

5-day Kruger Park Explorer Safari

Experience the Best of Kruger: Safari adventures and scenic wonders, all in one unforgettable compact journey! Embark on this thrilling 5-day Kruger Safari, a bestselling adventure marrying a first-class safari with South Africa's most popular natural wonders of the Panorama Route. We explore Kruger National Park, and our private reserve, unfenced to Kruger Park, with the freedom to conduct open vehicle game drives at our leisure.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Embark on an adventure with Drifters guides!
- Overnight at an unfenced Big 5 private bush camp
- Visit Panorama Route sites
- Experience a working coffee bean farm
- Game viewing in the Kruger National Park



TOURING STYLE

Adventure travel is unpredictable by nature. Weather patterns, game migrations, road conditions, and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that ultimately benefit the client. Our experienced guides are empowered to make decisions on the day. Clients must be flexible and open-minded in this regard.

We travel on some remote and rough roads and clients must be prepared for this - but the natural wonders we encounter more than compensate for any discomfort - for those who truly seek adventure!

Explorer (Accommodated) adventures – Adventure tours involve a certain amount of group participation, which, while not compulsory, greatly enhances the success and enjoyment of the adventure. While it is not required, guests are encouraged to participate in the preparation of meals, adding to the shared adventure experience. On our Accommodated Adventures, there is no need to pitch a tent, as this option includes the comfort of a bed in either a permanent tented unit, hotel, or lodge. Linen and towels are provided for your convenience. Please note that not all rooms at our Hazyview lodge have en-suite bathrooms.

TOUR DETAILS

Adventure Style Code	EXPLORER (Accommodated) ETa	
Duration	5 days 4 nights 2 nights Balule Nature Reserve (Greater Kruger National Park) – Tented camp 2 nights Hazyview – Lodge	
Start location	Johannesburg, Gauteng South Africa	
End location	Johannesburg, Gauteng South Africa	
Group size	4 – 16 guests per vehicle	
Departure time	Sundays ±06h30 from Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton This is the tour's starting point due to ample parking space for the overland truck. Please ensure you are ready for departure in the hotel foyer. Alternatively, please make your way to this hotel in time for departure	
Language	English guided Other language tour guides are available on request if booked on a private basis at a surcharge	
Accommodation	2 x nights permanent tented camp 2 x nights lodge Alternative accommodation may be booked when required	
Vehicle	Drifters Overland Truck with 2 x guides	
Included	Meals	4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
	Entrance Fees	Balule Nature Reserve conservation fee (Greater Kruger National Park) Blyde River Canyon Bourke's Luck Potholes God's Window Kruger National Park conservation fee
	Excursions	Open safari vehicle game drives in Balule Nature Reserve

		Coffee farm tour, Hazyview Full-day game viewing in Kruger National Park
	Green Seat Donation	Endangered Wildlife Trust, Trees for Tourism
Excluded	Travel insurance, flights, visa fees, airport transfers, pre- and post-accommodation, portorage, 5 lunches and gratuities	
Luggage Allowance	Onboard luggage locker dimensions: 60cm high x 38cm wide x 88cm long/deep 1 x soft duffel bag of maximum 20kg 1 x hand luggage bag	
Child Age Guideline	We recommend no children under the age of 6 years due to the open safari vehicle game drives and free-roaming wildlife at Andy's Camp (no discount applicable)	
Indemnity	Before departure, guests will be required to sign and return the indemnity form	

EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE Recommendations

Pre-Tour Accommodation in **JOHANNESBURG**: **4-star** Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton

Pre-Touring in **JOHANNESBURG**: **Full-Day** Flexible Private guided day tour

Post-Touring in **JOHANNESBURG**: **Half-Day** Johannesburg & Soweto Highlights Tour

Post-Touring **GARDEN TOUR extension**: **Cape Kaleidoscope** starts Mondays from Cape Town, Ends Saturdays in Cape Town
(air-conditioned touring vehicle)

TOUR OVERVIEW

Embark on this thrilling 5-day Kruger Safari, a bestselling adventure marrying a first-class safari with South Africa's most popular natural wonders. Begin with a scenic drive from Johannesburg, travelling through a vibrant historic village and mountain passes to reach the heart of the African bushveld. The Kruger National Park is one of the planet's last vast preserved wildernesses, and South Africa's top-ranked safari destination. Here, expert guides lead exhilarating game drives, offering unparalleled encounters with the iconic Big 5 and a profusion of other wildlife.

Explore the Panoramic Route, marvelling at the awe-inspiring Blyde River Canyon, God's Window, and Bourke's Luck Potholes. Arrive at a tranquil log cabin in an indigenous forest along the Sabie River, with opportunities for nature walks and a coffee farm exploration. Then, venture back into the southern section of Kruger National Park aboard Drifters' custom-built truck for a full-day personal safari experience. Learn from your intuitive professional guide as you encounter wildlife up close before returning to your lodge in Hazyview for a peaceful night's rest. Conclude your journey with a leisurely drive back to Johannesburg along the original route pioneered by early gold diggers.

TOUR SUMMARY

Alternative accommodation may be booked when required and will be communicated 30 days before tour departure

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS	ACTIVITIES & ENTRANCE FEES INCLUDED	KM
1 Sun	Private Tented Bush Lodge <i>Tented en-suite units</i>	Dinner	Balule Nature Reserve (Greater Kruger National Park) Game viewing in Big 5 Balule Nature Reserve	530
2 Mon	Private Tented Bush Lodge <i>Tented en-suite units</i>	Brunch Dinner	Morning and Afternoon game drive in open safari vehicle in Big 5 Balule Nature Reserve	
3 Tue	Greenfire Lodge Hazyview <i>Lodge rooms, shared bathrooms</i>	Breakfast Dinner	Blyde River Canyon Bourke's Luck Potholes God's Window Coffee Farm Tour	225
4 Wed	Greenfire Lodge Hazyview <i>Lodge rooms, shared bathrooms</i>	Breakfast Dinner	Full-day Drifters truck game drive in Kruger National Park	200
5 Thu	ADVENTURE ENDS IN JOHANNESBURG	Breakfast		430

Alternative accommodation may be used

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE DATES

2025 Season		Tour Code	Starts Sunday	Ends Friday
01 Jan 2025 -	Group 1	K2501	05-Jan-25	09-Jan-25
31 Dec 2025	Group 2	K2502	12-Jan-25	16-Jan-25
	Group 3	K2503	19-Jan-25	23-Jan-25
Weekly Sundays	Group 4	K2504	26-Jan-25	30-Jan-25
	Group 5	K2505	02-Feb-25	06-Feb-25
	Group 6	K2506	09-Feb-25	13-Feb-25
	Group 7	K2507	16-Feb-25	20-Feb-25
A minimum of 4 guests is required to guarantee the departure	Group 8	K2508	23-Feb-25	27-Feb-25
	Group 9	K2509	02-Mar-25	06-Mar-25
	Group 10	K2510	09-Mar-25	13-Mar-25
	Group 11	K2511	16-Mar-25	20-Mar-25
	Group 12	K2512	23-Mar-25	27-Mar-25
Block-out dates may apply – Please refer to our website for live availability	Group 13	K2513	30-Mar-25	03-Apr-25
	Group 14	K2514	06-Apr-25	10-Apr-25
	Group 15	K2515	13-Apr-25	17-Apr-25
	Group 16	K2516	20-Apr-25	24-Apr-25
	Group 17	K2517	27-Apr-25	01-May-25
	Group 18	K2518	04-May-25	08-May-25
	Group 19	K2519	11-May-25	15-May-25
	Group 20	K2520	18-May-25	22-May-25
	Group 21	K2521	25-May-25	29-May-25
	Group 22	K2522	01-Jun-25	05-Jun-25
	Group 23	K2523	08-Jun-25	12-Jun-25
	Group 24	K2524	15-Jun-25	19-Jun-25
	Group 25	K2525	22-Jun-25	26-Jun-25
	Group 26	K2526	29-Jun-25	03-Jul-25
	Group 27	K2527	06-Jul-25	10-Jul-25
	Group 28	K2528	13-Jul-25	17-Jul-25
	Group 29	K2529	20-Jul-25	24-Jul-25
	Group 30	K2530	27-Jul-25	31-Jul-25
	Group 31	K2531	03-Aug-25	07-Aug-25
	Group 32	K2532	10-Aug-25	14-Aug-25
	Group 33	K2533	17-Aug-25	21-Aug-25
	Group 34	K2534	24-Aug-25	28-Aug-25
	Group 35	K2535	31-Aug-25	04-Sep-25
	Group 36	K2536	07-Sep-25	11-Sep-25
	Group 37	K2537	14-Sep-25	18-Sep-25
	Group 38	K2538	21-Sep-25	25-Sep-25
	Group 39	K2539	28-Sep-25	02-Oct-25
	Group 40	K2540	05-Oct-25	09-Oct-25
	Group 41	K2541	12-Oct-25	16-Oct-25
	Group 42	K2542	19-Oct-25	23-Oct-25
	Group 43	K2543	26-Oct-25	30-Oct-25
	Group 44	K2544	02-Nov-25	06-Nov-25
	Group 45	K2545	09-Nov-25	13-Nov-25
	Group 46	K2546	16-Nov-25	20-Nov-25
	Group 47	K2547	23-Nov-25	27-Nov-25
	Group 48	K2548	30-Nov-25	04-Dec-25
	Group 49	K2549	07-Dec-25	11-Dec-25
	Group 50	K2550	14-Dec-25	18-Dec-25
	Group 51	K2551	21-Dec-25	25-Dec-25
	Group 52	K2552	28-Dec-25	01-Jan-26

ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY BREAKDOWN

Alternative accommodation may be booked when required and will be communicated 30 days before departure

Day 1 | Sunday

JOHANNESBURG to BALULE NATURE RESERVE via HAENERTSBERG (±530km)

Breakfast at the hotel (own expense and breakfast packs can be arranged)

06h30 departure from Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton

Lunch en route (own expense)

Arrive at an exclusive Bush Lodge in the late afternoon

Dinner at the lodge (included)

Private Tented Bush Lodge – Dinner

Day 2 | Monday

FULL DAY in BALULE NATURE RESERVE (GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK)

Coffee and rusks at the lodge (included)

Morning open safari vehicle game drive (included)

Brunch at the lodge (included)

Afternoon at leisure

Afternoon open safari vehicle game drive (included)

Dinner at the lodge (included)

Private Tented Bush Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 | Tuesday

BALULE NATURE RESERVE to HAZYVIEW via PANORAMA ROUTE (±195km)

Breakfast at the lodge (included)

Blyde River Canyon and the Three Rondavels (included)

Bourke's Luck Potholes (included)

God's Window (included)

Lunch en route (own expense)

Farm tour (included)

Dinner at the lodge (included)

Greenfire Lodge Hazyview (shared bathrooms) – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 | Wednesday

FULL DAY in KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (±160km)

Breakfast packs (included)

Full-day game drive in Kruger National Park in Drifters overland truck (included)

Lunch in the park (own expense)

Dinner at the lodge (included)

Greenfire Lodge Hazyview (shared bathrooms) – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 | Thursday

HAZYVIEW to JOHANNESBURG (±430km)

Breakfast at the lodge (included)

Lunch en route (own expense)

Arrive in Johannesburg in the early afternoon

OPTIONAL Post-night at Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton or similar – Breakfast

At the time of presenting, the above itinerary was correct. Drifters continually strives to offer our clients the best available tour options, and as such, we reserve the right to change aspects of the itinerary at our discretion. During the validity period of the published itinerary, conditions may change, roads may be improved or deteriorate, contracted camps and accommodation facilities may change standards, optional activities may become available or be discontinued, new border posts may open, or existing ones may become congested, etc. Drifters continuously monitor all the factors contributing to a successful tour and will amend the published itinerary if circumstances demand or if we believe the change will enhance the tour. PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT ITINERARIES

ITINERARY

Alternative accommodation may be booked when required and will be communicated 30 days before departure

Day 1 | Sunday

JOHANNESBURG to BALULE NATURE RESERVE via HAENERTSBURG (±530km)

We set off early from Johannesburg for our journey on a picturesque road through mountain passes to the African bushveld. Stop off for lunch in the historic village of Haenertsburg on the edge of a mountain escarpment. This vibrant town is known for its magnificent views and lush forest vegetation. Lunch will be at your own expense.

The next two nights, we get cosy at our well-appointed Bush Lodge, situated in a private reserve within the greater Kruger National Park, where animals roam freely and unrestricted. Expect an exciting couple of days on safari as we head out on game drives with expert guides in open safari vehicles into a natural world where wild animals roam free. This privately owned reserve allows us the freedom to explore the wilderness in search of a variety of animals in open game drive vehicles at our leisure. The tented lodge casually blends into the bush and offers crisp, comfortable beds, en-suite bathrooms, a refreshing splash pool, and stunning views over the surrounding wilderness, including a water hole frequented by a variety of animals.

Overnight at a Private Tented Bush Lodge or similar – Dinner

Day 2 | Monday

FULL DAY in BALULE NATURE RESERVE (GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK)

Wake early with a sunrise cup of coffee and fresh rusks (a traditional South African biscuit) before heading out on your early morning safari. In the company of an expert field guide, explore the wilderness with heightened senses on the lookout for creatures big and small.

All this excitement works up a healthy appetite, and we return to the lodge for a delicious brunch before finding a spot to relax and take in the special energy of the African bush – be that from your private deck or the poolside. A bustling waterhole in front of the camp attracts thirsty animals of all shapes and sizes, and you have front-row seats. As the heat of the day subsides, it's time for our late afternoon game drive. Enjoy sundowners at dusk, another safari tradition, as the sun burns its way below the horizon. A safari after dark is a different experience altogether, as nocturnal predators come out to hunt and prey, and eyes honed to darkness glint mysteriously in the bush. Return to the lodge for dinner under the starry galaxy and share stories around the campfire. Retire to bed to an orchestra of sounds – think roaring lions, cackling hyenas, honking hippos and hooting owls – that end a day you will not soon forget.

Overnight at a Private Tented Bush Lodge or similar – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 | Tuesday

BALULE NATURE RESERVE to HAZYVIEW via PANORAMA ROUTE (±225km)

After another glorious sunrise and a hearty breakfast, we set off on a spectacularly beautiful expedition. Today, our route takes us on an exploration of the Panorama Route, known for its awesome views, waterfalls, and natural wonders. Experience the breath-taking beauty of Blyde River Canyon, the world's third-largest canyon. The meandering Blyde River, striking rock formations, deep gorges, and vibrant plant life combine to create a stunning landscape. View the unique formations reminiscent of traditional African round houses (rondavels), enhancing to the richness of our journey through this remarkable terrain. Witness the marvel of Bourke's Luck Potholes, formed over millions of years by the relentless force of water, carving mammoth cylindrical holes into rock, before we arrive at God's Window, aptly named for its unparalleled panoramic view of the Lowveld.

We journey to a serene log cabin perched on stilts in an indigenous forest, overlooking the Sabie River. If time allows, you can opt for a tranquil nature walk through the forest or explore a neighbouring coffee farm, enjoying the magnificence of your surroundings. Dine at the lodge.

Overnight at the Greenfire Lodge Hazyview or similar – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 | Thursday

FULL DAY in KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (±200km)

Wake with the birds as we head into the Kruger National Park for a slow meander through the southern section of the park on another full day of game viewing. From the elevated vantage point and comfort of Drifters' custom-built truck (where every seat has a theater-like view), you'll enjoy front-row seats to your safari. Your expert guide knows this wilderness intimately and intuitively and will take the time to explain the behaviours of the many animals we encounter. You can also expect to learn something new, such as the medicinal benefits of a plant! Lunch in the park is at your own expense.

Kruger National Park is one of the planet's last vast preserved wildernesses, and South Africa's top-ranked safari destination. Located in the north-eastern corner of the country, bordering Mozambique, the reserve covers 12,500 square kms of land. For perspective, this is the equivalent of the size of Israel or Wales! This is the place to immerse yourself in a kingdom of wild animals. Kruger National Park is home to what is famously known as the "Big 5" (lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo, and rhinoceros), along with 336 tree, 49 fish, 34 amphibian, 116 reptile, 507 bird, and 147 mammal species.

After an invigorating day on safari, we head back to the comfort of our lodge in Hazyview. Dine at the lodge.

Overnight at Greenfire Lodge Hazyview or similar – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 | Friday

HAZYVIEW to JOHANNESBURG (±430km)

After a relaxed breakfast, we make our way back to Johannesburg along the original route pioneered by early gold diggers, via Sabie.

Drop-off at OR Tambo International Airport or a Sandton hotel in the late afternoon.

OPTIONAL Post-night at Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton or similar – Breakfast

Airport Drop-off: On the last day of the tour, the guide will make a short stop at OR Tambo International Airport for guests who have evening flights. **Please note:** Drifters cannot guarantee a specific time of arrival at the airport and will not take any responsibility for delays on the road. Should guests need to fly back on the last day, the flights must be evening departures.