



**DISCOVER
EDEN** A LEARNING
ADVENTURE

ITINERARY

discovereden.co.za

MARINE BIOLOGY COURSE INFORMATION

ABOUT THE MARINE BIOLOGY 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.

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. 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 Marine Biology 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 **2 weeks** and takes you out into the field to learn hands-on from professionals. Learn while having a great time touring South Africa.

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

MARINE BIOLOGY

- Spend 4 days with a team of marine scientists, getting foundational training and practical experience in several different marine biology research techniques.
- 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.
- Get training on free-diving research, collect, process and discuss data yourself.
- Jump in and snorkel with seals at a large Cape fur seal breeding colony with an experienced team of professionals
- Learn about important work being done to counter the impacts of people on coastal biodiversity and assist in conducting monitoring work on beach research documenting marine debris, assessing breeding success of shorebirds and collecting waterbird data for a long-standing national citizen science program.
- 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.
- Spend a day with experienced whale watching guides, learning about the industry and how local research is assisting to make it sustainable. Get up close and personal with cetaceans that share our beautiful bay.
- Sit and chat about careers in conservation and marine biology with Dr Mark Brown, as he shares his experiences of mentoring ecology and marine biology students for over 20 years.



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
- Reasonable swimming proficiency

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

contact@discovereden.co.za Mobile: +27 82 797 8907

PRICE PER PERSON

\$ 3 190 - US Dollar / **€ 2 900** - Euro

BOOK NOW

Please note: We use the US Dollar as our base currency as such the EUR price may change at any time due to exchange rate fluctuations.

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.

