

# Wildlife Study Abroad

By  
HandsON Safaris



## Wildlife Behavior, Conservation and Capture Program

16days in Zimbabwe, Africa  
May-September 2010

### Description

The HandsON Safaris' **Wildlife Behaviour, Conservation and Game Capture Programme** is a study of exotic species, wildlife sciences and professions in Southern Africa, from the scientific setting to the natural environment.

Adventurous and Educational, the program is ideal for students studying various animal sciences, who have an interest and passion for wildlife.

### Objectives

1. To raise awareness for conservation in Africa
2. Expose students to a Variety of Professions in the conservation of African wildlife.

3. Expose them to different ideas and ways of thinking in the field of wildlife veterinary medicine, rehabilitation, care, conservations through interactions with professionals of varying wildlife career fields.
4. Provide students with an understanding of wild animal behaviour through first-hand experience and interaction with animals in their natural habitats.

## Details

The two week programme is made up of two parts...

### Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding & Wildlife Capture, Relocation and Monitoring

#### Week 1: Lion Breeding and Conservation Project



#### **Location:** Antelope Park in the Zimbabwe Midlands

Walk and work with lions in this exclusive private game reserve. Be involved in the research of lions' behaviour and work with us on the world's only programme for their release into the wild. Also assist with orphaned Elephants and a variety of game species.

Antelope Park, as well as being a luxury resort, has a captive bred lion release programme working with ALERT (The African Lion and Environmental Research Trust). Their aim is to perfect a solution to the problem of how to reintroduce the African lion into areas where they have gone locally extinct in the wild. By means of a four-stage process, which you will learn more about during your involvement with the project.

Be involved with the in-depth research and data-collection activities. Spending time with the lions in the wild each day is an essential part of the cub's upbringing. If the cubs are to be released into a wild environment it is important that they spend time in that environment. They need to adapt to it, learn from it, understand, observe, feel and smell the wild.

Work with Antelope Park's other Captive lions with FIV and Bovine TB. You may have a chance to work with feline expert Dr Pieter Kat. Students will be learning and helping with his research.

## **Activities**

### **The Lions**

- Learn about the Lion Project
- Data Collection Research and Monitoring
- Night Encounters / Walks
- Variety of activities and duties with Cubes
- Work with FIV and Bovine TB infected Lions

### **The Elephants**

- Working Them and Their trainers
- Clinical examinations
- Ride

### **Other Wildlife**

- Horse riding in the game farm
- Work with Game Species

### **Lectures**

See below...

## **Week 2: Game Capture and Wildlife Monitoring**



### **Location:** Zimbabwe's High Veldt

Paradise Guest Lodge is the base camp and is in The Victoria Falls Private Reserve, 15mins drive from the Victoria Falls. This part of the Program we work with Ian DuPreez and his Research and Rescue Unit in and around Reserves and National Parks in the High Veldt area.

Each day is different and has it's own challenges. A day could be spent locating and darting a rhino for ear notching, maybe darting a lion or elephant to treat an injury, loading giraffe into a

transportation vehicle, setting up Capture bomas for Zebra or wildebeest. There is also wild dog research project as well as a black rhino Project which you will be a part of.

## **Activities**

### **Capture**

- learning the different techniques/methods of game capture
- Net/Sail Capture (mass capture)
- Chemical Capture

### **Monitoring**

- Radio Tracking
- Data Collection
- Game Counts

### **Bush Craft**

- Morning/Evening/Night Drives
- Bush Walks
- Tracking
- Bush Medicine
- Mammal Identification
- Learn how to use a dart gun

### **Animal Immobilizing**

- For treatment
- Blood samples/micro-chipping/ pregnancy testing/collaring

### **Research**

- Tracking and Monitoring African Wild Dog
- Help with The Black Rhino project

### **Radio collar your own animal**

Each group will...

- Donate a Radio Collar
- Select a Suitable Animal
- Immobilize
- Fit The Radio Collar
- Clinical Examination of the Animal
- Release
- Radio Track
- Monitor

This animal can be monitored anywhere in the world by the participants of the program.

## **Lectures:**

Lectures are done in a classroom environment or out in the field...

- Lion Breeding, The 4Stage Process

- Lion Behaviour and Conservation
- Diseases Infecting Lion Populations
- Elephant Behaviour and Management
- Capture Techniques(Net/Sail Bomas)
- Capture Techniques(Chemical capture)
- Immobilization(Drugs and Doses)
- Immobilization(welfare and Dangers)
- Handling Drugs(Safety and First Aid)
- Dart Gun and Darting
- Wildlife Management
- Wildlife Behaviour
- Rhino Conservation
- Wild Dog Conservation
- Radio Tracking
- Animal Monitoring and Data Collection
- Safety and Awareness when in Dangerous Game areas
- Basic weapon Handling
- And More...

### **Other Activities:**

- Visit to the Vitoria Falls
- Visit Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage
- Camping in the Bush

### **Time Period:**

May-September 2010

### **Group:**

5-10 per group

### **Length:**

16 days per group

### **Price**

£1500

**This includes:** food, accommodation, travel within Zimbabwe, a radio collar that will be donated to conservation

All meals whilst on the Program are simple home cooked but nourishing meals. Teas and coffee and cordials are included. A laundry service will be provided. Accommodation is generally in bed and

breakfast style but obviously when in the field carrying out missions like game counts tented accommodation will be provided.

**Not include:** Flights to Zimbabwe, all travel insurances.

Volunteers will be responsible for supplying their own personal effects such as toiletries, medications e.t.c.

Minerals and any alcohol although provided is for volunteers personal account.

## **Contact:**

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