



WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

**JANUARY 2019
INTAKE**

— **GUIDE TRAINING PROSPECTUS**
www.wildernesstrails.org.za



**FIELD GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTH AFRICA ACCREDITED
TRAINING PROVIDER**

ABOUT US

WITH OVER SIXTY YEARS EXPERIENCE AND ARGUABLY SOME OF THE BEST WILDERNESS GUIDES IN THE INDUSTRY. WITH THE WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL YOU ARE ASSURED OF TRAINING OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY AND UNRIVALLED PRACTICAL GUIDING EXPERIENCES. WE GO BEYOND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.

Dr. Ian Player, one of the leading figures in South African Rhino Conservation and founder of the Wilderness Leadership School pioneered the concept of wilderness trails well over half a century ago.

Over 60 years later and over 60 000 people on trail the principles, the experience and the purpose of these Wilderness trails remains the same.



OUR HISTORY

Founded over 60 years ago by Dr. Ian Player and Magqubu Ntombela, the Wilderness Leadership School is one of the leading non profit organisations in South Africa dedicated to a direct experience of nature.

"On trail we are guests of the natural world, we are humbled by wilderness, in awe of its complexity, power and beauty. Outside of this our egos rule" ~ Dr. Ian Player

Our work is focused around reconnecting man and nature, exposing leaders and decision makers to the value of wilderness, growing a new generation of leaders, conservation ambassadors and change makers. As a student on the Wilderness Leadership School Training Program you can expect to develop exceptional guiding skills as well as growth as a person, a fundamental outcome of all our trail experiences.



SAFETY

The Wilderness Leadership School has an unblemished safety record for the past 60 years. Each trailist and trainee is fully covered for any (unlikely) emergency scenarios. Our trainers, guides and systems are of the highest global standards



TRAINING ESSENTIALS

We want to train exceptional guides, guides with unparalleled understanding of our planet and her ecosystems, guides that can interpret the magic of a butterfly opening its wings with as much enthusiasm as the magnificence of a herd of elephants crossing a river, guides who can use their time with tourists to spread the conservation message, guides who can become future conservation leaders, guides who can open people's eyes to the power of mother nature and wilderness. But this course is also so much more, it's an opportunity for personal growth, for learning new skills and and an experience of a lifetime.

Why Train With Us

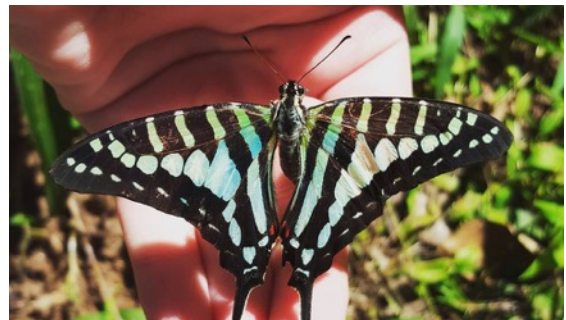
- We go beyond the minimum 50 days training and minimum "core modules"
- Our field training and wilderness experiences are arguably some of the most exciting and authentic field training opportunities.
- With a 60 year track record and a globally recognized organisation, you can be assured of industry recognition and safety at the highest level
- development and entrepreneurship ensuring you have a unique selling point when it comes to job hunting.
- Connections to a global network of wilderness and like-minded sister organisations
- Excellent value for money - comparatively speaking, our training costs are extremely
- Some of the most experienced trainers and guides in the business working with you.
- We offer an in depth range of sessions focused on career
- competitive.
- Small groups and personal attention, It is advised to apply early to ensure your space.

“*"I never thought that I'd learn as much as I have in such a short space of time! We had incredible lecturers and guides and our time in the Wilderness was soul enriching. I am so happy that I decided to do this course with The Wilderness Leadership School and I'm both excited and fully prepared to take my next step as a nature guide"* ~ Demi Mitchell, April

COURSE OUTLINE

THE FOLLOWING MODULES ARE COVERED DURING THE TRAINING. MANY OF THESE INCLUDE EXTENSIVE PRACTICAL FIELD TRAINING SESSIONS AS WELL AS SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT LECTURES, ASSIGNMENTS AND SHORT, DAY FIELD EXCURSIONS. AS A RESULT OF THE PRACTICAL NATURE OF MANY MODULES, THE COURSE INCLUDES COMPULSORY FIELD OUTINGS FOR BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND NON RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS.

- Geology
- Astronomy
- Weather and Climate
- Ecology
- Taxonomy
- The Biomes of Southern Africa
- Botany and Grasses
- Arthropods
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Fish
- Birds
- Mammals
- Animal behaviour
- Conservation Management
- Historical Human Habitation
- Marine Snorkel Guide Basics
- Wilderness Ethics
- Wilderness Facilitation, Psychology and Soft Skills
- Tracking and advanced bush skills
- Weapons Handling
- Advanced Cultural Understanding
- Guest relations
- In depth career guidance and entrepreneurship modules
- Environmental Education Facilitation



OTHER INCLUSIONS

- Leave No Trace Awareness Certification
- Level 1 First Aid
- Rifle Competency Training
- Marine Snorkel (AUSI) certification

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Min 18 years old to be registered as a guide, although you will need to be 21 to have a PDP)
Physically healthy
Grade 12
No criminal record
Fluent in English (read and write)



PRACTICAL TRAINING

Our practical training is the core of the experience and where as a trainee guide, you get to put your theory into practice.

Our practical training includes:

- An initial week training in Tembe Game Reserve in northern Zululand. This is a basic introduction to the skills and knowledge you will have to gain over the coming months
- Leave No Trace Wilderness Trail: For many a highlight of the course is a five day Wilderness Trail, on foot, sleeping under the stars in the iMfolozi Wilderness Area. This is a magical experience and where you will learn valuable tracking skills,

animal behaviour and the principles of “leave no trace”

- Midway through the course students head back up to Tembe for an intensive two week practical field training session. This is where it “all starts to come together” and an amazing time in the bush in one of South Africa’s most remote game reserves.
- Just prior to your final assessments, you will head back

up to Tembe for another two weeks of practical training and assessment preparation. This period also includes your final on site practical assessment by an independent assessor.

Besides these periods in the bush, each day during theory training includes morning walks in Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve and outings to a variety of locations for specific subject matter training.

“*Don and I are doing a nature guide course and part of the training requires us to go into the bush on wilderness trails. I feel completely honored and privileged to be doing this course and am in the process of learning so much from some truly amazing people. ~ Sharlene Versveld*

(April 2017 Graduate)”

OUR FACILITIES & DAILY PROGRAM

The Wilderness Leadership School Headquarters and training facility is located next to the Coedmore Castle inside the 625 acre Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve. An area steeped in history and amazing biodiversity, including 23 km of trails, over 250 species of birds, various mammals and home to a wide variety of endemic and near endemic fauna and flora.

Residential students are accommodated at our training facility (a registered heritage site) in shared double rooms with communal bathrooms and communal kitchen area. Our training room is fully equipped with a library, plenty of recreational space, WiFi and you get to wake up each morning in one of the most magical places!



WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

A variety of day trips and outings for your off time can be arranged (for your own cost)

- Durban city tours and cultural tours
- Rocky shore walks and snorkelling with amazing marine life, including snorkelling with sharks.

On practical training sessions in Tembe Game Reserve, you are accommodated in our exclusive-use bush camp where facilities are basic but comfortable.

All residential students get involved in day to day tasks of meal preparations and cleaning up.

During theoretical training, each day typically starts out with a guided walk aimed at improving ID skills, especially around the “little things” such as birds, insects and plants.

The training also includes ample free time for self study, working on your workbooks and a range of nearby activities to explore during your free time or off weekends.



WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

- MTB trails, Zip-lining, canoeing microlight flights and a range of other fun activities
- CROW (Centre for rehabilitation of Wildlife is a mere 2 Km's away and a fascinating facility to visit)
- Learn to Surf on Durban's beaches

Who are you?

A major part of this course is also drilling down to who you are as an individual, what is important to you, where do you see yourself? Answering these questions, will inevitably lead to a better understanding of what fields in the ecotourism and environmental industry suit you best and careers options that align to what is important to you and where you can make the most impact.

Part of the course includes getting started designing a real life project or initiative which can give you a head start when it comes time for job hunting

Our alumni have access to our network of environmental and tourism professionals to call on for advice, expertise and ongoing discussion post the course



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Learn More About

- The future of ecotourism and conservation, what will be important in ten years time?
- Ecological Consulting and the range of specialist fields to follow
- “Getting your hands dirty” / more traditional conservation and ecotourism careers
- Working in the non profit sector, big and small
- The creative arts, wildlife photography, film making, media in conservation
- Academic and research oriented conservation careers
- Technology and related fields working with conservation
- Corporate social responsibility and SHEQ related careers
- Social entrepreneurship and how new businesses are making an impact
- Environmental education and public outreach
- The many fields and opportunities in the ecotourism industry

DATES & COSTS

This course includes:

- Accommodation and meals (when not in the field) at the Wilderness Leadership School on a sharing basis (two people per room, communal ablutions)
- Wilderness trail experience in iMfolozi Game Reserve, including transport and meals and equipment
- Practical field training in big 5 reserve in Zululand, including transport, accommodation and meals
- Field assessment training in the field and assessments
- Subject matter specialist lectures and day outings, including transport for practical outings
- Level 1 First Aid Certificate
- AUSI Snorkel Accreditation

- Leave No Trace Wilderness Awareness Certification
- Weapons handling competency
- FGASA memberships & Exam Fees
- Ongoing access to trainers and our alumni platforms post training.

ZAR 52 000 per student (full time residential)

ZAR 41 000 per student (non residential)

ZAR 61 000 (international residential students, includes airport transfers and 2 days local induction)

Dates:

20 January 2019 - 18 April 2019

2 September 2019 - 2 December 2019

KESHA
Canada

“
I have never experienced a leave no-trace trail before which has given me a new appreciation for wildlife experiences
”



FELIX
Germany

“
If you have been confined to a city and you're searching for an exhilarating experience - the wilderness trail is definitely where you find it
”



COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Activity	Location
January 20, 2019	Registration and Orientation / Practical skills	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
January 21, 2019	Taxonomy Field Trip & Lecture	Durban Natural Science Museum
January 22, 2019	Birds & Birding	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
January 23, 2019	Mammals / Animal Behaviour	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
January 24, 2019	Ecology	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
January 25, 2019	Morning Free / Mammal Fact Sheets	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
January 26, 2019	Wilderness Theory & Careers In Ecotourism Part 1	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
January 27, 2019	Wilderness Trail / Practicals	Imfolozi Game Reserve
January 28, 2019	Wilderness Trail / Practicals	Imfolozi Game Reserve
January 29, 2019	Wilderness Trail / Practicals	Imfolozi Game Reserve
January 30, 2019	Wilderness Trail / Practicals	Imfolozi Game Reserve
January 31, 2019	Wilderness Trail / Practicals	Imfolozi Game Reserve
February 1, 2019	Wilderness Trail / Practicals	Imfolozi Game Reserve
February 2, 2019	Wilderness Theory Reflecting	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 3, 2019	Off Day	Options: Snorkelling, Learn to surf, cultural tour, adventure trips
February 4, 2019	Off Day	Options: Snorkelling, Learn to surf, cultural tour, adventure trips
February 5, 2019	Arthropods	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 6, 2019	Mammals	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 7, 2019	Reptiles & Snake Demo	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 8, 2019	Off / Study Day	Options: Snorkelling, Learn to surf, cultural tour, adventure trips
February 9, 2019	Off / Study Day	Options: Snorkelling, Learn to surf, cultural tour, adventure trips
February 10, 2019	Test	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 11, 2019	First Aid	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 12, 2019	First Aid	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 13, 2019	Amphibians	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Activity	Location
February 14, 2019	Fish	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 15, 2019	Off Day	Options: Snorkelling, Learn to surf, cultural tour, adventure trips
February 16, 2019	Off Day	Options: Snorkelling, Learn to surf, cultural tour, adventure trips
February 17, 2019	Drakensberg Field Trip - Geology	uKhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site
February 18, 2019	Drakensberg Field Trip - Human Habitation	uKhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site
February 19, 2019	Drakensberg Field Trip - Climate	uKhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site
February 20, 2019	Biomes	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 21, 2019	Biomes	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 22, 2019	Off / Study Day	Options: Snorkelling, Learn to surf, cultural tour, adventure trips
February 23, 2019	Off / Study Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 24, 2019	Botany & Astronomy	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 25, 2019	Conservation	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 26, 2019	Study Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 27, 2019	Study Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
February 28, 2019	Test	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
March 1, 2019	Marine / Snorkelling Outing	Salt Rock
March 2, 2019	Marine / Snorkelling Outing	Salt Rock
March 3, 2019	Careers in Ecotourism Part 2	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve, Durban
March 4, 2019	Practical Training Travel	Tembe Game Reserve
March 5, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 6, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 7, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 8, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 9, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Activity	Location
March 10, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 11, 2019	Practical Training	Durban
March 12, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 13, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 14, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 15, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 16, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 17, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 18, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 19, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 20, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 21, 2019	Practical Training	Tembe Game Reserve
March 22, 2019	Rifle Training Theory	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
March 23, 2019	Rifle Training Theory	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
March 24, 2019	Rifle Training Practical	Durban
March 25, 2019	Study Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
March 26, 2019	ID Tests	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
March 27, 2019	Birds Of Prey Centre Outing	Camperdown
March 28, 2019	Leave No Trace Trail	iMfolozi Game Reserve
March 29, 2019	Leave No Trace Trail	iMfolozi Game Reserve
March 30, 2019	Leave No Trace Trail	iMfolozi Game Reserve
March 31, 2019	Leave No Trace Trail	iMfolozi Game Reserve
April 1, 2019	Leave No Trace Trail	iMfolozi Game Reserve
April 2, 2019	Study Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
April 3, 2019	Study Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
April 4, 2019	Study Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
April 5, 2019	Study Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
April 6, 2019	Final Theory Exam	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
April 7, 2019	Practical Assessment Preparations	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
April 8, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 9, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 10, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 11, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 12, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 13, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 14, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 15, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 16, 2019	Practical Assessments	Tembe Game Reserve
April 17, 2019	Your Future Career: Way Forward	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve
April 18, 2019	Graduation Day	Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve



WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

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