

The Training Specialists
since 1993

EcoTraining



Pioneer and Leader in
Field Guide and Nature Training



**Specialist Course
Photography
with
Lex Hes**

www.ecotraining.co.za



Photography – Lex Hes

Specialist Photography

Taking great wildlife photos is not as easy as it looks. There is a lot of thought and time that goes into producing those great images that we see around us.

The purpose of EcoTraining's Wildlife Photography Course is to reveal some of these thoughts to budding wildlife photographers and at the same time to give photographers time and opportunity to put these thoughts into action in the field under the guidance of an experienced photographer.

We start the course with a discussion on the equipment needed to become a versatile nature photographer and then we go on to discuss the various elements that combine to make up a good nature photograph. Participants will spend mornings and afternoons in the bush looking for photographic opportunities followed by a lecture each day and constructive criticism of any digital photos taken during each activity.

The basic elements covered in lectures and demonstrations include: Equipment, Lighting; Backgrounds; Depth of field and Exposure; Composition; Impact; Shape and form; Highlights; Story telling and Action/ Motion Sequences



About Lex Hes

Lex Hes' (co-owner of EcoTraining) history of wildlife photography began at Londolozi Game Reserve, when after being strategic in the development of Londolozi and the field guiding there, he spent two years working as a 16 mm film cameraman making wildlife documentaries for Londolozi productions. After doing research on Marion Island, he returned with a collection of photographs that led to his first photography work being published in Minolta Mirror and Creative Photography magazines. On returning to Londolozi, Lex began to collect photographs and data on the behaviour of leopards in that area and this culminated in the publication of his highly-acclaimed book "The Leopards of Londolozi".

Lex left Londolozi in 1991 to start a career as a self-employed field guide and photographer and has since published a further four books: Bush School; Attracting Birds to your Garden in southern Africa, The Complete book of Mammals of southern Africa and Wild South Africa. His photographs have been published in numerous publications around the world and have been used in advertising campaigns.



Photography – Lex Hes

Course Location - Timbavati JayDee Bush Camp

We traverse across 12000 hectares of prime game area in the Timbavati Private Reserve adjacent to the Kruger National Park with regular sightings of lion, buffalo, elephant, leopard, rhino and general game. The birdlife is also absolutely excellent.

JayDee is a private camp with five en-suite thatched bungalows, a fully equipped kitchen and a cook to cater all meals, a dining room, lounge, open braai area, a look-out and a swimming pool. The living area overlooks a waterhole and provides you with the ideal bush classroom for lectures and discussions.

Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages (beers, ciders, and soft drinks) are sold from the camp and can only be paid for with cash. There are no credit card/debit card/cheque/forex facilities. Please notify us when booking of what you would like to drink so that we can stock that for you at the camp.

There is fresh drinkable water from the taps and cordial fruit juices, tea and coffee is provided. There is limited cell phone reception at the camp.



Daily Programme

A typical daily programme at the camp follows a routine of **rising early, usually before sunrise**, enjoying hot coffee and biscuits while you listen to the bush waking up and then leaving the camp for the morning drive and photography session in the wilderness. You will get back to the camp at about 11am, ready for a hearty brunch. After breakfast, Lex will present a lecture on the topic of the day. Thereafter you will be free to have an afternoon siesta; practice your newly learnt knowledge and techniques or simply relax and absorb the nature around you. At about 3pm, afternoon tea and eats are served before you head out on the afternoon drive for another photo workshop session in the wilderness. After dinner, there will be time around the camp fire for informal discussions on the day's photographic events.

Meals

- Wake-up to tea/coffee with biscuits and fresh fruit
- Enjoy a cooked breakfast, with cereals and fruit for brunch
- In the afternoon indulge with a few light snacks
- A balanced, warm plated meal finishes off the day for dinner



Course Rates

Please contact enquiries@ecotraining.co.za

A minimum of 4 persons is needed for this course to run.

Rate includes:

Specialist: Lex Hes

Lectures

Game drives

Walks

Accommodation

Meals

Tea, coffee and cordials

√ Further details on request or registration, contact details on next page or bookings are available on-line at www.ecotraining.co.za



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About EcoTraining

Established in 1993 with a mission to raise the standard of guiding in Africa, EcoTraining is the pioneer and leader of professional Field Guide and other nature training programmes. We aim to put the bush back into Africa for all those that are searching for the most authentic wildlife training and safari experiences.

Our vision

EcoTraining aims to ensure that guides in Africa are of the finest standard and training. Critical to us is that the guides acknowledge that as important as wildlife knowledge is, even more key is the right philosophy and approach – to take the countless opportunities given to them each day to impart conservation principles to their guests on safari. Every person that a Field Guide guides can go back to their country and take the conservation message back to positively influence a greater community. EcoTraining realises the potential influence that guides may have on their guests. We are trying to make a difference and want to impact where we can.

What will you learn and experience on an EcoTraining course

You will gain in-depth knowledge about nature, ecology and wildlife but that is only one aspect of the course. It is about absorbing nature, learning how to interact with the environment, and tuning you into the ecosystems. It's about becoming intertwined with the natural environment that sustains us. The bush is powerful and on course, you start to realize that the clutter of modern society's trappings becomes less relevant. There is a mental, emotional and spiritual shift to respect, consideration and sensitivity towards nature and your peers.

Along with learning about wildlife and nature... it is also a cultural interchange for our learners. The inter-human benefit of living and learning together in the outdoors for days tests one's social and emotional intelligence skills and provides you with a holistic life experience. It is a bonding experience in a few days participants learn about the natural environment, themselves and each other.

Learners who have attended our courses have returned to the "real world" with a different outlook on life. Some have taken this new outlook into their day-to-day lives and others, inspired by their time with us, have completely changed their lives and careers.

Because we respect and want to instill a respect in our guests for the environment, we do not take chances with nature. We have a 100% safety record since 1993 as we have and always will subscribe to two vital principals - safety and sensitivity. Sensitivity is exercised in relation to our entire environment which includes mankind.

**Have we forgotten that wilderness is not a place, but a pattern of soul
where every tree, every bird and every beast is a soul maker? Ian**



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