

# TOP WILD

Frequently Asked  
Questions

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## What will I get out of the course?

Our course is designed to nurture the next generation of wildlife filmmakers. Based in South Africa, students will spend 4 weeks developing, filming and editing their own wildlife story in a Big 5 game reserve. You will walk away with comprehensive skills which can be used in the wildlife filmmaking industry and the opportunity to join the Too Wild Community.

## What practical training will I receive?

Film techniques, long lens camera operation, macro filming, gimbal use, camera rigging, time-lapse techniques, equipment maintenance, footage workflow, editing skills and learning to read the tracks & signs of the wild.

## What theoretical training will I receive?

Understanding animal behaviour, ethics in wildlife filmmaking, guest lectures & workshops by industry professionals including our natural history post-production team.

## What does the course fee include and exclude?

### Inclusions:

- Comfortable private accommodation
- 3 delicious meals per day
- expert instruction with small group size
- one-to-one mentoring
- 4 weeks of filming and living in a Big 5 game reserve
- using of top of the range broadcast quality cameras plus your own trail cam
- use of professional audio gear
- access to professional editing suite
- pick up and drop off from Hoedspruit
- starlink wifi
- laundry with in-house housekeeper

### Exclusions:

- International flights
- domestic flights or road transfers to Hoedspruit
- travel insurance
- personal first aid kits and medications
- alcoholic beverages
- tips for local staff

## Can I cancel once my place is confirmed?

Due to the number of applications received and limited places available, we may not be able to accept all interested students. To secure your place, we require a 20% deposit to be paid within 14 days of place confirmation. The remaining fee must be paid in full 2 months prior to arrival in South Africa. See Terms & Conditions for our cancellation policy.

## Am I eligible?

No special requirements or qualifications are required; however, self study and research before will be of assistance. We have a preparation video and reading list which will be sent prior to your stay with us.

## Do I need to be an expert on wildlife?

Absolutely not. This is an experiential learning course and you will learn all about wildlife and animal behaviour from our naturalist. When filming, you do not have to focus on wildlife if you don't want to; the landscapes, flora and fauna are just as captivating to film.

## I'd like to work in the wildlife TV industry, is this course suitable?

Yes. We don't offer a formal qualification but instead offer an opportunity to live in the wild whilst being mentored by industry experts to gain hands-on experience in wildlife filmmaking. We will focus on all pillars that are critical to the production of every wildlife documentary: Pre-production, production and post-production. You also can build your own showreel whilst here.

## Do I need to be fit?

A basic level of fitness is required. Although most of the days will be based around the vehicle, we will be doing bushwalks and carrying heavy equipment. If you have limitations, please get in touch to see if we can meet your needs. The hours can be long and can be physically testing in different weather conditions.

## Am I too old?

If you have air in your lungs, we're good to go!

## Am I too young?

The course is for over 18's only but anyone 18 and above is welcome.

## What is the schedule?

Please see the sample syllabus for more details on the course. We will be busy every day except Sunday which will be our rest day. The course schedule is flexible and the actual schedule may differ due to several factors including weather.



#### Do I require a work/volunteer VISA?

No. You will not be employed by Too Wild nor paid. On this program, you are entitled to enter on a temporary visitor's permit (e.g. tourism permit). Tourist visas are usually issued for three months/90 days upon entry in South Africa. However, we do recommend that you contact the South African Embassy or Consulate in your country and confirm this fact before booking. If you plan to travel in South Africa prior or after the course for a period extending 90 days, you will need to investigate the options available to you through your home embassy.

#### Who owns the media I collect?

All media (video and audio) collected by you will belong to you. However, the following licensing conditions on collected materials is required: Too Wild retains total right to use the media for any non-exclusive purpose whatsoever free of charge and without requiring permission or paying compensation to the participants (including the sale of footage). This further means that the student may only license any collected footage for non-exclusive rights to a third party.

#### Do I need to bring my own video equipment or gear?

All filming equipment is supplied as part of the course. If you want to bring your own equipment, particularly if you are interested in shooting with DSLR cameras, you are more than welcome. We have a fully accessible editing suite for each participant but would suggest bringing your own laptop for personal use and a 5TB hard drive to save your own footage.

#### Where do I stay?

Your home for the 4 weeks will be in the heart of the Timbavati Big 5 Game Reserve for an authentic, back to nature experience whilst living in style and sleeping in comfort in your own accommodation with a private bathroom with indoor and outdoor shower, a study, a coffee station and a private deck.

#### What information do I need to make my travel arrangements?

For all international travel, it is best to fly to Johannesburg O.R. Tambo airport. From there, you must make your way to Hoedspruit via a domestic flight, road transfer or self drive. We will pick you up and drop you off at the end of your stay from Hoedspruit. When making your travel arrangements, we will be there to assist in any questions you may have.

#### Do I need travel/medical insurance?

Yes. When you are accepted into this program, you will be required to sign a liability disclaimer. Too Wild

is located in a remote wilderness environment populated with wild animals. You must understand and accept there are hazards associated with travelling here. We will have safety guidelines in place and the risks are low however, please do organise your own medical and health insurance to cover your entire stay in South Africa. We are registered with Africa SafeT who provide immediate on-site medical support to our remote location and supply us with comprehensive, up-to-date first aid kits. We will have first aid trained staff onsite at all times.

#### What do I need to bring?

In the lowveld where we are based, we have cold, dry winters (May - August) and wet, hot summers (November - Mar).

Please get in touch with specific questions, but see below a rough list of recommended items to bring:

- Working clothes for daily wear - this means clothes you are comfortable in and don't mind getting dirty. You must wear neutral colours (bush colours especially) on game drive but can wear what you like at camp
- Good closed shoes are important for walking around camp and on game drive
- Flip flops are always handy for walking around your accommodation
- Bring comfy clothes to lounge around in the evenings which can get cold depending on the season. Bring a rain jacket just in case
- A swimming costume
- Exercise clothes
- Toiletries & strong sunscreen (there are shops 30 mins away if you run out)
- Prescription medication
- Passport & photocopy of passport
- Bank cards (Inform your bank of your travels)
- Spare cash (ZAR)
- Phone, cables & adaptors
- Sunglasses & hats
- Large water bottle (>1L)
- Headlamp or torch

#### Do I need to bring extra money?

We recommend travelling with cash in case of emergencies, any activities you may do during your off days, shopping and tips for local staff which we encourage. There are also ATMs in the nearest town however, make sure you let your bank know you are travelling in advance.

#### Do I need any vaccinations, antimalarials or other medication?

There are no vaccinations required however, we are in a low-risk malaria area and we recommend you consult with your physician before travel.