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# Spiders and Scorpions Course

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THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM NATURE ARE MANY - THE IMPORTANCE OF A BEETLE

# Spiders and Scorpions course

## Course Overview

Learn about Scorpions and Spiders in a fun and informative way, Jonathan will take you digging, scratching and climbing for scorpions in various conducive areas in the Reserves. Finding different species for examination, these creatures will be discussed, handled and understood so that your guests staying at Camps will be able to gain a better understanding of scorpions and Spiders. Jonathan also provided huge insight into how the scorpion fits into the broader eco-system of the Reserve.



### About your instructor – Jonathan Leeming

Fascinated by the smaller things in Nature that Africa had to offer he started a lifelong exploration of the more misunderstood creatures that crawl and creep. Today Jonathan Leeming has over 25 years of experience and is one of our leading authorities in southern African and African spiders and scorpions. Author of *Scorpions of Southern Africa*, *Scorpions of Sabi Sands*, *Medically Important Spiders* and co-author of *The Bushveld - A Comprehensive Guide to the Waterberg*.

## Course Location - Karongwe Camp

Our Karongwe Camp is situated on the banks of the Karongwe River in the 9 000 hectare (22 239 acre) Karongwe Game Reserve, to the south-west of the Kruger National Park. Accommodation is in walk-in safari style tents with shared bathroom facilities. 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 make nightly patrols of the camp and are often seen by learners who choose to make one of the viewing decks their home for the duration of the course. Elephant, cheetah and lion have also made appearances on occasion.



## Course Location - Selati Camp

Our Selati Camp is situated on the banks of the Selati River in the 33 000 hectare (81 545 acre) Selati Game Reserve to the west of the Kruger National Park. Camp accommodation is simple and rustic in dome tents with shared bathroom facilities and there is a communal area where learners gather for meals and lectures every day.

Selati is a good place for viewing lion, white rhino and elephant. General game is plentiful and you might even get to see the large herd of eland, as well as the rare sable antelope.

As is the case with our other two camps, the Selati camp is unfenced, and animals do on occasion wander through the camp. Learners have woken up in the morning to find the tracks of elephant, leopard or lion around the camp.



## Course Location - Mashatu Camp

Our Mashatu Camp is located in the land of Giants in the Tuli reserve of Botswana bordering South Africa. Tuli forms a key part of the proposed **Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area**. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty with majestic rocks, diverse vegetation, abundant wildlife, a profusion of birds and a rich archaeological heritage and spans over 25 000 hectares.

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The Northern Tuli Game Reserve, on the confluence of the Limpopo and the Shashe rivers, in the easternmost corner of Botswana, is the collective name for several privately-owned game reserves including the Mashatu, Ntani and Tuli Game Reserves, covering all the land north of the Limpopo River.

## Daily Programme

A typical daily programme at the camp follows a routine of **rising early, usually before sunrise**, enjoying hot coffee while you listen to the bush waking up and then leaving the camp for an outing into the wilderness.

The outings are extremely flexible and determined by the unpredictability of what is found during the outing in combination with the subjects that have to be covered. The outing could be a game drive following up on the roar of a lion heard during the night or a walk, learning about the plant species occurring in the area. It could be a walk following fresh elephant tracks, learning how to track the animal and finding it or it could be a game drive to a waterhole where animals come to drink.

Learners return to camp in the late morning for a hearty brunch which is followed by a lecture on the subject of the day. Study and rest time is then followed by afternoon tea and another outing into the wilderness until sunset, if walking, or until well after dark if doing a game drive.

Afternoon outings could include night drives looking for nocturnal animals such as owls, bush babies and leopards or it could be a walk looking for and learning how to identify interesting birds. It could be time spent studying the night skies or it could be a time for learners to test their 4x4 driving skills.

It is then back to the camp for dinner, stories around the campfire, discussing the day's experiences and wondering about tomorrow's adventures.

The emphasis is on practical day-to-day experiences in the bush. The daily outings are flexible and may focus on specific subjects such as animal tracks and tracking, birds, plant identification or animal behaviour, or may involve game viewing and learning about the ecosystem in general.

## 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](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za) for more information.

### Rate includes:

- Qualified & Experienced Instructors
- Lectures
- Game drives
- Walks
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Tea, coffee and cordials
- Further details on request or registration

