

**Cornwall College Newquay Field Course in**  
**Kruger National Park**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015**

**Highlights of the trip:-**

- Rhino notching
- Daily game viewing drives
- Survival skills day
- Track and sign in the bush
- Various lectures to include animal behaviour, ecology, photo and video editing
- Evening astronomy (weather permitting)
- Sleep out
- Makuleke community visit



**Introduction.**

The Makuleke concession is not accessible to the ordinary tourist visiting the park. This area belongs to the Makuleke community. This is quite a historical event for South Africa as the Makuleke people were removed from this area in 1968 and after a lengthy process it was finally re-instated to the community in 1998 after a very long struggle. This area is certainly the widest and most remote park of the Kruger National Park and offers varied vegetation, great wildlife viewing, the best birding in all of the Kruger National Park and is filled with folklore of the early explorers and ancient civilizations.

In the Kruger National park you will find a subtropical climate, with hot summers (average 40C 104f). However, be sure not to be caught out by the intermittent summer rains which fall between October and March. As we are at a higher attitude early mornings and late afternoon/evenings during the winter do get very cold, so be sure to bring sufficient warm clothing.

All the wildlife that one would expect to see in the great National Park such as Kruger can potentially be encountered on the concession: plains game such as zebra, kudu, impala, with nyala antelope in abundance. Lions and leopards are a special sighting, herds of elephant, African buffalo, and a growing herd of blue wildebeest, plus seldom seen animals such as eland, bushpig and aardvark.

There is abundant birdlife. This part of Kruger is known to be one of the best birding areas in the park and is home to the rarely seen species such as Pel's Fishing Owl, Wattle-eyed Flycatcher and Grey-headed parrot.

### **The camp.**

EcoTraining's Kruger National Park camp is situated in the Makuleke concession. The camp is situated between the Limpopo and Levuvhu Rivers. This is true wilderness area, steeped in history and situated in the remotest part of Kruger in one of the most biologically diverse areas. Scenery ranges from the beautiful, quiet flowing Levuvhu River shaded by Nyala trees and fever tree forests and teeming with hippos and crocodiles; to the awesome Lanner Gorge, palm fringed wetlands and rocky outcrops with thousand year old baobab trees. Members of the Makuleke community are employed at the camp.



### **Transport.**

Students and staff will meet at Heathrow Airport prior to the flight and check in together. The proposal is to fly from London (via Cairo) - Johannesburg.

### **Student numbers.**

The course is open to all students, with year 3 having priority, then year 2 and then year 1 students. Numbers are restricted to a **maximum of 17 students**. Last year the trip was over subsidised and a place will only be secured once the full deposit has been paid and a completed Health & Safety form has been completed.

### **Proposed Itinerary:**

#### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Day 1**

Depart Heathrow airport at 14.00 hours

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Day 2**

7.05am – arrive Johannesburg Airport

Clear customs

Transfer to Makuleke Camp, Kruger National Park (approx. 6-7 hours)

Safety briefing

Evening game drive / sundowners

#### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Day 3**

Morning walk - survival skills

Morning lecture: bush skills

Afternoon game drive - bush skills, tree identification, medicinal value and folklore

Evening activity – astronomy (weather permitting)

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Day 4**

Morning walk - 'little 5', possible butterfly identification

Morning lecture : Ecology

Afternoon game drive

Sleep out

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Day 5**

Morning game drive - watch sunrise over the bush; animal behaviour

Morning lecture time: photo editing and video editing

Afternoon walk: track and sign in the bush. Learn to identify tracks and get to grips with situational awareness.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Day 6**

Morning walk – general interpretation

Morning lecture: Animal Behaviour lecture

Evening game drive - Ecology 2: Interrelatedness

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Day 7**

Leave camp and depart early for Makuleke Community – spend 2-3 hours there

After lunch drive to Hoedspruit. Packed lunches will be provided however should students desire a takeaway meal in the town enroute, this will be at their own cost. Arrival Hoedspruit late afternoon. Dinner out at a bush pub near Hoedspruit.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Day 8**

Rhino notching

Depart for airport – flight approximately 21.45 hours from Johannesburg Airport.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Day 9**

Arrive Heathrow airport 12.35 hours

NB – please note that some of the above activities are weather dependant.

**Cost:**

“The bottom line!” – total cost will be approximately **£1,595.00**. All trips and meals are included in this cost.

**What next:**

If you are interested please email Jane Cooke at [jane.cooke@cornwall.ac.uk](mailto:jane.cooke@cornwall.ac.uk).

**A NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF £750** to cover the cost of the air fare will be required by the end of November. More details of how to pay will follow.