

## 12 NIGHTS - ISIBINDI GRAND TOUR – SELF DRIVE

3 nights Rhino Post Safari Lodge  
2 nights Kosi Forest Lodge  
2 nights Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge

1 night Reilly's Rock  
2 nights Thonga Beach Lodge  
2 nights Isibindi Zulu Lodge

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### 1-3: Rhino Post Safari Lodge Kruger National Park

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.

Rhino Post Safari Lodge is situated on a 12,000-hectare private concession within the world famous Kruger National Park. It lies 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 along 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 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 underneath, undisturbed by mankind.

Game drive safaris at Rhino Post are conducted with professional guides in specially adapted open Land Cruisers. 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 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, enjoy a refreshing drink before a sumptuous dinner on the deck or in the dining room, as you recount the day's events, all the while accompanied by the night sounds of the bush.

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. There is plenty of time afterwards to relax around the pool which overlooks the water hole, catch up on some sleep, read or indulge in an in-room spa treatment.

After high tea you will embark on your afternoon drive stopping at a scenic spot for sundowners and then drive into the night, looking for the elusive nocturnal creatures arriving in time to enjoy dinner back at the lodge.

An optional activity is to spend a half day exploring deeper into the Kruger with your guide and a picnic. This must be pre-arranged and at additional cost. Golf can be arranged at nearby Skukuza Golf Course where you could share your tee with the Big 5!

### 4: Reilly's Rock Swaziland

You will depart Rhino Post after breakfast and drive south through the Kruger crossing into Swaziland. Reilly's Rock is a historic homestead situated on Mlilwane Hill within the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, close to Mbabane. It occupies a commanding position high above the Ezulwini Valley from where you can enjoy breath taking views of the valley and the herds of wildebeest, impala, zebra and blesbok on the Plains. The original stone house, built at the turn of the century in true colonial style from a unique combination of stone and hardwood has 6 rooms. The gardens offer restful, secluded spots for relaxing or quiet reading. It is the ideal place to break your journey, as you travel from the Kruger National Park to Kosi Forest Lodge.

You will take a break here and rest up for the night before continuing your journey onto Kosi Forest Lodge.

### 5 & 6: Kosi Forest Lodge iSimangaliso Wetland Park

After breakfast you will depart Reilly's Rock and continue south through Swaziland and back into South Africa at the southern border post. You will head towards to Jozini and then turn east at Jozini Dam

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and head to the small town of Manguzi. Here you will meet a Kosi Representative who will take you in the 4x4 vehicle to Kosi Forest Lodge. Kosi Forest Lodge is situated in the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve. This 20-bed wilderness lodge offers the unique opportunity of exploring a pristine wetland environment by vehicle, guided canoes and boats. Guests are accommodated in rustic 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. Each room has an indoor shower as well to cater for the less adventurous.

The suites at Kosi are surrounded by beautiful trees, a haven for the prolific bird life which you will wake to. One of our friendly staff will deliver a flask of boiling water and the weather report for the day allowing you to 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 it 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 breath taking. You will return for a scrumptious lunch and a siesta before embarking on your afternoon activity. In the afternoon you can enjoy a walk through magnificent Raffia Palm Forests – the tallest in the world! Home to the Palm Nut Vulture and Pel's Fishing Owl, the area can be explored by birders at their leisure. 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 dining decks are lit by lanterns creating 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 motor boat 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 traps and the traditions of the Tsonga community who live in balance with the lake system. A picnic lunch is served on the banks of the scenic lakeside. After your meal, you will continue on to Bhanga Nek beach where you can enjoy one last swim before heading back to the lodge.

### 7 & 8: Thonga Beach Lodge iSimangaliso Wetland Park

After your morning activity you will leave Kosi and be returned to Manguzi. You will drive south for a further hour and make your way to the Coastal Forest Reserve and the Coastal Cashew Factory where you will leave your vehicle. A Thonga Representative will meet you at the car park and transfer you to the lodge, which takes approximately 1 hour.

On arrival at Thonga you will be shown your suite and 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 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 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.

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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 active launch through the surf in front of the lodge takes you beyond the breakers to a world of dolphins, whales and other creatures. 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 of February. The turtles lay their eggs from November to January. Hatchlings arrive from end December to end of 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: Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park

After enjoying your last breakfast at Thonga you will be transferred back to Coastal Cashews where you will collect your vehicle and continue your journey south towards Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. You may enter 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 your destination. Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge is the only private lodge within the park with its 4 star accommodation, guests are offered spectacular scenery and excellent safari opportunities within 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 and then enjoy dinner on the dining deck or in the restaurant.

### 10: 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 or walk. 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 and unique 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 a hearty 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.

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### 11 & 12: Isibindi Zulu Lodge Battlefields, KwaZulu Natal

It is a full day trip to Isibindi Zulu Lodge so you will need to make an early start to your journey. On arrival at Isibindi Zulu Lodge you will be warmly welcomed by our friendly staff and shown to your Zulu inspired beehive suite overlooking the beautiful Isibindi Eco-Reserve. Take your time to freshen up before being presented with a home cooked meal in the cosy lodge area before retiring to bed after the long journey through the heart of Zululand.

Optional day tours to the surrounding Battlefields Sites of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift or to a Zulu Homestead are available on reservation.

Isibindi Zulu Lodge is situated within the 2,000 hectare Isibindi Eco-Reserve which offers diverse habitats ranging from montagne grassland and valley thornveld to riverine forests. The reserve is home to abundant plains game and a wide variety of bird species making it any birders paradise. Morning and evening game drives are offered. As it is not a big five reserve, it is also safe to walk or take a picnic along one of the meandering river beds, with the possibility of viewing Giraffe, Zebra, Wildebeest and more.

On your second evening at Isibindi Zulu Lodge you will be led down a narrow path to the beat of the drums. As you emerge into a clearing coming across a historical Zulu umuzi (village) the dancing bodies of Zulu children make for a profound experience. The traditional dances and singing and their role in Zulu history and culture is explained, amid the energetic displays. A traditional Zulu dinner will be served in the Boma.

### 12: End of Arrangements

You will enjoy a hearty breakfast before checking out of Isibindi Zulu Lodge and continuing on your journey.

#### **Includes**

##### *Rhino Post Safari Lodge*

3 nights' accommodation, meals, teas and coffees and 2 game drives a day

##### *Reilly's Rock*

1 night accommodation, dinner and breakfast

##### *Kosi Forest Lodge*

2 nights' accommodation, meals – breakfast lunch and dinner, teas and coffees, guided walk in raffia forest, guided canoe trip and 4x4 transfer from pick up point in Manguzi

##### *Thonga Beach Lodge*

2 nights' accommodation in Forest View room, all 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).

##### *Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge*

2 nights' accommodation in Safari Room, all meals, teas and coffees, 2 safari activities per day.

##### *Isibindi Zulu Lodge*

2 nights' accommodation – meals teas and coffees, one game walk or drive a day and Zulu Boma dinner and cultural experience

#### **Excludes**

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

##### *Thonga Beach Lodge*

Spa treatments, scuba diving, Open Ocean experience, dive equipment hire and vehicle driven turtle tracking tours and 4x4 transfer

##### *Kosi Forest Lodge*

Motorized boat trip on Kosi Lakes System and 4x4 day trip to Kosi Bay Mouth. 4x4 vehicle driven turtle tracking tours.

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### **Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge**

Spa Treatments, day trips out of the park and guided safari walks

### **Isibindi Zulu Lodge**

Excursions to Battlefields and surrounding areas

### **Note!**

Extra days can be added at any of the lodges.

Contact [marketing@isibindi.co.za](mailto: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 Ridge Safari Lodge**

Sparkling wine on arrival and private dinner.  
Hand and foot massage for both partners.

#### **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.