



KRUGER, SWAZILAND & ZULULAND EXPLORER

This could be described as the Three Kingdoms tour – the kingdom of the Big 5, the kingdom of the Swazi's and the kingdom of the Zulu's! We spend 2 nights in the Kruger searching for the Big 5, 1 night in the beautiful kingdom of Swaziland and 3 nights in the northern part of Kwa Zulu Natal, home of the Zulu's. You will learn about the flora & fauna of all 3 areas and the rich and colourful history of these regions. An excellent tour for birders & animal lovers alike. The tour starts in Hazyview and ends in Johannesburg

DAY 1: Depart at 12h00 from Hazyview in one of our specially adapted open safari vehicles and enjoy your first game drive on the way to your rest camp, with our professional guide showing you some of the secrets of this world-famous game reserve, which is the size of Wales, or Israel. We will arrive at our camp in the late afternoon and check into your bungalow in time for a sundowner drink. Your guide will cook a delicious BBQ dinner (weather permitting) and we can swap a few stories around the fire, whilst listening for the night sounds of the African bush, before going to bed for a well-earned sleep.

DAY 2: Your guide will wake you up early with tea and coffee for a dawn game drive departure, remember the early bird sees more game! Experience this incredible reserve from the comfort of your open game drive vehicle whilst looking for the "Big 5" and all the other exciting inhabitants of one of Africa's premier reserves. We will stop at one of the Park's picnic sites for a delicious outdoor breakfast (weather permitting) before continuing well fed, on the game drive. Return to the camp for lunch (own account) and a siesta. We meet again in the late afternoon for a short game drive with the opportunity of seeing an African sunset (weather permitting). Dinner tonight will be in the restaurant.

DAY 3: Enjoy an early morning game drive with breakfast en-route to Hazyview. Arrive at around 10h00 and transfer across to an air-conditioned microbus for the journey to Swaziland. We enter this tiny country at Jeppe's Reef which is not a very busy border so crossing here should not take long. We travel through Piggs Peak, named after William Pigg who discovered a gold reef nearby. We then travel over the dam wall around Maguga Dam down to Ngwenya, home of the oldest mine in the World and thought to be around 43,000 years old! The word Ngwenya means crocodile in SiSwati and the Bushmen who mined iron ore there thought that the mountain looked like a huge basking crocodile. A quick visit to Ngwenya Glass nearby where the glass is still hand-blown. Tonight we'll stay at the delightful Foresters Arms, situated in the Swaziland highlands in the Mhlambanyatsi area. Dinner in the hotels' dining room

DAY 4: After an early breakfast we drive through the village of Malkerns to the Swazi Candle factory where we can see highly trained and skilled craftsmen at work making decorative candles in all shapes and sizes. There are some lovely shops at the centre – Rosecraft, selling hand-kitted or woven soft furnishing & clothing, hand-spun from pure mohair, Baobab Batik, selling hand-painted batik work and a charming craft market. We then continue the journey via Manzini and Big Bend to the Lavumisa/Golela border post where we re-enter South Africa and the Zululand Kingdom. Arrive at Ghost Mountain Inn in Mkuze late afternoon in time for a walk down to the lake to enjoy a sundowner on the jetty.



DAY 5: Early departure to Mkuze Game Reserve for the Fig Forest Walk which includes a game drive to the start of the walk. The walk is not strenuous but does require traversing 2 short swing bridges over the Mkuze River. The walk meanders under the canopy of giant sycamore figs, the oldest of which is estimated at around 450 years! The silence of the forest is broken by a multitude of bird calls such as the Trumpeter Hornbill. Special sightings have included Pels Fishing Owl, African Broadbill and Blue Mantled Flycatcher. After the walk it's on to St Lucia for an afternoon cruise on the St Lucia Estuary. Another great opportunity for bird watching as well as seeing hippos & crocs at close quarters. Tonight we'll stay at Ama Zulu Lodge, a top class 4-star property in the heart of the village. Dinner (own account) in town

DAY 6: Today we'll spend most of the day exploring the iSimangaliso Wetland Park which comprises of 8 interdependent ecosystems. We'll travel through the Eastern Shores Game Reserve down to Cape Vidal with game-viewing en-route. Take a stroll on the beach, watch fishermen landing their catches, enjoy some bird watching, or just relax. Today is an easy day which can be amended to suit clients' interests

DAY 7: After another early breakfast we head north to Johannesburg for your onward flight or you could fly to Johannesburg from Richards Bay Airport