



SD9. Johannesburg to Durban via Kruger & Swaziland (10 nights)

[Highlights: Panorama Route , Big 5 Private Kruger Safari, Swaziland, St Lucia, North Coast beaches, Durban]



TOUR SUMMARY:

No of days / nights:	11 / 10
Tour starts:	Johannesburg
Tour ends:	Durban
Includes:	Accommodation and car rental – Group B (VW Polo or similar)
Accommodation:	Combination of Standard, Comfort and Guest House
Best time to visit:	All year round

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY:

Day 1 Panorama Route

Welcome to Johannesburg! Upon arrival at OR Tambo International Airport you will collect your rental car and drive east. Dullstroom, which is located in the highlands at over 2,000 metres above sea level, is a pleasant small town where you can enjoy lunch. Continue to your hotel which is located along the famous Long Tom Pass. If time permits you can visit Pilgrim's Rest, a well preserved old gold mining town.

Day 2 Sabi Sand Game Reserve (Greater Kruger Park)

Breakfast followed by checkout. You have the morning to visit some of the highlights along the Panorama Route including Lone Creek Falls, Graskop and God's Window before continuing to the famous Sabi Sand Game Reserve, which shares an open border to the Kruger National Park. Arrive in time for high tea which is served at around 15h00. Thereafter it is time for an afternoon / evening game drive in an open 4x4 Land Rover together with your knowledgeable guide (Game Ranger) and other guests from the lodge. Stop to enjoy a spectacular African sunset with a sundowner drink and snacks before returning to the lodge in the dark, where you may be lucky to spot a rare nocturnal animal with the aid of powerful torches. Dinner served under the stars.

Day 3 & 4 Sabi Sand Game Reserve (Greater Kruger Park)

Full days on safari. The Sabi Sands is arguably the premier game viewing destination of South Africa. Other than the Big 5 there are great opportunities to see all sorts of creatures, both big and small and your ranger is an expert on the area's flora and fauna.

Early rise followed by coffee and rusks and then a morning game drive. Enjoy a hearty breakfast before having time to relax during the heat of the day, either at the pool or in the comfort of your room. In the late afternoon it is once again time for a game drive in the hope of seeing some more exciting animals. Dinner is served at the lodge on your return.

Day 5 Swaziland

Final game drive followed by breakfast and checkout. Continue your journey to Swaziland, an autonomous kingdom that is nearly completely surrounded by South Africa. The drive (+/- 300 kms) from the lodge to the Ezulwini Valley should take approximately 4 - 4½ hours. Accommodation in Swaziland is in traditional and comfortable Beehive Grass Huts.

Day 6 Swaziland

A full day to discover the highlights of the area. Be sure not to miss Mantenga Cultural Village, Swazi Candles, Ingwenya Glass and the vibrant Swazi Market.

Day 7 Swaziland to St Lucia

Breakfast followed by checkout. Drive southwards back into to South Africa and on to the town of St Lucia (total driving distance is approximately 330 kms, which should take around 4½ - 5 hours).

In the afternoon you may choose to go on a sundowner boat cruise on the St Lucia estuary, where you will get the chance to see large numbers of hippos and crocodiles.

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY CONT'D:

Day 8 St Lucia to Ballito

Breakfast followed by checkout. Carry on your southward bound journey to Ballito, a beautiful coastal town located approximately 2 ½ hours south of St Lucia and 1 hour north of Durban.

Day 9 & 10 Ballito

Days at leisure. Suggested activities:

- Spend some time on Ballito's beautiful Willard Beach
- Drive to Durban (approx. 1 hour from Ballito) where you can visit the popular uShaka Marine World with its informative aquarium, dolphinarium and waterpark which is fun for the whole family. Take a walk along Durban's famous seafront promenade and browse the different wares on sale at Durban's colourful Indian Market
- Gateway Shopping Centre in Umhlanga is one of the largest shopping complexes in the Southern Hemisphere and has a lot more to offer than just shops
- The Natal Sharks Board in Umhlanga, where you can learn more about these wonderful creatures, is also worth a visit.

Day 11 Checkout

Breakfast followed by checkout. Drive to Durban's King Shaka Airport and return the rental car before checking in for your onward bound flight.

