

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Professional Field Guide

Level 1

Course Duration

6 month theory and practical training

(followed by an optional 6 month experiential

Learning placement period)



Course dates for 2010

15 February 2010 – 15 August 2010

17th May 2010 – 19th November 2010

Course dates reflect only the dates applicable to the first 6 month training period. Exact dates of the 6 month placement period will vary for each individual student.

***Registration closes 6 weeks prior to course commencement.**

Courses are limited to a maximum of 20 students, please book early to secure your place!

Course Fee

February intake: R78 000

May intake: R85 000

Course fee includes:

- All tuition
- All meals and accommodation. Laundry service included. (Uniforms and Linen only)
- All transport and entrance fees to parks and reserves visited during training. (Transport from to and from the airport is excluded.)
- FGASA registration, membership and exam fees.
- First Aid Training
- Rifle Hire, range fees and ammunition
- Uniform
- Training manuals

Course fee excludes: (Optional extra)

Disclaimer:

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- PADI Level 1 (Diving) training at Sodwana Bay

Certification: On successful completion of the programme, qualifying learners will receive:

First Aid (Level 1) 3t54

FGASA Level 1 (Full), FGASA Level 2 (Theory component only)

SASSETA Rifle Handling Certificate

FGASA Back-up Trails Guide

Bhejane Nature Training Certificate of Successful Completion – Professional Field Guide Level 1

Above certification is subject to successful completion of all the qualifying exams and assessments. (You are welcome to contact us for more information about industry certification and training authorities such as THETA, FGASA or SASSETA.)

The above certification will enable you to work in most game reserves in South Africa upon completion of the course and provided that you have obtained a valid work permit. If you are doing this programme for interest only, and do not wish to work in South Africa, you may choose not to write the FGASA exams.



Admission Requirements:

- Minimum recommended age is 18.
- An acceptable standard of English literacy for second language speakers is required to successfully complete the programme. English literacy at Grade 10 is the minimum requirement.
- International driver's licence. (Optional - only required if you want to be assessed on foot as well as in a vehicle)
- Study Visa
- Health / Travel insurance is recommended.
- A reasonable level of personal fitness

Programme Content: The training programme consists of 5 modules. These include:

1) Orientation

The first week of training takes the form of an orientation session. The aim of this module is to assess the student in terms of several life skills and guiding abilities.

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2) Nature Guiding – Knowledge of nature

Theory lectures and practical training around topics such as Geology, Astronomy, Weather and Climate, Ecology, Taxonomy, Biomes of Southern Africa, Botany and Grasses, Insects, Amphibians, Reptiles, Fish, Birds, Mammals, and Animal Behaviour. Whilst all topics are covered in theory lectures, most training will take place in the field, observation while you learn.

3) Marine Guiding

An introduction to guiding in a Marine Environment, we relocate for a short period of time to a camp just outside of the Kosi Bay Mouth, to complete and in depth practical for this module. The full FGASA Level 1 Marine Guiding syllabus is covered. (Assessment is optional for this new module). The module ends with an optional 3 day PADI diving course in Sodwana Bay.

4) Practical Guiding Skills

Includes Wilderness First Aid, Rifle Handling, driving skills, radio communication, interpretation skills, situational awareness, tracking.

5) Wildlife Tourism

A fun and interesting module with various discussion topics around conservation and the cultural landscape. This includes interactive experiences with local Zulu and Thonga Tribes. We also discuss conservation ethics, the controversial hunting industry and look at the links between conservation and eco-tourism. New emerging niche-eco-tourism markets are also briefly explored to ensure that you leave this programme with a good vision and plan for your future.

This module is unique to Bhejane Nature Training and provides you with a more in-depth look at working in Wildlife Tourism and Conservation.

6) Dangerous Game Trails Guiding

Planning and conducting trails, Tracking skills, Navigation and orientation, Advanced Animal behaviour, Weapon handling, Advanced Rifle Handling Assessment, Bushcraft and Survival.

Books and Equipment

- Bhejane Nature Training Manuals are included in the price.
- FGASA Manuals, Workbooks and Logbooks are included in the price.
- Equipment such as binoculars are not included.

Students will receive a complete list of recommended books and equipment upon registration.

Facilities

The Bhejane Nature Training College is situated within the THANDA Private Game Reserve between the northern KwaZulu Natal towns of Mkuze and Hluhluwe. Apart from the Big 5, the reserve is also home to wild dog, black rhino and an astonishing plant and bird diversity. Accommodation is in en suite thatched huts. All meals are prepared by camp staff although students help with some basic camp chores.

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Due to the large variety of habitat types in Zululand and the along the Elephant Coast, we go on excursions to various camps and parks, where we may camp out in the veld, sleep in huts, or stay un fenced tents amongst Africa's wildlife.

Uniforms:

Students will be provided with a Khaki Uniform, BNT Peak Cap, and Fleece Top for the colder mornings out in the veld.

Students are required to bring their own sleeping bags and pillows for sleep-outs.

Location:

The reserves of Northern Zululand and Maputaland have often been described as simply the most breathtaking and spectacular in the whole of Southern Africa. Known globally as a biodiversity hotspot, the area boasts a biodiversity that is unrivalled by any other Southern African Parks. The first national park ever proclaimed in South Africa, The Pongola Game Reserve, together with the surrounding parks and reserves of St. Lucia and Hluhluwe, make this the oldest protected areas in Africa – a truly unique wilderness area.

Known for its impressive lakes and wetland systems, the area is also characterised by unspoilt marine reserves, and a range of habitats that includes mountains, grasslands, forests (more than 80% of SA's remaining forests are found here), savannah, estuaries and mangroves. The Sand Forests, Fever Tree Forests, and Fig Forest in Mkuze Game Reserve is guaranteed to add some magic to your training experience!



Entering the Fig Forest



Ndumo Game Reserve



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Our instructors:

All instructors are recognised FGASA trainers and assessors and are registered with the relevant training authorities such as THETA and SASSETA to conduct assessment on national qualifications and unit standards.

Guest lectures are also conducted by various specialists. These may vary from one course to another as we have to rely on the availability of these experts. Current guest speakers/ lecturers include Field Biologists from EKZN Wildlife, Steve Woodhall – author of various Butterfly Field Guides, Digs Pascoe, local historian and CEO of the Space for Elephants Foundation as well as mammal researchers working with the Space for Elephants Foundation. To learn more about Space for Elephants, please go to www.space4elephants.org.

Bhejane Nature Training is an associate member of the Space for Elephants foundation and work with them on various research projects and initiatives. Full time students may also from time to time get an opportunity to take part in these research activities, or accompany field researchers to learn more about field observation.

Specialist activities:

Whilst it is our primary focus to produce competent and highly skilled field guides, we do also endeavour to introduce you to the various fields of specialisation, to assist you in planning your future as a guide and enrich your training experience. These activities include Birding, Butterflying, Dangerous Game Trails Guiding, Overland Guiding, Marine Guiding, Horse Guiding, and various other specialist fields.

***Book your place now, to become a part of the
Zululand Conservation Legacy!***

Payment and Cancellation Policy



A 25% deposit is required upon first registration. The balance is to be paid prior to course commencement.

Closing date for registration is 6 weeks prior to course commencement.

Courses are limited to a maximum of 10 students. Timely cancellation is consequently of utmost importance to enable us to notify any students on waiting lists as soon as possible of an opening.

Cancellations done before the closing date of registration are subject to an administration fee.

The minimum deposit required for registration is non-refundable if cancellation occurs after the registration closing date. (This does not apply to cancellation due to extraordinary circumstances.)



Field Guides Association
of Southern Africa



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