

TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



7 DAY RANGER EXPERIENCE - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK A SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

Travel with a Purpose – be a ranger for a week while experiencing the magic of the northern Kruger National Park and explore the basics of typical ranger training including practical bush cooking and bush survival strategy. This is a small group journey with a maximum of just 8 guests with selected departure dates through 2022.

- Stargazing
- Animal tracking
- Bush sleep-out in the Kruger National Park Acquire survival skills
- Practical bush cooking
- 'Big 5' game viewing



Day One | Saturday

JOHANNESBURG to HOEDSPRUIT AREA via DULLSTROOM (±470km)

On arrival into O R Tambo International Airport make your way to passport control and pick up your luggage and transfer to the domestic terminals for your light aircraft flight to Hoedspruit. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the lodge for one night.

Alternatively, we can arrange for a road transfer via Dullstroom - South Africa's premier fly-fishing destination – please ask!

Overnight at Timbavati Safari Lodge or similar – Dinner and breakfast.

Day Two | Sunday

HOEDSPRUIT to MAKULEKE CONCESSION (±240km)

Enjoy breakfast at the lodge before transferring to the Kruger National Park's Pafuri Gate in the north-eastern corner of the Limpopo Province. A representative will meet and transfer you from Pafuri Gate to the Makuleke Camp in time for lunch at Makuleke Camp.

After lunch you will attend a safety briefing and an orientation of the camp including an introduction to the camp staff and an overview of this experience. Meals are served at the camp and each day's activities are divided into three sessions. You have leisure time to settle in before the afternoon's practical activity either on a game drive or a bush walk.

Overnight at Makuleke Camp – Dinner, lunch, breakfast, and activities.



Day Three | Monday

MAKULEKE CONCESSION - Basic ecology and geology

This morning board a vehicle for a game drive or join a guided bush walk. The focus of the morning activity is on basic ecology and geology. Around noon there will be an interactive discussion with the instructor on geology and soils; weather and atmosphere; food web and energy flow; and habitat ecology and

conservation. The Makuleke Concession of the 'Pafuri Triangle' is created by the intersection of the Limpopo and Luvuvhu Rivers. The Limpopo, a dying river, is estimated to be more than 65 million years old. The Luvuvhu, a young river, has carved its way through the region's sandstone to form Lanner Gorge and although thought to be younger than 2 million years old, it's an important feature in the Makuleke Concession. The landscape is ancient and is thought to date back more than 250 million years.

In the afternoon you will enjoy a game drive or join a guided bush walk. Apart from elephant and buffalo you may see nyala, eland and Sharpe's grysbok - not commonly seen elsewhere in Kruger National Park. Guides will illustrate the theory discussed earlier in practical learning whilst out in the field and you are encouraged to apply these skills in an informal Q&A session whilst out in the field.

Overnight at Makuleke Camp – Dinner, lunch, breakfast, and activities.



Day Four | Tuesday

MAKULEKE CONCESSION - Animal tracks, anti-poaching and sleep-out and astronomy

Today you will walk the trails from camp focusing on animal tracks, a hands-on experience. Participate in an interactive discussion on the theories and practical application of tracking in the African bush which include an introduction to basic tracks and tracking skills. Tracking contributes to key insights on how animals behave and is an art that teaches observation, reasoning, and deduction. Second discussion will cover anti-poaching which consists of two general categories. The first targets the illegal incursions and includes coercive methods to track and catch poachers. The second deals with campaigns and policies to prevent the illegal trafficking of animal products - targeting the supply and demand chains of the trade. The discussion includes basic anti-poaching strategies and logistics out in the field. In the afternoon you will focus on the key points of the day's theory and apply these principles either on a game drive or on a bush walk.

This evening, spend the night in the bush applying basic survival skills including the sourcing of water; preparing a bush fire; practical bush cooking and safety. Understanding energy-output-for-benefit ratio

and making smart decisions. Activities includes astronomy and orientation by understanding the southern hemisphere constellations including the Southern Cross. Survivalists claim that navigation is the key to getting home. On clear nights and on a full moon guests can also apply basic navigation theory and get a directional fix from the moon. Enjoy dinner around the camp fire with storytelling.

Overnight at Makuleke (bush sleep-out) – Dinner, lunch, breakfast, and activities.

Day Five | Wednesday

MAKULEKE CONCESSION - Field observation challenge and birding

This morning you will walk back to camp applying your newly found skills tracking, navigation and orientation skills as well as focusing on the unique bird species that are found in the Northern Kruger National Park and participate in an interactive discussion on birding and identification using bird reference guides. In the afternoon there will be a game drive to an area where you will practice basic birding skills and incorporate general game viewing and enjoy their last sundowner before a special boma dinner at the camp. **Overnight at Makuleke Camp – Dinner, lunch, breakfast, and activities.**



Day Six | Thursday

MAKULEKE CONCESSION to HOEDSPRUIT via KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (±320km)

Today you will board an early transfer from Makuleke and spend the day travelling south through the Kruger National Park. Breakfast packs will be provided, and lunch will be in the Kruger National Park (on your own account). You will exit the park at Phalaborwa Gate arriving at the lodge late afternoon where you will enjoy an open safari for an evening game drive. Dine at the lodge which will be followed by issuing of certificates of participation.

Overnight at Leopards Lair – Dinner, breakfast, and 2 game activities.

Day Seven | Friday

DAY OF DEPARTURE - HOEDSPRUIT

The last day of the Ranger Experience – today you will enjoy an early morning game drive on an open safari vehicle before breakfast at the lodge. From here we recommend extending your safari to experience a

traditional safari lodge or camp in a different Kruger Concession or Reserve for a few nights, or perhaps fly on to Vilanculos in Mozambique for some time on a pristine Indian Ocean beach – please ask!

Alternatively fly, or take the shuttle bus, back to Johannesburg or fly on to Cape Town – there are many extension options!



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