

## WILDLIFE OF THE CAPE & KRUGER 2024

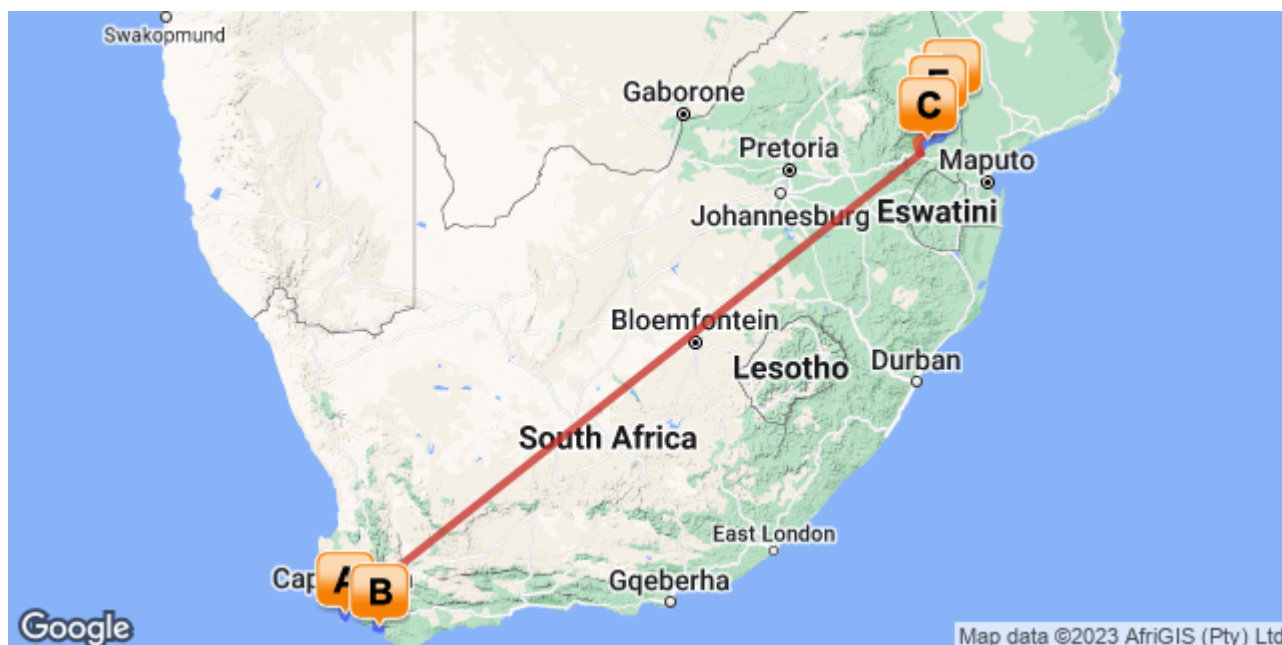
*Cape Town - Hermanus - Kruger National Park - Sabi Sand Nature Reserve*

*11 Days / 10 Nights*

*Reference: S08/24*

**05 September 2024 - 15 September 2024**





## Introduction

Our South Africa Wildlife safari covers two of the country's most popular areas – Cape Town and the Greater Kruger National Park. Indeed, these areas are quite different to each other and offer a nice contrast. The Cape Town area offers mountain and sea views at every turn. Moreover, the Greater Kruger offers a classic African safari experience. Combine the two and you literally have the best of South Africa in an 11-day tour! To sum it up, this wildlife safari takes in the best of the two regions' natural history, giving you an exciting, varied and rewarding South African holiday experience.

## Areas covered

Our **South African Wildlife safari** starts of in Cape Town. After three nights in Simon's Town we then move to Hermanus, famous for its whale viewing. After that we then drive back to Cape Town for a regional flight to the Kruger National Park. The safari starts here and we visit three different camps as we make our way northwards. From there we end off at a private lodge in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve. This is the highlight of the tour in many ways. Participants will then get a transfer to one of the regional airports for a flight back to Johannesburg.

## Accommodation

The accommodation is of a medium-plus to high standard. It includes a B&B, a hotel, national park's chalets and private lodge chalets. Importantly, all accommodations have en-suite facilities, and are clean and comfortable.

## The mammals

The variety of species to be seen on this South Africa Wildlife safari is remarkable. Firstly, while the Cape no longer has the mega-fauna component it once did, there are some interesting species to see. These may include Bontebok, Cape Mountain Zebra, Red Hartebeest, Cape Grysbok for example, and maybe even Caracal with a bit of luck. Southern Right Whales should be common in the inshore waters. Other Cetaceans may include Bryde's and Humpback Whales and several Dolphin species. Kruger and Sabi Sands will then deliver the megafauna – in abundance! Elephants, Buffalo and Giraffe are common. And of course we'll be on the lookout for the big predators – Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Wild Dog and Spotted Hyena. In between all of these we'll see a host of antelope species, primates, mongooses and other interesting species. Indeed, South Africa wildlife viewing is top class in all respects.

### The birding

Birds are not the main focus of this South Africa wildlife safari. However, we can't ignore some of the more impressive feathered fauna. Consequently, we'll no doubt show you some fantastic birds such as: Martial Eagle, Bateleur, White-fronted Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted Roller and others, sticking to the big, colourful and photogenic species.

### Group size

Maximum of 12 participants; 6 participants per vehicle / guide

### Expected weather conditions

The Cape's weather is notoriously variable and September is within the winter rainfall period. Some rain can be expected, while fine and warm conditions are also expected. In the Kruger it should be dry and warm, but early morning drives in open vehicles can be cold, so adequate clothing such as a thick fleece and windbreaker are recommended.

In conclusion, this South Africa wildlife itinerary offer a great introduction to the country. It'll showcase two of the prime travel and wildlife areas. And once you've done it you can say you've seen the main parts of South Africa, but you'll probably want to come back to see more of South Africa's wonders!

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Duration
Whale View Manor Guest House	Cape Town	5 Sep	8 Sep	D,B&B	<b>3 Nights</b>
Windsor Hotel Hermanus	Hermanus	8 Sep	10 Sep	D,B&B	<b>2 Nights</b>
Pretoriuskop Rest Camp	Kruger National Park	10 Sep	11 Sep	D,B&B	<b>1 Night</b>
Satara Main Camp	Kruger National Park	11 Sep	13 Sep	D,B&B	<b>2 Nights</b>
Elephant Plains Game Lodge	Sabi Sand Nature Reserve	13 Sep	15 Sep	FB+	<b>2 Nights</b>

### Key

D,B&B: Dinner, Bed and Breakfast      FB+: Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities

### Price

**ZAR 62 330** per person sharing

**ZAR 11 700** single supplement

### Included

- Accommodation
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Ground transport
- Lawson's insulated water bottle
- Entrance fees
- Personalised checklists
- Specialist guide fees

## Excluded

- All airfares
  - Travel and medical insurance
  - Lunches
  - All drinks
  - Optional excursions where applicable
  - Gratuities
  - Items of a personal nature
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## Day 1-4: Thursday, 5 September to Sunday, 8 September

### Whale View Manor Guest House, Cape Town

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#### Day Itinerary

**Note:** participants should overnight in Cape Town on the 4th Sep at own cost (we recommend a few nights in Cape Town to see the city and cultural / general tourist highlights), or arrive on early morning flights on the 5th Sep. Later arrivals on the 5th Sep may result in additional transfer costs. Please consult us about appropriate flights.

After arriving at Cape Town International we'll drive onto the Cape Peninsula, a large rocky piece of land thrusting out into the ocean to form the south-western tip of the African continent, separating False Bay from the Atlantic Ocean (contrary to popular belief the Indian and Atlantic Oceans do not meet here). En-route we'll stop at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens on the slopes of Table Mountain, where we will spend the afternoon looking at the birds and flowers (this is a superb venue for photography) and enjoying the fantastic scenery. The following day we will have an opportunity to visit the famous African Penguin colony at Boulder's Beach and will then explore Cape Point before returning to our guest house. Other attractions we'll fit in include Table Mountain and Chapman's Peak drive, one of South Africa's most scenic road routes, and perhaps have a visit to one of the area's famous wineries.

#### Cape Town

Set at the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic oceans and backed by the iconic Table Mountain, the bustling city of Cape Town presents an alluring combination of drawcards. Incredible powdery white beaches, highly acclaimed wine routes, and astonishingly beautiful mountain trails surround a cosmopolitan hub. This diverse metropolis is filled with superb shops and restaurants, extraordinary heritage monuments, a multitude of entertainment venues, and a spectacular, chic waterfront harbour. Highlights include the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art; Table Mountain's jaw-dropping views; Boulders Beach, where penguins might swim right up to you in the warm Indian ocean waters; the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, where you can walk along a treetop canopy among incredible native flora or watch an open-air concert at the base of the mountain; Robben Island, where visitors can see the cell where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years; and many more.

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#### Overnight: Whale View Manor Guest House

Whale View Manor Guest House overlooks a secluded beach, and lies on the outskirts of historic Simon's Town, between Cape Town and Cape Point, on the False Bay Coastline.






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## Day 4-6: Sunday, 8 September to Tuesday, 10 September

### Windsor Hotel Hermanus, Hermanus

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#### Day Itinerary

Moving on from the Cape Peninsula, we'll drive around the edge of False Bay to look for Cape Rockjumper near Hangklip on the eastern point, with the drive via the small seaside village of Rooi Els being a highlight in itself, with the clear Atlantic Ocean crashing against the rocks below us on the right and the steep slopes of the Kogelberg range rising up steeply on our left, while the Cape Peninsula may be clearly visible across False Bay if the weather is good. We'll stop off at the Stony Point Penguin colony, which is larger in area than the Boulder's Beach colony and usually less crowded in terms of tourists, and the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens for some lunch and a stroll. We'll then continue on to Hermanus, one of the world's best land-based whale watching destinations. Southern Right Whales should be common off-shore, while an additional attraction is the Great White Shark viewing nearby, with an optional shark trip on our full morning here. Speak to your guide beforehand about the optional activities available.

#### Hermanus

Situated just 140 kilometres from Cape Town and built between the beautiful shores of Walker Bay, Hermanus has grown from a small seaside resort town to become arguably the best-known place for whale watching in the world. This town is also famed for its natural scenic beauty, featuring long stretches of pristine beaches. An excellent variety of restaurants, cafes and bars are also on offer. Today, Hermanus is more than just a popular holiday destination and offers visitors all kinds of activities, both energetic and relaxing. Visitors can explore the Old Harbour Museum, which is comprised of the charming fisherman's village, the old harbour, and the Whale House Museum; hike through the nearby Fernkloof Nature Reserve, and sample an array of top-quality wine along the famous Hermanus Wine Route.

#### Overnight: Windsor Hotel Hermanus

The independently owned Windsor Hotel stands proudly on the edge of Hermanus's breathtaking Walker Bay with a panoramic vista featuring the world's best whale-watching available in most rooms. Southern Right Whales have been breeding and feeding here for centuries (July – November) and our guests have been returning, generation after generation, to delight in this spectacle.



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## Day 6: Tuesday, 10 September

### Pretoriuskop Rest Camp, Kruger National Park

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#### Day Itinerary

After breakfast we'll drive back to Cape Town International Airport for our flight to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport near the town of White River before boarding the vehicles and entering the Kruger National Park. We'll make our way to our first camp, viewing our first Big Game on the way, where we should have time to settle in before dinner.

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#### Kruger National Park

Stretching over more than two million hectares, the famous Kruger National Park is one of the world's largest game reserves and a truly remarkable destination. Owing to its exceptional size, visitors are able to experience fantastic diversity – from changing scenery and ecosystems to an impressive array of animals, plant life and birdlife. The park is home to over 130 mammals and over 500 bird species. Visitors can look forward to learning about the area's prehistoric past, enjoying a host of accommodation options, and viewing abundant wildlife including the famed Big Five. The diversity and sheer density of wildlife make Kruger National Park an unforgettable and once-in-a-lifetime experience.

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#### Overnight: Pretoriuskop Rest Camp

Pretoriuskop Camp is one of the oldest camps in the Kruger National Park. Much of this old atmosphere has been retained with only a few modifications, such as restaurants, a shop, a petrol station and one of the best swimming pools in the park. The accommodation is grouped into 3 circles centered round a compact administrative block and spaciouly laid between lush green lawns.



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## Day 7-9: Wednesday, 11 September to Friday, 13 September

### Satara Main Camp, Kruger National Park

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#### Day Itinerary

Today we'll have an early departure from Pretoriuskop as we game view on the way to Skukuza Rest Camp for breakfast, and from there have a full day game drive to Satara Rest Camp., situated in the open basalt plains of the south / central parts of the park. For the next two full days we'll spend our time exploring the park and looking for exciting mammal species such as Elephant, Lion, Rhino, Leopard, Buffalo, Cheetah and Wild Dog, and in the process encountering plenty of the common species such as Zebra, Wildebeest, Giraffe, Impala, Hippo, Warthog and others, as well as a huge number and variety of bird species, from the Ostrich, the world's largest bird, to the stunningly

beautiful Lilac-breasted Roller. Time out in the field will be balanced by rest periods in the heat of the day, while optional extra activities include night drives to look for nocturnal birds and animals.

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### **Overnight: Satara Main Camp**

Satara Camp is situated in the open Basalt plains at the northern end of the park's southern sector. The plains attract large numbers of grazers such as Zebra and Wildebeest, which in turn form the prey base for numerous Lion prides and Spotted Hyena clans, and indeed, the Satara region is one of the top game viewing areas of the park. As with all of Kruger's main camps, there's a shop, restaurant and fuel station, while two water holes on the perimeter attract herds of game in the dry season especially.




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### **Day 9-11: Friday, 13 September to Sunday, 15 September**

#### **Elephant Plains Game Lodge, Sabi Sand Nature Reserve**

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#### **Day Itinerary**

After a last morning drive and breakfast we'll pack and depart for the adjacent Sabi Sand Game Reserve, a 160 000 acre private conservancy which is open to and contiguous with the Kruger National Park. This means that animals are free to roam throughout the area, making for authentic game viewing. Here we'll have morning and afternoon game drives in open safari vehicles, where the focus will be on encounters with some of Africa's big cat species, the reserve boasting what must be some of Africa's best big cat viewing, especially when it comes to the usually elusive Leopard. Game walks are an additional activity, while fine dining and accommodation will augment the experience to create what will arguably be the highlight of this wonderful wildlife tour. We should arrive in time to settle in before lunch, after which we'll have our first afternoon / evening game drive, returning for time to freshen up before dinner. On each full day we'll have an early morning game drive, followed by breakfast and an optional bush walk, time to rest in camp, followed by lunch and the afternoon / evening drive once again, ending off with dinner around the open fire.

#### **Expert Tips**

Bush walks are undertaken under the leadership of an armed guide and a tracker. The main point is not to see big game, as this is more easily done in the vehicle, but rather to get closer to the ground and learn about the smaller life forms, tracks and signs, birds and their nests and the general ecology. However, encounters with potentially dangerous game are possible, even if not actually sought out. The guides are trained to deal with such animals, but there are rare occasions when 'evasive action' is required, which may entail climbing trees, or running to the nearest cover. If you are not physically able to undertake such action, it might be better to not partake in the bush walk. Participation is also at the discretion of the lodge guide who will be leading the walk.

#### **Sabi Sand Nature Reserve**

Adjacent to the Kruger National Park, the Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve is a private premier game viewing destination. It was the first ever private nature reserve established in South Africa. The landscape features 65 000 hectares of savannah-covered land interspersed with watering holes, dry river beds, lowveld woodlands, and the

perennial Sabi and Sand rivers. This spectacular reserve offers exceptional game viewing opportunities with frequent sightings of the renowned Big Five as well as Cheetah, Zebra, Giraffe, and a variety of antelope. Visitors can enjoy excellent wildlife viewing, dining under the stars, guided bush walks and enjoying a stay in some of South Africa's most luxurious safari lodges.

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### **Overnight: Elephant Plains Game Lodge**

Situated in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve, adjacent to the Kruger National Park, Elephant Plains Game Lodge offers comfortable, stylish and affordable luxury. Elephant Plains is world-renowned for excellent game viewing and guests can enjoy two game drives and a bush walk per day.



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### **Day 11: Sunday, 15 September**

#### **End of Itinerary**

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#### **Day Itinerary**

After a last morning drive and breakfast we'll depart for Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport for flights back to Johannesburg.

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