

7 NIGHTS BUSH AND BEACH FLY IN SAFARI

2 nights Rhino Post Safari Lodge
3 nights Thonga Beach Lodge

2 nights Plains Camp

**KRUGER
NATIONAL
PARK**

**KWAZULU
NATAL**



Departure from OR Tambo International – Johannesburg via Airlink to Skukuza, Kruger National Park. Flying time 1hr 15 mins. Please note that should the first night be spent at Plains Camp guests must take the earlier flight to ensure that they are at Rhino Post Safari lodge for 14h00 transfer to Plains Camp. On arrival at Skukuza you will be transferred by road to Rhino Post Safari Lodge – 30 minute drive through the Park. Your game viewing begins right now! Ensure you keep a warm jacket and hat/cap on hand as your transfer may be in an open vehicle.

The order of accommodation at Rhino Walking Safaris may change depending on date of arrival.

1 & 2: Rhino Post Safari Lodge Kruger National Park

Rhino Post Safari Lodge is situated in a 12000-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 huge diversity of both fauna and flora. There are 3 different types of accommodation available; Rhino Post Safari Lodge, Plains Camp and Sleep Outs offering 3 totally different and unique experiences.

Rhino Post Safari Lodge is built on the banks of the dry Mutlumuvi riverbed using natural materials of stone, wood, thatch and canvas. Stilts raise the 8 spacious 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. Each en suite bathroom includes a deep, freestanding bath, 'his and 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, allow wildlife to walk underneath, undisturbed by mankind.

On arrival at Rhino Post Safari Lodge you will be greeted with a refreshing drink and given a brief introduction to the lodge after which you will be shown to your room. After settling into your suite, you 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 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 dinner on the deck as you recount the day's events, all the while accompanied by the night sounds of the bush.

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

After enjoying your final morning game drive at Rhino Post and a delicious brunch, the lodge will transfer guests through to Plains Camp in an open 4x4 game vehicle. 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, en suite with 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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4: Plains Camp (Rhino Walking Safaris)

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 animals, trees, grasses, insects and birds. 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 walk 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 walk. Upon returning to the vehicle, you will enjoy sundowners before returning to camp. Back at camp you will enjoy dinner, all the while accompanied by the night sounds of the African bush.

However, if guests want to enjoy the ultimate outdoor overnight experience then the Sleep Outs are not to be missed. Sleep Outs is a giant treehouse with sleeping platforms elevated about 4 metres above the ground, each platform has a tent made of fabric that allows you to gaze at the stars from your sleeping bag waking up to the light of the African dawn. Guests are given a lightweight backpack to carry their clothes for 1 night and then leave for Plains with the guides in the late afternoon for a 1-1.5 hour walk arriving at Sleep Outs in the early evening. Guests enjoy sundowners overlooking the waterhole as the guides start preparing the fire and traditional South African Braai (barbeque). The sounds and senses of the wild at night is an experience unrivalled in the African Bush.

While dinner is being prepared on an open fire, enjoy the sounds and senses of the wild, while being safely guarded by our observant guides. 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 Rhino Post Safari Lodge for your final check out.

You will be transferred by road to Skukuza or Nelspruit Airport to catch your charter flight to Mazengwenya Airstrip. This is a beautiful scenic flight over Kruger, Swaziland and northern Zululand. From here you will be transferred in an open 4x4 to Thonga Beach Lodge. Approximately 25 mins driving time on sand roads.

7: Thonga Beach Lodge

iSimangaliso Wetland Park, KwaZulu Natal

On arrival 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 relax before enjoying afternoon activity or simply laze on the deck after indulging in a decadent afternoon coffee and cake or treating yourself to a pamper session in the Sea Spa. Join us for a drink at the bar before adjourning to dinner under the stars.

8: Thonga Beach Lodge

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 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 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 CUBA diving, Open Ocean experiences, kayaking and sundowners at Lake Sibaya, guided snorkelling, seasonal turtle drives/walks (Nov to Feb), 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 Spa treatment or on the beach deck.

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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 and snorkel with dolphins, whale sharks, 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 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.

9: End of Arrangements

After breakfast you will check out of Thonga and be transferred via 4x4 to Coastal Cashews where you will be met by your transfer vehicle for your journey to Richards Bay Airport for your flight back to OR Tambo International, Johannesburg. Flying time 1hr 45 minutes.

Includes

Rhino Post Safari Lodge

2 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

3 nights' Forest View room (upgradable to Ocean View or Deluxe Ocean View), meals, teas and coffees, use of snorkelling equipment, guided walks, cultural tours, kayaking and sundowners on Lake Sibaya and nightly turtle walks (Nov to Feb). 4x4 transfer from airstrip to lodge

Flights

Johannesburg (OR Tambo) to Skukuza
Skukuza OR Nelspruit to Mazengwenya (Thonga)

Road Transfers

Skukuza to Rhino Post
Rhino Post to Skukuza or Nelspruit Airport
Mazengwenya to Thonga
Thonga to Coastal Cashews
Coastal Cashews to Richards Bay Airport

Excludes

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

Rhino Post Safari Lodge - All drinks

Plains Camp - Spirits and premium brand drinks

Thonga Beach Lodge - All drinks, Spa treatments, scuba diving, Open Ocean experience, dive equipment hire and turtle tracking on 4x4 vehicle in season (Nov to Feb)

Note!

Extra days can be added at either lodge 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 in room massage for both partners.

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