

WATERBERG WILD DOG ECOTOURISM PROJECT



African wild dogs are a globally endangered species due to habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, disease, and conflict with humans. The Waterberg Wild Dogs represent an important population of some of South Africa's last free-roaming African wild dogs. To conserve them, it is important that communities come together to protect them on private lands by promoting co-existence.

The Waterberg Wild Dog Ecotourism Project leverages the opportunity to view a pack of Waterberg Wild Dogs while they are relatively stationary in the area during their denning season and uses the funds raised to mitigate the impact of the pack on the private properties hosting them. This form of co-existence seeks to ensure that the landowners hosting the dogs during their denning season are not substantially impacted by providing protection to the pack during this critical time. It also provides an opportunity to gain new information and increase awareness and appreciation for the pack.

The Waterberg Wild Dog Ecotourism Project is being coordinated by the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative, a non-profit, community-based initiative seeking to promote the conservation of the free-roaming African wild dogs in the Waterberg, Limpopo by raising awareness, providing education, gaining accurate information, expanding the wild dogs' ecotourism potential, and understanding and mitigating human-wildlife conflict, where possible.



PRICE

This unique opportunity is being offered at:

R5000

per exclusive game viewer trip
(limit 9 people)

or

R850

per person
(minimum of 4 people)



WHAT TO EXPECT

The Waterberg Wild Dog Ecotourism Project is currently the only ecotourism opportunity in South Africa to view truly free-roaming African wild dogs in their natural environment. Guests can expect to take a guided, informative game drive in an open vehicle to an area near the wild dogs' den site, where the pack will be provided with a fresh game carcass to limit their predation on the private properties and also allow for excellent photographic opportunities. During the viewing, guests will have the opportunity to learn about African wild dog behaviors, the history of the pack, and the WWDI's efforts to conserve them.

Viewing times vary, depending on the pack's behaviors, but typically range from 30-60 minutes. To align with the natural movements of the pack, viewings can only be conducted in the afternoon, with a start time of 2:45PM.

Please note, to protect the safety of the pack, no guests will be taken to the pack's den site.

TO BOOK

Pre-booking is essential to secure your spot.

To book your viewing, please email bookings@waterbergwilddogs.org.za with your total number of people and preferred date.

Please note, space is limited to only one booking per day.

WHERE

The Wild Dog Ecotourism Project is being coordinated on a private property located south of Lephalale, Limpopo. The entrance and meeting point for guests attending the excursion is located just off of the R33. The entrance is approximately 30km south of Lephalale and 60km north of Vaalwater.

Upon confirmation of your booking, a Google Maps pin will be sent to better direct you towards the entrance.



CHILDREN POLICY

The WWDI believes that educating children about African wild dogs and the importance of the Waterberg Wild Dog population is of the utmost importance. Children of any age are welcome to attend, provided they are able to sit quietly for an extended period of time and follow the rules of the viewing.

Please note, children under 12 are required to be booked with a group on the exclusive game viewer rate.

MEET THE TEAM



Reilly Mooney
Project Coordinator



Tumi Mbuyane
Project Assistant

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL I SEE THE PUPS?

The Waterberg Wild Dog population has a history of persecution and, as a result, has a natural fear of humans. It is unlikely that the pack will bring the pups within view of the game vehicle.

WHAT TIME CAN I BOOK?

To align with the dogs' natural behaviors and daily activity patterns, visits are only able to be booked in the afternoon/evening hours. We meet at 3:00PM and finish at dusk, about 6:00PM.

WE'RE ONLY A GROUP OF 2...CAN I STILL BOOK?

The WWDI does require a minimum of 4 people per visit to run the excursion. We recommend contacting friends and family and inviting them to join! Alternatively, please email the WWDI with a list of your preferred dates and you will be added to a waitlist and potentially paired with other smaller groups.



HOW LONG WILL THE ECOTOURISM PROJECT LAST?

We follow the dogs' rules! Trips to view the pack will be organized as long as the pack remains at their den site in the area. We expect the ecotourism project to last into August, however, it all depends on the movements of the pack.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

We recommend bringing along warm clothing, binoculars, and bottled water.



SUPPORTING THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ENDANGERED
WATERBERG WILD DOGS