

Wildlife Management Expedition

Set Departure Dates for 2010

WM03: 27 Dec 2009 to 17 Jan, 2010

WM01: 16 May to 6 June, 2010

WM02: 20 June to 11 July, 2010

WM03: 28 Dec 2010 to 18 Jan, 2011

Join us for the experience of a lifetime in South Africa on a field study program for students in wildlife conservation and veterinary fields:

- Experience the world of wildlife conservation in Southern Africa, up close and personal.
- Meet and interact with conservationists and wildlife veterinarians in the field.
- Learn about the crucial balance of people and wildlife in conservation today.
- Gain hands-on experience by taking part in game capture operations.
- Earn university credits for these programs

About the International University Program

EcoLife Expeditions is an extension program of the Centre for Wildlife Management, and has been conducting short-term field study programs for international students since 1999. Two study programs are currently presented, the *Wildlife Management* program, the *Vets-in-the-Wild* program. These study programs are aimed at students of wildlife management, veterinary science and those with an interest in South African culture and conservation. The programs offer an exciting, hands-on, in-depth and educational experience, taking students behind-the-scenes in their respective fields of study in Southern Africa. Students are introduced to the fields of wildlife studies, wildlife management, biology, botany, forestry and zoology to the reality of African wildlife. Relating species to their natural habitat contributes much to the greater understanding of the interaction of life. Participants in the wildlife management and vets-in-the-wild programs also meet and learn from pioneers in game capture and those actively involved in the field of wildlife veterinary science on a day-to-day basis. These programs include a Capture and Care course where

students participate in actual game capture operations. Students also observe the role that veterinarians play at a rehabilitation centre, a reptile park and a rare-species breeding ranch.

The expeditions are in the form of a camping safari, and the duration is around 3 weeks. Students interact with rangers, veterinarians and researchers working in the field, giving them an insight into life, successes and problems associated with conservation in Africa today.

This revised program is tailor-made and open to students in Wildlife Management and Biological Sciences, currently enrolled at a recognized tertiary educational institution, as well as qualified professionals and also to all interested persons. Qualifying students enroll for the **NLB 311: Ecosystems and Wildlife Management** and **NLB 312: Participatory Nature Conservation** courses at the University of Pretoria and receive **8 credits** on successful completion.

Course Content:

- Wildlife Management Techniques
- Sustainable Resource Utilization
- Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation
- Reserve and Resort Management
- Capture and Care of wild animals

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival

Students arrive and are met at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport by EcoLife staff members. They are then transferred to a guest house, close to the University of Pretoria, and spend the afternoon relaxing before the evening welcoming dinner.

Accommodation: Guest house

Day 2: Orientation, Pretoria and Cheetah and Wild Dog Breeding Centre

Our expedition starts by attending a morning workshop at the Center for Wildlife Management of the University of Pretoria. We meet with staff members who have been involved in the pioneering of wildlife management in Southern Africa, and learn about the latest developments in wilderness management. After

lunch we visit a cheetah and wild dog breeding centre. This facility has gained international recognition for, through its unique captive breeding programs, bringing back from the brink of extinction both the cheetah and the wild dog.

Accommodation: Guest house

Days 3 - 6: Wilderness Training at Imbambala

For the next 4 days we are at a private bush camp on the banks of the beautiful Loskop Reservoir. The Bushveld wilderness reserve surrounding the reservoir is a pristine area in which to learn practical bush skills, track wildlife on foot and study wildlife behavior, and is perfect for learning how animals and man utilize plants. Weather permitting, we will also do some abseiling.

Accommodation: Tented camp

Days 7 – 10: Kruger National Park

After an early breakfast, we are on our way to the Lowveld. The Kruger National Park is one of the world's first proclaimed nature reserves to serve as a benchmark in the field of conservation. It is one of the largest pristine natural areas allowing pioneering wildlife research of international significance. Much of the knowledge applied in global scientific wildlife management originated in this Park. The biodiversity of this jewel of wilderness areas is spectacular and presents the ideal area for observing and studying most of the wildlife species Southern Africa has to offer. We experience African game viewing at its best. We will have ample opportunity to spot the BIG FIVE in their natural habitat. We enjoy an included sunset game drive with guides from the Park. Rest camp facilities include public telephones, a bank, a shop, restaurants and a laundry.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 11: Swadini Blyde Canyon Reserve

After a final game drive, exiting the Park, we arrive and establish our base at the beautiful Blydepoort Nature Reserve at the foot of the majestic northern Drakensberg Mountains (Mountains of the Dragon). This resort has well equipped laundry facilities, shop and public telephones.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 12: At Leisure

Today we enjoy at leisure to explore the reserve around the spectacular Blydepoort Reservoir under supervision of our expert guide. Other optional activities include swimming (in heated pools), hiking, abseiling and river rafting.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 13: Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and Reptile Centre

We visit a world famous Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre which serves a vast area of private reserves where African wildlife abounds. Orphaned or injured wild animals are cared for and treated here before they are returned to the wild. The interesting Reptile Centre is a great source of to learning about reptile ecology and get some hands-on time with the creatures.

Accommodation: Camping

Days 14 - 18 Hands-on Game Capture Course

The successful capture, handling and translocation of wildlife all form important parts of the wildlife veterinarian's program. The next five days are dedicated to observing and learning about and participating in actual game capture operations under the guidance of a world renowned specialist. Depending on the weather and availability, we will be able to attend and experience both chemical and mass capture of wild animals. Please note that mass capture of game is normally not done during the summer months due to the additional stress to the animals. We will, subject to the weather, also personally experience a mock darting exercise from a helicopter in flight.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 14: Private Game Reserve

We drive out to a private game reserve in the area and spend some time exploring the reserve and get to see a number of wild animals up-close.

Accommodation: Camping (Swadini)

Day 20: Sondela

After an early rise to strike camp we commence our long drive through rural villages and pretty towns to arrive at Sondela to set up camp.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 21: Wildlife Center and Graduation

After a leisurely breakfast we visit a wildlife rehabilitation center and get to spend time feeding and interacting with the orphaned and injured animals at the center. After lunch we will have enough time to write our exam. Our farewell dinner, followed by our graduation ceremony, is enjoyed under the stars around our last campfire.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 22: Departure

We depart for Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport, in time for our flights home or on to other destinations.

Cost per person sharing: US \$4,285

Price Includes:

- Accommodation for the duration of the program
- Transportation for the duration of the program
- Airport transfers as stated
- Camping equipment
- Permits and entry fees
- All meals and group activities

Price Excludes:

- Air travel to and from South Africa
- Visa costs
- Optional activities
- Alcoholic beverages

Application and Payments

- Undergraduate and graduate students in veterinary science, veterinary technology and pre-vet, as well as veterinary scientists and practitioners are encouraged to apply.
- Students with any combination of courses taken, grade level or academic year, are encouraged to apply.
- Neither Eko Tracks, nor the University of Pretoria, South Africa offers scholarships or financial aid for these programs. Students should contact their study abroad office or financial aid office and they may be able to assist or advise you with funding.
- There is no specific application date. However, the earlier you apply the better your chance of booking a trip that suits your time schedule.

- Trip dates are fixed. The trip of your first choice and as an alternative date a trip of your second choice must be indicated on the application form.
- To apply, complete the application form electronically and send, mail or fax it to the office of Eko Tracks.
- Once we have received your application form you will be pre-booked on the program and be sent a registration form and other documents.
- The registration form and a 25% deposit must be sent directly to the vendor in South Africa to secure your booking.

Note: Money can be transferred (wired) overseas through a:

- Bank - more expensive
- Moneygram (www.emoneygram.com) which is cheaper and quicker. Moneygram outlets are available at Walmart where you can pay by cash or debit card, or at some CVS Pharmacies where you can pay cash only for a maximum of \$900 per transaction.
- The office of Eko Tracks will send you a tour dossier with information about the passport, flight schedules, vaccinations, packing list and safety tips to assist you in preparing for the trip.
- The outstanding amount is payable at the latest one month prior to the start of the program.