



SAFARI EXPLORER PACKAGE





Highlights

- Boat trip through the worlds third largest canyon with chances to spot hippo and crocodile
- 7 full days in world famous Kruger National park with multiple morning and afternoon game drives accompanied by an advanced field guide
- Night drive in Kruger
- Morning walk in Kruger
- Tour of a wildlife rehabilitation centre
- A lesson from your personal guide on how to cook the South African way - Braai
- Visit to Crooks corner – historical site
- Dinner out to a local restaurant
- Relaxing at Lake Panic bird hide



Day 1 – Arrival

Pick up from Hoedspruit Eastgate airport. Depending on various arrival times of other guests there may be an opportunity to enjoy a refreshing cool drink from a local restaurant.

Once we have everyone a quick grocery shop is needed to stock up for the next few days. Your guides will accompany you around and advise on what South African food is worth a try.

After this we head to our accommodation for the next two nights - Mariepskop backpackers.

For dinner your guides will show you how to braai. A traditional South African style of cooking food over the fire. Make sure you've bought the appropriate food at the supermarket earlier on in the day.

Accommodation - Mariepskop backpackers
<http://www.mariepskopview.co.za/>



Day 2 -Boat trip + animal rehab centre tour

After a good night's rest and breakfast we depart to experience the Blyde River Canyon (third largest canyon in the world) by boat. Keep your eyes peeled as this is a great opportunity to spot hippo, crocodile and maybe even a fish eagle.

After the boat trip we will come back to Mariepskop for lunch before out again in the afternoon to visit one of the local wildlife rehabilitation centres.

When the rehab tour is finished we arrive back to Mariepskop. Once everyone is freshened up your guides will take you to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

As well as having the chance to give the local food a try it's also a perfect spot to enjoy a traditional Sundowner (a drink, usually alcoholic, to be enjoyed at sunset). You witness the last of the sun's rays go down over the horizon and then prepare yourself as the astonishing African night sky slowly appears. A truly humbling experience not to be missed and can be enjoyed on a daily basis.

Accommodation - Mariepskop backpackers



Day 3 - Kruger National Park – Mopani rest camp

We are off very early this morning and make our way to a Northern Kruger border gate - Phalaborwa.

En route we will be crossing the Olifants river where we may spot some elephants.

Once in the Kruger we will safari all the way up to Mopani rest camp.

There is a restaurant at Mopani and also a small grocery. Mopani is the newest rest camp in Kruger, built in 1992. It takes its name from the surrounding mopani trees which we will see all around this area and overlooks 'Pioneer dam'. A stunning view and a perfect spot to relax and watch the animals come down to visit the water.

Accommodation - Mopani Rest Camp

http://www.krugerpark.co.za/Kruger_National_Park_Lodging_&_Camping_Guide-travel/mopani-camp.html



Day 4 - Kruger National Park - Mooiplaas & Night Drive

Early morning game drive - roughly 3 hours depending on what we see.

For breakfast we will stop off at a beautiful picnic spot called 'Mooiplaas'. It sits up on a bank above the Tsendze river and looks down on the river and any of the wildlife visiting it. There is an opportunity to cook our food here over a hot plate which your guides will be more than happy to do for you.

After relaxing at Mooiplaas we arrive back at Mopani and explore the camp for the rest of the day. Tonight after dinner you experience Kruger Park in a brand new light, or lack of. You are lead by a KNP field guide who will take you out on a Night Drive.

This is a great chance to view some of the nocturnal animals - porcupine, aardvark, springhare, genet and civet to name a few.

Accommodation - Mopani Rest Camp



Day 5 - Kruger National Park - Crooks Corner

This mornings game drive will be a long one. We will venture up to a stunning viewpoint called 'Crooks Corner'. It's a historic meeting place of Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South African smugglers.

The region is considered a biodiversity hotspot in Kruger. We will pass under fig trees, jackalberries and a fever tree forest to get to our destination.

We slowly make our way back to Mopani and rest up ready for our full day of Safari down to Skukuza rest camp tomorrow.

Accommodation - Mopani



Day 6 - Kruger National Park – Skukuza rest camp

Today we start very early as we have a long days safari down through Kruger National Park from the North to our destination in the South - Skukuza.

The journey is 222km and will take approximately 9 hours with stops along the way. This gives us a very good chance of spotting lots of game and seeing the diverse landscapes throughout the park.

Once arriving at Skukuza we familiarise ourself with the camp and explore the fantastic restaurant facilities.

Accommodation - Skukuza

http://www.krugerpark.co.za/Kruger_National_Park_Lodging_&_Camping_Guide-travel/skukuza-camp.html

<http://www.cattlebaron.co.za/stores/skukuza.html>



Day 7 - Kruger National Park – Lake panic bird hide

Today we head off on an early morning game drive searching for the many animals lurking in the Skukuza area. Skukuza is the largest rest stop in KNP and overlooks the stunning Sabie river.

Our afternoon game drives destination is close by. Lake panic bird hide is a perfect relaxation spot to soak up all the sights and sounds of a watering hole. The bird life flourishes here and it's a great chance to take it all in whilst enjoying the safety of being in a hide.

Accommodation - Skukuza



Day 8 - Kruger National Park – Bush walk

This morning we view the bush from a completely different perspective. We head out for a morning bush walk with one of the KNP field guides. A great opportunity to learn about tracks and signs that the wildlife leaves behind. Please be aware this is not a hike and the guide will go at the speed of the slowest guest. Basic fitness levels will be needed for this activity.

The rest of the day is spent relaxing until late afternoon when we will head out for an afternoon game drive and your choice of sundowner.

Accommodation - Skukuza
Drinks - x1 sundowner



Day 9 - Kruger National Park & Khaya Ndlovu Manor House

Up bright and early for our epic safari to our next and final lodge - Khaya Ndlovu Manor House. We should arrive here for 14:00 where we will relax in style.

A luxurious end to our safari. We will be staying in the Garden suites within the lodge grounds. The infinity pool is the definition of relaxation as you listen to the local birds calling whilst sipping a refreshing drink from the bar which is a stone's throw away. The pool and decking area overlook a watering hole where animals frequently visit. It is also an ideal spot to watch the sunset.

Dinner tonight will be a 3 course South African meal served up by Khaya staff. An amazing finale to the trip.

Accommodation - Khaya

<http://www.khayandlovu.co.za/>

Meals included - D



Day 10 – Departure

A gentle morning where you can soak up the last of the African sun. Khaya staff cook up an amazing breakfast, after which we will prepare for departure and head to the airport for everyone to catch their transfers. We say our goodbyes and hope everyone has made some lifelong memories and maybe some new friendships too.

Meals included - B

Every place we stay has been hand chosen by your guides to offer a truly amazing South African experience. Please note that every accommodation has laundry facilities and swimming pool.