

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 wildlife vets.

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

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

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

The Wild Vets programme is structured in such a way that no extra costs will be incurred during your stay with us. Accommodation, all in-country transport, activities and food (3 meals a day) are all included in the package.

We only take 8 students per group. This is to make sure the group isn't too big and to give you the best experience possible!

The programme could address aspects such as:

Wildlife diseases

Learn about some of 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, if required.

Animal breeding project

Learn about why certain animal species need to be involved in breeding programmes and what is being done to help 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 use a dart gun.

Wildlife veterinary pharmacology

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

Medical work on sick and injured wildlife

You could assist the vets with diagnosis and treatment of injuries or different types of sicknesses, monitoring the animal's health as well as provide support to the vets.

Animal behaviour

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

Parasites

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

CVC (Community Vet Clinic)

Please note that the community vet clinic is a government run organisation and they might not be able to run a campaign while you are here. If this is the case we will arrange an alternative veterinary related experience for that day.

What's to gain?

- Veterinary work experience
- Practical, hands-on veterinary medicine experience with wild animals
- Travelling through and experiencing some of this beautiful country
- The opportunity to get close to many different wild animals!
- The opportunity to touch an elephant! (not included in the 2 week programme)
- The opportunity to be a few metres from a Hippo! (not included in the 2 week programme)
- A Visit to South Africa's biggest game reserve: The Kruger National Park!
- Experience the many diverse cultures in South Africa
- The opportunity to gain endless amounts of knowledge from the wildlife vet
- Learn about what is being done to conserve our wildlife
- The opportunity to help animals in poor, disadvantaged areas
- The opportunity to learn more about snakes and other reptiles
- The opportunity to work with a vet in a wildlife veterinary hospital

What's included

- Food: 3 meals a day
- Accommodation
- All ground transportation
- All the activities
- Lectures and course materials
- Park entry fees
- Travel advice prior to departure
- Transfers to and from Johannesburg International airport (on set arrival and departure days only)
- Orientation on arrival
- Tea, coffee, juice and bottled water (where necessary)
- Support and assistance throughout your stay, 24/7
- A certificate upon completion

What's not included

- Visa costs (Only if a Visa is needed)
- Flight tickets
- Medical and Travel Insurance

Currency

ZAR (South African Rand). If you need to change your currency into Rands, please do it at Johannesburg airport (OR Tambo) as this is the only place you will be able to do it.

If you are going to also use your bank card while you are here then please remember to let your bank know that you will be using your card out of the country.

Other

Washing machine:

A washing machine is available at certain areas during your trip at your own cost (approximately R200 per wash). Washing powder will be supplied.

Wifi:

Wifi availability will be limited due to us being in very remote locations. It is recommended that you purchase your own local sim card at Johannesburg international airport if you require constant internet access. It is important that you buy this sim card at JHB international airport as you won't be able to get it anywhere else. Please also note that due to the remote locations you will be travelling to your mobile phone signal might be compromised.

Weather:

It can get cold here in Winter so you need to bring some warm clothes with you. In the mornings and at night it can be very cold (below 5 degrees celcius) but mostly during the day the temperature is mild to warm (18-26 degrees celcius).

Educational Activities included in your programme

- **St Lucia town and hippo and crocodile boat trip** (not included in the 2 week programme)
You will be going to a little seaside town called St Lucia. Here you will enjoy a 1.5 hour boat trip down the St Lucia estuary in between all the hippo's and crocs. It is one of the best spots in South Africa to get close to these magnificent creatures. You will also get the opportunity to go and see the beautiful Indian Ocean and have a bite to eat at one of the restaurants.
- **Elephant Interaction** (not included in the 2 week programme)
You will get the chance to interact with free-roaming elephants. The knowledgeable rangers will talk you through the elephant's history as well as provide you with interesting facts while you get to interact with these amazing majestic creatures.
- **Game drive** (not included in the 2 week programme)
You will go on a 2-3hr game drive on a big 4 game reserve. You could expect to encounter animals such as buffalo, antelope, elephants, rhino, giraffe, leopards and lots more!
- **Visit to the Community education centre** (not included in the 2 week programme)
You will be going to a rural community education centre where you will enjoy a traditional Zulu lunch. You will also learn about the community's education initiatives to conserve the elephants. You may also get the chance to make some paper out of elephant dung!
- **Elephant River Safari** (not included in the 2 week programme)
You will be joining the researcher on a river safari to try and spot the elephants on the shores of the lake. The researcher will talk you through what is being done to conserve these majestic creatures.
- **Rhino tracking** (not included in 2 week programme)
You will be going out on foot/game viewer to track and try and find the elusive black rhino on the reserve. On your walk/drive, you could expect to encounter animals such as buffalo, antelope, elephants, rhino, giraffe, leopards and lots more!

- **Endangered species breeding centre**
Learn all about the centre and the vital role they play in breeding rare and endangered species. You will also get a ‘behind the scenes’ look at the centre from a veterinary perspective.
- **Kruger National Park**
You will have the opportunity of enjoying a guided game drive in the park with the park rangers. Kruger is a big 5 game reserve and you have a very high chance of spotting all of the big 5 while you are here!
- **Curio/souvenir market**
You will have the opportunity to stop off at a curio market. Curio markets usually have many African souvenirs. This would be a good opportunity for you to buy gifts for your loved ones back home!

Health and safety

- Live4now staff will be with you from airport pick up to drop off.
- All travelling is done by the professional guides whom possess Professional Driving Permits.
- You will be required to sign an indemnity form on arrival.
- Hospitals and Doctors are located in the nearest towns.
- Malaria: We advise that you get advice regarding anti-malarial medication from your doctor.
- You should consult your doctor for advice on vaccinations you might need before travelling to South Africa.
- You will need to get rabies vaccinations before coming on the trip.

Items to bring along

Please make sure you only bring one large suitcase and one piece of hand luggage. This is due to space restrictions in the minibus.

Essential items:

	A flashlight
	Mosquito repellent
	Light weight cotton clothing - (no bright colours)
	Warm clothing for cold evenings and mornings
	Preferably old clothing that can get ruined
	Hat/cap
	Sunscreen
	Swimming costume
	Comfortable walking shoes
	A few pairs of old long trousers for walking in the bushveld
	Waterproof jacket
	A small backpack
	Hiking shoes (preferably with high sides that cover ankles)
	Any special medication
	Bath and swimming towel
	A refillable water bottle
	Plug adaptor

	Copy of travel insurance documents
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Non - essential items:

	Camera
	Binoculars
	Sunglasses
	Spending money to buy gifts for family and friends or luxury items (chocolates, drinks), washing your clothes etc.

Requirements

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

How to apply

- Contact the coordinator directly to enquire or request an application form

Melissa du Plooy

melissa@live4now.co.za

Cell/mobile: +27 74 027 7570

Price (per person)

- € 3 240 - Full programme
- € 2 680 - 2 week programme

Payment

A 25% booking deposit is required to secure a place in the group.

Full payment needs to be made **2 months** before arrival.

Payment can be made via direct transfer.

Bank details are on the invoice that gets sent through to you after the applicant form has been submitted.