



## KARONGWE CAMP INFORMATION

### Hoedspruit Area

#### THE LOCATION

Karongwe Camp is on the banks of the Karongwe River (mostly a dry river bed) in the 9 000 hectare (22 239 acre) Karongwe Game Reserve, which is to the south-west of the Kruger National Park. Through Karongwe Game Reserve flow three rivers which are tributaries of the Olifants River, carving their way through the bedrock and dividing the reserve. The vegetation of the reserve falls within the Savannah Biome of southern Africa with distinct vegetation zones being represented – mixed Lowveld and Mopane bushveld along with grass savannah, riverine vegetation and rocky outcrops.

Karongwe has the following habitats: undulating hills and valleys and broad-leafed woodland. We are allowed traversing over most of the reserve, except for one small section in the northern part of the reserve. This is not a restriction at all as it's quite a small section of the reserve.

#### Temperatures at the camp

Our summers are warm to hot, with temperatures ranging from mid 20°C (68°F) on the cooler cloud-covered rainy days, to the high 30°C (86°F) on average days. Occasional hot day's temperatures exceed 40°C (104°F). Winters are usually dry, with the average morning temperature of 6°C (43°F), with occasional cooler morning temperatures, and warmer mornings when there is cloud cover. Afternoon temperatures average in the mid 20s°C (68°F), with ranges of 18°C (65°F) to 32°C (89°F) expected. Occasional winter showers prevail, but are unusual. Rain in the summer takes the form of heavy thunder-showers, or frontal rainfall over a longer period of time.

#### Animals found in the Karongwe Game Reserve

Karongwe is a good place for viewing leopard, lion and cheetah as well as elephant and white rhino. As the camp itself is unfenced, we often have four-legged guests in the camp. Hyena makes nightly patrols of the camp and elephant, cheetah and lion have also made appearances in camp on occasion. There is abundant wildlife with over **60 different mammal species** including **lion, leopard, elephant, white rhino and cheetah**.

#### THE CAMP

**Accommodation:** The camp consists of 10 walk-in style Meru tents, with twin beds (students share tents) where we provide the bedding, shared ablution facilities and a central communal area. We can accommodate

a maximum of 20 students. We do have mosquito nets in camp. There are viewing decks in the central area of the camp, and many students choose to make the viewing decks their “bedroom” for part of or for the full duration of the course. The camp itself is unfenced.

**The central communal area:** This area is made up of 4 tall thatch-roofed open-sided decks which forms a square that encloses an open campfire area. One of the deck structures serves as the open air dining area, lecture room and study area. Two decks remain open to welcome the adventurous who want to spend their nights as close to nature as possible, while the last deck is home to Rob, your head instructor.

**Electricity:** **There is no electricity at the camp** – paraffin lamps are used for all lighting and a generator is used to charge camera batteries and cell phones for emergency use. Studying at night with paraffin lanterns can at times be challenging so a headlamp for this purpose is recommended as well as an extra battery operated lamp if you wish to study in your tent at night.

The generator is for camp use so will thus not be switched on for the sole purpose of charging learner cameras or other equipment. Learners are allowed to utilise it when it is running for camp purposes and need to understand that it is used at own risk.

**Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages (beers & ciders)** are sold from the camp and can only be paid for with cash. There are no credit/debit card or cheque facilities. Cordial fruit juices, tea and coffee is provided.

**Water:** Fresh, drinkable water are available from the taps.

**Laundry:** A laundry service is provided by the camp cleaning person and costs R45 per week for 2009, and R50 for 2010.

**Game viewing vehicles:** The game viewing vehicles are open Land Rover TDI’s

**EcoTraining staff in camp**

For the duration of your stay you will be hosted by:

Rob Francis – Head instructor

Jaco Jansen – Assistant instructor

**WHAT TO BRING**

	CHECK
• Appropriate walking shoes (hiking boots). Thorns go straight through takkies or sport shoes!	
• Sandals for around the camp	
• Khaki (or neutral coloured) clothing for the bush	
• Warm Jacket and jersey (gloves and scarf as it can get very chilly in the mornings and evenings in winter)	
• Hat for protecting both the head and neck	
• Sunscreen	
• Bath soap and towel	
• Torch – very important (a headlamp is very handy as well as a standing lamp for in the tent)	
• Extra batteries	

• Pen / pencil and small notebooks	
• A4 Notebooks / Notepads	
• Small field note books	
• We supply some bedding but please bring sleeping bag and small pillow for sleep outs. (an extra blanket is recommended in winter) (no sleeping bag and pillow needed for short courses)	
• Raincoat / Poncho	
• Insect / tic repellent	
• Water bottles, at least 2 litres. We recommend a camelback, MTB or walking water pouch.	
• Any small snacks / cigarettes etc you would like as there are no shops in the area!	
• Any reference / field guide books you may have	
• Binoculars and a birding book are essential for your birding courses!	
• Camera	
• Rucksack / daypack	
• Any personal medication	
• CASH (in ZAR Rands only) - sufficient cash for 4 weeks if you intend to purchase from the camp shop. The camps do not have easy access to the closest towns which have ATMs but the ATMs may not always work	
• Battery operated alarm clock (cellphone/mobile batteries run out and students need alarm clocks to wake up at the allocated times)	

- **Please note:** radios and C.D. players are NOT allowed.
- Personal mp3s and iPods with earphones can be used, although they must be used with sensitivity to fellow course participants and the environment. If you bring an iPod, please bring your own charging equipment for it, that is, a laptop or appropriate charger.



Join our Facebook group: **EcoTraining ~ Africa's Wilderness calls you** – to get advice and tips from students booked on the same course or to hear about the wonderful experiences of past students.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Purchasing all the books listed below is not expected. The camp has a library with a copy of each book but if shared amongst learners, they may often be inaccessible. **Should you want to purchase your own books, we recommend you purchase at least your own bird book, tree book and mammal book.** That way you can refer to them on drives or in camp without having to wait to use the library copy.

- **Sasol Birds of Southern Africa** – Ian Sinclair; Phil Hockey; Warwick Tarboton
- **The Wildlife of Southern Africa: A Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of the Region** - Vincent Carruthers
- **The Behaviour Guide to African Mammals** - Richard Estes
- **Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa** - Braam van Wyk & Piet van Wyk
- **Field Guide to Insects of South Africa** - Picker, Griffiths, Weaving
- **Starwatching: a Southern Hemisphere Guide to the Galaxy** - Anthony Fairall

- **A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa** - Johan Marais
- **Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa** - Frits Van Oudtshoorn
- **Tracks & Signs** - Chris & Tilde Stuart
- **Mammal Guide** - Burger Cillie
- **FGASA Level 1 Manual** (if you are doing the Level 1 Course) - Grant Hine
- **FGASA Trails Guide Manual** (if you are doing the Trails Guide Course) – Grant Hine

**Note:** Books are available at:

[www.fgasa.org.za](http://www.fgasa.org.za) (FGASA members only)  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)  
[www.kalahari.net](http://www.kalahari.net)

## MALARIA

### PLEASE TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST MALARIA

We are not permitted by law to give advice regarding medical information. However, learners should be aware that malaria occurs in the regions where our camps are situated. A visit to your local doctor/GP will provide you with the best options in terms of medical precautions. It is important that you use a good insect repellent

A 24-hour malaria hotline is available on:

**Mobile:** +27 (0)82 234 1800  
**Telephone:** +27 (0)11 678 2679  
**Toll Free:** 0861 MOZZIE (0861 66 99 43)

They will be able to give you a detailed explanation on the risks and advice on precautionary measures.

## INTERNATIONAL LEARNERS

### Visas

An international list of South African Embassies and their contact information can be found on: [www.rainbownation.com/travel/guides-southafrica/embassy.asp](http://www.rainbownation.com/travel/guides-southafrica/embassy.asp)

### Finance

The South African currency is the Rand. For up to date currency conversions, visit [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)  
 Learners can draw cash at Johannesburg or Cape Town International Airport - there are no withdrawal machines at Eastgate Airport in Hoedspruit near the camps.

### Medical Information

As with all adventures, we recommend that you consult a physician before spending time in a foreign country. In addition, health information regarding travelling worldwide can be found on these websites:

- The London Hospital of Tropical Diseases <http://thehtd.org>
- TravelDocs [www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com)
- SAA Netcare Travel Clinics [www.travelclinic.co.za](http://www.travelclinic.co.za)

Please ensure that you have plenty of personal necessary medication.

## POCKET MONEY

The camp does not have easy access to the closest town in which there is an ATM and this ATM may not always work.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE COST
Beverages	Beers/Ciders	R8.00
	Soft drinks	R7.00
	Bottled water	R6.00
	Chips	R5.00

	Chocolates	R8.00
<b>EcoTraining Clothing</b>	Caps	R85.00
	Beanies	R60.00
	T-Shirts	R120.00
<b>FGASA material</b>	Level 1 Training manual	R105.00
	Level 1 Workbook	R35.00

\*\*\* All prices quoted above are 2009 rates and subject to change without prior notice.

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## FGASA

If you are interested in obtaining any of the FGASA qualifications as part of the course, you need to be aware of extra fees that apply for the qualifications being offered. We have a separate information document on FGASA about who it is relevant to and the procedures to register. Registration with FGASA membership and for the theory exam paper must be done independently by you **prior** to starting the course. We do not process registrations at the camp. If you are attending our courses for a career in Field Guiding in southern Africa, and then please request this document at [enquiries@ecotraining.co.za](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za)

## COMMUNICATION FROM CAMP

- Cell phones: There is limited cell phone reception at the camp and there is no access to venues providing air time. We do not encourage use of cell phones at the camp at all as it is an intrusion for others wanting to enjoy the peace and quiet of the bush. There are charging facilities at the camp, please bring your own adaptors.
- Contact with your family/friends for emergency purposes only would be made via cell phone or radio from the head office to the camp manager.
- Please bring adaptors to suit your own plugs and South African plug/plug points

## GETTING TO CAMP

**Please note that all transportation before and after the course is to be arranged by yourself. The personnel at our office are available should you need further advice.**

**BY ROAD from Johannesburg:** (Travel time to Karongwe 5.5 hrs)

- EcoTraining Bush Bus - this option may not be available for every course so please enquire from our office
- Self Drive – We can also put you in contact with other course participant should you not wish to travel on your own.
- Car Hire, Avis [www.avis.co.za](http://www.avis.co.za) – Vehicles can be left at Eastgate Airport in Hoedspruit. You will then need to get a transfer with Sable Tours ([res@sabletours.co.za](mailto:res@sabletours.co.za)) to the camp (45 minutes away)

There is a learner car park at the camp where the vehicle can be parked. There is no undercover parking so it is recommended that you bring along a car cover.

**BY AIR from Johannesburg:**

- Fly to Eastgate Airport in Hoedspruit
  - Airline SA Express - book on [www.flysaa.co.za](http://www.flysaa.co.za).
  - Flight time: 1:15 hours
  - Book a transfer through Sable tours from Eastgate Airport to camp. The camp is 45 minutes away.

**Directions from Johannesburg to Karongwe Camp:**

- From Johannesburg: take the N12 to join with the N4 to Witbank.
- From Pretoria: take the N4 to Witbank.
- Continue along the N4 past Middelburg to the R33 turnoff to Belfast.

- Go into the town of Belfast and then take the R540 via Dullstroom to Lydenburg.
- From Lydenburg take the R36 via Ohrigstad and the Abel Erasmus Pass to the Strydom Tunnel.
- 12km after the tunnel, turn left onto the R36 towards Tzaneen.
- Continue along this road for 16 km and Spectra Gate will be on your right. If you reach Ingwe Game Lodge, you have gone 8km too far.

**The instructor will meet all the students at Spectra Gate at 14h00.**

## GALLERY

