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(19 DAYS)

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KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SWAZILAND AND CAPE TOWN.

S A :HONEYMOON LODGE SAFARI

The 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 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 spend some days exploring this truly wilderness area.

Artifacts indicating human activity dating back to the early Stone Age 200,000 years ago have been found in the Kingdom of Swaziland. Prehistoric rock art paintings dating from ca. 25,000 B.C. and continuing up to the 19th century have also been found.

The earliest inhabitants of the area were Khoisan hunter-gatherers. They were largely replaced by the Bantu tribes during Bantu migrations who hailed from the Great Lakes regions of Eastern Africa.

Swaziland lies across a geological fault which runs from the Drakensberg Mountains of Lesotho, north through the Eastern highlands of Zimbabwe, forms the Great Rift Valley of Kenya and, eventually, peters out in present-day Turkey. As such it has a diverse habitat that host a variety of fauna and flora.

The area known today as Cape Town has no written history before it was first mentioned by Portuguese explorer Bartholomeu Dias in 1488. All knowledge of the previous inhabitants of the region was derived from fossil evidence and from rock art in the area. The first Europeans to discover the Cape were the Portuguese, with Bartholomeu Dias arriving in 1488 after journeying south along the west coast of Africa. The next recorded European sighting of the Cape was by Vasco da Gama in 1497 while he was searching for a route that would lead directly from Europe to Asia.

Table Mountain was given its name in 1503 by Antonio da Saldanha, a Portuguese admiral and explorer He called it Taboa da caba ("table of the cape"). The original name given to the mountain by the first Khoi inhabitants was Hoeri 'kwaggo ("sea mountain")The area fell out of regular contact with Europeans until 1652, when Jan van Riebeeck and other employees of the Dutch East India Company (Dutch: Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, or simply VOC) were sent to the Cape to establish a halfway station to provide fresh water, vegetables, and meat for passing ships travelling to and from Asia. Van Riebeeck's party of three vessels landed at the cape on 6 April 1652.

On this safari we have the time to explore the great wildlife and the culture of South Africa as well as having a unforgettable honeymoon..



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: Grading: *Barefoot Safaris is first and foremost a conservation company.*

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.

NB: *Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary i.e. BLD-Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner*

Day 1-2: Johannesburg 02/05/13-03/05/13.

You arrive in Johannesburg (O.R.Tambo) on May 2, 2013 at 5:00 PM on Delta flight 200. You are collected at O R Tambo airport

and we drive to our guest house in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg, set in a secure golf estate, and check in. We do our safari briefing and the rest of the day is free.



Guest house in Johannesburg

We have a traditional South African braai for dinner.

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.

On day 2, after our breakfast, we do a day trip to the Northwest province to visit the Cradle of Mankind and the Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve. This is a whole day out to do this excursion. We visit the world-famous Sterkfontein Caves and the award-winning Visitor Interpretation Centre at Maropeng. After our lunch we proceed to the Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve. From its humble beginnings with only 2 White Rhino in 1985, this Nature Reserve in South Africa has grown to feature over 600 head of game in a great setting. Endangered species, such as the Wild Dog have been introduced. We return to our guest house in the late afternoon and can relax next to the swimming pool before our dinner.

Guest house: 2 nights (1x B; 2xD).

Day 3-4: Sabi 04/05/13-05/05/13.

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



Beautiful 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. After that we drive to our lodge where we sleep for two nights.

We have dinner at the lodge.

On day 4, after breakfast, we go out and explore the Blyde River Canyon, Bourkes Luck pot holes, waterfalls and Gods Window.

The Blyde River Canyon is a significant natural feature of [South Africa](#) and forms the northern part of the [Drakensberg escarpment](#). It is (26 km) in length and is, on average, around 2,500 feet (762 m) deep. The Canyon consists mostly of red sandstone. We return to our lodge in the late afternoon, in time for sun downers and then dinner.

2 nights; en-suite safari lodge (2XB)



Walking safari on Blyde River.

Days 5-6: Sabi Sand Game Reserve 06/05/13-07/05/13.

After breakfast, we drive to Notten's Bush Camp where we stay for the next two nights. The history of today's Sabi Sand Reserve as a formal association dates back to 1948 when the landowners formed the private nature reserve. The Sabi Sand Reserve is part of the largest conservation area in South Africa and it is the oldest of all the private reserves. It was formed in 1950 and comprises of many privately owned game lodges, covering an area of 65 000 hectare of savannah thorn-veld. It is now part of the Greater Kruger National Park and there are no fences between them, so the game moves freely through this enormous natural reserve.

We settle into our safari lodge. Here you can cool off next to the sparkling pool, drinking cocktails and refreshments from the fully stocked bar, or relax in the shade of the Marula trees on the wooden deck overlooking the waterhole and watch the animals wander past. Or you can treat yourself to a deeply relaxing massage at the Notten's Nature Spa (not included). After lunch we depart on our afternoon/night game drive. We return to a late dinner and then have some time next to the camp fire before turning in.

The next day we do two Game drives in an open Land Rover as well as a bush walk. Tonight around the camp fire, after dinner, we can re-call all we saw today before turning in to the African night sounds.

2 nights en-suite (2xB, 2x L, 2xD)



Days 7-8: Kruger National Park (Olifants Camp) 08/05/13-09/05/13.

We do a game drive, after breakfast to our camp inside the Kruger. The camp is situated on top a hill which towers several hundred feet over the Olifants River. Views from the lookout platforms allow us to see the river below, just as a soaring eagle would survey it, as it hunts from the skies.

We settle into our chalet and after lunch we go on an afternoon game drive. Here you also have the optional excursion of going out on a 4 hour maintain bike tour. If you want to do that your guide will assist you to book it.

On **day 8**, we do a morning and afternoon game drive around our camp area. James Stevenson-Hamilton (born in 1867) was appointed the park's first warden on 1 July 1902. We try to follow in his tracks in this pristine piece of Africa. We do have an optional excursion of doing a night game drive as well as a walking safari. Your guide will assist you to book same if need be. Both not included in this safari.



Black rhino in Kruger National Park.

2 nights: Olifants camp: bungalows en-suite (2xB, 1xD)

Day 9: Kruger N.P (Berg en Dal Camp) 10/05/13.

After breakfast we do a game drive to the south of the park on our way to the next camp in the National Park.

Prehistoric San settlements in the Kruger Park are usually sites of great intrigue - authentic rock paintings and cave shelters, sometimes offset by the nearby rush of a river or the splash birds in a dam. The impressive settlements around the Matjulu Spruit are complimented by another notable feature; Berg-en-dal rest camp where we will stay.

Constructed specifically with the care and preservation of the area at large in mind, Berg-en-Dal is also one of the Kruger's newest facilities.

We explore this section of the park through an afternoon game drive.

If you are looking for optional adventure excursions at Berg-en-dal, you can take part in guided bush walks, supervised and conducted by keen and informative field guides. The popular Rhino perimeter trail is accessible and nightly wildlife films and an eco-display in the reception all add to the bustling atmosphere of this charming camp area.

1 night; bungalow (B)

Day 10: Swaziland Phophonyane 11/05/13.

After breakfast we do a game drive to the south gate where we exit the park and after a short drive we enter Swaziland. A short drive takes us to Piggs Peak. Piggs Peak is a town in north western Swaziland. It was founded around gold prospecting in 1884, but its main industry is now forestry. The Phophonyane Falls lie near the town. We drive to Phophonyane Falls Eco lodge which is nestled in the dramatic mountain landscape of north-west Swaziland, amid tumbling waterfalls and lush forests. Here we have a rich botanical diversity and over 240 bird species, snakes and lizards. We settle in our lodge. The rest of day is spent on walking in nature, bird watching and a walk to the nearby waterfall. The option exists to visit the nearby casino. We return for our sun downer next to the swimming pool followed by dinner.

1 night; En-suite room (B)

Day 11-12: Zululand Imfolozi/Hluhluwe 12/05/13-13/05/13.

After breakfast we drive further south back to South Africa into Zululand.

Imfolozi was proclaimed a reserve in 1895. Imfolozi together with Hluhluwe cover 96 000 ha and the reserve contains a large diversity of fauna and flora. The reserve is the home of the White Rhino as a result of "Operation Rhino" in the 1950s and 60s. Imfolozi offers great encounters with wildlife and breath-taking scenery. Game viewing is the prime attraction over here and we do a game drive in the afternoon followed by two game drives the next day. Viewing hides overlook pans and waterholes enabling us to see animals at close range. Larger mammals to be seen include buffalo, blue wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, elephant, and large numbers of impala, waterbuck, common and mountain reedbuck, nyala, kudu, bushbuck, Steen buck, duiker, warthog, black rhino, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and jackal. In

excess of 300 species of birds have been recorded.



Saddle billed stork Imfolozi.

Hluhluwe Imfolozi is popular for its Wilderness Trails which take you through the savannah inhabited by the big five. These trails allow guests to really touch feel and smell Africa. This is an optional excursion.

2 nights; En-suite room (2xB, 1xD)

Day 13: Trompsburg 14/05/13.

We head east to the Free State to a working farm, our next overnight destination. Perdeberg Guest Farm is situated between the historic towns of Philippolis and Trompsburg on the edge of the Great Karoo in the Southern Free State.

This homely getaway is a working Merino farm and is also home to the well-known Perdeberg Appaloosa and Arabian Studs. Cold winters, fertile soil, abundant with minerals and its healthy climate, make this area an ideal breeding ground for horses.

We settle into our rooms and have the opportunity to explore this working farm.

1 night; En-suite room (1xB)

Day 14-16: Cape Town 15/05/13-17/05/13.

On this day, after we have breakfast, we drive to Cape Town where we will spend the next 3 days. We arrive in the late afternoon after driving through the Karoo and then the Cape Wine lands. We have the option to visit the Waterfront in the afternoon, maybe go for a boat trip in the harbor and then have our dinner there.

On Day 15, after breakfast, we go for a day trip to Cape Point, Boulders Penguin Colony Simons Town, Kamp bay & Chapman's peak. We have the opportunity to walk to the most south-western place in Africa. We return in the afternoon and we have this time free for personal exploration or just to relax a bit.

Boulders Penguin Colony in Simons Town is home to a unique and endangered land-based colony of African Penguins. This



colony is one of only a few in the world, and the site has become famous and a popular international tourist destination. The Boulders consists of 3 pristine beaches, 1 penguin viewing area and 3 boardwalks. The boardwalks were built as a measure to allow for viewing of these wonderful birds, whilst keeping them safe from poking fingers, so please be sure to stay on the boardwalks at all times within the viewing area.

Day 16 will be free for optional excursions that can include visiting Robben Island, the Waterfront and Table Mountain. You want to go on a **Shark Cage Diving**. One of the best operators is in Simons Town. We need to pre-book this for you.

3 nights en-suite rooms (3 x B)

Day 17: Kimberley 18/05/13.

Today we drive to Kimberley in the morning. We stay over in the Kimberly Club. After we have settled into our rooms, we then visit the Big Hole in the afternoon. We suggest you make use of a local guide over here to take you around.

Kimberley is the capital of the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. It is located approximately 110 km east of the confluence of the Vaal and Orange Rivers. The city has considerable historical significance due its diamond mining past and the siege during the Second Boer War. Notable personalities such as Cecil Rhodes and Barney Barnato made their fortunes here, and the roots of the De Beers Company can also be traced to the early days of the mining town. In 1871, an even larger 83.50 carat (16.7 g) diamond was found on the slopes of Colesberg Kopje on the farm Vooruitzicht belonging to the De Beers brothers. Henry Richard Giddy recounted how Esau Damoense (or Damon), the cook for prospector Fleetwood Rawstone's "Red Cap Party", made the discovery on Colesberg Kopje after he was sent there to dig as punishment. Rawstone took the news to the nearby diggings of the De Beer brothers — his arrival there sparking off the famous "New Rush" which, as historian Brian Roberts puts it, was practically a stampede. Within a month 800 claims were cut into the hillock which was worked frenetically by two to three thousand men. As the land was lowered so the hillock became a mine – in time, the world renowned Kimberley Mine. We return for our dinner and maybe a round of snooker in the world famous Kimberly Club.

1 night; en-suite rooms (1xB)



Table mountain Cape Town

Day 18: Johannesburg 19/05/13.

In the morning we say goodbye to Kimberly and head out to Johannesburg. We drive through rich farm land and may have the opportunity to stop at a farm stall where we can have a look at the local produce. We arrive in the city of gold in the afternoon. The rest of the day is free or to relax next to the swimming pool. We can go out to a local eatery of your choice for dinner. Meal not included.

1 night; En-suite rooms (B)

Day 19: O.R Tambo Airport 20/05/13.

We have the morning free, maybe have a late breakfast. In the afternoon we go to the airport in time for your onward flight. Your return flight is departing from Johannesburg (O.R.Tambo) on May 20, 2013 at 8:25 PM on Delta flight 201. End of service.

(B)

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Since January 2003, Barefoot Safaris has donated \$ 20 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 160,000 bricks. The building has been erected. It is an ongoing project and we now need to supply running water. You may like to bring some books or school equipment to assist this very deserving project and come 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.

- 20 Nights Cabin/ Guest House Accommodation on a shared basis.
- Entrance Fees
- All transfers in Africa

- All activities in this suggested itinerary
- Tips, park fees and departure tax
- Meals as per itinerary
- Transportation in Minibus/ Safari Truck
- Professional Guide

Price Excludes:

- International & Domestic Flights
- Unspecified Meals
- All Beverages
- Sleeping Bags (and small pillow) for camping
- 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 Karoo 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. Kruger's can be cool and dry season runs from 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 18kg**), 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 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.
- 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 lip salve
- 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

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: 18 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 6 evening meals are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself (you can eat very well for \$20 a day). Approximate costs are given for guidance only, and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

Coffee/tea	USD\$1.50
Soft drink	USD\$1.00
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.

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 105 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. Your guide will assist you in drawing cash at ATM.

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 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



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Average low °C	21	20	19	15	10	6	6	9	13	16	18	20
CAPE TOWN												
Average high °C (°F)	26.1 (79.0)	26.5 (79.7)	25.4 (77.7)	23.0 (73.4)	20.3 (68.5)	17.9 (64.2)	17.5 (63.5)	17.8 (64.0)	19.2 (66.6)	21.3 (70.3)	23.5 (74.3)	24.9 (76.8)
Average low °C (°F)	15.7 (60.3)	15.6 (60.1)	14.2 (57.6)	11.9 (53.4)	9.4 (48.9)	7.8 (46.0)	7.0 (44.6)	7.5 (45.5)	8.7 (47.7)	10.6 (51.1)	13.2 (55.8)	14.9 (58.8)