EcoTraining
Pioneer & Leader in Safari Guide & Wildlife Training



Ranger Experience Kenya

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1. Course objectives

To provide participants with an introduction to African wildlife and the natural environment, in an enjoyable and exciting way. The course will teach ethical behaviour in natural environments as well as conservation initiatives that everyone can contribute to in their day to day life. The objective is for participants to understand the underlying elements that support this amazing variety of life such as geology, soils, plants and climate as well as how the both small and large organisms and species interact with one another and their environment.

2. Course dates

Arrival for the below course is 14h00 on the first day, with departure at 10h00 on the last day.

2019 Dates [5 days /4 nights]	Camp
TBA	EcoTraining / Mara Training Centre

4. Curriculum

Ecology forms the basis of this course and the basic principles of ecology are: "Study of the House" earth's ecosystem that includes both the living and non-living parts of the environment. Plants, animals, fungi, protists and bacteria as well as the rocks, water and atmosphere make up your average ecosystem. Once this is grasped it is easy to see how a change in one part of an ecosystem might very well affect all the other parts.

The aim of this school trip will be to provide fun activities for the scholars to learn about the below topics in a fun and interactive way while immersed in nature:

Basic Ecology and Geology	Basic Navigation & Orientation	Animal Tracks and Tracking	Bird ID and Behaviour	Animal ID and Behaviour	Common Trees and Shrubs	Astronomy

A typical day will include

- Early morning with tea/coffee
- A day-break drive or walk, focusing on the topic of the day
- Return to camp for a hearty cooked breakfast
- Debriefing on morning activities observations/ lessons
- Midday discussion points on morning encounters / activity
- Free time or leisure activities
- Mid-afternoon light lunch
- Afternoon drive or walk, focusing on the day's theme ended with sundowners
- Dinner and debriefing on the evening activities' observations and lessons

Variations to typical schedule may include

- Full day activity for tracking and trailing
- Full day activity for navigational walks
  - Both will incorporate general observations and learning
  - Sleep-out incorporating bush survival skills of locating and sourcing water, preparing a fire and ensuring location is safe etc.
- Evening activities may include star gazing (astronomy)



5. Itinerary

DAY 1: **Welcome to the EcoTraining Mara Training Centre**

- 11:10am collection from Ngerende airstrip. Upon arrival midday, a safety briefing will be conducted, an orientation of camp as well as an introduction to the staff.
- Welcome, introductions, code of conduct, camp safety and rules
- What this course is about
- Explain the schedule and the daily structure
- Participants will be assisted and shown where to setup camp, followed by time to settle in as well as time to prepare for the afternoon activity (dependent on arrival time).
- Participants meet for high tea and thereafter depart for an afternoon activity. Dependent on arrival time.

Afternoon Activity

- A late afternoon walking safari to introduce the participants to the concession and the night sky.

DAY 2: **Basic Ecology and Geology**

Morning Activity:

- A morning walking safari trail from camp to introduce general walking safety and to focus on the **Basic Ecology and Geology** of the surrounding areas.
- This activity will include climbing the highest point overlooking the Mara, Mount Kileleoni!



- Clients will enjoy a picnic / packed lunch on top of Mt Kileleoni which will be followed by an interactive discussion by instructor based on Basic Ecology and Geology - understanding the inter-relatedness and with a focus on the local area, including Geology and Soils, Weather and Atmosphere, Vegetation and Habitats as well as Grasses. This area is also known to host namely a rare variety of species such as Colobus Monkeys, Mountain Reed-Buck as well as a range of birds not normally associated with the Mara ecology such as Golden Oriel, Double-Toothed Barbet as well as the Rosses Turaco
- Participants will make their way done the hill and climb onto the Safari Vehicle waiting at the bottom of the hill and make their way back to camp.

Noon Discussion and Practical Experience:

- Interactive discussion by instructor based on **Basic Ecology and Geology** - understanding the inter-relatedness and with a focus on the local area, including **Geology and Soils, Weather and Atmosphere, Vegetation and Habitats as well as Grasses.**

Afternoon Activity:

- Afternoon activity which will either be in the form of game drive or bush walk.
- Game drive, combining with a walk if there are interests, and incorporating general game drive viewing, with emphasis on the **Basic Ecology and Geology –** topics covered during the Noon Discussion.

DAY 3: Situational Awareness & Animal Tracks and Tracking

Morning Activity:

- A morning activity will be planned to test current situational awareness capabilities. This will be done by placing various objects randomly that don't below in nature along this route and testing the groups observational skills as well.
- After this the groups will be taught how to Track and Trail as well as read "signs" in the bush.

Noon Discussion and Practical Experience:

- Interactive discussion by instructor based on **Animal Tracks and Tracking**.
- Discussion topics and practical experiments to include:
    - Introduction to basic Tracks, basic Track Identification as well as basic Animal Trailing Skills

Afternoon Activity:

- Afternoon walking safari to test your newly learnt skills in the ancient art of tracking and reading the bush.



DAY 4: Approaching Dangerous Game on Foot

Early Morning Activity:

- A morning walking activity focusing on **Bird and Mammal Identification and Behaviour.** This includes Basic Bird Identification, understanding basic Bird behaviour and nesting behaviour as well as how to interpret specific birds as a tool when approaching dangerous game on foot.

Noon Discussion and Practical Experience:

- Interactive discussion by instructor based on **Walking and approaching dangerous game on foot – Trails Guiding**.

Afternoon Activity:

- Game walk focusing on how to approach animals on foot with emphasis on dangerous animals.
- How to use different mammal & birds calls and their behaviour when walking.

DAY 5: All good things come to an end.

- Short activity drive with hotbox for last coffee/tea as the sun rises and provide an opportunity for clients to sit in silence and just "be in nature". Return to camp for packing and departure **@ 10am**



