



SUNY Cobleskill

South African Wildlife Management Expedition

12 to 26 May 2014

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

- Experience the world of wildlife conservation in Southern Africa, up close and personal.
- Meet and interact with conservationists and wildlife managers 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, veterinary science 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 of the University of Pretoria, and has been conducting short-term field study programs for international students since 1999. The programs offer an exciting, hands-on, in-depth and educational experience, taking students behind-the-scenes in their respective fields of study in South Africa. The expeditions are in the form of a camping safari, and the duration is around 2 weeks in South Africa and one week introductory at Cobleskill. 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 in the wildlife management program also meet and learn from pioneers in game capture and those actively involved in the field of wildlife science on a day-to-day basis. The program includes a Capture and Care course where students participate in actual game capture operations. Students also visit a world renowned rehabilitation centre and a reptile research park.

Course content includes:

- **Wildlife Taxonomy**
- **Wildlife Diseases**
- **Capture and Care of Wild Animals**
- **Breeding of Rare Species**
- **Wildlife Rehabilitation**
- **Ecosystems and Biodiversity Conservation**

www.ecolife.co.za

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Day 1: Arrival

On arrival at OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, you will be met by your EcoLife guides and transferred to a guesthouse in Pretoria.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Day 2: Workshop and Lion Park

Our day starts with a morning workshop with Professor van Hoven. After lunch, we visit a lion park where they breed a wide variety of African cats.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Day 3: Swadini Nature Reserve

Drive northeast and arrive at Swadini Nature Reserve to set up camp at the foot of the majestic northern Drakensberg (Mountains of the Dragon). The immaculate Swadini resort facilities include public telephones, a shop, heated and ambient swimming pools, restaurants and a laundry.

Accommodation: Camping (Swadini)

Day 4: Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and Reptile Park

Moholoholo is a world-renowned wildlife rehabilitation centre. The care and rehabilitation of a wide range of wildlife species will be experienced and demonstrated first hand. After lunch you will also have the opportunity to attend a workshop presented on the handling and care of reptiles, including highly venomous snakes.

Accommodation: Camping (Swadini)

Days 5–6: Kruger National Park

Travel to Kruger Park, about one hour. The biodiversity of this wilderness area is spectacular, and the ideal area for observing and studying most of the wildlife species Southern Africa has to offer. Learn from accompanying faculty about topical aspects in the Park like poaching and other management issues from dedicated staff and researchers. Park facilities include public telephones, a bank, a shop, restaurants and a laundry.

Accommodation: Camping

Days 7–8: Mjejane Game Reserve

National Park management and wildlife ecology lectures and field guided outings with ranger on foot and in game drive vehicles to view wildlife in this Big 5 game reserve.

Accommodation: Wilderness camping

Day 9–10: Zebula Elephant Reserve

Early departure for the town of Warmbaths in the Limpopo Province. We arrive late afternoon and check in to a hostel in a private game reserve close to the town of Warmbaths. Daybreak on day 10 we drive out to another private game reserve in the area. Here we meet up with a herd of African elephants, their handlers and management staff. After a lecture and demonstration on the remarkable intelligence of these animals, we take a short elephant-back safari.

Accommodation: Hostel

Days 11–14: Hands-on Game Capture Course

We arrive at a private game reserve on the afternoon of day 11. Here we check in to chalets and meet our hosts for the next couple of days. The successful capture, handling and translocation of wildlife all form important parts of the wildlife manager's program. The next four days are dedicated to observation and learning about and participating in actual game capture operations under the guidance of a world renowned specialist. Weather permitting we will also have the opportunity to mock dart a moving target from a helicopter.

Accommodation: Chalets

Day 15: Departure

We depart for Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport to be in time for our flights home.