



Wildlife
Conservation
Experience

conserve • learn • live

ABOUT THE HOEDSPRUIT ENDANGERED SPECIES CENTRE

The Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC) has established itself as one of the leading private research and breeding facilities for endangered species in the country.

Governed by a progressive and modern management approach, it concerns itself with the breeding and maintenance of several endangered indigenous wildlife species in southern Africa.

The centre places particular emphasis on the breeding and maintenance of cheetah in captivity. The excellent condition of these animals and the premises on which they are maintained, reflect the attention to detail, which is the hallmark of this facility.

ABOUT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

HESC offers the opportunity to experience, first hand, the work of the centre. This intensive 21-day programme is divided into 3 main sections: Participation; Conservation; and Sightseeing.

Participation: WCE participants will be involved in the everyday care of the many animal species at the centre. This includes cleaning, feeding and, where required, assisting with or observing any veterinary activities that may occur during their stay.

The knowledge gained about the animals and the work of HESC through this kind of participation is both specific and personal. Participants may also get the opportunity to learn more about the day-to-day operations at “Rescued Rhinos @ HESC”, a sanctuary for orphaned rhinos and rhinos which have been victims of poaching.

Conservation: This section of the programme involves informal lectures on all aspects of conservation and includes specialist input on all animals, grasses, trees and basic biodiversity.

Sightseeing: The programme enables participants to put theory into practice, either through direct observation in the wild or at other centres that specialise in other areas of research or conservation

The programme is based at the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, which is home to cheetah, wild dogs, white rhino, lion, African wild cats, Ground hornbills, Sable antelope, to name a few. WCE participants will form part of a hands-on team which mediates the well-being of the animals. They will also have the opportunity to visit places of interest and attractions in the area, including the renowned Kruger National Park.



DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME

3 weeks – A basic conservation course, consisting of a theoretical component, followed by active participation in practical exercises. 1 week programmes are available on request.

AIM OF THE PROGRAMME

To equip participants with the aptitude in conserving the wildlife of Southern Africa; to build awareness of conservation on a broader global scale; and to facilitate the experience of the beauty and rich diversity of South Africa.

PROGRAMME FACILITATORS

All have a contagious passion for conservation, and are dedicated to sharing their knowledge and expertise about the African bushveld and its inhabitants. WCE participants will work side-by-side with the centre's full-time personnel.

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

- Be eager to learn and to participate in HESC's conservation work
- Have a desire to make a difference while gaining invaluable experience and knowledge
- Be prepared to work hard and be a team player
- Be willing to get dirty and work hands-on with the animals in their habitat
- Have a true love of wildlife and genuine concern for conservation
- Be prepared to have some fun

Please note: although there is no age limit, this is a fairly intense physical experience and a degree of fitness is required.

MALARIA & VACCINATIONS

Although HESC is in a low-risk Malaria area, participants may have the opportunity to travel into the greater Kruger National Park area which is considered a Malaria zone. We advise participants to consult with their doctor for any vaccinations or about the use of malaria tablets before their travels to South Africa.

Accommodation, Facilities & Activities

Accommodation consists of 6 twin thatched huts (max 2 people per hut/ 12 participants in total) in Nungu Camp, situated within the boundaries of the Big 5 Kapama Private Game Reserve. Separate facilities are available for male and female participants. Accommodation is simple, clean and comfortable, and each hut is fitted with adequate power points. Three meals per day are prepared by participants in the camp – a valuable team building experience in itself. There is a kitchen with a fridge in the camp, as well as barbeque facilities.

The closest town is Hoedspruit, which is approximately 25 km from the reserve. Regular trips to town can be organised for supplies, banking or internet facilities. Telephone facilities are available (at participant's own expense). Basic laundry facilities for hand-washing are available in the camp. Sundays are spent at leisure.

Adventurous activities are available in the area, such as hot-air ballooning, paint-ball, river rafting in the Blyde River Canyon, horse riding and elephant interactions. Should volunteers decide to participate in such activities they can be arranged with the project leader at participant's own expense.



Programme Deliverables



Hands-on experience:

- Working with the cheetah, wild dog, white rhino and many other animal species (including those born at HESC and those rescued)
- Preparation of food and feeding of the animals
- Possibility of working with the wildlife vet (including darting and capturing for the purpose of operating, blood sampling or translocation of animals, as well as assisting with post-mortems)
- Possibility of assisting in the hand-rearing of animals
- Local community involvement (e.g. visiting schools in rural areas) – Refer to community work section further on



Informal lectures on a variety of topics, including (but not limited to):

- Conservation
- Animal identification
- Plants and ecology
- Astronomy
- Survival
- Firearm handling and safety
- Tracks and signs
- South African history and cultural diversity
- Veterinary procedures

The lectures will be followed by practical exercises, such as:

- A trip to the reptile park
- Identification of plants on walking excursions
- Tracking in the bush
- A trip to Kruger National Park
- Stargazing
- Natural and traditional food preparation
- Game drives



WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen and hat
- Insect repellent
- Torch
- Comfortable walking boots and socks
- Camera
- Books to read
- Laptop or any other personal device

COMMUNITY WORK

As part of the WCE programme, participants may be involved with initiatives at underprivileged schools in the local communities.

In April 2016, we partnered with Lumukisa Primary School, located in Acornhoek, Mpumalanga, South Africa. The school supports 987 learners and 19 teachers.

During our visit, the WCE student co-ordinators handed over a donation of vegetable seeds and holders and also introduced the Rhino Art programme to the learners. As part of this collaboration, the

Top 10 students from each class will also have the opportunity to visit HESC for a walking tour each term.



Should participants wish to assist the school with donations for equipment, funds may be raised and HESC will ensure they are distributed. Old shoes are always a welcome donation for the children, or refer to the specific wish list. Contact our co-ordinators for further information.



PROGRAMME DATES

Programme	2017	2018 – Student Programme	2018 – School Programme
1	03/01/2017 - 23/01/2017	02/01/2018 - 22/01/2018	23/01/2018 - 28/01/2018
2	31/0/2017 - 20/02/2017	30/01/2018 - 19/02/2018	20/02/2018 - 25/02/2018
3	28/02/2017 - 20/03/2017	27/02/2018 - 19/03/2018	20/03/2018 - 25/03/2018
4	28/03/2017 - 17/04/2017	27/03/2018 16/04/2018	17/04/2018 - 22/04/2018
5	25/04/2017 - 15/05/2017	24/04/2018 14/05/2018	15/05/2018 - 20/05/2018
6	** 23/05/2017 - 12/06/2017	22/05/2018 - 11/06/2018	12/06/2018 - 17/06/2018
7	** 20/06/2017 - 10/07/2017	19/06/2018 - 09/07/2018	10/07/2018 - 15/07/2018
8	** 18/07/2017 - 07/08/2017	17/07/2018 - 06/08/2018	07/08/2018 - 12/08/2018
9	** 15/08/2017 - 04/09/2017	14/08/2018 - 03/09/2018	04/09/2018 - 09/09/2018
10	12/09/2017 - 02/10/2017	11/09/2018 - 01/10/2018	02/10/2018 - 07/10/2018
11	10/10/2017 - 30/10/2017	09/10/2018 29/10/2018	30/10/2018 - 04/11/2018
12	07/11/2017 - 27/11/2017	06/11/2018 - 26/11/2016	
13	01/12/2017 - 21/12/2017	*30/11/2018 - 20/12/2018	
		<p>*Please note: that student programme 13 is dedicated to WCT community outreach programme and will host children without family support.</p> <p>Programme 13 will be starting on a Friday and ending on a Thursday should it fall during the standard 3 weeks on and 1 week off program then the students will be flying out on Christmas Day.</p>	



COSTS

Rate 2017: R31 200.00 per person on a three week stay.
- **R10 400** per person on a one week stay.

Rate 2018: R32 700 per person on a three week stay.
- **R10 900** per person on a one week stay.

Rates include: transfers between Hoedspruit’s Eastgate Airport and the centre; accommodation; daily meals with Nungu camp; specified activities; programme facilitators; as well as weekly trips to town. Rates exclude transport fees for any additional activities.

CONTACT DETAILS

Should you be interested in participating in this programme, or need further information from our team, please contact us via the details below:

Telephone: +27 15 793 1633 / 1825
Fax: +27 793 1646
Email: students@cheetahcentre.co.za
Website: www.hesc.co.za



LOCATION

HESC is located in the Limpopo Province in Hoedspruit, South Africa.

Travel Options:

By Road - the drive is approximately 4 ½ hours from Johannesburg on tarred main roads. For further travel options, visit http://www.hesc.co.za/LSP_travel.htm



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