

German–South African Exchange Camp at Bergrivier Eco Retreat (6–8 March 2026)

From 6 to 8 March 2026, Bergrivier Eco Retreat had the pleasure of hosting a memorable German–South African exchange camp, welcoming learners from Sancto High School and Willow Academy in Gqeberha, South Africa, together with their German partners. This special gathering formed part of the ongoing *Schulpartnerschaften* programme, strengthening cultural ties and friendships across continents.

Parts of the weekend was also guided by Jac and Fritz from Bergrivier Eco Retreat, who ensured that the group experienced both the natural beauty of the retreat and the unique rhythm of farm life. From the moment the learners arrived, there was a spirit of excitement, curiosity, and camaraderie.

One of the first activities was pitching tents, which quickly turned into a fun team-building exercise. Learners worked together, sharing skills and laughter as they set up their temporary homes for the weekend. This was followed by a variety of outdoor activities designed to connect the group with nature and each other.

The group enjoyed scenic hikes through the surrounding landscape, taking in the fresh air and breathtaking views. A highlight for many was visiting the beautiful waterfalls, where the peaceful setting provided the perfect opportunity to relax and appreciate the natural environment. The learners also had the chance to try their hand at shooting with ketties, an activity that sparked both friendly competition and enthusiasm.

Farm life played an important role in the experience. Feeding the Nguni cattle gave the visitors a hands-on understanding of local agriculture and added a meaningful cultural dimension to the camp. Another unforgettable moment was the night walk, where learners explored the surroundings under the stars, creating a sense of adventure and wonder.

Throughout the weekend, the learners showed exceptional enthusiasm, respect, and kindness. It was truly a joy to host such a wonderful group of young people who embraced every activity with open minds and positive energy.

The camp was not only about activities, but about building friendships, sharing cultures, and creating lasting memories. Bergrivier Eco Retreat is grateful to have been part of this enriching experience and looks forward to welcoming these learners—and many more—in the future.