

MAKULEKE CAMP INFORMATION

Pafuri - Kruger National Park Area



Partner van Eco-training South Africa

THE LOCATION

The Concession: Situated between the Limpopo and the Luvuvhu Rivers in the northern sector of Kruger National Park is the Pafuri region, an area spanning 24,000 hectares (59305 acres). Within the Pafuri area is the Makuleke Concession, the ancestral home of the Makuleke people and the most diverse and scenically attractive area in all of Kruger National Park.

The Makuleke concession is not accessible to the ordinary tourist visiting the park. This area belongs to the Makuleke community. This is quite a historical event for South Africa as the Makuleke people were removed from this area in 1968 and after a lengthy process it was finally re-instated to the community in 1998 after a very long struggle. This area is certainly the wildest and most remote part of the Kruger National Park and offers varied vegetation, great wildlife viewing, the best birding in all of the Kruger National Park and is filled with folklore of the early explorers and ancient civilizations.

The camp: EcoTraining's Kruger National Park Camp is situated in the Makuleke concession. The camp is situated between the Limpopo and Luvuvhu Rivers. This is a true wilderness area, steeped in history and situated in the remotest part of Kruger in one of the most biologically diverse areas. Scenery ranges from the beautiful, quietly-flowing Luvuvhu River shaded by Nyala trees and fever tree forests and teeming with hippos and crocodiles; to the awesome Lanner Gorge, palm-fringed wetlands and rocky outcrops with thousand-year-old baobab trees. We employ members of the Makuleke community at our camp and there is a lot of history in the area that is exciting to learn about.

Temperatures at the camp: In the Kruger National Park you'll find a subtropical climate, with hot summers (average 40°C 104 F) and warm, dry winters (average minimum 9.3°C and average maximum 26.3°C). However, be sure not to be caught out by the intermittent summer rains which fall between October and March. Early mornings and late afternoon/evenings during the winter do get very cold, so be sure to bring sufficient warm clothing.

Animals found in the Makuleke Concession (Kruger Park): All the wildlife that one would expect to see in a great national park such as Kruger can potentially be encountered on the concession: plains game such as zebra, kudu, impala, with nyala antelope in abundance. Lions and leopards are a special sighting, herds of elephant, a few rhinoceros, African buffalo, and a growing herd of blue wildebeest, plus seldom-seen animals such as eland, bushpig and aardvark.

There is abundant birdlife. This part of Kruger is known to be one of the best birding areas in the park and is home to rarely-seen species such as Pel's Fishing Owl, Wattle-eyed Flycatcher and Grey-headed Parrot.



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THE CAMP

Accommodation: Students are accommodated in comfortable thatched, tented rooms placed on wooden decks in the shade of large nyala trees. Each room has an en-suite bathroom consisting of a shower and washbasin with hot running water and a flush toilet and also has a veranda overlooking the surrounding bush. The camp itself is not fenced which means that animals do move through the camp from time to time.

The central communal area: This area consists of a thatch-roofed open sided deck where all meals, lectures and studying takes place. A clearing for evening camp fires creates an idyllic setting for social and leisure time.

Electricity: There is no electricity at the camp – paraffin lamps are used for all lighting and a generator is used to charge batteries. Studying at night with paraffin lanterns can at times be challenging so a headlamp for this purpose is recommended as well as an extra battery operated lamp if you wish to study in your tent at night.

The generator is for camp use so will thus not be switched on for the sole purpose of charging learner cameras or other equipment. Learners are allowed to utilise it when it is running for camp purposes and need to understand that it is used at own risk.

Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages (beers & ciders): These are sold from the camp and can only be paid for with cash. There are no credit/debit card or cheque facilities. Cordial fruit juices, tea and coffee are provided.

Water: Fresh, drinkable water is available from the taps.

Laundry: A laundry service is provided by the camp cleaning person and costs R45 per week for 2009, and R50 per week for 2010.

Game viewing vehicles: The game viewing vehicles are open Land Rover TDI's

EcoTraining staff in camp

For the duration of your stay there you will be hosted by:

Bruce Lawson – Head instructor

Phil Hudson – Assistant Instructor



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WHAT TO BRING

	CHECK
• Appropriate walking shoes (hiking boots). Thorns go straight through takkies or sport shoes!	
• Sandals for around the camp	
• Khaki (or neutral coloured) clothing for the bush	
• Warm Jacket and jersey (gloves and scarf as it can get very chilly in the mornings and evenings in winter)	
• Hat for protecting both the head and neck	
• Sunscreen	
• Bath soap and towel	
• Gloves, beanie and scarf as it gets chilly in the mornings and evenings during winter times	
• Torch – very important (a headlamp is very handy as well as a standing lamp for in the tent)	
• Extra batteries	
• Sleeping bag and pillow (for the sleep out - not applicable for one week courses)	
• A camping mattress for the sleep-out (Optional - not applicable for one week courses)	
• Pen / pencil and small notebooks	
• A4 Notebooks / Notepads	
• Small field note books	
• We supply some bedding but please bring sleeping bag and small pillow for sleep outs. (an extra blanket is recommended in winter) (no sleeping bag and pillow needed for short courses)	
• Raincoat / Poncho	
• Insect / tic repellent	
• Water bottles, at least 2 litres. We recommend a camelback, MTB or walking water pouch.	
• Any small snacks / cigarettes etc you would like as there are no shops in the area!	



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• Any reference / field guide books you may have	
• Binoculars and a birding book are essential for your birding courses!	
• Camera	
• Rucksack / daypack	
• Any personal medication	
• CASH (in ZAR Rands only) - sufficient cash for 4 weeks if you intend to purchase from the camp shop. The camps do not have easy access to the closest towns which have ATMs but the ATMs may not always work	
• Battery operated alarm clock (cellphone/mobile batteries run out and students need alarm clocks to wake up at the allocated times)	

- If you have a musical instrument that you would like to bring along, you're most welcome
- **Please note:** radios and C.D. players are NOT allowed.
- Personal MP3's and iPods with earphones can be used, although they must be used with sensitivity to fellow course participants and the environment. If you bring an iPod, please bring your own charging equipment for it, that is, a laptop or appropriate charger.

Extra requirements for those attending the EcoTraining Trails Guide / FGASA Trails Guide Course:

1. The focus is on walking so bring 6 litre capacity water bottles or bladder bags.
2. You need a good sized backpack for the walks as you will be carrying full first aid kits, water, snacks

facebook

Join our Facebook group: **EcoTraining ~ Africa's Wilderness calls you** – to get advice and tips from students booked on the same course or to hear about the wonderful experiences of past students.



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RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Purchasing all the books listed below is not expected. The camp has a library with a copy of each book but if shared amongst learners, they may often be inaccessible. Should you want to purchase your own books, we recommend you purchase at least your own bird book, tree book and mammal book. That way you can refer to them on drives or in camp without having to wait to use the library copy.

1. **Sasol Birds of Southern Africa** – Ian Sinclair; Phil Hockey; Warwick Tarboton
2. **The Wildlife of Southern Africa: A Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of the Region** - Vincent Carruthers
3. **The Behaviour Guide to African Mammals** - Richard Estes
4. **Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa** - Braam van Wyk & Piet van Wyk
5. **Field Guide to Insects of South Africa** - Picker, Griffiths, Weaving
6. **Starwatching: a Southern Hemisphere Guide to the Galaxy** - Anthony Fairall
7. **A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa** - Johan Marais
8. **Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa** - Frits Van Oudtshoorn
9. **Tracks & Signs** - Chris & Tilde Stuart
10. **Mammal Guide** - Burger Cillie
11. **FGASA Level 1 Manual** (if you are doing the Level 1 Course) - Grant Hine
12. **FGASA Trails Guide Manual** (if you are doing the Trails Guide Course) – Grant Hine

Note: Books are available at:

www.fgasa.org.za (FGASA members only)

www.amazon.com

www.kalahari.net

MALARIA

PLEASE TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST MALARIA

We are not permitted by law to give advice regarding medical information. However, learners should be aware that malaria occurs in the regions where our camps are situated. A visit to your local doctor/GP will provide you with the best options in terms of medical precautions. It is important that you use a good insect repellent

A 24-hour malaria hotline is available on:

Mobile: +27 (0)82 234 1800

Telephone: +27 (0)11 678 2679

Toll Free: 0861 MOZZIE (0861 66 99 43)

They will be able to give you a detailed explanation on the risks and advice on precautionary measures.



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INTERNATIONAL LEARNERS

Visas

An international list of South African Embassies and their contact information can be found on: www.rainbownation.com/travel/guides-southafrica/embassy.asp

Finance

The South African currency is the Rand. For up to date currency conversions, visit www.xe.com
Learners can draw cash at Johannesburg or Cape Town International Airport - there are no withdrawal machines at Eastgate Airport in Hoedspruit near the camps.

Medical Information

As with all adventures, we recommend that you consult a physician before spending time in a foreign country. In addition, health information regarding travelling worldwide can be found on these websites:

- The London Hospital of Tropical Diseases <http://thehtd.org>
- TravelDocs www.traveldocs.com
- SAA Netcare Travel Clinics www.travelclinic.co.za

Please ensure that you have plenty of personal necessary medication.

Adaptors

Please bring adaptors to suit your own plugs and South African plug/plug points

POCKET MONEY

The camp does not have easy access to the closest town in which there is an ATM and this ATM may not always work.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE COST
Beverages	Beers/Ciders	R8.00
	Soft drinks	R7.00
	Bottled water	R6.00
EcoTraining Clothing	Caps	R85.00
	Beanies	R60.00
	T-Shirts	R120.00
Stationary	Notebooks, pens (limited supply, please bring your own)	R20.00 to R40.00
FGASA material	Trails Guide Training manual	R75.00
	Trails Guide Workbook	R35.00

*** All prices quoted above are 2009 rates and subject to change without prior notice.

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FGASA

If you are interested in obtaining any of the FGASA qualifications as part of the course, you need to be aware of extra fees that apply for the qualifications being offered. We have a separate information document on FGASA about who it is relevant to and the procedures to register. Registration with FGASA membership and for the theory exam paper must be done independently by you **prior** to starting the course. We do not process registrations at the camp. If you are attending our courses for a career in Field Guiding in southern Africa, then please request this at enquiries@ecotraining.co.za

COMMUNICATION FROM CAMP

1. There is no cell phone reception at the Makuleke Camp. The closest reception is 16kms away and a weekly trip will be made to allow learners to phone. Please ensure that you have enough air time as there is no access to shops selling air time.
2. Contact with your family/friends via the camp's satellite phone – this is limited to emergency calls only from your family and this would go via the head office first who would contact the camp on behalf of the family. The office number is: +27 (0)13 745 7777/8.

GETTING TO CAMP

Please note that all transportation before and after the course is to be arranged by yourself. The personnel at our office are available should you need further advice.

BY ROAD from Johannesburg: (Travel time to Makuleke 6 - 7 hrs)

1. EcoTraining Bush Bus - this option may not be available for every course so please enquire from our office
2. Self Drive – We can also put you in contact with other course participant should you not wish to travel on your own.

Car Hire, Avis www.avis.co.za – A drop off fee and/or collection fee on both sides of travel will be charged. If visiting the camp for a short time (less than 7 days), keeping the car for that period should be considered. If it is a longer stay, drop off and collection of the rented car from the Pafuri gate is recommended.

3. If you get a transfer company, you will be dropped at the Kruger Park Pafuri Gate. You must be there by 14h00 to be collected by EcoTraining's game drive vehicle.

BY AIR from Johannesburg:

Fly to Pafuri in Kruger Park with Sefofane Airlines from Lanseria Domestic Airport in Johannesburg. An EcoTraining game drive vehicle will meet you at the Pafuri landing strip to take you to the camp.

Sefofane Airlines: +27 (0)11 7013700 or nonton@sefofane.co.za



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Directions - Gauteng to Pafuri Gate, Kruger National Park:

- Head North on N1 highway to Pretoria/Pietersburg/Polokwane
- Toll road: 1 (Phumulani Toll Plaza)
- Toll road: 2 (Carousel Toll Plaza)
- Toll road: 3 (Kranskop Toll Plaza)
- Toll road: 4 (Nyl Toll Plaza)
- Go into Pietersburg/Polokwane City
- At first set of traffic lights, Turn Left and follow signs to N1 Louis Trichardt
- At 7th set of traffic lights, turn right towards Louis Trichardt
- Carry on straight through 1 set of traffic lights and a 4-way stop street. At second set of traffic lights turn left (At Coca Cola Depot)
- Carry on straight through 1 set of traffic lights. You are now on the N1 to Messina/Mussina.
- After about 70km, pass straight through local community and over the Tropic of Capricorn to the Capricorn Plaza
- At Capricorn Toll Plaza, **Set speedometer to zero**
- **39km**, from Capricorn Plaza, pass through 2 stop streets and a traffic circle and head straight towards Mussina still on the N1
- Travel up the Soutpansberg Mountain Range and down the other side through the Hendrik Verwoerd tunnels to Mussina
- **96 km**, Pass through the Baobab Toll Plaza
- **96.8km**, Turn right onto the R525 towards Tshipise & Pafuri Gate
- **Set speedometer to zero**
- **110km**, pass through a chevron boom
- Carry on straight along the R525 after the chevron boom for another 19km to Pafuri Gate, Kruger National Park.

Total Trip +/- 560 km

You will meet the instructor at Pafuri Gate at 14h00 on the first day of the course.



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WWW.GOINGAFRICA.COM

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GALLERY



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