

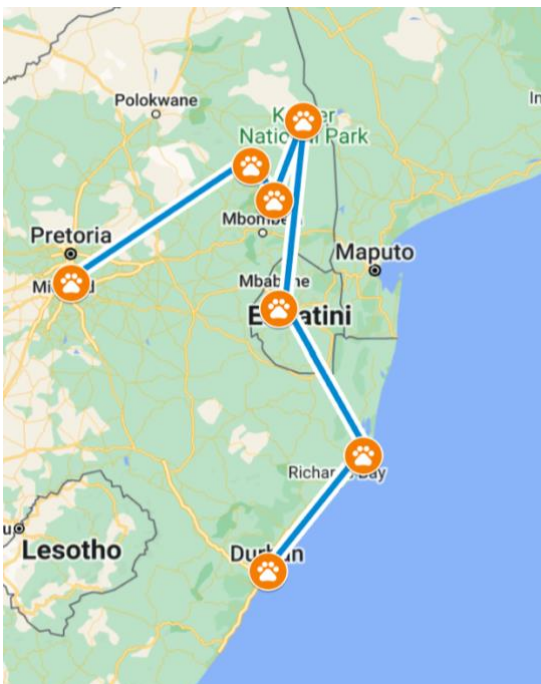


DETOUR AFRICA

Exploring Africa since 1999



# 7 Day Kruger, Eswatini (Swaziland) and St Lucia Tour



## INTRODUCTION

Embark on a captivating 7-day adventure, starting in the vibrant Johannesburg area and ending in the coastal city of Durban. Immerse yourself in Africa's natural splendors as we traverse the awe-inspiring Panorama Route, explore the breath-taking Blyde River Canyon, and embark on a thrilling safari in Kruger National Park, home to an abundance of wildlife. Experience the rich cultural heritage of the Kingdom of Eswatini as we delve into the wonders of Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and Hlane Royal National Park, where encounters with diverse flora and fauna await. Indulge in a memorable boat cruise along the estuary of iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site before concluding our remarkable journey in Durban, leaving you with cherished memories of this extraordinary expedition.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Panoramic Route
- Kruger National Park
- Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary
- Hlane Royal National Park
- Swaziland Local Glass & Candle Factory
- Cultural Village Visit
- St. Lucia / Isimangaliso Wetlands
- St. Lucia Boat Ride



# TOUR ITINERARY

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## 7 Days| South Africa, Eswatini (Swaziland)

Information is subject to change. Travel times and accommodation can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.

### **DAY 1: SOUTH AFRICA – BLYDE RIVER CANYON**

We depart Johannesburg/ Pretoria early, pick up is available from any guesthouse or hotel in the Johannesburg/ Pretoria area. We take the scenic route towards South Africa's North-Eastern Lowveld travelling towards the Panorama route.

The highlight of this afternoon is the spectacular views from God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes, these breathtaking views form part of the Blyde River Canyon, arguably the most amazing views and landscape in South Africa and perfect way to start our adventure.

Tonight, we will overnight in the Blyde River Canyon area.

<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Blyde River Forever Resort or Similar <b>Budget:</b> Blyde River Forever Resort or Similar
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Room with en-suite bathroom <b>Budget:</b> Room with shared bathroom
<b>Route</b>	Johannesburg to Blyde River Canyon Area
<b>Meals</b>	Dinner
<b>Included Highlights</b>	Blyde River Canyon, 3 Rondavels, Bourke's Luck Potholes, God's Window.

### **DAY 2: BLYDE RIVER CANYON – HAZYVIEW**

Witness the breath-taking sunrise over the canyon as you start your day, setting the tone for an unforgettable experience. Explore the diverse range of hiking trails available, tailored to cater to different fitness levels and time constraints. You can opt for a relaxed stroll down the canyon to see the Tufa waterfall in just 30 minutes or embark on a more challenging hike that lasts anywhere between 2 to 5 hours. For an added optional adventure, venture to the Graskop gorge lift Company, where a thrilling viewing lift awaits. Descend 51 meters down the gorge's face, immersing yourself in the enchanting indigenous forest below. Traverse along wooden walkways and suspension bridges, following a 600-meter trail that reveals the captivating wonders of the natural world.

After an exhilarating morning, we enter the captivating Lowveld region, home to the world-renowned Kruger National Park. Arrive in the charming town of Hazyview, your base for the next two nights.

This afternoon you have an option to embark on an optional 3-hour afternoon/sunset safari in the Kruger Park. Boarding an open safari vehicle. **\*Booking is essential and your guide can assist.**

<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Numbi Hotel / Hippo Hollow Country Lodge or Similar <b>Budget:</b> Aan de Vliet / Kruger Adventure Lodge or Similar
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Room with en-suite bathroom <b>Budget:</b> Room with shared bathroom
<b>Route</b>	Graskop to Hazyview
<b>Meals</b>	Breakfast
<b>Optional Activities</b>	Morning Activities at Graskop Gorge Lift, Sunset Game Drive with Kruger Park Ranger

### **DAY 3: KRUGER NATIONAL PARK**

Rising early this morning, we enter Kruger National Park by gate opening times. A breakfast pack will be provided to take with. Don't forget to pack your sun screen and safari essentials (camera, binoculars etc).

Today we will enjoy a full day of game viewing. We make use of a 9-seater open vehicle which is perfectly designed to give you a real bird's eye view of the wildlife you will encounter on your safari. Stopping throughout the day at



various waterholes, viewpoints and a stop at one of the rest camps for lunch.

Kruger Park is South Africa's largest game reserve and is truly the flagship of the South African National Parks, Kruger is home to an impressive number of species.

We return late in the afternoon to your lodge where you can enjoy leisure time before dinner.

<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Numbi Hotel / Hippo Hollow Country Lodge or Similar <b>Budget:</b> Aan de Vliet / Kruger Adventure Lodge or Similar
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Room with en-suite bathroom <b>Budget:</b> Room with shared bathroom
<b>Meals</b>	Packed Breakfast
<b>Included Highlight</b>	Full day game drive in 4x4 open vehicles.

### **Kruger National Park**

*Stretching over more than two million hectares, the Kruger National Park is one of the world's largest game reserves and a truly remarkable destination. Owing to its exceptional size, visitors are able to experience fantastic diversity – from changing scenery and ecosystems to an impressive array of animals, plant life and birdlife. The park is home to over 130 mammals and over 500 bird species. Visitors can look forward to learning about the area's prehistoric past, enjoying a host of accommodation options, and viewing abundant wildlife including the famed Big Five. The diversity sheer density of wildlife makes Kruger National Park an unforgettable and potentially life-changing experience.*

### **DAY 4: HAZYVIEW TO KINGDOM OF ESWATINI (SWAZILAND)**

For those seeking an extra game viewing experience, there is an optional early morning safari available (Summer 04:30/Winter 05:00). This allows you to witness the incredible wildlife one last time before we make our way to the border of Eswatini. Those who opt for this safari will have an early rise, returning to the lodge in time for breakfast. Meanwhile, for those who prefer a more leisurely morning, you can enjoy a well-deserved lie-in.

Our destination for today is the Ezulwini Valley just south of the capital Mbabane. The route this morning winds through mountains and forests before arriving at Eswatini border. You can visit the Ngwenya Glass Factory Shop before heading to a Swazi Cultural Village for an insight into the Swazi Culture and Traditions. Arriving at the lodge in the late afternoon.

Mlilwane offers an array of activities and adventures in the picturesque Ezulwini Valley (Valley of Heaven), flanked by the dramatic backdrop of mountains and the huge Usuthu Forest stretching into the distance.

<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary / Mantenga or Similar <b>Budget:</b> Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary or Similar
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Room with en-suite bathroom <b>Budget:</b> Room with shared bathroom
<b>Route</b>	Kruger Park Area to Eswatini
<b>Meals</b>	Breakfast
<b>Included Highlight</b>	Swazi Cultural Village Experience
<b>Optional Activities</b>	Morning Kruger Open Vehicle Park Safari, Ngwenya Glass Factory and Shop

### **Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary**

*Set in what is arguably Swaziland's most spectacularly beautiful region – the aptly named 'Valley of Heaven' – Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary is a natural wonderland of grassy plains, granitic mountains, cascading waterfalls and abundant wildlife. The southern section can be explored on foot, mountain bike, horseback or in vehicles, while access to the more remote northern half is restricted to guided hiking groups. Located relatively close to the reserve are the towns of Malkerns and Ezulwini, famous for their many craft shops and other attractions. Visitors can also look forward to staying in traditional beehive-shaped huts and enjoying a breakfast overlooking hippo and crocodiles wading in the water and resting on the banks.*

### **DAY 5: MLILWANE TO HLANE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK**

This morning you have some time to explore the Mlilwane wildlife sanctuary on your own. Filled with free roaming animals and offers the opportunity to do some walking, mountain biking or horseback safaris.



Endless hours of guided or self-guided exploration within the small 4560 Hectare sanctuary are possible due to the relative absence of dangerous game.

Departing Mlilwane after the morning's optional activities, we head to Swazi Candles Centre and Craft Market. You will be surrounded by talented crafters, artists and artisans as well as a bustling markets and souvenir shops. Perfect opportunity to find a gift.

Tonight, we stay at Hlane Royal National Park, with an exciting species lists including impressive ancient hardwood habitats, big game and rich birdlife. This 22,000-ha park, still boasts the largest herds of game in the Kingdom with speciality species being lion, rhino, elephants, vultures and marabou stork.

Guided game drives and bush walks can be arranged or you can simply relax at camp overlooking the waterhole with resident hippos and frequently visited by Rhinos and other game. **\*Booking is essential, and your guide can assist.**

<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Ndlovu Camp – Wisteria Village or Similar <b>Budget:</b> Ndlovu Camp – Wisteria Village or Similar
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Room with en-suite bathroom <b>Budget:</b> Room with shared bathroom
<b>Route</b>	Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary to Hlane Royal NP
<b>Meals</b>	Breakfast
<b>Included Highlights</b>	Swazi Candle Factory and Craft Market
<b>Optional Activities</b>	Mountain Bike Trails, Horse Back trails, Village Walk, Nature Walk, Guided Birding Walk, White Water Rafting, Sunrise Safari

## **DAY 6: HLANE – ST. LUCIA**

This morning you can join a truly unique experience - the ever-popular Rhino drive (optional activity), which is a 1,5-hour drive focusing on White Rhinoceros. The highlight of this drive is the potential opportunity of alighting the vehicle and quietly approaching them on foot. Not all Rhinoceros's are approachable and guides have discretion. Due to the nature of this activity, minimum age 13 years.

After breakfast we leave this amazing country behind us and cross the border re-entering South Africa into KwaZulu-Natal province. Arriving in the small coastal town of St Lucia. This afternoon we board a small boat in the Isimangaliso Wetland Park to view the many animals in this world heritage site such as crocodiles, hippos and plenty of birdlife that inhabit the estuary.

Tonight, you have a free night to explore the village by foot and choose from a range of local restaurants.

*Recently renamed the **iSimangaliso Wetland Park**, this sub-tropical paradise covers about 240,000 hectares and is the largest estuarine system in Africa. The park includes the southernmost extension of coral reefs on the continent and covers 220km of the East Coast from St Lucia to the Mozambique border. iSimangaliso encompasses a huge range of natural systems, ranging from dune, swamp and coastal forests to rocky and sandy shores, coral reefs and submarine canyons, and a mosaic of mangroves, savanna grassland, thickets and woodlands. It is the largest protected wetland in southern Africa, with large numbers of nesting turtles on the beaches; as well as the migration of whales, dolphins and whale-sharks off-shore; and huge numbers of waterfowl including large breeding colonies of pelicans, storks, herons and terns. The Park's unique climate and position has resulted in exceptional biodiversity including some 521 bird species.*

<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Lidiko Lodge / Forest Lodge & Villas or Similar <b>Budget:</b> The Estuary Guest chalets / Shonalanga Lodge or Similar
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Comfort:</b> Room with en-suite bathroom <b>Budget:</b> Room with shared bathroom
<b>Route</b>	Hlane to St. Lucia
<b>Meals</b>	Breakfast
<b>Included Highlight</b>	Rhino Game Drive, St. Lucia. Isimangaliso Wetland Park Croc & Hippo Boat Cruise





## **DAY 7: ST. LUCIA – DURBAN**

Morning optional activities will determine our departure time. Our tour comes to an end today, dropping off at King Shaka International Airport or in the Durban area.

For those on the 10 Day we continue on to the UNESCO world heritage site of the majestic uKhahlamba Drakensberg Mountains.

<b>Meals</b>	Breakfast
<b>Route</b>	St Lucia to Johannesburg
<b>Optional Activities</b>	Half Day Hluhluwe or Morning Isimangaliso Game Drive, Whale Watching (seasonal weather permitting - June to December)

# **TOUR INFORMATION**

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## **Pre-Departure Information:**

Once booking has been confirmed we will send you a full and detailed pre-departure booklet to help you prepare. Below is some basic tour information.

## **Tour departure point**

Pick-up is at your chosen accommodation within Johannesburg

## **Tour ending point**

Drop off at King Shaka International Airport or Durban

## **PCR Testing / Requirements**

All guests participating in this tour should adhere to and be familiar with any mandatory covid-19 vaccine requirements or PCR testing requirements of the country/countries being visited. All costs associated with PCR testing will be for the guests' own account.

## **Tour Style**

Small Group (2 – 10 passengers)

## **Arrival / Departure**

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems. We also highly recommend that you book your flights to depart the day after the tour officially ends to allow for delays and changes.

## **Pre and Post Tour Accommodation**

If you require accommodation before or after your tour, we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your travel agent to make these bookings.

## **What's Included**

All ground transportation, services of experienced qualified driver/guide, included highlights, meals as specified on itinerary – All breakfasts, entrance fees & accommodation as per itinerary.

## **What's not included**

Travel Insurance, flights, items of a personal nature, drinks, snacks & optional activities as indicated, tipping

## **Countries Visited**

South Africa, Eswatini (Swaziland)

## **General**

All information is subject to change without prior notice, changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better-quality experience. This would be where we are able to make improvements, sometimes last-



minute decisions due to the nature of the tour/event. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, or any unforeseen circumstances. These are used as a guideline only.

### **Insurance**

It is highly advisable that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergencies and repatriation to your home country should the need arise. Your guide can hold a copy of this if you so wish. Please leave a copy of your insurance with your nominated emergency contact.

### **Meals**

6 Breakfasts are included

1 Dinner is included

Dinners (except day 1) and all Lunches are for your own account.

### **Special Requirements**

Please confirm to us in writing if you are a vegetarian or if you suffer from any allergies (i.e nuts, milk, fish) (i.e. vegetarian), allergies (i.e. nuts, milk, fish). Where possible our guides do try and accommodate clients with intolerances (i.e. gluten, lactose), however we cannot guarantee the availability of speciality foods en-route and we therefore recommend you to bring these items with you or purchase them prior to departing on your tour.

### **Luggage**

We advise clients to be as light as possible when travelling through Africa. It is not a destination where you want to lug suitcases and heavy bags around.

### **Optional Activities**

There is a range of activities that you can choose to participate in that are not included as part of your tour or in the activity package. The pricing indicated in the table below can help you budget for your tour.

Every traveller has different budgets and interests when travelling, as well as weather conditions that may also impact activities available on tour. For that reason, we have kept our itineraries flexible and let you decide on tour with the local experience and knowledge from your guide as to what extra activities you would like to partake in on tour.

### **Please note:**

- Optional activities are operated by lodges and/or trusted 3rd party operators
- Prices subject to change & subject to availability
- Minimum numbers & weather permitting apply on certain activities
- Optional activities are bookable with your guide on tour



Country	Area	Minimum number	Activity	Day: Time Summer/winter	Rate Guideline (Per Person)
South Africa	Panorama Route	Na	Lift and Forest Experience	Day 2: Morning	ZAR 225
South Africa	Panorama Route	Na	Zipline (120m long across gorge)	Day 2: Morning	ZAR 250
South Africa	Panorama Route	Na	Big Swing (70m free fall)	Day 2: Morning	ZAR 550
South Africa	Panorama Route	Na	Combo Big Swing & Zipline	Day 2: Morning	ZAR 650
South Africa	Southern Kruger Park	Min 4	Kruger Safari, Afternoon/Sunset (±3 hours)	Day 2 or 3: Afternoon 16:30 – 19:30pm	*From ZAR 500 – 2 000
South Africa	Southern Kruger Park	Min 4	Kruger Safari, Sunrise/Morning (±3 hours)	Day 4: Early Morning Summer 04:00am Winter 05:00am	*From ZAR 500 – 2 000
South Africa	Southern Kruger Park	Min 4	Kruger Safari, Night Drive (±2 hours)	Day 2 or 3: Late Night 20:00 – 22:00pm	*From ZAR 500 – 2 000
Eswatini	Mlilwane	Na	Horse Riding per hour	Day 5: Morning	ZAR 390
Eswatini	Mlilwane	Na	Mountain Biking per hour Guided	Day 5: Morning	ZAR 215
Eswatini	Mlilwane	Na	Mountain Biking per hour Self-Guided	Day 5: Morning	ZAR 155
Eswatini	Mlilwane	Min 2	Guided Game or Bird Walks (±2½ hours)	Day 5: Morning	*From ZAR 270
Eswatini	Hlane	Min 2	Guided Game or Bird Walks (±2 hours)	Day 5: Afternoon 15:00-17:00am	*From ZAR 270 – 540
Eswatini	Hlane	Min 2	Sunset game drive (±2½ hours)	Day 5: Afternoon 16:00-18:30pm	*From ZAR 455 - 910
Eswatini	Hlane	Min 2	Sunrise game drive (±2½ hours)	Day 6: Early Morning 05:00/06:00am	*From ZAR 455 – 910
Eswatini	Hlane	Min 2	Rhino drive (±1½ hours)	Day 6: Morning 06:00/06:30am	*From ZAR 435 - 870
South Africa	St Lucia - Eastern Shores Isimangaliso wetland park	Min 2	Night Drive Eastern Shores (±3 hours)	Day 6: Late Night 19:00 or 20:00	*From ZAR 600
South Africa	St. Lucia - Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park	Min 2	Half-day Game Drive in Hluhluwe (±6 hours)	Day 7: Early Morning 05:00 – 12:00pm	*From ZAR 1250
South Africa	St Lucia - Eastern Shores Isimangaliso wetland park	Min 2	Sunrise/Sunset Eastern Shores (±3 hours)	Day 7: Morning 05:00am	*From ZAR 600
South Africa	St Lucia	Min 2	Whale and Dolphin Watching (Seasonal June-November, weather dependent)	Day 7: Morning	on request only
South Africa	Southern Drakensberg	Min 2	Sani Pass 4x4 Excursion ±7 hours, <b>Border Crossing</b>	Day 8: Full day	*From ZAR 925
South Africa	Southern Drakensberg	Min 2	Hiking to San Rock Art with Guide (6-8 hours)	Day 8: Full day	*From ZAR 950
South Africa	Southern Drakensberg	Min 2	Drakensberg Horse Rides 1, 2 and 3 hours Full Day and Sunset Rides	Day 8: Varying	*From ZAR 290
South Africa	Southern Drakensberg	Min 2	Extended Sani Pass and Lesotho Tour ±10 hours	Day 8: Full day	*From ZAR 1 500
South Africa	Southern Drakensberg	Min 2	Sani Pass Birding Tour ±11 hours	Day 8: Full day	*From ZAR 1 150
South Africa	Southern Drakensberg	Na	Himeville Fort and Museum self-guided	Day 8: Open 09:00-15:00	(Donations accepted)
South Africa	Royal Natal National Park	Na	Various self-guided hikes	Day 10 Morning	Entry Fee ZAR 70
South Africa	Royal Natal National Park	Na	Hike to San Rock Art Site ±1 hours	Day 10 Morning	ZAR 50



Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details:

General Enquiries & Reservations: [info@detourafrica.co.za/](mailto:info@detourafrica.co.za/)

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## Safari Njema – Enjoy your trip!

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Keep posted by following us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We post updates on relevant African travel news, special offers and other interesting travel tips and information.



We are member of SATSA (#1802) so you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected.

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