

Blyde River Canyon Boat Cruise

Destinations | The Kruger National Park | Day tours | Blyde River Canyon Boat Cruise

Description:

Welcome to Blyde River Canyon! We offer scenic boat trips on the beautiful Blyderivierspoort Dam in the Blyde River Canyon. This is a place of pure, untouched beauty, and there is no better way to experience it than from the water on our comfortable pontoon boat. Our experienced skipper, a born and bred "Hoedspruiter" with a wealth of knowledge and passion for the canyon, will guide you through this amazing place. Join us for an unforgettable experience!

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)
- Booking dependent on weather conditions
- Booking in advance essential

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 1
- Children of all ages welcome with adult supervision
- Depart from the Blyde River Dam jetty (140km from Graskop, 40km from Hoedspruit and 120km from Hazyview)
- Things to bring: Camera, snacks, and drinks (no alcohol allowed on the boat)
- Regrettably, no spectators are allowed.

Tour Starts:

- 07H00, 09H00, 11H00, 13H00, 15H00

Duration:

- 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Elephant Interaction (Hoedspruit)

Destinations | The Kruger National Park | Day tours | Elephant Interaction

Description:

Arrive at sunrise for your personal introduction to a very special family and immerse yourself fully in the natural environment of one of Africa's most epic creatures. The start is an early one before the elephants head off into the bush to forage in the wild. Encounters are limited to just one a day, as we have committed to giving this herd as much time in their natural environment as possible. We only accept limited number of guests per encounter in order to keep human-animal interaction at an absolute minimum.

Nothing quite prepares you for your first encounter with the Camp Jabulani Elephants. Their mammoth size and vibrant presence are always humbling. You'll learn about their incredible story through the keepers who have walked the long road with them and have formed lifelong bonds in the process – from the rescue and arrival of an orphaned and abandoned baby elephant to the last-minute rescue by the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre of a herd of elephants from strife-torn Zimbabwe when their owners farm was appropriated by war veterans.

Over the years, five babies have been born to the herd and another two orphans found in the wild were rehabilitated successfully.

Your 1 hour 30 minutes experience will include the opportunity to touch a few of the elephants, exchange trunk greetings and feed them tasty treats – all while the elephant keepers share their quirky tales, unique identification marks and distinctive character traits as well as fascinating insight into their extraordinary anatomies. You'll also get some incredible pictures.

Coffee and tea with biscuits are served for your refreshment. Following your personal Elephant Experience, you will have the opportunity to browse the small Safari Boutique stocked with a range of beautiful souvenirs.

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 1
- Minimum age: 6years
- Guests are advised to wear comfortable clothing.
- Important things to bring are sunglasses, sun hat and more importantly your camera.
- No spectators allowed.

Tour Times:

- 06h10

Duration:

- 1.5 Hours (Tour only, excluding transfer time)

Kruger National Park Half Day or Full Day Game Drives

Destinations | Kruger National Park | Day tours | Morning / Afternoon or Full day Game Drives

Description:

A game drive in the Kruger National Park in South Africa is one of the most quintessential safari experiences you'll ever enjoy. This world-renowned Big Five game reserve is one of the most popular travel destinations in Southern Africa and with very good reason - the sheer wealth of natural beauty is absolutely astounding. Assured & Tailored offers a range of Kruger game drive options to suit your needs. Join us for an early-morning drive so you may see the bush as it wakes up and unfurls beneath the rising sun; opt for a full-day drive so you may encounter as much as possible in the time you have available or choose an afternoon drive that culminates in a convivial sunset cocktail hour. Not sure which game drive option will best suit the needs of your group? Feel free to get in touch - we'll be happy to assist. All of our Kruger National Park safari drives are conducted by accredited guides in 4x4 open-sided vehicles, so you have optimal visibility to enjoy rare sightings of the Big Five and countless smaller species that share this glorious habitat.

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 2 (single traveller, 100% single supplement)
- Pickup and drop off transfer times will be confirmed prior to your tour.
- Children 6years or older permitted under adult supervision, with prior arrangement.
- Certified FGASA Nature Guide accompanies the drive.

Tour Times:

- 05h00 Summer months (September – April)
- 05h30 Winter months (May – August)

Duration:

- 6 – 12 Hours

Horseback Trails

Destinations | Zandspruit | Day tours | Horseback Trails

Description:

One of the best ways to experience nature is on horseback. There are many different trails available that follow rivers and offer stunning views of wildlife coming down to drink. Whether you're an experienced rider or just getting started, there are options for everyone. One thing that makes horseback riding so unique is getting you up close and personal with different animals. Birdwatching, animal lovers, and anyone who enjoys being in nature will find something to love about a trail ride through nature.

Outrides into Zandspruit Estate's 650 hectares Wilderness area provide a unique opportunity to traverse pristine African bushveld while enjoying the presence of the indigenous wildlife. Meandering between African wildlife while they remain totally relaxed is exceptional and the ultimate bush experience.

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 1
- Minimum age 6 years old and maximum age 65 years old
- There is a strict 85kg weight limit.
- Please wear closed shoes and long, comfortable pants or jeans.
- Riding helmets provided.

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)
- Booking dependent on weather conditions
- Booking in advance essential

Tour Starts:

- 08H30 (October – March)
- 09H00 (April – September)

We can be flexible; however, these are the best time to avoid the midday heat.

Duration:

- 1 Hour or 2 Hour Options

Hot Air Ballooning (Hoedspruit)

Destinations | The Kruger National Park | Day tours | Hot Air Ballooning

Description:

Every morning, at sunrise, our balloons depart from launch sites in Hoedspruit. Come aboard for an experience of a lifetime.

When?

Flights are conducted throughout the year, with mid-summer sunrise at 05h00 and mid-winter sunrise at 06h30. We meet 20 minutes before sunrise at the respective launch sites.

Where?

Experience the magic of lighter-than-air flight near the foot of the Drakensig Escarpment. We offer one-hour long flights over the scenic, Lowveld section of Blyde River, 15km West of Hoedspruit. The terrain is a mixture of Farmland, Private Nature Reserves and Wildlife Estates. The mountains to the South and West provide shelter from the prevailing winds, thereby affording us good flying weather on most days. As the sun rises, the landscape, the vegetation and, if you're lucky, some wildlife will provide photo opportunities.

Game spotting cannot be guaranteed but, on most flights, we see plains game like giraffe and wildebeest.

Our pilots and crew will ensure a safe, enjoyable, and informative adventure that will be one of the highlights of your visit to the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere. After the flight, guests making use of transfers will be returned to their respective lodges.

What to expect?

We meet before sunrise and coffee is served while you watch your eight-storey high balloon being inflated and prepared for flight. After a safety briefing you should be airborne in time to witness the sunrise. The high above ground will vary between skimming the tree-tops to as high as 2000 feet as the pilot changes altitude in search of favourable wind directions and speeds.

The flight duration is about an hour and towards the end of the flight the pilot will select a suitable landing site. The landing is an exciting event because the basket meets the earth at whatever speed the surface wind is at the time.

Light airs allow the softest of landings while fresh breezes necessitate a "positive" landing so that the basket can serve as an anchor to slow the envelope down. If not already at the landing site, the ground crew will soon arrive to deflate and pack the balloon while passengers enjoy fruit juice and sparkling wine.

Who can participate?

Passengers must be fit enough to stand unassisted for an hour and must also be able to climb in and out of the basket. Youngsters are welcome but should be at least 1.2m (4foot) tall, so they can see over the rim of the

basket. Regrettably, pregnant persons may not participate in a balloon flight.

What to wear and bring along?

Though winter dawns can be nippy, once you're up in the basket, it will be surprisingly warm. Warm clothes will be useful during pre-flight. Cameras and binoculars can be brought along.

Staff and equipment?

Your pilot is fully qualified and is also an expert in environmental interpretation. We fly a Kavanagh 210 that carries pilot plus 8-10 passengers, a Thunder & Colt 180 that carries pilot plus 6 passengers and a Kavanagh 120 that carries pilot plus 4 passengers.

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)
- Weather dependant

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 1
- Children welcome but should be at least 1.2m (4foot) tall, so they can see over the rim of the basket.
- Pregnant persons may unfortunately not participate.
- During winter months, warm clothes will be useful during pre-flight.

Tour Times:

- 05h00 Mid-Summer
- 06h30 Mid-Winter

Duration:

- 60 minutes

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Tour

Destinations | The Kruger National Park | Day tours | Moholoholo Animal Rehabilitation Centre Tour

Description:

Situated in the shadow of the majestic 'Mariepskop' which forms part of the mighty Drakensberg mountains, our unique Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is a home to many of South Africa's abandoned, injured, and poisoned wildlife. Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is extremely proud of its efforts in wildlife education in South Africa. At Moholoholo we are often faced with the difficult decision of what to do with an injured or poisoned animal which will not be able to be released back into the wild. As a result, we have several 'permanent residents' at the centre and at our own cost we use them as 'ambassadors' for their respective species. Members of the public are therefore able to get an up close and personal experience of these incredible creatures and with our hands on approach we can demonstrate to the public the threats and problems our wildlife is facing today. The centre has a long standing and successful Serval Breeding Project and more than 160 have successfully been reintroduced to areas where they have become extinct. We are actively involved in research on the movement and behaviour of leopards and several vulture species that we monitor daily at our 'Vulture Restaurant'. A visit to the Centre is 'an experience of a lifetime' and will leave you with lasting memories.

We invite you to come and share a unique experience with us.

Please make sure you visit our:

- Museum
- Curio Shop
- Stoffel's Tuck Shop

Tour Departs:

- Monday to Saturday
- Open on Sundays during school holidays and long weekends

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 2
- Children of all ages welcome, children under the age of 6 – no charge
- Visitors are advised to wear light comfortable clothes and walking shoes.

Tour Starts:

- 09h30 Morning Tour
- 15h00 Afternoon Tour

Duration:

- 2 Hours

Morning and Afternoon Nature Drives

Destinations | Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate | Day tours | Morning and Afternoon Nature Drives

Description:

As the dry season progresses, the amount of available vegetation decreases, and wildlife begins to congregate around watering holes. In contrast, an abundance of foliage increases and animals are more dispersed throughout the area when the wet season arrives. Throughout the year, you have the chance to see various animals, including giraffe, zebra, warthog, baboon, impala, kudu, vervet monkey, waterbuck, wildebeest, bushbaby, mongoose, and duiker. However, leopard, honey badger, porcupine, aardvark, civet, caracal, and serval sightings are not as common. As for birds, vultures, owls, bee-eaters, rollers, eagles, bustards, hornbills, starlings, and shrikes can be seen on Nature Drives relatively frequently.

As the temperature rises in the summer months, so does the humidity. You'll want to pack a few different outfits to stay comfortable. Here are our suggestions for what to wear on your game drive: - Comfortable walking shoes - A sun hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen - Cameras and binoculars - Light-coloured, neutral clothing - Warm jackets (essential in winter, from May to September)

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 2 (single traveller, 100% single supplement)
- Children 6 years or older permitted under adult supervision, with prior arrangement.

Tour Times:

Morning Drives:

- 05h30-07h00 Summer months (September–April)
- 06h30-08h00 Winter months (May-August)

Afternoon Drives:

- 16h30-18h00 Summer months (September–April)
- 15h30-17h00 Winter months (May-August)

Duration:

- 1.5 Hours

Description:

For a chance to encounter plains game on foot and experience the true magic of Africa, it doesn't get better than a Sunrise Bush Walk. When you arrive, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea with homemade rusks before venturing out into the wilderness. The walk is led by an expert game ranger who is well trained to keep you safe and provide you with interesting information on all the creatures that you come across.

The Game Reserve is nestled in the soul of the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere. It's a beautiful, conserved part of the Lowveld Bushveld and the privileged few that live here enjoy the company of the gentler side of African Fauna, Impalas and Kudu grazing around, warthogs sniffing for roots and tubers. Hopefully you would have the opportunity to meet many of these magnificent animals on your walk.

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 2
- Pickup and drop off transfer times will be confirmed prior to your tour.
- Children 6years or older permitted under adult supervision, with prior arrangement.

Tour Times:

- 06h00 Sunrise Walk (Summer)
- 06h30 Sunrise Walk (Winter)

Duration:

- 60 minutes

Nyani Cultural Village Tour (Hoedspruit)

Roots of Rhythm

Destinations | The Kruger National Park | Day tours | Nyani Cultural Village Tour

Description:

The "Roots of Rhythm" show group offer a unique and vibrant show. The team members are all residents from the rural areas in and around Acornhoek, who have been trained in singing, dancing, drumming, and dramatic performance.

Roots of Rhythm Show Group was established in 2008.

The Eco Academy is the host venue for the beautiful Shangaan Village and the outdoor theatre. The Academy is a safe and clean education to local and international students, focusing on anti-poaching, conservation, and lodge management. Conservation of our Heritage goes hand in hand with Conservation of Nature and our environment. In an informative and entertaining way, Roots of Rhythm performers provide visitors with a better understanding of the rich cultural background of the Limpopo Tribes, identifying the history and traditions of the indigenous people through costumes, dance styles and rhythms.

Unique Day Experience at the Nyani Village:

Africa is:

- The pounding of the drum.
- The rhythm of the dance.
- The songs we sing.
- The stories we tell.

The history and culture of the African tribes comes to life at Nyani Cultural Village. This new cultural attraction in Hoedspruit is an ideal destination for visitors and learners of all ages, with the program modified to suit all age groups in terms of content and duration. The cultural journey starts in our boma theatre where guests experience our original show "Limpopo Pathways" featuring the costumes, song, and dances of the San (Bushmen), the Shona and Venda, the Tsonga, the Balobedu (Modjadji the Rain Queen), the Pedi and the Bahananawa (Tswana). We also include the Swati and Zulu dances as these tribes played an influential part in the history of Limpopo. The hour-long theatre show is designed as an entertainment and educational tool telling the story of the origins, journeys and lifestyles of the tribes that settled in the Limpopo.

Roots of Rhythm offers a unique lunch time experience where guests can share the excitement and warmth of true rural African culture.

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)
- Pre-booking are essential.
- Group bookings available by reservation.

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 7
- Maximum guests: 220
- We prepare a typical African meal on request of groups of 7 or more.
- Refreshments are available from the tuck shop.
- Clean toilet facility available.
- Wheelchair friendly.

Tour Starts:

- 11h30

Duration:

- 1 Hour

Panorama Mountain Tour

Destinations | The Kruger National Park | Day tours | Panorama Mountain Tour

Description:

The Panorama Route runs along the spectacular Blyde River Canyon in Mpumalanga and is arguably one of the most beautiful and popular destinations in South Africa. The Panorama Route is best known for its cultural heritage and its dramatic landscapes. It leads through the rocky mountain range of the northern Drakensberg.

From many well-positioned vantage points, one has a view of the 68-mile-long gorge, which starts at Bourke's Luck Potholes and ends at the Three Rondawels. The Potholes are very extraordinary rock formations that were shaped millions of years ago by erosion. This breath-taking gorge, the third largest in the world, provides unforgettable memories that become indelibly etched upon any avid adventurer's soul. Its scenery is unsurpassed, its vegetation is both varied and lush and provides a home to a rich selection of bird and wildlife.

The Blyde River Canyon is the third deepest canyon in the world (after the Grand Canyon in the western U.S. and Namibia's Fish Eagle Canyon). It ranks one of the most spectacular sights in Africa.

This great escarpment is the kind of place where brochures and guidebooks run out of original adjectives to describe the fresh mountain scenery and magnificent panoramic views over cliffs rising 600m-800m from the riverbed. The entire canyon extends over 12.5 miles in length.

Blyde Canyon cuts through the Drakensberg Mountain Range, one of the seven major mountain systems in Africa. It is probably the most photographed, painted, and admired area in the country.

The Panorama Route boasts many exciting attractions, waterfalls, lovely towns, and historical sites all well worth a visit. Hazyview and Pilgrim's Rest to mention a few, provide numerous scenic attractions as well as an insight as to how the settlers lived many years ago. On the Abel Erasmus Pass there is the opportunity to see one of the rarest birds in the world known as the Taita Falcon. The presence of these magnificent birds in South Africa was only discovered in the 1990s. It also affords many the opportunity to go gold panning just as the settlers did over a century ago (gold panning to be pre-booked). Other highlights include the exquisite waterfalls in Graskop and Sabie, The Echo Caves, that speak of Africa's powerful tribes, trails left behind by the Voortrekkers in regions such as Lydenburg and Ohrigstad, ancient artistic footprints left by the indigenous peoples of Africa and the Gold Rush territory, Pilgrim's Rest, which was home to the early prospectors.

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)
- Not a scheduled tour, only operated as a private tour.

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 1
- Children of all ages welcome, just bear in mind that the tour entails quite a fair amount of walking and driving Booking in advance essential.
- Pickup and drop off transfer times will be confirmed prior to your tour.

Tour Starts:

- 07h00
- Although recommended, alternative pickup times can be arranged to suit guests needs because of the Panorama Tour being operated only on a private basis.
- Please be advised, should the pickup or drop off times be altered, guests might not have the time to spend a lot of time at each attraction or even miss out on some of the points of interest.

Duration:

- 8-10 Hours

Scenic Helicopter Flights (Hoedspruit)

Destinations | The Kruger National Park | Day tours | Scenic Helicopter Flights (Hoedspruit)

Description:

A scenic helicopter excursion flight over the Blyde River Canyon and Panorama is a breath-taking adventure that promises to leave you with unforgettable memories. The Blyde River Canyon is one of the largest canyons in the world, located in Mpumalanga province, South Africa. This natural wonder is a sight to behold, with its towering cliffs, lush greenery, and meandering river that flows through it.

A helicopter excursion flight over the canyon and panorama provides a unique perspective of this magnificent landscape. From the air, you can appreciate the vastness of the canyon and the intricate patterns formed by the winding river below. You can see the towering peaks of the Drakensberg Mountains in the distance, and the verdant greenery that surrounds the canyon.

As you soar through the air, you will experience the thrill of adventure and the excitement of exploring the unknown. The helicopter excursion flight will take you over waterfalls, deep gorges, and dense forests. You can witness the natural beauty of the region in all its glory, and the stunning views will take your breath away.

For those seeking an extra dose of adventure, the Panorama flight is a must-try. This flight takes you over some of the most scenic and picturesque landmarks in the area, including God's Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes, and the Three Rondavels. Each of these landmarks offers a unique and awe-inspiring view that is sure to leave you spellbound.

In conclusion, a scenic helicopter excursion flight over the Blyde River Canyon and Panorama is an adventure that should not be missed. It offers an unparalleled opportunity to witness the natural beauty of this region, and the views are simply breath-taking. Whether you are an adrenaline junkie or a nature lover, this experience is sure to leave a lasting impression on you.

Tour Departs:

- Available daily (upon request)
- Weather dependant

Tour Notes:

- Minimum number of guests: 1
- Maximum number of guests: 3
- Early mornings are the best time for flying.
- Comfortable clothes advisable, bring something warm for the cooler winter mornings.
- Camera essential for beautiful photo opportunities
- Guests may be required to specify their weight on upon booking.

- Booking in advance is essential.

Tour Starts:

- Per arrangement throughout a day.

Duration:

- 1 Hour to 2.5 Hours (flight only, excluding transfer times)