



**VETERINARY SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME FOR THE
ARIZONA AGRIBUSINESS AND EQUINE CENTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

25 May – 02 June 2014

This safari has been specifically designed to give the students of the **Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center in the USA** an insight into the **conservation and wildlife veterinary issues** that are faced in South Africa on a daily basis.

This safari takes you **'behind the scenes', giving you the opportunity to observe the work of a resident South African wildlife veterinarian, and discover the fantastic world of wildlife conservation and guiding in Southern Africa.**

You will be guided by a Wildlife Veterinarian, researchers, various local guides, and an accredited Field Guides Association of South Africa trainer and assessor and his facilitators, all of whom will share their knowledge and expertise in their specialised field, giving you a unique and rare insight into the world of wildlife in Southern Africa.

Not only will you have a fantastic time but **your participation also means significant financial support to the various wildlife projects, thus you are helping wildlife conservation efforts. Join us for this unforgettable once-in-a-lifetime safari!**

Day 1 – Sunday, 25 May 2014

Arrive at **O R Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg.** (Flights for your own arrangement but Brothers Safaris can assist with quotes and bookings of these if required.)

Make your way to the **Domestic Departure hall at OR Tambo International airport** after clearing customs and immigration and collecting your luggage, to **check in for your flight to Port Elizabeth.** Check-in time for a domestic flight is 1 hour prior to flight departure time. Final flight details and times to follow – included in safari cost.

On your arrival in Port Elizabeth you will be met by an Ulovane representative and transferred – approximately 50 minutes – to Ulovane Environmental Centre to arrive at your camp at about lunch time. Your transfer will take place in two vehicles, with the students and teachers heading straight for Ulovane Camp, and the adults to Amakhala Game Reserve.

Check into camp and enjoy lunch at around 13h30. After lunch you will be given an introduction to Ulovane and review the programme for your time spent here.

At around **15h00** you will head out on your first game drive on Amakhala Game Reserve. During the drive you will be given a talk about **Mega Herbivores and their Predators.**

Amakhala Game Reserve began in 1999 as a joint conservation venture and today has several independently owned lodges. Many of these are owner managed by the descendants of the original families who arrived here with the British settlers of 1820. The vegetation and landscape are awe inspiring and the time spent in this reserve of approximately 7000 hectares will teach you a great deal about African wildlife. The reserve is home to a variety of species, including lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, buffalo, cheetah, giraffe, zebra and numerous other antelope species.



Enjoy **dinner** on the Reserve at around **18h00** before heading off on a **night drive** in search of the elusive and wonderfully adapted **nocturnal animals at 19h00.**

Arrive back at camp at around **21h00** and discuss final preparations for the morning's Coastal Field Trip before turning in for the night.

Ulovane Environmental Training is dedicated to developing and supporting the Guiding Industry with highly competent, professional and knowledgeable Nature & Marine Guides. Ulovane was started in 2005 by Schalk and Candice Pretorius, who, with over ten years' experience in the hospitality and Field Guiding and Training industry, are striving to become the leader in developing the field guides of the future. Schalk & Candice are ably assisted by a competent team, all of whom have the relevant

qualifications to ensure you are well informed and looked after during your time at Ulovane.

The main living area at **Ulovane Camp** consists of a comfortable living space including an open plan lounge and kitchen. The lounge opens up to a magnificent veranda overlooking the fertile grass plains surrounded by the beautiful Bushman's River. Adjacent to the lounge is where the delicious aromas enter from the funky kitchen.

The awesome sleeping facilities have shared accommodation, with en suite bathrooms and are equipped with furniture, electricity and linen. These stunning rock face rooms have a great view of Amakhala Game Reserve and are warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Overnight at Ulovane Camp on a full board basis including fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Day 2 – Monday, 26 May 2014

An early start today as the group will depart for a **coastal day trip at 05h30**. On arrival you will have a chance to get your energy levels up by enjoying **breakfast on the beach at 07h00** before heading off on your walk.



The coastal day trip is a guided experience, **exploring and interpreting the marine intertidal ecosystems on a 4 hour beach walk**. Pristine sandy beaches and rocky shores together with healthy estuaries set the stage for a wonderful marine learning experience.

After working up a healthy appetite on your walk, relax and enjoy **lunch on the beach at 12h00**.

While driving along the **Addo Elephant Park's Woody Cape Section** making your way back to camp, you will explore the changing vegetation types including coastal scrub, coastal dune forest and the diverse Albany Thicket.

Enjoy some **leisure time** to freshen up and wash off the sand between your toes before **dinner at 18h00**.

Tonight's dinner at Ulovane will be a **traditional braai** prepared on open fires. After sharing stories over dinner you will be given a talk by centre staff on **Conservation vs the Eco-Tourism Industry**.

Turn in for a good night's rest after the talks.

Overnight at Ulovane Camp on a full board basis including fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Day 3 – Tuesday, 27 May 2014

An early start with **breakfast at 06h00** before heading out onto the Reserve to **spend the morning enjoying and learning about Amakhala Game Reserve**. On this drive you will learn about **useful terrestrial plants, inventive birds and the mighty mammals of South Africa**.

Head down to the **Bushman's River** which runs through the reserve to explore the life this river gives to its surroundings. The group will be split into two smaller groups to accommodate the size of the boat. The first group will head off on a **cruise down the river** while the second group enjoys some time on the banks of the river. The two groups will have lunch together on the banks of the river before the second group takes their turn on the river. The first group will then enjoy the sights and sounds surrounding the river.



After the second group arrives back from their cruise you head out on an **afternoon game drive** which will be spent **awakening your tracking senses** and observing animal behaviour on the reserve.

Tonight's final dinner at 19h00 will be a **home cooked meal** served in the dining area at Ulovane Camp after which there will be a chance for discussions on current global conservation efforts.

Enjoy a well-deserved night's rest.

Overnight at Ulovane Camp on a full board basis including fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Day 4 – Wednesday, 28 May 2014

After another early breakfast at 06h00 you will head out on a morning bush walk to experience the wildlife and environment on a totally different level.....

Return to camp for some tea and coffee while discussing your experience at Ulovane. Check out of the camp at 12h00 and transfer to Safari Lodge.

Check into the lodge and enjoy some leisure time and lunch at 12h30, before transferring to the nearby village of Patterson, where you visit Isipho multi-purpose facility which assists victims of the Aids pandemic, mostly children, at around 15h00.

The facility is led by dedicated staff who will take the group on a tour around the small facility in order for students to learn more about the plight of these children in the context of the HIV pandemic in South Africa. There will also be an opportunity for students to interact with the children/students socially and have a game of football or netball! Any donations to their cause – monetary or other – would be valued. Please discuss this with your school co-ordinators or Brothers Safaris staff in advance of your safari to ensure useful donations.

You return to the lodge late afternoon and have a short introduction to the remainder of the safari, as well as a veterinary lecture on “The role of the Wildlife Veterinarian in South Africa”.

After your lecture the adult group will join you in camp to enjoy an evening braai at 18h30 around a campfire, and to enable discussion between the two groups regarding their experiences so far.....

Enjoy a good night's sleep, for tomorrow holds new adventures....



Listen to the heartbeat and hear the rhythms of Africa at The Safari Lodge in Amakhala Game Reserve. The landscape and elements of African tribal design influenced owners and artists, Mike and Justine Weeks, in their endeavour to achieve a

holistic safari experience. This intimate thatched lodge with its unique air-conditioned safari huts offers all the comforts of a luxury five star lodge and is an undisturbed retreat where you can regenerate your soul and tune into the sounds of nature.

The Safari Lodge sleeps 22 people in 11 luxury suites, complete with private plunge pools and separate lounge areas. Canvas drop blinds open up the safari huts and the central lounge to views of a small waterhole where monkeys come to play and antelope and zebra to quench their thirst. You can soak away the heat in a luxurious double bath with the sights and sounds of nature or splash off the dust in a double outdoor shower. Large beds are draped with mosquito nets and you can enjoy a double bath filled with aromatherapy scented bubbles. In the evening the haunting sound of the kudu horn will summon you to the fireside, to share tales of your day's adventure and to enjoy local cuisine under a magnificent canopy of stars.

Overnight at Safari Lodge on a full board basis including fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Day 5 – Thursday, 29 May 2014

After an early breakfast at 07h00, your Wildlife Veterinarian will present some more talks aimed at explaining the veterinary details of wildlife procedures, starting at 08h00 at Safari Lodge, on:

- **“Capture and immobilisation methods – the big picture”**
- **“Immobilisation safety and First Aid”**

After the talks you will have an overview of **dart gun systems and darts** and perhaps try your hand at darting a target – with water filled darts!

You will then return to the lodge for an early lunch at 12h00.

At 13h00 it is time to participate in your first **veterinary procedure** relating to the management of African plains game – most likely **antelope work** on Amakhala Game Reserve.

Return to the lodge after the veterinary work is completed for some leisure time before enjoying **dinner at 19h00**.



Overnight at Safari Lodge on a full board basis including fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Day 6 – Friday, 30 May 2014

Set off early morning at **06h30**, after tea/coffee/and light breakfast, to do **some rhino work.....**most likely at one of the **nearby Eastern Cape Game Reserves** – maximum drive time normally one hour each way.

On arrival final preparations are made and then the rhino will be located and darted – either from a helicopter or a vehicle, depending on the terrain, etc.

The moment of truth arrives when the wildlife veterinarian **darts the rhino....** Once the



rhino is safely immobilised, you will have the experience of your life while assisting with the various procedures – ear notching for positive identification and management reasons, and to help combat poaching, and also blood sampling for DNA and other research purposes - all the while monitoring the status of the patient.

When the rhino is immobilised and it is safe, you will be allowed to leave the vehicle and join the wildlife veterinarian. All being well there will be time for those photos of a lifetime too!

Once we are done we'll reverse the rhino's immobilising drugs, and watch him recover. Hopefully he heads off in a direction away from us!

Your participation in this safari completely funds today's rhino work, which is a substantial contribution to rhino conservation – thank you and well done!

You will take a packed lunch along with you today, which you will enjoy after the immobilisation procedure is complete.

Depending on the reserve you are working in, and time, there will be a **talk on rhino conservation** and management.

Late afternoon you'll have a practical helicopter session darting a target with a paintball gun/similar. This will give you an excellent idea of what is required when darting from the air! Please note that this exercise carries a weight restriction for safety reasons. Anyone weighing more than 100kg should please speak to your Wildlife Veterinarian in private before this exercise.

After the excitement of this activity you head back to camp to get rid of some of the day's adrenalin, and to enjoy some leisure time before dinner.

After dinner at 19h00, it is time for another well-deserved rest!

Overnight at Safari Lodge on a full board basis including fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Day 7 – Saturday, 31 May 2014

After early morning tea and coffee you will set out on a **morning game drive at around 06h30** on Amakhala Game Reserve. This is a chance to search for any elusive species not yet seen, and to apply all the knowledge you have gained to date.



Return to the lodge for breakfast at 09h30.

After breakfast at 10h30 you will head down to the nearby **Amakhala Conservation Centre (ACC)** for a talk by centre staff on general conservation aspects in South Africa, and more specifically wildlife conservation issues in the Eastern Cape area. The staff of the ACC will then also give a presentation about the conservation issues and their work on Amakhala Game Reserve. This will be followed by a talk on telemetry and its use on the reserve, and a **tour of their museum.**

After lunch at 13h00 you will head out at 14h30 on a game drive where you will be shown how telemetry works, and spend time tracking some of the animals being monitored on the reserve. Perhaps there will be a competition between the two

vehicles to see who can find the subject first ACC staff will also explain observations they make and data they collect, while you are out on the drive.

Return the lodge early evening for leisure time before enjoying **dinner at 19h00** and then drifting off to dreamland.

Overnight at Safari Lodge on a full board basis including fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Day 8 – Sunday, 01 June 2014

After early **breakfast at 06h30** you will depart, with your ranger/guide, at **07h00 – 07h15** for the nearby **Addo Elephant National Park**, a drive of approximately 40 minutes.

You'll enjoy a game drive in a closed vehicle through the main park conservation area and **discuss aspects of wildlife management in national conservation areas**, as you go.

This will take up most the morning, after which **lunch** is enjoyed at around **12h30 in the park restaurant** – for your own expense (budget approximately R80 – R130 depending on your taste/hunger level!). There will also be some time to explore the park shop and buy some souvenirs to take home.

After lunch you will **visit the bomas** (wildlife holding facility) in the park at **14h00** and discuss their use and design. There are few facilities of this calibre in South Africa.

Deep within the shadows of the dense valley bushveld of the Sundays River region of



the Eastern Cape lies the **Addo Elephant National Park**. Here, the evenings are punctuated by the strident howl of the black-backed jackal, and the francolin's call heralds each new dawn. Safe from relentless persecution in the past, the grey leviathans of the bush now roam in peace. The original Elephant section of the park was proclaimed in 1931, when only eleven elephants remained in

the area - today this finely tuned ecosystem is sanctuary to over 450 elephants, Cape buffalo, black rhino, a variety of antelope species, as well as the unique flightless dung beetle, found almost exclusively in Addo. And there Addo has only just begun, with plans to expand the 164 000 ha Addo National Elephant Park into a 360 000 ha mega-park. In addition, plans include the proposed proclamation of a 120 000 ha (296 500

acre) marine reserve that includes islands that are home to the world's largest breeding populations of Cape gannets and second largest breeding population of African penguins.

En route back to Amakhala, there is a possibility that you will stop at the Born Free Centre at Shamwari Game Reserve for a different look at Wildlife Conservation and organisations involved with conservation.

Return to the camp early evening to enjoy **dinner and overnight.**

Overnight at Safari Lodge on a full board basis including fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Day 9 – Monday, 02 June 2014

Check out after early breakfast at **05h45** and transfer to **Port Elizabeth Yacht Club at 06h45** for a **marine excursion** into Algoa Bay (weather permitting) to depart on your cruise at **08h00**. This ocean safari will give you a chance to see dolphins, whales, sharks, seals and the island home to half the world's population of African penguins. This part of the bay incorporates some of the marine component of the **Addo Elephant National Park.**



Time permitting, enjoy a short shopping trip at the local craft market following the excursion, and then it is time to transfer to Port Elizabeth Airport to check in for your flight back to Johannesburg. Flight details to follow – included in safari cost.

If arranging your own flights or onward transfers, please do not plan anything departing before 13h30 today since guests will only arrive back at Port Elizabeth airport at around 12h00, and please advise us of such plans ASAP so we can co-ordinate flights.

Please note that Brothers Safaris arranges tours and safaris throughout Africa and would be delighted to assist you plan any travel before or after the above safari, thus ensuring a diverse experience without undue overlap.

*** END OF SERVICES ***

Cost: ZAR29 500.00 per student sharing

This cost is based on a group size of a minimum of 10 students and a maximum of 12 students, and includes the costs of two chaperones/teachers. The only costs for the teachers that are not covered are non-included costs as specified in the itinerary eg. Lunch on Day 8. Chaperones are accommodated on a single basis while students are accommodated on a twin share basis and triple basis at Ulovane.

Your safari cost includes your return domestic flights from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth, accommodation and meals as laid out above, all land transfers in a comfortable air-conditioned mini bus, guides & wildlife veterinarian where indicated throughout the safari, and various other local guides, researchers and training facilitators, all practical work, tours, presentations and activities as laid out above. VAT and Government Tourism levies.

Not included are drinks, lunch at Addo Elephant Park and in Port Elizabeth on your departure day, items of a personal nature, gratuities, medical travel insurance (compulsory) and international flights. Note also that the game drive through Addo Elephant Park is in a closed vehicle/mini-bus.

Please note that due to the nature of this experience, times and plans may need to be adjusted slightly as we proceed. Please bear with us should this become necessary.

Please note the following regarding the darting/other procedure/s:

While every endeavour is made to locate and dart the animal in question, factors such as severe weather conditions or illness involving the animal, which are unpredictable, may prevent the darting from going ahead. Every effort will be made to ensure that the client participates in the darting procedure, or similar, as laid out in the itinerary, but the animal's welfare will not be compromised at any stage, and a procedure may have to be aborted and the animal revived in certain circumstances. This may shorten the procedure/down time and hence the close up experience for the client. Brothers Safaris, its staff, and appointed agents will not be held liable for any losses incurred by a client as a result of such situations, and accept no responsibility whatsoever. Every endeavour is made to ensure the health and safety of all our clients, but any procedure with a

potentially dangerous wild animal is of such a nature that certain circumstances may be beyond our control. Should any such situation arise which leads to death or injury due to any reason whatsoever, Brothers Safaris, its staff, and appointed agents, will not be held liable for any losses incurred as a direct, or indirect, result of such a situation, or our actions in such a situation. Terms and Conditions are subject to change without notice.

V: KD 01 Nov 2013