

Namibia 2008

The third study abroad program was offered in 2008 and was a great success. Not only was it an enjoyable adventure, the educational value of this program was immeasurable as highlighted by the student's testimonials.



Staying at a backpackers lodge, Windhoek

This year we stayed for the first two nights in a backpackers lodge in Windhoek, rather than drive to the game reserve we had camped at on previous trips. The backpackers lodge is very popular with travelers from all over the world. For many students this was a new experience and fascinating to hear British, German, Dutch, French, Russian, and Australian being spoken.



Traveling in the truck

The highlights of the program were three days in the Namib Desert, a free day in the coastal town of Swakopmund, three days in the Etosha National Park and three days spent at the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). This year students also had the opportunity to witness a medical check-up at CCF of a “problem” cheetah that was brought in from a farm. This gave some students the chance to get close-up and hands-on experience.



The group with the anaesthetized cheetah ready for examination

Unfortunately, next year's program will be more expensive due to the rising costs of fuel. But there is good news, the Department of Forestry has provided scholarships of up to \$2,500 for students in their department. This will cover a large part of the cost.



At the Tropic of Capricorn



Fieldwork in the desert

Testimonials

All in all it was miraculous. No words really encompass it all. I am so happy to have gone, I learned more than I ever could have from a book about myself, my country and my planet. The land was beautiful and I feel full of hope and compassion. If the whole reason for me attending college was so that I could partake in this African adventure then I would do the whole school thing ten more times just to make it worth it. Thank you.

Haley, Zoology



Picnic lunch



Relaxing after a long drive



Camping in lion country

The extended study to Namibia I participated in was a life experience of immeasurable value. In going on the trip I gained knowledge about a variety of different ecosystems, wildlife management, and hands-on animal conservation. The plants and animals witnessed on the trip were simply stunning. The trip itself

engendered the feeling of *biophilia* in me in addition to demonstrating what a fully functional ecosystem looks like. Further, seeing and living in the Namibian culture gave me a better understanding of how American society fits into the world tapestry. Rising every morning was easy because of the mystery that was waiting for you that day. The trip was extremely worthwhile and despite having been to Africa twice before in my life, this was far and away the best of the three.

Gavin, Environmental Biology



Okaukuejo Camp in the Etosha N.P.