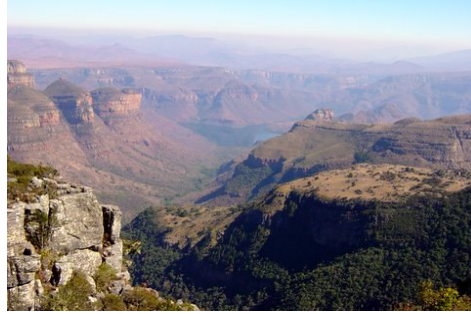


## **KRUGER NATIONAL PARK AND SURROUNDS TOUR**

### **PROPOSED TOUR ITINERARY 27 September to 2 October**

#### **TOUR BRIEF**



This magnificent wildlife encounter combines an exceptional experience of the fauna and flora of South Africa's eastern escarpment and Lowveld, with an insightful introduction to South Africa's historical and cultural heritage.

This specific tour is designed for a group of guests attending the Gauteng International Orchid conference in September 2010 and thus incorporates more focus on floral and faunal heritage.

No. of guests: 10 to 12

Duration: 5½ days, 5 nights

Accommodation: Luxury Guesthouses in Hazyview (note that two separate guesthouses may be used to accommodate the group, allowing an intimate and high-level standard of service).

Guesthouse in the Johannesburg / Kempton Park area

Note that, due to the fact that we cannot guarantee quality accommodation at affordable rates inside Kruger Park for larger groups, we have opted to provide accommodation in towns on the outskirts of the Park.

Vehicle 17-seater semi-luxury air-conditioned coach, with luggage trailer

Cost (Nett): R 11 500 per person sharing

Single Supplement: R 1 300

Additional expenses: Allow approximately R1000.00 for excluded meals, etc (4 dinners, 3 lunches). It excludes all drinks and refreshments.

All optional activities are to own expense.

B = breakfast

L = lunch

D = dinner

#### **Tour Summary**

**Day 1:** Transfer from Johannesburg to Hazyview, Mpumalanga, via Panorama Route

**Day 2:** Mpumalanga Lowveld (Moholoholo Rehab Centre and Khamai Reptile Park)

**Day 3:** Kruger National Park

**Day 4:** Kruger National Park

**Day 5:** Return to Johannesburg/Pretoria, via Nelspruit, Sudwala and Long Tom Pass.

**Day 6:** Final shopping and transfer to OR Tambo airport for passengers booked for the Madagascar tour.



### **Detailed Itinerary**

#### **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009: Pilgrims Rest and Panorama Route (B only)**

Departing early after breakfast, we head towards the Eastern Escarpment of South Africa via Lydenburg, and lunching at Pilgrims Rest en route.

Pilgrims Rest is a village set back in time. It is the focal point of one of the most sustainable gold rushes in South African history. The entire town has been declared a national monument, and epitomises the life and times of the early pioneers of our land, despite the more modern tourist vibe that is so evident today. Typical of pioneer towns, it has its fair share of folklore and colourful characters, and we share some of the stories over lunch and drinks (lunch at own cost).

We spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the splendour of the Northern Drakensberg, as we meander along the Panorama Route, visiting God's Window, Berlin Falls, Lisbon Falls, Bourke's Luck Potholes, and the Blyde River Canyon. Considered as one of one most scenic areas of South Africa, the escarpment drops almost 1200m to the coastal plains below, exhibiting a huge floral diversity and beautiful landscapes.

Overnight at a guesthouse in Hazyview (dinner at own cost).

#### **Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2010: Moholoholo Animal Rehabilitation Centre and Khamai Reptile Park (BLD only)**

We start the day after a leisurely breakfast with a visit to the Moholoholo Animal Rehabilitation Centre, located about 100km north of Hazyview. This icon of conservation was established 18 years ago, and has provided a unique sanctuary for abandoned, injured, poisoned and orphaned animals. Although every effort is made to re-introduce these animals to their natural habitats, this isn't always possible, and the centre provides a distinctive and interactive educational centre, where we can learn more about the co-inhabitants of our Earth.

The tour of Moholoholo is followed by lunch at a nearby silk farm, before we continue on to the Khamai Reptile Centre, to find out more about other groups of animals that share our environment. At the Khamai Reptile Park, you are not only likely to meet some of our fascinating range of snakes and lizards, but come into contact (and, if you like, very close contact) with other creatures that one would not normally encounter in our day-to-day lives. Specialised and passionate guides share their experience and knowledge of their unusual friends.



En route home for the night, we join the Festival at the Shangana Cultural Village for an evening of song, dance and feasting, before heading for our overnight guesthouse in Hazyview.

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010: Kruger National Park (Southern Region) (BL only)

Entering the park soon after sunrise, we spend the day exploring the southern section of the park, seeking, amongst others, the “Big-5”. This region covers a wide range of habitats and there are excellent opportunities for sighting elephant, lion, rhinos, leopard and buffalo as we meander along the Crocodile River or explore the thickets around the Sabie River.

We return to our guesthouse in Hazyview as the evening sun dips towards the distant Drakensberg Mountains, and head for bed having chalked up a lot more than just “Big-5”!

Dinner at a local restaurant at own expense.

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010: Kruger National Park (Central Region) (BL only)

Leaving our lodge at daybreak, we head northwards towards the central region, breakfasting at one of the picnic spots or dams en route. We may reach Satara camp, depending on our game viewing opportunities and our timing. In Kruger Park, we are the behest of nature, and our routing for this day may change somewhat.

The south-central part of Kruger tends to have more open bushveld than the southern section, and the potential for sighting big game along the rivers is exceptional. Its more open habitat is ideal for large herds of buffalo and plains game, as well as white rhino and the illusive cheetah.

You may also choose to enjoy a full- or half-day game drive on open safari vehicles in Kruger, or a sunset drive in the famous Sabi-Sand game reserve. Alternatively, you may simply wish to enjoy a day of leisure, or experience some of the numerous adventure activities available in the area (zip-lining, mountain biking, gorge swings, abseiling, white water rafting, ballooning, elephant back safaris, micro-lighting, horse trails, etc. are all available in the area. All optional activities are to own account.

Once again, we return to Hazyview for the night.

Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010: Return to Johannesburg via Nelspruit, Sudwala and Long Tom Pass (B only)

After a relaxing breakfast, we proceed to Nelspruit, where we visit the Lowveld National Botanical Garden, and revel in the huge floral diversity that this region has to offer. Over 650 naturally occurring plant species have been supplemented by over 2000 other species

that are able to thrive in this unique environment, and the garden boasts over 650 tree species (about a third of South Africa's total count). Specialist guides share their knowledge with us as we meander through this beautiful environment.

We then continue onwards to the Sudwala Caves, one of South Africa's most fascinating cave systems. Although the caves extend for many kilometres, only about 600m are accessible to the public. However, this intriguing cave system is well worth a visit, and a local guide takes us into the depths of the mountain, sharing the caves' history and features. Lunch at the caves (own cost).

Leaving the Lowveld behind, we head over the escarpment again, via the famous Long Tom Pass, with its spectacular views and turbulent history, and return to Johannesburg by early evening.

Overnight at the Willow Park Resort in Kempton Park (Johannesburg) ready to depart on the Madagascar tour or other destinations on Saturday morning.

Saturday, 2nd October 2010: Departure Day: Johannesburg (B only)

A leisurely breakfast precedes our departure for the airport via one of the local shopping malls, where we take a last opportunity of stocking up on gifts for family and friends.

Check-in time at the airport is at 11:30 for the Madagascar tour

**Please note: Cut-off date for bookings is 15 June 2010**

Refer enquiries or bookings to:

**Sabine**

Animaltracks Islandventures

Tel: + 27 (0)11 454 0543

Voip: 087 807 7960

Fax: + 27 (0)11 454 2365

mobile: + 27 (0)83 378 1938

email: [info@animaltracks.co.za](mailto:info@animaltracks.co.za)

Website: [www.animaltracks.co.za](http://www.animaltracks.co.za)