

THE WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP
SCHOOL

Founded over 50 years ago as the vision of Dr Ian Player and his friend and mentor Magqubu Ntombela, the WLS has to date taken out in excess of 60,000 trailists.

The Wilderness Leadership School (WLS) is a non-profit organization which falls under the management oversight of the Wilderness Foundation and within the scope of the Foundation's experiential education programme.

With its headquarters in Durban, in the Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, the WLS has a national footprint and conducts trails across the country (see map)

In addition to its acclaimed five day wilderness trails, the WLS offers other programmes such as:

Pride of Table Mountain is conducted in the Table Mountain Nature Reserve in the Western Cape and Pride of Stainbank in the Kenneth Stainbank Reserve in Durban, KZN. These are day trails conducted for school groups as entry level experiential education

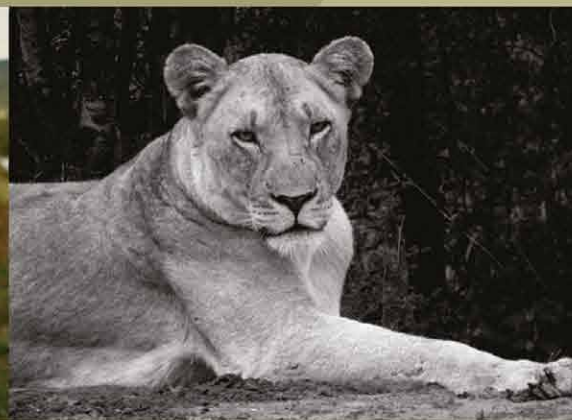
WLS also offers a facilitated transformative leadership Rites of Passage for 12 to 15 year olds in wilderness areas.

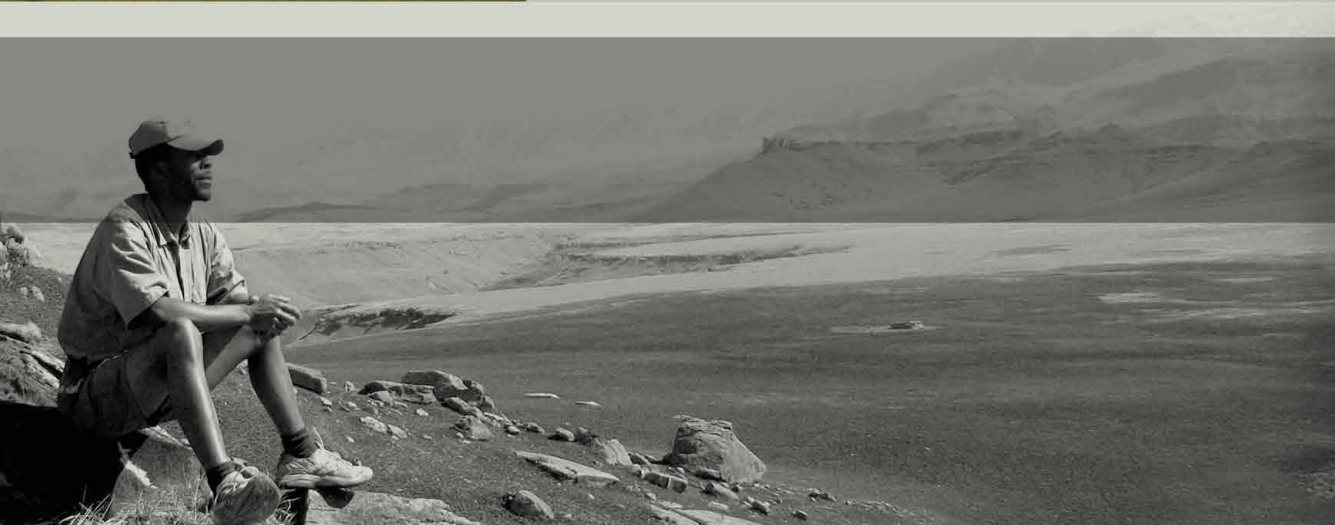


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WHAT IS A TRAIL?



This is a guided walk through wilderness areas with environmental facilitation provided by experienced wilderness guides.

Trails offer a unique experience. A chance to exist for a period in the original, primitive atmosphere of wilderness. Trailists are exposed to an enlightenment of the connectivity of the natural environment and the animal and human species. The experience is uncontrived and no two trails are the same; each one determined by the dynamic of the weather, the group, the animal sightings and the natural habitat. Although many of the trails occur in big game areas and magnificent sightings are recorded, the experience is not focused on interaction with the wild animals but rather as a means of reconnecting to the natural world and order.

Wilderness areas are managed in such a way that its natural character is not altered and that man does not disturb its inhabitants in any way. There are no roads and the only paths you will encounter are those made by animals.

Trails are designed to have little or no impact on the environment and thus are limited to 8 participants, from 15 years old and those fit enough to maintain a reasonable walking pace carrying a backpack.

Equipment in the form of a backpack, sleeping bag and bedroll are issued to trailists and these and the provisions for the duration of the trail are carried by the trailists. This is not an endurance feat and the pace is set by the dynamic of the group. Night stops are selected by the guides and each trailist has the opportunity to experience the wonder of "night watch" when the sounds of the wild are to be heard in the pure essence of the African bush.



PHILOSOPHY OF A WILDERNESS TRAIL



It is difficult to argue against the fact that the planet is in crisis as a direct result of our consumption-driven over-populated society. It is a question of balance. The fine point of society's loss of connection with nature and therefore the loss of perspective in finding the middle ground balanced with the intellectual capacity to understand that resources are finite. And that without respecting our natural environment we are fast approaching the "tipping point."

Without artifice, a wilderness trail serves to connect the trailists to their natural element and this connectivity is often accompanied by a shift in consciousness that enlightens the individual to the interdependency of natural life and need to lessen ones footprint on this planet.



DURATION OF A TRAIL

Trails are normally 4 nights, 5 days however 10 and 15 day trails are also offered.

Corporate trails and team building may be tailored to suit a company's requirements and can be offered as a 3 night experience.

Corporate leadership and team building trails are also offered.

Rites of Passage journeys can be tailored to suit the participating school.

RESERVATIONS

Trails are run at a minimum capacity of 6 participants and a maximum of 8.

Trail dates are available on application and certain "open trail" dates are available on request and conditional upon the minimum participant uptake.



For more information contact:

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The restoration of the Conference/Training Centre and accommodation block kindly sponsored by Africom (Holland)

The headquarters of the WLS is situated in the Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve some 20 minutes from the Durban City centre. This 253 hectare "green lung" is reputed to be one of the last remaining nodes of coastal bush and carries a variety of antelope species, zebra, abundant birdlife and butterflies.

Accommodated in a building that was once an old barn, the WLS facilities have been upgraded to provide a unique conference and training facility that seats 50 comfortably in cinema style and is a perfect venue for more intimate workshops or training groups.

12 shared ablution rooms are available to sleep 16 guests.

Adjacent to the venue is Coedmore Castle- the old Stainbank family home and now a museum. This, coupled with day walks in the reserve, provides an interesting break in the conference day.



CONFERENCE FACILITIES AT WLS HEADQUARTERS



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