

Field Guide Level 1 Training - 28 Days



Partner van Eco-training South Africa

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1. Course rates

Camp	Cost per person 2010	Cost per person 2011
Karongwe	R23.800.00	R25.999,00

Rates include:

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Instructors and Training
- Game drives
- Walks
- Tea, coffee and cordials
- Equipment needed for the course

Rates exclude:

1. Transfers/transport to and from the camp, before and after the course
2. Lunch on the transfer days to and from camp
3. Any accommodation before and after the course
4. Beverages (beer, ciders, bottled water)
5. Laundry R50 per week in 2010.
6. All FGASA registration, examination and moderation fees

***In unforeseen circumstances, rates are subject to change without notice for un-paid bookings.*

Booking confirmation: the registration form holds a provisional booking, the deposit confirms the booking.

Deposit

In order to confirm your booking, we require that a 40% deposit be paid.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The balance of the fee is due 4 weeks before the course starts.
- Invoices are issued on request only.



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Cancellation Policy:

Should you cancel your booking:

- 8 weeks or more before the start of the course, then 25% of the full course fee will be forfeited.
- 34 - 28 days before the start of the course, then 40% of the full course fee will be forfeited.
- 27 - 21 days before the start of the course, then 60% of the full course fee will be forfeited.
- 20 – 14 days before the start of the course, then 70% of the full course fee will be forfeited.
- Less than 14 days before the start of the course, then 100% of the full course fee will be forfeited.

CANCELLATION DUE TO ILLNESS, DEATH OF A FAMILY MEMBER ETC. – There will be no discounts or monies refunded for missed or unused services, this includes voluntary or involuntary termination, i.e. sickness, death of a family member etc. ECOTRAINING will however bank their stay **for twelve months** during which you can return to take up their unused services. If you cannot return within this time they will **forfeit** your full course fee with ECOTRAINING. All associated costs of returning to the project will be at the clients' expense.

2. Course information

The course is structured to maximize the practical experience of our learners in the bush. Each day allows for hours of time spent in the field interpreting the ecology and enjoying a wildlife experience. Activities alternate between walks and driving.

Learner participation in the care of the camp, equipment and vehicle will be expected. Learners will be expected to pay attention to the needs of fellow learners and to work in teams at times.

The following list of subjects is covered during this course:

- Welcome and introduction
- Introduction to guiding in nature
- Creating a guided nature experience
- Geology and soils
- Astronomy
- Weather and climate
- Ecology
- Taxonomy
- Introduction to the biomes of southern Africa
- Botany and grasses
- Vegetation identification
- Arthropods (Insects and relatives)
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Fish
- Birds
- Mammals
- Animal behaviour
- Tracks and tracking
- Radio procedures
- Conservation management and historical human habitation
- Habitat management
- Bush camps



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Additional activities:

- Basic 4x4 driving skills [not driving lessons, but an opportunity to drive the game viewing vehicle]
- Sleep out in the bush
- Fire Arm theory and practical shooting

Tests, presentations and evaluations:

- 3 x Written tests
- 2 x Oral presentations
- 2 x Practical evaluations: Walk evaluation & Game drive evaluation

3. Course dates

<u>Karongwe course dates 2010</u>	<u>Karongwe course dates 2011</u>
13 February – 9 February	13 January – 10 February
17 February – 16 March	30 March – 26 April
24 March – 20 April	25 June – 22 July
28 April – 25 May	26 August – 22 September
2 – 29 June	10 November – 07 December
7 July – 3 August	
11 August – 7 September	
15 September – 12 October	
20 October – 16 November	
24 November – 21 December	

4. Certification and Accreditation

Learners and FGASA

Some learners attend our courses for the experience, while some do this for their careers in Field Guiding. All learners have an option to register with FGASA or not to.

- **Registration:** If you register with FGASA you can write the FGASA exam and do the assessment at the end of the course and receive a FGASA qualification in FGASA Field Guide Level 1. This is a MUST for students that want to do this for a career.

Students do this directly with FGASA. We do not register 28 day students with FGASA!

You need to take note of the following:

- If you register with them it is imperative that you send us your FGASA membership number.
- Payment of all fees must be made directly to FGASA.
- Also note that if you want to write the FGASA exam and do the assessment, we need 21 days notification to arrange the necessary exams etc with FGASA.



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- Also ensure that all necessary fees are paid to FGASA. Any learner who has not paid their current annual subscription and relevant examination fee will not be allowed to write their FGASA theory exam or do their practical assessment.
- On completion of the theory exam, it will be marked by the EcoTraining Instructor. If the participant has passed the theory s/he will be allowed to undergo the FGASA practical assessment.
- After it has been marked at the EcoTraining camp, it is sent to FGASA for moderation, so the mark you receive at camp is not the final mark until confirmed by FGASA!

Note: The pass mark for the FGASA theory exam is 75%

- **Non-registration:** If you do not register with FGASA, you cannot write the FGASA exam and do the assessment at the end of the course. You will write a basic EcoTraining test and receive an EcoTraining Participation certificate at the end of the course. This option is only applicable for students that are not planning on doing field guiding as a career.

EcoTraining is a FGASA registered training provider and therefore is accredited by THETA. This means our courses adhere to THETA standards. THETA is the Tourism and Hospitality and Sport Education Training Authority of the South African government. These are the two bodies responsible for regulating standards within the guide training industry in southern Africa. For this course only, we will assist you by registering you for FGASA, THETA and eventually DEAT. (DEAT – Department of Education and Training).

First aid course – this must preferably be done before coming on the course. This can be done at any accredited institution in any country. First Aid is generic worldwide. **FGASA will only issue your certificate if you have first aid.**

For more information regarding further FGASA membership, registration and certification, please contact us for a separate detailed document that you will need.

5. EcoTraining camps

Karongwe camp

Karongwe Camp is situated on the banks of the Karongwe River in the 9 000 hectare (22 239 acre) Karongwe Game Reserve, to the south-west of the Kruger National Park. Accommodation is in walk-in safari style tents with shared bathroom facilities. Karongwe is a good place for viewing leopard, lion and cheetah as well as elephant and white rhino.

As the camp itself is unfenced, we often have four-legged guests in the camp. Hyena make nightly patrols of the camp and are often seen by learners who choose to make one of the viewing decks their home for the duration of the course. Elephant, cheetah and lion have also made appearances on occasion.



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Accommodation

The sleeping arrangements at all our camps consist of 2 people sharing per tent. Single requests are required to pay double-rates. Women and men do not share tents unless booked as a couple.

Meals

Early morning wake-up	Tea, coffee, biscuits and fresh fruit
Brunch after activity	Cooked breakfast, cereals and fruit
Afternoon tea	Light snacks
Dinner	A balanced, warm plated meal (Meat, vegetables and salad)



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