



**DISCOVER
EDEN** A LEARNING
ADVENTURE

ITINERARY

discovereden.co.za

ECOLOGY COURSE INFORMATION

ABOUT THE ECOLOGY PROGRAM

Discover Eden is an organisation which oversees meaningful educational tours in South Africa and provides an all-inclusive package for students. Food, accommodation and ground transport are all included in our packages.

Discover Eden was co-founded by Elton du Plooy and Dr Mark Brown to provide young conservation students with the opportunity to experience what a **career in conservation** can be like in a practical, hands-on way. Drawing on their extensive experience of doing ecological research and applied conservation work in southern Africa for several decades, Discover Eden has carefully developed courses that maximise opportunities for students to gain meaningful insight into conservation work in Africa. All of the activities we offer are included in the cost to help make it easy to budget for the trip with no unexpected costs.

Discover Eden 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. Our personal service, the quality of the activities, the excellent accommodation we offer and the well-managed, meaningful structure of our programmes will make this an experience you will never forget.

The Discover Eden Conservation Ecology program is specifically designed for those who are either studying or working in the **ecological sciences, including zoology, botany, environmental science, animal science, or biological sciences**.

The program length is **3 weeks** and takes you out into the field to learn hands-on from some of the top conservation professionals in South Africa. Learn while having a great time touring our country.

Please see the **itinerary document** for a breakdown of the trip. Please note due to the unpredictability of nature, the weather and the availability of the scientists, this itinerary may change without prior notice.

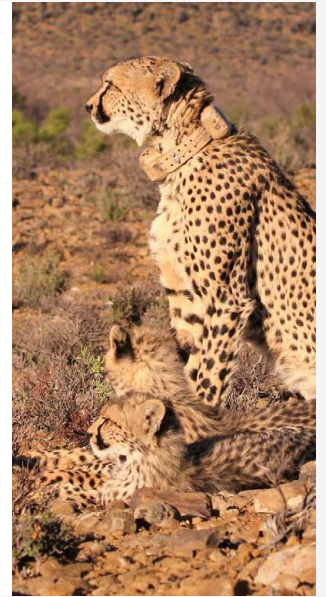
THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES

GAME RESERVE MANAGEMENT & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

You will spend 5 days on a game reserve. During your time on the reserve you will be accompanying and assisting game rangers as they fulfil their duties managing the conservation on the reserve.

You could take part in tasks such as:

- The visual monitoring, research and tracking of animals.
- Monitoring of species that are hard to spot with the use of camera traps.
- Bird identification and monitoring, including bird ringing/banding.
- Monitoring animal behaviour.
- Habitat and vegetation identification.
- Erosion control.
- Alien invader plant removal and management.



ORNITHOLOGY

- Visit a raptor centre. Learn about the anatomy, behaviour and the rescue and rehabilitation the centre is involved with.
- Take part in a bird ringing exercise hosted by a professional bird ringer who works for a local NPO focusing on conserving the biodiversity of the beautiful Natures Valley area.



MARINE BIOLOGY

- Spend 2 days with marine biologists who work for an organisation that is heavily involved with marine conservation in their area. You could take part in activities such as a shark cage dive, shark tagging on a research boat or from shore, a snorkelling survey or dissection, an estuary survey or other relevant conservation-based activities. Apart from these activities you will also be receiving lectures from the biologists.
- Be taken on a 'behind the scenes' tour of a world class seabird sanctuary. Here you will be given talks by one of the biologists and the vet nurse who is responsible for the wellbeing of the endangered African penguins and other sea birds at the centre.
- Visit a coastal nature reserve, which is also a natural penguin colony, where you will be given a talk by a marine specialist about marine conservation relating to endangered sea birds.
- Explore Africa's premier aquarium in Cape Town. Be taken on a special 'behind the scenes' tour of the aquarium by one of the aquarium biologists.
- Learn important basic marine research techniques and immerse yourself under water to gather some much needed data.
- Jump in and snorkel with seals at a large Cape fur seal breeding colony with an experienced team of professionals.



HERPETOLOGY

- Get to grips with the snake species found in our region, and learn about their biology and how to safely handle and work with these special reptiles.



BOTANY

- Spend a full day with a botanist in the Kirstenbosch botanical gardens, also known as the most beautiful gardens in South Africa and is acclaimed as one of the great botanic gardens of the world. You will get a full tour of the gardens and receive lectures on different aspects of botany.
- Walk on Robberg Peninsula, an internationally renowned reserve with a blend of plant, marine and bird encounters. Spot great white sharks, whales, dolphins and seals from land and learn more about the incredible Fynbos plant Kingdom.
- Learn about natural vegetation and the management of it on a game reserve as well as the control of alien invader plants and why it is so important.



ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

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

ECOLOGY, BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABILITY

- These topics will be addressed throughout the entire programme. You will meet scientists from The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), The Cape Leopard Trust and the Natures Valley Trust (NVT) who will also be addressing these topics.

THE MANAGEMENT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

- This topic will be addressed on many different occasions throughout the programme by scientists and rangers in charge of their conservation.



WHATS 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 from Cape Town International airport on arrival and to George airport on departure (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

WHATS NOT INCLUDED

- Visa costs (If needed)
- Flight tickets
- Medical and Travel Insurance

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:

- Mosquito repellent
- Light cotton clothing
- Warm clothing for cold evenings and mornings
- Preferably some 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
- Swimming towel
- A refillable water bottle

OTHER

Washing machine:

- A washing machine is available at certain areas during your trip at your own cost (approximately R60 per wash). Washing powder will be supplied.

Wifi:

- Wifi availability will be limited. It is recommended that you purchase your own local sim card at Johannesburg international airport if you require constant internet access.

Weather:

- It can get cold 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, approximately 18-26 degrees celcius.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Discover Eden will have a guide with you from airport pick up to drop off.
- All travelling is done by the coordinators/guides that 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: The tour takes place in a non-malaria region. So, you do not need malaria medication.
- You should consult your doctor for advice on vaccinations you might need before travelling to South Africa.

NON-ESSENTIAL ITEMS

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

REQUIREMENTS

- Full travel and medical insurance
- Basic English
- Good level of fitness

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.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the application form or contact the coordinator directly if you require any more information.

Elton du Plooy

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PRICE PER PERSON

\$ 3 490 - US Dollar / **€ 2 980** - Euro

BOOK NOW

PAYMENT

A 25% booking deposit is required to secure a place in the group. Full payment needs to be made 2 months before arrival.

Bank details are on the invoice that's gets sent through after the applicant details form is submitted an a space confirmed.

