



# BAREFOOT SAFARIS & Adventure Tours

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TRIP DOSSIER: B & C

BLONDIE & CHRIS JUNE 2014  
(16 DAYS)

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## LIMPOPO WILD LIFE SAFARI.

We embark on a journey of a lifetime turning your dream into a reality by sharing our passion for Africa with you. On this safari we will do all our exploring in the Limpopo province. Not even Tanzania's famed Serengeti Game Reserve or the awesome Ngorongoro Crater fills your camera viewfinder faster with Africa's legendary Big Five – lion, leopard, buffalo, rhinoceros and elephant appear magically," says acclaimed wildlife photojournalist Geoff Dalglish in his Sunday Times review. "Nor could Hollywood script the wide-screen wildlife encounters any more dramatically or frequently than nature does routinely in the private game reserve that is arguably South Africa's most famous internationally."

Limpopo is South Africa's northernmost province, lying within the great curve of the Limpopo River. It is a region of contrasts, from true bushveld country to majestic mountains, primeval indigenous forests, unspoilt wilderness and patchworks of farmland. For a true African safari adventure, where one can truly appreciate the African bushveld and all its wonders, there is absolutely no better than doing a safari.

The province borders the countries of Botswana to the west, Zimbabwe to the north and Mozambique to the east. In the eastern region lies the northern half of the magnificent Kruger National Park, a nature reserve teeming with African wildlife in a total area roughly the size of Israel.

Limpopo is in the savannah biome, an area of mixed grassland and trees generally known as bushveld. A summer-rainfall region, the northern and eastern areas are subtropical with hot and humid summers and mist in the mountains. Winter is mild and mostly frost-free.

*Grading: Anyone in good health with a sense of adventure should be able to take part. There's no real physical difficulty involved, but as in much of Africa – rough roads in the national parks, limited facilities and basic accommodation may require you to adjust your levels of expectation.*

*NB: Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed and detailed below, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure such as accommodation, or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined. Included meals are indicated in the daily*

*itinerary i.e. (BLD- Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner).*

### **Day 1: JOHANNESBURG; 31/05/14-01/06/14.**

You take a taxi at O R Tambo airport and are driven to our guest house in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg, set in a secure golf estate, and check in. (taxi for your own cost). Our office will book it on your behalf. Please let us have your time and date of arrival) Johannesburg is an extraordinary city, born just over 125 years ago, when one of the world's richest gold-bearing reefs was discovered under the sweeping savannah plains.



*Guest house in Johannesburg.*

The area of Johannesburg began on a vast undulating grassy plain, interspersed with ridges and *kopjes* (small hills) in an area known as the Witwatersrand, named after the white water springs that coursed the land. It wasn't until George Harrison, an Australian prospector, arrived here



that the mineral wealth of the Witwatersrand became apparent. In 1886, after George sold his gold claim for just £10, Johannesburg was born. He may never have envisaged the significant world history that would unfold here in the province of Gauteng, place of gold.

*Guest house 1 night.*

### **Day 2-3: MARAKELE NAT.PARK; 02 & 03/06/14.**

Today we start our safari after a scrumptious breakfast and travel from Johannesburg to our first park. On arrival we settle into our rooms. In the afternoon we do our first game drive.

Marakele national park is an excellent place to look for raptors, with many species using the uplift generated off the cliff faces of the Waterberg to ride thermals. Apart from the vultures, we will be looking out for *African Harrier Hawk (Gymnogone)*, *Jackal Buzzard* and several eagle species, including *Verreaux's (Black)*, *African Hawk*, *Black-chested (breasted) Snake and Brown Snake Eagle*.



*African hawk eagle.*

We return to the camp to start our fire for our first night cooking outside, while we discuss the day's sightings. Tonight the sound of the African wild-life is our companion.

Tomorrow, after a light breakfast we go out for our morning game drive.

We return to our camp for brunch. We have some free time to explore the

camp before we depart for our afternoon game drive.

We return to our camp and after we have freshened up go out for our dinner.

*En-suite Chalet 2 nights.  
(2 x B, 1 x D).*

### **Day 4-5: NWANEDI GAME RESERVE; 04 & 05/06/14.**

After breakfast we continue our safari to Nwanedi Game Reserve.

In the afternoon we do a game drive to learn more of the fauna and flora before returning to our camp and sundowners under the African skies.

This scenic nature and game reserve on the foothills of the Venda Mountains are characterized by varied landscapes and rich diversity of animals. The landscapes include umbrella thorn savannah, mopane patches and dense bushveld towards the mountains. The spectacular Tshihovhohovho Falls and the massive Nwanedi Dam are the scenic highlights of the reserve. Antelopes, giraffe, white rhino and the occasional leopard can be seen. After dinner we have another chance to listen to the African night life.

The next day is taken up by morning and afternoon game activities.

*En-suite tents 2 nights.  
(2 x B).*

### **Day 6-8: MAKUYA RESERVE; 06, 07 & 08/06/14.**

After breakfast we travel to Makuya Reserve. En-route we visit the largest Baobab Tree.

We settle into our rooms. In the afternoon we go for a walking safari.

On day 7 & 8, we go on walking safari and birding walks respectively.

Previously called the Northern Province, Limpopo is a land of beautiful and contrasting landscapes, which is typical of Africa.

The Mutale Falls Camp in Makuya Reserve is perched on the cliffs above the Mutale River. Unfenced from Kruger, this isolated camp with its vast vistas over the river below, provides us a true wilderness experience.

As part of the Greater Kruger National Park, this reserve offers Big Five sightings as well as all other species of the region. The Luvuvhu-Pafuri region is also one of the birding hot-spots of South Africa.



*Mutale Falls.*

*En-suite chalet, 3 nights.  
(3 x B, 3 x L, 3 x D)*

### **Day 9-11: PUNDA MARIA CAMP, KRUGER; 09, 10 & 11 /06/14.**

After breakfast we head for the Kruger national park. Where nearly 2 million hectares of unrivalled diversity of life forms fuses with historical and archaeological sites - this is real Africa.

The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this national park of nearly 2 million hectares, Kruger National Park is unrivalled in the diversity of its life forms.

Punda Maria lies in the northern most part of the Kruger National Park, 8km from Punda Maria Gate. We settle into our chalets. In the afternoon we go out for our first game drive. The camp is situated in the Sandveld region that is often described as the botanical garden of the Kruger National Park. There are numerous plant species which occur that are unique to the area. Game species most likely to be



sighted include impala, zebra, buffalo, elephant, eland and sable and the area is a bird paradise. We will also be looking out for Nyala, Sharpe's Grysbok, Wild Dog and Crested Guineafowl.



*Nyala in Kruger N.P.*

We return to our camp before the gate closes. We have the evening free to listen to the African sounds while we have dinner.

The next day is spent on a morning and afternoon game drive. We have the opportunity to look for the bird life while trying to find the elusive nyala and wild dogs.

We again return to the camp just before the gate closes. Dinner time we discuss the day's wildlife sightings.

Day 11 is spent on a morning and afternoon game drive.

You have the optional excursion to do a night drive or bush walk with the camp. Same is not included and your guide can assist you to book it if need be.

*En-suite chalet, 3 x nights.*  
(3 x B,)

### **Day 12-13: MANYELETI GAME RESERVE; 12- 13/06/14.**

After breakfast we drive to our next camp. Manyeleti Game Reserve, this reserve is situated next door to the Kruger National Park, and adjacent to the Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve and the Timbavati Game Reserve. It is managed by the local Mnisi tribe. Manyeleti Game Reserve is situated away from the mainstream tourist areas where we can experience the

tranquillity of the African Bush in absolute seclusion.

Our camp is situated in the heart of the Manyeleti Reserve which is unfenced from Kruger National Park, and is the perfect destination for us wanting to spend time in a game-rich reserve that is renowned for its animal sightings.

Visitors to Buffelshoek Safari Camp have the options of guided game drives or guided walks in the mornings and evenings.(optional, not included) The Manyeleti's 'no self-drive' policy ensures excellent and private game viewing experiences for the guests in the area, and none of the traffic jams that are an unfortunate reality of Kruger's guest experience. With regular game sightings in camp, the camp is an excellent place to relax during the heat of the day and enjoy bird and animal sightings.

*Fixed Safari tents 2 nights*  
(2 x B, 2x L, 2x D)

### **Day 14: SABI; 14/06/14.**

We do a game drive after breakfast, to our lodge outside Sabi. If time allow we can visit the Blyde river canyon.

We arrive at our lodge by midafternoon and settle into our rooms. The afternoon is free to relax by the pool.

*En-suite room 1 x night.*  
(1 x B)

### **Day 15: JOHANNESBURG; 15/06/14.**

We leave after breakfast and drive back to Johannesburg. En-route we will have the opportunity to stop at a padstal to see the local produce for sale or maybe to buy a curio or two. We arrive in the late afternoon. That leaves us some free time before dinner. It might be a good idea to have same at the golf club.

*En-suite room 1 night.*  
(1 x B)

### **Day 16: AIRPORT: 16/06/14.**

This is the end of the safari. Please let us know your time of departure to the airport and we will book a taxi for you. Same is for your own account. (You are welcome to stay a few days pre and post the safari at our Glass Manor. Kindly let us know)

### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Since January 2003, Barefoot Safaris has donated £10 for every person we take to Malawi and Zambia, to assist with the funding and development of Chanyoli School. Parents and school staff have recently fired 60,000 bricks and began building this year. You may like to bring some books or school equipment to assist this very deserving project and see for yourself how well received it is. Any donations in cash are always welcome.

We also support the SOS Children's Village, which you can visit in Lilongwe. They would be most grateful for any children's clothes or toys that you might donate.

### Price Includes:

- Accommodation on a shared basis.
- Entrance Fees
- All transfers as per Trip Dossier.
- All activities in this suggested itinerary
- Park fees
- Meals as per itinerary
- Transportation in Safari Truck
- Professional Guide

### Price Excludes:

- International & Domestic Flights
- Unspecified Meals
- All Beverages
- Optional Extra Activities & Entrance Fees
- Visas
- Curio's, Gratuities, Telephone calls etc.
- Travel Insurance

\*\* Excursions: A qualified grade 1 safari guide from Barefoot Safaris will accompany clients on all excursions except where it is necessary to employ a guide from local parks.

- Please feel free to add on to this tour



with any of the other possible tours we offer in the area.

- The accommodation specified in the itinerary is a guide only and subject to availability. Alternatives will be of a similar standard if required.
- The Dollar rate is just an indication of the price at the current exchange rate, it cannot be guaranteed until a confirmed booking is made

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Climate: South Africa's wet season runs from mid-October or early November to March or April. During the rainy season, daytime temperatures are pleasantly warm, but low lying areas can sometimes be humid. The heaviest rain is confined to the highlands, while while the lakeshore is much drier.

The dry season tends to be cooler and generally runs from May to early October. During the dry season, daytime temperatures in the lower areas are fairly consistent at 21°C to 26°C. In the highlands daytime temperatures can be considerably cooler ranging between 10°C and 20°C.

Nights can be particularly cold during the dry season, so warm clothing is essential. May to Aug; the hot and dry from Sep to Oct, and the wet season from Nov to Apr.

#### Baggage:

- One piece of main luggage only (max 12kg), this should be a soft bag rather than a hard suitcase, so it can be easily stowed and not take up too much room in the vehicle or in the tent. Space in the vehicle is restricted.
- A day sack (large enough to carry your camera, water bottle, & binoculars etc) is also essential.
- Sleeping Bag

#### Clothing and Footwear:

- For comfort in the heat, lightweight cotton is best. Brightly colored clothing is not appropriate for safari because it is easily seen by animals and has the added discomfort of attracting insects

(wear muted tones in natural colors i.e. beige, khaki, olive, etc, but not army-style camouflage clothing).

- A long-sleeved shirt is essential to protect neck and arms while on game walks/drives.
- Long trousers and socks for evenings.
- Windproof/waterproof jacket.
- Lightweight trail boots.
- Trainers or sandals for relaxing.
- Sunhat.
- Swimming gear.
- Warm mid layers i.e. fleece or jumper for cool nights and early mornings
- Kagoul if you are travelling during the rains.

#### Equipment:

- A laundry service may be available in some hotels, but we recommend you take biodegradable travel detergent
- Torch (Head torch is ideal)
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lipsalve
- Insect repellent
- Binoculars
- Dust can be a problem for cameras; take a dustproof bag

#### Medicine:

- Basic personal first aid kit
- Any prescription drugs required
- Female sanitary products
- Malaria prophylaxis

#### Visas and Permits:

South Africa: Holders of UK, USA, CAN, AUS, NZ, IRL, NOR, NL passports do not require a visa.

This information is given in good faith, but may be subject to change without warning. Please note that, where appropriate, obtaining a valid visa is ultimately your responsibility. Please consult a visa agency or the consular authorities 4-6 weeks before departure for the most up-to-date information.

#### Vaccinations & Health Advice:

Vaccination requirements & other health advice can change, so please check with a specialized travel clinic for up to date information before you depart. For useful advice you can visit

The Medical Advisory Service for Travelers Abroad [www.masta.org](http://www.masta.org)

Nevertheless we recommend that you protect yourselves against: *Malaria, Hepatitis A, and Polio & Typhoid as a minimum.*

Food: Although every effort will be made to accommodate any dietary requirements, the availability of certain products is limited in South Africa. Any special dietary requirements should be explained to us in writing at time of booking. Gluten free flour should be brought with you if required. Decaffeinated coffee should be brought with you if required.

Local Costs: 14 Breakfasts, 8 lunches and 9 evening meals are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself (you can eat very well for \$10 a day). Approximate costs are given for guidance only, and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

Coffee/tea	USD\$1.30
Soft drink	USD\$1.30
Medium beer	USD\$2.60
Local snack lunch	USD\$5.00
3-course dinner*	USD\$17.00

\*reasonable mid-range tourist class restaurant.

#### Optional excursions:

Some or all of the excursions detailed below may be available; others not listed may also be available.

Approximate per person costs are given for guidance only, and may depend on the number of participants. Your safari guide should be able to assist you in arranging them as well as advise you on any.

Bush Braai	\$62
Sunrise Drive	\$25
Morning Walk	\$49
Sunset Drive	\$25
Night Drive	\$22

Tipping: For better or worse, tipping is an accepted part of everyday life, and - although it is always at your discretion - you will be expected to tip to reward service. Your group leader will give you an indication of when and how much is appropriate. This can vary widely, but



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please allow USD 25 per person for this tour.

Seasonal changes: Although all rooms/chalets in malaria areas that we use are protected with mosquito netting; there will be insects and mosquitoes about. The camps are essentially "al fresco" so you should be prepared with insect repellent and appropriate long sleeved/legged clothing.

Insects are attracted to lights at night and are especially prevalent during the rainy season. Switching the lights off and placing a hurricane lamp a distance from you will remove the problem.

The evenings and mornings will be chilly from about June to August; so it is advisable to take a light sweater or fleece.

Currency: South African Rand. We recommend that you bring all you

need for the trip as cash in US\$ or to make use of your debit or credit card.

NB: Pre 1990 dollar bills are not accepted in most African countries.

Airport Tax: .This should be included in your air ticket. Please confirm with your air carrier

Temperature data for Limpopo.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	25.6	25.1	24	21.1	18.9	16	16.7	19.4	22.8	23.8	24.2	25.2
Average low °C	14.7	14.1	13.1	10.3	7.2	4.1	4.1	6.2	9.3	11.2	12.7	13.9