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INFORMATION BOOKLET

ABOUT MARINE VETS

Live4now **Mar!ne Vets** is a **specialised marine veterinary and conservation programme** designed for **veterinary students, professionals, and wildlife enthusiasts** who want to gain **practical exposure** to marine wildlife care in South Africa.

Over **two unforgettable weeks**, you'll learn from **expert marine veterinarians, biologists, and conservation specialists** through a combination of **interactive lectures, guided workshops, and field-based experiences**. From **penguin rehabilitation** and **marine mammal strandings** to **shark parasite studies** and **fish dissections**, you'll deepen your understanding of marine veterinary science and conservation while experiencing one of the most biodiverse coastlines in the world.

We handle every detail - from **airport pick-up to drop-off** - so you can focus on learning and exploration. **Accommodation, meals, ground transport, activities, and workshops** are all included in your package, ensuring a seamless and rewarding experience.

Founded in **2012** by **Elton and Melissa du Plooy**, Live4now was built from a shared passion for **wildlife, conservation, and showcasing the natural beauty of South Africa**. Through Marine Vets, we aim to combine **education, adventure, and conservation** into an unforgettable journey.

Small Groups, Big Impact: To keep the experience personal and immersive, we **limit group sizes**, ensuring more time with specialists and greater opportunities for hands-on learning.

Please note: Due to the ever-changing nature of wildlife and weather, the order of activities in the itinerary may shift to give you the **best possible experience**



THE PROGRAMME WILL ADDRESS ASPECTS SUCH AS:

SHARK PARASITOLOGY

Explore the fascinating world of **shark blood parasites**. Learn microscope techniques, **prepare and analyse real samples**, and gain insights into the role parasites play in marine ecosystems.

FINSPOッター WORKSHOP

Learn about South Africa's rich marine biodiversity and the cutting-edge tools used in shark conservation. You receive a detailed briefing on local ocean currents, marine protected areas, and key species identification before gearing up to search for shark species in the field.

This workshop combines **fieldwork** with **technology** as you help identify individual sharks through **photo-ID techniques**. Your findings contribute directly to an **AI-powered shark database** that's transforming marine research and conservation.

FISH DISSECTION & ANATOMY

Gain practical skills in **fish anatomy** through guided dissections, measuring internal and external features, and learning about organ function, adaptations, and survival strategies.

AQUARIUM BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR

Discover what it takes to run a **world-class marine facility**, from daily animal care routines to large-scale conservation efforts.

SANCCOB - Seabird rescue and rehabilitation

Spend a morning with the **Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds**, assisting in **rehabilitation efforts** and learning about the challenges facing the endangered **African penguin**.

COMMUNITY VETERINARY CLINIC (CVC)

Assist at the **Community Vet Clinic**, providing **basic veterinary care** and learning about animal health challenges in underprivileged communities while supporting local education initiatives.

MEDICAL WORK ON SICK & INJURED WILDLIFE

Observe and learn as vets diagnose, treat, and monitor injured and sick wildlife. Where possible, you'll assist with basic procedures under supervision.

MARINE PARASITES & DISEASES

Understand the most common **parasites and diseases** affecting marine species, including an in-depth look at the **rabies outbreak in Cape fur seals**.

APSS - African Penguin & Seabird Sanctuary

Explore ongoing **seabird care projects**, study real-life case files, and observe wound healing treatments and feeding techniques at this leading rehabilitation centre.

ANIMAL REHABILITATION

Learn about the **rescue, treatment, and release** of injured, poisoned, or abandoned animals — including the chance to observe or participate in **necropsies** on fascinating species.

ROBBERG COASTAL HIKE

Hike the **Robberg Peninsula** while discussing **seal and shark interactions**, **sustainable marine tourism**, and the **impact of human activity** on marine life.

ESTUARY SNORKEL & SEAHORSE MONITORING

Snorkel in the **Keurbooms Estuary** to study the **endangered Knysna Seahorse** and its eelgrass habitat. Collect and record data on **seahorses**, **sea hares**, **nudibranchs**, **hermit crabs**, and other marine life using established research grids.

MARINE STRANDINGS AND COASTAL CONSERVATION

Learn how the **Plett Marine Animal Stranding Network** responds to **marine mammal strandings** and discuss broader topics such as **urban ecology impacts**, **plastic pollution**, and **coexistence with coastal bird species**.

THIS PROGRAMME INCLUDES

WHAT'S TO GAIN

- **Practical exposure** to marine veterinary techniques and wildlife care
- **Valuable veterinary experience** to strengthen your academic and professional profile
- Insights into **AI-driven research** and its role in conservation
- An **exclusive Big 5 safari experience** on a private game reserve
- A chance to contribute to **real conservation projects** and ongoing research
- Networking opportunities with **leading marine veterinarians, biologists, and conservationists**
- Deeper understanding of **animal rehabilitation, marine diseases, and sustainable tourism**
- Immersion in **South Africa's diverse cultures and incredible wildlife habitats**
- **An Unforgettable Experience** - Whether you're pursuing a **career in veterinary science**, planning to specialise in **marine medicine**, or simply passionate about **ocean conservation**, Marine Vets offers a **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn, explore, and make an impact.**

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 Cape Town International airport on set arrival day only.
- Transfer to George Airport on set departure day only
- Orientation on arrival.
- Tea, coffee, juice and bottled water (where necessary).
- Support and assistance throughout your stay, 24/7.
- A certificate upon completion.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Visa Costs (If a Visa is needed).
- Flight Tickets.
- Medical and Travel Insurance.



OTHER INFORMATION

CURRENCY

ZAR (South African Rand). If you need to change your currency into Rands, please do it at Johannesburg airport (OR Tambo) as this is the only place you will be able to do it.

If you plan to use your bank card whilst in South Africa, please remember to let your bank know that you will be using your card outside of your country.



WASHING MACHINE

A washing machine is available at most places during your trip. This will be at your own cost (approximately R100 per wash).

WIFI

It is recommended that you purchase your own local sim card at Cape Town International Airport if you require constant internet access.

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 Celsius).



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN YOUR PROGRAMME

- **BIG 5 GAME RESERVE – GAME DRIVES**

No South African adventure is complete without a **safari experience!** Spend a night at a **private Big 5 game reserve** and enjoy:

An **afternoon and a morning game drive** where you might see iconic species like **elephants, rhinos, buffalos, lions, and leopards.**

This is the perfect opportunity to witness Africa's wildlife up close!!

- **MARINE BIG 5 BOAT TRIP**

You will be going on a big 5 boat trip (weather permitting) to see if you can spot any whales, great white sharks, dolphins, seals and penguins.

- **KNYSNA – JEWEL OF THE GARDEN ROUTE**

Spend a day exploring **Knysna**, one of South Africa's most picturesque coastal towns. Highlights include:

A scenic visit to the **famous Knysna Heads**, a dramatic geological wonder where the lagoon meets the Indian Ocean.

A **relaxed lunch** in town, sampling **local flavours** while soaking up the atmosphere of this vibrant seaside community.

- **ROBBERG PENINSULA COASTAL HIKE**

Embark on a **5km guided hike** around the breathtaking **Robberg Peninsula**, led by a **marine biologist** who will:

Introduce you to fascinating **marine ecosystems** and coastal processes

Discuss **seal and shark interactions, marine mammal strandings**, and the **impact of sustainable marine tourism**

Highlight the role of **human activity** in shaping these delicate habitats

With its spectacular cliffs, turquoise waters, and thriving wildlife, Robberg offers both **scenic beauty** and **incredible learning opportunities.**

- **STONEY POINT**

Visit the **Stony Point Nature Reserve**, home to one of the **largest African penguin colonies** in the world. During this experience, you'll:

Observe these **endangered seabirds** in their natural habitat

Learn about **current conservation strategies** aimed at protecting their dwindling populations

Understand the **threats they face**, from habitat loss and overfishing to climate change

This encounter highlights the **critical role conservation plays** in securing the future of vulnerable marine species.



HEALTH & SAFETY WHAT TO BRING

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Live4now staff will be with you from airport pick up to drop off.
- All travelling is done by the professional guides who have Professional Driving Permits.
- You will be required to sign an indemnity form on arrival.
- Hospitals and Doctors are located in the nearest towns.
- 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

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

- A flashlight.
- Bug repellent.
- Light weight clothing
- Warm clothing for cold evenings and mornings.
- Preferably old clothing that can get ruined.
- Hat/cap.
- Sunscreen.
- Swimming costume and towel.
- Comfortable walking shoes.
- A few pairs of old long trousers for walking in the bushveld.

- Waterproof WARM jacket.
- A small backpack.
- Any special medication.
- A refillable water bottle.
- Plug adaptor.
- Copy of travel insurance documents.
- Money for washing your clothes etc

NON-ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- Camera.
- Binoculars.
- Sunglasses.
- Money to buy gifts for family and friends or luxury items (chocolates, drinks).

REQUIREMENTS

- Full travel and medical insurance.
- Basic English.
- Good level of fitness. Work can be strenuous.



HOW TO APPLY

CONTACT

Apply online through our website or contact the coordinator directly to enquire or request an application form.

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PRICE (PER PERSON)

\$3 590

€3 150

PAYMENT

A 25% booking deposit is required to secure a place in the group. Full payment via direct transfer to be made 2 months before arrival. Bank details are on the invoice that gets sent through to you after the applicant form has been submitted.

[BOOK NOW](#)

