KUKAMA WILDLIFE COLLEGE

At Kukama Wildlife College, the wild is your classroom.
Based on Olienhout Game Reserve in the Northern Cape, we combine hands-on field guide training with an active rewilding project, giving you the chance to live, learn, and lead in conservation.

Our NQF2 Nature Site Guide course is more than training, it's an adventure. You'll master the art of guiding, gain real-world skills, and help shape a more sustainable future for wildlife.

Just outside Griekwastad, a town founded in 1802 and rich in history, lies our 1,400 hectare reserve. Once a cattle farm, it is now being rewilded into a thriving wildlife haven. With new species arriving, you'll not only witness but actively contribute to this living conservation story.

Life at Kukama is as unforgettable as the training. Our campus is completely off the grid, offering a true escape into nature. Students share fully furnished two-bedroom houses, enjoy hearty meals, and gather around the boma fire under star-filled skies. From lectures to game drives, every moment connects you deeper to the natural world.

NQF2 NATURE SITE GUIDE COURSE

BECOME A PROFESSIONAL SAFARI GUIDE IN THE KALAHARI BUSHVELD

IS THIS COURSE FOR YOU ?

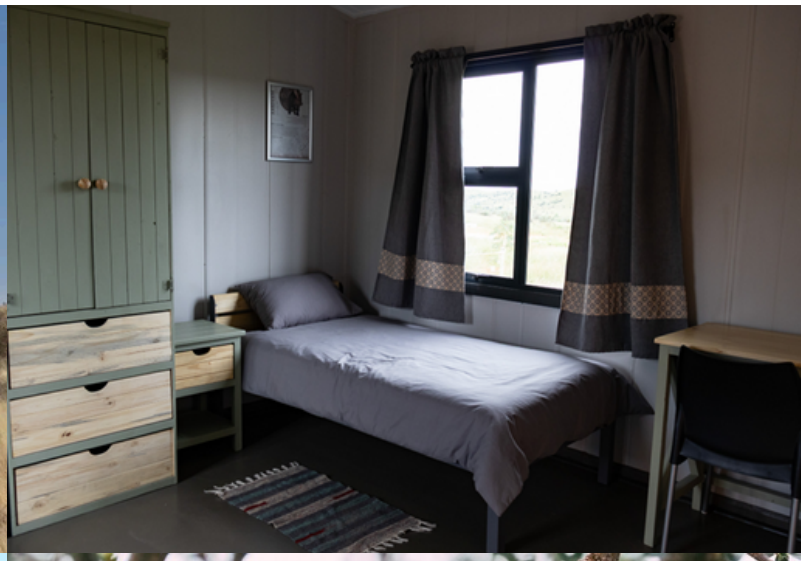
- You are 18 years or older.
- You love the outdoors.
- You prefer learning by doing.
- You thrive in smaller, more personal groups.

IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, THEN KUKAMA IS WHERE YOUR GUIDING JOURNEY BEGINS.

Course: NQF2 Nature Site Guide | FGASA Endorsed | CATHSSETA Accredited
Duration: 9 Weeks, full-time residential
Next Intakes: 11 January 2026 | 18 March 2026

Rates:
SA Residents R88,500.00
International R125,500.00

Location: Olienhout Game Reserve, Northern Cape, Kalahari Bushveld biome
Group Size: Max 12 students per intake



WHY CHOOSE KUKAMA

All-Inclusive Kit

Uniform and Kit:

- 2-Shirts[short sleeve] | 1-Shorts/Trousers
- Vellies/Walking Shoes
- Leather Belt
- 1-Pairs of Socks
- 1-Bush Hat
- 1-Beanie
- 1-Pair of Gaiters
- 1-Jacket
- 1-Tactical Backpack
- 1-Rechargeable Headlamp
- Binoculars
- 1-Insulated Water Bottle
- 1-Stationary Pack
- Field Guides/ Reference Books

***Allow up to 4 weeks for uniform orders; timing may vary by enrolment and course start date.**
***All students receive the same standard-issue gear for training. Items may differ from personal preferences or premium products. By enrolling, you accept the issued kit as provided.**

Beyond the Big 5 – The Specialist's Safari

We focus on the vital species that make ecosystems thrive, from elusive predators to insects and hardy bushveld plants.

Small Groups, Big Impact

With only 8-12 students per course, you get personal attention from top industry leaders and guest lecturers.

Immersive, Hands-On Training

From guiding and ecology to reserve management, bushcraft, and hospitality, this is real-world training.

Life at Kukama

Comfortable ensuite housing, wholesome meals, off-grid living, and evenings around the fire under African skies.

COURSE BREAKDOWN

The NQF2 Nature Site Guide Course at Kukama consists of two key components. First, is the FGASA Syllabus, an accredited provider recognised by CATHSSETA, which issues your national qualification.

The second component emphasises on essential skills and life lessons, including the development of strong interpersonal skills to help you effectively engage with guests and colleagues.

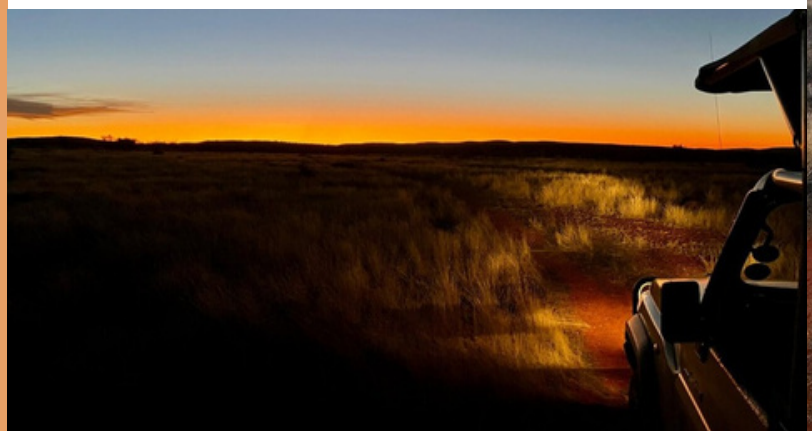
We focus on preparing you to conduct yourself professionally in various situations, ensuring you are ready for success when you complete the course.

COMPONENT ONE

FGASA Syllabus that we cover during your course at Kukama, we are proud to offer the FGASA - Endorsed NQF2 Nature Site Guide Course, which sets the standard for excellence in wildlife guiding.

Our graduates are recognised for their extensive knowledge, skills and professionalism, making them highly sought after in the safari and tourism industries.

Our course provides a solid foundation of essential knowledge, practical skills and interpersonal abilities necessary to thrive as a field guide.



THE FGASA SYLLABUS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING KEY MODULES

Guiding in the Natural Environment:
Learn to deliver informative and impactful guided experiences while understanding ethical considerations and your role in conservation.

Geology:
Explore the Earth's composition and its influence on species distribution and ecosystem health.

Climate and Weather:
Differentiate between climate and weather, understand how geographical factors affect local ecosystems.

Astronomy:
Navigate the Southern Hemisphere's night skies and understand the impact of celestial bodies on our planet.

Ecology:
Gain insight into ecological organisation and the cycling of nutrients and energy within ecosystems.

Biomes of Southern Africa:
Discover the various biomes in South Africa and their defining features.

Taxonomy:
Understand species classification and the importance of nomenclature in wildlife identification.

Plants:
Learn about the significance of botany in ecosystems, including identification and classification of plant species.

Arthropods:
Dive into the world of insects and their critical roles within ecosystems.

Fish:
Study fish classification, ecological roles and behaviours.

Amphibians:
Understand amphibian species, their importance in ecosystems and how to differentiate between frogs and toads.

Reptiles:
Explore the diversity of reptiles in Southern Africa, including identification and ecological significance.

Birds:
Develop skills to identify various bird species and understand their behaviours.

Mammals:
Gain knowledge of mammalian characteristics, classifications and their roles in ecosystems.

Ethology (Animal Behaviour):
Learn to interpret animal behaviour and its ethical implications for guiding.

Conservation and Habitat Management:
Understand habitat management practices and your role in ecological restoration.

Historic Human Habitation:
Explore the rich cultural history of South Africa and its impact on modern conservation efforts.

FGASA
Field Guides Association of Southern Africa

THE KUKAMA SYLLABUS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING KEY MODULES

At Kukama, we believe in not just training guides but in creating well-rounded individuals equipped with diverse skills for the wildlife industry. Our extra programs enhance learning, foster personal growth and prepare students for successful careers.

***Syllabus items are subject to change, postponement, or cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances.**

Night Classes:

- Stargazing: Explore celestial bodies and constellations.
- Nocturnal Animal Viewing: Experience the thrill of wildlife at night.
- Storytelling under the Stars: Connects with nature through engaging narratives.

Outdoor Experiences:

- Sleep Outs on the Reserve: Immerse yourself in the natural environment.
- Bush Cooking Skills: Learn to prepare meals in the wild.
- Survival Skills: Essential techniques for surviving in the bush.

Job Preparation Workshops:

- Job Application Guidance: How and where to apply for jobs in the industry.
- CV Writing Workshops: Crafting impactful resumes.
- Interview Preparation: Strategies for successful interviews.

Practical Skills Development:

- 4x4 Driving and Mechanics: Hands-on training for vehicle management.
- Game Capturing Techniques: Learn about wildlife management practices.
- Snake Handling: Safety and techniques for working with snakes.

Communication and Leaderships:

- Conflict Resolution Workshops: Effective communication strategies.
- Emotional Intelligence Workshops: Enhance interpersonal skills.

Safety and Emergency Training:

- First Aid Certification: Essential medical training for outdoor environment.
- Fire Fighting Skills: Learn to mange and prevent fire hazards.

Conservation and Management:

- Reserve Management: Insights into wildlife conservation practices.
- Health and Safety Principals: Best Practices for maintaining safety in the field.

Hospitality Skills:

- Front of House (FOH) and Back of House (BOH) Training: Essential skills for the hospitality sector.
- Event Planning and Management: Organising memorable experiences.

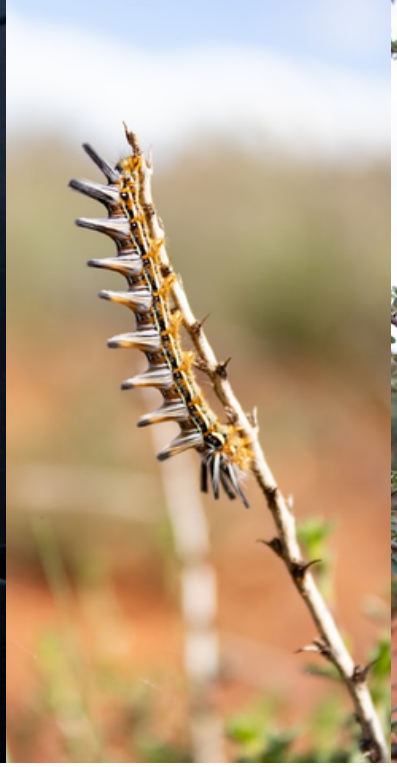
Nature Appreciation:

- Birding Skills: Techniques for bird watching and identification.
- Photography Workshops: Capturing the beauty of the wilderness.
- Track and Signs, Trailing.

Maintenance Skills:

- Handyman Training: Basic repair and maintenance skills.

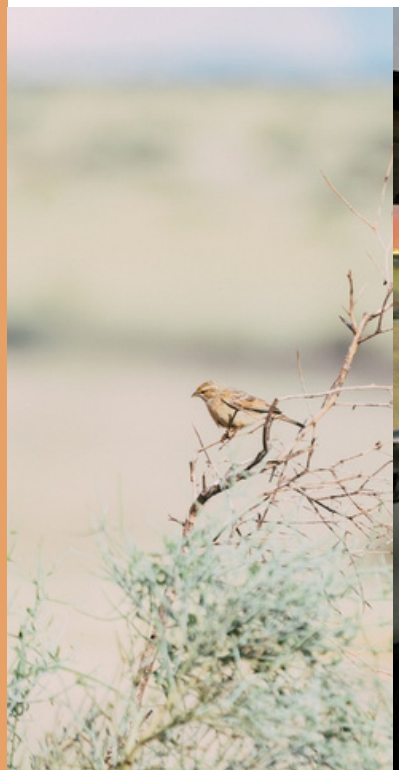
KUKAMA
WILDLIFE COLLEGE



OFF TIME

While the 9 week course at Kukama is intensive, we ensure that students have enough off time to relax and recharge. Although there is no semester break, you'll have opportunities to take naps, study, and explore the stunning Northern Cape.

Additionally, you can unwind on the property, a perfect spot to breathe and enjoy the natural surroundings. We believe that a balanced approach enhances learning and personal well-being, making your experience at Kukama even more enriching.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full uniform & field kit (binoculars, backpack, headlamp, field guides, etc.).
- FGASA fees.
- Guest speakers & excursions.
- 3 Basic meals per day & accommodation.
- Weekly laundry.
- Rocket Emergency Medical Coverage.
- Extra modules: First Aid and Fire Fighting.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Transfers to and from Kukama (assistance available).
- Personal medical aid (required).
- Toiletries & personal items.
- Bird identification app (optional, recommended).
- Spending money.
- Bank fees for international payments.

MAKING YOUR DREAM A REALITY

We've partnered with Capitec Bank to make studying at Kukama accessible.

The call of the wild is strong, and at Kukama Wildlife College, we believe that financial barriers should not stand between you and your conservation journey. That's why we have partnered with Capitec Bank to help make your dream a reality.

This exciting partnership offers a straightforward financial solution, allowing you to focus on what truly matters: your hands-on, immersive training in the heart of the Kalahari.

Your dream of becoming a safari guide is closer than ever.

(Only for RSA STUDENTS)

CAPITEC

A FAST TRACK TO YOUR FUTURE

We understand that time is of the essence when you're ready to embark on a new adventure. The application process through Capitec is quick and seamless, designed to tackle a major potential barrier for aspiring students.

Our joint mission is to get you out of the office and into the bush as swiftly as possible.

HOW IT WORKS

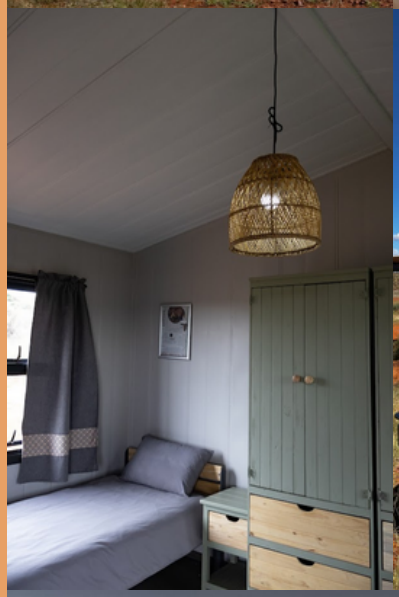
Securing your place at Kukama is now simpler than ever. With this partnership, you can apply for an education loan that covers your course fees.
The loan repayments are calculated at a competitive 11% interest rate.
This means you can begin your training and start changing the world without having to pay for the course upfront.

The Capitec application process is straightforward:

- Click **here** to apply online.
- Capitec reviews your application and provides a speedy decision, with applications approved within 90 minutes.
- Once approved, the funds are paid directly to Kukama Wildlife College, securing your spot.
- You begin your repayment plan only once your studies are complete, giving you the time to find employment and start your career as a conservation leader.

LIFE ON CAMPUS

- **Accommodation:** Modern two-bedroom cottages, ensuite, furnished.
- **Meals:** 3 wholesome meals daily.
- **Facilities:** Lecture hall, library, Wi-Fi hotspot, student chill area.
- **Community:** Evenings around the boma, night drives, stargazing.
- **Balance:** Time to rest, study, or explore the Northern Cape.



MALOBA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

ABOUT THE MALOBA TRAINING EXPERIENCE

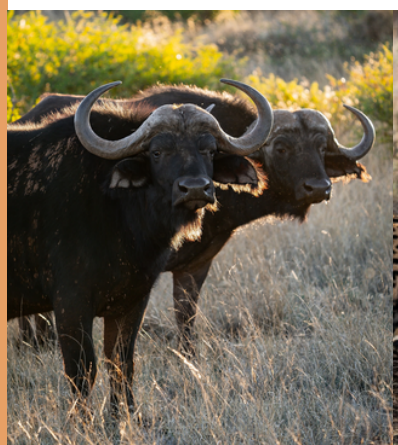
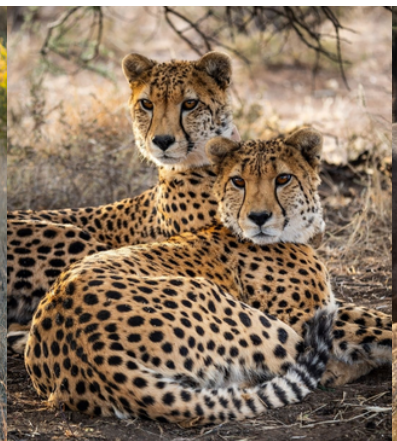
Kukama students are heading to Maloba Private Game Reserve for the final phase of their course, an immersive, real-environment training block that prepares them for life as professional guides. Maloba offers diverse habitats, free-roaming wildlife and authentic working-reserve conditions, making it the ideal place for students to apply their skills beyond the classroom.

The reserve is home to some of the Big 5, including species such as Rhino, Lion and Buffalo, as well as endangered wildlife like Cheetah, giving students the opportunity to develop awareness, safety understanding and responsible conservation practices around high-profile animals.

DURING THEIR TIME THERE, STUDENTS WILL:

- Take part in reserve-based activities.
- Conduct practical assessments in the field.
- Gain confidence in real guiding scenarios.
- Experience how a functioning private reserve operates.
- Develop awareness, safety, tracking and observation skills.

This partnership allows students to step into a professional setting, refine their abilities, and graduate ready for the guiding industry.

WILL I BE EMPLOYABLE?

Yes
You graduate as a FGASA-endorsed, CATHSSETA-accredited Nature Site Guide (NQF2).

We support you by:

- Connecting you with lodge and reserve partners.
- Hosting CV workshops & interview prep.
- Guiding you on job applications.

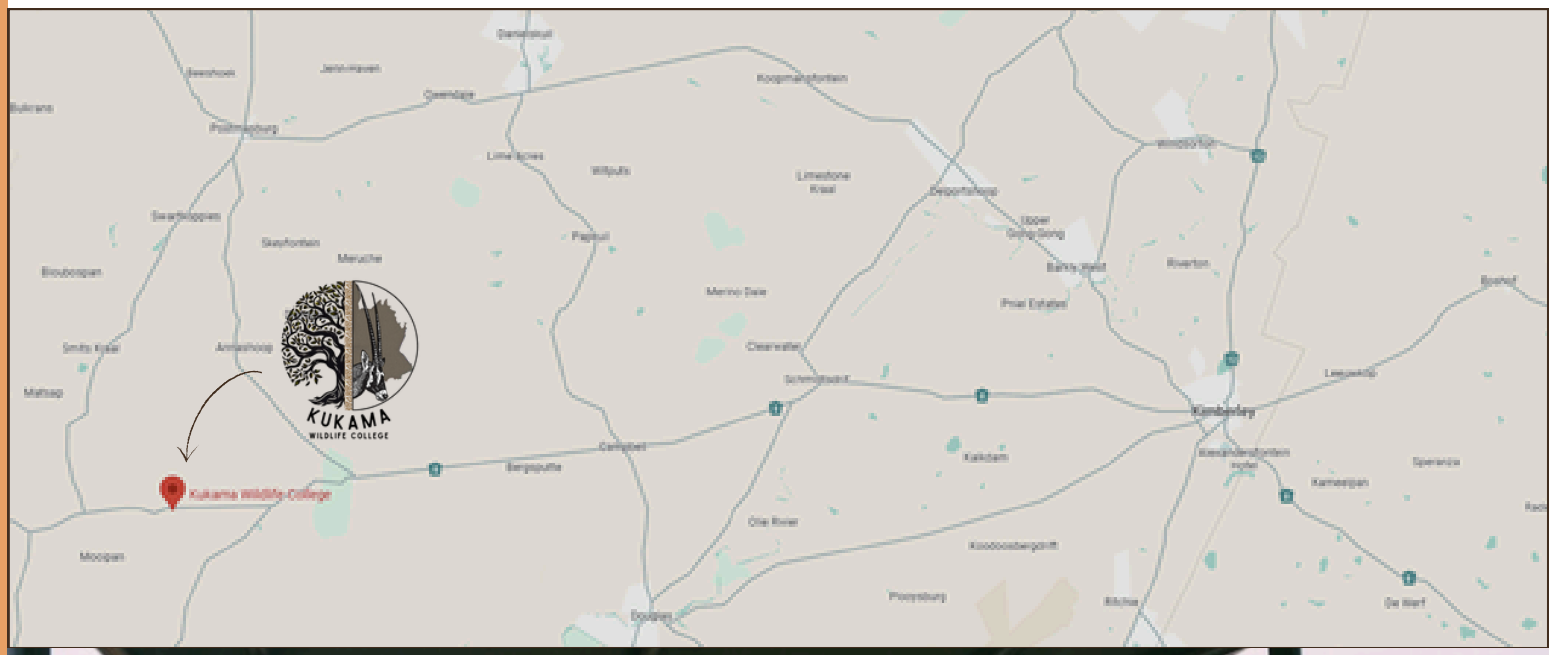
While employment cannot be guaranteed, completing this program significantly improves your opportunities.

GETTING HERE

Kimberley Airport: 2 hrs (180 km)
Upington Airport: 3 hrs (260 km)
Johannesburg (O.R. Tambo): 7 hrs drive
Cape Town: 10 hrs drive

Transfers available from Kimberley or Upington — arrive before 2pm.

(Transfers start from R2500.00 one way)

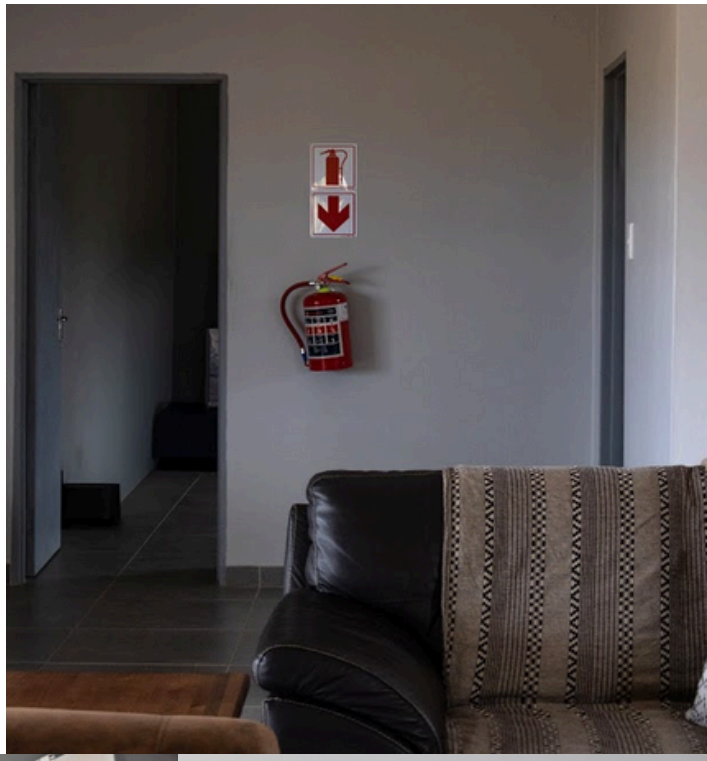


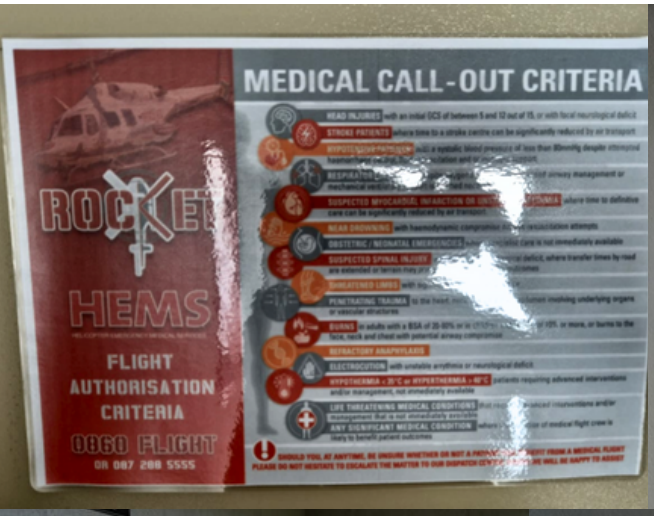
HEALTH & SAFETY

Kukama is situated in a malaria-free area, providing a safe environment for students.
While ticks may be present, we will offer a thorough introduction to safety protocols, ensuring you are aware of any potential risks on the property.

It's crucial to have medical coverage before your arrival, as we prioritize the health and safety of our students. We also provide reliable Wi-Fi, and our insurance policies cover both students and the property, complete with contingency plans.

Most importantly, our dedicated duty manager is always on hand to ensure that you feel safe and secure through out your stay.





TESTIMONIALS

The views behind me are also one of the things that took me away when I first arrived. It wasn't like anything I've seen." - Cavin Kirchmann

"The one word to describe Kukama is 'spectacular'."
- Cavin Kirchmann

“I was surprised about how welcoming and friendly everyone was. I felt at home so quickly.” - Samuel Gatti

"If you are looking for a place where you can learn, grow and feel at home, this is the right place. You’ll never forget this place.”
- Samuel Gatti

THE KUKAMA STORY

Founded by Christiaan Venter and Nikki Meiring, Kukama was born from a lifelong love of nature and education.

Together, they transformed Olienhout from a cattle farm into a wildlife reserve and rewilding hub and built a college that gives future guides the chance to learn in a living conservation story.

PARTNERS

The professional body for nature guides and trackers in Southern Africa, FGASA sets certification standards, supports career development, and upholds ethical practices in guiding and conservation.

CATHSSETA promotes skills development and training in the culture, arts, tourism, hospitality, and sport sectors through grants, oversight of accredited training providers, and quality assurance.

An additional reserve our students have the privilege to explore, with the possibility of future opportunities opening up after their course.

A non-profit organisation dedicated to conserving Africa's pangolins through awareness, protection, rehabilitation, and collaborative efforts across the continent.

A South African emergency medical service specialising in helicopter air ambulance, air rescue, and rapid response, with a subscription-based outreach (ROCKET Connect) and 24/7 operations.

YOUR BUSH-READY CHECKLIST

- Clothes & toiletries
- Medical aid details
- Pocket money for treats
- A smile & sense of humour
- Curiosity for the wild

If you've got these, you're set for an unforgettable adventure!

Because at Kukama, we've got the rest covered — your full uniform, training kit, hearty meals, and comfortable accommodation are all included.

HOW TO APPLY

Email **info@kukamacollege.co.za** for your application form.

Complete and return Application Form.

Receive your invoice, pay deposit and email the proof of payment to us.

Receive your Welcome Pack with packing list, directions, and schedule.

Maximum 12 students per intake — spaces are limited!

ARE YOU EXCITED?

This is more than a course. It's your chance to be part of a rewilding legacy.
At Kukama, you won't just study the bush — you'll live it.

Ready to take the first step? Apply today.