



## **IMPORTANT NOTES FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING THE WILDLIFE FILM ACADEMY**

### **Arrival:**

A Wildlife Film Academy representative will meet you at OR Tambo Airport Johannesburg at the International Arrivals Information desk. Please note we are not allowed to have a board with our name up at the Arrivals desk. You will then be transferred via bus (this is a 3 hour drive) to the Wildlife Film Academy concession.

### **Departure:**

On the last day of the course, you will be transferred back to OR Tambo airport. Your departure time will be at 11h00 and your expected time of arrival at OR Tambo, Johannesburg will be 13h30.

### **Course date and schedule:**

See course dates on website.

The first day's lecture will start at 07h30 and finish at 17h30, with a break from 11:00 - 13:30. On day 1 the rest of the month's schedule will be handed out and you will need to check it daily to see what time the following day's lectures begin. Please make sure you are on time each day as the lecturer will start whether you are present or not.

### **What to bring:**

- Insurance (medical and stills equipment)
- ID/passport
- Clothing - see below
- Medical kit (any physical problems- please let us know)

### **Personal items to bring along:**

- Clothes: T-shirts, long sleeved cotton shirts, long trousers, shorts, tracksuit, bathing costume, rain jacket, warm jersey/fleece/jacket
- Own towels, shower towels are provided but not swimming towels
- Shoes: Comfortable walking shoes, hiking boots as well as water proof boots, something like Wellington boots. If you do not have this you can buy some cheap gumboots. Please note that you will not be allowed to do the bushwalks with open shoes.
- Stills camera and film (if you have)
- Torch/ flashlight
- Hat - a MUST in winter and summer! In winter the sun is still very harsh and you need protection for your skin
- Sunglasses
- Suntan lotion - even during the South African winter months
- Water Bottle
- Personal toiletries
- Glasses (contact lenses may get irritated by the dust)
- Binoculars
- Pocket knife
- Insect repellent and ointment for insect bites
- Money: You will need about R3 500 -R4000.00 cash for the month. Please note that there is no access to an ATM and you will need to bring cash with you. Please withdraw cash at the airport.

- It is best to purchase cigarettes or snacks before arriving at the Reserve, however there is a limited staff shop available.
- Laptop: If you have a laptop, we do advise you to bring it along as it makes it a lot easier for you to write your script.
- If you want to bring your own Sony mini DV tapes and DVD's, please do so! We do have stock for sale at the camp. We charge R45 per mini DV tape and R5 per DVD. Please remember to add this amount of money to the cash you will need as these items will only be sold on the first day of the course and we only accept cash.
- Mosquito net!
- **Please note: There is no cellphone reception and very limited access to the internet.**

### Camera Equipment:

Please advise us if you are using your own camera equipment for the course. Also please note that you will have to arrange your own insurance for your equipment.

### 3 Minute Natural History Documentary:

We would like you to think about **3 possible story ideas** for the short documentary/film that you will be producing on the course. As you do not have that much time to prepare for your storyline once the course has started, we would like you to try and develop these ideas about what you would like to produce before you're here in Africa. Of course we understand that your storyline depends on the location where you will be filming, but you can already start with rough ideas on a story.

Herewith some general ideas:

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR SHORT FILMS- dependant on location and season

- A day in the life of a field ranger
- Management of the reserve - 'behind the scenes' style
- African tracking
- Archaeological sites in the reserve
- Natural history of a certain species (a common and easy to spot one!)
- Behind the scenes with a wildlife filmmaker
- Community involvement in the reserve
- Invasive/alien species (reserve control)
- Conservation practices such as fire and water management, re-location and re-introduction of certain species to the natural area
- Eco tourism vs. farming practices in the area
- The biodiversity of the specific natural area
- Investigative story - poaching, culling, fences coming down
- Soap opera - (personification) the loves and lives of wild animals in the bush
- Animal myths and traditional African stories on animals
- Insects (during wet season)
- Reptiles of the park
- Life around a water hole
- Birdlife in the park
- Educational opportunities
- Medicinal plants
- Habituated animals around the camps
- A river or dam as an eco-system
- Young ones -animal babies make wonderful visuals
- Children's stories about animals
- Natural disasters - Drought, floods, fire, bush encroachment
- Field researcher - working on one animal
- Game breeding, white lion, cheetah, buffalo, nyala antelope etc

**Admin address of Wildlife Film Academy:**

Longkloof Studios, Block B  
Darters Road  
Gardens, 8010  
Cape Town  
South Africa

We look forward to welcoming you on the course and giving you an experience of a lifetime!

Best wishes,  
**The Wildlife Film Academy Team**