

in the language of the /Gwíkwé
one greets another by asking:

"Tsamkwa /tge?"

"are your eyes nicely open"

WILDERNESS VIGIL

A VISION QUEST

with Lolla Odendaal & Jess Tyrrell

1 - 12 November 2025

ANYSBERG
SOUTH AFRICA

a vision quest is...

a wilderness rite of passage.

a ritual of remembering.

a radical act, to enter a wild place and willingly go without food. To be a different kind of hunter, to leave more than you take, to make prayers not chainsaw cuts.

People of all cultures have gone into the wild to retune their ear to the many-voiced earth, to seek guidance in times of uncertainty, to mark life transitions, to connect with their own and nature's wilder wisdom.

This passage into the bush is a dialogue with the non-human world. "This is the journey from dreaming to getting dreamt, getting claimed by a place. It's usually a slow, sometimes difficult and often mysterious process. Without a long term commitment to stewarding the experience afterwards, it can be hard to grasp quite what transpired.

Friends, that's where the work begins. Don't come looking for honey if you don't want to become a bee".

(Shaw)

12 DAY WILDERNESS CEREMONY

SEVERANCE

4 days building readiness, clarifying intention

THRESHOLD

4 days solo fast

INTEGRATION

4 days return and incorporation

Nature is the teacher

Wilderness is the place where we are re-calibrated, like a tuning fork, to a wider reality of more-than-human life. We revive an age-old reciprocity with a many-voiced world.

The teachings that happen here are not from the human realm. Here it is the bones of the mountain as teacher. The bee overhead as guide. This is ancestor time. They can be tough teachers, but offer blessings in their branches.

"Silence is not the absence of sound
but the presence of everything."

- Gordon Hempton



JESS TYRRELL

Jess is a wilderness guide, herbalist and psychotherapist. Her experience of leading wilderness journeys in Southern Africa and internationally has spanned the last 25 years. She consults for various organisations facilitating wilderness-based mentoring and education, rites of passage and nature-based curriculum design.

She teaches and offers therapy at the intersection of wellbeing, nature and belonging and all her work is dedicated to promoting and supporting people's formation of their ecological identity - the knowing of belonging to and being an extension of a larger body - the earth herself. She is the founder of NatureAllied Journeys.

LOLLA ODENDAAL

Lolla is a wilderness guide, who is inspired by her witnessing the simplicity with which nature reveals our true selves. She started her journey as a nature conservationist, river guide & mountain guide and has been steered on a path deeper into the mysteries of the inter connectedness of our Human Nature. Lolla guides journeys into nature and leads nature based ceremonies. Her exploration of sacred landscapes focuses on revealing their relevance to modern lives. She is a co-founder of NATURE WITHIN SA.



cost

R21 600 per person.

Maximum group size: 10

INCLUDED in the cost:

All meals, permits, rustic accommodation, risk management, facilitation.

NOT INCLUDED:

Transport to Anysberg accommodation before and after the Vision Quest, personal equipment, follow up.

The vision quest asks of you to:

- * for just a little while, consider trading comfort for shelter*
- * spend 4 days and 4 nights fasting without the company of humans*
- * walk for approx 1 hour on uneven terrain with a backpack*
- * meet on the phone with one of the guides in order to confirm your place*

JOIN US

<https://www.naturealliedjourneys.earth/wilderness-vigil>

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