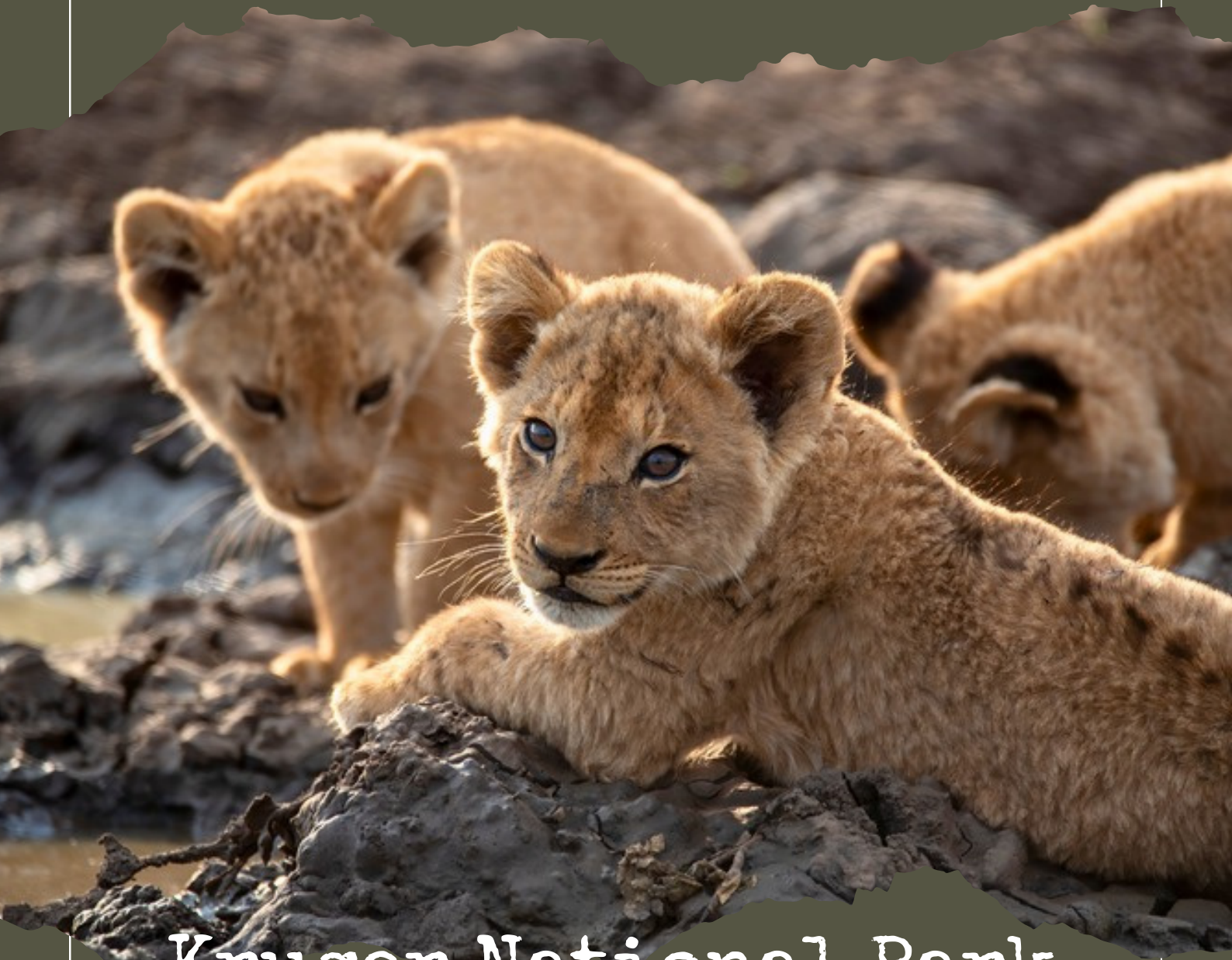




YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE
FOR A THREE DAY



Kruger National Park
**SELF-DRIVING
SAFARI**

WWW.WILDSCAPE-SAFARIS.COM

EXPLORE THE WILD AND DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED



A warm welcome to WILDSCAPE – your gateway for an unforgettable adventure in the heart of Africa

You are dreaming of a real adventure far away from your all day life? You are dreaming of stargazing in Southern Africa and authentic wilderness experiences in the African bush? As qualified Safari Guide and passionate wildlife photographer I am the one to consult for the planning of your ultimate self-driving safari in Southern Africa.



No matter if you prefer camping on a rooftop tent of your 4x4, a rustic proper accommodation or the a luxury lodge with all its advantages: I am here for you to craft your tailor-made and personal self-driving safari that perfectly balances adventure and comfort according to your personal preferences.



WILDSCAPE is for nature- and freedom-loving adventurers, who want to experience the African bush in an authentic way.

Are you curious about a self-drive safari, but unsure what to expect? I know that feeling very well! When I planned my first safari in 2015, I had countless questions: What should I consider for packing? Which routes are recommended? When is the best time for game viewing?

That's exactly why I created this 3-day itinerary for you. It gives you specific insights how your Kruger adventure could look like: From potential driving routes to the best spots for animal observations to practical tips for your stay. I'm sharing my personal experiences so that you can create your own unforgettable safari experience.

I wish you lots of fun!

Phillip

ITINERARY



Your ultimate three day adventure in the Kruger National Park



DAY 1

MALELANE – SKUKUZA

MORNING
(06:00 – 11:00)

Check In: Malelane Gate, Game Drive towards Skukuza Rest Camp
Breakfast at Afsaal Picnic Spot
Viewpoint: „Mathekenyane Hill“

MIDDAY
(11:00 – 15:00)

Lake Panic Bird Hide
Brunch at Kruger Station Restaurant
Check-In at Skukuza (from 02:00 pm)

EVENING
(15:00 – 18:00)

Game Drive along Sand River towards the Kruger Tablets and return
Dinner at Cattle Baron in Skukuza Rest Camp



DAY 2

SKUKUZA – LOWER SABIE

MORNING
(06:00 – 11:00)

Game Drive along the Sabie River towards Lower Sabie
Late Breakfast at the terrace of Lower Sabie Rest Camp

MIDDAY
(11:00 – 15:00)

Rest at Lower Sabie
Optional: Game Drive along H10 towards Tshokwane Picnic Spot and Orpen Dam
Return to Lower Sabie

EVENING
(15:00 – 18:30)

Game drive along H4-2 and S28
Sundowner at Sunset Dam



DAY 3

LOWER SABIE – MALELANE

MORNING
(06:00 – 10:00)

Game Drive from Lower Sabie to Crocodile Bridge along S28

MIDDAY
(10:00 – 15:00)

Game Drive from Crocodile Bridge Rest Camp towards Afsaal Picnic site via Gardenia Bird Hide und Jock Waterhole

EVENING
(15:00 – 18:00)

Leaving the park via H3, S120 (Steilberg Viewpoint) and S110
Heading to accommodation Outside the Park (e.g. Riverview Inn Malelane)



DAY 1

Malelane – Skukuza

DAY 1



MORNING: MALELANE GATE – SKUKUZA REST CAMP

(APPROX. 65 KM, 1:45H NET DRIVING TIME)

Routing:

- Check-in at Malelane Gate: Booking confirmation (proof of overnight stays in the park) and payment of park fees
- Drive along the paved main road H3 towards Skukuza
- Optional route: Via the S114 (unpaved road)

Viewpoints, waterholes and hides along the route:

- Mathekeyane Hill

Game Viewing:

- Zebras, elephants, giraffes, rhinos, leopards, lions, wild dogs, antelopes, wildebeest

Landscape:

- Bush savanna known as "mixed bushveld"
- Partly hilly terrain with granite rocks, partly open grassland, dense vegetation along seasonal watercourses



Zebras along H3

Insider Tip:

- Afsaal Picnic Spot: small café in the bush for breakfast (muffins, continental breakfast). The moccachino is highly recommended.
- **Mathekeyane Hill** viewpoint offers a wonderful view of the savanna. The drive up is possible with a normal vehicle, but somewhat challenging

MIDDAY: SKUKUZA – LAKE PANIC BIRD HIDE – SKUKUZA

(APPROX. 14 KM, 00:30H NET DRIVING TIME)

Explore Skukuza Rest Camp:

- Late breakfast or lunch at the "Kruger Station" restaurant
- Stock up on drinks and snacks at the shop or buy souvenirs
- During the hot midday hours, a trip to Lake Panic Bird Hide is recommended (about 10-15 minutes drive west of Skukuza)
- From 2 PM, check-in is possible in your bungalow or safari tent

Routing to the Birdhide:

- H11 heading west for 4 KM, then turn onto the S42
- After 1.8 KM you will reach the Lake Panic Bird Hide

Viewpoints, waterholes and hides along the route:

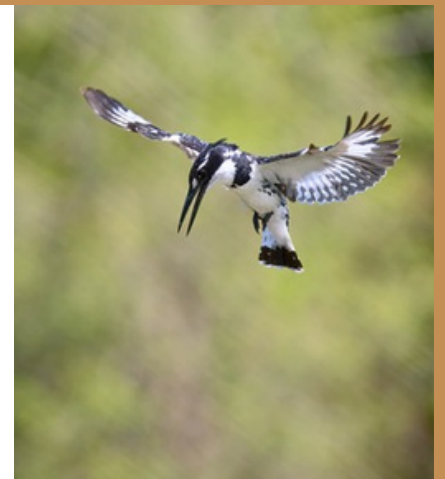
- Lake Panic Bird Hide

Game Viewing:

- Hippos, herons, African fish eagles, weavers, African jacanas, various plover species, kingfishers

Insider Tip:

- Take your time at the Bird Hide. Those who stay quiet and have patience will be rewarded with great sightings or wonderful opportunities for bird photography.



Pied Kingfisher hunting at Lake Panic Birdhide

DAY 1



EVENING: SKUKUZA – KRUGER TABLETS – HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE – SKUKUZA

(APPROX. 60 KM, 1:30 NET DRIVING TIME)

Routing:

- Start this afternoon game drive around 3:00 pm latest
- Drive north of the Sand River on the H1-2 to the "Kruger Tablets" (plaques commemorating the founder of the national park, Paul Kruger)
- Along the way, you can take the Marula Loop (S 83) (unpaved road)
- After reaching the Tablets, return the same road until the turnoff to the H12, which leads to the "High-Level Bridge"
- After crossing the bridge, turn right onto the H4-1 and drive back to Skukuza

Lookout points, waterholes, and hides along the route:

- Visit the Olifants waterhole (turn off along the S85)

Landscape:

- The H1-2 runs along the Sand River and the H4-1 along the Sabie River, both are permanent rivers, although water levels can vary seasonally
- Along the riverbeds there is relatively dense bush, but views into the sandy or granite-studded riverbed are easily possible

Insider Tip:

- End your first self-drive day with a steak at the Cattle Baron Restaurant. Particularly recommended are the "Chateaubriand," "Blackened Pepper," or "Madagascar" fillets.



young lion on the high level bridge H12

YOUR NOTES AND SIGHTINGS OF DAY 1



DAY 2

Skukuza – Lower Sabie

DAY 2



MORNING: SKUKUZA – LOWER SABIE

(APPROX. 45 KM, NET DRIVING TIME 1:15H)

Routing:

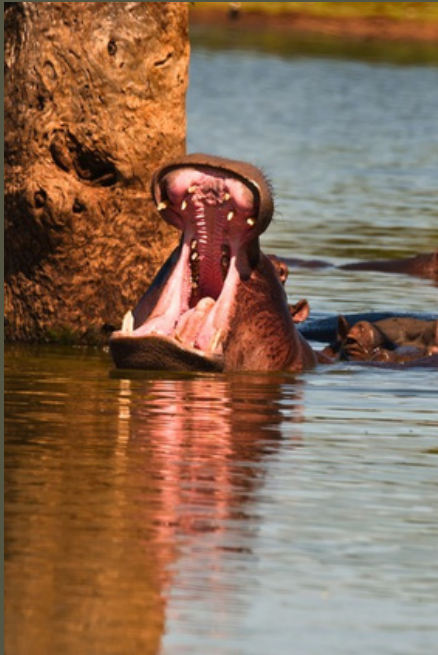
- Drive along the H4-1 towards Lower Sabie
- At Nkuhlu Picnic Spot you can stop for some drinks and snacks. There are also toilets.
- Just before you arrive at Lower Sabie stop at the “Sunset Dam” and enjoy the variety of animals
- Once you arrive at Lower Sabie you can take a (maybe) late breakfast or lunch at the terrace with its beautiful view over the Sabie River

Viewpoints, Waterholes and Bird Hides along the route:

- Sunset Dam

Game Viewing:

- Elephants, Lions, Leopards, Hippos, Antelopes and Crocodiles



Hippo at Sunset Dam

Insider Tip:

- Set off as early as possible, ideally at the time when the park gates open. This increases your chances of spotting a lion or leopard. Take some hot water and coffee to mix, as well as rusks (dry biscuits that are dipped in coffee) with you, so you can have breakfast in the car while enjoying a great sighting. At the end of the game drive, a proper breakfast with a fantastic view awaits at Lower Sabie.

MIDDAY: GAME DRIVE ALONG H4-2 AND S28 (OPTIONAL)

(APPROX. 39 KM, NET DRIVING TIME 1:15H)

Routing:

- For those who want to discover something new and don't want to rest before the afternoon game drive, you can drive on the H4-2 towards Crocodile Bridge
- After approximately 12.4 KM, take the S130 (Gomondwane Loop) and after 2 km turn onto the S137
- A detour to Dukes Waterhole on the S137 is worthwhile
- Finally, the route leads via the S28 northwards back to Lower Sabie
- After 2.8 KM, you'll find the turnoff to Ntandanyathi Bird Hide (worth visiting)

Viewpoints, Waterholes and Bird Hides along the route:

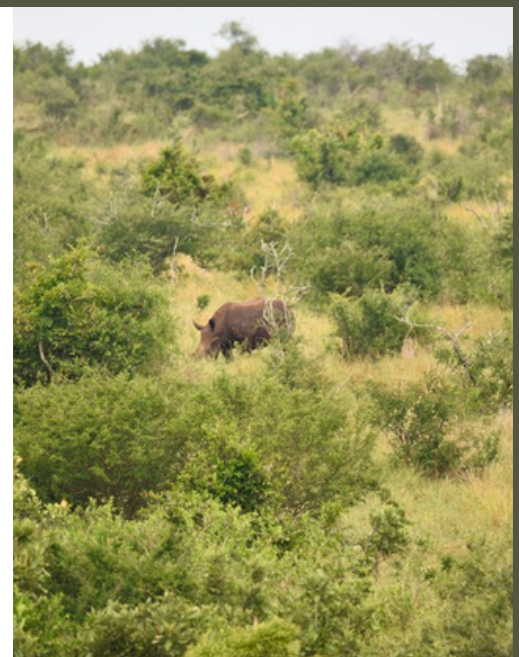
- Dukes Waterhole, Ntandanyathi Bird Hide

Game Viewing:

- Cheetahs, lions, elephants, rhinos, leopards, antelopes

Insider Tip:

- For those who want to take it a bit easier: the terrace in Lower Sabie invites you to linger and offers a beautiful view of the Sabie River. Therefore, you can relax here until the check-in time at 2:00 PM. Additionally, the camp has a swimming pool.



Rhinos are very rare to see in the Kruger. Along the S28 you might be lucky.

EVENING: TSHOKWANE PICNIC SPOT AND ORPEN DAM

(APPROX. 98 KM, 2:00H NET DRIVING TIME)

Routing:

- Note: Driving time with stops is approx. 3 to 4 hours
- Leave the camp on the H4-2 heading east
- After 1 km, turn left onto the H10 and drive over the bridge/weir of the Sabie River
- Now drive along the H10 towards Tshokwane Picnic Spot
- Along the H10, stop at the Nkumbe View Point
- Also a stop at Orpen Dam is worthwhile (via S32)
- The Tshokwane Picnic Spot is the most distant point of the drive. You can purchase snacks or take a toilet break
- Return either the same way or take one of the unpaved side roads (S128 or S122) (Caution: longer driving time!)
- End your day with a **Sundowner am Sunset Dam**, just 2 min away from Lower Sabie Rest Camp

Viewpoints, Waterholes and Bird Hides along the route:

- Nkumbe viewpoint and Orpen Dam

Game Viewing:

- Leopards, lions, saddle-billed stork, elephants, hippos, giraffes, antelopes, wildebeests

Landscape:

- The landscape here is significantly more open than in the southwestern part of the park
- This "picture-book savanna" can be particularly well observed from the Nkumbe viewpoint



Leopard nearby Tshokwane Picnic Spots

Insider Tip:

- book a Night Drive at check-in. Here you have the chance to see unique, nocturnal animals, such as porcupines. Inquire about the departure time at reception. Note, however, that you should buy something to eat beforehand, as the restaurant will be closed upon your return.

YOUR NOTES AND SIGHTINGS OF DAY 2



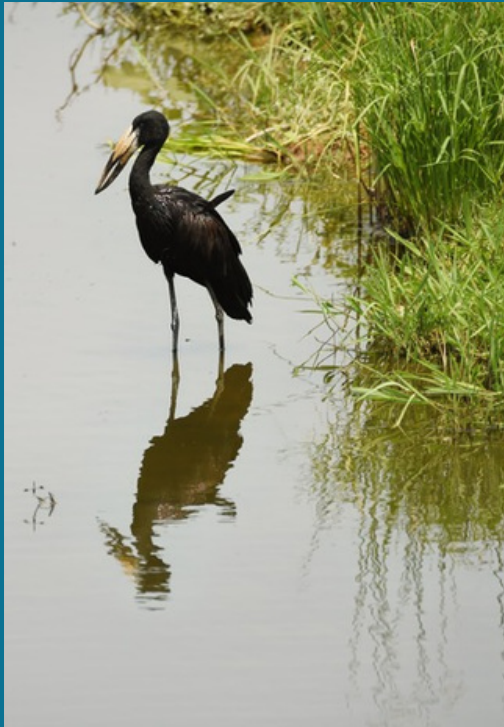
DAY 3

Lower Sabie – Malelane

DAY 3



MORNING: LOWER SABIE – CROCODILE BRIDGE VIA S28



African Openbill at Vurhami-Bridge

(APPROX. 35 KM, NET DRIVING TIME 1:05H)

Routing:

- Take the H4-2 south toward Crocodile Bridge
- After approximately 6.4 km, turn onto the S28 (unpaved)
- Follow the S28 for 24 km until it brings you back to the H4-2
- After about 4 km on the paved H4-2, you will reach Crocodile Bridge Rest Camp

Viewpoints, Waterholes and Bird Hides along the route:

- Ntandanyathi Hide
- Gasanftombi Dam

Game Viewing:

- Cheetahs, lions, wild dogs, rhinos, elephants, leopards, giraffes, zebras, wildebeest, antelopes

Insider Tip:

- Shortly after turning from the S28 onto the main road H4-2, a bridge crosses the Vurhami River. Stop here briefly, as with a bit of luck you might see rare birds like the African Openbill.
- The Crocodile Bridge Rest Camp has no restaurant, but it does have a shop and a small coffee stand

MIDDAY: CROCODILE BRIDGE – AFSAAL PICNIC SITE VIA GARDENIA BIRD HIDE AND JOCK WATERHOLE

(CA. 65 KM, CA. 2:45H NET DRIVING TIME)

Routing:

- Leave the camp on the H4-2 heading north
- After 2.5 KM, turn onto the S25 (unpaved) towards Byamiti
- Follow the S25 (Crocodile River Road) for 38.1 KM until the junction with the S119
- After 2.6 KM on the S119, the Gardenia Bird Hide is worth a stop
- Continue along the S119 until it crosses the S114 (approx. 3.5 KM)
- Turn onto the S114 heading north and follow for another 4.4 km
- Finally, take the turn to the H2-2 and after 7.6 km you will reach the paved main road H3
- Follow the H3 for 1 KM northward and you will reach the Afsaal Picnic Spot



Rhinos at Jock's Waterhole

Viewpoints, Waterholes and Bird Hides along the route:

- Gardenia Bird Hide (with waterhole), James Waterhole, Jock Waterhole

Game Viewing:

- Rhinos, hippos, crocodiles, giraffes, antelopes, wildebeest, zebras, lions, warthogs

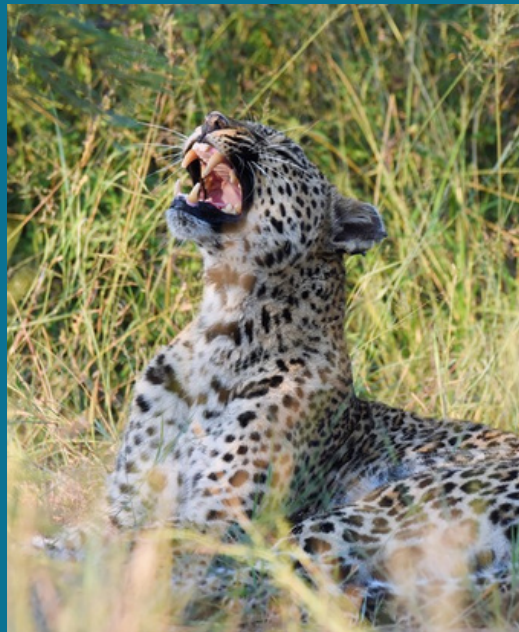
Insider Tip:

- During the hot midday hours, animals retreat to waterholes or into the shade
- A moccachino at Afsaal along with a muffin will give you energy for the rest of the day

DAY 3



EVENING: LEAVING THE PARK VIA H3, S120 AND S110



Leopard along the S110

(APPROX. 44 KM, 01:35 H NET DRIVING TIME)

Routing:

- Leave Afsaal onto the H3 heading south
- in case of time pressure drive directly to the Malelane Gate to leave the park
- Otherwise:
 - Turn off after 5KM to Renosterpan Waterhole
 - After 12.3 KM on the H3, take the turn onto the S120
 - After 7.9 KM, turn onto the S110 heading west (Matjulu Loop)
- drive to your accommodation nearby Malelane Gate (e.g. Riverview Inn)

Viewpoints, Waterholes and Bird Hides along the route:

- Renosterpan Waterhole, Matjulu Waterhole

Game Viewing:

- Cape buffalo, leopards, giraffes, elephants, lions

Insider Tip:

- The S120 winds its way to the **Steilberg Viewpoint** (highest point in the area) and is partially very steep, but accessible for regular passenger cars (Coordinates: 25°23'50.1"S 31°30'04.8"E)

YOUR NOTES AND SIGHTINGS OF DAY 3



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PACKING LIST



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☐	CARDIGAN
☐	LONG PANTS
☐	SHORTS
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☐	SWIMMING COSTUME
☐	
☐	

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☐	MOSQUITO REPELLENT
☐	SUNSCREEN
☐	MEDICINE
☐	PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
☐	
☐	

DOCUMENTS

☐	PASSPORT
☐	VACCINATION CERTIFICATION
☐	CREDIT CARD
☐	DRIVERS LICENSE (NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL)
☐	BOOKING CONFIRMATION

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☐	MOSQUITO NET
☐	SUNGLASSES
☐	FLASK/BOTTLE
☐	BINOCULARS
☐	CASH
☐	MAPS
☐	
☐	
☐	

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☐	HIKING SHOES
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☐	
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☐	CAMERA BATTERIES
☐	CHARGING CABLE
☐	POWER ADAPTER FOR PLUGS
☐	MEMORY CARDS
☐	HEADLIGHTS
☐	TORCH
☐	POWERBANK
☐	
☐	

NOTES



IMPORTANT ADVICE AND INFORMATION FOR SELF DRIVERS IN THE KRÜGER NATIONAL PARK

MAPS AND NAVIGATION



- Links for official maps of the Krüger Nationalpark:
 - South West: Malelane - Skukuza:
https://www.krugerpark.co.za/Maps_of_Kruger_Park-travel/explore-kruger-map-south-west.html
 - Skukuza Area:
https://www.krugerpark.co.za/Maps_of_Kruger_Park-travel/explore-kruger-map-skukuza-area.html
 - South East: Skukuza - Lower Sabie - Corcodile Bridge:
https://www.krugerpark.co.za/Maps_of_Kruger_Park-travel/explore-kruger-map-south-east.html
- Purchase a hardcopy card:
<https://tracks4africa.de/shop/buch/tinkers-krueger-national-park-map-english/>
- Download Google-Maps or Maps.me (iOS, Android) for using offline maps



INFORMATION FOR SELF DRIVERS IN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK



- Visitors must remain in their vehicles except in designated areas.
- Note that no body parts may protrude from windows, sunroof, or other parts of the vehicle.
- Vehicle doors must remain closed at all times.
- Adhere to the speed limit! All general traffic rules also apply in Kruger National Park.
- The speed limit is 50 km/h on paved roads and 40 km/h on gravel roads.
- Observe entry/exit times. You must be in camp or outside the park before these times. Driving before or after these times is not permitted. Gate times must be strictly adhered to; a fine may be imposed for late arrival.
- Driving off-road or on roads with "No Entry" signs is not permitted.
- Feeding or disturbing animals is strictly prohibited and a serious offense.
- Trash belongs in the trash can. Animals view garbage as food and can die from it! At the gate, you may be able to get free paper trash bags for waste in your car.
- Overnight guests may only stay in booked and recognized facilities and must check in at reception before occupying accommodation or campsites.
- No animals (neither domestic nor wild) may be brought into or removed from the national park.
- The rest camps in the national park are fenced. You can move freely here.
- Don't underestimate the time factor: expect to cover approximately 20 to 30 km in an hour if you want to observe animals at leisure and take photos.
- Especially in the evening hours, elephants move toward the Sabie River and cross roads H1-2 and H4-1. Plan for extra time particularly here. An elephant herd can block a road for 30-60 minutes if the leaves of the trees along the road are especially tasty.



BASIC RULES FOR ANIMAL SIGHTINGS IN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK



- Always remain in your vehicle, except in designated areas.
- Keep all windows and doors closed. No body parts may protrude from the window, sunroof, or any other part of the vehicle.
- Maintain a safe distance from animals. Do not drive too close or crowd the animals.
- Position your vehicle on the side where the animals are visible.
- Do not obstruct other vehicles. Position your vehicle so that others also have a good view.
- Feeding or disturbing animals is strictly prohibited and constitutes a serious offense.
- Stay as quiet as possible to avoid disturbing the animals. This includes refraining from honking, shouting, or whistling.
- Do not drive off-road or on closed paths.



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ELEPHANT SIGHTINGS



- Keep an especially large safety distance from elephants. They can be surprisingly fast and are potentially very dangerous.
- Make sure your daytime running lights are turned off (if possible). Elephants have poor eyesight. An unfamiliar light source could make them aggressive.
- Individual male bull elephants in musth are particularly aggressive:
- Musth is a periodically occurring phase in adult male elephants that is associated with significant hormonal changes and aggressive behavior.
- During musth, bulls' testosterone levels rise to up to 60 times the normal value. This phase can last several weeks and can be recognized by the following signs:
- Heavy secretion from the temporal glands on the sides of the head
- Continuous urination, with the insides of the hind legs being wet
- Significantly more aggressive behavior and increased risk-taking
- Never block an elephant's path. Always leave the animal an "escape route."
- Always have an escape route for yourself as well
- Be especially careful with elephant cows with calves - they are particularly protective and may react aggressively.
- Read an elephant's body language: If an elephant shows threatening gestures (spreading ears, shaking head, trumpeting), slowly back away.
- Do not turn off your engine when approaching elephants. You must be able to react immediately in an emergency.
- If an elephant approaches, remain calm and do not make sudden movements or noises.
- Turn off your lights, as elephants have poor eyesight and react sensitively to light sources



IMPRINT AND LEGAL INFORMATION



Publisher

- WILDSCAPE - Safaris and Adventures
- Phillip Wenzel
- Email: admin@wildscape-safaris.com

Status of Information

- February 2025
- last trip to Kruger National Park in November 2023

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 - The following is expressly pointed out:
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Miscellaneous

The photos featured in this guide were all taken personally by the author. Please note that not all photographs were captured in the Kruger National Park.

1st Revision 2025

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