

Footprints In Africa



10 Day Kruger, Swaziland & Drakensberg

Enjoy a 7-day adventure through South Africa that will never be forgotten. Starting in the hustle and bustle of Johannesburg. Leaving the traffic congestions behind we make our way through to the beauty of the Drakensberg escarpment, via the Blyde river Canyon visiting sites on the Panorama route. Offering us a day of scenic beauty. The tour includes an exhilarating Safari in Kruger National Park, experiencing the thrill of being on an open safari vehicle and observing the “Big 5” as well as zebras, giraffe and many other species of birds, mammals and reptiles in the largest game reserve in South Africa. Viewing the best of Swaziland and a visit to the World heritage Site of St Lucia and finishing up in Durban.

Check out our 10 Day if you want to carry on with this adventure of a life time.

HIGHLIGHTS

Blyde River Canyon

Bourke’s Luck potholes

Three Rondavels

Gods Window

Safari in the Kruger National Park

Kingdom of Swaziland

Swaziland Ngwenya Glass

Swazi Candles and craft market

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

Matenga Cultural Village

St Lucia / Isimangaliso Wetlands

Lesotho and the Sani Pass

Southern and Northern Drakensberg



footprints in Africa



@Footprintsin



@footprintsinafrica



Tel: +27 12 343 9754

info@footprintsinafrica.co.za

www.footprintsinafrica.co.za

ITINERARY

Day 1:

Johannesburg - Blyde River Canyon, South Africa

This Adventure starts with being collected at your hotel in Pretoria or Johannesburg area. We travel across the Highveld, passing the farmlands and the coal fields. After a couple hours we turn off the main highway and head through the highland meanders. They might not have quite the impact of the Panorama Route, lying between the higher reaches of the escarpment and is renowned as the place to go for trout fly fishing, surrounded by imposing mountains and rivers. We travel towards the panorama route to visit the beautiful scenery the area has to offer.

Stopping at the Blyde River Canyon, the 3rd largest Canyon in the world we visit the Bourke's Luck Potholes and enjoy the breathtaking views of the Three Rondavels where we lodge to night.

The Panorama route in Mpumalanga follows the edge of The Panorama route Blyde River Canyon, and includes some breathtaking views of the Three Rondavels and Bourke's Luck Potholes.

Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in the world, and got its name in 1840 ('blyde' meaning 'joyful') from the Voortrekkers who passed through on their way to Lorenzo Marques (now Mozambique). It is one of the most spectacular canyons in Africa and its cliffs rise between 600m-800m from the riverbed. Possibly the best view in the whole of the Blyde River Canyon is of the "Three Rondavels - three huge rock spirals rising out of the far wall of the canyon. Their tops appear to have a hut-like rounded roof. They are named after the Swazi Chief Maripi's wives - from the lowest to the highest, they are Magabolle, Mogoladikwe and Maserote.

Where the Blyde River and the Treur River meet, water erosion has formed one of the most remarkable geological phenomena in the country, known as 'Bourke's Luck Potholes'. Over thousands of years, surreal cylindrical rock sculptures created by whirling water have formed a series of dark pools which contrast artfully with the streaked white and yellow lichen covered rocks. Following the road and the Treur River south, there are further viewpoints; Wonder View and God's Window

Highlights Included: *Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes & the Three Rondavels*

Accommodation: *Forever Resort Blyde River Canyon*

Budget option, you camp tonight

Comfort option, tonight is in a private en-suite chalet

Meals included: *Dinner*

Day 2:

Blyde River Canyon - Kruger National Park, South Africa

Our day starts early this morning with coffee and rusks as we watch the sunrise over the canyon. Returning for a well-deserved hearty breakfast. Various hikes are available ranging from a leisurely 30 min hike down the canyon to a Tufa waterfall. To a more adventurous 2 to 5-hour hikes. A great way to start the day off while the air is still crisp before the heat sets in. Great opportunities are available for breathtaking views and photos over the Blyde river canyon and providing a different view of the Three Rondavels.

After morning activities we leave the Canyon area and drive through the tourist village of Graskop, travelling down the escarpment and into the picturesque Lowveld home to the world famous Kruger National Park. Where we arrive in Hazyview, this is where we lodge for the next 2 nights for a Kruger Park experience that you will never forget.

This afternoon you will embark on your first exhilarating sunset drive in the Kruger Park. This is where the real excitement starts as you set off with a Kruger specialised park ranger on your first safari for the trip. This sunset/night safari lasts roughly 3 hours and gives an opportunity to view some of the nocturnal animals. Returning back at the lodge for dinner, drinks and to recollect the days happenings before heading to bed for an early rise.

*Highlights Included: Morning Hike in Blyde River Canyon
Sunset Game Drive with Kruger Park Ranger*

*Accommodation: Lodge in Hazyview area
Budget option, you camp tonight
Comfort option, tonight is in a private en-suite chalet*

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3:

Full Day Kruger National Park, South Africa

Rising early this morning to enter the Kruger National Park to enjoy a full-day of game viewing with a Kruger Park specialist guide on an open 4x4 safari vehicle. A breakfast pack will be provided to take with. Don't forget to pack the sun screen and swimming cozzie as there could be a chance at lunch for a quick cool down, during the heat of the day where the animals are less active.

Kruger Park is home to an impressive number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals. Mountains, bush plains and tropical forests are all part of the landscape. Late afternoon you will return to lodge where you can enjoy leisure time before dinner around the camp fire.

Highlights Included: *Full Day in Kruger National Park in an open 4x4 safari vehicle*

Accommodation: *Lodge in the Hazyview area*

Budget option, you camp tonight

Comfort option, tonight is in a private en-suite chalet

Meals included: *Packed Breakfast*

Day 4:

Kruger National Park to the Kingdom of Swaziland

This morning if you would like to do an extra safari there is an option to do so on an open vehicle or if you feeling more adventurous try a bush walk which is a great way to end this leg of your African experience before we depart to the Kingdom of Swaziland. Keep the passports handy today as we have a Border Control Point laying ahead at the Swaziland Border where a warm smile awaits us.

Upon arriving in Eswatini (Swaziland), we will visit a Glass factory for lunch. After lunch we head to Mantenga Cultural Village for a great insight into the Swazi culture and Traditions. Check in to Mlilwane in the late afternoon.

Highlights Included: *Glass Factory, Mantenga Cultural Village & Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary*

Accommodation: *Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary or Similar*

Budget option, tonight is in shared accommodation

Comfort option, tonight is in a private en-suite hut

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Optional Activities: *Sunrise Kruger Safari or Bush Walk*

Day 5:

Kingdom of Swaziland – Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

This morning you will have time to explore the beautiful Mlilwane wildlife sanctuary. Filled with free roaming animals and offers guests the opportunity to do some mountain biking, horseback safaris or simply just go for an amazing hike. In the after we will head to Swazi Candles and a Swazi Craft Market.

Highlights Included: *Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary & Swazi Candles*

Accommodation: *Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary or Similar*

Budget option, tonight is in shared accommodation

Comfort option, tonight is in a private en-suite hut

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Optional Activities: *Horse Riding, Hikes, Mountain Bikes*

Day 6:

Eswatini – St Lucia, South Africa

This morning after breakfast we leave this amazing country behind us and cross the border re-entering South Africa into KwaZulu-Natal province as we head south to the small coastal town of St Lucia.

Recently renamed the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, this sub-tropical paradise covers about 240,000 hectares and is the largest estuarine system in Africa. The park includes the southernmost extension of coral reefs on the continent, and covers 220km of the East Coast from St Lucia to the Mozambique border.

iSimangaliso encompasses a huge range of natural systems, ranging from dune, swamp and coastal forests to rocky and sandy shores, coral reefs and submarine canyons, and a mosaic of mangroves, savannah grassland, thickets and woodlands.

It is the largest protected wetland in southern Africa, with large numbers of nesting turtles on the beaches as well as the migration of whales, dolphins and whale-sharks offshore; and huge numbers of waterfowl including large breeding colonies of pelicans, storks, herons and terns.

The park's unique climate and position has resulted in exceptional biodiversity including some 521 bird species.

This is a UNESCO World Heritage site and you can learn more at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/914>

Late afternoon we board a boat to view the crocodiles, hippos and the amazing bird life of this World Heritage site.

Tonight, you have a free night to explore the village on foot with a wide selection for restaurants to choose from for dinner.

Highlights Included: *St Lucia Isimangaliso Croc and Hippo boat cruise*

Accommodation: *Lodge in St. Lucia*

Budget option, tonight is in shared accommodation

Comfort option, tonight is in private en-suite lodge

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Day 7:

St Lucia – Durban, South Africa

Today your trip will be coming to an end where we will be saying our good byes in Durban. We leave St. Lucia after breakfast hugging the lush KwaZulu-Natal coastline making our way to Durban, watching the sugar cane fields do their own version of the Mexican wave in the wind. As we arrive in Durban, passing the impressive Moses Mabida Stadium in all its glory, we drive along the Durban beach front stopping at the harbour for lunch while we watch the yachts doing their thing. This is where we say our goodbyes and the guys doing the 10 day carry on to the Drakensberg. We then carry on for the town of Underberg to the world-renowned Southern Drakensberg home of the Sani Pass, we will overnight at the foot of the Drakensberg.

Highlights Included: *Durban Golden Mile & Spectacular views of the Southern Drakensberg*

Accommodation: *Lodge in Underberg Area*

Budget option, tonight is in shared accommodation

Comfort option, tonight is in private en-suite lodge

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Optional Activities: *Whale watching, Deep Sea Fishing, Game Drives in Hluhluwe. (should confirm with operator before trip starts)*

Day 8: Southern Drakensberg, South Africa

This morning after breakfast you will have the opportunity to do some of the many Optional Activities the Southern Drakensberg has to offer.

- Take a Tour with a 4 x 4 excursion up Sani Pass

(The Tour departs at 09h00 and takes approx. 2.5 hours to reach the summit, stopping at breath taking view sites along the Sani Pass and the two border posts i.e. The South African Border Control and Lesotho Border Control.

Once at the Top of the Sani Pass, we visit a local community and have Lunch at the highest Pub in Africa - The Sani Mountain Lodge.

After lunch the Tour continues into a living Basotho village, where our experienced mountain guide will interest you on Lesotho and its people - the hardy mountainous Basotho folk. Traditional beer and homemade bread offered on request.

We wind down the Sani Pass after this cultural experience and arrive back in Underberg between 16h00-16h30 depending on the wildlife spotted along the way)

- Horse riding
- Hiking in the Southern Drakensberg

Highlights Included: *Southern Drakensberg*

Accommodation: *Lodge in Underberg Area*

Budget option, tonight is in shared accommodation

Comfort option, tonight is in private en-suite lodge

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Optional Activities: *4 x 4 Excursion up Sani Pass and a drink in the highest pub in Africa (R 850 pp) - Lesotho Daytrip with a visit to the local community
Horse Back riding
Self-guided hiking*

Day 9:

Southern Drakensberg – Northern Drakensberg, South Africa

A slow morning allows for some Horseback Riding or Hiking at Khotso. Khotso has been offering horse riding in the Southern Drakensberg for well over a decade and making this the most incredible activity accessible to all adventurous travellers visiting this beautiful mountain range. The largest horse trails specialist in the area.

Alternatively stretch the legs with a hike before we depart for the Northern Drakensberg. We arrive in the Northern Drakensberg in the early to late afternoon depending on the morning activities.

Highlights Included: *Spectacular Mountain Sceneries*

Accommodation: *Lodge in Northern Drakensberg area*

Budget option, tonight is in shared accommodation

Comfort option, tonight is in private en-suite lodge

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Optional Activities: *Horseback riding*

Self-guided hiking trails

Day 10:

Northern Drakensberg to Johannesburg, South Africa

This morning you will have options before heading back at midday to Johannesburg, arriving in the late afternoon for the next leg of your journey.

Highlights Included: *Spectacular Mountain Sceneries*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Optional Activities: *Self-guided hiking*

Please note

- We will arrive in Durban around lunch time
- Please don't book outbound flights from Durban before 14:00
- Information is subject to change
- Accommodated option consists of private en-suite rooms
- Camping option consists of some nights camping and some in shared accommodation
- All game drives are conducted in open 4x4 safari vehicles
- Transfers are in closed air-conditioned vehicles
- All times in itinerary are approximate and may vary depending on unforeseen occurrences

Included:

- ✓ Collect in Johannesburg or Pretoria in air-conditioned Vehicle
- ✓ Drop off in Durban
- ✓ 1x Sunset Game drive in an open safari
- ✓ 1x full day open safari
- ✓ Kruger Park conservation fee
- ✓ St. Lucia Boat Cruise
- ✓ Meals as specified per itinerary

Excluded:

- × All beverages and snacks
- × Lunches
- × Optional extra activities
- × Items of a personal nature
- × Travel insurance
- × Flights
- × Tipping / gratuity for drivers, guides and waiters

Tour information

Departure point:	Monday departures from Johannesburg / Pretoria area
Tour Style:	Small groups
Game drives:	As per package chosen
Meals provided:	As per above itinerary
Pick up time:	06:00 am to 08:00 am
Drop off time:	Midday in Durban
Tour duration:	7 Days

Common questions asked

What is a closed vehicle?

Is a standard mini bus or 4 x 4 with windows that open.

What is an open vehicle?

Is a 4 x 4 or truck converted for better game viewing where you have higher elevation with no sides or windows to the vehicle.

Can I be dropped at the airport or different pick up location?

Yes, arrange with consultant on booking.

Is Kruger malaria free?

No, consult with your doctor before travelling, we recommend bug spray.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us