



**Ecotraining**  
SOUTH AFRICA  
Pioneer and Leader in Field Guide and Nature Training

**YOUR LIFE ALTERING CAREER CHOICE**

# Kenya 28 Day Course

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

Our signature Field Guide Course consists of 28 adventure packed days living in and learning about nature and ecology from our wilderness camp in Kenya. During your stay with us you will take part in a variety of learning activities whilst driving and walking in some of the most stunning areas of Africa.

Driving and walking will comprise the backbone of your training activities but any stay in Kenya would not be complete without experiencing the Tsavo Elephants and Lions.

## Course Location – Rukinga Tsavo

The Tsavo ecosystem is an area of 43,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the largest and most important wildlife refuges in Africa. The core of this area is formed by Tsavo East and West National Parks, which together occupy approximately 21,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and the Mkomazi Game Reserve which occupies about 5,000 km<sup>2</sup> in Tanzania. The vast area adjoining the southern arms of Tsavo East and West comprises privately owned plots of land that are mainly utilised for livestock grazing or limited agriculture. The exception to this is Rukinga Sanctuary, an 80,000 acre area of land that is managed by Wildlife Works for the benefit of wildlife. Camp Tsavo is situated in the centre of Rukinga Sanctuary and is where our training is conducted from. The camp is set out like a traditional Africa, with tented and hutted accommodation nestled in the Commiphora woodland.



This ecosystem is home to a large diversity of flora and fauna, many species of which are classified by IUCN (the World Conservation Union) as vulnerable, threatened or endangered, and boasts a large variety of predators, including lions. Rukinga Sanctuary forms part of a vital wildlife corridor (Tsavo Kasigau Wildlife corridor, TKWD) across the 'Taru desert' for a population of almost one thousand elephants and hundreds of buffalo that migrate seasonally between the Parks in search of water, temporarily giving Rukinga one of the largest populations of elephants on private land in Kenya.

## Course Location – Lewa Conservancy

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is a private reserve in north-east Kenya near Mount Kenya National Park, Samburu and the Aberdares. The number of visitors to Lewa has been greatly restricted, giving you the opportunity to experience Africa at its wildest. Lewa is malaria-free and is situated at 4,500 to 6,500 feet (1,400 -2,000 metres) above sea level.

The Lewa Downs within the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is a 16,000 hectare ranch that has been the home of the Craig family since 1924. They manage the Lewa Safari Camp and Wilderness Trails lodge. In addition, Ngwesi Lodge, as part of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, is a community run tourism project that has won world acclaim.

Only three other operators on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy offer safaris and only the lodge visitors may enter the reserve. So, when you visit Lewa Conservancy, you will be far from the crowded safari trails and can enjoy the vastness of this beautiful region in tranquility.



## Daily Programme

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 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. 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 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
- 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
- Involvement in conservation & community projects
- Day trip to Tsavo East
- Day trip to Tsavo West

### Tests, presentations and evaluations:

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



## Who can do this course? Anyone!

EcoTraining offers courses which have been designed to supply the South African safari industry with high calibre professional Field Guides. These courses are available to people wishing to enter the industry as field guides, but also for anyone who wants to increase their knowledge of the African bush. EcoTraining is expanding to Australia ([www.ecotrainingaustralia.com.au](http://www.ecotrainingaustralia.com.au)) and has launched this course in Kenya. 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.

Writing and passing the EcoTraining tests and practical evaluations listed above is sufficient in order to complete the EcoTraining FGASA Level 1 and the EcoTraining Trails Guide FGASA courses and obtain the EcoTraining certificate.

The course is structured to maximize the practical experience of our learners in the bush. Each day allows for hours of time spent in the field interpreting the ecology and enjoying a wildlife experience. Activities alternate between walks and driving. Lecture time follows after brunch, which involves topical instruction (lectures) and discussion on the subject of the day. This is followed by time for self study for the learners. Learner participation in the care of the camp, equipment and vehicle will be expected. Learners will be expected to pay attention to the needs of fellow learners and to work in teams at times.

## Course Rates

Please contact [enquiries@ecotraining.co.za](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za) for more information.

### Rate includes:

- Instructors and Lectures
- Game drives and Walks
- Accommodation and Meals
- Tea, coffee and cordials
- Not included are flights, transfers, visas & personal expenses
- Further details on request or registration, contact details on next page or bookings are available online at [www.ecotraining.co.za](http://www.ecotraining.co.za)

## About EcoTraining – East Africa

EcoTraining's mission is to establish professional guide training, to increase the standard of guiding throughout Kenya. We believe one of the key factors in the conservation of wildlife is the responsibility of the guides.

There are more than 6000 safari guides employed in the industry in East Africa responsible for guiding tens of thousands of tourists each year. Based on feedback from tourists, professional safari guides and safari operators, we believe that there is a real need to supply a quality training service to these guides in order to improve their guiding abilities, to make them more responsible and sensitive to their clients' needs and the environment and to give them a sense of pride in what they do. For many of these guides, the tourism industry is the only career option available.

EcoTraining has been conducting guide training programs since 1993 in southern and east Africa and has three established 20-bedded camps situated in wilderness areas of southern Africa. EcoTraining southern Africa is endorsed by the Field Guide's Association of Southern Africa which is accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) under the Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Education Authority (THETA). We form the practical component of the extremely comprehensive Damelin Certificate in Nature

Guiding, the Intec Correspondence Diploma in Game Ranging and the Wildlife Campus Online Game Ranging course.

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.

EcoTraining East Africa is owned and operated by Ian Johnson, Lex Hes and Anton Lategan. Ian has been training guides in East Africa since 1994. He is a professional guide, photographer and documentary camera man. Lex has been guiding in Africa for 30 years. He is a successful wildlife photographer, author and is one of southern Africa's top professional nature guides. Anton has guided at some of South Africa's premier game lodges and operated and run EcoTraining southern Africa for the past 10 years. We aim to put the bush back into Africa for all those that are searching for the most authentic wildlife training and safari experiences.

