

8 NIGHTS FLY IN AND ROAD TRANSFER

1 night Rhino Post Safari Lodge 2 nights Plains Camp
3 nights Thonga Beach Lodge 2 nights Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge

**KRUGER
NATIONAL
PARK**

**KWAZULU
NATAL**



(The order of accommodation in the Kruger Park may change from that described below, as it is dependent upon the day of arrival)

Guests fly from OR Tambo Airport Johannesburg directly into the Kruger Park to Skukuza Airport. (55 mins flying time) Please note that should the first night be spent at Plains Camp, guests must take the 10h00 flight from Johannesburg to ensure that they arrive at Rhino Post Safari Lodge in time for the 14h00 transfer across to Plains Camp.

On arrival at Skukuza you will be transferred by road to Rhino Post Safari Lodge, 20 minute drive through the Park. Your game viewing begins right now! Ensure to keep a warm jacket and hat/cap on hand for your transfer which may be in an open game-viewing vehicle.

1: Rhino Post Safari Lodge Kruger National Park

Rhino Post Safari Lodge is situated on a 12,000-hectare private concession in the Kruger National Park. It is approximately 10km northeast of Skukuza Rest Camp. 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, previously unexplored, with a huge diversity of both fauna and flora.

The lodge is built on the banks of the dry Mutlumuvi riverbed using natural materials of stone, wood, thatch and 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 designed in an open plan style with wooden floors, thatched roofs, canvas walls and glass fronted doors and windows. Each en-suite bathroom includes a deep, freestanding bath, 'his and hers' basins, a separate toilet and an outdoor shower surrounded by wooden poles.

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

It is advisable to arrive at Rhino Post Safari Lodge in the early afternoon, this will give you ample time to relax in your suite before enjoying a delicious high tea. After high tea you will depart on your first game drive at 16h00. Game drive safaris at Rhino Post are conducted in specially adapted open Land Cruisers, with professional guides.

In addition to the private wilderness concession, they make use of the Kruger public roads. The Kruger National Park has strict gate closing times (before sunset) for their rest camps and access gates. Rhino Post vehicles are however allowed to utilise certain public roads for night drives well after gate closing times. At sunset the game drive will stop for drinks while watching an African sunset, before continuing on into the night, spotting nocturnal animals. The Game drive will return to the lodge in time to freshen up and enjoy a drink before a sumptuous dinner on the deck or in the dining room. You will recount the day's events, all the while accompanied by the night sounds of the bush.

2: Plains Camp (Rhino Walking Safaris) Kruger National Park

After an early morning wake-up and an invigorating cup of fresh coffee or tea with muffins in our lounge, the game drive will begin. Midway through the morning you will stop in the bush for coffee/tea/fruit juice before continuing to look for Africa's finest wildlife. Upon returning to the lodge, enjoy a leisurely brunch and then transfer in open 4x4 game viewing vehicle to Plains Camp at 14h00.

Plains Camp is situated in the heart of the wilderness concession overlooking the spectacular Timbitene Plain and waterhole. Built in authentic pioneer tradition, it has the serenity of a 19th century naturalists rest, nestled in an Acacia Knobthorn thicket. Plains Camp has 4 comfortably furnished African explorer style tents, with en suite bathroom and hot running water and the African Wilderness right on your doorstep. The concession is an environmentally sensitive area previously unexplored, with a huge diversity of both fauna and flora – an ideal setting for wilderness walking safaris in an internationally renowned Big 5 area.

After settling into your tent and exploring the camp, high tea is served followed by a brief on the 'do's and 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.

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3: Plains Camp (Rhino Walking Safaris) Kruger National Park

After an early morning wake-up, fresh coffee, tea and rusks (a South African 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 experience which involves the identification of fauna and flora. The medicinal uses of plants, local folk lore and basic tracking and survival skills are also discussed.

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.

4, 5 & 6: Thonga Beach Lodge iSimangaliso Wetland Park

After your final morning walk you will return to Plains Camp for a hearty brunch and shower before packing up and being transferred back to the luxurious Rhino Post Safari Lodge where you will settle any additional items on your bill and have time to browse in the curio shop for a memento to take home to friends and family.

From Rhino Post Safari Lodge you will be transferred via road to Skukuzi Airport or Malelane Airstrip to board your breath-taking charter flight over Swaziland to Manzengweya Airstrip at Thonga Beach Lodge. Flying time approximately 1hr 15mins. On arrival you will be met by a Thonga staff member who will transfer you in an open 4x4 vehicle a short 25 minute drive to the lodge.

On arrival at Thonga you will be welcomed with a refreshing drink and given a brief orientation of the lodge before being shown to your room. You will have time to settle in before enjoying one of the many exciting activities available at this pristine beach destination.

Thonga Beach Lodge is set on the secluded Mabibi Bay, in the heart of the iSimangaliso (formerly Greater St Lucia) Wetland Park, an internationally recognised World Heritage Site. With direct access onto the unblemished 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. Its crystal clear, warm waters offer superb snorkelling and fantastic offshore SCUBA diving.

The 12 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 shower, bar fridge, air-conditioning, ceiling fan and mosquito net.

The lodge serves breakfast, lunch and 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 you are a walker or a diver, take advantage of the wealth of activities that await you in this beautiful hideaway, or simply relax with a Sea Spa treatment or on the beach deck.

SCUBA diving at Mabibi is phenomenal. Our professional lodge diving team can accommodate enthusiasts, from the beginner to the veteran. For those who don't dive, we have an Open Ocean Experience. An exciting launch through the surf in front of the lodge takes you 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 and snorkel with dolphins, whale sharks, Manta

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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 of February (The laying takes place from Nov to Jan and hatchlings arrive 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 is submitted to the Ezemvelo Turtle Monitoring program.

Dinners at Thonga are enjoyed on the deck under the magnificent sky listening to the sea just metres away.

7: Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park

After enjoying breakfast on the deck you will be transferred in an open 4x4 vehicle to Coastal Cashews Car Park (1 hour drive) to meet your road transfer to Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge. This is a scenic 2.5 hour drive. You will enter Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park either via Memorial Gate in the north or Nyalazi Gate on the eastern boundary. Your safari experience starts now and depending on what animals you spot on the way you could drive through the park between 30mins -1hr before reaching Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge, which is situated on the western boundary in the first private concession within Africa's oldest proclaimed Game Reserve. Rhino Ridge Safari lodge is the only private lodge within the park. With its four star accommodation, guests are offered spectacular scenery and excellent safari opportunities in the heart of Big 5 territory.

On arrival at Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge you will be greeted by a refreshing drink and welcomed by our friendly team who will give you a short orientation of the lodge and its facilities before showing you to your accommodation. After a quick refresh we will be waiting to serve you high tea on the veranda at the main lodge which offers spectacular views over the entire reserve. Here you will meet your guide who will prepare you for your first safari experience, offering some useful pointers about the 'do's and don'ts' of the bush. By now you will be eager to board your safari vehicle to explore the magnificent hills and valleys of the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. At sunset your guide will take you to a special spot to enjoy drinks and snacks where after you will travel

into the dark looking for nocturnal creatures like leopards, owls and jackals. When you get back to the lodge you will be given time to freshen up for dinner and then enjoy superb cuisine either on the dining deck or at the Boma. Sit around the fire late into the night discussing the day's sightings and legendary tales of Africa against a backdrop of a million stars.

8: Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge

After an early morning wake-up, fresh coffee, tea and rusks (a South African tradition!), everybody departs with the guides for an early morning game drive. Be sure to have a jacket and scarf as it can get really chilly on the open 4x4 vehicle. Sunscreen, hats and sunglasses will also be needed for later in the day. Nothing is predictable in the bush; therefore each safari offers a potentially new experience. Our guides will share their wealth of bush experience which involves the identification of animals, trees, grasses, insects and birds. The medicinal uses of plants and local folk lore are also discussed, all the while looking for the ever fascinating Big 5.

When you return to the lodge you will be greeted by an abundant brunch. Now it is time for you to relax and imbibe the natural beauty of Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge. You may wish to spend your day being pampered in our spa, do a few laps at the pool or simply relax in the privacy of your room enjoying the endless views from your private balcony.

Be sure to be back in time for high tea and the evening game drive. Hopefully this time you will spot all those other animals still on your bucket list and be able to return for a well deserved dinner with a great sense of satisfaction at having experienced Africa at its finest.

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9: End of Arrangements

After an early morning game drive you will return for a hearty brunch before bidding Rhino Ridge goodbye and taking your road transfer back to Richards Bay Airport from where you will fly to O.R. Tambo International, Johannesburg.

Includes

Rhino Post Safari Lodge

1 nights' accommodation, brunch, high tea and dinner, teas and coffees, morning and afternoon/night game drives.

Plains Camp

2 nights' accommodation – with optional 1 night Sleep Out, brunch, high tea and dinner, teas and coffees, morning walks and afternoon walk/drive combination, soft drinks, house wine and local beers.

Thonga Beach Lodge

2 nights' Forest View room upgradeable to Ocean View or Deluxe Ocean View, meals, teas and coffees, use of snorkelling equipment, guided walks, cultural tours, kayaking, sundowners at Lake Sibaya and nightly turtle walks (Nov to Feb).

Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge

2 night's accommodation Bush Suite, upgradeable to Bush Villa. All meals, teas and coffees, 2 safari drives per day

Flights

Johannesburg to Skukuza
Skukuza to Manzengwenya (Thonga)
Richards Bay to Johannesburg

Road Transfers

Skukuza to Rhino Post
Rhino Post to Skukuza
Manzengwenya to Thonga
Thonga to Coastal Cashews
Coastal Cashews to Rhino Ridge
Rhino Ridge to Richards Bay Airport

Excludes

Park fees, drinks, laundry, gratuities and items of a personal nature

Rhino Post Safari Lodge

All drinks

Plains Camp

Spirits and premium brand drinks

Thonga Beach Lodge

Spa treatments, scuba diving, Open Ocean experience, dive equipment hire and 4x4 turtle tracking tours. (Nov to Feb)

Rhino Ridge

Spa Treatments and day trips out of the park

Note!

Extra days can be added at any of the lodges and other Isibindi Africa Lodges may be added to this itinerary.

Contact marketing@isibindi.co.za for your tailor made package.

Honeymoon Add On

All packages can be upgraded to a Honeymoon Package (see rates sheet for cost)

Includes

Rhino Post Safari Lodge

Sparkling wine on arrival, private dinner and hand and foot massage

Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge

Sparkling wine on arrival and private bush dinner.

Kosi Forest Lodge

Sparkling wine on arrival, private activity where possible, private dinner and aromatherapy outdoor bath.

Thonga Beach Lodge

Sparkling wine on arrival, private dinner, private dune picnic, back and shoulder massage for both partners and a romantic aromatherapy bath.