



Wildlife Campus

20
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

LEARN PROTECT SAVE

Magazine

Black Mamba
an insight by ASI

Course Update
Game Lodge
Management

*Certificates,
employment advice
+ free courses to
get you started.*

4 Must-do online courses
for aspiring Field Guides

Online Anti-Poaching
workshop

WildlifeCampus

Close Encounters

The origin story



WildlifeCampus CEO
Todd Kaplan

One of the foremost guides in the industry once told me that one of the key differences between a great guide and an exceptional one, is that the exceptional guide very rarely gets into a perilous close encounters situation with dangerous game. What follows is part one of a series of short tales of my close encounters with each of the Big Five.

Many years ago, just before embarking on an early morning bush walk in the Pilanesberg, our guide gave our small trails group the standard safety briefing. Among the instructions was the iron-clad admonition to NOT RUN, irrespective of what was happening.

We began with a short drive into the bush. About an hour in, while following some fresh white rhino tracks, we encountered a large herd of elephant perhaps 300m away. The wind being in our favour, the guide slowly and cautiously guided us closer in. We stopped perhaps 150m in thick and thorny bush and watched the large breeding herd lazily browse. From this vantage point we would have been invisible to the herd, and with the light breeze fresh in our faces both observer and observed were enjoying the early morning.

Then the wind changed, directed strongly against our backs. The effect was almost immediate. It appeared as if 100 trunks shot into the air as by pre-practiced manoeuvre and agreement. Our guide indicated to us to crouch, stay still, and keep silent. Compliance was immediate. Then the trumpeting started...

The charge followed shortly and two of the herd, nearest to our group, raced directly at us, trumpeting all the way. We looked imploringly at our guide for some indication of decision and it was not long in coming. RUN, she said. Nobody moved. The previous unbreakable instruction to NOT RUN, irrespective of the situation, was seemingly at odds with this new order. Still nobody moved, other than repeated rapid glances between thundering elephants and the now

pleading guide. MOVE !@*&%! NOW, encouraged the guide, and we did.

The seven of us simply turn tailed and bolted in the opposite direction, the guide bringing up the rear. Straight through thick thorny bush, over bushes, boulders and burrows we bounded back towards nothing in particular except away from all the charging that may or may not have still been going on somewhere behind us. I have no idea how far the charge lasted, how far we ran or for how long we continued, it might have been two minutes and 200m or two hours and two miles. Eventually the group shuffled to a breathless halt - bloody, bruised and battered.

The guide waited a while for everyone to catch their breath and simply led us back to the vehicle, which took about half an hour.

I can't tell you whether the charge was of the mock or deadly variety. I can't tell you whether the guide took the right course of action or not either. What I can tell you is that nobody was seriously injured, and everyone has an enduring memory and good story to tell. If there's anything to take away from the experience it's that every wild encounter is different, as will be illustrated in our next edition regarding my chance encounter with a leopard.

Todd

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Don't Miss out!

4 must-do online courses For aspiring Field Guides

Course pack includes:
Field Guiding/Game Ranging
The Guides Guide to Guiding
FGASA Exam Preparation
Trails Guiding
Online courses

Now for R 5 999!

(normal price: R 8 650)

Study all these courses from the comfort of your own home
at your own pace without any entrance requirements.

More info? E-mail info@wildlifecampus.com

Valid until 30 June 2020

AFRICA'S NOTORIOUS BLACK MAMBA



The Black Mamba (*Dendroaspis polylepis*) is one of the most feared snakes in Africa and there are numerous myths, tall tales, and superstition associated with them.

They are large, fast, and alert snakes and are able to lift more than a third of their body off the ground. When threatened, they form a narrow hood and gape, revealing the inky-black interior of the mouth – an intimidating sight.



They are quick to strike when cornered, often biting multiple times in quick succession. The venom, if bites are untreated, can take anything from 3-16 hours to cause deaths in humans. In severe cases, the victim may struggle to breathe within half an hour. It is no wonder they have the reputation of being one of the world's most deadly snakes.

Contrary to popular belief, Black Mambas do not chase people, and if given the chance, are quick to escape. Bites are relatively rare, especially when compared with some other African snakes like the Saw-Scaled Viper, Puff Adder, and Mozambique Spitting Cobra.

- DISTRIBUTION -



- SIZE -

It is difficult to estimate a snake's length accurately, especially if they are moving.

Most people greatly exaggerate length when referring to snakes, and this is a regular occurrence with Black Mamba sightings. We often hear anecdotes of 6 m mambas! Reaching a maximum length of 4.5 m (specimens over 3.8 m are rare now days), they are still the largest venomous snake in Africa.

- COLOUR -

Despite its common name, the Black Mamba is rarely black in colour. They are usually light to gunmetal grey, olive green, dark olive or greyish-brown in colour. Older specimens may be darker and have darker mottling. The belly is usually lighter in colour than the body, and may have faint mottled patterns. Their common name actually comes from the inner lining of the mouth – which is usually an inky-black colour. This snake is easily identified by its elongated, rectangular coffin-shaped head and an iconic “evil” smile.



- HABITS -

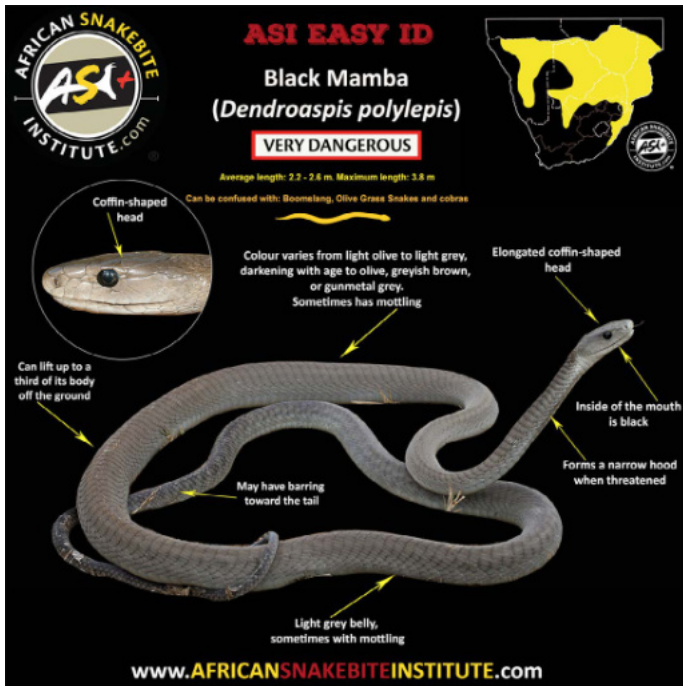
Black Mambas are active during the day, often basking near rocky outcrops, anthills, hollow tree trunks, or rock crevices into which they quickly disappear if disturbed. They are equally at home in trees and on the ground, and often have a semi-permanent lair near which they will bask in the mornings.

- DIET -

The Black Mamba is an active hunter, preying on rodents, dassies and other small mammals as well as birds and bats.

- CAN BE CONFUSED WITH... -

Being Africa's most notorious snake, many people often misidentify any dark snake as a Black Mamba. They are also often confused with the Boomslang, Olive Grass Snake and some cobras.



- REPRODUCTION -

Black Mambas are oviparous and lay 6 - 21 eggs in summer. Hatchlings measure 40 - 60 cm in length and are highly venomous. At the beginning of the breeding season in autumn, males engage in male combat, twisting around one another in a wrestling match during which one attempts to push the head of its opponent to the ground.

- MYTHS -

There are numerous myths across various cultures surrounding the Black Mamba. There is the mythical Ndlondlo - a huge Black Mamba with a feather on its head, which moves incredibly fast and strikes like lightning. Ndlondlo moves so fast that the feather causes a whistling sound! At times Ndlondlo will hide in the bush and cry like a baby - and should you go into the bush to investigate, you risk getting killed by this snake.

There are a number of anecdotes of mambas chasing men on horseback, and "swimming" on the top of thick thatching grass or sugar cane when chasing after people. Another popular myth is the one of the mamba hanging from a tree, and then biting and killing five cows as they enter the kraal. While it may be possible for a Black Mamba to kill a cow or horse, it rarely happens. However, to kill five cows is highly unlikely both because of the venom yield of this snake and the fact that it is just not in their nature to kill large bovines that pose no real threat to them.

- VENOM -

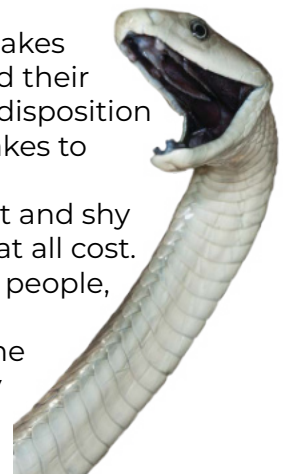
The Black Mamba has a potent neurotoxic venom, which affects the nervous system. Symptoms can take anything from 30 minutes to 16 hours to occur, and may include: nausea, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, dilated pupils, slurred speech and difficulty with swallowing. The respiratory muscles are gradually paralysed, which leads to respiratory failure, and ultimately death.

- FIRST AID -

In the event of a known Black Mamba bite, patients need to be immobilised and kept as still as possible. Stress levels are high in the event of a bite, and it is important to reassure the patient and keep them calm. Immediately transport the victim to the closest hospital. While en-route, a smart pressure bandage can be wrapped from the site of the bite, towards the heart. This is called pressure immobilisation. Should the victim battle to breathe, artificial respiration may be required, either via mouth to mouth resuscitation or using a bag valve mask reserve. Pocket masks are ideal when performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Black Mambas are large snakes with a powerful venom, and their speed, agility and nervous disposition make them dangerous snakes to deal with.

However, they are very alert and shy snakes and avoid humans at all cost. These snakes do not chase people, and seeing a wild mamba gracefully move through the African bush is a very lucky sighting.



How to join *WildlifeCampus*

WildlifeCampus has been a FGASA endorsed distance learning provider since the year 2000. Over 25,000 students in over 154 countries have used WildlifeCampus to enhance their knowledge of our valuable Wildlife and Nature!

Are you a wildlife enthusiast, up for a career change, a professional in the wildlife/tourism industry or simply curious in all that involves natural sciences and wildlife?

Then our courses will be your thing!

In **4** Simple Steps

- Go to www.wildlifecampus.com
- Left on top of the homepage click the "Register Online Courses" button
- Complete the registration form
- Click the "Register for free" button to complete your registration



**Or click the wax seal to start filling
in our registration form.**

Partner News

In October 2020 a new practical Anti-Poaching course will start at GameWays

WildlifeCampus is excited to welcome new students and see them embark on this amazing journey in our partnership.

Make sure to give the GameWays Facebook page a like to stay updated!

[For more info:](#)

www.gameways-npo.org

info@gameways.co.za



Course Spotlight

Game Lodge Management

Written in collaboration with **Wilderness Safaris** this is **the original** and **first true** Game Lodge Management course to have been released to the public.

Drawing on over 30 years of experience in the creation and running of lodges, this offering is suitable for those seeking to enter this rewarding industry, or for safari companies that strive to emulate the accomplishments of one of the world's most successful lodge groups.

The certificate in Game Lodge Management is widely recognised as the best and is accepted throughout the industry. In terms of applications and permits, it also provides credibility that allows for motivation with local African governments.

The qualification: A Certificate in Game Lodge Management.

Did you know? For every Online Game Lodge Management Course sold WildlifeCampus pays 25% of the course fee directly to the Wilderness Wildlife Trust

A freshly updated version of our Online Game Lodge Management Course was published at the end of May 2020. Students who have purchased the course will find the new version on their profile.

Course Update

Buy the online Game Lodge Management + Game Ranch Economics courses for the combination price of **R 2,400.00**

To request your invoice email your username to **info@wildlifecampus.com**

We have an entire website dedicated to this specific subject. For full info, visit:
www.gamelodgemanagement.com

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WildlifeCampus



Certification, endorsement & employment

As a FGASA-endorsed training provider, WildlifeCampus has been providing various wildlife-related online courses since the year 2000.

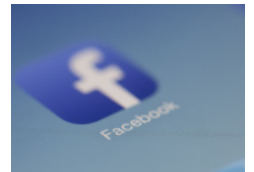
Our courses are well recognised and accepted throughout the industry. WildlifeCampus has hundreds of past graduates working at lodges, game reserves, operational in anti-poaching units, etc. worldwide and throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our course certificates will certainly be a great enhancement to your C.V. However, we do not guarantee employment or seek out work for students. Neither can we comment on any work restrictions for non South Africans.



All course offerings are **certificate courses**. Successful course graduates will have an industry recognised certificate digitally emailed to them.

WildlifeCampus highly recommends joining a relevant **online** community on social media. This is the perfect platform to get to know the industry, its various quality training providers, view job posts and see what will be required of you for employment in your field.



Getting started?

Here's our list of free courses for you to enjoy!

Course	Components	Price
African Folklore by Credo Mutwa	1	FREE
Astronomy	20	FREE
Birding by habitat	8	FREE
Cultural Astronomy – Beliefs & Customs	1	FREE
Cultural Guiding South Africa	14	FREE
Elephants: Facts & Fables	1	FREE
Hunting - A balanced perspective	12	FREE
Mountain Guiding	13	FREE
Predator Management on Livestock Farms	10	FREE
The Big '5'	6	FREE
The Big '5' for kids	6	FREE

Click on the name of a course to view its summary

WildlifeCampus

Full Online Course Listing



Course	Components	Price
Field Guiding / Game Ranging	82	R 5,500.00
Wildlife Management	42	R 3,600.00
Behaviour Guide to Mammals of RSA Lowveld	73	R 2,950.00
Behaviour Guide to African Herbivores	63	R 2,600.00
Animal Tracks & Signs of Africa	36	R 2,500.00
Capture & Care and management of Wildlife	27	R 2,400.00
Game Lodge Management	23	R 2,200.00
Intensive Wildlife Production	18	R 1,950.00
Marine Biology for Guides, Divers & Enthusiasts	39	R 1,850.00
Survival	44	R 1,800.00
Behaviour Guide to African Carnivores	38	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: Eastern Cape Province	16	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: Free State Province	14	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: Gauteng Province	17	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: Kwa-Zulu Natal Province	20	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: Limpopo Province	9	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: Mpumalanga Province	13	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: North-West Province	10	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: Northern Cape Province	17	R 1,550.00
Cultural Guiding: Western Cape Province	22	R 1,550.00
Geology, Palaeontology Evolution	21	R 1,500.00
Anti-Poaching	18	R 1,500.00
Digital Wildlife Photography	18	R 1,250.00
Guides Guide to Guiding	16	R 1,250.00
Trails Guide	16	R 1,100.00
Game Guard Management	12	R 850.00
FGASA Exam Preparation	30	R 800.00
Snakes & Reptiles of the Lowveld	17	R 700.00
Human - Wildlife Conflict	12	R 700.00
Game Ranch Economics	9	R 700.00
Behaviour Guide to African Primates	14	R 600.00
Wilderness Navigation	12	R 500.00

Click on the name of a course to view its summary

Online Workshop

Anti-Poaching

Would you like to learn more
about the intricacies of Poaching and Wildlife Crime?

Delve deeper into this interesting subject during a **live online presentation** by conservation biologist Kailen Padayachee.

Everyone can attend from the comfort of their own home and no prior knowledge is required.

This **live online workshop** is an excellent starting point, or addition, to the WildlifeCampus Anti-Poaching course.

Participants of the workshop will receive a R300.00 voucher towards the purchase of an online Anti-Poaching course!



Duration: 1 hour 30 min

Price: R 279.00/pp

Limit: 10 participants

Contact: + 27 82 770 56 23

info@kainavconservation.org



Next Workshop:
11th June 2020 19:00 SAST



www.kainavconservation.org



WildlifeCampus

LEARN | PROTECT | SAVE

Online Courses vs. *Paper-based*

WildlifeCampus proudly promotes paperless education! Courses are accessed and completed online via your profile on our website. Content can be downloaded in PDF format onto your mobile device so you can study anytime, even without internet.

Our 4 main courses (Field Guiding/Game Ranging, Wildlife Management, Game Lodge Management and Anti-Poaching) are also offered in a paper-based (manual) format.

What is the *Difference?*

In both online and paper-based courses:

Registration is FREE.

There are no entrance requirements.

Content is identical.

No deadlines are set. Courses can be completed at your own pace!

You do not need a visa or study permits.

You will receive a certificate upon completion.

Payment options are available.

The students are encouraged to email us any questions they have.

Our academic support team is always ready!

Online Courses

Courses are accessed and completed online, via your profile on our website.

Tests are completed online. Results are visible instantly upon completing a test.

**Register as an Online student
by clicking here**

Paper-based Courses

Courses are printed in manuals and posted to your nearest post office for collection.

Tests are completed on paper assignments and sent by email for marking.

**Register as a Paper-based student
by clicking here**

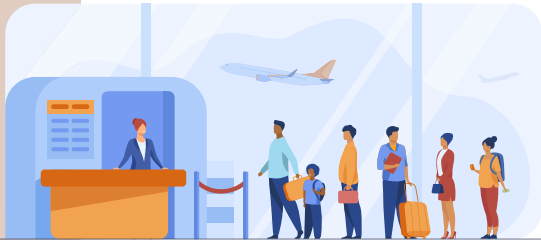
Whiling Time Away

By David Batzofin



It seems that air travel is specifically designed to cause the most amount of stress to humanity, even before the passengers board their flights.

For one thing, you have to spent an inordinate amount of time WAITING to board. Current rules dictate that you need to be at the airport several hours before your flight leaves... but why?



The terminals are not really designed to be user friendly...unless you have access to a business or first-class lounge!

But, in order to while away these “wasted” hours there are games that you can play to keep yourself occupied, rather than scrolling mindlessly through any of the social media applications (although that IS an option).

By positioning yourself in a strategic spot, and with cups of coffee on hand, consider entertaining yourself with one or more of these games...

“Backstory possibilities”

This is one of the least taxing ways to pass the time. Just make up stories about the people around you. The more outrageous the better. Remember, there are no wrong answers...



“Relationship status”

A lot of fun. Try and guess the relationship of the couples seated near you. It might seem straight forward, but you can make up pairings.

“Too many pieces of luggage”

There is ALWAYS one passenger on every flight that will become, unknowingly, a player in this game.



They ignore the one piece of cabin baggage and arrive with many parcels that take up overhead locker space. Try and identify them quickly, so that you are not stuck behind then during boarding.

“Who is going to be in business class”

It is all in their attitude. Those who are going to be turning left after boarding exude confidence that is easily detected.

“First-time flyer”

Pale and sweaty you do not wanted to be seated next to this passenger. They might very well cling to you the entire flight. Identify and avoid at all costs.



“Been-there-done-this-before flyers”

Ho-hum, here we go again. Their attitude says it all. Every document ready to hand as they sit waiting to board. And you can lay odds that their carry-on luggage went through the scanner without a hitch.



“We-had-an-argument-in-the-parking lot couples”

Flying can be stressful and the fights can start even before the passengers’ board. Look out for the pursed lips and glowering faces as they enter your peripheral vision.

“The family travelers”

Happy family? Steer clear! And if they have a toddler with them, try and find out where they are seated so that you can be at the other end of the cabin.



All of these games can be played simultaneously, hence giving you the opportunity to forget that you are drinking overpriced coffee and eating what tastes like a sandwich from yesterday with a filling that defies description.

And before you know it, your flight will be called and with a bit of luck you won’t be seated next to the passenger that you thought might be a serial killer...

Bon voyage!

