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Second Edition © 2015

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IMPORTANT NOTICE...

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Acknowledgements

"The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:6-9)

Thanks to my husband, Mario, who got me hooked on wildlife photography and who helped me compile this guidebook from conception to publication.

Thanks to all the dedicated SANParks, NWR, Pilanesberg and Madikwe staff members who enhanced our many safaris by providing advice and great service.

My greatest thanks go to the LORD who created the wilderness areas and animals that we love so much.
Welcome to Kruger-2-Kalahari's free Southern African Safari guide

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1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for downloading “The Southern African Safari Guide”.

We are so excited to share this information and our experiences with you. Whether you are a seasoned visitor to the parks or you are totally new to African Safaris, we are sure you will find these resources useful when you plan your next big-five Safari in Southern Africa.

We will be looking at 5 very different parks, Kruger National Park, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Pilanesberg Game Reserve, Madikwe Game Reserve and Etosha National Park.

If you are stressed, tired of city life and want to escape from your routine in order to recharge your batteries, then a visit to the wilderness of the African Bush is just what you need!

But first you need to ask yourself, what do I want out of my safari holiday and how much time do I have to spend in the parks? Do I want to photograph animals, am I more of a bird lover or do I just want to relax and enjoy God’s creation? Do I want to do a self-drive or would I prefer a guided Safari?

Well, after reading this guide book you should be able to decide on…

• where you will go,
• whether to do a self-drive safari or guided safari,
• the duration of your trip,
• when is the best time you should go,
• how to make a reservation,
• what to bring with you,
• how you will get around,
• where to shop,
• whether you should eat at the restaurants or braai, and
• what you can do and see at each game reserve.

In this guide Mario and I have put together our twenty years of safari experience and knowledge (over 800 days on safari) for you to use to successfully plan your own big-5 safari holiday.

This book, combined with our eBooks and the info on our website, should be enough for you to plan a great self-drive safari to these national parks or game reserves and our trip reports will provide you with some idea of what you could expect when visiting these Southern African game parks.
If you feel this book is lacking somewhere or it has errors, please don’t hesitate to let us know!

Don’t think you can’t complain just because the book is free. You’re helping us to make this book better for others!

And talking about others - If you find this guidebook and our website useful, then please help other people to find out about it. If you have a blog or website, please consider adding a link in a post or Tweet it, add it to your MySpace, or your Facebook page, as every link helps!

**How to Use This Guide**

This guide is written in e-book format. You may be familiar with e-books, in which case you can skip this section and get straight into the book. But for those of you who are not familiar with e-books, here are a few tips:

First of all, if you haven’t saved it to your hard drive yet, look in the top left corner, click on ‘file’ and then click on “Save a copy” - browse to your desktop and click ‘save’.

Now you can open the e-book from your desktop and read it on your screen whenever you like. Or you can print it out and read it like any other book, but it has been designed to be read from your computer. And while you are still in the planning stages of your trip this can be very handy.

For example, you will come across links in this book. Some of them are web links that take you to web pages with more information. Other links, however, are internal links - they take you to different parts of this guide. The links in the Table of Contents (TOC) on the previous pages are internal links – clicking on them takes you straight to the chapter you clicked on.

And last but not least there are email links. They will open your email editor so you can send a message to the provided address.

**Navigation**

You have many options to get around this book:

You can use the scroll bar on the right of your screen or just scroll up and down with your mouse.

You can use the little arrows at the bottom and top of the scroll bar.

You can use the ‘jump links’ in the TOC (Pages 4 to 6).

And, if you remember the page number you want to go to, you can simply click on the thumbnail image on the left of your screen.

You can also adjust the size of the text by changing the percentage number at the top of your screen or by changing the plus and minus sign.

Play around with everything a bit and see what you find most comfortable.
And if none of this makes you feel comfortable just print it out!

Jenny Fazekas
2. CHOOSING YOUR SOUTHERN AFRICAN SAFARI DESTINATION

Firstly you should try to find out as much as possible about the country, parks, camps or lodges you will be staying in.

There are many myths out there so please ensure that you use reliable sources to get you information!

We have been on over 100 safari trips throughout Southern and Eastern Africa and we have narrowed down our best safari parks to these 5: Kruger, Kgalagadi, Etosha, Pilanesberg and Madikwe.

Our Kruger-2-Kalahari website can provide some of the information but you should also make use of the SANParks website and forums if visiting the Kruger or Kgalagadi parks, the NWR (Namibia Wildlife Resorts) site if going to Etosha, the Pilanesberg site for the Pilanesberg and the official Madikwe site for Madikwe.

The SANParks website is the most informative and up-to-date – their home page provides latest news - but you could phone any of the camps directly and ask if the roads, bridges or restaurants are closed or if there is any construction going on in the camps because this could make or break your holiday.

Let me share a brief story with you - we booked a trip to Etosha last year October and we did not follow our own advice - we never asked if there were any roads or waterholes that were closed when we made our booking.

Well you can imagine our surprise when we were driving from Namutoni to Halali and saw this scene:
A huge section of the park near Halali camp was closed and the water hole that we love so much and were really looking forward to visiting, Goas, was in the closed-off area!

The above scene was the first we knew of the road being closed! We were hoping that the road closure was only for a few days but when we arrived at Halali we saw this sign that informed us that the closure was for three months!

We were most disappointed and it put a bit of a dampener on our holiday, but not for long as the Moringa and Okaukuejo waterholes were very productive for us, providing leopard and lion sightings.

A seasonal problem used to be the Crocodile Bridge entrance gate in the Kruger Park, which was often closed over the summer months due to the Crocodile River flooding. People got to the gate only to be informed that it was closed – they then had to travel all the way back to the Malelane gate where there is a high-level bridge.

A new bridge has been built at Crocodile Bridge, which is only a bit higher than the previous one so it stills floods so we suggest you still phone the camp in the summer months to check.

Don't be afraid to ask questions because at the end of the day it is your holiday at stake.

If you would like to get a feel for what animals are being seen where before you make your booking, you can visit the SANParks website and check the Public sightings for the Kruger Gallery and for the Kgalagadi Gallery.

We check these pages a day or two before we leave to give us an idea of where the animals are. Most people post their photographs as soon as they get back from their trip but others post months and even a year to eighteen months later! This obviously will not be accurate for purposes of pinpointing game so just check the date of when the photograph was taken - this appears under each thumbnail and on the Photo Properties once you click on the photo, but not all photographs have the properties listed.

In December 1999 we started posting photographs and short descriptions of our trips to the Kruger, Kgalagadi, Etosha, Pilanesberg and Madikwe, so these could also be a good source of guidance for you in making a decision of where to go.
3. SELF-DRIVE SAFARI OR GUIDED SAFARI?

There are many game viewing methods from hot air balloons and elephant-back safaris to the more traditional vehicle safari. With a vehicle safari you have two choices – self-drive or a guided safari.

Self-drive means exactly that, you are the driver, planner and the game spotter in your very own vehicle. If you are the adventurous type and want to explore Southern Africa then self-drive is for you. If you are a local then you will have your own vehicle and if you have a lot of luggage you will need to decide between a roof-box or trailer. If you are an international visitor you will then need to hire a vehicle. You should also research the best game routes and plan your drives accordingly.

Self-drive safaris are much cheaper than guided safaris and you will have more flexibility and privacy than you would have on a guided safari. You may end up spending your time with a bunch of people you just do not like in which case this is going to be a long unpleasant stay.

We have had some good and bad guided safari experiences; it all depends on the safari guide.

We went to a 5 star lodge in the Kruger Park and to cut a long story short we were put together with two other couples. When we went on out first game drive we saw a Lilac Breasted Roller and wanted the driver to stop so we could photograph it – ‘Mr. Macho’ we’ll call him – said, “why are we stopping for birds, we want to see lions!? The driver was intimidated and so drove off.

You can guess the rest of the trip can’t you!

Needless to say we cut the trip short and we were given a refund on the outstanding days.

If you are prepared to pay more you can go on the game drive alone…or you need to ensure you get a safari guide/driver that can put people in their place when they are selfish or obnoxious and not let ‘the squeaking wheels get the oil’ all the time.

In addition to our experiences at the private game lodges and going on night drives from the budget camps in the parks we also read traveller reviews on sites like TripAdvisor – here are two examples:

“…we booked a dawn drive so had to get up very early (which is fine)...to be honest the guide wasn’t that good - he clearly expected a pride of lions to materialise after we had seen a herd of buffalo - but of course they didn’t. It was the only one of the big 5 that we didn’t see whilst in the Kruger. We went out on our own just after the dawn drive and saw a leopard not far from the camp – awesome!”
“At last we were on the Drive - very excited about what the afternoon / night might hold. Unfortunately we were disappointed by the guide that just sped past almost everything we saw. He must have had something planned at home because we were back a half-hour early!”

Please note we are not knocking guided safaris or night drives – they all have their place. Some people want to be driven around, others do not have much time as they want to see the big-five in just a day or two and some reserves, like Madikwe and Sabi Sands, do only guided safaris.

Guided Safaris may enable you to see the big-five in one day and the driver will be able to take you right up to the animals in most cases, like in the Sabi Sands. The rangers are able to ‘track’ the game down very quickly as they follow the big-five animals on a daily basis and therefore know where the animals should be that night or the next day. In addition, each vehicle is in radio contact with others so they are able to find subjects much easier – hence they can find the big-five nearly every day!

And this is where your ‘click and tick’ comes into play. You will be pampered, fed and looked after like a king or queen but just remember everything comes with a price. In addition you have an obligation in terms of etiquette and whether they went ‘above and beyond’ to tip staff members – guidelines are US$ 5 to 15 for each person per day - for the chef, safari guide and driver. Some 5 Star Lodges will provide envelops for tips and even give you a guide line as to how much each guest should tip per staff member…..but this is just a guideline and not cast in stone.

Tipping can become expensive but on a self-drive safari the only tip you give is to yourself, for a fun filled day while relaxing with your favourite drink and watching the sun go down.

Please note that there is a ‘low season’ in Southern Africa where rates could be reduced by about 30 to 50%. The low season varies from country to country but is normally in the winter months, so if you intend visiting a private safari lodge please enquire about their low season rates.

Even the Kruger Park has specials, normally the first week of December, but please do check the SANParks website for these seasonal specials.

Mario and I have tried both self-drive safaris and guided safaris and we prefer self-drive. With self-drive we find it so much more fun to look for our own animals because we never know what awaits us around the next corner – this is the anticipation, the challenge, and excitement that we thrive on!

The biggest disadvantages advertised by private lodges against self-drive are that 1) you will be restricted to the network of roads; 2) you will need to find the animals yourself, and 3) you will have to identify the animals and their behaviors for yourself.

Most of the photographs in our Kruger, Kgalagadi, Etosha and Pilanesberg galleries, eBooks and trip reports were taken on self-drive safaris. We were restricted to the roads and camp grounds, we had to find all the animals by ourselves (most exhilarating!) and we used the ‘Behaviour Guide to African Mammals’ by Richard Estes to identify any confusing sightings. There are many good African safari books from country guides to animal identification guides to park-specific guides. These are on sale at most of the park shops.
Most of the private lodges advertise the following thirteen advantages if you stay with them. However, if you follow our advice you can get close to this score and save a lot of money!

The only two things we cannot do on our self-drive safari are going to a spa and driving off-road…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13 reasons to visit a private game lodge</th>
<th>Guided Safari</th>
<th>Self Drive Safari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Luxury suites</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y (Most accommodation is basic but there are some superb guest cottages &amp; chalets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To spot the Big-5</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To Spot the Small-5</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 5-star dining</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y (We bring our favourite food and braai under the stars – 5-star for us!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Health Spa</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Track lions and other game on foot</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Watch game at a waterhole from the privacy of your suite</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y (if you know which camps &amp; chalets to stay at)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Night Safari</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Tick off the spotted animals on a Checklist</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Photography tuition</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y (We provide free advice on our website that, if followed, can improve your game viewing and photography)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Choose from thousands of bottles of rare wine</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y (You can bring your own favourite wines like we do)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Spot game while sipping cocktails on the Lodge's viewing deck</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Drive 'off-road' to get closer to the game</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Score 13 11

Here is the lounge area in the fish eagle guest cottage in Letaba camp, Kruger Park, and the bedroom in a bush chalet in Namutoni camp, Etosha. This is luxury accommodation!
4. BOOKING YOUR SOUTHERN AFRICAN SAFARI HOLIDAY

Once you have decided which park you want to stay at, you can then choose your camps and bungalows and then start the booking process. Generally you make your booking by phoning central reservations for each park to find out what accommodation is available and the prices.

Kruger / Kalahari:
For the Kruger and Kgalagadi parks you should go to SANParks reservations.

You may want to look at the Kruger camp maps and Kgalagadi camp maps before making your booking so you can decide which camps and bungalows best suit you.

For the Kruger and Kgalagadi you also have an option to see availability online before you phone. You are able to search up to eleven months ahead and you can see what types of units are available at each camp.

SANParks has a superb system that is ‘live’ - so if you see that one tent is available at Lower Sabie on the 10 December and you then phone in and make a reservation, when you refresh your screen a few seconds later it is no longer available to others.

Let’s now use Olifants Camp in the Kruger Park as an example.

It is December 2010 and you would like to book a few days at Olifants camp in August 2011 (8 months ahead) so you would go to the SANParks homepage and either do a Quick Availability Check - choose Olifants and insert the month or you could click on availability under the Travel button.
You will then get the following screen that lists all the Parks and you click on Kruger……

...and then you click on Olifants…...
You now have 2 options. **Option one** you are able to view a **monthly calendar** that lists all available accommodation with details, including pictures of accommodation units for that specific camp...

At the bottom of the page you can click on **View the complete list with accommodation description** and you get a more detailed page with information on what each unit contains...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>Base rate (nr. of people)</th>
<th>Max (nr. of beds/people)</th>
<th>Additional Adult Rate</th>
<th>Additional Child Rate</th>
<th>Photos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow (SG1)</td>
<td>R675.00</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>R160.00</td>
<td>R80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow (SG2)</td>
<td>R675.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>R160.00</td>
<td>R80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow (SG3)</td>
<td>R775.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>R160.00</td>
<td>R80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow (SG4)</td>
<td>R775.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>R160.00</td>
<td>R80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow (SG5)</td>
<td>R775.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>R160.00</td>
<td>R80.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Rates supplied with the accommodation check reflect the CURRENT PRICING per accommodation type and are only included here for purposes of comparison. Full detailed availability and booking information are available online.
In the screen-shot below we have chosen August 2011 and you will see that there are only a few types of accommodation available on each day with nothing available for the 6th August.

If you wanted to include Saturday 6th August in your itinerary you would now use option two and search for all available camp options for that one particular date...
You will notice that most camps are full for the 6th August with some units at Letaba...

You may be wondering why in this example the 6th August so popular - well in South Africa Tuesday 9th is a public holiday so many locals are taking a long weekend.

But even the other days in August do not have much variety of units available with the best bungalows (ones that have a view such as BD2V) not being available. The Kruger is a very popular destination and you must try and take advantage of booking 11 months in advance, especially if you want a specific unit in a specific camp!

In addition you can also make an online booking – this is a nice service for after-hours but we prefer phoning in as the online reservation cannot be changed or you have to pay extra fees to make changes.

If you phone in you are able to change your booking within the next 30 days. After you have paid your deposit you can still make changes at no extra cost, providing you are adding to the booking (extra nights or upgrading the accommodation) and not taking away, up to a month before your holiday date.

You are requested to pay 30% of the whole cost as a deposit - the deposit went up from 10% in 2010 as many people were making a reservation and then not taking it up, so 30% will be more of an incentive to make use of the booking! The balance is then due a month before the first day of your arrival date. Some people pay the whole amount but we would advise you to pay just the 30% - if you pay the whole amount and then want to make changes, they want to charge you an admin fee.
**NB:** If you cannot get the accommodation you want, keep looking on the SANParks website every day for cancellations. We look just before 07h30 (as that is when the reservation office opens) to see if the accommodation we want is available and if we see it is available, we then phone at 07h30 and change the booking to what we want. A few minutes could be the difference of you getting the accommodation or someone else getting it!

What happens is, if the deposit on another person’s booking is not paid by a certain date the accommodation then gets put back onto their booking system and it becomes available at midnight and it automatically appears on the SANParks website.

This systems work very well with SANParks for either Kruger or the Kalahari. If you phone too late someone else may get the available accommodation hence we suggest looking before 07h30 and then phoning just before 07h30 as there are some committed staff members that arrive early!

Then there are the lodges and camps on concessions within the park and surrounding the Kruger Park, which all comprise the Greater Kruger Park. You will find links to each loge’s website on the following pages where you will be able to make your bookings:

**Private concessions/lodges within the park**
- Lukimbi Safari lodge
- Imbali Safari Lodge
- Hamilton’s Tented Camp
- Hoyo Hoyo Safari Lodge

**Lodges, Camps & Hotels outside of Kruger park**
- Pafuri River Camp
- Singo Safari Lodge
- Mutale Falls
- Ndzhaka Camp
- Buffelshoek Camp
- Mtomeni Camp
- Machampane Wilderness Camp (Mozambique)
- Protea Hotel Kruger Gate
- Cheetah Plains (Sabi Sand)
- Idube Safari Lodge (Sabi Sand)
- Umkumbe Safari Lodge (Sabi Sand)
- Kambaku Safari Lodge (Timbavati)
Private Lodges in the Kgalagadi

- IXaus Lodge
- Rooiputs Luxury Lodge
- Polentswa Tented Camp

Pilanesberg:

- Bakgatla Resort (Golden Leopard)
- Bakubung Bush Lodge (Legacy Hotels)
- Ivory Tree Game Lodge (African Anthology)
- Kwa Maritane Bush Lodge (Legacy Hotels)
- Manyane Resort (Golden Leopard)
- Pilanesberg Private Lodge
- Shepherds Tree Game Lodge (African Anthology)
- Tshukudu Bush Lodge (Legacy Hotels)

You may want to look at the Pilanesberg park map before making your booking so you can decide which lodges best suit you.

Madikwe:

There are about 21 commercial lodges in the park (some 3 & 4 star but mostly 5-star) as follows:

1. Buffalo Ridge Safari Lodge
2. Etali Safari Lodge
3. Impodimo Game Lodge
4. Jaci’s Safari Lodge  
5. Jaci’s Tree Lodge  
6. Jamala Madikwe  
7. Madikwe Hills Private Game Lodge  
8. Madikwe River Lodge  
9. Madikwe Safari Lodge  
10. Makanyane Safari Lodge  
11. Mateya Safari Lodge  
12. Molori Safari Lodge  
13. Morukuru Family  
14. Mosetlha Bush Camp & Eco Lodge (rustic)  
15. Motswiri Private Safari Lodge  
16. Rhulani Safari Lodge  
17. Royal Madikwe  
18. Tau Game Lodge  
19. Thakadu River Camp  
20. The Bush House  
21. Tuningi Safari Lodge

You would need to contact each lodge directly to make your bookings. We have stayed at 11 of the 21 lodges and their contact details can be found at the end of each of their webpage links above.

Etosha:

NWR (Namibia Wildlife Resorts)

NWR has three reservation offices:

- Cape Town Office phone: +27 21 422 3761 (generally the most helpful office)
- Windhoek Office phone: +264 61 285 7200
- Swakopmund Office phone: +264 64 402172

You may want to look at the Etosha map before making your booking so you can see the location of the five camps, various chalets / camping sites and the waterholes. The camps are Dolomite in the Western part of the park, Okaukuejo, Halali, Namutoni and Onkoshi in the Eastern part of Etosha.
In addition to the five camps inside Etosha there are some fabulous lodges outside as well:

**Onguma The Fort** (situated near Namutoni on the eastern border of the park)

**Etosha Safari Lodge** and **Etosha Safari Camp** (situated near Okaukuejo on the southern border)

**Toko Lodge** (situated near Galton Gate in the west)

Please remember that there is an hour’s difference in time in winter months in Namibia, so if you are arriving from South Africa you will gain an hour but when leaving you lose an hour.

Also something to remember when booking at Etosha is their out of season rates you can ask for a better rate during this period.

**To reserve specific accommodation, phone and/or email each camp**

Once you are happy with your booking then you can email the camps and reserve a specific bungalow or tent should you want one. They should reply by email and let you know if the tent or bungalow you want is available.

Please ensure that you get a confirmation! Some camps are better than others in this regard. As an example, Michael Chauke at Punda Maria reception in the Kruger will go so far as to phone and email me to confirm while some other camps could take weeks to reply and by then your requested bungalow has been allocated to someone else. It all boils down to the attitude of the people on duty.

You should then print your booking confirmation form and the email from the camp confirming your requested tent or bungalow and take it with you. You will need this information when you check in at the camps.

If you would like to **photograph game from the comfort and privacy of your bungalow**, we have recommended certain bungalow numbers that are the best for us in terms of photography.

**Checking-in**

The **check-in** time used to be 12h00 at the Kruger camps but this changed in 2010 to 14h00. If you arrive before 14h00 you will most probably be told to come back later. This is a sore topic and there were over 20 pages of comments on a forum thread on the SANParks forum where 90% of the visitors were not happy about these new check-in times.

If you are a photographer you need to make the most of the lighting and the best light is from just before sunrise to two hours after sunrise, and then again two hours before sunset to just after sunset. This is when you can photograph colourful skies, obtain silhouettes, and get soft, golden lighting, but if you are staying at many different camps you will most probably end up packing and unpacking at these good photo times!
Hence our suggestion that you stay for at least 3 nights at each camp – you'll end up with a much better chance of seeing animals with less frustration dealing with potentially unfriendly reception staff.

In some cases your bungalow is ready but the reception staff will tell you it isn't ready and you should come back at 2pm. One way to get around this lazy attitude is to book specific number bungalows or accommodation units where there is only one in the camp so you can go and check if the unit is ready or not. We always request specific bungalow numbers because of the better views.

For example, every main camp has guest houses such as the Frankel guest house in Satara camp and there are family bungalows, in Olifants Camp, such as bungalows number 14 (river view), number 18 (perimeter) and Nkambaku (no view) - if you have booked these they are the only ones in the camp and you can go straight there and see if housekeeping is finished or not.

**Recommended Duration to stay at each camp**

Our recommendation is for you to try and stay for at least 3 to 5 days in one camp. We used to stay for just one or two nights per camp as we wanted to see as much of the park as possible and it can be exhausting as you will be packing and unpacking twice per camp. In order to get a feel for animals' movements you need to stay for at least 3 days.

Day one you are travelling to the camp, day two you start seeing what game is around the camp on the *sighting boards* and by chatting to neighbours and then by day three you have a better idea of what is where – lions to the north, cheetah to the south etc.

In addition to the packing and unpacking you will be checking in at each camp which means potentially standing in long queues at the bigger camps like Skukuza. Who wants to spend their vacation standing in queues!

**Choosing a Safari Operator**

If you want to go on safari for just a day or two, if self-drive doesn't appeal to you or you want to first get a feel for this 'safari thing' before embarking on a self-drive safari, then we have a few tips for you when choosing a safari operator:

1) Get to know the real people in the organization. We do not trust companies that do not have an 'about us' page and who do not provide telephone numbers, names and a physical address. If a company is reluctant to reveal themselves why would anyone want to deal with them?!

2) Find out if they are the people actually operating the safari and not simply the booking agents. Then find out if they have first-hand experience of the parks and lodges that interest you. Some operators specialize only in the Kruger Park but will take you to the Kgalagadi or Etosha as they don't want to lose your business. You don't want to be their guinea pig! Stick with the operator that does your park on a regular basis and knows the roads and camp staff.
3) Start wide and then narrow down your search. Don't limit yourself to budget operators for example as some of the expensive reserves also have their budget camps. Make your list of the 'good' operators and then whittle it down. Many lodges also give out-of-season discounts.

4) Find out how long the safari operator has been in business as there are 'fly-by-nights' in all businesses! However, just because a company is new doesn't mean they are not good - if the company does not have a history then check out their staff resumes.

5) Does the safari operator have the expertise for your specific needs? If you want an African photo safari ask what type of vehicle you will be in, how many people will be in the vehicle and what type of guide you will have. The vehicle should have no windows or very big windows that can open and even a pop-up roof. You don't want to be crammed into a vehicle like sardines - you want to be able to have space to place your photo bag and be able to turn to photograph. The guide should be knowledgeable in terms of animal behaviour and photography so that he stops in the best position for you to photograph and he should then switch his engine off!

6) What do travel sites such as Trip-Advisor or Lonely Planet say about them? Also do a Google search on the operator and see what comes up - if past clients are unhappy they will be posting trip reports on forums. Find out if you are able to contact one or two of their former clients to get it 'from the horse's mouth'.

7) Find out exactly what the operator will take care of - is it just the accommodation or will they do flight bookings and car hire as well.

8) Get a clear explanation of their cancellation / refund policy and find out what their payment policies are. Some operators place your payment into a trust fund, which should protect your money should they go into liquidation.

9) Are they members of or affiliated to relevant tourism or trade associations. This is no guarantee but it provides some comfort.

10) We would suggest, after reading the operator's web site or brochure, to phone them and chat to them - ask questions and compare their answers to what you now know about them. Listen to your gut-feeling as it should warn you if the operator is the right one for you or if you have had narrow escape from a bad experience!

If after this you are still struggling to find a suitable safari operator please email us, as we deal with a few reliable travel agents and tour operators who may be able to help you with your bookings. Here is a testimonial from one person we assisted...

"Hi Mario, we had a wonderful time there. Thanks to you.. We managed to contact Claire and she got us a good package for the trip. We saw some excellent animal sightings and were very happy with all the arrangements. So, thank you very much for your recommendation."
5. BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Check the Weather for each season:

- **Summer** (December – Feb) Mornings cool but getting very hot by 09h00 and sweltering by 13h00 then cooling down a little at night.

- **Autumn / Fall** (March – May) In March the days tend to still be hot but by April the days are getting cooler with cool evenings – very pleasant time of the year!

- **Winter** (June – August) during the day it warms up but night time and early mornings can get very cold.

- **Spring** (September – November) Days can be warm to hot with cool evenings – the best time for us to be in the bush!

But again this is just a rough guide because we have had unusually cold weather in the Kruger over December and very hot weather in March in the Kalahari.

Decide What You Want to See and Do

If your goal is to see as many animals as possible and photograph them in comfort, then the following table shows what we have found to be the best times for game viewing in each of the four parks:

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F = Fair  G = Good  E = Excellent

For the Kruger, Pilanesberg, Madikwe and Etosha the end of winter, beginning of spring (Aug-Oct) tends to provide the most game sightings – the summer rains normally start in October or November and this is when the grass starts growing and by January is very high. January and February are also the two months in Kruger with the highest rainfall that brings potential floods.

For the Kgalagadi the summer months are great for game sightings but we have found it's just too hot, so the autumn months of March, April and May and the spring months of September and October are the best for comfort and good game viewing with spring being our best season. In winter we have found it to be too cold but some people don't mind the cold and they sleep with hot-water bottles!

Please let this be just a guide for you, as you could have good sightings anytime of the year! As you will see from our December 2009 Kruger trip report that we saw the 'Super Seven' (the Big Five plus cheetah and wild dog) yet many ‘experts’ tell us that December is no good for sightings. We stayed in air-conditioned chalets so the heat was not too bad but if you are staying in tents or bush-veld camps that have only ceiling fans you could be very uncomfortable.
Wildlife Photography

Most people who come on an African safari want to see and photograph exciting animals.

We meet many of these wonderful people at the national parks and we exchange email addresses and make contact with each other after we get home.

Generally they all say that they had a great time, it was a wonderful experience BUT their photographs were terrible or they didn't get to see the elusive leopard!

Your photographs are an important part of your safari as you want to proudly show friends and family how exciting your vacation was through the photographs and videos.

We would suggest you get some wildlife photography tuition before coming on safari. Some of the things you could look at are:

- Read some wildlife photography books or at least read some of the interviews we have done with professional wildlife photographers. They have been there and got the shots and can provide you with some great hints and tips for improving your photography skills.

- Then practice taking photographs at home. We know some people who have bought a brand new camera and lens and have not even taken them out the box until they arrive at Etosha or the Kruger! You need to at least read your camera's quick guide or key areas of the camera manual.

- Digital photo technology is changing so fast so it's important that you try and keep up with trends. There are newsletters that you can subscribe to, forums you can partake in and sites that provide advice on the best safari camera, best safari lens, best camera bag etc.

Some people are hung up on what brand to get. Currently the two best photographic systems in the world are Canon and Nikon. It, however, doesn't matter what brand you use - what does matter is that you:

1) Know how to use your equipment,

2) Understand light, as photography is ‘painting with light’

3) Understand a bit about animal behaviour
4) You need to find the animals! This last point is critical because if you cannot find subjects you won’t be using any of your skills! To find the animals you need to employ a combination of tactics to locate them:

- Use the sighting boards or sighting books in the parks. These are pretty accurate and provide you with an indication each day of where the big-five or other specific animals may be and in what direction they are heading so you can then plan your next day’s routes.
- Speak to other people such as staff members, safari field guides and other guests. These people are your eyes and ears in the bush!
- Invest in site guides / park guides that will prepare you, so that with a bit of study, you will be able to photograph from when you arrive instead of driving around aimlessly looking for animals, thereby making the most of your valuable time.

Included in the guides are shooting strategies for different areas & camps, specific time of day, light direction where to go when, hot-spots, expected subjects, and knowing what equipment & techniques will be most effective.

"If you plan on visiting Etosha National Park, Namibia, on a self-drive safari and you want to know how to best conduct your photography in the park, then I can highly recommend ‘The Photographer’s Guide to Etosha National Park’ eBook by Mario Fazekas” – Morkel Erasmus

I have looked for books, on-shelf and on the internet, to give me the information I need for wildlife photography in order to prepare and gear up and know what to look out for and for park information. Most books showcase the photographer’s work but the ‘how-to’ information to get to that level is limited. Photographer’s Guide to the Pilanesberg National Park is the BEST book and source of information BY FAR!” – Amanda Ellis

“Anyone considering a trip to the Kgalagadi would be well advised to have this information on hand to make their photographs and memories the best they can be.” – Alastair Stewart
What luggage do we use and what clothes do I pack?
If you are moving from camp to camp, think of choosing a lightweight suitcase or soft bag as long as it will hold all your belongings. Instead of one large heavy suitcase we rather use two smaller and therefore lighter bags for our clothing. Don't forget your toiletry bag and a first aid kit. The parks supply all the linen and bedding so you don’t need to worry about packing them.

Clothing
How do I avoid clothing mistakes: first check the weather reports before you pack, this will give you a guideline as to what you need so that you don't end up taking too much. Pack light, you can always wash a few clothes along the way. They say try to avoid bright colours when going on game walks so I try to take neutral colours like khaki, brown or green as they don't show the dirt as much as white clothing. However, white is very cool for the bush in summer, but don't wear white on safari walks, you will stick out like a sore thumb.

- A bush hat with a brim or a cap for summer and a beanie for winter
- A warm lightweight jacket is handy to take with you. (If you plan to go on a game drive at night take a warm lightweight jacket with a hood and in winter a thick jacket and your beanie, you will not be sorry!) or a waterproof jacket with a hood for the rainy seasons
- Shirts – we take short sleeved cotton shirts in summer. I take about 5 short sleeves and one long sleeve shirt for Mario for the cooler nights. I take sleeveless cotton shirts.
- Safari Vest – I have a Safari vest that I bought in Windhoek, Namibia and Mario has a Photo Vest. The basic difference is that the photo vest has more pockets for lenses and other photo accessories.
- T-shirts and some long sleeve farm shirts (blanket shirts) and a tracksuit for winter.
- Shorts and long trousers - We take one pair of jeans and 2 pairs of cotton shorts for a two week stay
- Don't forget the underwear - I've done that before and my poor husband had to wash and wear one pair of underpants for 3 days, I was not popular!
- Pyjamas
- Swimming costume if you want to swim in the pools
- Bush sandals or any comfortable sandal – we wear sandals day and night in summer but only during the day during the winter months
- A good hiking boot if you are going on a game walk or a comfortable closed shoe with good support and thick rubber soles like a takkie / sneaker and an extra pair of laces.
- Socks – we wear hiking socks with our boots in winter
The ‘must-haves’ in Safari Equipment

- A good pair of **binoculars** – we use a Nikon 10 X 50 and an old Minolta 10 X 50.

- A **spotlight and/or torch or headlamp** (a headlamp is highly recommended, we use ours for braaing and walking around the camp at night, also good for reading at night)

- **Camera** and **lens** – we would suggest you bring the longest lens you have. You cannot drive off road as is possible in East Africa so a long lens is a must. In addition a **tele-converter** will help when extra magnification is required.

- **Photographic accessories** like, **memory cards**, battery charger, and lens cleaner, (batteries, film and memory cards can be bought at the shops in the Kruger but I would take extra if going to the Kalahari, Etosha or Pilanesberg).

- Camera supports such as **tripods** and **beanbags** are a must for sharp photographs. **Photographing from vehicles** is easy if you have a decent beanbag or window mount. An idea for a cheap Bean Bag: a friend of ours comes over from Germany and brings an old cloth money bag which he fills with rice or small beans or his underwear if he cannot get rice or beans! This makes for a lighter load while traveling and works very well.

- Your cell phone: to use for emergencies or as an alarm clock to wake you up for your early morning game drives.

- **Plugs and adaptors** – for South Africa a 3-prong plug is used or, if you have the 2-prong use an adaptor (the double adaptors can also be bought in the shops at Kruger, but again I would say take this with you if going to Kalahari, Pilanesberg or Etosha.

- Mini combination locks (keys get lost)

- Travel sewing kit with small scissors

- Sunglasses

- Pen/pencil to tick off what you have seen during your game drive (if you are into check-lists)

- Small pocket knife (Mario has one on his key ring and it often comes in handy)

- Plastic Ziploc bags: keep all your papers together or for leftover food (I use one for a wet face cloth/washing up cloth this comes handy when driving in the car)

- Books to read while sitting at waterholes or you can buy them at the park shops

- Audio books to listen to while driving to Etosha (17 hours from Johannesburg) or the Kgalagadi (9-10 hours from Johannesburg).

- Pegs and a washing line - you can use a nylon cord or the back of the camp chairs.
Toiletries and First Aid Kit

- Anti-malaria medication (ask your doctor for suitable Anti Malaria tablets).
- Body soap/shower gel (one that contains citronella oil or tee tree oil, they act as an insect repellent)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss
- Insect repellent and mosquito coils (We use “Peaceful Sleep” but there are many other natural products on the market)
- Shampoo (We take a 2-in-1 shampoo and conditioner to save space)
- Sun block lotion/Skin lotion/Antiseptic cream
- Tweezers
- Lip-ice / chap-stick / lip balm for sun protection and chapped lips
- Ear buds/cotton balls (these can be bought at the bigger shops)
- Razor & shaving cream/gel (Mario grows a beard while we are in the bush).
- Contact lens solution & extra set of disposable lenses
- Eye drops
- Band aids
- Tablets: Vitamins, Painkiller, Motion sickness tablets, Cold/flu tablets, Prescribed medicine (enough for the whole trip), you can also take a basic antibiotic just in case
- Heartburn remedy
- Anti-diarrhoea medicine
- Re-hydrate (this comes in little sashays, but we usually drink ‘Energade’ or ‘Powerade’ if we are feeling weak – most of the shops sell these energy drinks
- Allergy remedy
- Insulin and blood sugar monitoring kit/glucometer if you are diabetic (take extra sterile needles)
- Since our Etosha ‘salty-water’ incident we always carry a bottle of Underberg Bitters with us!
Documents

- Money: credit card, traveller’s cheques, Wild Card and most importantly cash! There will be times when you cannot use your credit card and there is no ATM machine. In African countries the US Dollar is happily accepted. We would advise you carry small denominations for three reasons – 1) for tips to people who deserve one, 2) if the shop does not have change you will have to hand over a $100 bill and 3) because of the high incidence of counterfeit bills there is a reluctance to accept large denominations.

- Booking/accommodation forms for your stay in the parks

- Passport & Visas - always keep a copy of your passport separate from your other documents and please ensure that your passport has at least six months left before expiring otherwise you will not get a visa for South Africa or Namibia.

- Air tickets

- Insurance policy (if you have taken one out)

- Addresses book with emergency phone numbers/contact numbers or e-mail addresses

- Your itinerary

- Road maps / park maps (you can purchase park maps at the park gates or shops)

- Certificates for vaccinations(if needed)

- A brief summary of medical history plus a copy of prescription medication

What to shop for

You will find most of these items in supermarkets across South Africa and Namibia. If you have your favourites, like we do then sometimes it’s better to do your shopping outside of the wildlife parks because the shops in the parks tend to be more expensive and they might not have what you like.

- Flask (when going on our early morning game drive we take two flasks one with hot water for our coffee and one with cold drinking water because you may be out for some time and you will then need to drink cool fresh water)

- Thermal mugs for tea/coffee in car during game drives

- Teaspoons (I use plastic spoons). The chalets have teaspoons but we take plastic ones with us

- Cooler-bag to keep drinks and fruit cool during your game drives and to keep your meat in when traveling from camp to camp

- Ice bricks for above (remember to freeze overnight for each day’s use)

- Picnic basket / bag - I have both a soft picnic bag containing plastic plates, glasses and serviettes and a basket containing our flasks, coffee, snacks etc.
Consumables

- Wet wipes/hand sanitizer or no-water/antibacterial soap – very handy for use in the car.
- Washing powder if you intend washing some of your clothes. The main camps in the Kruger have Laundromats.
- Tea/coffee, sugar, coffee creamer (e.g. "Cremora")
- Rusks (We like the buttermilk or Home-style muesli rusks from Woolworths, ‘Ouma’s’ is another good brand)
- Snacks: South Africans favourite ‘biltong’ (dried meat) or "dry wors", Fruit (fresh or dried), potato crisps, nuts, sweets… these are nice to snack on during game drives or having with your sun-downer drinks at your bungalow … (most of these can be bought at the park shops)
- Drinks: soft drinks, fruit juice and bottled water. Water is essential - you can drink the tap water in the Kruger and Pilanesberg but the Kalahari and Etosha's water is not fit for human consumption - in the Kalahari the water is very oily and in Etosha the water is extremely salty. We knew that we must not drink the water in Etosha on our first trip but we slipped up and Mario had stomach cramps for two days! We were at Halali and we would have cold drinks with ice at the restaurant – the ice is made with the salty tap water! Mario drank some Underberg bitters, which we bought from the bar, and that cured him. We now use bottled water for cooking, tea and coffee and we make our own ice blocks!
- Alcoholic drinks: beers such as Carling Black Label, Hansa, Peroni and Castle are available at most camp shops and in Etosha you have the Namibian beers such as Windhoek Lager and Tafel Lager. Wine - if you have a favourite then buy it outside of the parks because the selection is not always good, but on saying that we have tried different wines from the park shops and ended up with some really nice wines to add to our new favourites. The Kruger shops in particular have a wide variety of wines, beers and champagnes so you are sure to find something that you like.
- Box of matches/lighter (for camp fire or lighting the gas cookers at picnic spots or to light the gas stoves at the Kruger bush camps)
- Paper serviettes (for picnic breakfasts), and, depending on the type of food you plan for your picnic breakfasts, maybe some paper plates.
6. LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN

Driving
Before we look at our favourite stopovers to each of these parks I would like to first provide some advice – please don’t speed and keep a lookout for animals crossing the roads…

It’s so easy to not pay attention to the road and then you could end up hitting one of the animals. If the animal is small you most probably will be fine but in Botswana especially, there are cows, donkeys…

…horses and other large animals crossing the roads and if your vehicle strikes them you could be putting your lives at risk…
In Namibia we have many wild animals, such as kudu, jackals, baboons and warthogs in and near the roads…

To The Kruger National Park
The Kruger National Park straddles two provinces, Mpumalanga in the south and the Limpopo Province in the north. There are a number of ways to get to the Kruger, depending which part of the park you want to visit. We drive to all the parks but for foreign visitors we do provide information on flying and car hire. There is the southern section, central section and the northern sections of the park.

Southern Section:
From Johannesburg you will drive to Nelspruit and then on to the Malelane or Crocodile Bridge Gates. Driving from Johannesburg through to Nelspruit on the N4 is a lovely drive and there are a few farm stalls along the way. Here you can buy anything from fruit, vegetables, jams, honey and curios. Some stalls also sell biltong, which is always a handy snack to have in the car.

When we travel this route to the Kruger we like to stop off at Old Joe’s Kaia for a night or two.

This magnificent family owned & run Guesthouse is situated in the lovely Schoemanskloof Valley. It is just over half way between Johannesburg and Malelane gate which is South of the Kruger.
The food is superb and the accommodation is great, we love staying in the log cabins with their cosy woody atmosphere.

The guesthouse is named after Johannes Antonie Barbas (Joe) 1883-1974, who was the supervisor of the road workers who built the first motorway through Schoemanskloof in 1927. The workers erected a lifelike stone on the side of the road to honour Joe. Each year residents in the area paint the stone to commemorate some important events.

The following photographs were taken in December 2009 and the stone depicts Mary with the baby Jesus and then at the beginning of June 2010 the stone was painted by a local artist to depict a soccer player …

Keep an eye out for the stone, which will be on your right if heading east towards the Kruger and Old Joe’s Kaia. If you’re heading west towards Johannesburg it will be seven kilometres past Old Joe’s Kaia on your left.
Then there is another route to enter a bit further north but still in the Southern section - on entering Nelspruit take the R40 which will take you through some beautiful towns like White River, Hazyview and even all the way up to Phalaborwa. (This route is really very scenic but I must warn you there are a few pot holes along the way and I would not advise driving this route at night.)

From White River if you take the R538 that will take you to the Numbi gate which is south of the Kruger. I would not advise this route as it takes you through a township. I would carry on to Hazyview then take the R536 which will take you to either the new Phabeni gate or the old Paul Kruger Gate. Phabeni gate is quicker if you want to get into the park and this is such a lovely road in the park that takes you straight through to Skukuza camp.

We have stayed at a few lovely guest lodges along this route like Highgrove House where we spent 5 days with some of the best food and service.

We've stayed at Mount Sheba and Cybele Forest Lodge with good food and good service and then we stayed at Blue Mountain Lodge – not a good experience with poor food, poor service and a leaking room!

From just outside the Paul Kruger Gate you have access to the South Western side of Sabi Sand Reserve, its best to enter at Shaws Gate rather than at Newington Gate, I say this because the roads are shocking and you will be driving through townships to get to Newington Gate. We drove through the Kruger exiting at Paul Kruger Gate and just a kilometre of two down the road is the road leading to Shaws Gate, it was an easy drive up through the park leading to Idube Lodge. The Sabi Sand has three gates; two on the southern side of the Sand River (Newington and Shaws gates) and one on the northern side of the Sand River (Gowrie). 

**Central Section**

Now if you are staying in the central section of Kruger or Sabi Sand Reserve, you can keep going along the R40 past Hazyview through Klaserie which will take you to the Orpen Gate/Camp, this will then bring you to the Satara / Olifants area. To get to Phalaborwa keep traveling on the R40 till you pass Mica then take the R530 and go in at the Phalaborwa Gate. This will give you access to both the Central and Northern sections of the Kruger. You can also go an alternate route - take the N1 toll-road to Polokwane (Pietersburg), before reaching Polokwane turn right onto the R71 and head for Tzaneen. After Tzaneen head straight towards Phalaborwa and the Kruger gate. To get to the North Western side of Sabi Sand Reserve take the R40 past Hazyview then turn off at Acornhoek and head east towards Manyeleti Game Reserve, it’s about 45 kilometers from Acornhoek, turn right or follow the sign post showing you Seville this will take you right to Gowrie Gate at Sabi Sand, which is about 14 kilometres from the tar road turn off.
We have stayed at the **Tzaneen Country Lodge** near Phalaborwa – it had good food, good service and nice rooms with tranquil gardens.

When driving through Phalaborwa keep a lookout for the copper animals at the Total petrol station…

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**Northern Section**

If you are traveling from Johannesburg to Punda Maria you will be taking the N1 highway north, which will take you through the Limpopo's beautiful countryside, small towns and villages until you reach Polokwane (Pietersburg). Then onto Makhado (Louis Trichard) turn at the R524 Punda Maria/Kruger turn off, then just follow this route for +- 140 km, it will take you to Punda Maria Gate. Along this route on the N1 main highway there are a few pit stops like Engen garages where you can buy food and refuel your car or refuel in Louis Trichard but we don't stop for petrol or food along the R524, because it's not safe and they don't have well-stocked shops or petrol stations along this route.

(We have included the old city names in brackets after the current city names – for example Polokwane used to be known as Pietersburg. You may be asking why do we need to include these old names – well, you may have old map and there are still some road signs that have the old names!)

If you want to go in at the Pafuri gate then from Louis Trichardt go on towards Musina (Messina) then turn right at the R525. Just watch out for potholes and animals along the way! This is a lovely road to Pafuri Gate or to get to Pafuri River Camp which is just 200 meters from the Pafuri Gate. This whole
area is very scenic and has some great places to visit, like Worlds View in the Makuya Park, the Big Tree and many more.

We normally drive from Johannesburg through to Punda Maria or Phalaborwa gates without stopping as the journey is only five hours. If you would like to stop-over you can look for a place to sleep at places or sa-venues.

The travelling distances from Johannesburg to:

The southern Section of Kruger…

- Crocodile Bridge Gate is 463 km
- Malelane Gate is 426 km
- Numbi Gate 411 km
- Phabeni Gate 430 km
- Kruger Gate (Paul) 470 km

Central Section…

- Orpen Gate is 490 km
- Phalaborwa Gate is 490 km

Northern Section…

- Punda Maria Gate is 550 km
- Pafuri Gate is 600 km

To the Kalahari
This is a great trip going through a number of lovely little towns like Kuruman and Olifantshoek to name but a few. In Kuruman there is a large map of the area leading from Kuruman to the Kgalagadi and in Olifantshoek keep a lookout for the elephant statue…
It is a 9 to 10 hour trip from Johannesburg to the Kgalagadi.

When we do this trip, we leave around 03h00 – a small price to pay to have the roads to ourselves! It is a pleasant trip with lots to see along the way. You will travel through sunflower plantations and, depending on the time of year, (March/April) you will see wonderful displays of Cosmos. This would make wonderful holiday pictures so stop for a while stretch your legs and take some photographs of the family next to the colorful Cosmos. There are some great picnic sites along the way, so we like to stop and have our breakfast, which is either a rusk or an egg and bacon sandwich followed with a lovely cup of coffee.

The distance from Johannesburg to Twee Rivieren is about 1090 km, depending on where you begin your journey. We depart from Roodepoort in the west so our distance is about 950 km. Take the N14 road and head west going past Ventersdorp and Vryburg then onto Kuruman, which borders the North West Province and the Northern Cape then go past Kathu, Olifantsheek then onto Upington. From Upington take the R360 straight through to Twee Rivieren. There is a shorter route from Kuruman going through a place called Hotazel, it cuts out about 130km off your trip, but this is a very bad road and we do not suggest you drive this road. We did this road in April 2011 and the road was lovely then again in November 2011 it was so corrugated that you cannot drive faster than 80km per hour which then adds more time onto your trip rather than help you gain more time in the end.

We normally drive right through to the Kgalagadi without stopping but for those of you that may want to stopover you could try Cunningham Cottage or the Guest House on Main in Kuruman We discovered Red Sands Country Lodge, just outside Kuruman (500 kms from JHB) which is exactly halfway between Johannesburg and the park or you can visit sleeping-out for other venues.

Another option would be for you to stopover in Upington (700 kms from JHB) as there are many small B&Bs to choose from, some facing the scenic Orange River, thereby leaving you with just
300 kilometres to drive to the park. On the return trip, however, this isn't ideal and Red Sands would be more appropriate as a stopover due to the distance.

Then there is also the interesting **Kalahari Raptor Route** that starts from Kuruman.

**The distance from Cape Town to Twee Rivieren** is about 1076 km. Take the N7 straight up towards Springbok then take the N14 towards Upington. There are places to stay along the way like B&Bs or Guest lodges in Springbok.

Friends of ours, who published a book ‘Cape to Kalahari’, stay overnight at **Springbok Lodge** in Springbok on their way from Cape Town to the Kgalagadi or they stay at **De Werf Lodge** in Keimoes. If you stay at Keimoes instead of Springbok it will chop 100 kilometres off your journey. But if want to stop over at Augrabies you will need to go via Springbok.

They are very happy with the food and service at both places.

Here are a few more you could try should you not want to stay in Springbok:

- **Mountain View Guest Lodge**
- **Daisy Country Lodge**
- **Naries Namakwa Retreat**
- **Annie’s Cottage**

If you are travelling this west coast route during spring (Sept – Oct) keep in mind that it will be flower season and you may want to stay a day or two to photograph the amazing displays of daisies along the west coast from the West Coast National Park near Cape Town up to Namaqualand…

Access to the Kgalagadi Park can be gained through five entrance gates in three different countries! From South Africa access is through the Twee Rivieren gate, from Namibia through the Mata-Mata gate and from Botswana through the Twee Rivieren, Mabuasehube and Kaa gates.
When travelling from Namibia to the Kgalagadi, or vice-versa, we have found the ideal stopovers to be either Kalahari Anib Lodge or the Kalahari Farmhouse.

Passports and vehicle papers will be needed for police clearance if you are not returning via the same gate and you intend exiting into another country. As an example, we entered at Twee Rivieren gate and told them we would be exiting at Mata Mata to go to Namibia so they stamped our passports at Twee Rivieren for us to exit at Mata Mata.

The roads in the park have gravel surfaces and in the rainy months (December to April) some roads could be closed. So please check when you book your accommodation.

To the Pilanesberg
Pilanesberg is situated in the North West Provence in South Africa

This is a short road trip just 150 kilometers from Johannesburg going toward Sun City and it only takes about 1 ½ to 2 hours to get there. It is a lovely road that goes past the Hartebeespoort Dam and a number of curio, plant, food and farm stalls as well as restaurants along the way. So take plenty of cash to bargain your way through some really lovely stuff. There are a number of petrol stations to stop at if you need to refuel your car. Most people don’t stopover but use the park itself as a safari stopover between Botswana and Johannesburg or Kruger Park.

We have found the Golden Leopard resorts of Manyane and Bakgatla to be great for self-drive and for guided safaris, both Pilanesberg Private Lodge and Tshukudu Lodge are superb.

The Elephant Sanctuary Hartebeespoort Dam is on the R512 on the way to Pilanesberg, which is a great stop if you want to walk with Elephants. A must stop is the big Chameleon Village that sells carvings, clay pots, clothing or any African form of art.

For more information and tours in the North West Provence you can go to Tourism North West.

To Madikwe
Our favourite route to Madikwe is to travel to the Pilanesberg, which is 150 kilometres from Johannesburg, and then onto Madikwe’s Molatedi Gate on the eastern border of the park, which is a further 100 kms from Pilanesberg. If, however, you are approaching from Cape Town or Namibia then you would travel via Zeerust and enter at Wonderboom Gate in the west. If approaching from Botswana then you would travel via Gaborone to the Kopfontein/Tlokweng border gate and then enter the park at Wonderboom gate for the western lodges, Abjaterskop or Derrdepoort gates for the eastern lodges or Tau gate for Tau lodge.
To Etosha

We drive from SA through Botswana which takes us about 11 hours. From Johannesburg to the South African/Botswana border post Skilpads hek / Pioneer takes 3 hours then we drive for 8 hours along the Trans-Kalahari Highway…

…through Botswana crossing over the border into Namibia at the Mamuno / Buitepos border post. The roads are very well signposted in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.

Botswana border posts have a currency caravan where you can exchange your money and we suggest you take some cash when driving through Botswana because some petrol stations don't take the new Credit cards with the chip in them.

We drive a Toyota Fortuner which has duel fuel tanks holding 120 litres so we don't normally need to stop in Botswana but for the smaller cars that need to refuel there are 4 petrol stations along the way and they sell snacks, cool drinks and pies but you could take your own food, water and cool drinks for your trip. They accept South African Rands and US Dollars.

In Botswana there are various hotels, lodges and B&B’s along the Trans-Kalahari Highway which are not always great with the exception of Cresta Jwaneng. The rooms and food are very good, there is 24-hour security for you and your vehicle and it’s right on the main road in Jwaneng.

On the Namibian side of the border there are a few stopover options. There is SanDune Lodge near Gobabis or Zelda’s Guest Farm just a few kilometers from the Botswana border. Zelda has a captive leopard called Tornado and she provides great photo opportunities.

When we stop here on the way into Namibia we leave Zelda’s first thing in the morning driving through to Windhoek (taking us about 3 hours into Windhoek where we stop to do our shopping at either Spar, Checkers or Pick n' Pay) and then onto Etosha which takes another 4 hours to the Anderson Gate (Okaukuejo) or 5 hours to the Von Lindequist Gate (Namutoni) or Galton Gate (Dolomite).
If we want to stay the night in Windhoek there are a number of places to stay once you get to Windhoek and it is a clean city.

We have stayed at many hotels and B&Bs in Windhoek and have narrowed down our favourites to these two fine establishments; **The Olive Exclusive** and **Londiningi Guesthouse**.

Both provide consistently excellent service and great food.

When travelling between Windhoek/Etosha and the **Skeleton Coast Park** (the home of the Namib Desert elephants, rhinos and lions) an ideal place to stop is **Damara Mopane Lodge**.

**Toko Lodge** is another great place to stay and is ideally situated providing a gateway into Western Etosha, which is now open to all visitors, not just those staying at Dolomite Camp in Etosha. It also provides access to Damaraland or to view the unspoilt Kaokoveld.

Toko Lodge also has a **Himba** village where you can photograph these most photogenic people.

All in all the round trip from South Africa to Etosha and back to South Africa by car takes 4 days of traveling. I have to say that a visit to Etosha is worth the long drive!
Flying

Flying to the Kruger:
The Kruger National Park has 3 airports operating in the area. The modern Kruger Mpumalanga
International Airport (KMIA) in Nelspruit serves the southern section of the park...

...and even has a Kruger National Park information counter.

Try SA Airlink for your connecting flight from OR Tambo to Nelspruit. We found them to be reliable and
very friendly.

A company called Private Connections operates a shuttle service between KMIA and the Kruger
National Park.

Eastgate (Hoedspruit) Airport services the central Kruger Park and for the northern section would be
Phalaborwa Airport. Flights depart from Johannesburg to Phalaborwa Airport, Hoedspruit Airport and
KMI Airport on a daily basis. There are also daily flights to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport
from Cape Town and Durban.

If you are with a tour group they will pick you up from the airport /hotel and take you to the camp/park.
You will need to ask when you book if they have a shuttle service.

Airport Distances from the Main Kruger Gates

Eastgate Airport (Hoedspruit):

- 74 km from Phalaborwa Gate
- 68 km from Orpen Gate
- 93 km from Hazyview
- 147 km from Nelspruit
Southern African Safari Guide

Kruger Park Gateway Airport - Situated in Phalaborwa:

- 3 km from Phalaborwa Gate

Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) is situated between Nelspruit and White River

- 25 km from Nelspruit
- 15 km from White River

Flying to the Kgalagadi:
The closest Airport is in Upington so you could fly to Upington Airport hire a car and then drive up to the Kalahari. From Upington airport to Twee Rivieren the distance is 265 km

Flying to the Pilanesberg:
Another option is to fly directly to Pilanesberg International Airport near Sun City and hire a car from there. This airport is situated on the eastern side of Pilanesberg a couple of km's from Kwa Maritane with Sun City only 14 minutes away. There are flights from Cape Town and Johannesburg 6 days a week.

Flying to Madikwe:
Madikwe has two airstrips in the reserve, one on the west and one on the eastern side of the park. There is 1 shuttle departure per day each way - departing Johannesburg’s OR Tambo 13h00 and Departing Madikwe Game Reserve 11h15. The flight takes 60 minutes.
**Flying to Etosha:**
Flying to Windhoek’s [Hosea Kutako International airport](http://www.kruger-2-kalahari.com) and then hiring a car and driving up to Etosha is another way to cut down on your traveling time. The above link also will help you find Car rental or shuttles to the city. This airport is located 45 km east of Windhoek city centre.

**Car Hire**
In the Kruger, Kgalagadi, Pilanesberg and Etosha you need only a 2wd car, which is sufficient for tar and gravel roads but you may need a 4X4 if you plan to book a 4X4 trail in the Kruger or Botswana or just want to stay at dune camps in the Kalahari like Bitterpan and Gharagab. If you are planning to go into Botswana please remember that you can only enter if there are two or more vehicles - they do not allow just one vehicle in. This is for safety reasons; if you get stuck then the other vehicle can help or fetch help.

When hiring a vehicle, make sure to check that you have a spare tire, jump start cables, towing strap and Jack, also ask if you are not sure how to use the 4X4 equipment - they are very helpful and will provide relevant advice. I always find too much information is better than being stranded in the heat of the day with no cell phone signal and nowhere to go. This could make or break your holiday.

Because we drive a 4X4 we take some [safari equipment](http://www.kruger-2-kalahari.com) with us such as a 4x4 recovery kit. This kit normally contains a tow strap, snatch strap, gloves, shackles, and ‘Q20’ or other spray lubricant. We have added an axe, folding shovel, and blanket.

Also something to remember is a [Radiator Grille Grass-Net](http://www.kruger-2-kalahari.com) which fits over the front of the 4X4 grille, which prevents the grass seeds from going into you grille and overheating your radiator.

This has happened to us and we were stranded for a day while the grass seeds had to be blown out of our radiator grille by a high pressured hose.

You will also need this grass net if you intend going to Bitterpan or Gharagab in the Kgalagadi or on the Kruger 4X4 routes.

The grass could be high or low and you won’t know until you are there so rather take the grass net with and not need it!
If you do go off-road please remember to stop every hour or so to check for grass that may be stuck under your vehicle. The exhaust gets very hot and the grass could ignite and then your vehicle will be on fire.

A few vehicles (Land Rovers, Jeeps and Toyotas) have caught fire in the Kgalagadi so please remember to do this – and ensure you have a pair of gloves in your recovery kit so you don’t get burnt when removing the grass from the hot exhaust!

There are a few car hire companies to choose from and we have made use of most of them. In Namibia we recommend Asco Car Hire.

You may want to do your own research and we have found 4x4 Community forum to of great help.

Plan your journey to the different parks carefully, because there are a couple of lovely places to stop off along the way. Some advice when driving - we like to leave very early in the morning so that we don’t get held up in traffic on the roads as this can really spoil your trip.

We met some folk who had been stuck in a road block for hours - they left Pretoria at lunch time and arrived at their camp (Berg-en-Dal) just before 20h00! A four-hour trip became an eight-hour trip – needless to say they were not happy campers!

We leave around 03h00 in the morning and we have the roads to ourselves and we have a full day’s game viewing. Please be advised before driving to your destination to contact the AA and find out about the condition of the roads you want to travel on, especially if you are not sticking to the main roads.

You can visit the AA’s website and then click on Road Conditions that should show you what you need to know.
7. WHERE TO SHOP IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

Most towns or cities will have large supermarkets like a Pick n' Pay, Woolworths, or Spar and there are the park shops. We will help you by suggesting which places you could buy from and what the different park shops stock.

We prefer to take our meat with us, which we buy from Delft, our local butcher, as the meat sold in the camp shops tends not to be the highest quality. One year we were horrified to see meat for sale in the shop at Mata Mata in the Kgalagadi that had expired over a year ago!

Please remember that not all the accommodation types have braai facilities or cutlery and crockery so ask when you book what they do have, and then you will know what you still need to buy for you trip.

One thing I am going to stress is please take some cash with you because even though all of the shops and petrol stations take credit/debit cards there may just be a problem with their machines and having cash will save you time and unpleasantness on your holiday. In recent years South Africa has had a lot of power failures and not all camps have generators.

Kruger Shopping and Camp Shops

For the Kruger Park, Nelspruit has a shopping complex called Ilanga, which is new and it has a Pick n Pay or you could try the Crossing Spar which is great and it opens early, there is a Liquor store, Pharmacy and a Woolies food store all in the same area.

In Hayziview try the Pick n Pay, you will be able to buy most of you food and other items needed for your trip here. I don’t know what their meat is like because I buy mine in Johannesburg and take it with in our camp freezer.

Malelane town has a Spar that sells good food. If you are going in at Crocodile Bridge try the butcher in the middle of Komatipoort as they sell good meat.

If you are going in at Phalaborwa Gate then try the Woolworths in Phalaborwa for all your food-stuff.

Please check opening and closing times for Kruger shops and petrol stations when you book in at your camp. Generally the times are from 08h00 to 30-minutes after the camp gate closes in the evening.

The Kruger shops are very well stocked and you can buy just about anything there from, meat, toiletries, and some first aid stuff, vegetables, salads, tinned food, fresh bread (delivered every three days) braai stuff like tongs, braai grill, wine, beers, cool drinks, water in 1, 5 or 10 liter bottles, milk, books, magazines, batteries, film, clothes, hats and some even sell shoes.

The biggest shop in the Kruger is at Skukuza were you can buy nearly anything you need from meat to ice cream to clothing and wildlife paintings.
Art Gallery and curio section of the Skukuza shop

The shops at Lower Sabie, Berg-En-Dal, Pretoriuskop, Satara, Olifants, Letaba and Mopani are big and also stock a lot of items.

Berg-en-Dal shop

Satara shop

The 4 smaller shops are Crocodile Bridge, Orpen, Shingwedzi and Punda Maria but even though they are small they have a wide variety of items. They all have credit/debit card facilities. The Punda Maria shop is the smallest but has a wide selection of food, drinks and snacks…
There are three Picnic spots that have small shops that sell curios and food - they are Afšaal, Nkuhlu and Tshokwane, all in the south of the park. The Nkuhlu shop has a small art gallery...

**Kruger Petrol (gas) Stations**

All the main Kruger camps have petrol stations within the camps that sell leaded, unleaded and diesel fuel. Our advice is to fill up at the camp you are in because sometimes there is no fuel or there could be a problem at one of the pumps. (we have got to a camp and gone to fill up only to be told that they have a problem with either the pumps/fuel or their card facilities. Please always have enough cash on you to use in emergencies.

There are no petrol stations at any of the bush camps, so please fill up at one of the main camps before setting off to the next camp.

There is a breakdown or service yard at Skukuza (for the Southern area) and Letaba (for the northern area). Please contact these camps if you have a problem with your car as these breakdown yards do change location.

**Kalahari Shopping and Camp Shops**

These shops don't have as much as the Kruger shops so I would suggest you buy along the way. You can stop off in Upington and buy what you need from either Woolworths or Pick n’ Pay. If you are buying meat, put it into a cooler bag or cooler box with frozen ice bricks.

The Twee Rivieren shop is the best stocked in the Kgalagadi. The Nossob shop is the second-best in terms of stock and variety while the shop at Mata Mata has the least variety of items. On our last trip the Mata Mata shop ran out of bottled water. We normally stock up on water and firewood at Twee Rivieren shop…
The Twee Rivieren shop has water, books, clothes, batteries, some food stuffs, snacks, wine and beers whereas Mata Mata and Nossob do not have much in the way of clothes/curios or food stuff…

They only have the basics like firewood and a few tinned foods. Twee Rivieren is the only shop with credit/debit card facilities and an ATM, so please remember to take cash with you. The Mata Mata and Nossob shops close for an hour at lunch time…

The Twee Rivieren shop opens at 07h30 and closes 15 minutes after the gates close. The Mata Mata and Nossob shops open from 07h30 -12h30, then reopen at 13:30 and close 15 minutes after the gates close. There is also a very nice shop, Sitzas farm stall, just outside the Mata Mata gate in Namibia where you can buy meat, preserves and other foodstuffs. You can just walk across but you may need your passport, or not – just depends on the guards on duty!

**Kalahari Petrol Stations**

Only the 3 main camps of Twee Rivieren, Mata Mata and Nossob have petrol stations so please fill up before you leave for your next camp. Here is a photograph of the Mata Mata gas station…

The tractor is not one of the visitor’s vehicles! It is used to smooth the corrugations in the roads by dragging old tires behind it.

We have had one or two bad experiences with getting to the petrol station and they don't...yes you heard me right, don’t have petrol as the pump is out of order or they are out of stock and the petrol tanker is late etc.

Please ask at the camp reception when you check in about car breakdowns or any car problem you may have and they will advise you which camps have facilities to help you.
Pilanesberg Shopping and Camp Shops
There is a Shop in Bakgatla Camp next to the swimming pool, but they don't have a good variety of fresh foods. They have the general stuff like firewood, charcoal, potato chips, ice-creams, bread, water, cool drinks, beers, wine, a few tinned foods, tea, coffee, but no meat, fresh fruit or vegetables. The other shop is in the Manyane Complex/Camp next to the day visitors’ area; once again it is not well stocked at all.

I would buy what I need in Johannesburg and take it with me but if we do forget something and the camp shops don’t have it we go to the Spar that is situated next to the Sun City entrance. This shop is about 7 kilometres from the Bakubung gate and is easily accessible from any camp.

If you are looking for curios then try at Bakubung and Manyane Gates as they have people selling at these gates and they have such lovely goodies like wooden carvings and tablecloths...

There is also the Pilanesberg Centre which is in the centre of the park and they have a small complex with a restaurant, curio shop and shop where you can buy cool drinks, chips and sweets but this curio shop is a little pricey. They all have credit/debit card facilities.
Pilanesberg Petrol Stations
There are no petrol stations in the park or camps. There is a petrol station just before the turn off to Manyane and Bakgatla and one just next to the Sun City complex between Kwa Maritane and Bakubung gates. I would suggest you fill up before going into the park.

Please ask at your camp when you check in about car breakdowns or any car problem you may have, they will advise you which camps have facilities to help you.

Madikwe Petrol Stations
There are no petrol stations in the park so we suggest you fill up at the Sun City complex, in Zeerust or in Gaborone, depending on which direction you are coming from.

Etosha Shopping and Camp Shops
We stop in Windhoek and get most of our supplies from Woolworths or Pick n’ Pay because the shops in Etosha don't have much. The local meats are very good and we enjoy the Hartliep salami & Vienna sausages, which are made in the best German tradition and sold at most supermarkets in Namibia.

The shop at Okaukuejo has the basics such as water, cool drinks, butter, some tinned food, ice creams, beer, cigarettes and some AA batteries…

There is also a post office and curio shop next door that sells some clothing, post cards and books.

The shop in Halali camp also had just the basics plus some curios and of course beer and wines…
Namutoni's shop is in the Fort and had the basics plus some postcards, sunglasses and books…

The Fort at Namutoni also has a curio shop and a book shop. They all have credit/debit card facilities.

**Etosha Petrol Stations**

There are petrol stations at all three camps with a breakdown / service yard at Okaukuejo. Dolomite camp does not have a petrol station the nearest petrol station is 70km away and is outside the park in a town called Kamanjab.

Whether you are in Etosha, Kruger or Kgalagadi . You do not want to arrive at a camp with an empty tank to find this...!

For example, at Halali camp there is one diesel pump and it was empty when we were there in September 2010. Fortunately we use unleaded petrol!
8. ARRIVING AT THE PARKS

Camp Check in times
The only park that is different is the Kalahari where you have to check in at the main reception on arrival at Twee Rivieren and, depending which camps you stay at, you then need to hand in a day pass every day before leaving the camps for your game drive and then collect it when you get back from your game drive. This is for your safety in case you break down they will know you have not returned and will go and look for you.

At the other parks once you have gone through the main park gate you then travel to your camp and check in at their reception. For Kruger, Pilanesberg and Etosha the check in time is 14h00 and for the Kalahari 12h00.

The Kruger Park check-in time used to be 12h00 but from the 1st June 2010 this changed to 14h00 and the check-out time was extended by one hour, from 09h00 to 10h00. Most Kruger clients are not happy about these new times! Instead of unpacking from 12h00 onwards they now have to drive around in the heat (and this is the worst time to look for animals or to take photographs) waiting to check-in. Hence our suggestion to book specific unit numbers after making your reservation.

When you are checking in, keep a look out for some of our photographs at the various Kruger camp receptions...

We have never had problems checking in at Pilanesberg or Etosha and if we arrive early the reception staff normally locate us a bungalow that is ready. Friendliness and a smile works wonders with people but if you are grumpy and arrogant don’t expect staff to rush to help you!

Please make sure you have all your booking forms and payment confirmation papers with you in case of computer problems.
Conservation Fees

The parks all charge an entrance/conservation fee. This charge is per person and/or per vehicle. The prices vary between locals and foreign visitors and the fees go up every year like the accommodation costs that increase once a year. Etosha has a different system, you pay from the time you enter the park for the duration of your stay but you have 24 hours plus 2 hours to leave the park. For example you arrive at 8am on Friday and you only stay for one night, you will then leave the park on Saturday no later than 10am but if you stay longer, they will then charge you for an extra day).

Wild Card

To save money on daily conservation fees buy a Wild Card. This card can be used in the Kruger and Kgalagadi or a number of other parks in South Africa that are affiliated to SANParks. (Etosha and the Pilanesberg do NOT fall under SANParks).

The card is valid for a year and is excellent value for money.

These are the different options...

- All Parks Cluster - more than 80 parks around Southern Africa
- SANParks Cluster - 21 national parks in South Africa
- Msinsi Cluster 6 resorts and reserves near Durban and Pietermaritzburg
- EKZNWliflife Cluster - 24 parks in KwaZulu-Natal
- CapeNature Cluster - 24 reserves in the Western Cape
- Swaziland’s Big Game Parks Cluster - 3 parks in Swaziland
- International All Parks Cluster - more than 80 parks around Southern Africa

If you intend visiting only the Kruger Park (or the Kgalagadi) you would go for a SANParks Cluster.

If you want visit more than one park in a year you should then get the All Parks Cluster card.

To find out more and get the latest pricing please visit either the Wild or SANParks websites.

Some people think that these fees are expensive. Well we also thought so until we went to East Africa!

In Kenya and Tanzania the parks are very nice but they are expensive. The entry permits at the Kenyan parks are very fancy…

…but you also pay a fancy price. The
prices go up each year and as at 2015 the entry ticket in Kenyan parks is now **US$ 70 - 80** per person, depending whether you are staying in or out the parks.

In Tanzania we stayed in lodges at the top of the rift and we would enter Lake Manyara Park on a daily basis and we were charged a daily entrance fee of **US$ 35 plus a vehicle fee of US$ 100!** The entrance fee is valid for only 24-hours, so if you intend spending ten days here you are looking at a lot of money. Add to that the fee for the driver or guide, which is recommended at **US$ 20** per guide per day.

At Ngorongoro Crater the fees were more, I think it was **US$ 50 per person per day and US$ 200** for the vehicle. (On an average day 400 vehicles descend to the crater floor and about half a million visitors go to the crater every year – you do the math!)

If you visit the Kruger, for example, and you don’t have a Wild Card, you will pay a small entrance fee (once-off) and conservation fees depending on the length of your stay. If you have a [Wild Card](#) you pay NO entrance fees and NO conservation fees for the whole year of your card’s validity! That’s a bargain!

**Gate Opening and Closing times**

**Kruger Entry Gates**

Each camp gate has two wooden owls that inform you of the gate opening and closing times for the month. As of the 1st December 2011 a valid overnight booking is required for visitors entering or exiting through boarder post gates into neighbouring countries like Mozambique. This restriction will apply to all entrance gates in the KNP leading to Pafuri and Giriyondo which are in the northern region of the park. Visitors who have already scheduled their holiday in Mozambique and do not have an overnight booking will have to pay R150.00 per person to allow them to travel via the park, if you cannot get accommodation then you will need proof that no accommodation is available in either of the two National Parks as well as having your travel documents available. This option will only be available for a six month period. The boarder gates were meant for tourist to travel between the two national parks without having to exit the parks. This decision was made because travellers, who made use of these two boarder gates on a drive through basis, had a negative impact on the park visitors. This is to help eliminate undesired tendencies like un-roadworthy, heavy laden vehicles, speeding and road kills which were all spoiling the experience for the visitors.
Kruger Gate Times

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Giriyondo boarder post gate times in summer (1 October to 31 March) from 08h00 to 16h00 and in winter (1 April to 30 September) 08h00 to 15h00

Pafuri boarder post gate times in summer (1 October to 31 March) 08h00 to 16h00 and winter from 08h00 to 15h00

Kgalagadi Entry Gates

Kalahari Gate Times

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Mata Mata Gate is a boarder gate allowing you entry or exit gate into Namibia. The boarder post opens at 08:00 and closes at 16:30

Pilanesberg Entry Gates

The Pilanesberg has 4 entry gates to the park; they are Manyane, Bakgatla, Bakubung and Kwa Maritane.

We mainly use Bakubung or Bakgatla gates because these areas are very scenic.
Pilanesberg gate times are as follows:

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<th>Months</th>
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<td>November, December, January, February</td>
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<td>May, June, July, August</td>
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All the Pilanesberg camps and lodges (with the exception of Tshukudu Lodge) are outside the park hence there are only park gate times and not camp gate times.

**Madikwe Entry Gates**

There are five entrance gates to the park as follows, Abjaterskop and Wonderboom in the west, Tau in the north-west, Derdepoort in the north-east and Molatedi in the south-east.

Gates open at 06h00 and close at 18h00 all year through.

**Etosha Entry Gates**

Etosha has three main entry gates - Andersson Gate in the south, the Von Lindequist Gate in the east and the Galton Gate in the west of the park. The gates open at sunrise and close at sunset. The actual opening and closing times for each season are displayed at the gates.
9. SAFARI DINING - RESTAURANTS OR BRAAI AT YOUR CHALET?

We will share with you our good and bad experiences of eating at the restaurants and also show you why we prefer to braai (BBQ) at dinner-time.

Restaurants in KRUGER’S main camps

Before the restaurants were outsourced the food and service was good and we enjoyed eating there. Since the outsourcing the restaurants have been redecorated so they look very nice but generally the food and service leave much to be desired, but in 2014 the restaurants were outsourced a third time to chains such as Wimpy, Mugg & Bean, Cattle Baron and Tindlovu.

Firstly we will tell you which camp restaurants have lovely views as the good views may enhance your eating experience. All Kruger’s main camps and bush camps have braai facilities but only the main camps have restaurants.

**Lower Sabie** has a deck that overlooks the Sabie River, it’s really a lovely view and many animals are seen from the deck. The food and service on the other hand is another story. We have not had good service or food from this restaurant, but you should try it out as we may have got them on bad days. There is a take away if you don't have the time to sit down and eat and this is also on the deck overlooking the river.

**Skukuza** has two restaurants - the main restaurant is slightly back from the river but has a lovely deck overlooking the Sabie River, the food and service is not bad. They also have a take away next to the main restaurant with a seating area under two large thatch areas. Food is a little pricey and not good.

Then there is the Selati restaurant which is the old train station with the old steam engine with a bar is situated in one of the coaches. The whole ambiance is one of old-world and the restaurant looks lovely at night when all the lanterns are on.
Olifants have rebuilt their restaurant and it has really made a difference. They have moved the restaurant further towards the edge overlooking the river - what a wonderful view now! We just had to try it out, so we had breakfast there one morning - the service was extremely slow but the view and big shady trees made up for it. The view takes you over the river to the open plains on the other side were you can scan with your binoculars. Eagles fly right pass you because you are so high up. We just love this camp.

Letaba's restaurant overlooks the Letaba River and what a view! We have seen a lot of elephants, giraffe, waterbuck, buffalo and many other animals in the dry riverbed. Service and food is not bad. They also have a closed off area were they put the buffet and dining area at night and you will still be able to look out as this is all glass.

It is quite romantic and this restaurant brings back fond memories - we always had great food and the atmosphere was overwhelming. But that's going back a good couple of years. Since the restaurants were outsourced many of them have lost their old charm – here is a photograph of the Letaba restaurant showing the new silver serving stations – they simply don't fit into the safari atmosphere!
The **Mopani** restaurant has a lovely view overlooking the dam. They also have a nice bar area just under the restaurant which overlooks the dam.

It is now called **Tindlovu** and the food has improved.

The **Shingwedzi** restaurant has a lovely view overlooking the Shingwedzi River but it is a seasonal river and is dry most of the time, but the bird life is great and the food and service can be good which makes for a great experience.

**Berg-en-Dal** - I put Berg-en-Dal last because it has a limited view from the viewing area in front of the restaurant where you can see a little bit of the dam. This used to be our favourite restaurant and we ate there often. We had great Christmas lunches and dinners here over the years, but sadly the lady who ran the kitchen left and when the new outsourced catering company took over it just went from ‘fab to bad’. It is now called **Tindlovu** and has improved.
The other camps like Punda Maria, Satara, and Pretoriuskop don't have views but the restaurants are lovely.

**Punda Maria's** restaurant is small but gives off this old romantic feel and you can also sit outside under the trees. It is a very romantic experience. Food and service can be good at times. They are planning to redo the restaurant and maybe move it to where the main gate is but nothing has come of it yet. I just hope it does not lose its old charm that so many people love.

At **Satara** we have had very good service (once) and very bad service (on a few occasions), I guess it just depends on who is serving you on the day and what mood they are in. You can sit inside or outside. Food wise it's good. They have a takeaway section for those who are traveling and don't have time to stop for too long. The take away also has seating outside on the veranda.
The Pretoriuskop restaurant has a very modern feel with some great African artwork on the walls. When we have eaten here the food and service was good most times. You can sit inside or outside under umbrellas.

![Pretoriuskop Restaurant](image)

Crocodile Bridge does not have a restaurant but they do have a fantastic take-away where you can sit outside under umbrellas. The food is very good (they are not owned by the outsourced catering company that runs all the other Kruger restaurants) and we have not had a bad meal there.

Orpen does not have a restaurant, so please take provisions to cook your own meals.

Tamboti is a tented camp that falls under Orpen camp as a satellite camp. It also does not have a restaurant. We have stayed here in the Safari tents and have loved it.

None of the bush camps or bush lodges have restaurants or take-always, so please take your own food. They do have cooking facilities, a fridge, hot plate, crockery and cutlery and there is a communal freezer at the gate for you to store your meat and ice-blocks.

The five bush camps are:

- **Bateleur**
- **Biyamiti**
- **Shimuwin**
- **Sirheni**
- **Talamati**

And there are two small Bush Lodges:

- **Boulders**
- **Roodewal**
These bush lodges have to be booked in their entirety. There are five cottages at Boulders and four cottages at Roodewal so for a large family or a small group of friends these camps offer value for money.

We have found that each restaurant opens and closes at different times. If you go on a night drive and you would like to have supper when you return please let the restaurant know. The one year we went on a night drive from Olifants camp and when we returned the restaurant was closed even though the closing time stated 21h00 and we got back by 20h40 they had closed because they had no more patrons.

The opening and closing time of the different Kruger restaurants can be found on the SANParks web site.

If you visit kruger-2-kalahari.com you will be able to learn more about each camp and to see photos of the bungalows. We talk about our favorite camps and favorite bungalows in the different parks

**Braaing at your Kruger bungalow**

Many of the Kruger camps have fixed braais, meaning they cannot be moved as they are set in concrete.

Some camp braais, however, like Olifants, Shingwedzi and Crocodile Bridge can be moved if it rains.

(You'll note in the above photograph taken at Shingwedzi that wooden poles in the form of screens have been erected between the bungalows to provide more privacy).

We stayed at Punda Maria one December and got rained out so we could not braai for four days! As soon as we got back home we bought a mini Weber braai called a ‘Go-anywhere’ braai. It is so handy to have and has been used so much since we got it. We hardly ever use the camp braais now that we have our Go anywhere braai.
In this photograph you’ll see that we are using the fixed braai as a table and the meat is being cooked on the Go-anywhere. (Here I am adding Tabasco to our chicken kebabs!)

The Go-Anywhere also takes only a few coals and your fire is ready within twenty minutes. We have seen some guys with these big raging fires that are still going long after we have eaten.

In winter after we have cooked our food we put the lid on the Go-Anywhere, place it under the dining table and it then becomes our heater - what a plus!

The braais at the Lower Sabie tents are well positioned; here I am in the middle of winter eating dinner while the fire we made on the fixed braai is keeping us warm (the Go-Anywhere is under the table!)…
But for those of you who don't have a portable braai or are visiting from overseas try using an umbrella while braaing if it rains as this has helped us as well. We use our Manfrotto Magic-clamp to clamp the umbrella onto the braai upright...

Now let's talk about the views - some camps have better views from the braaing decks than others (like the river-facing bungalows at Olifants, Lower Sabie and Skukuza camps) but there is always something out there to keep you amused, like the bush babies, Civets and Genets – they visit any braai regardless of how good the view is from the bungalow or tent. These guys can keep you entertained for ages - we just love sitting and waiting to see who is coming to visit our braai!

**Kruger Picnic Spots**

If you are hoping to braai, all picnic sites in the Kruger have gas skottel braais (mobile frying pans on gas bottle stands) these can be hired for a nominal fee. Some picnic sites sell cool drinks but on busy days like public holidays they can run out of stock so you may want to take your own cool drinks or water.

Afsaal, Tshokwane and Nkuhlu picnic spots have a small restaurant or takeaway where you can buy food and curios. If you are looking for something different try the Buffalo pies at the Nhkulu Picnic site, they are lovely.

Our favorite picnic sites are **Pafuri** in the north and **Mlondozi** in the south near Lower Sabie camp. We have always enjoyed the view and sightings from these picnic sites.
Restaurants in the KGALAGADI
Out of the three main camps in the Kalahari only Twee Rivieren has a restaurant.

They open for breakfast at 7.30 till 10:00 and for dinner from 18:00 to 21:00. There is no view but it has a lovely feel to it with some great wildlife pictures on the walls. The food and service are not good! We last ate here in 2006 and we were not impressed but decided, in March 2010, to give them another try – big mistake! We both ordered fillet steak...well I can tell you we did not get fillet steak, I could not even cut it never mind chew and swallow it!

When we complained nothing was done, the waitress then took our plates still with most of the fillet on it and did not say another word she just brought us the bill, we paid over R100.00 for each of our ‘fillet’ steaks. We will not be caught again - we will only be braaing at Twee Rivieren camp!

If you are staying at one of the Private lodges like !Xaus Lodge, Rooiputs Luxury Lodge or Polentswa Tented Camp then you will eat at their lovely restaurants.

Braaing at your Kgalagadi bungalow

Twee Rivieren have their braais in front of the bungalows with a concrete table and chair next to the fixed braai, so if it rains you better braai quickly and get inside under the thatch veranda.

Mata Mata and Nossob both have braais at the bungalows, which are fixed and cannot be moved if it rains.

The wilderness camps have the braais attached to the verandas all in front of the tents/cabins with great views overlooking the waterholes. The views from the wilderness camps are superb and they are all very private and quiet.
Urikaruus, Kieliekrankie, Ghargab, Grootkolk, and Bitterpan camps each have just four cabins/tents while Kalahari Tented Camp has 15 tents but is still peaceful. We love braaing at these camps because it is so peaceful and you get to look every now and then at the waterhole with your spotlight just to make sure you’re not missing something while you’re eating.

Kalahari Picnic Spots
These picnic areas are not fenced and all have toilets and benches with chairs. They do not have shops or takeaways at any of the picnic spots so please take your own food and cooking equipment with you.
The previous photo shows the new toilet building in the south of the park, which has not made it as far as the north of the park - the picnic site at Union’s End still has the old stone building…

Restaurants in the PILANESBERG
There are 8 camps, seven of which have a restaurant.

Manyane offers restaurant facilities that can do both A La Carte and buffet meals daily and a regular Sunday lunch buffet. The inside of the restaurant has paintings of the big-five animals on the walls…

They have lovely carved lamp shades that give off soft light. You can also sit outside in the courtyard under thatched umbrellas. The swimming pool is just next to the restaurant with a play area for the kids. Food and service can be a little slow but overall it is a very good experience.
Bakgatla restaurant – the food is usually good here. The buffet breakfast is included in the price and the choice and quantity of food is always great.

Kwa Maritane has a lovely restaurant that looks onto the park and has an eating area under thatch overlooking the swimming pool with lovely palm trees all around the pool. The food and service were good. They have a breakfast and evening buffets or you can choose an a la carte lunch.

Bakubung This camp has a luxurious restaurant with tables inside and outside, all overlooking a waterhole. We have eaten lunch and dinner there and the food was good but service was slow...

Ivory Tree all your meals are served in the main dining room. The food and service were good and the staff members were helpful and friendly and they made our stay enjoyable.

Tshukudu Lodge This restaurant has international cuisine with an African influence, and wonderful South African wines. Seating is around a dining table or outside on a covered deck. Brunch, high tea, and 5-course dinners are served daily. All meals, wine with meals, beverages and wine tasting are included in the room rate. The lodge also offers braais / barbecues under the stars, weather permitting. We had excellent service and great food

Shepherds Tree Game Lodge has a gourmet restaurant and an outdoor boma. All meals, tea and coffee plus 2 daily activities are included in the price. They also have a Cigar lounge and bar area. High tea is served round the swimming pool.

Pilanesberg Private Lodge in The Black Rhino Reserve provides three scrumptious meals a day. They are served either in the main dining area, on the covered patio or on the pool deck.
Braaing at your Pilanesberg bungalow

Manyane, the private courtyard layout and view from the braai area outside the bungalow is great. Some units have the Weber braais that you can wheel it out into the open but most have the fixed braais that swivel.

Bakgatla, the bungalow braais are fixed to the wall on the patio of each bungalow. They are large if you have a big family to feed. We also enjoy braaing here but there is not much in the way of night life and we don't stay for long periods - only one of two nights - so a meal at the restaurant can be nice.

Kwa Maritane and Bakubung, both these camps have self-catering chalets with braai areas just off an enclosed patio or private garden. The braais all overlook the bush which is great for watching the night life.

We have not discussed braaing at Ivory Tree, Tshukudu, Pilanesberg Private Lodge, or Shepherd’s Tree Lodge as these are exclusive lodges that provide all meals. Manyane, Bakgatla, Kwa Maritane and Bakubung are time-share and self-catering resorts so you can decide whether to eat in the restaurants or braai at your chalet or camping spot.

Pilanesberg Picnic Spots
All the Pilanesberg picnic spots offer braai facilities (wooden benches, wooden tables, metal braais and rubbish bins), water, shade and toilets. These are all safely fenced. They do not have takeaways or shops so again please take your own food and cooking equipment with you.
Restaurants in MADIKWE

Each lodge has their own restaurant and overall the food is excellent. Most guests tend to stay for a minimum of three nights per lodge so the lodges change the dinner venue each night so that each night is a surprise.

In winter the dinner tends to be inside the restaurant but in summer the meals are outside on a patio overlooking the waterhole…

The highlight at each lodge tends to be dinner in the boma. There is a blazing fire going either for atmosphere in summer or to provide warmth in winter.

There’s nothing better than having dinner under the stars and being surrounded by the night creatures!
Restaurants in ETOSHA

Please ask when you book at Etosha what type of accommodation you will be getting because some of the bungalows don’t have braai facilities. We don’t go to the restaurants or braai at night because we don’t want to miss out on the action at the waterholes. This story will tell you why...

We were staying at Halali and we went to dinner at 18h00, finished by 18h45 and then went to the waterhole. When we arrived we were told that we had just missed the leopard!

The next night we decided to go to the waterhole first and then eat dinner after the leopard had come to drink. We went to the water hole just before 18h00 and set up our tripods and cameras and waited for our leopard’s appearance - and waited and waited.

By 20h00 we were starving so off we went to dinner and there we are sitting outside enjoying our meal until a small Italian girl came running in from the waterhole shouting “leopardo, leopardo!”

We could not believe we had missed the leopard again! Animals don’t stick to our timetable hence we now take a picnic/cooler bag with our wine and food to the wall and eat it there.

So many times people have been sitting at the wall with us then go off to dinner and within about half an hour something happens, either a leopard, rhino or lion come down to drink and they have missed it just like we did.

By taking our dinner with to the wall we have seen the leopard drinking at Moringa waterhole in Halali camp four times…
Namutoni

The old restaurant was in a large building that had a big braai with a bar area next to it. The food at the old restaurant was never good and we preferred the other two camp’s restaurants. This has since changed; there are now two restaurants - “African Fusion”…and a Steakhouse, both of which are now located in the Old Fort building. The steakhouse was closed and the food in the African Fusion was not good and it was noisy because it is too close to the waterhole’s viewing deck.

Halali

We’ve had some great meals here and good service, the old restaurant was lovely with charcoal drawings of different animals on the walls…

But that has changed and the atmosphere has gone from this restaurant. The food and service was not bad the last time we were there; we expected it to be the same but were disappointed with the whole experience – I guess the chef has moved on.

There is also seating outside under cover and overlooking the court yard and pool area. They now open at 5.30am for breakfast, which is great if you want to go for a drive after the gates open. They did help us with Breakfast packs to take with us on our morning drives because it was a little too early for us to eat.
Okaukuejo

Okaukuejo has a lovely restaurant but not much of a view as it looks onto the swimming pool area and has a large outdoor seating area under thatch and umbrellas. There is a Braai outside next to a huge bar area overlooking the swimming pool. The food and service were good. They also open for breakfast at 5.30am so again we made breakfast packs of egg and bacon sandwiches with some fruit and took that with us on our morning drive.

In October 2009 we were sitting at the wall and chatting to some people from Namibia and Australia. After the sun had set they went to dinner and while they were gone a male lion killed a springbok!

When they returned to the wall after dinner and heard what they had missed I think they all felt ill!
Our dinner menu when sitting at the Okaukuejo and Halali waterholes:

Cheese and biscuits with pickled gherkins/onions, meat balls and Vienna sausages, a bottle of wine, wine glasses and water.

It all fits into a cooler bag very nicely!

Dolomite

The dinners here were great; we had lovely food and great service. They have two restaurants but both serve the same food. The staff members are friendly and helpful and nothing is too much trouble for them. We often had our meals brought to our bungalow because we did not want to miss the action at the waterhole which you can only see from units 13 and 14. According to TripAdvisor, however, the quality seems to be up and down.

Onkoshi

Great food and good service.

The restaurant overlooks the pan which gives you great views of the water birds when the pan is full.
Braaing (BBQ) at your Etosha bungalow

Namutoni

You are not able to braai if you stay in the chalets as there are no braais – if you are camping then you can do your own thing and braai. We, however, take our Weber Go-anywhere braai with us.

Halali

The rooms do NOT have braais. The bigger chalets behind the rooms have braais, which form part of the chalet structure and are fixed to the wall so if it rains you cannot move them.

The bungalows are lovely and private, with a view looking onto the open space between the bungalows.

Often Honey Badgers have been seen walking around at night raiding the rubbish bins.

Okaukuejo

The rooms do not have braais and neither do the waterhole-facing chalets. All the other bungalows do have braais, which are in front of the bungalows so it is nice to sit under the stars while you braai. The family Stone cottages all have full kitchens and a shared braai area.
Etosha Picnic Spots

These areas are fenced and they do have toilets and braai facilities but take you own food, because they do not have shops or takeaways at any of these spots.

Why we prefer to braai at our bungalow

Mario and I have tried all the above restaurants in these parks and now we prefer to braai at our bungalow - we love just sitting outside in the fresh air listening to the night sounds and looking at the stars - it is just so peaceful and relaxing. We also get to see the nights come alive. Genets, civets, honey badgers, owls and bush babies come to visit, with hyena walking past the fence at night. You would not see all this if you were sitting in a restaurant.

If we braai then we also don't have to put up with bad service and pay for lousy food or put up with some selfish guests.

While staying at Mopani camp Mario and I decided to go to the restaurant for dinner, when we got there the restaurant was empty so we went and sat down next to a window, which we opened for some fresh air. In walk 2 couples with their jerseys on their arms, they choose a table next to us and about thirty minutes later one of the men asked us if he could close the window. Keep in mind that it is December and very hot - when I said 'no, I would like the window open', he asked me where I was from and stormed off back to his table. My question is WHY did they come and sit so close to us when the restaurant was empty and WHY did they not put their jerseys on if they were cold!?

On another occasion we were eating lunch in Shingwedzi camp – again it's December and very hot. We sit right next to the air-conditioner as we have experienced some people simply walking over to the air-conditioner and switching it off, so we used to guard it! People sitting about two tables away from us asked the waiter to please turn the air-conditioner off – they had ordered soup and the one guy had perspiration dripping off his face into his soup – yet he wants the air-conditioner off!!!
These are some of the experiences that encouraged us to rather braai at night. We are pleased we do as we now enjoy the evenings immensely and *photograph many nocturnal animals* that we would not see if sitting in restaurants.

Your best chance of seeing and photographing one of Africa’s *Elusive-Eleven* is to either go on a night drive or better still, to look for these animals in the camps - around your tent or chalet!

We also came up with some yummy recipes that you can use next time you’re braaing…

**Some of our favourite bush recipes**

We take an assortment of meat with us such as pork sausages, pork rashers, boerewors, chicken kebabs, and hamburger patties all of which we buy from Woolworths and our local German butcher in Weltevreden Park.

For lunches we have hamburgers, hot dogs or ham sandwiches – we take the tinned Danish ham from Woolworths or Thrupps.

For dinners we alternate between the sausages, boerewors, rashers and/or chicken kebabs. The kebabs are usually the Lemon and Herb from Woolies and we sprinkle these with Tabasco sauce – superb taste! (If you like Tabasco make sure you take enough with you because some shops stock it while others don’t).

With the braaied meat we have baked potatoes in aluminium foil or some of the following…

**Chili-butter & Bacon Mealies/Corn on the cob…**

4 mealies

1 large red or green chilli chopped finely (if you do not like chillies use herbs instead)

12 slices of shoulder bacon

4 to 6 Tsp butter (use more if needed)

Salt & pepper

Remove husk from mealies, mix the chillies salt and pepper into the butter, then spread the butter all over the mealies, wrap the bacon around each mealie, then wrap each mealie in foil and place on the braai. You may need to secure the bacon with tooth picks to hold it in place. Braai mealies till cooked through then remove the foil and place mealies over the coals to crisp up the bacon.
Veggie Bake...

2 to 3 medium potatoes peeled and cut into chunks
1 small butternut peeled and cut into chunks
4 to 6 medium baby marrows/zucchinis or mushrooms
1 small onion sliced
2 clove garlic crushed or 1tsp Garlic and Herb seasoning
1 small green chilli sliced (optional)
1 medium yellow or red pepper sliced or cut into chunks
2Tsp or 30mls olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all the veggies together then pour over the olive oil to coat the veggies and season. Place in an aluminium foil tray and cover with more foil, seal foil tightly then place on braai and cook till veggies are tender.

Serve hot or cold (if serving cold, add some wild rocket and make a salad dressing using lemon juice, olive oil and seasoning)

Bush Baby Beans (chilli beans)...

1 x small Onion chopped
1 x Chilli chopped
1 x small Red Pepper sliced
1 x Garlic clove
1 x tsp Curry powder
1 x tin Bake beans
1 x tin Butter beans
Salt and pepper to taste

Fry Onion, Red pepper, Garlic, chilli and cook for about 2 min. or until soft, then add curry powder and cook for about 2 - 3 minutes, add beans and stir, cook for about 10 - 15 minutes. Serve with bread rolls or toasted bread and this dish is best made a day before to get the full flavour.
Green Bean and Butter Bean Salad...

1 x 400g tin green beans
1 x 400g tin butter beans
1 small onion finely chopped
Salt and pepper to taste
1 Feta cheese slice/round crumbled

Drain tin beans place in a bowl add the sliced onion, & feta, pour dressing over the beans and place in the fridge till needed.

Dressing

4 Tsp 60ml olive oil
1 clove garlic crushed
2 Tsp 30ml lemon juice

Mix well

This recipe can be done with either Asparagus or Chick Peas instead of beans. If you have fresh herbs like parsley or basil then add this to the dressing. You can also add fresh rocket leaves.

Our Fabulous Christmas Beef Fillet...

I make this at home before we leave for our holiday, and then freeze it.

1 large Beef Fillet
1 tub of Roasted Pepper Pesto (from Woolworths)
6 slices of mozzarella cheese
1 small punnet / mini pack asparagus steamed
1 pack Parma ham (6 to 8 slices)
2 Tsp olive oil

1 medium foil tray plus extra foil to cover the tray

Slice the fillet down the centre do not cut right the way through (butterfly it)
Spread pepper pesto over half the fillet, place the asparagus and cheese then roll the fillet up, place Parma ham over lapping each other around the fillet, secure with toothpicks. Rub fillet with olive oil place in foil tray and cover put tray on the fire and cook to your liking. I leave it on for about 40 to 50 minutes. I like my fillet just pinkish in the middle but not over cooked. Leave it to rest for 5 minutes then slice and serve with a salad of your choice.

Here we are enjoying the Christmas Beef Fillet (with potato salad, beetroot, and green bean & butter bean salad) on Christmas day at Bateleur bushveld camp - 25 December 2010...
10. FACILITIES

An African Safari is not just about going on game drives to find the big-five animals or big-six birds. There are many other things for visitors to do, such as stargazing at Olifants Camp, game walks, bird watching, swimming, reading, relaxing at a bird hide waiting for some action, or walking around the camps.

We enjoy walking around camps such as Berg-en-Dal, Mopani, Punda Maria, Nossob, all the Kruger bushveld camps and Halali as there are birds, small mammals and many insects to see and photograph.

You should try and photograph the small-five when walking around the camps and if you have a macro lens this is when you will use it!

The vegetation in the above camps has been left ‘wild’ to give you a feel of walking in the surrounding bush and the trees and bushes attract animals that live in them.

Also keep a lookout for the big-five trees when driving in the Kruger Park or when in the camps.

Bird-photography can be challenging for many people as most birds are small and if you don’t have a long lens your photo tends to leave much to be desired.

In the camps and at the picnic spots the birds are habituated to humans and they let you get very close, allowing for some superb photographs.

When we walk around the camps Mario takes just his Nikon 18-200 mm zoom lens and this is adequate for most subjects. In addition he takes a right angle finder and a reflector and diffuser, depending on the weather conditions.

Facilities in the Kruger Park

Conference facilities are available at, Berg-en-Dal, Skukuza, Mopani (This is a very new and modern facility) Shingwedzi and Bateleur camps.

Swimming pools can be found in most of the main camps (Skukuza has two swimming pools in the camp and one swimming pool at the day-visitor’s area outside the camp).

There are plans to build swimming pools at all the bushveld camps but currently Shimuwini bush camp is the only bushveld camp with a swimming pool...
There are numerous picnic sites, viewpoints and game hides throughout the park, but only the picnic sites have ablution facilities. The picnic sites and viewpoints are unfenced but the hides are safely fenced.

**Hides** are found throughout the park but some of the camps (Punda Maria and Tamboti) plus all five bush camps have hides which overlook waterholes or rivers - Sirheni bushveld camp has two hides, one at each end of the camp. Some of the guest houses have their own private hides such as the AB-SA guest house in Skukuza, the Fish Eagle Guest House in Letaba and at the Rentmeester Guest House in Shingwedzi camp.

Two of the hides, Shipandani and Sable Dam hides, are sleep-over hides with toilets and braai facilities…

The above photo is the Shipandani hide near Mopani. By day it’s a normal hide where people can stop-off to view game while at night it becomes a game-viewing bedroom!

You can see three of the six beds against the wall – they are unlocked and fold down onto the benches at night.

Skukuza has the Stevenson-Hamilton Memorial library, which is open to visitors.

Skukuza has a bank and a foreign ATM. They have also got an ATM at the Skukuza Golf Course.

The other ATM in the park is found in Letaba camp. Each shop does have a small money machine where you insert your card and 'make a withdrawal'. This withdrawal is just a receipt that you take to the shop assistant who will then give you the relevant amount of money.

Most of Kruger’s main camps have camping facilities in the camps, except for Mopani, Olifants and Orpen camps which have their camping sites near the main camps at the satellite camps of Tsendze, Balule, and Maroela respectively.

The Kruger’s main camps have very nice Day visitor’s areas so if you have come into the park just for the day and want to stop off and have a braai or swim, then these are great stop-offs.

Skukuza and Punda Maria are the only camps with the day visitor’s areas that are not in the main camps. The Skukuza one is about 4 kilometres away from the main camp if driving but is located right
next to Skukuza camp near the Selati railway bridge. The Punda day visitor’s area is located at the Punda Maria gate, also about 4 kilometres from the camp.

Skukuza and Berg en Dal camps have an internet cafe and the internet and cell/mobile signals are very good throughout most of the park.

Luxury bungalows and guest houses have DSTV but on most occasions we have found there is no signal.

There is an indigenous plant nursery in Letaba, at Malelane gate and a very large nursery next to Lake Panic bird hide near Skukuza camp.

**Facilities in the Kalahari**

They do not have conference facilities. They do have information centres at the three main camps, while Twee Rivieren has a photo gallery…

and Nossob has a predator centre next to reception that is a must-see.
There are **swimming pools** at the three main camps and there is one at Kalahari Tented Camp...

![Image of swimming pools](image1.png) ![Image of swimming pool](image2.png)

The first photograph above is Kalahari Tented Camp while the second is the swimming pool at Mata Mata camp. The second picture is not very inviting is it? This is why we prefer the atmosphere at the wilderness camps.

There are **Laundry facilities** at Twee Rivieren, Mata Mata and Nossob camps but they don't have irons, so if you want to do laundry then take an iron with or ask the cleaning ladies if they will do your laundry for a fee. We do our own washing and just hang it out to dry. The clothes dry very quickly because it is so hot!

There are 6 **picnic sites** throughout the park and all have braai facilities and toilets but no shops so take your own food, charcoal and cool drinks.

The three main camps have camping facilities plus another two on the Botswana side, Rooiputs and Polentswa…..don’t get confused by the Private Lodges with the same name that are located close to the campsites.

There is an ATM at the Twee Rivieren shop. The bungalows at Twee Rivieren and the new river-front chalets at Mata Mata have DSTV with limited channels - when there is a signal!

There are only two **hides** in the park, which are located in Mata Mata and Nossob camps.

There are **camping facilities** at the three main camps.

Cell phone and internet connectivity are not great in the Kalahari - the only camp where you can get a good signal is Twee Rivieren camp (they say at Mata Mata has connectivity but we could not connect or use our phone). We briefly got a signal while at Kielie Krankie wilderness camp but the signal was very weak and kept coming and going.

Twee Rivieren is the only camp that has a pay phone that takes coins or a phone card.
Facilities in Pilanesberg

There are conference facilities at all the camps. All the Hides and Picnic sites are safely fenced and all have toilets but only the picnic sites have braai facilities. They don't have shops or takeaways at the picnic sites so please take your own food and cooking equipment with you.

Their view sites/viewpoints don't have toilet facilities and are not fenced.

All their camps have swimming pools.

Pilanesberg has lovely hides throughout the park where you can take your cup of coffee in the morning or your sun-downers in the afternoon and watch the game.

There is a very nice hide at Kwa Maritane which is underground so you walk through a long tunnel in the Kwa Maritane complex to get to the hide.

Laundry we do ourselves but ask at reception because each camp has to do their own linen and the ladies may be able to help with your washing for a fee.

Pilanesberg also has camping facilities at the two Golden Leopard resorts of Manyane and Bakgatla.

All the camps in the Pilanesberg have TV with DSTV reception that has a good signal.

Pilanesberg has good cell phone signals at the camps but not inside the park. If you are just going into the park for the day then you would use the picnic spots for your breakfasts and lunches. Alternatively you could visit one of the camps and have lunch there.
Facilities in Madikwe

Madikwe Game Reserve does not allow self-drive safaris, just like Sabi Sand Game Reserve. This means each lodge will take guests out each morning and afternoon on game drives.

As a result there are no picnic spots or toilets in the reserve. If you need to go to the toilet the guide will stop at a suitable spot where you can find a tree or bush to wee behind. But just be careful – read the story of Franco Kubile, a field guide at Buffalo Ridge Safari Lodge in Madikwe, who saved the life of one of his guests. (Scroll down towards the bottom of the webpage for the story).

Each lodge in Madikwe provides everything that a guest may need. Most of the lodges are 5-star lodges so they provide all meals (breakfast, lunch, high-tea, dinner) have a swimming-pool, spa, library, waterhole or view of the Marico River.

There are, however, a few hides in the reserve. There is a public hide at Nkwe Pan in the south-western part of the park, Jaci’s Tree Lodge has a hide overlooking a large waterhole, Makanyane Safari Lodge has a sleep-out hide and The Bush House has an underground hide.
Facilities in Etosha

Each camp has its own flood-lit waterhole, Okaukuejo and Halali being the best flood-lit waterholes in terms of visibility and attraction to game. Dolomite camp does not have a flood-light waterhole yet but they are looking at making some changes soon, so stay posted for the next update on Dolomite. Onkoshi does not have a water hole but they do have the large pan that covers a very big area in front of the bungalows and restaurant, but on saying that they will be making changes so please check back to this page from time to time for the update.

Here is a photo of the Okaukuejo waterhole – the sun has just set, the floodlights have come on, the moon is rising and the guests are waiting at the wall in anticipation of some action…

![Okaukuejo waterhole](image)

The same night that we took the above photo we saw a lion kill at this waterhole so don’t let the ‘deserted’ waterhole fool you!

Namutoni has a conference centre at the Environmental Education Centre, but can accommodate only 40 people. Laundry we do ourselves if we run out of clean clothes, but you could ask the cleaning ladies or ask at reception if they will do your laundry.

Etosha has Picnic sites but they don’t have braai facilities, only toilets and again these are not fenced so be wary when visiting them!

Each camp has a swimming pool for you to cool off in.

Etosha has camping facilities at all three camps but they do not have kitchens with hot plates or boiling water stations like they have in the Kruger so please take your own cooking equipment. Okaukujeo is the only camp that does have day visitor’s areas but you have to pay or you are welcome to eat at the main camps restaurants or sit at their waterholes, but there is no place to cook/braai.

Internet and mobile phone signals are not that great in Etosha. There is an internet cafe at Okaukeujo camp but it is extremely slooooooww!
11. WORDS OF WARNING:

**Braaing:** when you braai at your bungalow or tent please make sure your fire is out once you have finished braaing because bungalows have burnt down and even bush fires have started due to people not putting their fires out at night.

This sign is at Mata Mata camp but it should be ‘common-sense’ that braais are extinguished after dinner! The second photo shows Mario pouring water onto our braai fire after dinner …

We saw this first-hand on two occasions at Olifants camp where people were braaing and didn’t put their fire out properly so when the wind came up later that night it rekindled the fire and blew the coals onto the roof and burnt down their bungalow!
Luckily the people got out in time but it could have been a very different story if they were trapped inside. In addition the wind could have blown the flames onto the neighbor’s huts on either side of their hut so please make sure that the coals are wet before turning in for the night.

‘Problem’ Animals in the Camps: Please make sure you pack your food away! Some of the Kruger camps have put cages around fridges to keep Monkeys, Baboons and Honey Badgers out. Some visitors, however, choose NOT to lock their fridge cages and they then pay the price! If food is left within easy access animals will eat it – if you lock your food away the animals will then stay away.

These animals can make quite a mess if food stuff is left out or tent and bungalow doors are not closed properly.

These photos show a black backed jackal in Okaukuejo camp and a vervet monkey in Skukuza camp raiding the garbage bins…

Some camps have problems with Squirrels - yes you heard right, squirrels! We had an incident with them at Tamboti tented camp one year when they came into our tent through a gap in the bathroom and ate through our plastic container to get to our biscuits.

Then at the same camp we had Baboons stealing our food out of our fridge because we forgot to turn it around so that the fridge door faced the wall. They took meat and a few plastic containers.

When we stayed at Lower Sabie one year we watched the baboons come through the camp every morning and every afternoon to see what they could find. A new neighbour arrived at the bungalow next to us so we did the neighbourly thing – we greeted her and then warned her about the baboons. Her answer to us was “I’ve been here before and know about the baboons!”

That afternoon she and her son went on a game drive. Just after she left the baboons came to pay her a visit and trashed the place, there was food packaging all over the veranda as she did not turn her fridge to face the wall - it was a real mess!
We were sitting on our veranda having sun-downers when she returned - she quickly picked up the mess and shamefully disappeared into the tent. Needless to say we didn't see much of her again after that!

The tents at Lower Sabie have put the fridges in cages and there is a warning notice asking guests to please lock the cages…

…but as you'll see from the above photo, some people think 'It won't happen to me'!

Camp managers are now starting to move the fridges into the bungalows, which isn't ideal as some fridges make a noise and here you are trying to sleep! We understand why they have done this as some visitors ignore the warnings and they don't lock the gate on the fridge and food storage area.

Most guests, however, are responsible and do obey the rules and either turn their fridge to face the wall or tie a rope around the fridge or stack chairs in front of the fridge…
Other Animals in Camp:

In some camps some of the bungalows have bats in the roof – these little creatures have a role to play so please don't spray them with poison or have them killed, because they eat the mosquitoes, flies and spiders in the bungalows!

The one year at Olifants camp (December 2007) the people staying in bungalow 37 complained to the duty manager about a smell. She sends the maintenance manager to investigate - they report back to her that it's a colony of bats in the roof - she instructs them to 'get rid of them'. The staff members then descend onto the rondavel with a can of Doom and a spray bottle of poison and spray the bats.

All of this is done at lunchtime in front of many guests and their children. The bats (about 30 in all) start dropping dead from the roof outside and some that were still alive crawled into holes in other bungalow walls. These bats will be eaten by other creatures that will in turn also die.

The people staying in number 37 were then moved to another bungalow so why was it necessary to kill the bats? We had birds, squirrels (living in the roof), spiders (and even a Vervet Monkey in our bathroom) by day in our bungalow and bats, a Genet and hundreds of insects visiting us at night, many of whom made a mess on the veranda. This is their home, not ours, and if they annoyed us the last thing we would want is for SANParks to kill them. These creatures are the reason we visit the park.

If you have them in your roof and don't like them then ask to be moved to another unit.

Satara camp has this notice pinned to most of the bungalow doors…

Bats are a protector against Malaria...

The roofs of buildings, particularly thatched ones are an irresistible home to many smaller animals such as spiders, dormice, squirrels and bats. While we do not want your stay to be unpleasant in any way, please remember you are a visitor in a natural area and such animals have vital roles in the ecosystem.

Bats are nature's insecticide and one of the most effective preventions against malaria and several other insect-borne illnesses. A single bat can consume 200 mosquitoes in a night. Bats also prevent the spread of disease in livestock and also consume large amounts of harmful pests to farmers’ crops.

If during your stay in Kruger, you do find that bats get inside your accommodation (they can burrow through thatch easily and end up going inside instead of back out), please do not kill them. If you cannot (Or do not want to) catch them on your own please contact the camp staff and they will respond to your needs.

Bats will not harm you. There are no vampire bats in Africa!
We need to remember that we are in the bush and there are always going to be little creatures coming out of the cracks so be aware but don't kill them – we are trespassing in their homes!

**Malaria**

This is a potential problem only in the Kruger Park. The Kgalagadi, Pilanesberg and Etosha do not have a climate that mosquitoes like.

We don’t take any anti-malaria tablets. We did take them the first year we visited the Kruger Park but they made us feel ill. We realize that the symptoms of malaria are similar to that of influenza and that it takes about 10 -15 days to manifest itself after you have been bitten so we go to our doctor after each trip and have our blood tested to ensure we don’t have malaria.

Malaria is also more prevalent in the hot, wet summer months – in winter we don't see mosquitoes in the Kruger.

There is a Malaria Hotline that you can phone on **082 234 1800** if you would like more information on this killer disease.

**Don't park** your cars under the Sausage tree in the Kruger! This tree gets a long, heavy fruit and when the fruit falls it can cause quite a bit of damage.

Also be careful when you park under thorn trees, we have had thorns go right into our tires and caused a puncture. We have since changed our tires on our 4 X 4 to BF Goodrich All-Terrain, which are made for 50% on-road and 50% off-road use. They have a sidewall that is three-times thicker than normal tires. In the past a set of tires would last us no more than 12 months before they were worn down whereas the BF Goodrich last us 24 months and with no punctures from thorns!

**Don't feed the animals**, however cute they may look because you will be signing their death warrant. If they are fed they become accustomed to people and lose their fear of people and can then become aggressive and will have to be shot.

Always carry a **torch** and wear shoes or sandals when you go for walks around the camps at night.

If you come across any **snakes** in or near you bungalow or tent, please report it to the camp manager or to reception - do not try to catch it yourself!

Remember that spiders, snakes, scorpions, bats and insects form an integral part or the eco system so please accept them as such. We are the intruders in their homes.

Yes, some animals can be **dangerous** and the Elephant Hall in Letaba camp will show you why it's important to respect all animals but especially elephants like the **Kruger's Big Tuskers**.

If you obey the **park rules** and use common sense you will be fine!
12. GAME DRIVE CHECK-LIST

Before going on your game drive use this list to add to your comfort and enjoyment.

Check that:

- you have nothing in the boot (trunk) of the vehicle that you will need while on the road. If you have a 4X4 you can access items in the trunk but with most sedans you will have to get out the vehicle.

- you have sufficient time to cover the distance at the correct speed limit – always allow for elephant road blocks and lion kills! The Kruger and Kgalagadi have maximum speed limits of 50 km per hour while in Etosha it is 60 km per hour. The maximum speed limit in the Pilanesberg is 40 km per hour. If you drive slowly you tend to see more game and there will be less road kill!

There are speed traps throughout the park – police officers hiding in the bushes…

Check that:

- You have sufficient petrol to complete you trip because fuel is only available at the main camps and some gates.

- You have any prescription medication that you may need to take during the day.

- Everyone has had a trip to the toilet because the ‘get out point’ (next camp or picnic spot) could be far away.

- You have some snacks such as biscuits, sweets, crisps or biltong.

- You have enough water in the car; we suggest at least 5 litres of water per person. Rather have too much than not enough.

- A cooler bag, fridge or flask to keep water cold or hot.
• You have your **camera bag**, camera, beanbags, **binoculars**, flash, spare batteries, and spare memory cards in case your camera battery runs down or you fill up your memory card.

• You have reference books, check-lists or animal identification guides.

• You have a map book of the park. We know people who have gotten lost in the Kruger!

• You have your sunglasses, cap/hat and sun-block lotion. The summer sun is harsh and it takes only a few minutes to get sunburn.

• You have a litterbag for your cool drink can, bottles or packets. These are given to every car at the Kruger entrance gates.

• You have a roll of toilet paper. We always take a roll of toilet paper with in case of cool drink spills or for toilets that don't have any!

**Now off you go and enjoy your game drive!**
13. SOUTH AFRICAN SLANG WORDS THAT YOU MAY HEAR

Bakkie - a pick-up truck

Biltong - is specially prepared dried raw meat, beef or venison, – in the US it is called ‘jerky’

Boerewors - literally ‘a farmer’s sausage’ – this is great to braai when you’re in the bush

Bunny chow – half loaf of white bread filled with curry – can be delicious depending where you buy it

Boot - a car trunk and also footwear!

Braai - a Barbecue (US) or Barbie (Australia)

Cheers - goodbye or a drinking toast

Chips - French Fries or potato crisps to Americans

Cold-drink - soft-drink, soda or pop

Eish! - An exclamation expressing surprise, disgust or despair

Just now - means "very soon", "eventually"; or "never".

Lekker - nice, pleasant, good

Lift - an elevator

Mielie - corn on the cob

Mozzie - a mosquito

Pavement – sidewalk

Pap - corn meal, a staple African food – nice with boerewors (sausage) and gravy

Robot - traffic lights

Rondavel - free-standing round building that has a thatched roof

Rusk - a chunky, baked biscuit that is dunked into coffee – makes a nice breakfast in the hides!

Shame - an all-purpose expression - can mean anything from ‘how cute’ to ‘how terrible’

Takkies - sneakers or trainers

Veld (bushveld) - the open grassy and/or bushy plains of Southern Africa
14. MOST COMMON ANIMAL NAMES THAT YOU MAY HEAR ON SAFARI

In addition to the above slang words you will most probably also hear and see the following animal names, depending on which park you are visiting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Shangaan</th>
<th>Swahili</th>
<th>Afrikaans</th>
<th>Tswana</th>
<th>Zulu</th>
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<td>Nyani</td>
<td>bobbejaan</td>
<td>Tshwene</td>
<td>Mfenhe</td>
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<td>Nyati</td>
<td>Buffel</td>
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<td>Xikankanka</td>
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<td>Kameelperd</td>
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<td>Seekoei</td>
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<td>Ratel</td>
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<td>Fisi</td>
<td>Hiena</td>
<td>Phiri</td>
<td>Mpisi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klipspringer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kololo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leopard</td>
<td>Ingwe</td>
<td>Chui</td>
<td>Luiperd</td>
<td>Nkwe</td>
<td>Ingwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>Ngala</td>
<td>Simba</td>
<td>Leeu</td>
<td>Tau</td>
<td>Ingonyama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monkey, Vervet</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kgabo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oryx</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gemsbok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ostrich</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kukama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Hartbeest</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ntshwe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhinoceros</td>
<td>Mkhumbi</td>
<td>Faru</td>
<td>Renoster</td>
<td>Tshukudu</td>
<td>Ubhejane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sable Antelope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Swartwipens</td>
<td>Kwalata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springbok</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tshepe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lenong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Dog</td>
<td>Mohloawa</td>
<td>Mbwa mwitu</td>
<td>Wildehond</td>
<td>Makanyane</td>
<td>Inkanshane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebra</td>
<td>Mangwa</td>
<td>Punda Milia</td>
<td>Sebra</td>
<td>Tilodi</td>
<td>Idube</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are the most common names that are used in the parks – to name lodges, roads, hides or waterholes. If you go on game drives the rangers will radio each other and will use a combination of languages to discuss the animals that has been sighted. In the Kruger the rangers could use a combination of English, Shangaan/Zulu/Tswana and Afrikaans.

In the Pilanesberg and Madikwe the roads have Tswana animal names hence this list is the longest and these are the names that you will see on your Pilanesberg map book or hear in Madikwe.

You may be wondering what a Swahili word - being East-African - is doing in South Africa. Well, the camp in the far north of the Kruger is called Punda Maria and the section ranger named this camp after the zebra but changed ‘Milia’ to ‘Maria’ as that was his wife’s name!
15. FINAL WORDS

We hope that you found this guide useful. We are grateful for all feedback – good or bad. You can tell us what you think about this guide here.

We would be delighted to hear from you, either during or after your trip. And we would be even more delighted if you could share some of your photos or experiences on the website, because we know that other readers would love to read YOUR stories and see YOUR photographs:

Share Your Safari Stories and Photographs

If you know of someone else who might benefit from this guide, please send them to our website so that they can get their own copy.

Also, if you find this guide and the Kruger-2-kalahari.com website useful, then please help others to find out about it. If you have a blog or website please consider adding a link in a post as every link helps.

If you have any queries or would like any more information please email us and we will try and help wherever possible

Thank You and many happy safari adventures!

Jenny
16. APPENDIX - UPCOMING PROJECTS FROM KRUGER-2-KALAHARI

After surveying our newsletter subscribers and speaking to many visitors to the national parks that we visit, the number one problem, challenge or difficulty people on safari face is that their photographs tend to be disappointing or they cannot find the exciting animals.

Here is the scenario...

Your Vision: You visit Africa for a once-in-a-lifetime safari and you return home with hundreds of photographs that you are proud to show family and friends.

The Reality: You either can’t find the exciting animals you would like to photograph or you return home with boring photos that you are reluctant to show anyone.

You have spent a lot of money on travel and on photographic equipment and you would like to return home with great photographs and not just memories.

The Solution: We have compiled Site Guides to various Southern African Game Parks. These are ‘how to’ photo-guides to the best self-drive and guided safari photo destinations in South Africa and Namibia.

We published our Etosha site-guide in 2012, the Pilanesberg site-guide in 2013 and the Kgalagadi site-guide in 2014.

We currently are working on three new eBooks as follows in the Photographer’s Guide series:

Madikwe Game Reserve – publication 2016

The Greater Kruger National Park – publication 2016

Namibia – publication 2017

Mario and I have spent 443 days photographing in the Kruger Park and over 460 days shooting in the Kgalagadi, Etosha, Pilanesberg and Madikwe so purchasing one of these site guides is the next best thing to having us with you on your safari!

When the park guides are complete we will advertise them on our website, in our Lion’s Roar newsletter and our social media pages...