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GOOD TO KNOW

A trip to the bush for 6 or 12 months needs some planning – especially if you are from abroad. The purpose of this document is to assist you with some “Good to know” facts.

Regardless if you are International or South African – please read the below paragraphs carefully. Don't hesitate to drop us an email if you have further questions.

1. VISA

Please apply for your study permit and await the outcome of your application before leaving for South Africa. The fact that you have been accepted by us as an African educational institution does not guarantee that you will be issued with a study permit as different countries have different processes in place. You cannot enter South Africa on a visitor's visa and then apply for a study permit. Please note that the process will take about 6 weeks for a study visa. We will supply you with the relevant documents needed from the educational institution.

Please note that immigration regulations are becoming more difficult. Some embassies do not issue study visas anymore. You can then enter the country on a 90 day tourist visa. You must just be aware that you might be asked for a return or transfer ticket at the airport (a reservation only should be fine)! You can extend a tourist visa once (!) for another 90 days - which will in total allow you to participate in the 6 month program). We recommend you return to your country of origin during a break and then re-enter South Africa. The course schedule allows for this. You are officially allowed 2x tourist visas per calendar year. Please note that placements with professional guiding will be a challenge on a tourist visa (see below: PrDP/Guide registration).

2. INSURANCE

NJ More Field Guide College is included in the More Public Liability policy. This provides cover for your legal liability for the accidental death or bodily injury or illness of any person on the course. Please note that you will need insurance for your own property in case of loss or damage due to natural hazards like flood or storm. Our insurance also does not cover personal liability (i.e. one student hurts another student). We therefore recommend to consult your travel insurance to include that into your package.

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3. MEDICAL AID

As you will live in a remote game reserve, medical insurance is highly (!!) recommended. Without signing an indemnity form prior to the course, you will not be able to attend the training. You are therefore responsible for your own wellbeing. There are insurance companies in every country that offer special packages for studying abroad.

4. LEARNING PACE & LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Please advise us if you have any learning difficulties. In case of dyslexia we can arrange an oral exam with FGASA – but we would need a doctor’s note in order to be able to order the oral exam papers. Please note that one needs to be a fairly strong learner in order to pass the theory and practical exams and assessments (2x NJ MORE tests, practical Field tests, (FGASA Apprentice Field Guide exam), Basic mechanics test, photography test, FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide exam and mentorship & coaching assesment, Bird slides and sounds, Tracking assessment, First Aid test, Advanced Rifle Handling Assessment). The FGASA Apprentice Field Guide Qualification is the relevant criteria for some qualifications to follow later in the course (Advanced Rifle Handling & Trails). They CAN NOT be achieved without the Level 1! We therefore highly recommend to start with all FGASA related studies from day 1.

5. FINANCES

ZAR (South African Rand) is the currency in South Africa. For up to date currency conversions check <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/> You will be able to draw money with your home bank-card. The closest ATM from the NJ MORE Field Guide College is in Thabazimbi (40 minutes drives from camp). Please bring enough pocket money to cover monthly laundry fee (optional), personal expenses on town trips and whatever else you might require extra.

6. DOCUMENTS

Please bring 4 passport photos, as well as **certified** copies of your all documents (passport/ ID/ Driver’s License etc). Make sure all your documents are valid at least for the time of your stay in RSA. Also bring a copy of your CV, your highest qualification, information on any medical conditions/medication and other relevant documents.

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7. LUGGAGE

The weight of your luggage may be restricted by your airline. In order to save you some kilograms, we recommend that you purchase certain items in South Africa. Once you have landed in Johannesburg, you will find modern shopping malls where you can purchase toiletries, clothes and pretty much everything else you might need. We also do regular town trips from camp to Thabazimbi or Lephalale where you find malls, doctors, banks and all other facilities of a regular town.

8. (INTERNATIONAL) DRIVERS' LICENSE / DRIVING SKILLS

Please apply for an international Driver's License in your country of residence as it will make things much easier for you. Your local license – if not issued in English – might not be accepted by South African authorities.

Please note that we require knowledge and practice on how to operate a manual (!!) driven vehicle. If you have only driven automatic cars so far, please make sure you practice prior to course start. We also recommend to attend a 4x4 driving course prior to arrival.

9. PRDP – PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S PERMIT

A PrDP is not critical for the 6 month course. But in order to be able to drive a game viewing vehicle with guests during your placement and further career, you need a Professional Driver's License (equivalent to a foreign taxi permit). If you can - bring one from your country of residence (plus certified translation) as the authorities at NDT (National Department of Tourism) currently still accept it. As a foreigner you can only apply for a South African PrDP at the age of 21 in combination with a local Driver's license and local Driver's License. The latter is not impossible to get, but it includes a lot of paperwork. Please note you will not qualify for a PrDP on a tourist visa. For South African Students: Please remember to apply for your PrDP at least 8 weeks prior to your placement.

10. PLACEMENTS & GUIDE REGISTRATION

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A placement can be organized once the following criteria are met: FGASA Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2), PrDP, FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide, Advanced Rifle Handling certificate. In order to legally drive guests during your placement you will need to register with NDT (National Department of Tourism). They need FGASA/PrDP/First Aid. An additional fee of R 30k is applicable for organizing a placement within the industry (external MORE). An additional fee of R30k will apply once a placement has been arranged in agreement with the graduate. (This is for the Guide & Trails Experience 6 month course).

As a foreign student please note that NDT will only register aspirant guides holding a work permit or - in certain provinces - holding a study visa (not a tourist visa!). Hence, you might not be able to legally drive guests during a lodge placement.

11. TELECOMMUNICATION / INTERNET

There are various options to stay in touch with home:

The easiest and most convenient would be buying a local SIM card. There are a number of providers - we recommend MTN as they have good coverage for remote areas. Keep in mind that you then need vouchers for airtime/ data to load on your card before you come to camp. These are available in many outlets country-wide.

We recommend to purchase a SIM card at OR Tambo Airport when you arrive in the country - it is the only place where you don't need to show a proof of residence, thus, makes things a lot easier.

We do have a landline at camp and offer free wifi for students around the main area. Students also have access to a special study PC with Internet connection.

12. ELECTRICITY

The South African electricity supply is 220/230 volts AC 50 HZ. Most plugs are 15 amp 3-prong or 5 amp 2-prong with round pins. Please bring your own adapters. You can purchase them easily locally as well.

13. CLOTHING

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Be advised that the autumn/ winters (April - August) in South Africa can be very cold - and buildings/ accommodation in the country are not well equipped with insulation or heating devices. So bring clothes to keep you warm, including a warm jacket, gloves, scarf, beanie - plan as if you would go on a skiing trip. Summers are hot - so again plan accordingly (especially with sufficient water supply on bush walks). We will send a packlist with the course briefing.

14. KICK-OFF: TRANSFERS & ACCOMODATION

We will meet at 16:00 PM in Johannesburg. So you can plan your arrival AM of the same day. Please contact the hostel in case transfer in needed from the airport (details will be sent in separate briefing document) We will book the rooms for the group - the bill will need to be settled by every participant on check-out (approx. R580 per person per night). Transfer to camp will then be arranged by NJ MORE - ideally with private vehicles in order to make it most costeffective. Should a transfer be needed, NJ MORE will arrange a shuttle. Costs will be split amongst the users. We will send out a detailed briefing on the kick-off prior to course start.

15. PARENT VISITS

In case your parents would like to visit you during your course, we do offer you as an NJ MORE student an attractive discount: During the duration of your course (including potential placement at a MORE lodge) your parents will receive 25% discount off the prevailing rate at all our properties www.more.co.za (This offer is subject to availability). Please send an enquiry to the (only) booking contact: arin@njmorefieldguide.co.za

16. OFF-TIME & TRANSPORT

There will be several breaks during your course, the longest about 8-9 days. You will be responsible to plan your own leave and transport, we will assist wherever we can with transfer contacts and suggestions. Please note that we don't really allow students to stay in camp over a break time - simply for safety and insurance reasons. Nevertheless, you can leave personal belongings in your accommodation over the break. The closest town for car rentals is 90 km away. If logistics allow, we can offer transfer (we will advise the rate at the time).

17. MALARIA & VACCINATIONS

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The NJ MORE Field Guide College is situated in a non-malaria area. But if you plan to sign up for the placement, please be advised that some properties do have a malaria risk. Also, if you want to travel the country in your off-time, malaria does occur in certain areas. Please visit your local doctor for advice on medication and vaccinations and bring good insect repellent (we are not permitted, by law, to give advice regarding medical information).

18. TERMS & CONDITIONS

- To confirm your place, we require a 50% deposit
- Full payment is due 8 weeks prior to the course.
- A written notice is required if you wish to cancel your booking 16 weeks prior to course start: 25% cancellation fee applies (in case of a refund prior to that, 8% administration fee applies) 8 weeks prior to the course, a 50% cancellation fee applies, 4-8 weeks prior to the course, a 75% cancellation fee applies, 4 weeks or less prior to the course, a 100% cancellation fee applies
- No refunds will be given in the event of a 'no-show' on due date, or if the student leaves before the date of completion.
- We will not be responsible for costs incurred during money transfers, and require receipt of the full and final invoice amount