



INYATI JUNIOR RANGERS PROGRAM

- **Evoke your lost senses.** The first step in your training will be to hone all the senses you need when working in the bush.
- Whilst in the bush ALL your senses need to be fine-tuned, your ranger will take you into the bush and teach you bird calls, this will hone your sense of **hearing** and also improve your knowledge on birds.
- Your ranger will then explain the use of colour in nature (cryptic, aposomatic, breeding, countershading). Find your own examples in the bush to test your newly discovered theories, this will improve your sense of **sight** and teach you what to look for in the bush.
- The bushveld provides us with an array of different smells, some very good smells to attract something, or sometimes some nasty smells to deter nasty predators. Find some things that have a particular smell in the bush but make sure your ranger helps you with everything you collect. Your ranger will then explain the reason why the plants or insects you found have that particular smell. Ask your ranger about Pheromones and you might find out that plant can actually talk to each other!!!! Now your sense of **smell** will be in tune with your surroundings.
- The next sense is something we need to be very careful with so your ranger must help you all the time with this exercise. Have a look at some of the plants in the bush and feel the difference in the leaves and bark. See if you can start to identify different trees by looking at and feeling the bark and leaves. Now your sense of **touch** can help you to identify some of the tricky tree species.



Practice all your senses on the afternoon game drive to help your ranger find animals and birds. Night time is an awesome time to listen to sounds in the bush and your ranger can teach you about all the nocturnal sounds

- **Tracking and spoor identification.** In order to find animals and avoid danger, a ranger needs to be able to read all the signs that the bush leaves us, the best signs are tracks left by insects, birds and mammals.
- Before we head into the bush visit the Inyati shop and buy a Track and Sign booklet, this will be of great help for today's training.



Your ranger and tracker will take you to the best place to find and look at tracks. Have a look at the tracks around the water and see if you can identify them. If you are lucky enough to find a good track your ranger and tracker will help you make a mould of you track with plaster of paris so you will always be able to use it as a reference in future training.

- **Sparkling African evenings.** When on game drive at night it can be easy to lose your sense of direction, to keep you on course it is important to know some of the stars and planets in the night sky as they can be your compass at night. ▪ Your ranger will point out some of the constellations and stars within them, depending on the season some of these stars and constellations can point out direction to keep you on track. Ask your ranger about planets as well, if you're lucky you might spot one, if you're VERY lucky you might see a shooting star but remember to make a wish!!
- **General bushcraft.** Your tracker can share some of the knowledge passed from generation to generation in Africa with you. Before the days of shops people in Africa used to live off the land and learnt how to use plants for everyday activities like brushing teeth, toothpaste, soap, food, toilet paper and even medicine. Join your tracker in the bush around camp as he will reveal some of the African survival secrets to you.
- **Insect collection and identification.** Some of the most interesting things in the bush are the small critters, ask your ranger to help you collect and identify some insects.





Butterflies are probably the most beautiful order of insects, try to spot and identify some of them with the help of your ranger.

Basic fire arm handling and safety. Rangers are sometimes required to handle fire arms to ensure the safety of their guests. Any fire arm is very dangerous and to be used only under a ranger's supervision and if your guardian is present.

An optional part of the course is shooting with an air rifle, the most important part of this training is learning how to use the rifle safely and then becoming a crack shot!

You have now taken the first step to becoming a fully fledged ranger and will be issued with your Inyati Junior rangers Certificate!

Keep learning and honing those senses!!

