

South Africa: Geology and Agriculture

July 7-24, 2018

The Courses: PHS-180 Evolution of the Earth and GLS-120 Education Experience Abroad (6 credits total)

This course introduces you to the landscape, the rocks, and the people of South Africa. Our six-credit summer experience begins with two weeks in Iowa to hone our skills of reading our local geology and culture. Then we set off for two weeks in South Africa, where we will partner with a school there – the University of Mpumalanga – to explore first-hand South African geology, ecology, culture, and agriculture. We will visit a land where the sun lies to the north, where a monkey might climb through an open window, where the bedrock tells a three billion year old history, and where you can make a friend from the other side of the world.

The Destination: the Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa

Named in Swati "the land where the sun rises", Mpumalanga province draws people by its magnificent scenery, its wildlife, its mineral wealth, and its fertile farmland. The province lies in the east of South Africa, bordering Swaziland and Mozambique. Our home base is the provincial capital city Mbombela, which lies in a broad valley of fields and groves of diverse crops. To our south is the mining town of Barberton with its saga of gold mining, as well as The Geo Trail, a road that takes visitors through 3.6 billion years of Earth's history. To our north is the picturesque Blyde River Canyon Nature Preserve, full of panoramic views, waterfalls, and stark hills. To our east is Kruger National Park, internationally known and visited for its wildlife. We will be in the center of one of the most geographically diverse and beautiful provinces in South Africa.

The Experience Highlights:

- *Kruger National Park*: see lions, rhinos, water buffalo, leopards, elephants, and more; learn the ecology and the landscape of the South African wilderness.
- The Geo Trail: go back billions of years in a few miles of road!
- Excursions to Blyde River Canyon Nature Preserve, the world's 3rd highest canyon, lots of beautiful waterfalls, and grand vistas like "God's Window"
- Excursion to a gold mine
- Experience a South African cultural village
- Survey citrus, macadamia, flower, and sugarcane farming and processing
- Interact and learn alongside UMP students



"Studying abroad is an experience of a lifetime. You'll make so many memories and you'll expand your perspectives of other cultures."
-Kirkwood student, 2017 program



Estimated Program Fee: \$3,750
\$1,000 Global Advantage Scholarship available!

Includes:

Airfare
Housing
Some Meals
Health Insurance
Many Cultural Excursions
Most In-Country Transit

Does not include:

Tuition: 6 Summer credits
Passport Fee
Personal Expenses

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International Programs
1154 Linn Hall
319-398-5579



Tentative Program Itinerary:

7 July (Saturday) Depart USA Plane + 1 Day

9 July (Monday) Arrive UMP

10 July (Tuesday) Orientation: ATM/banking, introduction between UMP and Kirkwood, campus tour, grocery, WiFi set up

11 July (Wednesday) Barberton: Geological Trail

12 July (Thursday) Barberton: Mining and Sudwala Caves

13 July (Friday) Shangana Cultural Village, Mac-Mac Pools, Waterfalls

14 July (Saturday) God's Window, Lunch at Graskop, Blyde River Canayon, Three Rondavals, Bourke's Potholes

15 July (Sunday) Free Day for Laundry/Journaling/Evening Sundowner

16 July (Monday) Malalane: Soil Pits, Timbali Ag Incubator, Macadamia Farm

17 July (Tuesday) Sugar Cane Farm

18 July (Wednesday) Citrus Farm

19 July (Thursday) Arrive Kruger (Safari)

20 July (Friday) Kruger (Savanna Ecology)

21 July (Saturday) Kruger (Soils + Land Use)

22 July (Sunday) Kruger (Water Quality)

23 July (Monday) Depart for USA

Faculty Contacts:

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