



KRUGER & SWAZILAND GAME & CULTURE ENCOUNTER

A 7-day tour focusing on game viewing and culture in the magnificent Kruger National Park & the picturesque Kingdom of Swaziland. We spend 2 nights in the Kruger searching for the Big 5, 2 nights in the beautiful forestry area of Swaziland and 2 nights at one of Swaziland's wonderful game reserves. 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, 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 selling hand knitted or woven soft furnishing & clothing, hand spun from pure mohair, selling hand painted batik work, hand-made jewellery, bags clothing etc., and a charming craft market. The majority of the artwork is produced by womens' co-operatives. After lunch (own account) at the Sambane Tea Garden, we'll visit the Mantenga Cultural Village and maybe a "drive-thru" at the Houses of Parliament & the Queen Mothers Residence. Overnight & dinner at Foresters Arms



DAY 5: Today we move across to one of Swaziland's hidden gems, Hlane Royal National Park, home to Swaziland's largest herds of game. The reserve was started in the late 1950's when Ted Reilly recognised the demise of the Kingdom's wildlife, backed by the Monarchy and run by people with such passion & dedication that they managed to restore their wildlife's heritage. Game drives on the reserve and dinner in the camps' restaurant

DAY 6: This morning, enjoy a Rhino Drive which includes the opportunity to approach rhino on foot. Not all rhino are approachable though so the rangers will decide whether or not a walk will be safe. If they feel it isn't safe, then they will continue in the open safari vehicle. Minimum age for this activity is 13yrs. After this we depart for the Swaziland Sugarcane Museum in the heart of the sugar-belt near Simunye. An informative look at how sugar became Swaziland's most important industry and an opportunity to see some of the country's scenic beauty. Dinner at the camps' restaurant

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