is within the Greater Kruger National Park which also means we are a part of the UNESCO proclaimed Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve. This biosphere reserve is the largest of its kind in the world.

Grietjie Private Nature Reserve boasts an amazing variety of wildlife, with most of the Big Five species being encountered daily, with exception of the two rhino species. The day-to-day running of the reserve is undertaken by our Warden, two Field Rangers and a maintenance team. A management committee, made up of nominated Grietjie owners, co-ordinates and oversees the management of the reserve, including generating income/staff management/ goal setting etc.

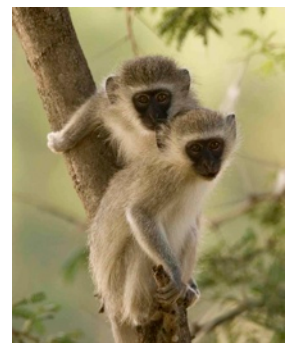
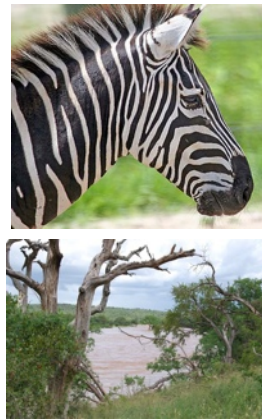
Location

Grietjie Private Nature Reserve is located in the north-eastern region of Southern Africa known as the Limpopo Province. Nearby Phalaborwa provides an air link to O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg on a twice-daily basis. An alternative and economical link is the daily City-to-City coach service between Johannesburg and Phalaborwa.

What we can offer

We are looking to offer foreign students the opportunity to work in a 'hands on' capacity with the warden and rangers in the daily running of the reserve. This would include projects such as:

- Game counts and updating of databases
- Alien vegetation control and bush rehabilitation
- Setting up databases of plant species, tree lists etc
- Anti poaching and game patrols
- Boundary fence / reserve road maintenance



The income generated from the volunteer program would assist with the running of the reserve as well as help to fund further education for our rangers and guards.

There is also the option for the volunteers to work with some of the commercial lodges on the reserve as well as assist in the Buffalo breeding project established on Grietjie.

The reserve will supply fully equipped accommodation for the duration of the volunteer's stay. Food and transport are not supplied, but access to the local shops and other tourist attractions can be arranged.

If, after experiencing work in the bush first hand, a volunteer wishes to pursue a career in conservation, there is also the option to apply to attend a FGASA registered Field Guide Training course on the reserve after completion of the volunteer programme, for the volunteer's own account.

Compiled by: A Rodwell