



YOUR LIFE ALTERING CAREER CHOICE

60 Day Field Guide Course

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

Who can do this course? Anyone!

EcoTraining offers the following courses which have been designed to supply the South African safari industry with high caliber professional Field Guides. These courses are not only available to people wishing to enter the industry as field guides, but for anyone who wants to increase their knowledge of the African bush. So whether you've chosen a professional career linked to wildlife or nature or just finished school and are on your gap year, or if you've possibly taken a career break or are a regular traveller to the bush, this course is for you.

With our Field Guide Courses being accredited by FGASA who have THETA accreditation, this means we meet THETA standards. THETA is the Tourism and Hospitality and Sport Education Training Authority of the South African government. These are the two bodies responsible for regulating standards within the guide training industry in southern Africa.

International or Non South African Learners

If the learners is **not** taking up Field Guiding for a career which is mostly the case for our international learners, learners do not have to complete the FGASA component of this course. They do however have the opportunity to participate in the EcoTraining tests and practical evaluations on this course and will received an EcoTraining certificate for participation.

If you are not aiming for a career as a Field Guide, but would like to learn about it for your own personal growth, the knowledge you gain will stimulate your safari and bush holidays and give them a whole new meaning.

South African Learners

For South Africans attending **for** FGASA accreditation purposes, in addition to writing the above EcoTraining tests, career learners can write the FGASA Level 1 theory exam and do the practical evaluation while on course with us.

Upon completion of the course, you will be capable of conducting game drives and interpreting the natural environment around you.

Our Field training course consists of walks; one or two-daily lectures in our bush classrooms; game drives, as well as sleep-outs in the bush. Every minute of the day and night on this course is a learning experience, being constantly exposed to the bush. Our highly experienced instructors provide unique access to their vast knowledge and insight, making every lecture an inspiring experience.

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 Content

- Welcome and introduction
 - Introduction to guiding in nature
 - Creating a guided nature experience
 - Geology and soils
 - Astronomy
 - Weather and climate
 - Ecology
 - Taxonomy
 - Introduction to the biomes of southern Africa
 - Botany and grasses
 - Vegetation identification
 - Fire Arm theory
 - Arthropods (Insects and relatives)
 - Amphibians
 - Reptiles
 - Fish
 - Birds
 - Mammals
 - Animal behaviour
 - Tracks and tracking
 - Radio procedures
 - Conservation management and historical human habitation
 - Habitat management
 - Bush camps
- Additional activities:**
- Basic 4x4 driving skills [not driving lessons, but an opportunity to drive the game viewing vehicle]
 - Sleep out in the bush

Tests, presentations and evaluations:

- 3 x Written tests
- 2 x Oral presentations
- 2 x Practical evaluations: Walk evaluation & Game drive evaluation

Extra activities to expect which is not included in the 28 day program:

- Research And Conservation Module – presentation preparation time.
- Mammal Behaviour Extension Module – Black Rhino and Elephant Research and Mammal Behaviour at Pongola Research Station
- Exposure to different Biomes and excursions (Botswana and Kwa-Zulu Natal)
- Cultural Module Extension - Historical Human Habitation in Botswana – the frequency of previous human habitation is astonishing, boasting grinding stones, arrow sharpening stones, beads which are thought to be linked to the Arab trade routes, stone walls indicating old settlements and new ones built by British and local tribes during the late 18 hundred colonial times.
- Geology And Soils Extended Module (Botswana) - landscape of large sandstone formations of all shapes and sizes mixed with various igneous intrusions and extrusions.
- This course incorporates more study time during the course to ensure less pressure to complete all the modules of the FGASA level 1 syllabus and EcoTraining training additions.
- The students will also be able to do more night drives during the course to expand their knowledge of nocturnal animals.
- Botswana - We will incorporate 3 base camp set-ups. Navigation and exploration from base camp to base camp enables students to receive more exposure to the 36 000 hectares of the reserve.
- Pongola Game reserve is also a very special birding spot exposing participants to water birds found at Lake Jozini. The area has 350 bird species. 30 000 hectares

Course Rates

Please contact enquiries@ecotraining.co.za for further information.

Rate includes:

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

Course venues

All EcoTraining 60 day courses will be split between **two** venues, giving all our students the additional benefit of experiencing different areas, wildlife, biomes and biodiversity.

For 2011, this course will be hosted at our Botswana camp in Mashatu Game Reserve, as well as in Pongola Game Reserve in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

In 2012, our 60 day courses will be split amongst two of our EcoTraining camps (Karongwe, Selati, Makuleke and Mashatu). For more information, enquire with enquiries@ecotraining.co.za.

