

ECOTRAINING CAREER COURSE INFORMATION

EcoTraining Pty(Ltd)

Co Registration No: 2016/064106/07

Physical Address

The Outpost Centre - Shop no 4
Cnr Ehmke & van der Merwe streets
Nelspruit Mpumalanga - South Africa

Postal Address

PO Box 19122 - Nelspruit - 1200

Tel: +27 (0) 13 752 2532

E-mail: enquiries@ecotraining.co.za

Website: www.ecotraining.co.za

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About EcoTraining

Operating for more than two decades, EcoTraining is the pioneer and leader in safari guide and wildlife training in Africa. EcoTraining is widely recognised by the safari industry for its credibility and standard of excellence in nature guide training. We offer accredited career courses, gap year and sabbatical programmes and short nature programmes. All courses are run directly from EcoTraining's unfenced bush camps in prime wilderness areas across South Africa, Botswana and Kenya.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be the global leader in environmental education by reconnecting people with nature.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide inspirational & immersive learning experiences for professional safari guides & guardians of nature.

Certification & Accreditation

EcoTraining is a FGASA registered and endorsed training provider. We are also accredited with CATHSSETA (Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport sector Education and Training Authority) for the NQF2 Nature Site Guide Certificate thereby meeting the required standards. FGASA and CATHSSETA are the two bodies primarily responsible for regulating standards within the guide training industry in South Africa.

For the EcoTraining Field Guide course, EcoTraining will register students with FGASA and CATHSSETA. Students need not arrange this themselves before coming on the course.



About this course

This comprehensive and unique one-year course has been designed to supply the safari industry with high-caliber FGASA and CATHSSETA qualified professional field guides. The Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2) should be able to identify the major living and non-living features of the natural environment in which s/he operates and interpret them at a level based mainly on observation and from an elementary scientific and cultural perspective.

Students live and learn at four different wilderness camps giving them exposure to diverse ecological and geographical terrains, wildlife species, climates and more. These remote wilderness camps may include the Makuleke Concession (Kruger), Karongwe Reserve, Selati Reserve, Mashatu Reserve (Botswana) or Pridelands Reserve. The unfenced bush camps provide a consistently stimulating environment in which to learn, supported by highly qualified and experienced instructors, each with their own unique way of training and guiding that will enhance the overall student training experience. There is no other course that offers this breadth of wildlife immersion and knowledge.

Module Overview

- Wilderness First Aid Component
- Field Guide (Nature Site Guide NQF2) Component
- Basic Birding Component
- Tracking Component
- Rifle Handling Component
- Trails Guide Component
- Advanced Birding Component

You could Graduate with:

- Wilderness Medicine: Level 1 and Level 2
- EcoTraining Field guide, (Nature Site Guide NQF2 (CATHSSETA) qualification) and FGASA Apprentice Field Guide
- Firearm Proficiency Unit Standards – 117705, 119651, 123519
- EcoTraining Rifle Handling & Safety and FGASA ARH Competency
- EcoTraining Trails Guide and FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide (Backup) Mentorship
- EcoTracker Track & Sign, Trailing and FGASA Tracker
- EcoTraining Basic Birding and Advanced Birding
- EcoTraining Professional Field Guide Certificate of Participation

Course duration outline

This course comprises of approximately 5 months of theoretical and practical training with highly qualified instructors, in which participants will complete various separate certificate courses.

Placement Programme

Following this is a placement programme period of 5 - 6 months which will make up the second half of the course. Students are placed at a lodge where they will work with professional lodge staff and management in order to develop their newly acquired skills. At the end of the course the student will not only have potentially gained qualification/certificates, but will have also gained substantial practical working experience.

Apprentice Field Guide course

About this course

This FGASA endorsed, CATHSSETA accredited course is the entry level qualification for field guiding which encompasses vehicle-based guiding in dangerous and non-dangerous games areas. Once qualified, the guide is able to identify and interpret biodiverse elements of the natural environment. The guide will be able to conduct game drives for guests in a limited geographical area. The syllabus covers a broad spectrum of subjects including 4x4 game drive vehicle skills specific for game viewing, species identification and tracking to mention a few.

Course duration outline:

In order to be deemed as a competent and qualified Field Guide, 55-days of hands-on practical training is required. Time on this course is split between at least two of our remote wilderness camps, maximizing exposure to different areas, wildlife, biomes and biodiversity.

You could Graduate with:

- EcoTraining Field Guide, (Nature Site Guide NQF2 (CATHSSETA) qualification)
- FGASA Apprentice Field Guide
- EcoTraining Field Guide Certificate of Participation

Online Field Guide course

About this course

Receive a comprehensive introduction to Field Guiding (FGASA endorsed) from the comfort of your own home on this online Field Guide course. Get lectures from a diverse range of highly experienced EcoTraining Instructors who are specialists in various fields within nature and wildlife.

Course duration outline:

This 8-week online course covers all 17 FGASA Apprentice Guide modules, including theory reviews, workbook support and theory assessments. Lectures will range between an hour and two hours, with a live Q & A to follow each lecture.



You could Graduate with:

- EcoTraining Certificate of Participation on the E-Learning course
- FGASA will only issue your FGASA Apprentice Field Guide certificate if you have a valid first aid qualification and have successfully completed the 35-day practical component!

The Syllabus Overview of Modules

THE ECOTRAINING FIELD GUIDE (NQF2) SYLLABUS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING MODULES:

1
END USER
COMPUTING
(10 Credits)

2
ENGLISH
COMMUNICATION
(10 Credits)

3
INTRODUCTION
TO TOURISM IN
SOUTH AFRICA
(10 Credits)

4
BASIC ECOLOGY
(10 Credits)

5
ANIMAL STUDIES
(15 Credits)

6
VEGETATION
STUDIES
(15 Credits)

7
BOTANY AND
GRASSES

8
ANIMAL
BEHAVIOUR

9
MAMMALS

10
BIRDS

11
ARTHROPODS
(INSECTS AND
RELATIVES)

12
REPTILES

13
ASTRONOMY

14
AMPHIBIANS
(FROGS AND
TOADS)

15
BASIC
TAXONOMY

16
FISH

17
CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT
AND HISTORY

EcoTraining Camps

MAKULEKE



KARONGWE



SELATI



MASHATU



PRIDELANDS



MAKULEKE CAMP, NORTHERN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

EcoTraining is the only training provider situated inside the Kruger National Park. Located between the Limpopo and the Luvuvhu Rivers in the northern section of the Kruger National Park is the Pafuri region, an area spanning 24 000 ha (59 305 acres). Within the Pafuri area is the Makuleke Concession, the ancestral home of the Makuleke people and the most diverse and scenically attractive area in the Kruger National Park. The Makuleke Concession is not accessible to the ordinary tourist visiting the park.



KARONGWE GAME RESERVE CAMP, SOUTH AFRICA

Karongwe Camp is on the banks of the Karongwe River (mostly a dry river bed) in the 9 000 ha (22 239-acre) Karongwe Game Reserve, which is to the south-west of the Kruger National Park. Three rivers flow through the reserve, all tributaries of the Olifants River, carving their way through the bedrock and dividing the reserve. The vegetation of the reserve falls within the savanna biome of southern Africa, with distinct vegetation zones being represented - mixed Lowveld and Mopane bushveld along grass savannah, riverine vegetation and rocky outcrops.

EcoTraining Camps

SELATI GAME RESERVE CAMP, SOUTH AFRICA

The Selati camp is situated on the banks of the Selati River, in the 33 000 ha (81 545 acres) Selati Game Reserve, to the west of the Kruger National Park. The Selati Game Reserve is a large reserve, with diverse topography and biodiversity. In the east there are large granite hills, where Verreaux's eagles and klipspringers can be found. The reserve is bisected by the Selati River, which dries up into large rocky pools of water in winter. There is a lot of space to conduct walks and get a true sense of wilderness.



PRIDELANDS CONSERVANCY CAMP, GREATER KRUGER PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

Situated in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, north of the Hoedspruit Airforce base, Pridelands Conservancy, a former hunting farm, presents a magnificent example of intact vegetation of Combretum woodland. In September 2017, the fences between Pridelands and the Greater Kruger National Park (GKNP) have been dropped making Pridelands part of the GKNP (KNP) with an additional 2000 ha of land which extends the habitat for animals.



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 more than 25 000 ha of wilderness.



ECOTraining
Guides and Guardians



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