

KrugerParkMauritiusSafari



KPTS12J: 12-night package – Kruger Park + Mauritius

Day 1

Arrive **Johannesburg Airport** and meet your Kruger Park safari host, who will introduce you to the beauty of the Eastern Transvaal on your scenic 3-hour drive to **Hazyview**. Check in to your luxury guesthouse for dinner and overnight.

[Or 45-minute transfer from Mpumalanga Airport]

Day 2

This morning your host will share with you the splendour of the **Drakensberg Panorama Route** as you drive through **Blyde River Canyon**, the third largest canyon in the world.

View Mac Mac Falls, Bourke's Luck Potholes and the panoramic views from **God's Window**. If time permits, we also make a brief stop at the historic mining village of **Pilgrim's Rest**.

Continue to **Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre**, where you have the unique opportunity of viewing wild lion, leopard, cheetah, eagles and vultures at close quarters. Animals found injured, poisoned or orphaned are given a second chance and released back into the wilds.

Check in to your luxury guesthouse for dinner and overnight.

Day 3

Today we enter the world famous **Kruger National Park**. Game viewing opportunities should present themselves almost immediately in this vast 2-million hectare game sanctuary the size of Wales. Hopefully we will see several species of antelope, zebra, wildebeest and maybe even giraffe before we reach camp.

The Kruger Park offers a choice of seven camps, each situated in a different section of the park with its own unique flora and fauna: **Skukuza, Letaba, Olifants, Lower Sabie, Pretoriuskop, Satara** and **Berg-en-Dal**. Accommodation is in simple but comfortable thatched game park bungalows, with each camp having a restaurant and a small shop.

Check in, settle-in and relax in your outdoor bushveld surroundings before enjoying dinner (exact camp subject to availability at time of booking).

Days 4 and 5

As you will have the services of a private driver/guide throughout your safari, you will have the flexibility of discussing preferred routings and travelling times with him each day. However we recommend setting off early each morning as the camp gates open (05h30 to 06h00 depending on the season), to take advantage of the best game viewing conditions of the day.

Explore the vast **Kruger Plains**, which offer magnificent game viewing opportunities and the highest concentration of lion in the whole of Africa. Hopefully we will see at least one of the **Big Five** today - **Lion, Elephant, Buffalo, Leopard** and **Rhino**, before returning to camp for breakfast.

The rest of the morning can be spent relaxing at camp, reading or bird watching, before setting out again at the time of your choice (usually the late afternoon) for another game drive.

One game drive per day will be in an **open-top game viewing vehicle** operated by the Kruger Park (either early morning, late afternoon or evening), with all other game drives taken with your host in an air-conditioned minibus, as this is more comfortable in the heat of the day.

With nearly 150 different species of mammals and over 100 species of reptiles in the Kruger Park, we hope to see giraffe, kudu, sable antelope, waterbuck, warthogs, baboons, wild dogs and many other interesting animals.

In the evening, enjoy the balmy weather and pristine stars of the Southern Sky and Milky Way, as you have never seen them before – including the spectacular **Southern Cross**.

[Note: Children <12 are not allowed on open top game drives. However they may enjoy unlimited game drives in your host's vehicle]

Day 6

This morning we return to **Johannesburg Airport**, stopping at a Cultural Village and self-help project to give you the opportunity of supporting the local community by purchasing one of their handmade products.

[Or fly from Mpumalanga Airport]

Check in to your airport hotel for overnight. Conveniently situated only a few minutes from **Johannesburg International Airport**, your hotel is part of a casino and entertainment complex and has several restaurants on site.

Day 7

Today take the free hotel shuttle bus to the airport for your 4-hour international flight to **Mauritius**.

You will be met at **Mauritius Airport** and transferred to your luxury resort, a drive of just over 1-hour. Check in, settle in and relax in your beautiful Indian Ocean Island – surrounded by turquoise waters and coral reefs. Later dine in style at your resort restaurant.

Day 8

Relax and unwind on the white sandy beaches of **Mauritius**, as you treat yourself to fine food and wonderful entertainment!

Enjoy lazy days **swimming** and **snorkelling** in the warm turquoise waters of the **Indian Ocean**. Or relax on the beach or beside the swimming pool, whilst enjoying the many facilities of your luxury resort hotel.

Activities at or near your resort are plentiful and include:

- Canoeing
- Water skiing
- Wind surfing
- Sailing
- Beach volley ball
- Floodlit tennis courts
- Football
- Table tennis
- Water polo
- Gym
- Spa

Day 9

Today you will be collected from your hotel around 09h00 for a private tour of the highlights of **North** and **West Mauritius**.

Start the day in the bustling capital town of **Port-Louis**, with the opportunity for duty free shopping at Miraj which offers hand woven oriental silk rugs and carpets, fashion accessories and jewellery, rare marble and bronze gifts, liquor and perfume. Alternatively shop at the **Caudan Waterfront** craft market that offers cheap designer clothing, spices, souvenirs and basketry – and glimpse a fascinating cross-section of Mauritian life at the **Central Market**. Also visit **Blue Penny Museum** for an appreciation of the local history and art of Mauritius.

Around midday continue to the bustling town of **Grand Baie**, where you will be escorted on an **Undersea Walk** offering the unique opportunity of viewing tropical fish and coral whilst walking in an aerated divers helmet on the seabed amongst the sea life of the reef. Your accompanied walk lasts 20-minutes some 3-metres below the surface – with no swimming skills required. You may wear your glasses or contact lenses, as your head will not get wet. Alternatively for a supplement you may dive 30 metres in the air-conditioned **Blue Safari** submarine to view the wreck of the “Star Hope” and the sea creatures it harbours, as well as the multi-coloured fish of the reef.

End your day relaxing amongst the beautiful water lilies, palms and exotic spices of **Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens** before returning to your hotel around 17h00.

Days 10 to 11

At leisure to relax and enjoy the many facilities your luxury **Mauritius** beach resort.

Full day **Catamaran cruises** are very popular, as well as **Dolphin-watching** boat trips and **Glass-bottom boats** to view tropical fish and coral reefs.

Mauritius offers wonderful **Scuba Diving**, with fully equipped dive centres offering a variety of PADI courses. If have never tried before, these clear calm waters offer an ideal location in which to learn to scuba.

Deep Sea Fishing for giant marlin or **Reef Fishing** for giant trevally offer thrilling activities. **Golf** and **Horse Riding** are nearby, as well as the opportunity to **Hire a Bicycle** to explore the island at your own pace.

With its warm tropical weather all year-round, magnificent hotels and wonderful hospitality, Mauritius offers a vibrant Indian Ocean Island experience.

Day 12

This morning you will be collected from your hotel around 09h00 for a private tour of the highlights of **South** and **East Mauritius**.

From the centre of Curepipe drive up to the rim of **Trou-aux-Cerfs**, an extinct volcanic crater whose floor is now heavily wooded, and enjoy magnificent views over the whole island.

Continue to the southeast of the island and visit the traditional village of Mahebourg, before enjoying the short sea crossing to **Ile-aux-Aigrettes Wildlife Sanctuary**, home to the rare pink pigeon and other rare species of bird, as well as many endemic coastal plants that can't be found anywhere else in the world.

On your return to the mainland explore **Domaine du Chasseur**, a magnificent park occupying over 2,000 acres and the habitat for a variety of wildlife including deer, monkeys, wild boar and much more - all set against lush vegetation of ebony, eucalyptus, palm trees and wild orchid, before returning to your hotel at around 17h00.

Day 13

Return transfer to **Mauritius Airport** for your flight home.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

PANORAMA ROUTE

- ❑ 2 nights luxury guesthouse accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- ❑ Blyde River Canyon
- ❑ English breakfasts daily
- ❑ Dinners daily

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

- ❑ 3 nights game park accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ At least 6 game viewing drives in the Kruger National Park
- ❑ All game park fees and local taxes
- ❑ Breakfasts daily
- ❑ Dinners daily

JOHANNESBURG AIRPORT

- ❑ 1 nights airport accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ English breakfast

MAURITIUS

- ❑ 6 nights luxury resort accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ Private tour of North & West Mauritius
- ❑ Private Tour of South & East Mauritius
- ❑ Undersea Walk
- ❑ Ile-aux-Aigrettes
- ❑ Free non-motorised water sports
- ❑ Breakfasts daily
- ❑ Dinners daily

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

All airport and ground transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis
Activities specified in itinerary, including transfers and entrance charges

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

International & domestic flights (quoted separately)
Lunches & dinners (unless specified)
Drinks & refreshments
Tips for porters and restaurants
Telephone calls, laundry & other incidental personal expenditure
Visa fees, in countries where these apply
Airport departure taxes, in countries where these apply

TIPS

It is not necessary to tip your host. However, if you have received exceptional service and wish to express your gratitude, you may of course do so. In such circumstances, a tip of between £20 and £40 per couple per week would be regarded as normal.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Malaria tablets are recommended for Kruger Park
All activities are subject to prevailing weather conditions

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES - please enquire for supplements

KRUGER PARK

Night Drive – in an open-top game vehicle accompanied by a park ranger, to search in the beam of a powerful spotlight for the seldom-viewed nocturnal birds and animals of the park such as nightjars, owls, genet and leopard

Walking Trail – with a park tracker and armed ranger to view the trees and smaller animals, reptiles and insects of the park (4 hours am or 2 hours pm: Min age 12 years)

Panorama Route – tour the dramatic Blyde River canyon, the third largest in the world. Enjoy spectacular views from Gods Window; visit Bourke's Luck potholes; Mac Mac Falls; Three Rondavels. If time permits, visit the historic mining village of Pilgrim's Rest

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre – enjoy close encounters with animals rescued from certain death, & see efforts made to rehabilitate and return them to their natural habitat

Photography – outstanding wildlife and birds. Vehicle mounts & beanbags on request

Bird Watching – with over 500 bird species, the Kruger Park offers an outstanding holiday for twitchers. Predator and species-specific excursions available on request

Astronomy – view the stars of the Southern Sky through a telescope at Olifants

Golf – play the untamed 9-hole staff course at Skukuza, where animals may stray onto the fairway; Alternatively play 18-holes at Sabie; White River; Nelspruit or Leopard Creek **Golf club hire**

Hot Air Balloon – pre-dawn departure for 1-hr flight over Kapama Game Reserve (weather permitting)

Fly Fishing – for trout in the Sabie River, incl tackle & light lunch (full day, with river guide)

Horse Riding – through the rivers and forests of the Panorama Route

Helicopter Ride – thrilling flight over the Blyde River Canyon (weather permitting)

Driving a 4x4 – test your driving skills on a rugged 4 x 4 course, with instructor

Sudwala Caves – view the fascinating stalagmites and stalactites in this 600-million year cave, thought to be the oldest known to mankind. The main cavern has a dome of 120 ft and a diameter of 230 ft

Shangana Village – visit a reconstructed village to learn about Shangaan life, including a visit to "sangoma" traditional healer and tribal dancing

Cheetah & Endangered Wildlife Centre – see their vital breeding, maintenance and conservation programme for endangered species of cheetah

Monkey Rehabilitation Sanctuary – specialising in the conservation of vervet monkeys and other primates

Arts & Crafts – shop for local beadwork, carvings, pottery and embroidery

San Bushmen Rock Art – walk to view these ancient Bushmen painting, with guide

Walking & Hiking Trails – through the magnificent Blyde River canyon

Mountain Bike Trails – from your hotel in the beautiful Panorama Route; or in the Kruger Park accompanied by an armed ranger (4 hours am or 2 hours pm)

Nelspruit Botanical Gardens – enjoy the indigenous flora of this lush region

Painting – capture the essence of wildlife on canvas, on a painting holiday safari

Archaeology – open a window to the past, exploring the cradle of mankind

Paragliding – descend from God's Window, in tandem with a guide (max 220 lbs)

River Rafting – enjoy the thrill of riding rapids on the Sabie River

Abseiling – on wild & remote cliffs, with spectacular views. No experience necessary

Overnight Wilderness Trail – spend 3 nights in a basic tented wilderness camp with mattresses, sleeping bags and bush showers, accompanied by an armed ranger and his assistant. Walk up to 6 hours per day. Minimum age 12 years (NB: availability on these basic trails is extremely limited and need to be booked up to a year in advance)

MAURITIUS

Ile aux Cerfs – swim or relax at the tropical playground of Mauritius, which also has an 18-hole Bernard Langer golf course (full day, with lunch – water sports extra)

Catamaran Sailing – with opportunity to swim & snorkel (sunset cruise; half day with shopping, or full day with lunch)

North Mauritius – cruise up the beautiful northwest coast from exciting Port Louis to the island of Troux-aux-Biches, returning overland via Pamplemousse Botanical Gardens (full day, including lunch)

South Mauritius – visit a diamond cutting workshop, model ship factory & oriental carpet bazaar in Curepipe, the dormant volcanic crater of Troux-aux-Cerfs, the sacred lake of Grand Bassin, Ganga Talao (the site of Lord Shiva's temple), the Black River Gorges, Chamarel's waterfall & 7 coloured earths (full day, with lunch)

Sugar Route – visit the ancient sugar mill and rum distillery at Domaine Les Pailles and enjoy Mauritian tea at Eureka, one of the oldest the best preserved colonial homes on the island (full day, with lunch)

Tea Route – visit the colonial homestead of Domaine des Aubineaux and a traditional tea factory. Travel through vanilla and anthurium plantations, with the opportunity to buy some Mauritian tea and rum. Also La Vanille Reserve des Mascareignes, home to over 2,000 Nile crocodiles and largest Indian Ocean collection of insects (full day, with lunch)

Nature Route – explore L'Etoile & Fernery Reserve by Land Rover or quad bike. See stags in natural habitat, plus panoramic views of east, southeast and north of island (full day, with lunch)

South East Coast – short sea crossing to the wildlife sanctuary at Ile aux Aigrettes, home to the rare pink pigeon, and the traditional Mauritian village of Mahebourg, then explore 2,000 acres lush vegetation at Domaine du Chasseur (full day, with lunch)

Port Louis & Pamplemousse Botanical Garden – combine shopping at Le Caudan Waterfront and duty-free shopping at Miraj with Pamplemousse Gardens (half day)

Curepipe – “shop till you drop” for duty-free Oriental carpets, diamonds, watches and jewellery. Also for designer clothes, model ships, Mauritian glass and other locally produced arts & crafts (half day)

Undersea Walk (with helmet) & Grand Baie – walk on the seabed amongst the sea life of the reef (20-minutes), followed by shopping in Grand Baie (half day)

Undersea Submarine & Grand Baie – dive over 30 metres in a real submarine to see the sea life of the reef (40-minutes), followed by shopping in Grand Baie (half day)

Deep Sea Game Fishing – for marlin and a variety of other game fish

Golf – 9-holes of resort golf or 18-holes championship golf **Golf Club Hire**

Adventure Trekking **Abseiling** **Archery** **Helicopter Flips**

Horse Riding **Mountain Biking** **Quad Biking** **Horse Racing**

Scuba Diving **Sea Kayaking**