

## SUNY Cobleskill / EcoLife Expeditions May 13-27, 2015 **TENTATIVE ITINERARY**

### **Day 1: Wednesday, 13 May: Arrival**

On arrival at OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, you will be met by your EcoLife guides and transferred to a guesthouse in Pretoria.

*Accommodation: Guesthouse*

### **Day 2: Thursday, 14 May: Workshop and Lion Park**

Our day starts with a morning workshop with Professor van Hoven. After lunch, we visit a lion park where they breed a wide variety of African cats.

*Accommodation: Guesthouse*

### **Day 3: Friday, 15 May: Swadini Nature Reserve**

Drive northeast and arrive at Swadini Nature Reserve to set up camp at the foot of the majestic northern Drakensberg (Mountains of the Dragon). The immaculate Swadini resort facilities include public telephones, a shop, heated and ambient swimming pools, restaurants, shop and a laundry.

*Accommodation: Camping (Swadini)*

### **Day 4: Saturday, 16 May: Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and Reptile Park**

Moholoholo is a world-renowned wildlife rehabilitation centre. The care and rehabilitation of a wide range of wildlife species will be experienced and demonstrated first hand. After lunch you will also have the opportunity to attend a workshop presented on the handling and care of reptiles, including highly venomous snakes.

*Accommodation: Camping (Swadini)*

### **Days 5 – 7: Sunday, 17 and Tuesday, 19 May: Kruger National Park**

Travel to Kruger Park, about one hour. The biodiversity of this wilderness area is spectacular, and the ideal area for observing and studying most of the wildlife species Southern Africa has to offer. During our visit we will meet with a well-known ecologist in the area to learn more about wildlife poaching, park management, and ecology. Park facilities include public telephones, a bank, a shop, restaurants and a laundry.

*Accommodation: Camping*

### **Day 8: Wednesday, 20 May: Drive to Mabalingwe Game Reserve**

We depart early and start the long drive to the Mabalingwe game reserve, located just outside the town of Warmbaths. We arrive late afternoon and set up camp.

*Accommodation: Camping*

### **Day 9: Thursday, 21 May: Mabalingwe Game Reserve**

We start our day with an hour game drive, followed by an hour game walk with a ranger from Mabalingwe Game Reserve. Our afternoon is spent at leisure exploring the reserve. Additional, optional activities available at the reserve include horse riding, quad biking, archery and more game viewing options. Additional activities for personal accounts.

*Accommodation: camping*

### **Day 10: Friday, 22 May: Elephant Project & Game Capture Lodge**

Daybreak on day 10 we drive out to another private game reserve in the area. Here we meet up with a herd of African elephants, their handlers and management staff. After a lecture and demonstration on the remarkable intelligence of these animals, we take a short elephant back safari. After the visit we drive onwards to check in to a lodge in a private game reserve.

*Accommodation: Lodge*

### **Days 11 - 14: Saturday, 23 to Tuesday, 26 May: Game Capture Course**

The successful capture, handling and translocation of wildlife all form important parts of the wildlife manager's program. The next four days are dedicated to observation and learning about and participating in actual game capture operations under the guidance of a world renowned specialist. Weather permitting we will also have the opportunity to mock dart a moving target from a helicopter.

*Accommodation: Lodge*

### **Day 15: Wednesday, 27 May: Departure**

We depart for Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport to be in time for our flight home.