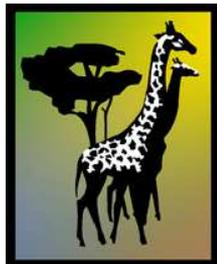


BAREFOOT SAFARIS & Adventure Tours



Tel/fax: (+27) 78 630 9734
Emergency: (+44) 77 000 91480
Mobile: (+27) 78 630 9734
E-mail: enquiries@barefoot-safaris.com
Web: www.barefoot-safaris.com

TRIP DOSSIER.

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SWAZILAND AND NATAL PARKS.

REF. KSN.

16 DAYS LAND ONLY.

Revised April 2016

Our South Africa in 19 Days tour is an exciting fusion of city and country, mountain and beach, historic and contemporary. We have carefully structured this itinerary to give you an all-embracing and insightful experience of this amazing country and its remarkable diversity.

Our first destination is to Sabi and then on to the world famous **Kruger National Park** in Limpopo province. Our guide will do the day game drives and there is also night drives available (optional). This will be conducted by national parks staff, in their cars.

The Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. The 2 million hectares park was established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the Southern Lowveld. It is unparalleled in the diversity of its life forms and a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques and policies. Kruger is home to an impressive number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals. We will spend eight days inside the parks, exploring these truly wilderness areas.

From here we drive into **Swaziland**. Swaziland is a small country in Southern Africa, nearly completely surrounded by South Africa, but also bordering Mozambique. Swaziland is rich in cultural experiences and beautiful country side. Tours to local craft factories and cultural villages are done. As one of the few remaining Monarchies in Africa, culture and heritage are deeply engrained in all aspects of Swazi life. We spend some quality time at a nature lodge, doing walks and birding walks conducted by Rudolf, your guide.

From Swaziland, we drive into north Kwazulu-Natal. The garden province of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal is a subtropical region of lush and well-watered valleys, washed by the warm Indian Ocean. The birds of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) are probably the best known in Africa. Many of the early birders worked here, the reason that more than a few African birds have *natalensis* as the second half of their scientific name. KZN has a long bird list, about 470 species being regularly recorded, and another 200 less regularly. This diversity reflects the number of habitats in KZN.

Ukuwamukela Africa!

Grading: Anyone in good health with a sense of adventure should be able to take part. There is no real physical difficulty involved, but as in much of Africa, rough roads, limited facilities and basic accommodation may require you to adjust your levels of expectations. NB: Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed below, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight/boat/train schedules, climatic conditions, 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).

NB: *Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed below, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, 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: ARRIVE JOHANNESBURG;

You make your way to our house in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg, set in a secure golf estate.



Red-billed Hornbill.

The grassy area of Johannesburg began on a vast grassy plain, combined 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 Harrison 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.

After arrival, you can relax by the pool or take a walk on the golf course. The rest of the day is for your own planning and expense.

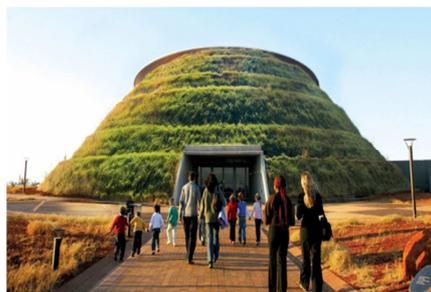
Your guide will do a safari briefing before we would start the safari to the Sabi area.

En-suite rooms; 2 x nights.

DAY 2: JOHANNESBURG; CRADLE OF HUMANKIND

Today our excursion is to The Cradle of Humankind.

The Cradle of Humankind is one of eight World Heritage Sites in South Africa. Here, the landscape is dotted with subterranean limestone caves that have turned up a rich fossil record for human evolutionary studies, which lend credence to the 'Out of Africa' theory of where our ancestors came from.



Cradle of Humankind.

You will return to the lodge in the afternoon and the rest of the day is free to explore unescorted. Your guide will do a safari briefing for the next day.

DAY 3: TO SABI

Today we start our travel from Johannesburg to the Lowveld via Dullstroom, Lydenburg and the old mining town of Pilgrim's Rest.



Pilgrims rest.

This region offers us exhilarating wildlife, secluded mountains, wild water sports and some of South Africa's most diverse and vibrant African cultures.

We have the opportunity, in the afternoon, to visit the old historical mining town of Pilgrim's Rest. From here we drive via Graskop to the lodge where we will spend the night. The afternoon is free to relax by the pool.

We have the time for a sundowner before going to dinner.

En-suite lodge; 2 x night. (1 x Brunch, 2 x B)

DAY 4: AT SABI

After breakfast we leave for this day's excursion. We drive to the three Rondavels.

A rondavel is a traditional beehive-shaped hut built and used over centuries by indigenous people as their homes.

The Three Rondavels are spectacular peaks which look exactly like rondavels – round and

fat, rising to a peaked top, but much, much higher than any traditional dwelling. From here we go to the Mac Falls. Quirkily named after the scores of Scottish miners who panned for gold in the gorge, the river flows over a rock ledge into a crystal clear rock pool where visitors can take a refreshing plunge in the chilly mountain water. Then onto Wonder View. At 1730m above sea level, this is the highest viewpoint on the Panorama Route, and delivers a vista of the Lowveld that is just as sensational as the one at God's Window. We visit the Pinnacle, a freestanding buttress of rock which rises vertically out of dense indigenous forest like a natural skyscraper. Two separate viewing decks give you different perspectives of this regal scene. We return to our lodge where we can relax before going to dinner.



The three Rondavels

DAY 5: KRUGER NATIONAL PARK PUNDA MARIA CAMP

After breakfast we head for the Kruger National Park. It was proclamation by Paul Kruger president of the Transvaal Republic, on 26 March 1898, of a "Government Wildlife Park." This park would later be known as the Sabi Game Reserve and was expanded into the Kruger National Park in 1926. We do our park entry formalities and then do a game drive to our way to our en-suite safari tents at the Punda Maria camp.



White rhinos in the Kruger.

We settle into our lodge. In the afternoon we go out for a game drive. Game species most likely to be sighted include impala, zebra, buffalo, elephant, eland and sable. The area is a bird paradise. We will also be looking out for Nyala, Sharpe's grysbok, and wild dog and crested guinea fowl.

We return to our lodge and have dinner.

Night-game drive is available. **(Optional)** This is conducted by the National Parks staff. We need to have dinner before this drive, if you want to do this.

En-suite safari tents; 2 x night

DAY 6: KRUGER NATIONAL PARK PUNDA MARIA CAMP

After breakfast we do a game drive. Punda Maria Rest Camp is situated in the Sandveld region and is often described as the botanical garden of the Kruger National Park. A wide variety of unique plant species can be found in this area. You most likely will find impala, zebra, elephant, buffalo, eland and sable, and bird lovers will also find a bird paradise here. We return for lunch and a rest before we go out for our afternoon game drive. We return to our camp as the sun sets.

There is an option to go on a walking safari with the park staff. Same is not included and you can do it as an **optional** excursion. Your guide will need to book it in advance if need be.

DAY 7: KRUGER NATIONAL PARK SATARA CAMP

Early morning we will do a game drive to our next camp, Satara. In the late 1800s, before the Kruger was proclaimed a national park, the burgers of the newly proclaimed Transvaal Republic carved up the region for human settlement. One of the surveyors sent to divide the region was an unnamed Indian who marked present-day Satara on his map with the Hindi word 'Satra' meaning 17. We will settle in and then go on a game drive. Satara stakes its reputation on being one of the best spots in the world for viewing Lion, Leopard and Cheetah, because of the fertile grazing land found in the area which attracts vast herds of Antelope. In the afternoon we will do a game drive. Satara is well wooded and the bird-life is prolific. At night the clink of fruit bats is fused with the chirping of cicadas and crickets. The calls of owls and nightjars add to the symphony that is punctuated intermittently by the whoop of hyena, the screech of jackal and the roars of lion. You have the **optional** excursion to do a night drive with the camp.

En-suite cottage; 1 x night



Blue Wildebeest

DAY 8: TO SWAZILAND; HLANE

After breakfast we do a game drive out of the park and then head for Swaziland. After crossing the border, we make our way to our next destination.



Lions at Hlane.

'Hlane' means 'Wilderness' in siSwati. Hlane Royal National Park, home to the largest herds of game in the Kingdom, encompasses 22,000 hectares of north-eastern Swazi bushveld dominated by ancient hardwood vegetation. After park entry we drive to our lodge. We have the afternoon time to go for a game drive. **Optional** drive with the camp to the lion enclosure and a walking safari can be done. Your guide will assist you to book same if need be. We have our dinner (not included) in the local restaurant while listening to the night sounds before turning in for the night.

En-suite chalet; 1 x night (1 x B)

DAY 9: PHOPHAYANE

We have the **optional** excursion possibility to do a walking safari with the lodge, before breakfast. We then do a scenic drive through very rural villages to our next lodge. The afternoon we can enjoy the swimming pool or do a nature walk to the water fall before dinner.



Swimming Pool at lodge.

En-Suite chalet; 2 x nights (2 x B)

DAY 10: PHOPHAYANE

Breakfast of the terrace can be followed by a morning swim. We

when will drive through rural villages to visit Swazi candles and the Glass factory. Lunch can be had here as well. Late afternoon we will return to the lodge.

We will go for a nature walk followed by a sundowner and dinner.



Swazi Candles

DAY 11: PONGOLA

Early in the morning after breakfast we drive to the Pongola Game Park via Pongola back into South Africa. Upon arrival at our lodge we settle in. In the afternoon we go for one of the optional excursions mentions below. We return in time for a sundowner followed by dinner.

Optional excursions. We can go on a boat to do game viewing and fishing on the Pongola poort dam. Other optional excursions include rhino tracking, fish eagle boat safari and a walking safari (accompanied by an armed scout).



Sunset at Pongola Game Reserve

En-Suite chalet; 1 x night (1 x B)

DAY 12: KOSI BAY

Today we pack up and drive to our next destination, Kosi bay. We arrive in the afternoon and settle in. **Optional** excursion is to go on a boat cruise on the lakes. Alternatively, we go for a

nature walk. We have our sundowner followed by dinner.



Kosi Bay fish traps.

En-Suite chalet; 2 x night (2 x B)

DAY 13: KOSI BAY

We can go for an all day excursion at Kosi bay National Park during our time over here. All activities at Kosi bay are optional and your guide will assist you to book any or all activities.

Kosi Bay was proclaimed in 1950 and extended in 1984 the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve is the most pristine lake system on the South African coast. It is made up of four Lakes: Makhawulani, Mpungwini, KuNhlange and Amanzamnyama. The lakes consist of inter-connecting channels which drain via a sandy estuary into the Indian Ocean.



Fishing at 1st Lake

DAY 14: MKHUZE NP

Today we drive after breakfast to our next national park. We arrive at Mantuma camp and settle in. Mkhuze is a place of great beauty and high contrasts and is renowned as a mecca for bird watchers with a bird list well in excess of four hundred. Predominantly flat and dry, with sandy ridges which are ancient dunes, it harbours an astonishing diversity of natural

habitats. These range from the eastern slopes of the Lebombo Mountains which lie along its western boundary, to broad stretches of gently rolling acacia savannah, swamps and a variety of woodlands and riverine forest.

The low lying hollows adjacent to the red sand dunes contain attractive groves of scented thorn which grow in clay soils. There is a substantial and rare sand forest found in the heart of the reserve, a habitat noted for its dark-leaved, wide spreading shebert tree, and the red heart tree, which create a lovely sight in autumn with their pink winged seeds.

We go for a game drive in the afternoon and return to our chalet. You can buy your meals at the Rhino-Dine-O takeaway, which is inside the camp.



White Rhinos

En-Suite chalet; 2 x night (1 x B)

DAY 15: MKHUZE NP;

This morning you can get some breakfast from the camp facility before we head out for a game drive. We will spend some time at the waterhole that has a shaded hide. More than 420 species of birds have been recorded. Two bird-viewing hides have been erected next to the Nsumo Pan, where a wealth of waterfowl can be seen.

The Fig Forest Guided Walking Trail (guided by a field ranger) should not be missed. Short day walks (\pm 2 hours) conducted by a field ranger, may also be undertaken. **All optional.**

Night drives are also offered, giving you the opportunity to see some of

the reserve's nocturnal animals and birds. Your guide will assist you to make a booking if need be.

A swimming pool is situated in the hutted camp and campsite respectively.

In the afternoon, we visit another hide, before we return to our lodge for a sundowner. Again, you can buy your meals in the camp.



Birds in Mkhuze NP

DAY 16: JOHANNESBURG

After breakfast, not included, we do a game drive out of the park. We travel to Johannesburg via the N2. En-route we stop for lunch and arrive in the afternoon at your lodge/hotel. End of service.

Price Includes:

- All transport on tour.
- All meals as per the itinerary
- All park entry fees.
- All game viewing activities as per the itinerary.
- All accommodation as per the itinerary.
- Safari equipment.

Price Excludes:

- International Airfares.
- Visa fees.
- Airport taxes.
- Meals as per the itinerary.
- Drinks.
- Expenses of a personal nature.
- Any changes to the itinerary.
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Optional excursions.
- All meals not specified
- Travel insurance, items of a personal nature, portorage and tipping and sightseeing not mentioned.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Climate: 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 20 kg**), 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, Space in the vehicle is restricted.
- A day sack (large enough to carry your camera, water bottle, &binoculars) is also essential.

Clothing and Footwear:

- For comfort in the heat, lightweight cotton is best. Brightly-coloured 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 colours 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.
 - Walking shoes.
 - Trainers or sandals for relaxing.
 - Sunhat.
 - Swimming gear.
 - Warm mid layers i.e. fleece or jumper for cool nights and early morning game drives .
 - Kagoul if you are travelling during the rains.

Equipment:

- Water bottle.
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lip salve.
- Insect repellent.
- Personal first aid kit.
- Binoculars.
- Dust can be a problem for cameras; take a dustproof bag.

Medicine:

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

Visas and Permits:

For South Africa and Swaziland visas can be obtained at the border posts.

Vaccinations& Health Advice:

Vaccination requirements & other health advice can change, so please check with a specialised travel clinic for up to-date information before you depart. For useful advice you can visit The Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad www.masta.org

Nevertheless we recommend that you protect yourselves against Malaria since the Kruger National Park is a malaria area.

Food: Any special dietary requirements should be explained to us as early as possible. Gluten free flour should be brought with you if required.

Local Costs: 8 breakfasts and 1 brunch are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself (you can eat very well for R200 a day). Approximate costs are given for guidance only and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

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.

- Guided Walks : R130
- Fig Forest Walk: R230
- Sunrise Drive : R300
- Morning Walk : R300
- Sunset Drive : R300
- Night Drive : R300

Currency You would be able to draw money in the local currency at an **ATM** for any of your expenses.

TEMPERATURE CHART FOR KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

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

TEMPERATURE CHART FOR CAPE TOWN

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	26.1	26.5	25.4	22	20.3	18.1	17.5	18	19.2	21.3	23.5	24.9
Average low °C	15.7	15.6	14.2	11.9	10	8	7	7.5	8.7	11	13.2	14

Average Temperatures Table for Mbabane

	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	Annual
 Average Max Temperature °C (°F)	20 (68)	21 (69.8)	23 (73.4)	23 (73.4)	24 (75.2)	25 (77)	25 (77)	25 (77)	24 (75.2)	23 (73.4)	21 (69.8)	19 (66.2)	22.8 (73)
 Average Temperature °C (°F)	12.5 (54.5)	14 (57.2)	16.5 (61.7)	18 (64.4)	18.5 (65.3)	20 (68)	20 (68)	20 (68)	19 (66.2)	17.5 (63.5)	14.5 (58.1)	12 (53.6)	16.9 (62.4)
 Average Min Temperature °C (°F)	5 (41)	7 (44.6)	10 (50)	13 (55.4)	13 (55.4)	15 (59)	15 (59)	15 (59)	14 (57.2)	12 (53.6)	8 (46.4)	5 (41)	11 (51.8)