

NDJ – 7 Day Swaziland & Kruger

Local Payment

There is no LP on this tour.

Countries Visited

South Africa and Swaziland

Vehicle

Overland Truck

Malaria

Prophylactics are not required.

Departure Point

8.00am from Happy Hippo, 222 Point Road, Durban, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0) 31 3687196. www.happy-hippo.info

End Point

The Airport Grand Hotel, 100 North Rand Road, Bardene, Boksburg, RSA. Tel: +27 (0) 11 823 1843
www.legacyhotels.co.za/content.aspx?h=6

What's included

Meals as indicated on the itinerary, accommodation, registered guides, transport and selected activities as per itinerary.

What's excluded

All items of a personal nature, alcohol, snacks, souvenirs, tips and optional activities (see list for an indication of prices).

Health

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies that you may have.

Visas

Please note that these are your responsibility. Some Nationalities require visas for Swaziland. See Pre Departure Booklet for more information.

Climate

The African sun is very strong, please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres

Did you receive your Pre Departure Information Booklet?

If not please contact us at nomad@nomadtours.co.za and we will e-mail you the document; alternatively visit us at our office (1st Floor, Leadership House, 40 Shortmarket St, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town) to collect one. You can also download from our website at www.nomadtours.co.za.

of water per day to avoid dehydration. African winters are cold. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

Currency and Banking

South African Rand is the best currency to use on this route. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information on each country. Travellers Cheques can take a long time to change into cash and often incur unreasonable charges. Credit Cards cannot always be processed – especially in remote areas.

Vaccinations

None required by law, but please see the Pre Departure Information booklet for more information on vaccinations in Africa.

Onward Travel

This tour can be linked to the Okavango Expedition.

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.

Arrival

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any problems such as lost luggage, misplaced bags or any unpredictable problems such as airline strikes or delayed flight arrival.

Departure

Please book your flight to depart the day after the tour officially ends. This is to account for any delays that we may experience due to unpredictable road conditions. Note: All information is subject to change without prior notice. Travel times can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.

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OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Country	Area	Activity	Price Range		
South Africa	Durban	Dinner at local restaurant	R150	to	R300
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Sunset Game Drive 3-Hours	R140	to	R180
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Dawn Game Walk 2 to 3 Hours	R270	to	R300
South Africa	Timbavati	Local Village Tour	R100	to	R150
South Africa	Tsitsikamma NP	Treetop / Canopy Tour	R395	to	R495
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Horse Riding	R100	to	R400
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Mountain Biking	R85	to	R150
South Africa	Johannesburg	Dinner at local restaurant	R150	to	R300

Note:

There are more optional activities being created every day – we have listed only the most popular. If there is something specific you would like to do then speak to your guide as they will be able to assist you.

DAY 1 ISIMANGALISO (GREATER ST LUCIA) WETLAND PARK

We drive up along the KwaZulu Natal coast to the well-known Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. We take a boat cruise on the lagoon and will spend tonight near this amazing wetland. *Optional Activities: Traditional Zulu Village visit.*

Meals:	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Dorms: Bibs International Backpackers www.bibs.co.za
Facilities:	Drinkable water, good ablutions
Included Activity:	Sunset Lagoon Cruise
Route:	Durban to St. Lucia. ±280 km
Travel time:	±4-5 hrs

Greater St Lucia Wetland Park

The St Lucia site consists of thirteen contiguous protected areas with a total size of 234,566 hectares. The site is the largest estuarine system in Africa and includes the southernmost extension of coral reefs on the continent. The site contains a combination of on-going fluvial, marine and aeolian processes that have resulted in a variety of landforms and ecosystems. Features include wide submarine canyons, sandy beaches, forested dune cordon and a mosaic of wetlands, grasslands, forests, lakes and savanna. The variety of morphology as well as major flood and storm events contribute to ongoing evolutionary processes in the area. Natural phenomena include: shifts from low to hyper-saline states in the Park's lakes; large numbers of nesting turtles on the beaches; 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 location between sub-tropical and tropical Africa as well as its coastal setting has resulted in exceptional biodiversity including some 521 bird species. This is a UNESCO World Heritage site and you can learn more at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/914>

DAY 2/3 SWAZILAND – MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Today on our way to Swaziland we take a morning game drive in Hluhluwe/Umfolozi National Park. We enter Swaziland where we will experience some more of Southern Africa's cultural diversity. *Optional Activities: Mountain Biking, Hiking, Horse Riding.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Beehive huts: Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary www.biggameparks.org
Facilities:	Drinkable water, swimming pool, bar, supply shop, restaurant.
Route:	St. Lucia to Mlilwane. ±280km
Travel time:	± 4-5hrs (including a border crossing & game drive)

Border posts:	South Africa: Mananga (Komatipoort), Tel: +27 (0) 13 790 7075, Open: 07h00-18h00
	South Africa: Jeppes Reef (Malelane), Tel: +27 (0) 13 781 0382, Open: 07h00-20h00
	Swaziland, Tel.: Matsamo Tel: +268 678 145, Open: 08h00-16h00

Swaziland

The smallest country in the southern hemisphere, Swaziland has been independent since 1968. It is one of the only three monarchies left in Africa. The King, appointed in accordance with Swazi tradition, is the Executive Head of State. If he is absent, or unable to perform his duties, for any reason, the Queen Mother acts on his behalf.

Swaziland is a small landlocked kingdom, bounded on all sides by South Africa except for roughly 100km of border with Mozambique in the east. Swaziland's natural resources are extremely well managed, and despite the country's size it lays claim to some of the best game reserves and national parks in southern Africa. Elephants, lions and rhinos have been reintroduced after being wiped out.

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

Mlilwane, Swaziland's pioneer conservation area, is a beautiful, secluded sanctuary situated in Swaziland's "Valley of Heaven", the Ezulwini Valley, in between Mbabane and Manzini. With 24-hour access to the Sanctuary, guests are free to enjoy the neighbouring tourist hubs of Ezulwini and Malkerns, with their many unique attractions and craft shops. From the western boundary, the huge Usutu Forest provides a dramatic backdrop stretching into the distant hills.

The Sanctuary covers 4,560 hectares and comprises of a southern and northern section. The southern section is predominately open grassland plains with middleveld vegetation, stretching up onto the striking Nyonyane Mountain with its exposed granite peak known as the "Rock of Execution". Nyonyane is where ancient San once lived and where Swazi Royal graves are situated giving historical significance. Behind these mountains, the stunning Mantenga waterfall and beautiful Usushwana Valley form the divide, before stretching up to northern section, which includes one of the highest surrounding points at Lumphohlo. Tourist activities are concentrated in the southern section, with only guided trails entering the pristine mountains of the north. Mlilwane means Little Fire, being derived from the numerous fires started by lightning strikes on the Mlilwane Hill.

DAY 4 SOUTH AFRICA - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

We return to South Africa and drive to the Kruger NP for two unforgettable days of game viewing. Kruger National Park is home to Africa's Big 5 as well as a multitude of other beautiful African animals, both small and large. *Optional Activities: Night Drive and Dawn Game Walk.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Berg en Dal (Or other SANP site) www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger
Facilities:	Good ablutions, hot showers, bar, shop, mail box, restaurant.
Route:	Mlilwane to Kruger. ±300 km (additional drive to the gate)
Travel time:	±5-6 hrs plus a border crossing

Border posts:	Swaziland: Golela, Tel: +268 (0) 34 435 1070, Open: 07h00-20h00
	South Africa: Bothashoop, Tel: +27 (0) 17 826 0400, Open: 08h00-16h00

Day 5 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Skukuza (Or other SANP site) www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger
Facilities:	Good ablutions, hot showers, bar, shop.
Route:	Game driving through the park for the day

Kruger National Park

On 26 March, 1898, President Paul Kruger signed a proclamation for the founding of a government game park in the Eastern Transvaal, between the Crocodile and the Sabie Rivers, covering an area of about 18 000sq kilometres. This area had attracted most intensive hunting by man which drastically reduced the animal population in the area. Mosquito and Tsetse fly however, prevented human settlement in the area. Traders used the routes through the area, including the well-known trader Juao Albasini. He sent so many porters carrying goods along the path that he created a depot and staging post near Pretoriuskop. The area stayed untouched until after the Anglo-Boer war. At the end of this conflict, the new British administration accepted the idea of a game sanctuary and appointed a warden for what was called Sabie Game reserve.

They appointed Major James Stevenson-Hamilton. He selected as his headquarters what is now named Skukuza, named after the African name the locals gave him (he who sweeps clean). Stevenson-Hamilton was the first to raise the idea that the area should be opened for viewing by the public, instead of the proposed plan of opening it for hunting. Thus, during the winter months of 1923, South African railways introduced a novel tourist service – a round-in-nine tour by train, which included a night transit through the park. This changed to stop in the reserve, where a ranger took guests on a short walk. The name, Kruger National Park, was first used in print on 14 Dec 1925 in a leading article in "Die Burger", a Cape Town morning paper. On 31 May 1926, Mr Piet Grobler moved in Parliament the second reading of the National parks act. There were no dissidents. Under the administration of a board of control, comprising of ten members, the park was launched. The first road in the park was laid down from Sabie Bridge to the Olifants River, the second from Sabie Bridge to Pretoriuskop and the third from Sabie Bridge to Crocodile Bridge. The first three tourist cars entered the park in 1927, using the entrance at Pretoriuskop. Among the passengers was a seven year old, Douglas Jackaman, who was so impressed by what he saw that he later became a camp

manager in the park. No accommodation was provided for the visitor's; they made their own camps in thorn-bush enclosures. Visitors also carried weapons for their protection.

In 1944 a cordon system was introduced between the park and local farms to decrease the impact of foot and mouth disease on the parks wildlife. Stevenson-Hamilton retired through the years of the Second World War, through which time the park was closed. The park was again opened to the public in 1946 under new control. Stevenson-Hamilton, aged 90, died of a stroke on 10 Dec 1957. His ashes and those of his wife Hilda were scattered in the park on 10 April 1979 at an outcrop of granite south of Skukuza. The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. This national park of nearly 2 million hectares, Kruger National Park, is unrivalled in the diversity of its life forms and a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques and policies. Approximately 145 mammal species can be found in the park. Kruger has a list of almost 500 bird species, some of which are not to be found elsewhere in South Africa. There are 336 tree species in the park.

DAY 6 WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTRE

With our minds full of memories of the most famous nature conservation area in the world, we leave the Park. En route to tonight's camp we visit a Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Dorms: Timbavati www.timbavatisafarilodge.com
Facilities:	Good ablutions, swimming pool, drinkable water, bar, restaurant, hot showers.
Included Activities:	Visit to Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre: www.moholoholo.co.za
Route:	Kruger Park to Timbavati. ±310 km (excluding game drive)
Travel time:	±3-4 hrs, including the educational visit

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

Moholoholo is nestled in a picturesque setting at the base of the Drakensberg escarpment in the Limpopo Province Lowveld of South Africa. Moholoholo has become a haven for the rehabilitation and care of abandoned, injured and poisoned wildlife.

Wildlife is brought to the centre from all corners of South Africa, and once healthy enough are re-introduced into their natural environments. Those creatures, who cannot be returned to the wild due to the nature and extent of their injuries, are cared for at the centre and are used to educate the many people who visit us each year, both from across South Africa and abroad.

Another important function of the centre is breeding. Moholoholo have successfully bred and released into the wild the endangered Crowned Eagle, Serval and many others. This Centre is a non-profit organization, relying completely on the support of the public

DAY 7 JOHANNESBURG

We will be travelling along the Panorama Route stopping for some breathtaking views at Blyde River Canyon, God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes. The tour ends on arrival in Johannesburg. *Optional Activities: Morning Shangaan Village visit and Dinner Out.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation:	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad
Route:	Timbavati to Johannesburg. ±600 km
Travel time:	±9-10 hrs. (Long Day)

Panorama Route

In 1840, the Voortrekker leader, Hendrik Potgieter, led a party on an exploratory journey to Lourenzo Marques. The women stayed behind on the height near Graskop and most of the men rode off. The time for their return came and passed. The waiting party became despondent. They named the stream on whose banks they were camped, the Treur (sorrow) and set out for home. Potgieter, however, returned safely, overtaking the women as they were fording the river from then on known as the Blyde (joyful). The Blyde River Canyon is one of the most spectacular canyons in Africa and its cliffs rise between 600m-800m from the riverbed. At the 'Three Rondavels viewpoint' (also called 'The Three Sisters') is an unforgettable view of three huge rock spirals rising out of the far wall of the canyon. Their tops appear to have a hut-like rounded roof. Where the Blyde River and the Treur River meet, water erosion has formed one of the most remarkable geological phenomena in the country, known as 'Bourke's Luck Potholes'. Over thousands of years, surreal cylindrical rock sculptures created by whirling water have formed a series of dark pools which contrast artfully with the streaked white and yellow lichen covered rocks. Following the road and the Treur River south, there are further viewpoints; Wonder View, God's Window and the Pinnacle. The Three Rondavels are named after the Swazi Chief - Maripi's wives. From the lowest to the highest, they are Magabolle, Mogoladikwe and Maserote.

Johannesburg

Gold was discovered in March 1886 on the Witwatersrand by George Harrison. Two Commissioners, Johan Rissik and Christiaan Johannes Joubert were sent from Pretoria to inspect this discovery and to assess its profitability. They reported back that it was of enormous long-term economic value. The farms along the line of reef were declared to be public diggings and F.C Eloff, private secretary to the State President, Paul Kruger, sent to find a central site suitable for a town. He found a vacant piece of ground; a Government owned farm named Randjeslaagte. Surveyors were instructed by the government to lay this farm out as a future town. They completed their work on 03 Dec 1886. The name Johannesburg was written for the first time on their plans of streets and stands. Only five days after the completion of the survey the first 986 stands were auctioned for the sum of R13000. The first building to be erected was a corrugated iron hut.

The first burglary in Johannesburg was on 22 Oct 1886, when thieves broke into the liquor store room. The first chief of police of Johannesburg was John McIntosh. The first Church service was in Nov 1886, held in the dining room of the Central hotel. The first couple to get married here was J.P Frost and A.S Oosthuizen, who took the bilingual plunge on 14 Dec 1886. The first death caused by a mining accident took place on the Rands on 04 Dec 1886. A Charles Johnson was hit on the head by a falling stone as he was being hauled up a shaft in a bucket. The first free fight, large enough to be called a riot, on the Rand was on Saturday, 06 Feb. 1887, were the entire Rand police force was put to flight after a tremendous brawl in a canteen in Ferreiras camp. Within 12 months Johannesburg was the second largest town in Transvaal.

Tour Ends

We will drop you off at The Airport Grand www.legacyhotels.co.za/content.aspx?h=6. We suggest you book accommodation here for this evening. If you choose to stay elsewhere you will need to arrange a transfer as the truck cannot drive around Johannesburg dropping people off all afternoon. The Airport Grand is about 5km drive from OR Tambo (Johannesburg) International Airport. If you are flying out the following evening we highly recommend the day tour of Johannesburg city and Soweto as an informative and enjoyable way to spend the day.

TIPPING ON TOUR

Southern Africa: In general tipping in restaurants is generally expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides.

Our guides do work hard, but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. We recommend USD1 (or about R5) per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 3-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 3 envelopes are used and each crew members name written on one. Place what you feel is fair in to each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

THE NOMAD AFRICAN TRUST www.nomadafricantrust.co.za

At Nomad we are passionate about the people, places and wildlife of Africa that make our tours so special. In order to give back we have set up the Nomad African Trust.

By the end of your tour you may have left-over local currency that you will not be able to change outside of its country of origin. Any assistance you could provide to the trust by donating this left over currency by depositing it in the secure box provided on the truck is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help and please join our newsletter at the website above to receive regular updates on what we are doing to support our beneficiaries.



THANK YOU FOR TRAVELLING WITH NOMAD

At the end of your tour you will be provided with feedback forms. These forms are confidential and should be given to your crew in a sealed envelope. If you are not sure of the confidentiality of the feedback form please feel free to email us as well on ops@nomadtours.co.za Please make sure to also complete the feedback form as we use the answers on these forms to improve and maintain our service levels.

Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice, the accommodation listed in this dossier is our preferred supplier, but sometimes due to availability, we are unable to make use of the property listed in this dossier. If we cannot use the accommodation provider as listed we will substitute another property of similar standards, however, en-suite facilities are not always guaranteed.