



ECOTRaining
SOUTH AFRICA
Pioneer and Leader in Field Guide and Nature Training

YOUR LIFE ALTERING CAREER CHOICE

Birding in The Bush

7 Days

Tel: 013 752 2532 Fax: 013 752 4753

Email: enquiries@ecotraining.co.za

WWW.ECOTRAINING.CO.ZA

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

Birding in the Bush

7 Days

These days, visitors to the African wilderness areas want to do more than simply spot the large game. Birding as a hobby has become popular and EcoTraining's courses have been designed to broaden and enrich your knowledge and skills by educating you about the fascinating world of birds and the interdependent relationships between them and other life forms.

Our courses incorporate theory sessions during the day and 2 (approx 3 - 4 hour) practical bird identification sessions - both early morning and late afternoon/evening. Theory sessions are held in the camp incorporating use of electronic media to add value and interest.

We are confident that any person attending our course will leave us more enriched and with greater confidence in being able to pass on the wonders and beauty of the South African birdlife to your family, friends or clients.

Course Overview

Major Theory Subjects Include:

Evolution, Anatomy and Physiology, Zoogeography, Habitats & Environments, Bird Behaviour (Breeding, Chick Development, Feeding, Mating etc), Migration, Ethics/Conservation and Bird Identification.

Practical Field Sessions:

The practical sessions in the field will assist you in knowing what to look for to successfully identify birds, also to point out the differences between certain 'difficult' species. Both sight id and call id are discussed during the practical sessions.

Course Location - Kruger Park Makuleke Camp

Our Kruger Park Camp is situated in the 24 000 hectare (59 305 acres) Makuleke concession in the far northern and most remote part of the Kruger National Park. The area is characterized by great biodiversity and a human history reaching into the remote past. Accommodation is in safari tents on wooden decks covered with thatch in the shade of huge Nyala trees. Each unit has a verandah overlooking the bush and has an en-suite bathroom with a flush toilet, shower and basin.



Most of the animals that are found in the Kruger Park can be viewed in this concession. Large herds of buffalo and elephant are not uncommon and the birding in this incredible part of the Kruger Park is unsurpassed. This camp is also unfenced in order to allow the animals free movement in their natural environment.

Course Location - Mashatu Camp, Botswana

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.

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.



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.

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Daily Programme

A typical daily programme at the camp follows a routine of rising early, usually before sunrise, enjoying hot cup of 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 walk following up on the call of a Pels Fishing Owl heard during the night or a drive, learning about specific bird behaviour in relation to its habitat. It could be a walk along the river line through the forests concentrating on bird calls and identification, or the nesting habits of the sun bird.

Returning 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 an early afternoon tea and another outing into the wilderness until sunset, if walking, or until well after dark if doing a game drive. 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, focusing on birds and birding.

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 for more information.

Rate includes:

- Specialist: Bruce Lawson
- Lectures
- Game drives
- Walks

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Tea, coffee and cordials

Further details on request or registration

