



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

YOUR LIFE ALTERING CAREER CHOICE

Tracking Course 7 Days

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

Tracking course

7 Days

Course Overview

We partner with renowned tracking specialist and expert, Adriaan Louw, to provide an in-depth animal tracks and tracking course at our Wilderness camps. It is all about understanding and learning to interpret so much more about the bush and wildlife as learners search for, track and find game. A vast amount of information can be gathered about mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates without ever having seen them. Although this may sound strange, every animal leaves some indication of its presence or passing whereby it can be recognised.

Many animals are difficult to observe as they are active during the hours of darkness, or are secretive and spend much of their time under cover. Reading and interpreting animal tracks and signs is a skill that must have been second nature to early humans. Their very survival depended on it, yet only a few have retained this ability, such as the Pygmies of the equatorial forest; San-Bushmen of the Kalahari, some African tribesmen trading and cattle and as a taught skill in the security forces. Most people are unable to tell one track from another or even recognise the most obvious signs. And yet, tracking and reading signs can develop into an absorbing pastime in its own right and can teach one much about the behaviour of animals.



The course outline is simple: the bush is the lecture room; the available tracks and sign, trails, and animals are what we work with. We alter between track and sign interpretation and trailing sessions. We start with the basics of trailing by trailing each other and as skills improve we start working animal trails. It is fun. It is hands on. It is life changing.

The standard of this course can only be one of excellence as Adriaan is one of the most highly qualified trackers in South Africa. This sets the EcoTraining courses apart from most courses of this nature.

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.



Course Location - Kruger Park Makuleke Camp



Our Kruger Park Camp is situated in the 24 000 hectare (59 305 acres) Maku-leke 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.

Tracking course

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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 for more information.

Rate includes:

- Specialist: Adriaan Louw
- Lectures
- Game drives
- Walks
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Tea, coffee and cordials

√ Further details on request or registration

