

DOSSIER: NJJ – 4 DAY KRUGER PARK TOUR

Local Payment

There is no Local Payment on this tour.

Countries Visited

South Africa

Vehicle

Overland Truck

Malaria

Malaria prophylactics are required.

Departure Point

8:00am from The Airport Grand Hotel, 100 North Rand Road, Bardene, Boksburg, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0) 11 823 1843 1843. www.legacyhotels.co.za/content.aspx?h=6

End Point

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

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. 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 of water per day to avoid dehydration. It gets very cold in this region during winter months. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

Currency and Banking

South African Rand is best on this tour. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information on other countries. 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 in South Africa. Please see the Pre Departure Information booklet for detailed information on vaccinations in Africa.

Onward Travel

This extension can be linked to the Cape to Victoria Falls before the Kruger tour and the Mozambique Explorer afterwards.

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 can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES ON THIS ROUTE

Country	Area	Activity	Price Range
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Sunset Game Drive 3-Hours	R130 to R250
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Dawn Game Walk 2 to 3 Hours	R200 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 (if it is possible...)

Please note that due to the seasonal fluctuations of the Kruger National Park we cannot guarantee that we will stay at the places indicated in this itinerary – we will follow the game in order to give you the best viewing experience.

DAY 1 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Leaving behind Johannesburg, the city of gold, we head through the province of Mpumalanga to the world famous Kruger National Park. The next two days are spent exploring the southern part of this vast reserve and we stand a good chance of sighting elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo, Africa's famed "Big Five", on our game drives in the truck. *Optional activities: Evening game drive.*

Meals:	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Berg en Dal or other SANP camp www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/
Facilities:	Good ablutions, swimming pool (in some camps), drinkable water, restaurant, hot showers.
Route:	Johannesburg to Kruger National park. ±420 km
Travel time:	± 8-10 hrs

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 did use 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 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.

DAY 2 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Our game drives continue and an early start usually rewards us with some great sightings. Keep your eyes open for the diverse bird life and some of the more elusive animals. An optional night drive with one of the South African National Park rangers is an excellent way to see some of the nocturnal animals. *Optional Activities: Night game drives and morning walk with park ranger*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Skukuza or other SANP camp www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/
Facilities:	Good ablutions, hot showers, shop, restaurant.
Route:	Depending on bookings, we'll leave the Skukuza area and drive north through the park towards Satara
Travel time:	We will be game driving through the park for the duration of the day

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, 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 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.

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DAY 3 TRADITIONAL CULTURAL VILLAGE

After a morning game drive in the truck or an optional game walk, we leave the Kruger NP and head for Timbavati. In the afternoon we visit a Shangaan village, and then make our way to a wildlife concession area adjacent to the KNP. This evening we experience an evening game drive. Tonight's game drive allows us another opportunity to view the mysterious nocturnal creatures that inhabit the African bushveld. *Optional activities: Morning walk with park ranger.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Dorms: Timbavati Lodge www.timbavatisafarilodge.com
Facilities:	Good ablutions, hot showers, bar, and swimming pool.
Route:	Orpen Gate (KNP) to Timbavati. ±60 km
Activities	Afternoon Game Drive
Travel time:	± 1 hour to park gate, 3 more hours until campsite

The Shangaan

King Shaka of the Zulus sent Soshangana (Manukosi) to conquer the Tsonga people in the area of present-day Mozambique. Soshangana found a fertile place inhabited by scattered communities of peace-loving people, and he decided to make it his home rather than return to Shaka.

He imposed Shaka's military system of dominion and taught the people the Zulu ways of fighting, and made them wear skins and ostrich feathers on their heads. He did not change the style of architecture, the round huts with their patterned thatch roofs, because they were beautiful. Soshangana gave his name to the Shangaan people. During the evening festival, the song "Ndwandwe" refers to his colloquial name and pays homage to him.

Life however was not all peaceful for the new nation. Shaka was angry and sent troops to attack Soshangana, but they too did not return. Internal quarrels led to the Shangaan people dispersing as far north as the Congo. Soshangana fought the Portuguese in 1833 and 1834. When he died in 1858 no-one was told about his death for a year, and when word got out there was a great struggle for power between his two sons. This became a six year war, and eventually Muzila defeated his brother on the Sabi River in 1862. By this stage, there was much trade with the Portuguese colonialists and many had opened shops in the interior.

Shangaan men went to work on the gold mines of Johannesburg to earn money. They maintained their traditions and their high standard of dancing made them famous on the reef. Muzila's son, Nghunghunyana, took over when he died in 1884, and is remembered by present-day Shangaans as their best-loved leader and their last true chief. He fought against the Portuguese colonialists, and was taken captive. He arranged for his family to be freed, but he remained hostage and died. Today, the Shangaans live in areas mainly between the Kruger National Park and the Drakensberg mountains, in South Africa's Mpumalanga and Northern Province. Their sister tribe, the Tsongas, inhabit most of southern Mozambique. Shangaan Cultural Village celebrates the cultural heritage of all these peoples.

DAY 4 PANORAMA ROUTE – JHB

We complete our Kruger Park experience with an early morning game walk, before heading back towards Johannesburg. We will be travelling the Panorama Route through some spectacular scenery. Blyde River Canyon, the 3rd largest canyon in the world, offers breathtaking view points, including God's Window and three Rondavels. The Bourke's Luck Potholes are the fascinating results of erosion caused by the River. Tour ends on arrival in Johannesburg. *Optional Activities: Dinner in a local Restaurant.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation:	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through AFTours
Route:	Kruger National Park to Johannesburg. ±600 km
Activities	Morning Game Walk
Travel time:	± 9-10 hrs, including the Panorama route (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, was sent 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, where 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 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 is in. Today, Johannesburg is fondly known as Egoli, or place of gold.

Tour Ends

We will drop you off at The Airport Grand Hotel 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.

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 ADVENTURE FANTASY TOURS (AFTours)

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 admin@overlandtravel.com 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.