



BAREFOOT SAFARIS & Adventure Tours

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South Africa

TRIP DOSSIER

South Africa: Pilansberg Day Trip (ZA5)

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Pilanesberg National Park - in an ancient volcanic crater "The Volcano that gave birth to a game reserve"

The crater of a long extinct volcano is the setting of Pilanesberg National Park - a fascinating alkaline complex produced by volcanic eruptions some 1300 million years ago. Pilanesberg is one of the largest volcanic complexes of its kind in the world. Its rare rock types and structure make it a unique geological feature.

The area is fringed by three concentric ridges or rings of hills - the formation rises from the surrounding plains like a bubble. The structure of the park is termed the "Pilanesberg National Park Alkaline Ring Complex".

Ancient, even by geological time scales, this extinct volcano is the most perfect example of an alkaline ring complex. A number of rare (but not necessarily economically important) minerals occur in the park. Pilanesberg National Park rates high amongst the world's outstanding geological phenomena.

Pilanesberg has survived ages of erosion and stands high above the surrounding bushveld plains. The early presence of man can be seen in the numerous Stone and Iron Age sites that are scattered throughout the park.

The park exists within the transition zone between the dry Kalahari and wetter Lowveld vegetation, commonly referred to as "Bushveld". Unlike any other large park, unique overlaps of mammals, birds and vegetation occur because of this transition zone.

Springbok, brown hyena, the red eyed bulbul, and camel thorn trees usually found in arid areas are found cohabitation with moist-area-limited impala, black eyed bulbul and Cape chestnut trees.

The colourful hues, varied habitats and panoramas will delight and entertain photographers and visitors.

The very topography makes the area a feast for the eye. Here are syenite koppies, thickly forested ravines, typical bushveld and also rolling grasslands and lightly wooded areas.

Off the centre of the park is Thabayadiotso, "the Proud Mountain". The Park ranks among the largest of the national parks in South Africa (it is in fact the fourth largest park) and covers an area of 55 000 hectare.

The beauty of Pilanesberg is reflected in a large central lake, the Mankwe Dam.

Over time, wind and water have carved a spectacular landscape with rocky outcrops, open grasslands, wooded valleys and thickets.

The creation of the Pilanesberg National Park is considered one of the most ambitious programmes of its kind to be undertaken anywhere in the world. The Operation Genesis, which involved the game-fencing of the reserve and the reintroduction of long-vanished species, began during the late 70's.

Today, Pilanesberg National Park accommodates virtually every mammal of southern Africa. It is Also home to the Big Five.

Welcome (English)/Ngiyanemukela (Zulu)/Welkom (Afrikaans)!



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 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 roads, or other operational factors. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary i.e. B LD - Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner).*



Red hot poker with an African Monarch butterfly.

06h00: Depart Johannesburg

Meet & greet guest/s at your hotel or guest house. Depart Johannesburg for a scenic two hour drive to the Pilansberg National Park.

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.

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.



Hamerkop.

09h00: Arrive Pilansberg

Arrive at Pilansberg, after completing the entry procedures enter the park and your safari begins, looking out for the "big five" and the many other wild animals that make the park home. Visit various predator hides, water holes and look outs. We will stop for a light lunch (included in cost) and then continue our game drive.



Lions

15h00: Leave Pilansberg National Park

Leave the Pilansberg National Park and drive back to your place of accommodation. En-route we can visit some typical South African farm stalls where we can sample the local produce

and maybe buy some curios..



Burchell's Zebra

18h00: Arrival in Johannesburg

We arrive at your accommodation in the late afternoon. End of our service.



Sub adult male Impala

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:

- Light lunch and bottled water
- Collect/drop-off service and return transfers in Johannesburg
- Registered tour guide / field guide
- Park entrance fee
- Approximate 6 hour game drive in a closed vehicle the same vehicle that you will travel to and from Pilansberg in
- VAT & Tourism Levy

Price Excludes:

- All drinks
- Curio purchases and items of a personal nature

**** 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.

Guests are advised to bring along:

- Cameras and extra batteries
- Binoculars
- Winter months (May to end August): Sunglasses, jeans and warm clothing
- Summer months (September to April): Sunglasses, and light clothing
- Sun screen

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.

Baggage:

- A day sack (large enough to carry your camera, water bottle, & binoculars etc) is also essential.

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.

Equipment:

- 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

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

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 please allow USD 10 per person for this tour.

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 Johannesburg

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 data 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	23	20.3	18.1	17.5	17.8	19.2	21.3	23.5	24.9
Average low °C	15.7	15.6	14.2	11.9	9.4	7.8	7	7.5	8.7	10.6	13.2	14.9

Temperature data Kruger NP

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	33	32	31	29	28	26	26	27	29	30	31	32
Average low °C	21	20	19	15	10	6	6	9	13	16	18	20