



Bushlore
Self-drive Safaris **AFRICA**

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Parks of South Africa

Introduction:



South Africa although more developed than many of its remote African neighbours still harbours some of the best wildlife parks in Africa and has been a pioneer in the conservation of endangered wildlife. This safari concentrates on some of the best parks in South Africa. The route offers beautiful and changing scenery with excellent birding and wildlife opportunities. We also visit the less commercial parks only accessible by 4x4..

Day 1&2: JHB to Marakele National Park

The Marakele National Park in the heart of the Waterberg Mountains, as its Tswana name suggests, has become a 'place of sanctuary' for an impressive variety of wildlife due to its location in the transitional zone between the dry western and moister eastern regions of South Africa.

Contrasting majestic mountain landscapes, grass-clad hills and deep valleys characterize the park. Rare finds of yellowwood and cedar trees, five metre high cycads and tree ferns, are some of the plant species found here. All the large game species from elephant and rhino to the big cats as well as an amazing variety of birds including what's probably the largest colony of endangered Cape vultures (more than 800 breeding pairs) in the world, have settled here.



Accommodation - campsites

Day 2&3: Waterberg Wilderness Reserve

The Waterberg mountain range is situated in the Limpopo province of South Africa and is one of the more pristine, scenic and wildlife rich areas in South Africa. Positioned on the Eastern side of the Waterberg range the Waterberg Wilderness reserve is only 2.5 hours from Johannesburg and conveniently positioned half way to Botswana. Due to the rugged nature of the reserve which is

typical of the Waterberg, a 4x4 vehicle or vehicle with good ground clearance is recommended to access the property. In the wet season a 4x4 vehicle is often essential.

Certain areas of the Waterberg Wilderness Reserve offer spectacular views over the surrounding hills and valleys and exploring the impressive gorges with natural streams and pools is certainly a highlight. The reserve is ideal for the more active with some beautiful walks and potential mountain bike trails.



Accommodation – Luxury self catering tents

Day 4&5: Mapungubwe National Park



Mapungubwe National Park is a World Heritage Site and the ideal location for anyone interested in the wildlife, birds and those in search of serenity, identity and the extraordinary history of this World Heritage Site. Enjoy sipping sundowners at the confluence of the legendary Limpopo and Shashe Rivers or explore the granite hills in search of the many species which find refuge here. Watch the eagles soar over Botswana and Zimbabwe's skies, hear the echo of elephant trumpets, take a tree top walk or just relax and absorb the surroundings... Mapungubwe National Park and World Heritage Site is rich in biodiversity, great scenic beauty and the cultural importance of the archaeological treasures of Mapungubwe.

Accommodation - campsite

Day 6-9: Kruger National Park



Punda Maria lies in the northern most part of the Kruger National Park, 8km from Punda Maria Gate.

The camp is situated in the Sandveld region that is often described as the botanical garden of the Kruger National Park. There are numerous plant species which occur that are unique to the area. Game species most likely to be sighted include impala, zebra, buffalo, elephant, eland and sable and the area is a bird paradise.

Satara is a busy camp, and not without reason. It is situated in an excellent game viewing area, with the bush relatively open and the animals plentiful and diverse. The camp itself has a rustic charm, with the bulk of the accommodation set out in a series of circles. Satara is well wooded and the bird-life is prolific. At night the clink of fruit bats is fused with the chirping of cicadas and crickets. The calls of owls and nightjars add to the symphony that is punctuated intermittently by the whoop of hyena, the screech of jackal and the roars of lion. General game includes blue wildebeest, zebra, waterbuck, giraffe and the ubiquitous impala. Rhino, buffalo and elephant are also easily seen. Of the smaller animals, the honey badger is something to look out for. At night spotted hyena regularly whoop from the camp's perimeter while the repetitive sonar chink of fruit bats blends with the chirp of cicada and cricket.

The idyllic **Letaba Rest Camp** is situated on a sweeping bend of the Letaba River, midway between the southern and northern boundaries of the Kruger National Park. The name means "river of sand", and the sandy riverbed is an excellent location for game viewing, particularly elephant, which thrive in the area. Letaba is a green oasis in the surrounding mopane veld, and remains a firm favourite with visitors. At night the stars overlook a symphony of sounds. Owls, nightjars, frogs, fruit bats, crick Visitors need not even leave the camp to view these animals and lucky visitors have been fortunate enough to witness lion and cheetah kills on the sandy riverbed in front of the restaurant complex. The camp itself hosts a healthy population of bushbucks who have become very tame and wander freely amongst the bungalows. Other camp residents include tree squirrels, fruit bats and vervet monkey; which must always be considered before leaving food unattended.

Lower Sabie graces the banks of the Sabie River, one of the few perennial rivers to flow through the Kruger National Park. Visitors cannot but feel soothed by the view towards the river and the Lebombo Mountains beyond. In this rest camp, the bounty and plenitude of nature are very evident, eloquently symbolised by the most conspicuous of its numerous trees, the mighty sycamore fig, which provides generously for the livelihood of many birds and insects. Not only do these giants produce fruit at least twice a year, but different trees produce fruit at different times, extending the gifts of life over many months. Watching the endless procession of animals coming to drink at the Sabie River establishes a sense of one's own place in the eternal cycle.

Accommodation – campsite

Day 10: Elandskloof Trout Farm, Mpumalanga

Elandskloof is the oldest trout farm in Mpumalanga situated close to Dullstroom, 28 km from Johannesburg. An ideal stopover on route back to JHB



Accommodation - camping

Day 11: Return to JHB

Costing:

R 2450.00 per person sharing including park fees

(Vehicle and guide quoted separately)

Terms and Conditions

- We require 100% payment upfront to confirm the reservation.
- Quoted in South African Rand
- Rates are subject to availability at the time of confirming the reservation and can change due to the exchange rate
- The above itinerary is subject to availability and a re-quote at the time of enquiry
- Conservations fees for Kruger National park included
- Please note rate per person is based on two people travelling and will be subject to re-quote once you have confirmed dates of travel and exact number of travelers
- Rates are based on current rates and are subject to rate at the time of making the reservations
- Cancellations with less than 60 days notice would result in a loss of the full booking deposit
- Drivers will be required to have a valid driver's license and be over the age of 24 years.
- Rate quoted that include Park Entrance fees and may change without prior notice
- All campers are subject to all rules and regulations governing visitor conduct



Prepared for Adventure!