

SAFARI AND BEACH HONEYMOON



HIGHLIGHTS

This high quality luxury flying safari is wonderful way to experience two 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 and guided game walks.

After your Safari you will fly to 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–Plains Camp.

After settling in to your tent and exploring the camp you will have a brief introductory talk from your highly trained guide and high tea. After the briefing you will have an introductory walk returning to your vehicle in time for sundowners and a short night drive before returning to camp for dinner.

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.

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.

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

Day 2

After an early morning wake-up, fresh coffee, tea and rusks, (a South Africa tradition!) everybody departs for the 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 to take account of the fitness level of the group and any special requests.

On return to camp, you will be served a well deserved brunch. During the heat of the day, you will have a chance to relax or take a dip in 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 another location, after which you will depart on foot again for your walk. 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.

Day 3

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.

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 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. The raised walkways linking the spacious rooms to the main area, allows wildlife to walk through underneath, undisturbed.

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. At sunset the game drive will stop for sun downer drinks while watching an African sunset before continuing into the night, returning to the lodge in time to freshen up before enjoying a sumptuous dinner.

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

Day 4

After your final morning game activity 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 met and transferred to Mabibi Bay and Thonga Beach Lodge which is only accessible in a 4 x 4 vehicle.

Thonga Beach Lodge is the ultimate honeymoon destination – long deserted beaches to stroll on, tropical coastal forests to explore, warm clear waters to snorkel in and an exciting marine life to be introduced to.

Day 5 & 6

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 7:

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 £2539

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
Use of Snorkelling equipment, guided walks, Cultural Tours, Kayaking and Nightly Turtle walks in season at Thonga.

Plus Honeymoon upgrade

Sparkling Wine on Arrival
Romantic Private Dinners at Rhino Post and Thonga
Private Dune Picnic
Aromatherapy Bath at Thonga
Wedding Gift

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:

This Safari is aimed at Honeymooners who would like to combine a few days safari in the African Bush with a romantic beach stay. This safari is particularly suitable for honeymooners 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 South Africa including the Garden Route, Zulu Battlefields or Cape Town. This holiday can also complement a beach extension to Mauritius.

We Say:

"Safari and Beach Honeymoon" 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. Thonga Beach Lodge complements this safari perfectly and provides a perfect romantic ending to this exciting safari. Why not combine your safari with a week self drive tour of Cape Town and the Winelands or the Garden Route.



www.safari-club.co.uk

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