



HEARTH

EASTERN CAPE · SOUTH AFRICA

RETURN TO THE FIRE

The Phoenix Rises

A nine-day wilderness experience in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. Wild country, wild animals, honest fires and good company.

Gather · Create · Tend · Renew

SMALL GROUP · FULLY HOSTED · BY APPLICATION

Return to the fire. Return to yourself.

There is a stillness that settles over a person who has sat quietly in wild country, watching, waiting, belonging. It is the stillness of remembering what you are part of.

The Phoenix Rises is nine days in the wild Eastern Cape of South Africa: part adventure, part field school, part homecoming. You will walk with elephants and learn tracking from professional guides. You will stand alongside the rangers who hold the front line of species survival, spend time in the communities for whom conservation is a livelihood rather than an idea, and take to the Indian Ocean to follow the story offshore. Between it all there is space for the quieter work: intuitive art in wild surroundings, careful attention, and the kind of raw connection, with nature, with others, with yourself, that modern life rarely allows.

The deeper purpose is to remember what it means to be a custodian: *of land, of wildlife, of community, of relationships, and of oneself.*

And every night we return to the fire, as people have for a hundred thousand years. The fire is tended throughout the nine days, and so is the circle around it: food, stories, laughter, and honest conversation with room to breathe. You arrive as strangers; you leave as a community. People go home steadier and clearer, carrying a different idea of the world and of their own place in it, part of the Hearth itself.

9 Days

FULLY HOSTED,
ALL-INCLUSIVE

4 : 1

MAXIMUM GUESTS
PER EXPERT GUIDE

12

FIELD MODULES
& MASTERCLASSES

1

PRIVATE LODGE,
EASTERN CAPE BUSH

Who gathers here

- People drawn by curiosity, seeking a deeper understanding of themselves, nature and the wider world.
- Those who value meaningful experiences, good company and the opportunity to slow down, reconnect and see with fresh eyes.
- Future custodians: people ready to play their part in caring for the places, people and wildlife they encounter, and to leave them better than they found them.

One Fire. Many Hearths.

HEARTH began around a fire in a field in Dorset, United Kingdom, where artists, makers, adventurers and entrepreneurs gathered to share food, stories and ideas, refusing to let the flame go out with the summer.

The Phoenix Rises is the first international expression of HEARTH, rooted in long-standing friendships, stewardship and the extraordinary landscapes of South Africa, a place that keeps reminding us of what matters most: good people, meaningful experiences and a closer relationship with the natural world.

Different country. Same flame.

WHY FIRE

Meaningful things rarely appear fully formed.

They are tended into being.

Fire is one of humanity's oldest forces of transformation. It turns darkness into light, cold into warmth, and raw ingredients into nourishment. Around fire we have gathered, celebrated, grieved, created and learned for thousands of years. It is where stories are shared, ideas emerge and communities form.

On this journey the fire is the method. Each day is spent in wild country, learning what it asks of us. Each evening the group returns to the flame to make sense of it together, with laughter as welcome as silence. What the bush teaches by day, the fire settles by night. And what the fire burns away, you were ready to leave behind.

Every fire ends in ash, and ash is where things begin again. The phoenix is an old story about something people have always known: we are renewed by returning to where we came from.

THE CATALYST

Fire

Warmth and light. The spark of creativity, renewal and possibility, kept burning at the centre of every HEARTH gathering.

THE VESSEL

Community

Belonging and hospitality. A place to participate and contribute. Guests arrive as strangers and leave as a circle.

THE EXPRESSION

Custodianship

In the Eastern Cape, creativity takes its wildest form: the tending of land, wildlife and community. Stewardship as a living craft.

The form may change. The flame remains.

GATHER · CREATE · TEND · RENEW



Rooted in place. Welcomed like family.

The Eastern Cape is a place that has quietly shaped the founder's own life: somewhere to return to whenever life grew noisy, where the rhythm of the bush, the fires, the sunsets and the people could be relied upon for perspective and grounding. The fire was already burning here. Drawn by its light and warmth, HEARTH simply joined it.

The experience is built around an established family whose life has long been woven into this landscape: the lodge, the guides, the conservation knowledge, the relationships and the community around them. Local people are employed and local knowledge leads. HEARTH brings the philosophy, the hosting and the guest journey. Together they make something neither could make alone. Arriving here feels like being welcomed into someone's home, because that is exactly what it is.

The practitioners

Everyone who teaches here works in the world they are teaching. Practitioners first and always: everything comes from lived experience.

- Professional conservationists and experienced wildlife managers
- Field guides and trackers who learned this country on foot
- Working anti-poaching rangers, and former UK Special Forces personnel
- Marine specialists on the deep water and the estuary
- Community leaders from the towns and settlements the journey visits
- Fine artists, creatives, founders and entrepreneurs

*“Local knowledge leads. HEARTH keeps the fire.
Together they make something neither could make alone.”*

THE EASTERN CAPE HEARTH



Into the bush.

01

ARRIVE

Arrival & First Fire

You are met at Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) airport in the afternoon and driven into the bush to your private lodge. The evening is given to the first fire: a welcome dinner, introductions to your guides and fellow guests, and the briefing that frames the days ahead.

02

LEARN

Conservation & Community

The field school opens: morning masterclasses on conservation, community, grounding, fieldcraft and tracking. The afternoon is spent on foot, with a guided bush walk and game viewing, followed by a sunset talk and fireside debrief.

03

UNDERSTAND

The Role of Protected Areas

Morning sessions on wildlife custodianship, national parks and the machinery of protection. Then back into the field: an afternoon hike and game viewing, and a sunset talk in the open. After supper, the first intuitive art session by firelight, putting the day down on paper before words get to it.

04

ENCOUNTER

Among Giants

A day of close encounter. The morning is spent with cheetah and the conservationists working to secure their future; the afternoon walking with elephants, an experience that recalibrates one's sense of scale, and of self. Fireside debrief in the evening.

05

PROTECT

The Custodian's Duty

The heart of the course. A full anti-poaching training day: the morning on custodianship and the last line of defence for species survival; the afternoon on a practical anti-poaching field exercise; and after dark, a night observation post under the southern stars with the rangers themselves.

*“We are the last line of defence: for species survival,
for mankind, and for all living creatures.”*

COURSE DOCTRINE · DAY FIVE

People, ocean, and the long view.

06

CONNECT

Community & Symbiosis

Conservation succeeds only where communities thrive. The morning is spent with Makhanda Child Welfare, understanding the human side of the conservation economy; the afternoon with the Kowie Bushman community, whose relationship with this land long predates any park boundary. Return to the lodge fire by evening.

07

OCEAN

The Ocean's Turn

The story continues offshore. A deep-sea charter on the Indian Ocean opens the marine conservation module, followed by a slow cruise up the Kowie River, an estuary that serves as the nursery of the sea. Evening discussion on how responsible tourism sustains it all.

08

WITNESS

The Big Five

A full game drive through one of the region's premier photographic reserves, in search of lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo, followed by a closing seminar on the role photographic reserves play in the wider conservation landscape. A final fire of summary, reflection, and ideas worth carrying home.

09

RISE

The Phoenix Rises

A last bush breakfast, then a morning transfer to Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) airport. You arrived one person and you leave another: steadier, clearer, a custodian now, carrying the fire home with you.

*“A hundred million small decisions
far outweigh one big one.”*

ON SUSTAINABLE USE · MODULE TWO

IN THE FIELD

Nine days in wild country.

Tracking school · Among giants · The Big Five · The ocean's turn · Wild water



Twelve modules, taught where they matter.

Every module is delivered in the field by working guides, rangers, conservationists and artists, lived the same day, and talked through at the fire the same night. The learning soaks in the way wild places have always taught: through experience itself.

I

Conservation & Community

How wildlife economies fund schools, clinics and livelihoods, and why conservation fails without people.

II

Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Meeting today's needs without stealing from tomorrow. Every wild place is now a garden humans must tend.

III

Becoming Grounded

Finding wholeness in nature and the company of wild animals: the quiet discipline at the centre of the HEARTH ethos.

IV

The Human Need for Animal Connection

Why contact with animals steadies us, and what modern life lost when it was designed out.

V

Bush Safety & Fieldcraft

Reading the bush, moving through it competently, and staying safe among animals that owe you nothing.

VI

Tracking

The oldest science: reading spoor, sign and story from the ground, taught by those who learned it as a language.

VII

Travelling Wisely

Street wisdom and situational awareness abroad, urban and field, so confidence replaces caution.

VIII

Wildlife Custodianship & Obligation

Custodianship as everyone's obligation: what it means to be the last line of defence for species survival.

IX

Anti-Poaching & the Front Line

The realities of protection: doctrine, practical exercise, and a night observation post with working rangers.

X

Community Engagement, Present & Future

Symbiosis between people and parks, and how engagement today decides what exists in fifty years.

XI

Marine & Estuarine Conservation

From deep water to river mouth: the ocean systems and estuary nurseries on which coastal life depends.

XII

Nature & Intuitive Art

Guided intuitive art in wild surroundings: making before thinking, for insight and raw connection. It asks for willingness alone.

Taught honestly

Conservation, taught with honesty and nuance.

Guests encounter its real approaches: wildlife management, anti-poaching, community-led conservation, photographic tourism and sustainable use, including the difficult conversations that surround regulated hunting. Guests are trusted to weigh what they see and form their own conclusions.

From observation, to participation, to responsibility.

HEARTH curates the people, hosts the journey and shapes its rhythm: creating space for reflection, encouraging participation, introducing creativity, maintaining the fire, and building the community around it. Guests are supported before departure, throughout, and long after the return. And the design is deliberate: the journey moves from watching, to taking part, to carrying responsibility. That is the direction custodianship has always run. It is serious about the work and light on ceremony: expect good food, good humour, and joy in wild places.

Your part in it

This is a participatory journey. Guests are invited to contribute: to help tend the fire, to engage in conversation, to create, to observe carefully, to ask thoughtful questions, and to take part fully, with enough humour to keep it human.

Silence is welcomed too, and everything is by invitation. The journey gives back what is put in.

Space from the digital

On arrival, guests may choose to hand over their phones for the duration. Professional photography and film document the whole journey, so you are free to experience it rather than record it.

It is an invitation rather than an expectation: the freedom to be fully present.

Shaped around your people

The Phoenix Rises is, at heart, a group experience: a nine-day departure, joined by application and shared with people you first meet at the fire. It can also be taken privately and shaped around the people travelling. The land, the lodge, the practitioners and the fire stay constant; everything else can bend. Among the forms it might take:

- **Women's journeys:** travelled, guided and held entirely in women's company
- **Men's journeys:** in the spirit of HEARTH's Gentle-Men gatherings, with a particular welcome for those stepping out of service life
- **Dads & lads:** fathers and sons in wild country, and rites of passage marked properly
- **Recoupling:** couples trading routine for shared adventure, honest fires and remembering what they are made of together
- **Family & milestones:** bespoke and multi-generation, for significant birthdays, reunions and new chapters
- **Teams & leadership:** for organisations that want their people to return moving as one

The Circle: the journey carries on long after the airport

Every guest goes home a member of the HEARTH circle, a community bound by shared experience rather than social media. That means a fireside reunion held online with your group; an invitation to the exclusive annual HEARTH Gathering, where the wider circle meets around the original fire in Dorset; news from the conservation projects and communities you stood alongside; and first call on future HEARTH journeys and gatherings, wherever the fire is lit next. A place in the circle is earned one way: by having been there.

Ways to go deeper.

The Phoenix Rises is the flagship journey of HEARTH Eastern Cape, and it is where we suggest every guest begins. Around it, a family of deeper experiences is taking shape, each rooted in the same land, the same people and the same fire. Full guides will live at hearth.now as each one opens; write to circle@hearth.now to register interest today.



I

Conservation & Hunting

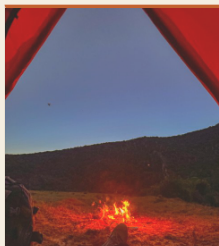
The full, honest engagement with wildlife management and sustainable use, guided by the people whose lives depend on getting it right.



II

Fieldcraft & Survival

Tracking, bushcraft, navigation and self-reliance, taught by practitioners to a standard that changes how you carry yourself in any wild place.



III

Retreats

Slower journeys built around stillness: nature immersion, intuitive art, rest, and long evenings at the fire.



IV

Adventure Motorcycling

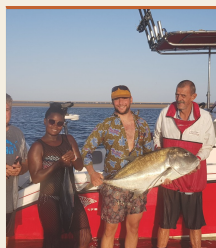
Small-group rides through the Eastern Cape's wild passes, open country and remote communities.



V

Fire Food & Biltong

The braai, the coals and the craft of biltong: South Africa's fire kitchen, learned by hand and eaten together.



VI

Marine Experiences

Deep-sea charters, estuary journeys and the wild coastline where the bush meets the Indian Ocean.



VII

Leadership & Teams

Fire-centred journeys for organisations: honesty, alignment, and people who come home moving as one.



VIII

Families & Private Journeys

The whole Hearth, taken privately: shaped around your people, your dates and your pace.

In the making

The HEARTH Camp at AfrikaBurn

The great desert festival of creativity, self-reliance and radical community, travelled the HEARTH way: from the Burn across the country to the Eastern Cape, one long adventure bound by a common fire.

WILD NEIGHBOURS & HOME

The company you keep. The place you return to.

Zebra, kudu and warthog on the doorstep · Thatch, comfort and quiet · Evenings worth staying out for



Tended to, from first fire to last.

Included

- All airport transfers and ground transport throughout
- Eight nights at a private bush lodge, full board
- Every activity, excursion, charter and reserve entry
- Expert guiding at no more than four guests per guide
- The full twelve-module field curriculum and materials
- Personal hosting by HEARTH from arrival to departure

Good to know

- Fly into Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha), South Africa, with direct connections via Johannesburg or Cape Town
- Moderate fitness is sufficient; days are active but unhurried
- Suitable for adults and accompanied older teenagers
- Group sizes are deliberately small; departures are limited
- International flights, travel insurance and gratuities are not included

Dates & investment on application

The Phoenix Rises runs in small, scheduled departures and by private group arrangement. Write to us and we will send current dates and investment, and begin a conversation about whether this journey is right for you. Places are limited, and offered by application. Every fire gathers its own circle. If this feels like yours, we would be honoured to welcome you around the fire.

WRITE

circle@hearth.now

VISIT

hearth.now

CALL

+44 (0)20 3576 6503

The Phoenix Rises is a HEARTH experience, rooted in the Eastern Cape of South Africa and delivered with the family, guides and practitioners who call it home. Itinerary elements may be adjusted for weather, animal welfare and safety, always in favour of the best possible experience. A portion of every booking directly supports anti-poaching operations and the community programmes visited along the way. HEARTH.NOW LTD · 128 City Road, London, EC1V 2NX, United Kingdom.



Keep the Fire Burning.

GATHER · CREATE · TEND · RENEW