

BUSH BEACH FOREST AND LAKES FLYING ADVENTURE



HIGHLIGHTS

This high quality luxury flying safari is wonderful way to experience some of South Africa's most interesting area's whilst enjoying a varied range of activities, including day and night game drives in 4x4 safari vehicles, guided game walking with the opportunity for overnight "sleep outs" by a waterhole.

After your Safari you will fly to Kosi Bay Nature Reserve in the Isimangaliso Wetland Park which is a World Heritage Site here you will enjoy a mixture of Drives, Boat trips and Guided canoe trips.

You will finish your exciting holiday in South Africa at Thonga Beach Lodge also in the Isimangaliso at Mabibi Bay, here you can snorkel with Manta Rays and Turtles and the scuba diving on the virgin reefs is outstanding with the chance of seeing Whale Sharks and dolphins. Other activities include cultural tours, Kayaking and Seasonal Turtle walks.

Day 1

You will be met off your flight at Oliver Tambo International Airport and transferred to Benoni Airport for your flight to Skukuza in the Southern Kruger National Park. You will be met off the flight and transferred to Rhino Walking Safaris–Rhino Post.

Rhino Walking Safaris is situated on a 12000–hectare private concession in the Kruger National Park. The concession shares a 15km boundary with Mala Mala in the Sabi Sands Game Reserve, with game moving freely between the two reserves and comprises of environmentally sensitive areas with huge diversity of both fauna and flora. Rhino Walking Safaris includes both Rhino Post Safari Lodge, Plains Camp and Sleep Outs – the itinerary at Rhino Walking Safaris will depend on the days of arrival at the lodges. Sleep Outs can only be confirmed on booking.

Rhino Post Safari Lodge is built on the banks of the dry Mutlumuvi riverbed using natural materials of stone, wood, thatch & canvas. Stilts raise the 8 spaciouly appointed suites along the riverbank, allowing views of the Mutlumuvi riverbed from your bedroom, bathroom and private deck. The suites are set out in an open plan style with wooden floors, thatched roofs, canvas walls and glass doors and windows. Each en suite

bathroom includes a deep, freestanding bath, 'his & hers' basins, a separate toilet and an outdoor shower surrounded by thick reed poles. The raised walkways linking the spacious rooms to the main area, allows wildlife to walk through underneath, undisturbed by mankind.

On arrival at Rhino Post Safari Lodge, after a refreshing drink and a brief introduction to the lodge, you will be escorted to your room. After settling into your suite, guests are invited down to the lounge, overlooking the water hole to enjoy a scrumptious high tea before departing for an afternoon / evening game drive.

Game-drive safaris at Rhino Post Safari Lodge are conducted in specially adapted open 4x4 Land cruisers, with professional guides. In addition to our private wilderness concession, we make use of the Kruger Public Roads and also have exclusive use of some of the Kruger Park public roads at night. Rhino Walking Safaris are allowed to utilise certain public roads for night / evening drives well after gate closing times.

At sunset the game drive will stop for sun downer drinks while watching an African sunset before continuing into the night, spotting nocturnal animals. Returning to the lodge in time to freshen up, enjoy a drink before a sumptuous dinner on the deck as you recount the day's events, all the while accompanied by the night sounds of the bush.

<http://www.isibindiafrica.co.za/rhino-post/index.htm>

Day 3

After enjoying your final game drive at Rhino Post and a delicious brunch, the lodge will transfer guests through to Plains Camp in an open 4x4 game vehicle on a game drive transfer.

Plains Camp is situated in the heart of the wilderness concession overlooking the spectacular Timbitene Plain & waterhole. Built in authentic pioneer tradition, it has the serenity of a 19th century naturalists rest, nestled in an Acacia Knobthorn thicket. Plains Camp offers 4 comfortably furnished African explorer style tents, with en suite & hot running water and the African Wilderness right on your doorstep in an internationally renowned "*Big Five*" area.

After settling into your tent and exploring the camp, high tea is served followed by a brief on the 'do's & don'ts' of bush walking by your guide. Rhino Walking Safari guides meet the stringent requirements of the South African National Parks and senior guides hold the highest guiding qualification possible in South Africa. After the brief, you will depart with your 2 armed guides for an introductory walk, returning to the vehicle in time for sundowners and enjoying a short night drive before returning to camp.

Day 4:

After an early morning wake-up, fresh coffee, tea and rusks (a South Africa tradition!), everybody departs with the guides for the next safari walk. Nothing is predictable in the bush; therefore each safari offers a potentially new experience. Our guides will share their wealth of "bush culture" – the identification of animals, trees, grasses, insects, birds, the medicinal uses of plants, local folk lore and basic tracking & survival skills.



All walking trails are enjoyed in the early morning and late afternoon to avoid the midday heat, with the average duration of the morning walk being between 3 and 4 hours. The Guide will structure the trail taking into account the fitness level of the group and any special requests. After a light snack on the walk, you will be served a well deserved brunch on your return to the camp. Relax during the heat of the day, enjoying our small Africana book collection or the plunge pool overlooking the plain, which is often host to zebra, buffalo, giraffe, elephant, rhino and lion.

The afternoon safari activity is a short drive in the game vehicle to a specific location, after which you will depart on foot again for your trail. Upon returning to the vehicle, you will enjoy sundowners before returning to camp. Back at camp you will enjoy a sumptuous dinner, all the while accompanied by the night sounds of the African bush.

However, if you want to enjoy the ultimate outdoor overnight experience, then the Sleep outs are not to be missed. Leaving Plains Camp in the late afternoon for an 1 ½ hour walk led by the guides you will arrive at the platforms in the early evening, carrying only a lightweight rucksack containing a change of clothes and refreshments. The platforms are elevated about 4 metres above the ground and after choosing your platform; you can sip sundowners overlooking the waterhole as the guide starts the fire and prepares dinner. The rumbles of the elephant passing by, or the roar of the lion at the nearby waterhole, are some of the noises that might disturb guests in this peaceful wilderness. This is the only place in the Kruger National Park offering this unusual accommodation.

<http://www.isibindiafrica.co.za/rhino-walking/index.htm>



Day 5 & 6

After your final morning walk you will return to Plains Camp for a hearty brunch & shower before packing up and being transferred back to the luxurious Rhino Post Safari Lodge for your final check out. You will transfer back to Skukuza by road where you will board your charter flight to Isimangaliso (Formerly St Lucia Wetlands)

On arrival in Mazengwenya you will be met and transferred to Kosi Bay and your base for the next two nights at Kosi Forest Lodge where you will be shown your bush suite and given time to unpack and relax before dinner.

Kosi Forest Lodge is situated in the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve. This 16-bed wilderness lodge offers the unique opportunity of exploring a pristine wetland environment by vehicle, guided canoes and boats.

When you awake in the morning at Kosi, the suites are surrounded by beautiful trees which are a haven for a prolific bird life. You will be welcomed by a flask of boiling water and the weather report for the day – so you can decide where you want to explore that day over a hearty breakfast.



The highlight for many at Kosi Forest Lodge is the canoe trip on the Kosi Lakes. The best time for this activity is in the early morning and lasts for approximately 2 hours. Guides escort you by canoe along the Sihadla channel where the bird life is very rewarding and the scenery peaceful and breathtaking.

You will return for a delicious lunch and a siesta before embarking on your afternoon activity.

On the afternoon you can enjoy a walk through magnificent Raffia Palms – the tallest in the world and home to the palm nut vultures and Pel's Fishing Owl

When you return from your afternoon activity you will have time to freshen up before coming through to enjoy a delicious meal on either the main deck or in the Boma. The lodge is charming and as it is not on mains electricity, the pathways and eating venues are lit by lanterns and create a warm atmosphere to enjoy the sounds of the night.

The Kosi Lakes are a series of interconnected lakes which stretch over some 18km. The best way to see the system is by boat. The full day excursion leaves shortly after breakfast and travels through the lake system and estuarine waterways. The guides stop along the way and explain the traditional fishing trips and the traditions the Tsonga community have to live in balance with the lake system. A picnic lunch is served once you reach the end of the lakes and then you visit Bhangane beach for a swim.

Kosi Forest Lodge guests are accommodated in thatched bedrooms, on raised wooden decks, hidden in the sand forest. There is no electricity, but that's part of the charm! All beds have mosquito nets. The unique open-air, reed enclosed bathrooms with the bath and shower sunk into white forest sand, has been noted by many guests as one of the highlights of their stay.

<http://www.isibindiafrica.co.za/kfl/>

Day 7

After breakfast and morning activity guests will check out of Kosi Forest Lodge and travel by road through to Thonga Beach Lodge.

On arrival guests will be shown their room and given time to unpack and relax before coming through to some enjoy an afternoon activity. After enjoying one of the many activities hosted at Thonga you will have time to freshen up before coming through for a delicious meal under the stars.

Day 8:

Thonga Beach Lodge is set on the secluded Mabibi Bay, in the heart of the Isimangaliso Wetland Park, an internationally recognized World Heritage Site. With direct access onto the pristine shores of the Maputaland coast, this luxury lodge is the ideal place to discover one of the last unspoilt and undeveloped wilderness beaches left on the African continent. Mabibi is a magical place of tranquil swimming bays and snorkelling reefs, coastal forests, grasslands, bush, shimmering lakes and exquisite sandy beaches. It's clear, warm waters offer superb snorkelling and fantastic offshore scuba diving.

The 12 suites are Robinson Crusoe-chic! Thatched en-suite rooms have been carefully constructed in the coastal dune forest to ensure minimum impact on the environment and maximum guest privacy. Each room has a double vanity, stone bath, indoor/outdoor shower, bar fridge, air-conditioning, ceiling fan & mosquito net.

The lodge serves breakfast, lunch & dinner on the deck in the shade of the forest. Sundowners can be enjoyed in the bar lounge or the cool deck under the Coastal Milkwood trees.

Activities at Thonga Beach Lodge include scuba diving, Open Ocean experiences, kayaking and sundowners at Lake Sibaya, guided snorkelling, seasonal turtle drives/walks, Tsonga Cultural tours and forest walks. Whether a walker or a diver, there are a wealth of activities to explore this beautiful hideaway, or maybe simply relax with a Sea Spa treatment or on the beach deck.



Scuba diving at Mabibi is phenomenal. The professional lodge diving team can accommodate enthusiasts, from the beginner to the veteran. For those who don't dive, there is an Open Ocean Experience. An exciting launch through the surf in front of the

lodge takes guests beyond the breakers to a world of dolphins, whales and snorkelling. The warm Indian Ocean supports a myriad of fish and marine life. Guests can sometimes swim with dolphins or whale sharks, or snorkel with Manta rays and giant turtles.



In Summer there are nocturnal walks and drives along the beach in search of pre-historic turtles laying their eggs. Witness the culmination of an incredible journey as giant Leatherback and Loggerhead turtles come ashore to lay their eggs in carefully prepared nests. Turtle tracking is offered in the evening from November to end-February (for the laying from Nov to Jan and hatchlings from end Dec to end February.) Every precaution is taken to ensure these magnificent creatures are not disturbed during the laying process and data collected from the turtle drives are submitted to the Ezemvelo Turtle Monitoring program.

<http://www.isibindiafrica.co.za/mabibi/index.htm>

Day 9:

After breakfast you will check out of Thonga and be returned to the airstrip where you will connect with your return light aircraft charter flight to Johannesburg.

TOTAL PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON TWO PEOPLE SHARING A ROOM ON A JOHANNESBURG TO JOHANNESBURG BASIS £2645

What's included:

All transfers to and from Oliver Tambo International airport.
Internal Light Aircraft charters
Full board accommodation at all properties
Beverages including locally branded alcoholic and soft drinks (At Plains Camp Only)
Game Drives, Guided Walks, "sleep outs" at Safari lodges
Canoeing on Lake, Forest walk, sundowner excursion at Kosi Forest
Use of Snorkelling equipment, guided walks, Cultural Tours, Kayaking and Nightly Turtle walks in season at Thonga.

What's not included:

Visa fees (not required by UK citizens for South Africa at present)
Alcoholic and Soft drinks (Rhino Post, Kosi Forest Lodge, Thonga Beach Lodge)
Extra Activities at Kosi, including full day boat trips.
Extra Activities at Thonga Beach Lodge, Scuba Diving, Spa treatments, Dive equipment hire, turtle tracking by vehicle, spa treatments
Tips and gratuities for guides and camp staff
Purchases of a personal nature
Park fees per stay (Approx ZAR90 pp in Kruger and ZAR 28 pp in Thonga payable locally)

Wildlife Sightings

Africa's wildlife is free ranging and moves according to seasonal availability of food and water therefore no sighting is guaranteed. The following species can be found in the areas visited on this safari and guests can expect to see many of them.

Elephant, Giraffe, Black Rhino, White Rhino, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Wild Dog, Spotted Hyena, Jackal, African Wildcat, Serval, Caracal, Civet, Chacma baboon, Vervet Monkey, Bush Baby, Genet, Mongoose, Porcupine, Aardvark, Pangolin, Wart Hog, Bush Pig, Cape

Buffalo, Zebra, Wildebeest, Sable Antelope, Roan Antelope, Impala, Bushbuck, Eland, Duiker, Tsessebe, Waterbuck, Steenbok, Greater Kudu, Nyala, Hippopotamus, Crocodile, Monitor Lizard, Ostrich, Scrub Hare, Bat Eared Fox. Also many bird and reptile species.

You will also have a possibility of seeing Whale Sharks, Dolphins and Turtles at Isimangaliso

When to go:

High quality guiding and a good network of roads mean this Safari can be enjoyed at any time of year. The best game viewing is in the dry season months from May to October when the grass is shorter the bush thinner and animals are concentrated around permanent water sources. Gets cold at night from June to August but the days are generally warm and sunny. The Weather can be very warm in October and November in Kruger National Park.

At the coast the weather is reliably warm throughout the year with most of the rain falling in the summer months.

Who should go:

Perfect for a first safari or first time visitors to South Africa, a wonderful trip for that once in a lifetime experience or special occasion. This safari is particularly suitable for guests who like to be active on holiday as there is a very wide range of activities on offer. This Safari adventure can be a stand alone holiday or can be combined with a visit to other parts of Africa including the Garden Route, Zulu Battlefields or Cape Town. This holiday can also complement a beach extension to Mauritius.

We Say:

"Bush, Beach, Forest and Lakes" is a very high quality "big five" safari at a much lower price than a similar standard of safari elsewhere in Africa. This safari is a great opportunity to see the "big five" as well as all of Africa's large predators. Why not combine your safari with a week self drive tour of Cape Town and the Winelands or the Garden Route.



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Safari Club Ltd • The Old Post Office • The Green • Wingrave • Buckinghamshire • HP22 4PD

Tel: +44 845 0545 889 • Fax: +44 560 0752 031 • Web: www.safari-club.co.uk

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