



Study Abroad: Examining Game Farms, Small / Big Scale Farms, and Wildlife Conservation in South Africa and the United States



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Introduction

During winter break I participated in a two-week faculty-led study abroad course, ALS 3954: SA: South Africa, directed by Dr. Ozzie Abaye and Dr. Mark Reiter. This experience took place in the country of South Africa within the major regions of Johannesburg, Stellenbosch, and Cape Town. While in South Africa, I visited many places such as Kruger National Park, Macadamia Farms and a Dairy Farm, the Cullinan Diamond Mine, a Game Farm, as well as the University of Stellenbosch. Visiting these places allowed me to compare these industries to those in the United States, specifically Virginia.



A selfie of us after a 15-hour plane ride. Happy to be on our way to our hotel for dinner and rest!

Objectives

- To experience and observe the similarities and differences between Game Farms, Wildlife Conservation, and Farms in South Africa and in Virginia.
- To figure out what variables might affect these industries

Study Abroad Responsibilities

- Weekly Meetings
- Pre-Departure Reflection
- Post-Departure Reflection
- Final PowerPoint Presentation
- Literature Review

Study Abroad Experience

During my trip, I got to visit a lot of different places. I got to stay at a Game Farm and learn about trophy hunting. I got to stay in Kruger National Park and went on Safaris which led me to see some of the Big 5. Next, I was able to visit a diamond mine where the world's biggest diamond was found. For the remainder of my trip, I stayed at Stellenbosch University where I had the opportunity to listen to lectures, visit their Sustainability Institute, and visit places such as a winery, Robben Island, and Cape Town.



A group of us in Cape Town before we headed up Table Mountain on an aerial cableway

Nelspruit



Kruger National Park



Cullinan and Western Cape



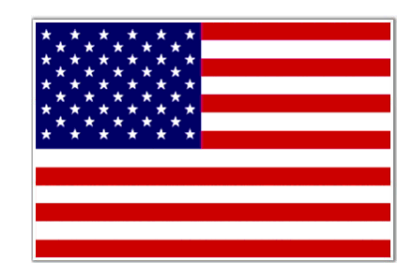
My Project

- Examine the Game Farm industry
- Examine small-scale farms as well as big-scale farms
- Examine wildlife and wildlife conservation
- Use the information I gained through research as well as tours and talks with people throughout our trip to better understand what it means to run these operations in South Africa
- Use this information in order to find similarities and differences between similar industries in the United States (Virginia)



Cows in a dairy farm being milked by a 60-point rotary milking parlor

Results



- Hunting year round
- Trophy hunting = ecotourism
- Thieves steal crops from farms and sell them by highway
- Farm attacks which can result in murder
- Cow farmers look out for things such as mastitis
- Farm workers live on the farm in small communities
- LOAD SHEDDING!
- Hunting seasons and hunting hours
- Small number of game farms
- Farming is safer
- Cow farmers look out for things such as mastitis

Conclusion

Overall, my study abroad trip was one of the best, experiences in my life. Not only did I get to experience a new country on a new continent, but I was also able to learn about these different industries that I never really stopped to think of before. I was able to go in and see farms in action, diamond miners at work, animals in the wild, and parts of the wine-making process. All of which were 10/10 experiences. I would say this trip was successful in showing me the good and the ugly within these industries as well as shining some light on big differences. I feel as though I have gained a good insight into these industries as well as into South Africa just from talking to those who live and work there. I am beyond grateful that I was able to go on this trip and would love to do it again and visit even more locations which would help get an even deeper understanding of what working in these industries is like and how it varies within the same country.