

## NAJD – 7 Day Kruger & Swaziland

### Local Payment

There is no LP on this tour.

### Countries Visited

South Africa and Swaziland

### Vehicle

Overland Truck

### Malaria

Prophylactics are required for the first leg of the tour.

### Departure Point

8.00am from The Airport Grand Hotel, 100 North Rand Road, Bardene, Boksburg, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0) 11 823 1843 [www.legacyhotels.co.za/content.aspx?h=6](http://www.legacyhotels.co.za/content.aspx?h=6)

### End Point

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

### 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 and South Africa. 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](mailto: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](http://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. ATM's are available in all major towns and cities. There is often a limit on the amount you can draw each day. 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. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

### 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 Accommodated Lesotho & Addo tour or the Lesotho & Garden Route tour.

### 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 forgotten 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 and accommodation providers can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.**

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Country	Area	Activity	Price Range
South Africa	Timbavati	Local Village Tour	R100 to R150
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Dawn Game Walk 2 to 3 Hours	R270 to R300
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Sunset Game Drive 3-Hours	R140 to R180
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Mountain Biking	R85 to R150
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Horse Riding	R100 to R400
South Africa	Durban	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 SOUTH AFRICA – PANORAMA ROUTE

After a short briefing we leave Johannesburg on a scenic drive through Mpumalanga and the breathtaking vistas of the Lowveld. Blyde River Canyon, God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes will be some of today's highlights.

Meals:	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Two per room: Timbavati Lodge <a href="http://www.timbavatisafarilodge.com">www.timbavatisafarilodge.com</a>
Facilities:	En suite, hot showers, swimming pool, drinkable water, bar.
Route:	Johannesburg to Timbavati Lodge. ±600 km
Travel time:	±9-10 hrs, including Panorama route (Long day)

## 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, went to find a central site suitable for a town. He found a vacant piece of ground; a Government owned farm named Randjieslaagte. 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. By the middle 1890's there were 20 separate mining companies working from headquarters in Johannesburg. Dominating Johannesburg at this time was the so-called Randlords- the heads of the principal mining houses. Chief among these were Crown Mines and Rand mines. The second largest company was the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, run by Cecil John Rhodes. The Transvaal government granted Johannesburg municipal status in 1897. The city became almost deserted with the advent of the Anglo Boer war on 11 Oct 1899, as trainloads of refugees fled. Johannesburg was placed under martial law, to protect the existing claims. After the war the labour shortage led to a proposed suggestion to import Chinese labour. The first load of 1055 Chinese labourers arrived in 1904. By 1905 they numbered 46895. In December of 1905 the British liberal party (who just won the national elections) suspended the Chinese recruitment. In July of 1906, Winston Churchill introduced the new Transvaal constitution into the British parliament, noting that Dutch/Britons staying in the province for more than six months could vote. No mention was made of the black population. Women of any colour had no vote either. Johannesburg became a city in 1928. By 1960 it had more than 1 million inhabitants.

The highest building is the J.G Strijdom Tower, completed in 1971, and built as a transmitting terminal. The second highest is the tower erected for South African Broadcasting Corporation. It was named in honour of Albert Hertzog, but today referred to as the Brixton tower, due to the suburb that it's in. Today, Johannesburg is fondly known as Egoli, meaning place of gold.

## 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.

## DAY 2/3 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

We get up early and visit a wildlife rehabilitation centre for an educational experience and then enter the world famous Kruger NP. The next two days are spent exploring the southern Kruger area and we have a good chance of sighting Africa's famed big five. An optional night drive with one of the South African National Park (SANP) rangers is an excellent way to see some of the nocturnal animals. *Optional Activities: SANP Night Drive.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Two per room (2 room per chalet/hut) Skukuza or other SANP site. <a href="http://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger">www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger</a>
Facilities:	En suite, hot showers, bar, shop, laundry, post office, swimming pool.
Included Activities:	Visit to Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre: <a href="http://www.moholoholo.co.za">www.moholoholo.co.za</a>
Route:	Timbavati Lodge to Orpen Gate (KNP). ±30 km (additional drive to wildlife sanctuary)
Travel time:	±3-4 hrs to park gate 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 that 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

## Kruger NP

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. 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 called 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, 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. Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this national park of nearly 2 million hectares is unrivalled in the diversity of its life forms and a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques and policies. Approximately 145 mammal species occur 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 4/5 SWAZILAND - MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Today we leave the Kruger NP and cross the border into Swaziland. We spend the next two nights in the Mlilwane Nature Reserve where we are able to explore the area on foot. We also experience the wonderful Swazi culture when enjoying a display of traditional dancing. *Optional Activities: Mountain Biking, Hiking, Horse Riding and Game Viewing.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Two per Beehive hut: Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary <a href="http://www.biggameparks.org">www.biggameparks.org</a>
Facilities:	En-Suite, hot showers, drinkable water.
Included Activities:	Guided Hiking and Traditional Dancing
Route:	Kruger to Mlilwane. ±300 km (in addition approx 150km in KNP)
Travel time:	±5-6 hrs including border crossing

Border posts:	South Africa: Mananga, Tel +27 (0) 13 793 7075 Open: 07h00-18h00 Swaziland: Mananga, Tel: +268 323 2137, Open: 07h00-18h00
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### Swaziland

The smallest country in the southern hemisphere, Swaziland - independent since 1968 - 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 little, 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. The name Mlilwane (Embers) refers to the glow of the fires on the Mountains. The Reilly family, in the face of apathetic attempts at conservation in the area, converted their farm, Mlilwane, into a wildlife Sanctuary. Poaching was a big problem in the beginning until King Sobhaza II called the nation to Lobamba and arranged for the Reilly's to show a film on wildlife. After the film, the King told the assembly that Mlilwane was a sanctuary for wildlife and under his protection. The sanctuary was opened to the public in 1969.

## DAY 6/7 SOUTH AFRICA – ISIMANGALISO (GREATER ST LUCIA) WETLAND PARK / DURBAN

We leave Swaziland and re-enter South Africa to drive down to the warm Indian Ocean coast. We spend the afternoon exploring the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park and take an afternoon sunset cruise on the lagoon. The following morning we transfer to the Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi Game Reserve for a guided game drive. We enter the coastal city of Durban in the late afternoon. *Optional Activities: Dinner and night out in Durban.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Two per Room in shared apartment. Lake St. Lucia Villas <a href="http://www.lakestlucivillas.com">www.lakestlucivillas.com</a>
Facilities:	En-Suite, Hot Showers, swimming pool.
Included Activities:	St.Lucia Lagoon Boat Cruise <a href="http://www.isimangaliso.com">www.isimangaliso.com</a> (website under construction)
Route:	Mlilwane to St. Lucia ±280 km
Travel time:	±4-5 hrs including border crossing

Border posts:	Swaziland: Golela, Tel: 034 4351070, Open: 07h00-20h00 South Africa: Bothashoop, Tel: 0178260400, Open: 08h00-16h00
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### iSimangaliso / Greater St Lucia Wetland Park

The iSimangaliso / Greater St Lucia Wetland Park was declared as South Africa's first Natural World Heritage Site by UNESCO protocol. This created the most ecologically and historically diverse Park in Southern Africa, home not only to the natural features, but to a number of Nguni tribes. Traditionally the park has been zoned into five ecosystems, however they are so intertwined that it takes several days to understand this incredible labyrinth of nature, history and culture.

This park is situated on the Southern extension of the African Coastline and is warmed by the Western Indian Ocean waters. A massive tropical current, seductively bathes the sandy shore. These waters are kept unusually warm by the Agullas current, a current seasonally driven by strong Madagascan winds. The water temperature reaches a comfortable 31 degrees Celsius. These waters are home to tropical reefs graced by hundreds of fish species, turtles and dolphin all year round with a large migratory population of whales making an appearance in winter.

## DAY 7 DURBAN

Meals:	Breakfast
Accommodation:	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad
Included Activities:	3hr Morning game drive in Hluhluwe - Umfolozi NP <a href="http://www.kznparks.com/accommodation/kwazulunatal_imfolozi.htm">www.kznparks.com/accommodation/kwazulunatal_imfolozi.htm</a>
Route:	St. Lucia to Durban. ±280 km
Travel time:	±4-5 hrs

## Hluhluwe - Umfolozi Park

Hluhluwe - Umfolozi Park is the oldest game reserve in Africa proclaimed in 1895. It was the exclusive hunting preserve of the Zulu kings who protected the area by proclaiming conservation laws long before any formal protection. The game pits in which animals were trapped can still be seen today. Game viewing is the prime attraction. Viewing hides overlook pans and waterholes enabling visitors to see animals at close range.

As the home of "Operation Rhino" in the 1950s and 60s, the Park became world renowned for its White Rhino conservation. Other areas of focus for which it is famed include its wilderness trails which originated in Umfolozi in the 1950s and its renowned Game Capture unit recently upgraded into the Centenary Capture Centre which is a bench mark for animal capture and sustainable utilization in Africa.

Hluhluwe - Umfolozi covers some 96 000 ha and an immense diversity of fauna and flora occurs in this region. Umfolozi, the southern component of the park lies west of the town of Mtubatuba. The region is generally hot in summer, and mild to cool in winter, although cold spells do occur.

Larger mammals to be seen include buffalo, blue wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, elephant, and large numbers of impala, waterbuck, common and mountain reedbuck, nyala, kudu, bushbuck, steenbuck, duiker, warthog, black rhino, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and jackal. In excess of 300 species of birds have been recorded.

## Durban

Durban is the metropolitan area comprising of Durban, Pinetown, Inanda and Umlazi, with close to two million people living here. The first European settlers were mostly survivors of shipwrecks, in search of rescue, one of these survivors, Rodrigo Tristaa, survived a wreck in 1552 of the Portuguese galleon Saint John, and was the first to make his home here. Vasco Da Gama had applied the name Natal (nativity) to this stretch of coast (first seen on Christmas day 1497). The entrance to the bay was known as Rio de Natal (river of the nativity). The Zulu nation's formation provided wealth for a trade market in this area. The merchants set up a harbour where the base of trade with Zulus could be formed. Durban was thus created by a population of 26 hard-living traders and ivory hunters. It was named on 23 June 1835, after the governor of the Cape, Sir Benjamin D'Urban.

## Tour Ends

This tour ends today at Happy Hippo Lodge. [www.happy-hippo.info](http://www.happy-hippo.info); you can book an additional night here. You need to pre book this accommodation through your travel agent or Nomad.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.*