

Information and Itinerary



Eswatini and Kruger 13 Nights (14 Days) Guided Budget Camping Tour

Experience the thrill of traveling through rarely seen areas in Southern Africa.

The tiny nation of Eswatini - one of Africa's last monarchies - is home to an extraordinary variety of riches. Nature lovers can spot rhino in the wild lowveld or rare birds in the rugged highveld. The world-famous Kruger National Park offers one of the best wildlife experiences in Africa. Lekgalameetse on the northernmost tip of the Drakensberg means "place of water" and some of the Limpopo's major rivers originate in these picturesque mountains.

We hope that this is the tour you dreamed of. Please do not hesitate to advise us if you have any questions related to this tour.

We eagerly await your response.

Best regards

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Eswatini and Kruger 13 Nights (14 Days) Guided Budget Camping Tour

Day by Day



Start of Tour: Pretoria

See details on the following pages

Days	Main Destination	Accommodation	Meal Plan
1-2	Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary	Budget Camping	At own expense
3-5	Hlane Royal National Park	Budget Camping	At own expense
6	Bulembu Country Lodge	Budget Camping	At own expense
7-8	Southern Kruger National Park	Berg en Dal Budget Camping	At own expense
9-10	Central Kruger National Park	Satara Budget Camping	At own expense
11	Central Kruger National Park	Letaba Budget Camping	At own expense
12-13	Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve	Makutsi Log Cabins	At own expense
14	End of tour	No accommodation	At own expense



End of Tour: Pretoria

Best Time To Visit: May to September (Dry season)

High Season: December to January and July to August

Best Weather: April to May and September to October (Mild and little rain)

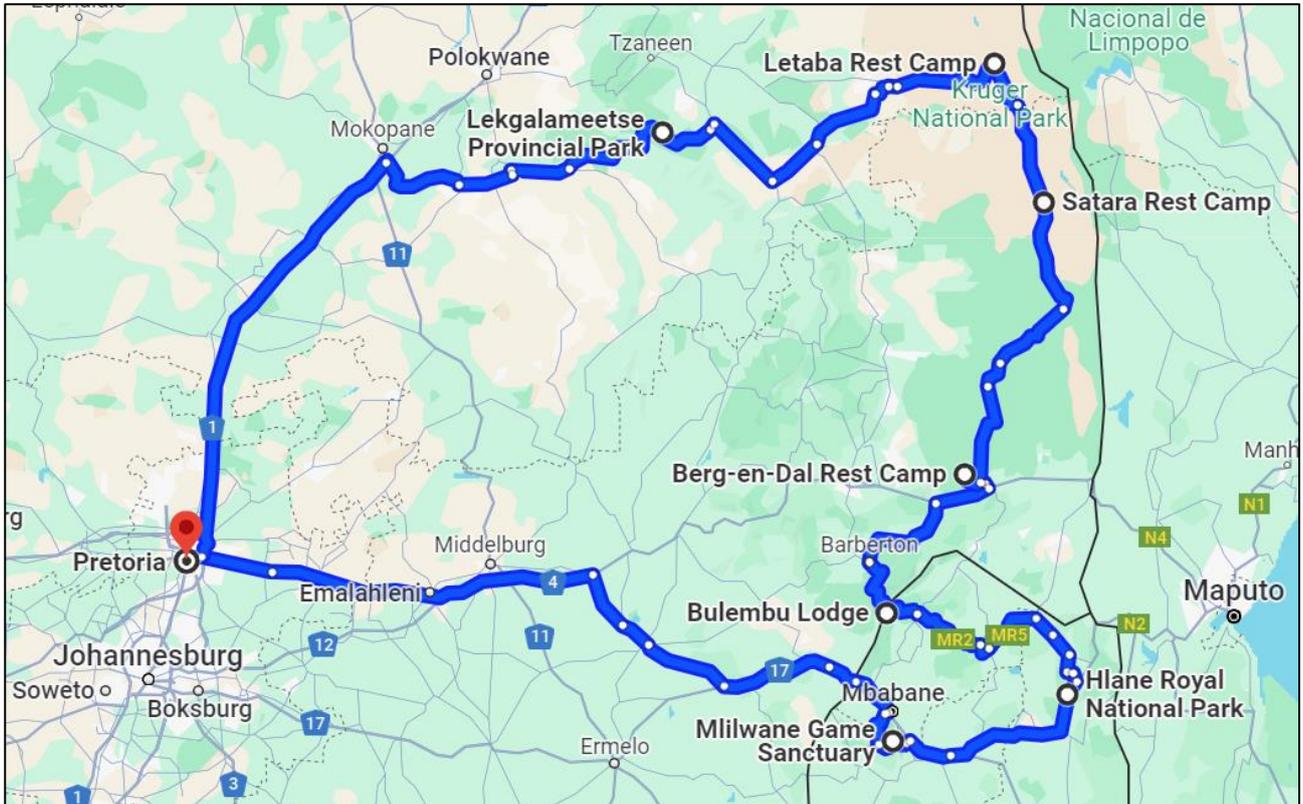
Highlights

- ❖ Eswatini
 - ❖ Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary
 - ❖ Hlane Royal National Park
 - ❖ Bulembu
 - ❖ Kruger National Park
 - ❖ Remote wilderness areas
 - ❖ Fauna and Flora
 - ❖ Mantenga Cultural Village
 - ❖ Ngwenya Glass Factory
 - ❖ Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve
-

Example rental vehicle Supa/Cab Auto – two people



Map



Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

It is Eswatini's (formerly Swaziland) pioneer conservation area, a shining example of what is possible if passion, vision and action fuse. Once a highly profitable multi-purpose farm, and being labelled an "impossible dream", Mlilwane was proclaimed in 1961 and is now the kingdom's most popular eco-destination for locals and internationals alike.

The name 'Mlilwane' ("Little Fire" in siSwati) was derived from the numerous fires started by lightning strikes on the Mlilwane Hill but now holds significance as the little fire that ignited the conservation movement in Swaziland.

Hlane Royal National Park

It was proclaimed as a National Park in 1967, following Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (1961), under instruction of King Sobhuza II. "Hlane" is the siSwati name for "wilderness".

Hlane is a typical lowveld destination with exciting species lists including impressive ancient hardwood habitats, big game and rich birdlife. This 22,000 ha park, once the region's rich hunting grounds, still boasts the largest herds of game in the Kingdom with speciality species being lion, elephant, vultures and marabou stork.

Bulembu

It was once a thriving asbestos mining community of about 10,000 people. Due to the health risks associated with asbestos, the mine was closed and basically everything in the town came to a standstill. In later years the old infrastructure was upgraded and today it is home to about 1,000 orphans, an internationally recognized school for these youngsters, a country lodge and honey farming to name a few.

Bulembu Country Lodge lies at the foot of Mount Emlembe, the highest mountain in Swaziland. The town is surrounded by lush green hills and eucalyptus forests, perfectly complementing the natural beauty of this region.

Kruger National Park

Where nearly 2 million hectares of unrivalled wildlife mix with historical and archaeological sites - this is real Africa. The world-famous Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa.

Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, the park is unrivalled in the diversity of its wildlife and is a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques and policies. Kruger is home to an impressive number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals.

Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve

Lekgalameetse is a vast 18 718 ha mountain wilderness area with protected escarpments, scenic landscapes, mountain vegetation and wildlife. A place of water, it is the source of many of the Lowveld's prominent rivers. Situated in the Wolkberg Mountains, which form part of the world-famous Drakensberg mountain range, the reserve offers a diversity of plant and insect species. It is also world famous for its rare butterfly species.

It forms part of the Drakensberg in the Limpopo Province and offers a beautiful matrix of Afromontane grasslands and woodlands in a dramatic setting of steep gorges and spectacular vistas. This reserve is situated on the escarpment of the Drakensberg and has spectacular forest and rolling grasslands.

The Orrie Bragwanath Pass is a true off-road pass, covering almost 30 km of rough gravel roads and 4x4 tracks as it crosses the Drakensberg through the Lekgamaleetse Nature Reserve. The pass has a steep tarmac climb from the east up the slopes of the far northern Drakensberg to a height of 1370m above sea level. From the west there is an equally steep but 4x4 ascent with a fairly flat gravel section of about 10km along the summit between the two approaches.

Start of your tour

We love this moment: your South Africa tour begins here. We'll answer all your questions and set you off to discover the amazing wildlife, people and landscapes that this remarkable country has to offer.

You meet your guide at a place and time that will be communicated to you before the start of the tour.

You'll enter Eswatini via the Waverley/Lundzi Border Post following your guide. Entering Eswatini via one of the smaller border posts gives you a more personalized and relaxed experience. The convoy follows small gravel roads winding through some of the rural villages in Eswatini. This is your first exposure to the Swazi rural lifestyle.

Mlilwane offers an array of activities and adventures in the picturesque Ezulwini Valley (Valley of Heaven), flanked by the dramatic backdrop of mountains.

Your guide will talk you through the adventures ahead.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 1

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Explore Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and Surroundings

After breakfast we will drive to the top of the mountain for incredible views (weather permitting). Who knows what animals we might see on the way up?

You'll visit the Ngwenya Glass Factory where you will see how a small group of Swazi craftsmen and women breathe life into enchanting interpretations of the animals and birds of Africa. You will witness first-hand the magical art of glassblowing from an overhead balcony.

You'll stop at the Mantenga Cultural Village. This is a replica of the mid-19th Century Swazi village, and a guided tour will reveal much more, from how the huts are built and what each is used for, to the role played by the sangoma, or traditional healer.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 2

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Drive to Hlane Royal National Park via the Top of World View and the World's Biggest Granite Rock

After breakfast, you'll follow the tarred road from Mlilwane until you reach the largest granite pluton in the world (about 800m tall and it covers an area of about 16,500ha). From there, you will drive on small gravel roads winding up and down the mountains. You will stop at the Top of the World View lookout point and make some coffee/tea. You will continue further on the winding gravel roads.

Hlane Royal National Park was proclaimed as a National Park in 1967, following Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (1961), under the instruction of King Sobhuza II. "Hlane" is the siSwati name for "wilderness". Hlane is home to Eswatini's largest herds of game, conserves vast natural resources, and holds deep royal and cultural significance. Exciting species lists include impressive ancient hardwood habitats, big game, and rich birdlife.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 3

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and no Electricity

Guided Morning Walk and then Explore Hlane on Your Own

This morning you join a guided morning walk of 4 hours (included). On the guided walk, your goal is to experience being in the bush and see African wildlife in their natural habitat. The best time to spot wildlife is during the coolest times of the day when most animals are active. You can expect to see different animal species. While observing the animals, your guide will tell you interesting animal facts to learn more about the animal's behaviour.

Afterwards, we drive to a bird hide and be surprised by what animal or bird life we will see. You can relax and watch the animals drinking water at the waterhole near the restaurant or explore Hlane on your own.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Days 4

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and no Electricity

Days 5

Sunrise Drive and then Explore Hlane on Your Own

Start the day with a sunrise drive (included in the tariff) that will include a visit to the lion camp. The lion camp is large enough to allow the lions to hunt in a natural way. Afterwards, you can relax and watch the animals drinking water at the waterhole near the restaurant or you can explore Hlane further on your own.

Join the Umphakatsi Experience by visiting a real Chief's village. Watch the bird life in the camp.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Days 5

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and no Electricity

Days 6

Drive to the Bulembu Country Lodge

Located in the malaria-free, northern Hhohho region, Bulembu Country Lodge stands at the foot of Mount Emlembe, Swaziland's highest mountain. The town of Bulembu is surrounded by the natural beauty of lush green hills and eucalyptus forests. Bulembu Country Lodge presents a charming blend of history, nature, beauty, and comfort.

Bulembu was once a thriving asbestos mining community of about 10,000 people. Due to the health risks associated with asbestos, the mine was closed. In later years, the old infrastructure was upgraded and today it is home to about 1,000 orphans, a country lodge, and honey farming to name a few.

You'll visit the Bulembu Mining Museum. It is an amazing visual experience, to see the history Bulembu holds.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 6

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Drive to the Berg en Dal Rest Camp

Drive to the Berg en Dal Rest Camp in the Kruger NP via the Josefsdal/Bulembu Border Post.

The pass between the Josefsdal Border Post and Barberton is the drive's highlight. The incredibly scenic mountain pass is regarded as, arguably, one of the most spectacularly scenic drives in southern Africa. People describe it as "jaw-droppingly beautiful".

Berg-en-Dal is situated on the bank of the Matjulu Spruit with a view of softly undulating hills to the east. On the northern and southern sides dry riverbeds and a dam border the camp. There are large trees along the streams and dry riverbeds. Special care has been taken to preserve the natural vegetation in the camp. Berg en Dal is also the only camp set in a rugged mountain environment.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 7

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Explore the area around Berg en Dal Rest Camp

Join a guided morning walk. Experienced (and armed) guides share their knowledge of the fauna and flora to explain natural wonders. The walks are relaxed and don't take longer than a few hours, so no over-exhaustion will take place.

Two armed field guides accompany you on the walk to ensure your safety, they will focus on the things that you will usually not be able to see from a vehicle. By being out on foot you cover an area more intensely and you can experience nature using all of your senses. If there is any large game in the area you are more than likely able to encounter them and have an exhilarating experience of approaching them on foot.

Late afternoon you join a sunset game drive with a professional field guide in an open game viewing vehicle. It is a perfect time for game viewing. As the evening approaches all the nocturnal animals become active, and you can experience a truly amazing African sunset.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Days 8

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Drive to Satara Rest Camp

Today is a bit of a long drive to the Satara Rest Camp following various game-viewing roads. Satara is a busy camp, and not without reason. It is situated in an excellent game-viewing area, with the bush relatively open and the animals plentiful and diverse. The bungalow you will stay in is fully equipped.

The camp itself has a rustic charm, with the bulk of the accommodation set out in a series of circles. Satara is well-wooded and the birdlife is prolific. At night, the clink of fruit bats is fused with the chirping of cicadas and crickets. The calls of owls and nightjars add to the symphony that is punctuated intermittently by the whoop of hyenas, the screech of jackals, and the roars of lions.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Days 9

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Explore the Area Around Satara Rest Camp

You'll join a guided morning walk. Experienced (and armed) guides share their knowledge of the fauna and flora to explain natural wonders. The walks are relaxed and don't take longer than a few hours, so no over-exhaustion will take place.

Two armed field guides accompany you on the walk. They will focus on the things that you will usually not be able to see from a vehicle. By being out on foot you cover an area more intensely and you can experience nature using all of your senses.

Afterward, you are welcome to explore the area around Satara on your own. This is a relaxing day to maybe do some washing of clothes if necessary.

Join a night game drive with a professional field guide in an open game viewing vehicle. It is a perfect time for viewing the nocturnal animals and birds. This is your last night in the Big 5 area and hopefully, it will be a memorable one.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Days 10

Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Drive to Letaba Rest Camp

The idyllic Letaba Rest Camp is situated on a sweeping bend of the Letaba River, midway between the southern and northern boundaries of the Kruger National Park.

The name means "river of sand", and the sandy riverbed is an excellent location for game viewing, particularly elephant, which thrive in the area. Letaba is a green oasis in the surrounding mopane veld, and remains a firm favourite with visitors. At night the stars overlook a symphony of sounds. Owls, nightjars, frogs, fruit bats, crickets and cicadas all vie to be heard, until the lion roars, then all are silent.

Join an afternoon walk at Letaba. These interesting spots make for exciting time-fillers, as experienced (and armed) guides share their knowledge of the fauna and flora to explain natural wonders. The walks are relaxed and don't take longer than a few hours, so no over exhaustion will take place.

Two armed field guides accompany you on the walk in order to ensure your safety, they will focus on the things that you will usually not be able to see from a vehicle. By being out on foot you cover an area more intensely and you are able to experience nature using all of your senses. If there is any large game in the area you are more than likely able to encounter them and have an exhilarating experience of approaching them on foot.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 11

Budget Camping with Shared Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Drive to Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve

We exit the Kruger NP at the Phalaborwa gate. Lekgalameetse means "Place of Water" and some important Limpopo rivers have their source in these scenic mountains. There is water all year round here, with many rivers, streams, waterfalls and rock pools. Lekgalameetse has thick indigenous forests, grassy mountain slopes, towering peaks and krantzes. In the forests, you'll see Outeniqua Trees, Lemonwoods, Yellowwoods, Cape Beech and Wild Peach.

We stop in Phalaborwa for you to buy provisions, firewood and food for our stay in Lekgalameetse as there are no shops in or near Lekgalameetse.

Along the way, we visit the smallest city in South Africa and learn about its history. It is amazing how nature has taken back this city. We visit the 2,000+-year-old Baobab tree near Gravelotte.

Your log cabin for the night is far into the bush at the foot of the Drakensberg. The Makutsi River flows past the cabins. It is a self-catering cabin and well-equipped with linen, and cutlery.

You will prepare your own meals.

Accommodation | Day 12

Log Cabins with Ablution Facilities and Electricity

Explore Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve

After breakfast you prepared for yourself, we explore the Northern section of Lekgalameetse. The main entrance gate is also the start of the Orrie Baragwanath Pass up the eastern side of the Drakensberg. It will take us to the top of the Drakensberg Mountain and as we drive, you will climb 600 m over a distance of 12 km. It will take us to breath taking views and we will visit sites of historical significance (e.g. the Pioneer Graves) and learn about the history of the area.

You will be amazed to learn that the names of a famous soccer team and a hospital have their origins in these mountains. The trails are not difficult and sometimes engaging low range will not be necessary. We will visit the highest point accessible by vehicle. This point is 1 520 m above sea level.

You will prepare your own meals.

Accommodation | Day 13

Log Cabins with Ablution Facilities and Electricity



Your last day with us

We drive up the mountain to the start of the challenging 4x4 section of the Orrie Baragwanath Pass on the western side of the mountain. We follow this scenic but challenging 4x4 trail down the Drakensberg. The trail hugs the mountain and you will descend 500m in a distance of 7km (330m in the last 4km).

From the end of the pass to Pretoria we drive mostly on tarred roads.

As our time together draws to a close, we say goodbye to our new friends and head back home. You will continue your journey to your next destination on your own, whenever you feel ready to leave. We hope that you will cherish the unforgettable memories you have made during your time with us and that you will have plenty of beautiful photos to share with your loved ones and friends.

Eswatini and Kruger 13 Nights (14 Days) Guided Budget Camping Tour

Have a look at the tour features and some of the frequently asked questions.

Features	
Trail Grading	3
Vehicle Type: 4x2	X
Vehicle Type: 4x4	√
Tyre Type: Off-road / All terrain tyres	√ ¹
Tyre Type: On-road	X ¹
Accommodation Type: Wild camping	X
Accommodation Type: Camping	√
Accommodation Type: Safari tent	X
Accommodation Type: Wilderness cabin	√
Accommodation Type: Chalet	X
Can I Tow an off-road trailer?	√
Can I Tow an off-road caravan?	√
Will my vehicle be scratched?	√
Must I remove my vehicle's sidesteps?	X
Do I need a compressor?	X
Children under the age of 12 years	X

Notes

1 Only off-road all terrain tyres; no on-road tyres.

Only tyres with a sidewall profile of 65 and more.

The area is very remote and it is not easy to obtain tyres when damaged.

Places Available

Place for only five 4x4 vehicles on the tour.

A minimum of three vehicles is required for the tour to take place.

Best Time To Visit: May to September (Dry season)

High Season: December to January and July to August

Best Weather: April to May and September to October (Mild and little rain)

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Included

Park fees, Hand-held radios, Professional 4x4 and overlanding adventure guide, Accommodation (camping and log cabin) for two adults, Trail cost for one 4x4 vehicle with two adults, Professional field guide(s) where applicable, Activities as indicated

Excluded

Additional accommodation before and after the tour, International flights, Domestic flights, Government imposed increase of taxes and/or park fees, Personal items (souvenirs, travel insurance, visa fees, etc.), Vehicle, Camping Equipment, Tips, Fuel, Toll fees, Drinking water (on all days), Snacks and beverages, Medicine, Fire wood, Food (on all days), Additional activities

Payment Terms

A 80% deposit will ensure your place on the tour with the balance payable 60 days before the start of the tour.

Full payment if the booking is made less than 60 days before the start of the tour.

[Request a quotation](#)

<https://bonsai-sa.co.za/tours-contact-us.html>

Terms and Conditions

<https://www.bonsai-sa.co.za/docs/4x4-tour-terms-and-conditions.pdf>

<https://www.bonsai-sa.co.za/docs/cancellation-policy.pdf>

<https://www.bonsai-sa.co.za/docs/payment-policy-int.pdf>

Your Tour Guides



Bonai-SA 4x4 Adventures and Tours

Our relaxed 4x4 adventures and tours allow you access to remote areas in national parks and reserves that are not frequented by many visitors.

The surrounding wilderness, the remoteness and the seclusion of travelling through rarely-seen areas are the main thrills of our tours. A professional 4x4 Adventure Guide will lead the tour and a qualified Field/Nature Guide will assist when it is necessary. The guides will provide the necessary interpretation en-route and also ensure your safety.

Contact Us

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Member of:

- South African Tourism Services Association
- South African Adventure Industry Association

Registration:

- Johan is registered as a professional adventure guide with the South African National Department of Tourism (GP 6210)



“If you think adventure is
dangerous, try routine, it’s lethal”
~ Paul Coelho

Colofon

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