



Ranger Training Experience

Be a ranger for a week while experiencing the magic of wildest northern Kruger.

This is a living and learning adventure combining the fascinating elements of nature, gaining knowledge on how animals live in the wild and engage in some of the exploratory aspects of typical ranger training.

Introduction

Ecology forms the beginning of this course and the basic principles of the earth's ecosystem which includes both the living and non-living parts of the environment. Once this concept of interrelatedness is grasped it is easy to see how a change in one part of an ecosystem might very well affect all the other species living in that ecosystem from plants and trees to animals and birds.

Using this understanding the adventurous skills and activities begin. Find out what it takes to be a game ranger in Africa's wild places by learning to navigate through and orientate yourself using nature's markers and signs; detect what animals are in the area and use tracking skills to find them. Gain knowledge and skills to protect our wildlife and spend one magical night in the wild under African skies. Learn how to handle a rifle, practice target shooting and steer yourself and your "guests" in a rugged 4x4 vehicle, whilst learning off-road driving skills.

Practical experience and discussions:

Basic Ecology and Geology	Animal ID and Behaviour	Bird ID and Behaviour	Common Trees and Shrubs	Animal Tracks and Tracking	Practical Ranger skills	Astronomy
Geology and Soils	Mammals	Basic Bird Identification	Identification and how to identify	Basic Identification of Tracks	Navigation & Orientation: Basic use of landmarks, sun, compass and maps 4x4 Driving: Basic skills for driving a 4x4 vehicle over off-road terrain Shooting: Learning to handle a fire-arm and practice target shooting	Night sky including Southern Cross, Milky Way, common constellations
Weather and Atmosphere						
Vegetation and Habitats	Amphibians and reptiles	How to use Bird Reference guides				
Grasses						
Food Web and Energy Flow	Fish	Understanding basic Bird behaviour	Traditional uses	Basic Trailing Skills		
Habitat Ecology	Arthropods					
Conservation						

A typical day will include:

- Drumbeats start the early morning with tea/coffee
- A day-break drive or walk, focusing on the topic of the day
- Return to camp for a hearty cooked breakfast
- Debriefing on morning activities observations/ lessons
- Midday lecture in the open-air bush classroom
- Time to relax, study or get to know your fellow course participants
- Mid-afternoon light lunch
- Afternoon drive or walk, focusing on the day's lecture theme ended with sundowners
- Dinner and debriefing on the evening activities' observations and lessons around the campfire



Daily Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrival at Makuleke Camp

(Lunch and dinner incl.)

- 14h00 – EcoTraining Meet and Greet at Pafuri Gate
- Game Drive to the EcoTraining Makuleke Camp
- Lunch upon arrival
- Safety briefing will be conducted, an orientation of camp as well as an introduction to the staff
- Explanation of what the experience is all about
- Participants will be shown to their accommodation, followed by time to settle in

Afternoon Activity:

- Afternoon activity which will either be in the form of game drive or bush walk.

DAY 2: Basic ecology and geology - theory and practical experience

(Breakfast, lunch and dinner incl.)

Morning activity:

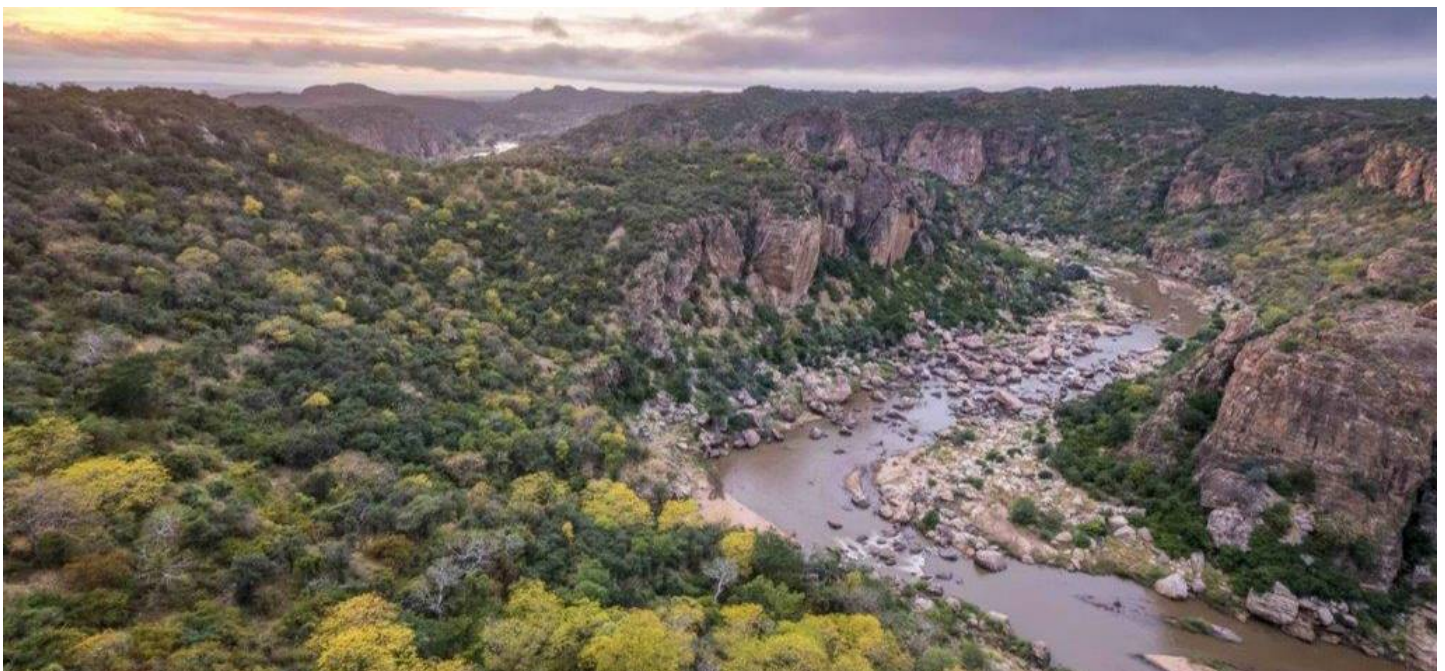
- A morning activity which will either be in the form of game drive or bush walk.
- Focus on the **Basic Ecology and Geology** of the surrounding areas.

Noon discussion and practical experience:

- Interactive discussion by instructor based on **Basic Ecology and Geology** - understanding the inter-relatedness and with a focus on the local area, including **Geology and Soils, Weather and Atmosphere, Food Web and Energy Flow, Habitat Ecology and Conservation.**

Afternoon activity:

- Afternoon activity which will either be in the form of game drive or bush walk.
- Incorporating general game viewing, with emphasis on the **Basic Ecology and Geology** – topics covered during the Noon Discussion.



DAY 3: Animal, bird and tree identification and behaviour - theory and practical experience

(Breakfast, lunch and dinner incl.)

Morning activity:

- A morning activity which will either be in the form of a game drive or bush walk.
- Trail from camp focusing on **Animal, Bird and Tree Identification and Behaviour**.

Noon discussion and practical experience:

- Interactive discussion by instructor based on **Animal, Bird and Tree Identification**.

Afternoon activity:

- Game drive combined with a walk incorporating general game drive viewing, with emphasis on **Animal, Bird and Tree Identification and Behaviour** and extra focus on Big Game Animals

DAY 4: Animal tracks and sleep-out/astronomy - theory and practical experience

(Breakfast, lunch and dinner incl.)

Morning activity:

- A morning activity which will either be in the form of a game drive or bush walk.
- Trail from camp focusing on **Animal Tracks and Tracking**

Noon discussion and practical experience:

- Interactive discussion by instructor based on **Animal Tracks and Tracking**.
- Discussion topics and practical experiments to include:
Introduction to basic Tracks, basic Track Identification as well as basic Animal Trailing Skills.

Early afternoon activity:

- Afternoon activity focusing on the elements discussed in the lecture which will either be in the form of game drive or bush walk culminating in a sleep-out incorporating bush survival skills of locating and sourcing water, preparing a fire and ensuring location is safe etc.
- Evening activities will include star gazing (astronomy) that will continue late into the evening to focus on the night sky including the Southern Cross, Milky Way and Common Constellations.
- Dinner around the camp-fire with storytelling.



DAY 5: Anti-poaching, rifle shooting and 4 x 4 driving - theory and practical experience

(Breakfast, lunch and dinner incl.)

Morning activity:

- A morning walking activity back to camp focusing on **Animal Tracks and Tracking** as well as **basic navigation and orientation** and how to use nature as a tool to navigate and orientate yourself in the bush and make your way back to camp incorporating track identifications.

Noon discussion and practical experience:

- Interactive discussion by instructor based on **anti-poaching**
- Discussion topics and practical experiments to include:
 - Snare collection and Rifle shooting: develop and practice skills pertaining to rifle handling, in dangerous game country and to ensure safety when approaching dangerous game. It is conducted in a different, wilder area and therefore provides a more authentic rifle handling experience. Introduction to 4 x 4 driving

Afternoon activity:

- Game drive where students will get a chance to partake in 4x4 driving, rifle shooting and snare collection.

DAY 6: Field observation challenge and awarding of certificates

(Breakfast, lunch and dinner incl.)

- Participants knowledge will be challenged and tested in a fun way
- Award ceremony with spectacular bush dinner

DAY 7: Transfer to part 2

(Breakfast incl.)

- Transfer to your conservation and research activity as part of the second section of your adventure

