MORE
FIELD GUIDE
COLLEGE

GOOD TO KNOW

A trip to the bush needs planning – especially if you are from abroad. The purpose of this document is to assist you with some "GOOD TO KNOW" facts. Regardless of whether you are International or South Africa, please read the below paragraphs carefully.

Don't hesitate to drop us an email if you have further questions.

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 six 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 programme). The course schedule allows for this. You are officially allowed 2x tourist visas per calendar year. Please note that placements with professional guidance will be a challenge on a tourist visa (see below PrDP/Guide registration).

INSURANCE

More Field Guide College is included in the MORE Collection 1933 (Pty) Ltd public liability policy. This provides cover for your legal liability for the accidental death/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 floods or storms. Our insurance does not cover personal liability (i.e., one student hurts another student). We therefore recommend consulting your travel insurance to include that in your package.

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 well-being. There are insurance companies in every country that offer special packages for studying abroad.

LEARNING PACE AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Please advise us if you have any learning difficulties. In the case of dyslexia, we can arrange an oral exam with FGASA – but we would need a doctor's note to be able to order the oral exam papers. Please note that one needs to be a strong learner to pass the theory and practical exams and assessments (2x MORE tests, practical Field tests, (NQF2 Nature Site Guide (FGASA) exam), Basic mechanics test, Wildlife Photography test, FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide exam, and mentorship and coaching assessment, Bird slides and sounds, Tracking assessment, First Aid test, Advanced Rifle Handling Assessment).

The NQF2 Nature Site Guide (FGASA) Qualification is the relevant criteria for some qualifications to follow later in the course (Advanced Rifle Handling and Trails). They cannot be achieved without the NQF2 Nature Site Guide (FGASA) qualification. We therefore highly recommend starting with all FGASA-related studies from day one.

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 campus is a 40-minute drive from camp. Please bring enough pocket money to cover any personal expenses on town trips and whatever else extra you might require.

DOCUMENTS

Please bring four passport photos, as well as certified copies of your most important 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.

LUGGAGE

The weight of your luggage may be restricted by your airline. 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 where you find malls, doctors, banks, and all the other facilities of a regular town.

(INTERNATIONAL) DRIVER'S 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 the course start. We also recommend attending a 4x4 driving course prior to arrival.

PRDP – PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S PERMIT

A PrDP is not required for training components but is essential for driving guests during an internship or professional guiding role. If you can - bring one from your country of residence (plus certified translation). You can only apply for a South African PrDP at the age of 21 in combination with a 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 eight weeks prior to your placement.

PLACEMENTS AND GUIDE REGISTRATION

Placements are applicable only to programmes where an internship forms part of the course structure, such as the Career Course. A placement can be arranged once the following criteria are met: NQF2 Nature Site Guide (FGASA) Qualification, PrDP, FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide, Advanced Rifle Handling certificate. 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 is applicable for organising a placement within the industry (external MORE). The additional fee will apply once a placement has been arranged in agreement with the graduate.

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.

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 several providers. 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 countrywide. We do have a landline at camp and offer free Wi-Fi for students around the main area.

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.

CLOTHING

Be advised that the autumn/winter (April – August) in South Africa can be very cold – and buildings and accommodations 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, and 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 pack list with the course briefing.

KICK-OFF: TRANSFERS AND ACCOMMODATION

Transfer to camp will then be arranged by MORE Field Guide College – ideally with private vehicles to make it most cost-effective. Should a transfer be needed, MORE Field Guide College will arrange a shuttle. Costs will be split amongst the users. We will send out a detailed briefing on the kick-off prior to the course start.

PARENT VISITS

If your parents would like to visit you during your course, MORE students are eligible for a preferential rate across all MORE Collection properties (www.more.co.za). This applies for the duration of your course, including any placement at a MORE Collection lodge.

To enquire, please contact william@morefieldguidecollege.co.za. Please note: terms and conditions apply.

OFF-TIME AND TRANSPORT

There will be several breaks during your course, the longest about 8-9 days. You will be responsible for planning your own leave and transport, we will assist wherever we can with transfer contacts and suggestions. Please note that we don't allow students to stay in the camp over a break time – simply for safety and insurance reasons. Nevertheless, you can leave personal belongings in your accommodation over the break.

MALARIA AND VACCINATIONS

The 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).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- To confirm your place, we require a 50% deposit
- Full payment is due eight weeks prior to the course
- A written notice is required if you wish to cancel your booking:
    - 16 weeks prior to the course start, a 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 the 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