

Wildlife, Tribes and Dolphins



Overview

This off-the-beaten-track trip includes safari drives in a relatively unknown South African game reserve rich with wildlife including lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, rhino, hippo and giraffe. We stay in a UNESCO World Heritage Site where guests can snorkel, go whale watching (July- Nov), horse riding, deep sea fishing, take night game drives and visit a Zulu Village. We cross the border into Mozambique where there's an opportunity to swim with wild dolphins and finish the trip at a luxury lodge where guests can take walks through Raffia Forest and canoe on the lakes.

Trip Highlights

- Game viewing in Hluhluwe/Imfolozi Game Reserve, with expert guide
- Swim with wild dolphins in Mozambique
- Visit a Zulu village and witness modern day Zulu life
- Take a hippo cruise at sunset
- Evening sundowners around a traditional braai

DAY 1:

Fly from London to Johannesburg (overnight)

DAY 2:

Arrive Johannesburg and transfer to your domestic flight to Richards Bay, where you will be met by your guide and transfer to St Lucia, where you will spend the next three nights. The village is uniquely situated in a UNESCO World Heritage Site, an area renowned for its outstanding natural beauty and diversity in eco systems and with a host of activities on offer. This afternoon, you might choose to relax by the pool, take a wander round the village or take a boat cruise or night game drive. (Drive time today approx 1.5 hours).

Our accommodation is in a luxury lodge on the banks of the St Lucia Estuary, surrounded by indigenous forests and the Indian Ocean. Rooms are en-suite with private patios, and there's a swimming pool. Breakfasts are taken on the patio from which guests can observe abundant bird life, hippo, antelope, and various small mammals. Restaurants in the village are a few minutes walk away.

Meal Arrangements: None included.

DAY 3:

Today is a free day, with the following activities on offer;

Whale Watching (Available July -November) or Marine Mammal Experience (rest of year). The trip lasts 2-3 hours in season, guests can see Humpback whales as they migrate north to give birth. Tour Cost: Approx R600pp.

Hiking trails through the wetlands park and along the rocky shores (opportunity to see turtles, dolphins and whales in season).

Lunch will be a picnic or braai. We will be accompanied by an armed ranger as buffalo and various game species are often sighted. Cost: R300pp (min 2 people)

Hippo and Crocodile estuary cruise: this 2 hour sunset cruise is recommended.



Deep Sea Fishing: trips begin early in the morning and last approx 6 hours. Depth of fishing will dictate species but may include Marlin, Grunter, Rockcod, Tuna, Kob, Dorado, and King and Queen Mackerel. Cost: R550pp.

Night Drive: an opportunity to see wildlife activity at night: sightings may include buffalo, hippo, chameleons, bush babies, jackals, hyena and leopard.

Local Village Tour: 15 minutes from St Lucia is the contemporary Khula Village. Your guide for the day is a resident of the village and he will give you an overview of modern Zulu life before taking you to see a local school and church. You can try the local Zulu beer and visit a traditional Zulu Sangoma (witch doctor). Cost: R180pp

Astronomy Evenings: a wonderful evening with telescopic view at the stars and planets: on a clear evening, it's possible to see Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Saturn and the craters in the moon.

Horse Riding along the beach or through the bush. Cost: 1 hour R170pp; 2 hours R280-340pp

Golf: 9 hole course available 15 minutes drive away. No handicap required. Cost: R200 including club hire, cart & caddie.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast included

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DAY 4:

This morning guests have an option to take a drive through the Greater St Lucia Wetlands Park - a World Heritage Site encompassing five major ecosystems and an abundance of wildlife. The drive includes a visit to Cape Vidal where guests can snorkel (tide dependent) in the Indian Ocean, take a walk along the endless beaches, or venture up into the dune forests to our whale and dolphin viewing platform. We organise a traditional beach braai for lunch, after which guests can join in a game of volleyball or relax on the beach. Alternatively, guests may choose from the optional activities listed above or simply to relax in St Lucia. Tonight, guests can eat at a local restaurant in the village.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast included.

DAY 5:

This morning we head into the Hluhluwe/Imfolozi Game Reserve, the oldest game reserve in Africa. The reserve is renowned as a sanctuary for rhinoceros and has the largest concentration of White Rhino in Africa. It is well populated with wildlife, including lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant and giraffe, and our guide's game-spotting skills and knowledge will provide an informative experience.

We will stop for lunch at a spectacular view point overlooking the Hluhluwe River before continuing on through the park to our Bush Lodge. Guests can opt to take a walk in the bush led by a ranger before returning for dinner cooked by the resident chef. The evening can then be spent relaxing in the living room area with the nocturnal sounds providing a different sort of evening entertainment.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

DAY 6:

We take an early morning game drive or walk, before returning to the Lodge for breakfast. We keep our route flexible according to where sightings are reported. There's another game drive as we leave the park and pass through the town of Hluhluwe where we will visit Ilala Weavers. Here guests will be able to see Zulu baskets, lamps and various crafts and artefacts being crafted, and buy gifts and souvenirs directly from the source. After settling into our luxury permanent tented camp within a game reserve, we take a late afternoon game drive. (Total drive time approx 3 hours). This game reserve is home to an array of wildlife including 130 elephant, 65 rhino, buffalo, leopard, hippo, eland, zebra, giraffe, hyaena, jackal, wildebeest, nyala, kudu, water buck, reed buck, red duiker, warthog and other small mammals.

After dinner tonight, guests can relax around the fire in the boma (a BBQ area

usually with a fire) with a glass of the local Amarula!

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included.

DAY 7:

We surface early for a safari through Tembe Park. This area is dominated by sand forest and wetlands and is home to some of Africa's largest elephants.

After brunch, we drive to Southern Mozambique via the Kosi Bay Border Post (30 minute drive). Activity options here include scuba diving (diving certificate required), fishing or snorkelling or relaxing: the beach here is beautiful and ideal for relaxing and swimming in the sheltered waters.

Later this afternoon, we can visit a local market to purchase local handicrafts before returning to a beachside restaurant for a typical Mozambican dinner.

Meal Arrangements: Brunch included

DAY 8:

This morning guests can opt for an early start to search for and possibly swim with wild dolphins. We may also spot the gentle but gigantic whale shark, turtles and whales. For those not wishing to take this trip, the other activities or the beach beckons. The rest of the day is given to relaxation or optional activities.

Dolphin Swimming: R290

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and dinner included.

DAY 9:

Another day of relaxation on the beach.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast included.



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DAY 10:

This morning we drive back to South Africa, to Kosi Bay (drive time 2 hours). After checking into our luxury accommodation, there is a choice of activities, including taking a guided canoe trip on the lakes and a walk in the Raffia Forest ... or simply relaxing by the pool. From Nov-Mar, guests can take a night walk along the beach to watch turtles heave themselves up the beach to lay their eggs or watch new hatchlings racing for their lives towards the ocean.

The canoe trip on the Kosi Lakes is recommended: guests canoe along the Sihadla channel and admire the magnificent Raffia Palms. The bird life while canoeing is very rewarding. Canoeing is always accompanied by a guide and is included in your stay. No experience is required.

The guided walks through the magnificent Raffia Palm Forest are undertaken in the early morning or late afternoon. Guests can listen out for the abundant birdcalls and perhaps catch a glimpse of the rare palm-nut vulture in the canopy. The raffia palm is the largest palm in the world. This activity is included in your stay.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included.

DAY 11:

After breakfast, we return to Richard's Bay airport in time for your return flight to London via Johannesburg.

DAY 12:

Arrive UK

For price details, please see nativeescapes.com or call us on 020 8977 7034.

Departure Dates 2009

UK Departure Date	Arrival back in UK
Tuesday 7 th April	Saturday 18 th April
Tuesday 28 th April	Saturday 9 th May
Tuesday 19 th May	Saturday 30 th May
Tuesday 16 th June	Saturday 27 th June
Tuesday 30 th June	Saturday 11 th July
Tuesday 28 th July	Saturday 8 th August
Tuesday 25 th August	Saturday 5 th September

There is an opportunity to extend your trip with a stay in Cape Town: contact us for further details.

General Information

Visas

Visas are NOT required by UK citizens for South Africa. (Note that all nationalities travelling to South Africa must have 2 consecutive blank pages in their passport which lie side by side when the passport is open. Passports must also be valid for at least six months from the date of entry to South Africa. Passengers travelling to South Africa with passports that do not comply with these requirements could be refused entry. The visa for Mozambique can be bought at the border for R160.

Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.

Health

The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella



and polio as well as for hepatitis B.

Hepatitis A, malaria and typhoid are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for travel in South Africa. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up to date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. Guests on group departures must take their policy documents with them on the trip as the guide will ask to see this at the start. The documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for the period of travel. The policy document must also indicate that medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover is included and a 24 hour contact telephone number for the insurance company must be shown on the documentation in case of emergency. Guests unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip will be asked to purchase a policy prior to joining the trip.

Electricity supply

220v, 3pin South African plug. Adaptors are required to charge cameras, etc.

Money

Currency is the South African Rand. There will be ATM's en route for guests to withdraw money.

What to bring

Binoculars, torch, walking shoes, swimming gear, plenty of high factor sunscreen, sunhat, insect repellent, camera, a day pack. Warm clothing is recommended for evenings, and a waterproof jacket. Lightweight clothing is recommended for the day. Avoid brightly coloured clothing for game viewing.

Tipping

It is normal to tip for good service in bars and restaurants in South Africa. Guests may also consider tipping their guide at their discretion.

