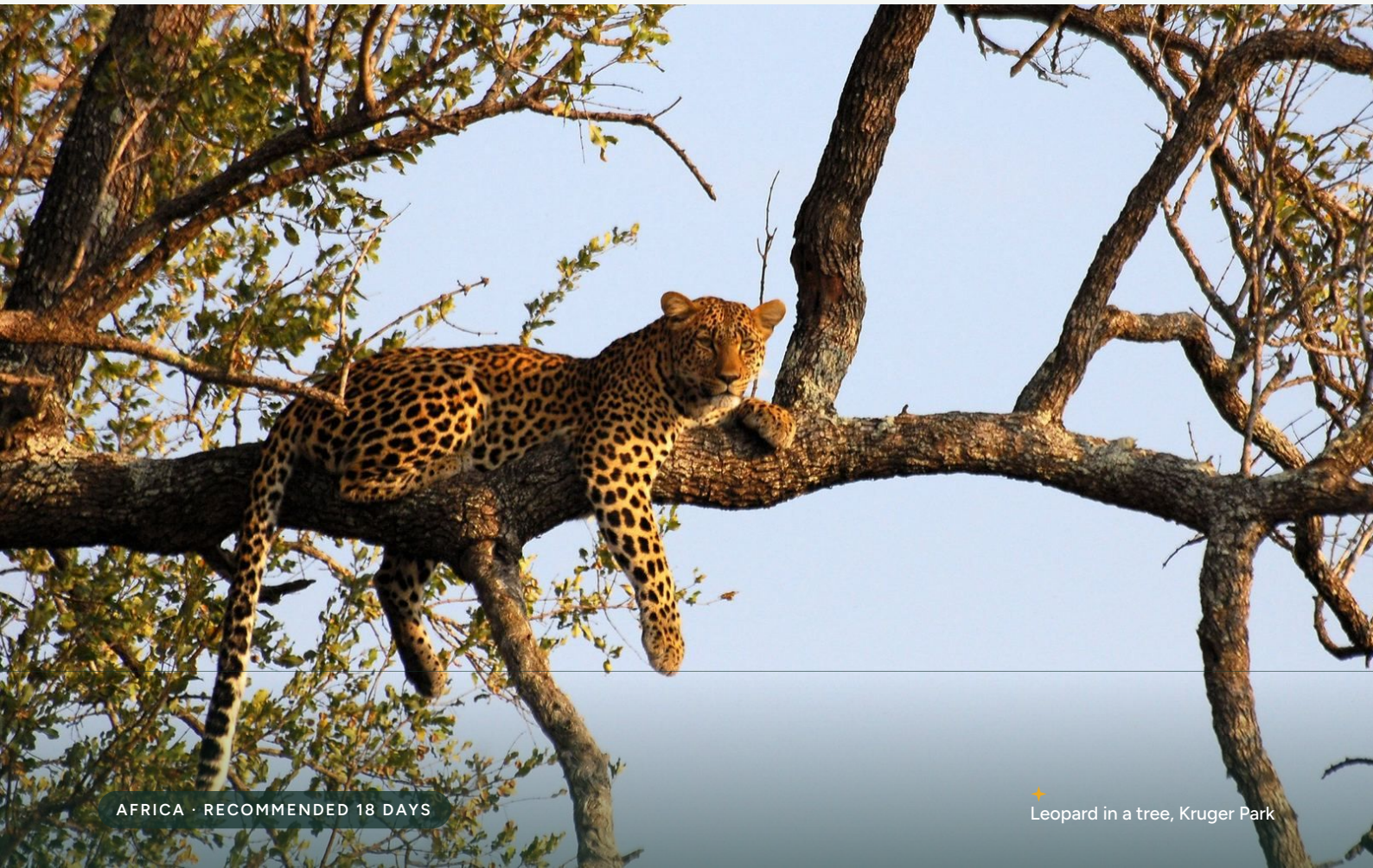




AFRICA · RECOMMENDED 18 DAYS

+ Leopard in a tree, Kruger Park

South Africa & Eswatini

The kingdom of Eswatini, the lakes and beaches of Zululand, the Panorama Route and four days in Kruger. Private, at your own pace

RECOMMENDED LENGTH

18 days

DATES

Your choice

you pick the dates

TRANSPORT

Your choice

self-drive or driver

PRICE

Coming soon

via the interest list

This is the route I drove myself, from Johannesburg and back, and I arrange it in full for you as an 18-day private trip. You enter the kingdom of Eswatini for Mlilwane, on horseback among the zebras, and head down to Kosi Bay to snorkel in the river mouth. Via the rhinos of Hluhluwe-iMfolozi you reach St Lucia, with hippos in the lagoon and dolphins at sea. Back in Eswatini you walk in Hlane, at the Nsangwini rock art and the Phophonyane falls. Then the Panorama Route at Graskop and four days of game viewing in Kruger, in your own vehicle. You drive yourself or sit back with a private driver.

✓ Personally composed

✓ No group travel

✓ At your own pace

✓ Leave out or add what you like

✓ Dates of your choice

✓ Eat wherever you like

Highlights

- ★ Mlilwane in Eswatini: on horseback, by mountain bike or on foot among zebras and antelope
- ★ Kosi Bay: the lakes with the Thonga fish traps and snorkelling in the river mouth
- ★ Looking for rhinos in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, the park that saved the white rhino
- ★ St Lucia and iSimangaliso (UNESCO): hippos in the lagoon, Cape Vidal and dolphins at sea
- ★ Hlane, the Nsangwini rock art and the Phophonyane waterfalls in Eswatini
- ★ The Panorama Route: God's Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes and the Three Rondavels
- ★ Four days of game viewing in Kruger in your own vehicle, from the mopane country in the north to the Sabie River in the south

Best time to travel

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

best time to travel: advice only, you travel when you like

TRAVELLERS

Only your own party, from 1 traveller. No group travel, no fellow travellers you don't know.

LENGTH

Recommended: 18 days · shorter or longer is always possible

DATES

Completely flexible: you leave on the day that suits you.

Your route on the map



Map: Natural Earth (public domain) · the arcs show the order of the route, not the exact road

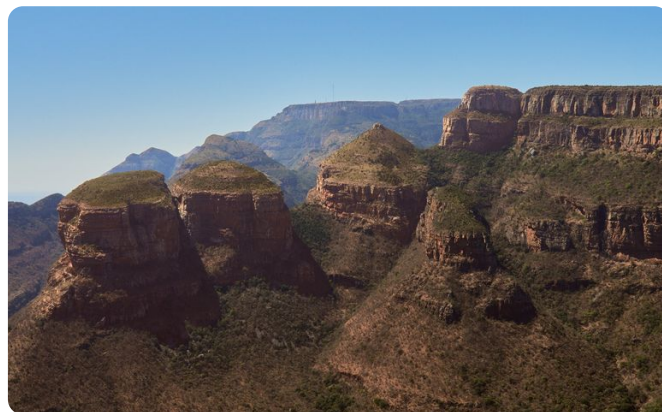
- ◇ Johannesburg airport day 1, 18
- 1 Ermelo 1 night · day 1
- 2 Mlilwane (Eswatini) 2 nights · day 2–3
- 3 Kosi Bay 1 night · day 4
- 4 Hluhluwe 1 night · day 5
- 5 St Lucia 2 nights · day 6–7
- 6 Pongola 1 night · day 8
- 7 Hlane (Eswatini) 1 night · day 9
- 8 Phophonyane (Eswatini) 1 night · day 10
- 9 Graskop 2 nights · day 11–12
- 10 Kruger: Phalaborwa 1 night · day 13
- 11 Kruger: Orpen 1 night · day 14
- 12 Kruger: Paul Kruger Gate 1 night · day 15
- 13 Crocodile Bridge 1 night · day 16
- 14 Verloren Kloof (Dullstroom) 1 night · day 17

--- overland, arrow = direction of travel day trip

◇ airport / connection



DAY 4 Traditional fish traps in the Kosi Bay lakes



DAY 12 The Three Rondavels above the Blyde River Canyon

My recommended route

This is the route as I put it together for you. It is a starting point, not a fixed programme: leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you would like to do and travel at your own pace. Everything below is arranged for you in advance. Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

DAY 1 Arrival in Johannesburg, to Ermelo ERMELO ♦ BREAKFAST

After an overnight flight you land in Johannesburg early in the morning (I am happy to book the flight for you, or you book it yourself). Your rental car is ready, or your private driver waits with a name sign. An easy drive across the highveld to Ermelo (approx. 3 hours), with lunch on the way or in Ermelo. Your roadbook lists my addresses.

DAY 2 The kingdom of Eswatini MLILWANE (ESWATINI) ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

Across the border at Oshoek into Eswatini (approx. 3 hours). Lunch on the terrace of Mantenga Lodge, then a walk to the waterfall of the Mantenga Nature Reserve and the traditional Swazi village, with a dance performance in the afternoon. Then you drive through Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary to your lodge on a hilltop, where you dine overlooking the valley.

DAY 3 A day in Mlilwane MLILWANE (ESWATINI) ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

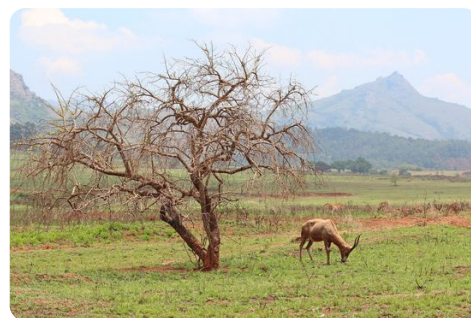
Mlilwane is Eswatini's oldest reserve, in the Ezulwini valley. You explore it on horseback (with a reserve escort), by mountain bike or on foot, among zebras, wildebeest, kudu and hippos; with no big predators this is safe here. Lunch by the hippo pool of the rest camp, in the afternoon a drive to the viewpoints and a sunset walk on Nyonyane mountain.

DAY 4 To Kosi Bay KOSI BAY ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

An early start (approx. 4.5 to 5 hours, via the border at Lavumisa and Jozini) to Kosi Bay in the far north-east of South Africa, close to Mozambique. In the afternoon a boat trip on the Kosi Bay lakes, past the centuries-old Thonga fish traps, looking for hippos, crocodiles and rare birds.

DAY 5 Snorkelling at Kosi Mouth and along the coast HLUHLUWE ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

By 4x4 to Kosi Mouth (approx. 40 minutes, with a day permit), where you snorkel in 'the aquarium', the clear water of the river mouth full of fish; if you like, walk along the beach to the border with Mozambique. Then, permits allowing, along the sand tracks through the coastal forest via Black Rock, Lala Nek and Lake Sibaya to your lodge in the bush near Hluhluwe (approx. 3.5 hours), with a picnic on the beach.



Blesbok below Nyonyane mountain, Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

DAY 6**Rhinos in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi** ST. LUCIA ♦ BREAKFAST

A full day driving yourself through Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, the park that saved the white rhino from extinction: in the morning hilly Hluhluwe (Memorial Gate), lunch at Hilltop Camp, in the afternoon the Sontuli loop in iMfolozi. Rhinos, elephants, giraffes, buffalo and with luck lions. Via Nyalazi Gate to St Lucia (approx. 1 hour).



White rhino in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park

DAY 7**Cape Vidal and the lagoon** ST. LUCIA ♦ BREAKFAST

Through iSimangaliso Wetland Park (UNESCO) to the beach at Cape Vidal, where you snorkel between the rocks at low tide; on the way you often see buffalo, zebras and kudu. Back in St Lucia at midday, then a boat trip on the lagoon among hippos and crocodiles (I plan the order around the tides).

DAY 8**At sea off St Lucia, to Pongola** PONGOLA ♦ BREAKFAST

A small boat is launched from the beach through the surf for a trip at sea: with some luck dolphins and (June to November) humpback whales. After an early lunch you drive to Pongola (approx. 2h15), for a quiet afternoon at a lodge on Lake Jozini (Pongolapoort).

DAY 9**Hlane Royal National Park** HLANE (ESWATINI) ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

Back across the border into Eswatini, lunch in Siteki and on to Hlane Royal National Park (approx. 3 hours in all). In the afternoon a walking safari with a park ranger (a camp activity). You sleep in the camp without electricity, by paraffin lamps, with rhinos at the waterhole in front of the camp.

DAY 10**Rock art and waterfalls** PHOPHONYANE (ESWATINI) ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

If you like, a short sunrise drive through the park. Then to the Nsangwini rock art (approx. 2 hours), Eswatini's finest San paintings, with a community guide (that is how the visit works there). Lunch overlooking Maguga Dam and on to the Phophonyane nature reserve (approx. 1 hour), for a walk of about 1.5 hours along the cascades.

DAY 11**Malolotja and on to Graskop** GRASKOP ♦ BREAKFAST

An early start to Malolotja National Park (approx. 1 hour), a highland reserve with some of the oldest rocks on earth: walk to the Malolotja Falls or the Majolomba gorge, with a picnic on the way. Around midday you cross the border back into South Africa and drive to Graskop on the edge of the Drakensberg escarpment (approx. 4 hours).

DAY 12**The southern Panorama Route** GRASKOP ♦ BREAKFAST

God's Window and the rainforest walk behind it, Wonder View, Lisbon Falls (with a path down) and Berlin Falls. Lunch in the gold-rush town of Pilgrim's Rest, in the afternoon the Mac Mac Falls and Lone Creek Falls.

DAY 13**The northern Panorama Route, into Kruger** KRUGER (PHALABORWA) ♦ BREAKFAST

Bourke's Luck Potholes, Lowveld View and the Three Rondavels above the Blyde River Canyon, and the Leopard Trail (6 km, approx. 2 hours) from the Forever Resort. After lunch you drive to Phalaborwa, on the western edge of Kruger (approx. 1h15), where you spend the night in or near the park.

DAY 14**Along the rivers of central Kruger** KRUGER:

ORPEN ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

An early start at sunrise, when the animals are most active. A full day of game viewing through the mopane and savannah country of central Kruger, along the Letaba, Olifants and Timbavati rivers, where elephants, buffalo and hippos come to drink and lions often rest in the shade. At the picnic sites and lookouts you can step out for a while. In the late afternoon you leave the park at Orpen and stay at a lodge just outside the gate.



Elephant with calf in Kruger National Park

DAY 15**Through the heart of Kruger** KRUGER: PAUL KRUGER

GATE ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

A full day of game viewing through the heart of the park, across the open plains around Satara, where large herds of zebra and wildebeest graze and the chance of lions and cheetahs is good, to the Sabie River. You sleep in a tented camp just outside the Paul Kruger Gate.

DAY 16**Southern Kruger** CROCODILE BRIDGE ♦ BREAKFAST

A full day of game viewing in the south of the park, its richest area for wildlife: along the Sabie River and the waterholes in the savannah you may, with some luck, see the Big Five in one day, with rhinos in the bush and leopards in the trees along the river. You leave the park at Crocodile Bridge and sleep close to the gate.

DAY 17**To Verloren Kloof** VERLOREN KLOOF (DULLSTROOM) ♦ BREAKFAST

If you like, a last morning drive in Kruger. Then you drive up into the mountains to Verloren Kloof, in the highlands near Dullstroom (approx. 3 to 3.5 hours), where you walk in the kloof and enjoy the calm of the highlands. You stay in a cottage with its own kitchen; food can be bought on site.

DAY 18**Back to Johannesburg** ♦ BREAKFAST

One more morning walk, then back to Johannesburg airport (approx. 3 hours), where you return your car or your driver drops you off for your flight home.

What I arrange for you

- 1 **Pickup on arrival**
Your rental car is ready at Johannesburg airport (O.R. Tambo), or your private driver waits in the arrivals hall with a name sign. On the last day you drive from Verloren Kloof back to the same airport.
- 2 **Hotels**
Every night is booked and confirmed in advance, at the level you choose: Budget, Comfort or Premium. Prefer another hotel? I change it.
- 3 **Transport**
You choose: self-drive with a rental car waiting for you, or a private driver and private transfers. Domestic flights, trains and boats where they make sense, all booked in advance.
- 4 **Activities, at your pace**
The activities and entrance tickets on the route. No guide or group travels with you: you set the pace, and anything you would rather skip, you simply leave out.
- 5 **Eat wherever you like**
Breakfast is included, as are the meals at remote camps and lodges where there is no alternative. For the rest I give you my restaurant tips, but you are completely free to choose where you eat. I never recommend a place because I earn a commission on it.

Level and transport

Price coming soon – join the interest list to be the first to receive it. You receive the price per level (Budget, Comfort, Premium) and per transport mode (self-drive or private driver) in your personal proposal.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

I'm happy to book your flight for you, or you book it yourself; if I book it, the flight price for your dates is in your personal quote. Return flight to Johannesburg not included. I am happy to book the flight for you, or you book it yourself.

SELF-DRIVE

This is the route I drove myself. You drive on the left and never after dark. Your 4x4 is ready at Johannesburg airport and you return it there on day 18. You need the 4x4 for Kosi Mouth and the sand tracks along the coast (with a permit). Your rental car has the papers to cross the border with Eswatini twice. In Kruger you drive yourself, with my favourite spots in your roadbook. Expect a few long driving days (approx. 4.5 to 5 hours on day 4 and approx. 4 hours on day 11). Fuel, tolls and parking are paid locally.

WITH A PRIVATE DRIVER

Rather not drive on the left? Then one dedicated English-speaking private driver takes you from day 1 to day 18 in a 4x4, also across the borders with Eswatini and through Kruger. He waits while you walk or snorkel; fuel, tolls and his meals and accommodation are included. He is a driver, not a guide.

Three accommodation levels

Budget

Simple, well-reviewed guesthouses, chalets and park camps, with breakfast (and dinner where there is no alternative).

Comfort

Characterful lodges and guesthouses, often with a pool or a view, and tented camps and lodges on the edge of Kruger.

Premium

The finest lodges on the route, with more space and views, and luxury lodges on the edge of Kruger and in Zululand.

Possible guided moments

Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

- ✦ On this trip you discover everything at your own pace, without a fixed guide: your roadbook tells you what to see where, including my favourite spots in Kruger.
- ✦ Always included, because that is how it works there: the escort on the Mlilwane horse ride (day 3), the skippers of the boat trips (days 4, 7 and 8), the ranger on the Hlane walking safari (day 9) and the community guide at Nsangwini (day 10)
- ✦ Optional: a guided open-vehicle game drive in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi (day 6) or Kruger (days 14–16), or a dive guide at Kosi Bay. I am happy to arrange them for you.

Ideas to adapt the route

- Shorter (14 days): without Kosi Bay and the coastal route, straight from Mlilwane to Hluhluwe and St Lucia
- More Kruger: an extra night in a camp inside the park (e.g. Satara or Lower Sabie)
- Private reserve: one or two nights in a lodge with open safari vehicles in Sabi Sand or Timbavati instead of a night outside the park
- Every hotel can be swapped: e.g. Budget on the road and Premium near Kruger

Included

- ✓ 17 nights at the level you choose (Budget, Comfort or Premium): guesthouses, lodges and park camps, with breakfast and dinner where there is no alternative (Mlilwane, Kosi Bay, the lodge near Hluhluwe, Hlane, Phophonyane and the lodges near Kruger)
- ✓ Your choice: a private driver with a 4x4 from day 1 to day 18 (fuel, tolls, border documents and the driver's board and lodging included) or a 4x4 rental car from Johannesburg airport, with zero-excess insurance, second driver and the permission to drive into Eswatini
- ✓ Park and entrance fees: Mantenga, Mlilwane, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, iSimangaliso (Kosi Bay and Cape Vidal, incl. the 4x4 permits), Hlane, Nsangwini (with the community guide), Phophonyane, Malolotja, the Panorama Route and 4 days in Kruger (Wild Card or daily fees)
- ✓ Boat trips: sunset on the Kosi Bay lakes, the St Lucia estuary and the ocean trip from St Lucia beach
- ✓ A horse ride in Mlilwane and a walking safari in Hlane with a park ranger
- ✓ Detailed roadbook with routes, driving times, safe parking and my favourite addresses

Not included

- Flight to Johannesburg and back (I am happy to book the flight for you, or you book it yourself; guide price: see below)
- Lunches, the meals at Verloren Kloof (you cook yourself), and drinks (allow approx. €20–35 pp per day)
- Optional guides and safaris: a guided open-vehicle game drive in Kruger or Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, a dive guide at Kosi Bay or Sodwana (available, I am happy to book them for you)
- Massages and spa
- Tips for the driver, rangers and boat skippers
- Travel and cancellation insurance
- When self-driving: fuel, tolls and parking (paid locally)
- When self-driving: credit-card deposit with the rental company and any traffic fines

Practical information

VISA (BELGIAN CITIZENS)

No visa required for tourist stays up to 90 days. Passport valid at least 30 days beyond departure from South Africa, with at least 2 blank pages. An Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) exists since 12 August 2026 but is not (yet) mandatory for visa-exempt Europeans. Check before departure. Minors may need extra documents. Eswatini: no visa needed for Belgians (up to 30 days); your passport is stamped at every border crossing, so allow enough blank pages.

HEALTH

No mandatory vaccinations, except a valid yellow fever certificate when arriving from (or transiting more than 12 hours through) a yellow fever country. Malaria: low to moderate risk in Kruger and the Lowveld, northern KwaZulu-Natal (Kosi Bay, Hluhluwe, St Lucia) and eastern Eswatini (Hlane), higher in the rainy season (October–May). Discuss prevention with a travel clinic or wanda.be.

CURRENCY & PAYMENT

South African rand (ZAR). In Eswatini the lilangeni (SZL), pegged to the rand; the rand is accepted everywhere there. Cards accepted almost everywhere, except in remote camps.

FLIGHT TIME FROM BRUSSELS

Approx. 13–15 hours with one connection (Amsterdam–Cape Town direct approx. 11.5 hours).

TIME DIFFERENCE

South Africa (UTC+2): +1 hour in Belgian winter, no difference in Belgian summer.

LANGUAGE

Eleven official languages, incl. English, Afrikaans (quite understandable for Flemish speakers), isiZulu and isiXhosa. In Eswatini: siSwati and English.

MEALS

Breakfast is included almost every day, and dinner at the remote lodges and camps (there is no alternative there). At Verloren Kloof you cook yourself; for the other meals you get my addresses, but you are completely free to choose.

GUIDES

By default you travel without a guide. Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

As of September 2026: check diplomatie.belgium.be (travel advice) and wanda.be (health) before you travel.

Travelling responsibly

You stay in small lodges and in the parks' own camps, so your stay goes straight to conservation (Big Game Parks in Eswatini, Ezemvelo/iSimangaliso and SANParks). At Nsangwini you pay the community guide who looks after the rock art, and at Kosi Bay you see the fish traps the Thonga have used for centuries. You travel in one vehicle for your own party, without a domestic flight.



Steennot Travels

Contact

Steennot Travels (in formation) · Lentestraat 80, Ghent, Belgium

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steennot-travels.be

Personally composed, down to the last detail.

No group travel and no fixed dates: you travel privately, at your own pace. Leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you like. I give you my restaurant tips, but you choose freely where you eat: nobody sends you to expensive restaurants for a commission.

PRICE

Price coming soon – join the interest list to be the first to receive it.

Interested? Join the no-obligation list at steennot-travels.be or email info@steennot-travels.be. Other dates, more or fewer days, something left out or added? Everything can be adapted.

Steennot Travels is in formation and does not sell trips yet: this brochure is for information only and is not an offer. No bookings, options or payments are accepted until the legally required insolvency insurance (Belgian Package Travel Act of 21 November 2017) is in force. After launch you receive the standard information form and the travel conditions before you book. All prices are estimates.

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COVER

Leopard in a tree, Kruger Park · Photo: Wegmann · CC BY-SA 3.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Leopard_on_tree.JPG · *cropped, resized*



DAY 3

Blesbok below Nyonyane mountain, Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary · Photo: Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mlilwane_Wildlife_Sanctuary_02.jpg · *resized*



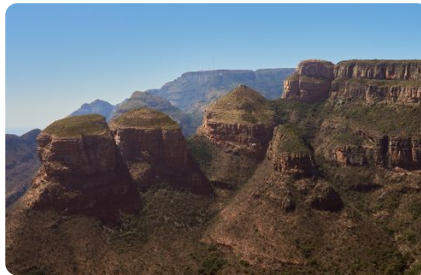
DAY 4

Traditional fish traps in the Kosi Bay lakes · Photo: Richard Jenkinson · CC BY-SA 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kosi_Bay_fish_traps_1.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 6

White rhino in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park · Photo: Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rhinoceros_in_Hluhluwe-Imfolozi_Park_01.jpg · *resized*



DAY 12

The Three Rondavels above the Blyde River Canyon · Photo: lumoplank · CC0 (creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/deed.en) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Panorama_Route_Part_I-_Blyde_River_Canyon_-_Panorama3845.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 14

Elephant with calf in Kruger National Park · Photo: Diego Delso · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Elefantes_africanos_de_sabana_\(Loxodonta_africana\),_parque_nacional_Kruger,_Sudáfrica,_2018-07-25,_DD_05.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Elefantes_africanos_de_sabana_(Loxodonta_africana),_parque_nacional_Kruger,_Sudáfrica,_2018-07-25,_DD_05.jpg) · *resized*