



Live4Now
WILD VETS

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FULL COURSE - INFORMATION BOOKLET

ABOUT W!LD VETS

Live4Now W!ld Vets is a **specialised wildlife veterinary and conservation programme** designed for veterinary students, veterinary professionals, and wildlife enthusiasts who want to gain real-world experience alongside leading wildlife veterinarians, game capture specialists, and conservation experts in South Africa.

This **immersive programme** combines classroom learning with practical, field-based experiences, providing a comprehensive understanding of wildlife medicine, conservation, and reserve management. Throughout your stay, you will attend expert-led lectures, participate in certified training courses, observe and assist with authentic wildlife veterinary procedures, and gain valuable insight into the complex relationship between wildlife, livestock, people, and conservation across South Africa.

From the moment you arrive until your departure, our experienced team will be there to guide and support you, ensuring your experience is safe, educational, rewarding, and truly unforgettable.

What's Included

- Airport transfers.
- Comfortable accommodation.
- Three delicious meals each day.
- All in-country transport.
- All scheduled activities, lectures, practical sessions, and conservation experiences.

With all the logistics taken care of, you can focus entirely on learning, developing new skills, and making the most of this **once-in-a-lifetime** experience.

To ensure every participant receives personalised guidance and meaningful practical exposure, **group sizes** are intentionally **kept small**. This allows for greater interaction with instructors, more hands-on learning opportunities, and a richer overall experience.



THE PROGRAMME WILL ADDRESS ASPECTS SUCH AS

WILDLIFE DISEASES & DIAGNOSTICS

Develop an understanding of the major diseases affecting African wildlife, including how they are diagnosed, monitored, and managed. Learn about disease surveillance, diagnostic testing, epidemiology, and disease control strategies, while exploring the complex relationship between wildlife, livestock, humans, and ecosystem health.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Gain valuable insight into the conservation strategies used to manage Big Five reserves. Learn about habitat management, anti-poaching initiatives, population monitoring, and breeding programmes that support the long-term survival of endangered species.

GAME CAPTURE & TRANSLOCATION

Discover the techniques and planning involved in safely capturing, immobilising, and relocating wildlife. Learn why translocations are an essential conservation tool for maintaining healthy populations, supporting biodiversity, and managing protected areas. If wildlife captures take place during your stay, you may have the opportunity to observe or assist under the supervision of experienced professionals.

ENDANGERED SPECIES BREEDING & REHABILITATION

Explore the important role that conservation breeding programmes play in protecting vulnerable species. Visit a wildlife rehabilitation centre to learn how injured, orphaned, and poisoned animals are rescued, treated, rehabilitated, and, whenever possible, successfully released back into the wild.

COMMUNITY VETERINARY CLINIC (CVC)

Spend time with veterinarians providing essential primary healthcare to domestic animals in underprivileged rural communities. Learn how community veterinary medicine improves animal welfare while supporting responsible pet ownership, livestock health, and education for pet owners and subsistence farmers.

WILDLIFE PHARMACOLOGY & DARTING

Learn the principles of wildlife pharmacology and the safe use of immobilising drugs in free-ranging wildlife. Under veterinary supervision, you'll gain practical experience preparing tranquilliser darts and develop an understanding of the protocols, safety measures, and decision-making involved in wildlife immobilisation.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Develop the skills to observe and interpret animal behaviour, communication, and social interactions. Understand how behavioural knowledge assists wildlife veterinarians and conservationists in animal management, welfare, and conservation decision-making.

SPECIALISED VETERINARY COURSES

As part of the programme, you'll complete certified courses in **Reptile Medicine**, **Avian Medicine**, and **Small Mammal Medicine**, led by experienced wildlife veterinarians. These courses combine theoretical knowledge with practical training, covering husbandry, safe handling techniques, health assessments, common diseases, diagnostics, treatment, anaesthesia, first aid, rehabilitation, and basic surgical principles. Upon successful completion of each course, you will receive certificates recognising your participation and newly acquired knowledge and skills.



THIS PROGRAMME INCLUDES

WHAT'S TO GAIN

By joining the **Live4Now Wild Vets** programme, you'll gain far more than unforgettable memories—you'll develop valuable knowledge, practical skills, and real-world experience that will benefit you throughout your studies and future career.

- Practical veterinary experience in authentic wildlife settings.
- Learn directly from leading wildlife veterinarians, game capture specialists, and conservation experts.
- Practical exposure to wildlife medicine, game capture, wildlife immobilisation, and conservation management.
- Valuable experience working alongside veterinarians in community veterinary clinics.
- Certified training in reptile, avian, and small mammal medicine.
- A deeper understanding of wildlife diseases, ecosystem health, and conservation strategies.
- The opportunity to visit the world-renowned Kruger National Park.
- Certificates awarded upon successful completion of specialised veterinary courses.
- Meaningful opportunities to contribute to wildlife conservation and animal welfare initiatives.
- Lifelong friendships, unforgettable memories, and an experience unlike any other in one of the world's most biodiverse regions.



REQUIREMENTS

- Comprehensive travel and medical insurance that covers the duration of the programme.
- A basic understanding of spoken and written English, as all lectures, practical sessions, and activities are conducted in English.
- A good level of physical fitness, as some activities involve walking in the bush, uneven terrain, long days in the field, and participation in physically demanding practical sessions.
- A genuine interest in wildlife, conservation, and veterinary medicine.
- A positive attitude, willingness to learn, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.
- Compliance with all safety instructions and programme rules issued by the Live4Now team and wildlife professionals.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Your **Live4Now Wild Vets** programme is fully inclusive, allowing you to focus entirely on your learning and experience while we take care of the logistics.

- Comfortable accommodation throughout the programme.
- Three nutritious meals per day.
- All in-country ground transportation.
- Airport transfers to and from **O.R. Tambo International Airport** on the designated arrival and departure days.
- All scheduled activities, lectures, practical sessions, and field experiences.
- Course materials and learning resources.
- Entry fees to parks, reserves, and scheduled attractions.
- Pre-departure travel advice and support.
- Arrival orientation and programme briefing.
- Tea, coffee, juice, and bottled water (where required).
- 24/7 support and assistance from the Live4Now team throughout your stay.
- Certificates awarded upon successful completion of the specialised veterinary courses.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

The following items remain the responsibility of each participant:

- International flight tickets.
- Visa application fees (where applicable).
- Comprehensive travel and medical insurance (mandatory).
- Personal expenses, including souvenirs and optional purchases.
- Alcoholic beverages and additional snacks not included with meals.
- Laundry services (where available).

OTHER INFORMATION

CURRENCY

The currency used in South Africa is the **South African Rand (ZAR)**. If you need to exchange your currency into South African Rand, we recommend doing so upon arrival at **O.R. Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg)**, as this will be the most convenient opportunity before the programme begins. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout South Africa. If you plan to use your bank card during your stay, please notify your bank before travelling to ensure your card is authorised for international transactions and to avoid any interruptions. We also recommend carrying a small amount of cash for incidental purchases, gratuities, or in areas where card facilities may not be available.



LAUNDRY

Laundry facilities, including washing machines, are available at most of the accommodation venues during your stay. Laundry services are at your own expense and typically cost approximately **R100 - R200 per wash** (subject to change).

WIFI AND MOBILE CONNECTIVITY

Wi-Fi is available at some of the accommodation venues; however, connectivity may be limited or unavailable due to the remote nature of many of the locations we visit. If you require reliable internet access throughout the programme, we recommend purchasing a local South African SIM card upon arrival at **O.R. Tambo International Airport**. This will allow you to access mobile data in areas with network coverage.

WEATHER

Winter in South Africa (May to August) can be surprisingly cold, particularly during the early mornings and evenings. Temperatures can drop below **5°C**, while daytime temperatures are generally pleasant, ranging between **18°C and 26°C**.

We recommend packing a variety of clothing, including warm layers, a jacket, long trousers, and comfortable closed walking shoes for cooler mornings and evenings, as well as lighter clothing for the warmer daytime temperatures.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN YOUR PROGRAMME

CONSERVATION ON BIG 5 GAME RESERVE

During your time on the Big 5 reserve, you'll gain valuable insight into the day-to-day management of a Big 5 game reserve through a variety of practical conservation activities and expert-led presentations.

Activities may include:

Telemetry Training – Learn how to track wildlife using radio telemetry and other advanced monitoring techniques.

Camera Trap Monitoring – Assist with setting up camera traps, retrieving data, and analysing images for wildlife monitoring and research.

Vehicle-Based Game Counts – Discover how conservationists monitor wildlife populations and assess predator-prey dynamics.

Animal Tracking – Learn to identify spoor, dung middens, feeding signs, and behavioural indicators while tracking wildlife in the field.

Bird Ringing & Identification – Participate in bird ringing, species identification, and ecological data collection alongside experienced ornithologists.

Anti-Poaching Operations – Gain insight into modern anti-poaching strategies, security systems, and the technology used to protect endangered wildlife.

Conservation Interventions (Subject to Availability) – Depending on operational requirements, you may have the opportunity to observe or assist with activities such as rhino dehorning, predator collaring, wildlife translocations, or other conservation management procedures.

You'll attend presentations covering a range of conservation topics, including animal management, reserve management, carrying capacity, wildlife diseases, security operations, and the innovative technology used to manage and protect wildlife populations.

K9 CONSERVATION UNIT

Spend time with a highly trained anti-poaching K9 unit and discover the essential role conservation dogs play in protecting Africa's wildlife. Learn how these remarkable dogs are trained to detect snares, track poachers, locate illegal wildlife products, and support anti-poaching and law enforcement operations.

REHABILITATION CENTRE

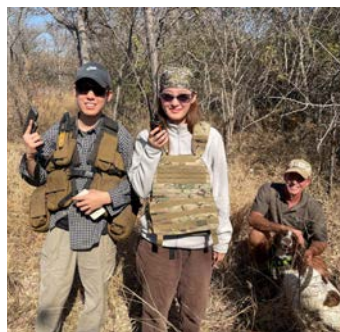
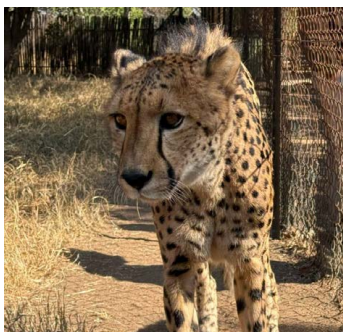
Visit a leading wildlife rehabilitation and endangered species breeding centre to learn about the vital role rehabilitation plays in modern conservation. Discover how injured, orphaned, and poisoned wildlife are rescued, treated, rehabilitated, and released, while also exploring the importance of conservation breeding programmes in protecting threatened and endangered species.

SAFARI GAME DRIVES

Enjoy a guided safari game drives through the world-renowned **Kruger National Park** and surrounding conservation areas with your Live4Now guide. These drives provide excellent opportunities to observe Africa's iconic wildlife, including the Big Five, while learning about animal behaviour, ecology, and conservation in one of the world's most celebrated wildlife destinations.

HELICOPTER FLIP (Weather & Operationally Dependent)

Gain insight into the role helicopters play in modern wildlife conservation and game capture operations. Learn about dart preparation techniques and if conditions and operational requirements allow, experience a helicopter flip—an unforgettable highlight that offers a unique perspective on wildlife conservation from above.



HEALTH & SAFETY WHAT TO BRING

HEALTH & SAFETY

Your health and safety are our highest priorities. Throughout the programme, the Live4Now team will provide support and supervision from your arrival at **O.R. Tambo International Airport** until your departure, ensuring you have a safe, enjoyable, and rewarding experience.

- All transportation is provided by experienced professional guides who hold valid **Professional Driving Permits (PDPs)**.
- Participants are required to sign an indemnity form upon arrival before taking part in programme activities.
- Medical facilities, including doctors and hospitals, are located in the nearest towns should medical assistance be required.
- **Malaria:** Parts of the programme take place in malaria-risk areas. We strongly recommend consulting your doctor or travel clinic before travelling to determine whether anti-malarial medication is appropriate for you.
- **Vaccinations:** Please consult your doctor or travel clinic well in advance of your departure for advice on any recommended or required vaccinations for travel to South Africa.
- **Rabies Vaccination:** Due to the nature of the programme and the potential for close contact with wildlife and domestic animals, all participants are required to receive rabies vaccination before arrival.
- Participants should ensure they have **comprehensive travel and medical insurance** that covers wildlife-related activities, emergency medical treatment, and medical evacuation if required.
- Any pre-existing medical conditions, allergies, dietary requirements, or regular medications should be disclosed to the Live4Now team before arrival so that we can assist where possible.

Your safety is paramount, and all activities are conducted under the guidance and supervision of experienced wildlife professionals, with strict safety protocols in place at all times.

ITEMS TO BRING ALONG

To ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience, please pack the following essential items. Due to limited luggage space in our vehicles, **you may bring one large suitcase and one piece of hand luggage only.**

Clothing

- Lightweight, comfortable clothing in neutral colours (avoid bright colours).
- Warm clothing for cold mornings and evenings.
- A waterproof jacket.
- Older clothing that you don't mind getting dirty during practical activities.
- A few pairs of old long trousers for walking in the bushveld.

Footwear

- Comfortable walking shoes.
- Hiking boots with good ankle support (high-sided boots are recommended for bush walks).

Field Essentials

- Flashlight or headlamp.
- Hat or cap.
- Sunscreen.
- Insect/mosquito repellent.
- Refillable water bottle.
- Small backpack or daypack for daily excursions.

Personal Items

- Swimming costume and towel.
- Any prescription or special medication you require.
- Plug adaptor (South Africa uses **Type M** plugs. Some accommodation may also have **Type C** sockets.)
- A copy of your travel insurance documents.
- Spending money for personal expenses, such as laundry (approximately **R100–R200 per wash**), souvenirs, snacks, and other incidental purchases.

Packing light while bringing the right essentials will help ensure you are comfortable and well prepared for both the practical field activities and your stay throughout the programme.

NON-ESSENTIAL ITEMS

The following items are optional but may enhance your experience during the programme:

- Camera or video camera to capture your wildlife encounters and unforgettable memories.
- Binoculars for wildlife viewing and birdwatching.
- Sunglasses for sun protection during outdoor activities.
- Spending money for souvenirs, gifts for family and friends, snacks, chocolates, soft drinks, and other personal purchases.

While these items are not essential, many participants find them useful and enjoyable to have during their stay.



WHY CHOOSE LIVE4NOW W!LD VETS?

- **Real Wildlife Veterinary Experience**

Go beyond the classroom and gain genuine, practical experience in authentic wildlife settings. Observe and, where appropriate, assist with real veterinary procedures, game capture operations, conservation interventions, and wildlife health management alongside experienced professionals.

- **Learn from Industry Leaders**

Train alongside some of South Africa's leading wildlife veterinarians, game capture specialists, rehabilitation experts, and conservation professionals. Benefit from their knowledge, experience, and mentorship while learning how they tackle the challenges of wildlife medicine every day.

- **Small Group Sizes**

We intentionally keep our groups small to ensure every participant receives personalised guidance, greater interaction with instructors, and more opportunities for practical learning. This creates a supportive learning environment where you can ask questions, build confidence, and gain meaningful experience.

- **Build an Outstanding CV**

Stand out from other graduates by gaining practical wildlife veterinary experience that demonstrates initiative, commitment, and a genuine passion for wildlife conservation. The skills and experiences gained during the programme will strengthen your CV and future university or job applications.

- **Earn Certificates**

Complete specialised veterinary short courses in Reptile Medicine, Avian Medicine, and Small Mammal Medicine, and receive certificates that showcase your additional training and commitment to professional development.

- **Develop Practical Skills & Confidence**

Build confidence by applying theoretical knowledge in real-life situations. Develop practical skills in wildlife handling, diagnostics, pharmacology, anaesthesia, disease management, animal behaviour, conservation medicine, and veterinary decision-making under the guidance of experienced professionals.

- **Experience the One Health Approach**

Gain a deeper understanding of the vital connection between wildlife, domestic animals, people, and the environment. Learn how veterinarians play a key role in protecting ecosystems, preventing disease outbreaks, and supporting sustainable conservation efforts.

- **Discover a Variety of Career Paths**

Explore the many opportunities available within wildlife veterinary medicine, conservation, game capture, rehabilitation, zoological medicine, wildlife research, and reserve management. This programme offers valuable insight into careers that many students never have the opportunity to experience firsthand.

- **Make a Meaningful Contribution**

Become part of genuine conservation and community initiatives that make a real difference. Whether supporting wildlife veterinary work, participating in conservation projects, or assisting at community veterinary clinics, you'll contribute to the welfare of both animals and people.

- **Create Lifelong Connections**

Meet like-minded students, veterinarians, conservationists, and wildlife professionals from around the world. Build friendships, expand your professional network, and create connections that could benefit your future career.

- **Experience South Africa's Incredible Wildlife**

From the iconic Kruger National Park to Big 5 game reserves, wildlife rehabilitation centres, and conservation areas, you'll experience some of Africa's most spectacular landscapes while learning in one of the world's most biodiverse environments.

- **An Adventure You'll Never Forget**

More than just a course, W!ld Vets is a life-changing experience. You'll leave with unforgettable memories, new friendships, increased confidence, practical skills, and a deeper appreciation for wildlife conservation that will stay with you for years to come.

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)

\$4 095 (USD)

€3 560

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

