



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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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 a cheetah!
- The opportunity to touch an elephant! (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

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 from Richards Bay Airport on arrival and to Johannesburg International 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

Other

Washing machine:

- A washing machine is available at certain areas during your trip at your own cost (approximately R40 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 reception might be compromised.

Educational Activities:

- **St Lucia Hippo and crocodile boat trip** (not included in the 2 week programme)
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 Africa to get close to these magnificent creatures.
- **Elephant Interaction** (not included in the 2 week programme)
You will get the chance to interact with 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. You will be given opportunity to feed the elephants as well as touch their ears, behind his tusks, and even get to feel their tongues.
- **Breeding centre**
Learn all about the centre and the vital role they play in breeding rare and endangered species. You will also get the opportunity to get up close to Cheetahs!
- **Kruger National Park**
Attend lectures on current topics affecting the control and management of animals in the park as well as enjoy game drives through the Kruger National Park, South Africa's largest nature reserve.
- **Days spent in conservation** (not included in the 2 week programme)
Learn all about the animals that inhabit this area and help out with a few of the conservation efforts on the reserve. This could include: Monitoring/tracking elephants and rhino, learning how to do game counts, alien plant removal and snare patrols to mention a few.
- **Rhino or elephant tracking and lecture** (not included in the 2 week programme)
Go rhino or elephant tracking to find the elusive black rhino or elephants and attend a lecture on the conservation of these majestic creatures.
- **Snake Course**
The course covers general information on the types of snakes in South Africa, their distribution, the venomous and benign species, diagnostic sampling and lab testing, therapeutics and medicine, infectious diseases, parasites and other interesting information.

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).

What's not included

- Visa costs
- Flight tickets
- Medical and Travel Insurance

Health and safety

- Live4now staff will be with you from airport pick up to drop off.
- All travelling is done by the coordinators/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-malarials 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

Essential items:

- A Good torch
- Mosquito repellent
- Light 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

Non - essential items:

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

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

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

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Price (per person)

- € 2920 - Full programme
- € 2410- 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 PayPal or by direct transfer.

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