

Academic Itinerary for Animal Physiotherapy students

- **eSwatini Mlilwane Nature Reserve**
- **Kruger National Park**
- **Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre**

Day 1

Arrive at Johannesburg International Airport where you will be met by your guide and transferred to eSwatini for late afternoon and settle into your accommodation at Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary where you will be staying in en-suite b-hives. Time to relax after your journey.

eSwatini (formally Swaziland)

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary is eSwatini's pioneer conservation reserve, a shining example of what is possible if passion, vision and action fuse. Once a highly profitable multi-purpose farm, and being labelled an "impossible dream", Mlilwane was proclaimed in 1961 and is now the kingdom's most popular eco-destination for locals and internationals alike. Accommodation will be in the two bedded amazing traditional beehive huts.



Overnight: eSwatini

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2

Introduction to the reserve, staff and meet the horses. This day is also a chance to acclimatise and embrace the beautiful culture of this country while enjoying this wonderful wildlife reserve, where there are opportunities to do horse riding, bike riding, walking, birding and spotting of the endangered mammals that roam around the reserve. But the best is sitting on the deck by the lake watching the birds do what they do best and given enhanced detail on their id and natural behaviours. There will also be an opportunity to visit the local craft market and a visit to the Roan conservation breeding project and then in the evening just chill with a nice book by the swimming pool.

Overnight: eSwatini

Meals included: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 3

This day will be spent with the reserve's working horses, where you will have the opportunity to implement your animal physiotherapeutic skills using the techniques of massage, stretching and mobilisation. Because these techniques do not cost a lot in resources to administer and is one of the oldest and most effective forms of treatment, it would be very useful for you to share your knowledge with the experienced staff at the reserve. Though these horses are very well cared for, any help to reduce their chances of injury and help speed up the healing process when injury has occurred, would be very beneficial to both the horses welfare and to the reserve itself.

Overnight: eSwatini

Meals included: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4

Watch the sunrise over the mountains before packing up for your scenic journey into South Africa for the amazing Kruger National Park.

Meals included: Breakfast

THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Where nearly 2 million hectares of unrivalled diversity of life forms fuses with historical and archaeological sites. The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. Most of this afternoon is spent on safari through the park, game viewing as you go, making your way to camp in the southern section of the park. There are plenty of very reasonably priced cafes and restaurants in camp for you to choose from, this gives you more flexibility with timing.

Overnight: Kruger National Park

Meals: Own account



Day 5

Early game drive before breakfast. The rest of the day is spent exploring Kruger National Park at your leisure, providing an excellent opportunity for observing wildlife at its best. This will be a key opportunity to compare the biomechanics, locomotion, anatomy and physiology of African wildlife, with domestic animals you are more familiar with. You will observe the physical adaptations of each species, whilst carrying out health check assessments (from a distance of course).

Overnight: Kruger National Park

Meals: Own account

Day 6

You will be transferred to the wildlife veterinary hospital within the park where you will have lectures from the veterinary staff focussing on your learning outcomes and potential career aims.

Overnight: Kruger National Park

Meals: Own account

Day 7

Most of this day is spent on safari through the park, and is once again a valuable opportunity to undertake observations of wildlife in their natural habitat making your way to Moholoholo to settle down for the evening.

Overnight: Moholoholo Mountain View

Meals: Dinner

Moholoholo Mountain View Camp with beautiful views of the northern Drakensburg Mountains. Accommodation is in self-contained thatched cottages, each with a small fridge and a bbq area. Time can be spent on the deck overlooking a waterhole, and evenings around a campfire listening to the sounds of Africa at night.

Day 8

Early morning drive to the Elephant sanctuary where you will be able to interact with the elephants in a responsible way. You will be able to physically wash the elephants which would be a good opportunity for you to feel their anatomy and muscle tone. After this activity, you can walk with them through the forest. You will be able to compare the difference between wild and previously working/domesticated Elephants. You will have a full educational programme where you can ask your many questions about some of the veterinary issues that they see in Elephants that have been previously used for the tourism industry. We can also try to arrange for you to practice some massage if the Elephants are happy with this.



Overnight: Moholoholo Mountain View

Meals: Full board

Day 9

After breakfast, a full day programme at Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre. It is situated in the shadow of the majestic “Mariepskop” which forms part of the mighty Drakensberg mountains. The unique Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is a home to many of South Africa’s abandoned, injured and poisoned wildlife. Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is extremely proud of its efforts in wildlife education in South Africa. *“At Moholoholo we are often faced with the difficult decision of what to do with an injured or poisoned animal which will not be able to be released back into the wild. As a result, we have a number of “permanent residents” at the centre and at our own cost we use them as “ambassadors” for their respective species”* Brian Jones.

You will be able to observe many sick and injured wildlife and depending on their situation, you will have an opportunity to go behind the scenes and visit the veterinary centre where you can speak directly to the veterinary staff about the treatment and rehabilitation of many different species.

We will arrange for you to autopsy a deceased animal in a safe environment.

A night game drive can be arranged after dinner.

Overnight: Moholoholo Mountain View

Meals: Full Board



Day 10

An early morning bush walk before breakfast, tracking wildlife on foot. You can use this as a good measure of sick and injured animals. Your experienced guide will track the animals and explain in detail what you would expect to see in a number of different clinical problems. This will hone your observation skills in animal health assessments such as: body condition scoring, movement and behaviour.

You will then have a short drive to the Kinyonga Reptile Centre and spend the morning learning about indigenous reptile species. The comprehensive course covers conservation, first aid and physiology of reptiles. Again you will have the opportunity to handle some of these species and discuss their treatment and rehabilitation. You will have lecturers on first aid, treatment and rehabilitation of a number of endangered species. After lunch, you will visit the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, taking a comprehensive look into different aspects of the genetic, breeding and conservation of Cheetah.



Overnight: Moholoholo Mountain View

Meals: Full Board

Day 11

Early morning pack up and after breakfast leave for Johannesburg International Airport for your flight back to the UK.

Leaving Moholoholo, the route goes from the lowveld up the escarpment into the highveld along the highest national road in South Africa. Your route takes you through magnificent landscape via Gods window and the Blyde River Canyon, the 3rd largest green canyon in the world. There will be fabulous photo opportunities as you will stop and visit the highlights of this magnificent landscape. *(time and weather dependent)*

Cost: £1800pp

Includes: Guides Accommodation, Course, Transfers, Meals as above, conservation and entrance fees

Excludes: International Flights, Travel insurance and some meals as above.



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