



Short-Term Study Abroad Program Wildlife Management Expeditions Pretoria, South Africa

Set Departure Dates:

WM03: 28 December 2010 to 18 January 2011

WM01: 15 May to 05 June 2011

WM02: 03 to 24 July 2011

WM03: 28 December to 18 January 2012

Join us for the experience of a lifetime in South Africa on a field study program for students in wildlife conservation and veterinary fields

- Experience the world of wildlife conservation in Southern Africa, up close and personal.
- Meet and interact with conservationists and wildlife veterinarians in the field.
- Learn about the crucial balance of people and wildlife in conservation today.
- Gain hands-on experience by taking part in game capture operations.
- Earn university credits for these programs

About EcoLife International Universities Programs

EcoLife strives to introduce students in the fields of wildlife studies, wildlife management, biology, botany, forestry and zoology to the reality of African wildlife. Relating species to their natural habitat contributes much to the greater understanding of the interaction of life. EcoLife Expeditions is an extension program of the Centre for Wildlife Management, and has been conducting short-term field study programs for international students since 1999. Three study programs are currently presented, the *Wildlife Management* program and the *Vets-in-the-Wild* program. These study programs are aimed at students of wildlife management, veterinary science and those with an interest in South African culture and conservation. The programs offer an exciting, hands-on, in-depth and educational experience, taking students behind-the-scenes in their respective fields of study in Southern Africa. The expeditions are in the form of a camping safari, and the duration is around 3 weeks. Students interact with rangers, veterinarians and researchers working in the field, giving them an insight into life, successes and problems associated with conservation in Africa today.

Participants also meet and learn from pioneers in game capture and those actively involved in the field of wildlife veterinary science on a day-to-day basis. These programs include a Capture and Care course where students participate in actual game capture operations. Students also observe the role that veterinarians play at a rehabilitation centre, a reptile park and a rare-species breeding ranch.

This revised program is tailor-made and open to students in Wildlife Management and Biological Sciences, currently enrolled at a recognized tertiary educational institution, as well as qualified professionals and also to all interested persons. Qualifying students could enroll for the **NLB 311: Ecosystems and Wildlife Management** and **NLB 312: Participatory Nature Conservation** courses at the University of Pretoria and receive **8 credits** on successful completion.

Course content:

- *Wildlife Management Techniques*
- *Sustainable Resource Utilization*
- *Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation*
- *Reserve and Resort Management*
- *Capture and Care of wild animals*

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival

Students arrive and are met at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport by EcoLife staff members. They are then transferred to a guest house, close to the University of Pretoria, and spend the afternoon relaxing before the evening welcoming dinner.

Accommodation: Guest house

Day 2: Orientation, Pretoria and Lion Park

Our expedition starts by attending a morning workshop at the Center for Wildlife Management of the University of Pretoria. We meet with staff members who have been involved in the pioneering of wildlife management in Southern Africa, and learn about the latest developments in wilderness management. After lunch we visit a Lion Park. This is your chance to see a white lion and get up-close-and-personal with lion cubs.

Accommodation: Guest house

Days 3 - 6: Wilderness Training

For the next 4 days we are at a private bush camp on the banks of the beautiful Loskop Reservoir. The Bushveld wilderness reserve surrounding the reservoir is a pristine area in which to learn practical bush skills, track wildlife on foot and study wildlife behavior, and is perfect for learning how animals and man utilize plants. Weather permitting, we will also do some abseiling.

Accommodation: Tented camp

Days 7 – 10: Kruger National Park

After an early breakfast, we are on our way to the Lowveld. The Kruger National Park is one of the world's first proclaimed nature reserves to serve as a benchmark in the field of conservation. It is one of the largest pristine natural areas allowing pioneering wildlife research of international significance. Much of the knowledge applied in global scientific wildlife management originated in this Park. The biodiversity of this jewel of wilderness areas is spectacular and presents the ideal area for observing and studying most of the wildlife species Southern Africa has to offer. We experience African game viewing at its best. We will have ample opportunity to spot the BIG FIVE in their natural habitat. We enjoy an included sunset game drive with guides from the Park. Rest camp facilities include public telephones, a bank, a shop, restaurants and a laundry.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 11: Blyde Canyon Reserve

After a final game drive, exiting the Park, we arrive and establish our base at the beautiful Blydepoort Nature Reserve at the foot of the majestic northern Drakensberg Mountains (Mountains of the Dragon). This resort has well equipped laundry facilities, shop, heated swimming pool and public telephones.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 12: At Leisure

Today we enjoy a full day at leisure to explore the reserve around the spectacular Blydepoort Reservoir under supervision of our expert guide.

(Additional activities is available at own cost – river rafting, abseiling, boat rides etc.)

Accommodation: Camping

Day 13: Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and Reptile Centre

We visit a world famous Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre which serves a vast area of private reserves where African wildlife abounds. Orphaned or injured wild animals are cared for and treated here before they are returned to the wild. The interesting Reptile Centre is a great source of to learning about reptile ecology and get some hands-on time with the creatures.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 14: Drive to Brits

We depart early and take a scenic drive to Brits which known for the numerous private game reserves and farms found in the area. Here we set up camp and settle in for the night.

Accommodation: Camping

Days 15 - 18 Hands-on Game Capture Course

The successful capture, handling and translocation of wildlife all form important parts of the wildlife veterinarian's program. The next four days are dedicated to observing and learning about and participating in actual game capture operations under the guidance of a veterinarian. We will, subject to the weather, also personally experience a mock darting exercise from a helicopter in flight.

The venue for the game capture operations might differ from group to group

Accommodation: Camping

Day 19: Sondela Nature Reserve

After an early rise to strike camp we commence our long drive through rural villages and pretty towns to arrive at Sondela to set up camp. This resort offers a shop, swimming pools and public phones.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 20: Wildlife Center and Graduation

After a leisurely breakfast we visit a wildlife rehabilitation center and get to spend time feeding and interacting with the orphaned and injured animals at the center. We will also get a lesson on wildlife rehabilitation and the care of these animals.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 21: Graduation

We have the morning at leisure to make use of the amenities on offer at the resort. Optional activities include horse riding, quid biking and game drives – at own cost. After lunch we will have enough time to write our final exam. Our farewell dinner, followed by our graduation ceremony, is enjoyed under the stars around our last campfire.

Accommodation: Camping

Day 22: Departure

We depart for Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport, in time for our flights home or on to other destinations.

Cost per person sharing: US\$4 285.00

Includes:	Excludes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation for the duration of the program • Transportation for the duration of the program • Airport transfers as stated • Camping equipment • Permits and entry fees • All meals and group activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air travel to and from South Africa • Visa costs • Optional activities • Alcoholic beverages

Contact us:**Royaye Danesh Study Services (RDSS)**

PO Box 1415

Tehran 15815, Iran

Tel: +98-21-44030410

Fax: +98-21-44086693

E-mail: info@rdss.org

Website: www.rdss.org

**WildLife Expeditions
Study Abroad Programs
Application Form: Wildlife Management**

Full names and surname:

Expedition being applied for:

Departure date:

Return date:

Alternate departure date:

Alternate return date:

University:

Field of study:

City/Town:

Year:

State/Province:

Major subjects:

Postal address:

Tel. nr:

E-mail:

Fax:

Nationality:

Date of birth: Year _____ Month _____ Day _____

Gender: Male ____ Female ____

Where did you hear about this program and EcoLife Expeditions?

Agent: **Royaye Danesh Study Services (RDSS)**

Signed

Date