

## Zululand Itinerary (Guided)

- **Pongola Game Reserve**
- **Imfolozi Game Reserve**
- **Kosi Bay**
- **St Lucia (Cape Vidal)**

### Day 1

Arrive at Durban International Airport where you will be met by your guides and transferred to Zululands Pongola Game Reserve.

### PONGOLA GAME RESERVE



This community-owned game reserve forms part of an important conservation corridor between the Zululand Rhino Reserve and Pongola Game Reserve, particularly for the endangered Black Rhino. Pongola is home to white and black rhino, impala, greater kudu, giraffe, and a high density of leopard compared to any other reserve in South Africa.

Accommodation: Pongola tented camp

Meals: Dinner

### Day 2 and 3

Today you will be based in this beautiful and peaceful reserve. Your itinerary will be based around your own requirements, but can include any or all of the following: bush walks, game drives, rhino monitoring, using camera traps, bush skills, tracking, mammal and bird identification.

Accommodation: Pongola tented camp

Meals: Full Board

### Day 4

Today you will drive to Lake Jozini where you will have a talk on sustainable wildlife management on a private reserve and a game drive through the reserve. Lunch will be on a boat cruising Lake Jozini viewing the aquatic birdlife, hippos and wildlife along the shoreline.

Accommodation: Pongola Tented Camp

Meals: Full Board

## IMFOLOZI PARK

With the first re-introduction of elephant in 1978, after an absence of fifty years, it became the first and the only park in KwaZulu Natal region to have the full complement of the 'Big-Five'. The park is regarded as "The birthplace of conservation in KwaZulu Natal" - and is the most famous of all the Zululand game reserves and is noted for its scenic beauty, impressive panoramic views and for saving the White Rhino from extinction and today is home to the highest concentration of both Black and White species of Rhino in Africa.



### Day 5

An early morning bush walk or game drive before breakfast. Pack up and travel to your next destination. You will stop for lunch and shopping before you take a short drive to the Imfolozi section of the Hluhluwe/Imfolozi Game Reserve. You will enter the park after lunch and enjoy a game drive before reaching your overnight accommodation at Mpila. The perfect spot for an evening BBQ or a night drive through the reserve spotting those nocturnal animals and birds.

Accommodation: Mpila Camp, Imfolozi

Meals: Own account

### Day 6

An early morning bush walk or game drive before breakfast into this most beautiful and peaceful landscape. Walking amongst the parks most beautiful wildlife with a ranger and guide is incredible. After breakfast you can visit the bird hide, have some free time and enjoy local dancing.

The afternoon will be taken up game viewing and visiting the Centenary Game Capture Centre where you will visit the museum which records the development of game capture techniques which has become a specialised area of wildlife management. A sunset drive can be arranged on this evening before dinner.

Accommodation: Mpila Camp, Imfolozi

Meals: Own account

## KOSI BAY

Kosi Bay is a system of lakes, channels and an estuary. Kosi Bay is part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park which itself is a World Heritage Site. The Mozambique border forms the northern boundary of the protected area and the Indian Ocean the eastern boundary. It is home to hundreds of bird and animal species, including the rare palm-nut vulture, pels fishing owl, hippo and crocodile. Humpback whales are seasonal offshore visitors, while leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles come ashore to nest in the beaches between October to February.



### Day 7

Leaving Imfolozi, you will be driven to Kosi Bay. You will have lunch on route and a chance to buy supplies. Depending on the season, you will take a responsible guided tour to Bangha Nek beach to watch the female leatherback and loggerhead turtles come out of the surf to lay their eggs on the beach or, approximately 2.5mths later, see the baby turtle hatchlings emerging at night and making for the safety of the sea.

Accommodation: Kosi Mouth Lodge and Camp

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

### Day 8

Free day, beach, boat trips, snorkelling, fishing or just chill at the swimming pool. The evening will be kept free for another opportunity to see the turtles

Accommodation: Kosi Mouth Lodge and Camp

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

## ST LUCIA WETLANDS

St Lucia Wetlands or locally known as iSimangaliso Wetland Park is South Africa's first world heritage site that is situated in the heart of Zululand on the Indian Ocean. A destination, of peace, tranquillity and wildlife. The Hippo & Croc boat cruise on the St Lucia estuary is a two hour boat cruise offering close up sightings of Hippo's playful yawns, crocodiles basking on the banks and Fish Eagles hunting. Leopards have also been seen hunting on the banks of the estuary so make sure to take a camera along. With impressive Mangroves, Swamps and Pans, it's a birders haven with migratory species year round.



### Day 9

After breakfast you will depart from Kosi Bay for St. Lucia. This morning's activity includes a launch cruise up the estuary with a local specialist who will provide a commentary of the estuarine and marine ecology. Thereafter, we will stop for shopping and lunch at the famous pizza restaurant before making your way to your accommodation at Cape Vidal. Here birds and wildlife are abundant and the reserve's self-guided trails enable you to see some of the surrounding wetlands, coastal forests and the sand dunes just off the Indian Ocean.

Overnight: Beach Log Cabins (Cape Vidal)

Meals: Own

Account

### Day 10

Early start for whale watching today (season dependent) We will drive through Cape Vidal game reserve seeing wildlife on the way before picking up the boat off the St Lucia beach. An amazing experience although expect to get a bit wet on the surf. We will have lunch at St Lucia and then head back to Cape Vidal for free time, birding or a walk along the sand dunes.

Overnight: Beach Log Cabins (Cape Vidal)

Meals: Own

Account

### **Day 11**

Free time or another chance to go Whale Watching. You will spend the afternoon at St Lucia with your last evening meal in town discussing the highlights of your amazing trip.

Overnight: Log Cabins (Cape Vidal)

Meals: Own Account

### **Day 12**

Watch the sunrise over the Indian Ocean before packing up for your journey back to Durban for your flight home.

If preferred, this trip can be self-driven and will keep total costs down. When it says own account against meals this just means that you will have the choice to cook your own meals in camp. There will be plenty of opportunities to buy food. If you prefer to have meals cooked for you then this can be arranged too.

**Cost:** £1700pp based on this itinerary (Whale watching is extra)

**Includes:** Guide, transfers, vehicle hire, accommodation, entrance fees, conservation fees, meals as above.

**Excludes:** International flights, travel insurance, extra activities, meals as above.

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