



Wild Vets | Information booklet

About Wild Vets

Live4now Wild Vets is a specialised wildlife vet programme for people who are associated within the veterinary science field and would like to get practical, hands-on experience with domestic and wild animals in South Africa, under the supervision of a wildlife vet.

The students will have the opportunity to listen to animal-focused lectures and well as participate in practical interactions.

We will accompany the students from airport pick-up to drop-off, offering guidance and support throughout their experience, making it as meaningful and rewarding as possible.

Live4now was incorporated in 2012 and currently offers wildlife volunteering programmes in South Africa. It was established by Elton and Melissa du Plooy were born and educated in South Africa. They share a common passion for wildlife conservation and showing guests their beautiful country. Thus Live4now was created.

Melissa and Elton will be the students' in-country support and will accompany them on all the tasks and activities.

The programme lasts for 3 weeks and is structured in such a way that no extra costs will be incurred during the students stay with us. Accommodation (Chalet and dormitory style), all in-country transport, activities and food (3 meals a day) are included in the package.

A minimum of 12 students are needed to make the programme viable. With every 12 students that sign up a lecturer or person involved can attend the programme free of charge. (Flights, insurance and visas are not included).

The programme addresses aspects such as

Wildlife Diseases

Learn all about the different diseases that affect our wildlife. Learn about the different methods of testing for diseases as well as the ways to control them.

Wildlife conservation

Learn about the many ongoing efforts occurring on game reserves in order to conserve our precious wildlife.

Game capture techniques

Learn about different methods of game capture and why it needs to be done.

Translocation of wildlife

Assist in transporting captured wildlife to different reserves and releasing them into their new environments.

Snake handling

Take part in a practical course on safe techniques of snake handling. The course finishes with a written exam and successful delegates are awarded a certificate upon completion.

Animal breeding Project

Learn about why certain species of big cats need to be involved in breeding programmes and what is being done to help them.

Ecological management

Learn about different ecosystems, and how to effectively manage them.

Veterinary care of domestic animals in underprivileged areas

Go into the rural areas and assist the Community Vet Clinic. The CVC is a non-profit organisation providing primary veterinary health care to animals in disadvantaged communities and education to pet owners and subsistence farmers.

Darting

Learning how to effectively and efficiently dart wildlife

Educating rural communities about animal welfare

Teach underprivileged rural communities about how to treat animals with respect the effect poaching has on our wildlife.

Veterinary drugs and their uses

Learn about different types of drugs, why they are used and how to effectively use them.

Medical work on sick and injured wildlife

You will assist the vet with diagnosis and treatment of injuries or different types of sicknesses. You will also be monitoring the animal's health as well as providing support to the vet.

Animal behaviour

Learn about the ways animals interact with each other and their environment

Parasites

Learn about the different types of parasites that affect our wildlife and how to control it.

Learn how big 5 game reserves are run

Learn what is involved in managing and running a big 5 game reserve.

What's to gain?

- Veterinary work experience
- A certificate on snake handling as well as the knowledge on how to capture snakes
- A signed copy of one of Johan Marais snake books
- The satisfaction of teaching children how to treat animals with respect
- Learn about the many diverse cultures in South Africa
- Practical, hands-on veterinary medicine experience with wild animals in a couple of Game Reserve settings.
- Experiencing a diversity of activities and seeing some of this beautiful country
- The opportunity to touch a cheetah!
- A Visit to South Africa's biggest game reserve: The Kruger National park
- The opportunity to gain endless amounts of knowledge from the wildlife vet

Contact details of all involved in the programme

Name	Involvement	Tell/Cell	e-mail
Elton du Plooy	Programme coordinator	+27 82 797 8907	Elton@live4now.co.za
Melissa du Plooy	Programme coordinator	+27 74 027 7570	Melissa@live4now.co.za
Dr James Roxburgh	Wildlife Vet	+27 83 456 7436	James.roxburgh@gmail.com
Ann Du Pont	Bonamanzi Operations manager	+27 35 562 0181	opsmsg@bonamanzi.co.za
Daleen Grundlingh	Community Vet Clinic	+27 12 346 1150	cvc@sava.co.za
Johan Marais	Snake handling course	+27 82 494 2039	johan@africansnakebiteinstitute.com
Kian Barker	St Lucia heritage tour	+27 82 445 6462	info@shakabarker.co.za

What's included

- Food: consists of 3 meals a day
- Accommodation: chalet and dormitory style
- All ground transportation
- All the activities
- Access to washing machines
- Travel advice prior to departure
- Transfers to and from Richards Bay Airport/ JHB International airport (on set arrival and departure days)
- Orientation on arrival
- Tea, coffee, juice and bottled water
- Support and assistance throughout your stay, 24/7
- Free Wifi only at Bonamanzi's main lodge (the 1st lodge stayed at)

Food/meals:

- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast during week days. Sundays we will offer an English breakfast for those who fancy something more savoury.
- Lunch: consists of a sandwich, crisps, fruit and a fruit juice.
- Dinner: will be a warm meal consisting of dishes such as stews, pastas and a taste of some traditional South African meals as well. We will also occasionally have a BBQ under the stars.

Educational Activities:

- St Lucia Heritage Tour
Enjoy a full day of exploring this pristine area. The trip is presented by a professional guide on an open game viewing vehicle and includes an ecological overview of the area, game-viewing, bird-watching, short walks and a visit to Cape Vidal beach where we will do some snorkelling and whale watching (In Season). Learn all about the five ecosystems that make up this unique park.
- Cheetah Interaction
Interact with cheetahs and learn all about 4 of South Africa's cat species. The knowledgeable rangers will introduce the importance of breeding projects for these endangered species.
- Kruger National Park
Enjoy a sunrise and sunset game drive and go on a guided walk through the Kruger national park, South Africa's largest nature reserve.
- A day spent in Conservation
Learn all about the animals that inhabit this area and help out with one of the conservation efforts on the reserve. This could include: Tracking elephants on foot, Rhino and buffalo monitoring, learning how to do game counts or assisting in our leopard and hyena tracking project to mention a few.
- Snake Handling Course
The course is conducted by world renowned Johan Marais. Learn all about snakes and how to handle them and also get the opportunity to handle the snakes yourselves. A certificate will be given to the students at the end of the course as well as an autographed copy of one of his books.

Washing machine:

- You will have the opportunity to wash your clothes weekly. All necessary powders and will be supplied.

What's not included

- Visa costs
- Flight tickets
- Medical and Travel Insurance

Price (per person)

€ - €2 500

Health and safety

- The coordinators will be with the students from airport pick up to drop off.
- All travelling is done by the coordinators who both possess a Professional Driving Permit.
- Students will be required to sign an indemnity form on arrival.
- Hospitals and Doctors are located in the nearest towns.
- One of the coordinators is a first aider and carries a first aid kit at all times.
- Malaria: We advise that all students get advice regarding anti-malarials from their doctor.
- Students should consult their doctor for advice on vaccinations they might need before travelling to South Africa.

Items to bring along

Essential items:

- A Good torch
- Mosquito repellent
- Light cotton clothing - (no bright colours)
- Some warm clothes for game drives and sitting around the fire at night
- Hat/cap
- Sunscreen
- Swimming costume
- Comfortable walking shoes
- A pair of long trousers for walking in the bushveld

- Waterproof jacket
- A small backpack or bag
- Hiking shoes (preferably with high sides that cover ankles)
- Any special medication

Non - essential items:

- Camera
- Binoculars
- Laptop/ tablet or phone capable of internet browsing
- Sunglasses
- Spending money to buy gifts for family and friends or luxury items (chocolates, alcohol, cigarettes)

Requirements

- Full travel and medical insurance
- Basic English
- Good level of fitness - work can be strenuous

How to apply

- Contact coordinators directly to enquire or request an application form

Melissa du Plooy
Melissa@live4now.co.za

Cell: +27 74 027 7570

Elton du Plooy
Elton@live4now.co.za

Cell: +27 82 797 8907

Payment

A 20% booking deposit is required to secure a place in the group.

Full payment needs to be done 2 months before arrival.

Payment can be made via PayPal or by direct transfer.

Bank details are on the invoice that's gets sent through after the application form is submitted.