



GAME RANGER GUIDE COURSE CLOSE UP

An ideal introduction to conservation in southern Africa, set in a magnificent game reserve, the game ranger guide course is an intensive two week course covering many aspects. The syllabus includes modules on ecology, animal identification, botany and ranger skills such as fire arms handling and safety in the bush. This course covers the theory and practical knowledge behind life as a game ranger, incorporating classroom sessions as well as game drives, sleep outs and guided wildlife walks. This the perfect opportunity to study and track the **big five** in their natural habitat.

"I learnt so much more than I thought I would in just two weeks. We did a lot of tracking of the big five by foot and vehicle... The highlight of the course for me was camping out overnight watching for animals that may pass us, it was so exciting. I am so glad I went on the course and I would definitely recommend it"

Donna Calvert

COURSE SYLLABUS

- Bushveld ecology
- Mammal biology and identification
- Geology
- Animal behaviour
- Bird identification
- Tracking and spoor identification of game
- Dangerous game and their behaviour
- Basic fire arm handling and theory of 4x4 driving
- Snake and insect identification
- Astronomy
- Bush craft
- Sleep Outs
- Certification recognised by **FGASA** (Field Guide Association of South Africa) on completion of the course, following an optional theoretical and practical examination.

"The Game Ranger course was brilliant! I now know lots about all the main African animals and the smaller ones, the trees and their uses, insects, reptiles and birds"

Stuart Spindler

SLEEP OUTS

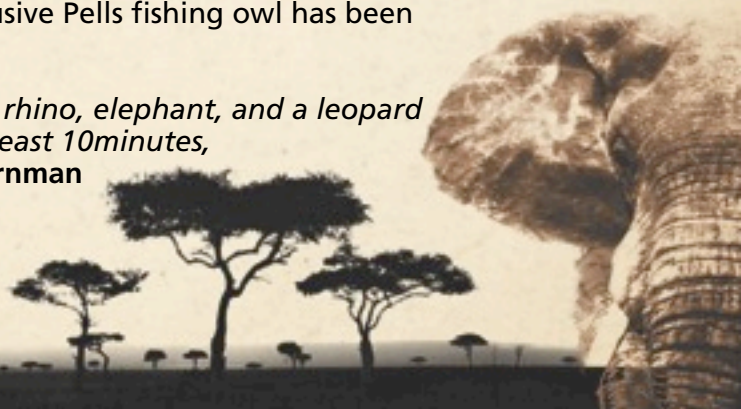
One of the highlights of the course is sleeping out in the wild African bush. You all head out into the bush by vehicle with all the required equipment for the night. Over a braai you eat your dinner and breakfast the traditional African way. When it's time to sleep you do so in shifts as one member of the course always keeps watch with a spotlight for shining eyes in the tree tops and the sound of roaring lions in the distance.

WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

Students can expect to see a wide variety of animals, including lion, elephant, giraffe, hippo, buffalo, rhino and leopard. Many bird species, such as the fish eagle, ground hornbill and martial eagle are regular visitors, while the elusive Pells fishing owl has been spotted.

"On route to the camp they had good sightings of rhino, elephant, and a leopard right in front of the camp that they viewed for at least 10minutes, what a start!"

Martin Bornman





LOCATION

Held on a private game reserve, either Diepkloof Nature Reserve or Struwig Eco Reserve; both big five game reserves within the greater Kruger National Park area and situated on the banks of the Olifants (meaning elephant) river.

FACILITIES

Accommodation: Students stay in traditional rondavels. Electricity is provided as well as an area for activities such as football and volleyball.

Meals: All meals are provided and catered for. Lunch will include a choice of assorted sandwiches and dinner will be traditional fire cooking with Braais' (barbeques) and Poitjies (cast iron pot cooking) at the camp. A vegetarian option is always provided. Students will be asked to assist with domestic duties following meals.

Laundry: Provided twice weekly by reserve staff.

Nearest town: Hoedspruit, South Africa.

Time off: Variable. Evenings are at your own leisure and can be spent relaxing in the course accommodation.

Contact with home: Internet cafes are available in the nearest town (Hoedspruit). South Africa time = GMT+2hours

Transfers: Transfers to the Game Ranger Guide Course are done by road. The drive from Johannesburg airport takes approximately 6 hours, broken up with a lunch stop.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

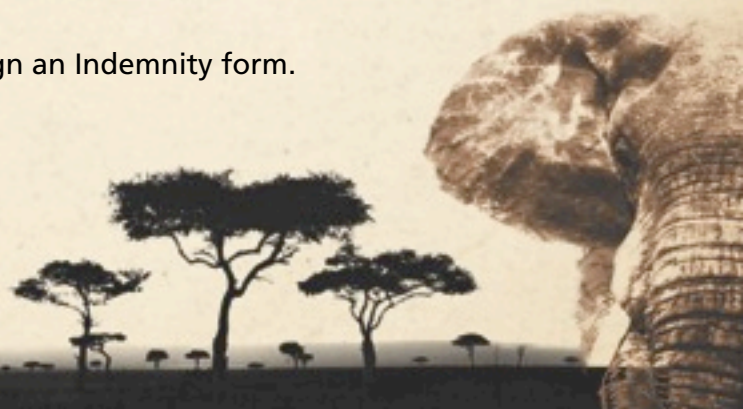
Airport: We meet all our volunteers personally at Johannesburg airport directly off the plane.

Road Safety: All drivers have Public Driving Permits and only new, air conditioned vehicles are used for transfers.

First aid and emergency: First aid qualified personnel on site.

Medical: Doctors and hospital in Hoedspruit.

Reserve Insurance: Students will be required to sign an Indemnity form.





IS THIS COURSE RIGHT FOR ME?

This course is ideal if you are thinking about becoming a Game Ranger, or if you just want to improve your personal knowledge of wildlife and reserve management. The Game Ranger training will impart essential knowledge for those wanting to pursue a conservation-orientated career, including the life skills and discipline needed to become a Game Ranger or a professional field guide. We offer a discounted rate on this course in conjunction with any of our conservation projects; the perfect opportunity to put your new found skills and knowledge to use!

What's Included? Return international flights from London Heathrow (optional), transfers, food, accommodation, course tuition, 24 hour support from our ground manager, and an ACE T-shirt.

What's not included? Travel insurance, spending money.

When can I join? 2011 start dates are:

16th August
6th September
1st November

2012 start dates:

10th January
21st February
3rd April
3rd July
24th July
14th August
4th September
6th November

How can I join? You can apply online at www.conservationafrica.net/apply or simply fill out an application form in one of our brochures and post it back to us.

