



# South Africa Safari

## Biologists Without Borders

-Conservation in Action-

22<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020 (12 Days / 11 Nights)



## Introduction

Biologists without Borders is proud to offer our fourth annual South Africa wildlife safari exploring the beauty of some of South Africa's most game rich wildlife destinations (*see comments from our first tour guests below*). We will travel to the famous Kruger National Park; then onto Phinda Private Game Reserve (an award-winning safari destination), where we will join our research biologists conducting studies on endangered wildlife; and finally to iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your small group tour will be led by South African wildlife guides and myself – Sue Orloff – a professional wildlife biologist and president of Biologists without Borders.

**Kruger National Park** is one of the largest game reserves in Africa. This beautiful park represents South Africa's flagship in biodiversity conservation and attracts wildlife enthusiasts and photographers from all corners of the globe. It covers an area of 7,523 sq. miles in northeastern South Africa. The park extends 220 miles from north to south and 40 miles from east to west. Areas of the park were first protected by the government of the South African Republic in 1898, and it became South Africa's first national park in 1926. The park is home to an astonishing diversity of wildlife, 517 bird species and accommodates more species of mammals than any other African game reserve at 147 species.

**Phinda Private Game Reserve** is situated in the lush KwaZulu-Natal region in northeastern South Africa. Sandwiched between Mkuze Game Reserve and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, it comprises 34,000 acres of prime conservation land. Seven distinct habitats are home to an abundance of amazing and unique wildlife including Africa's Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, buffalo) and over 400 bird species. Cheetahs also abound here!

**iSimangaliso Wetland Park** (previously known as the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park) is a World Heritage Site, situated on the east coast of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa about 171 miles north of Durban. It is South Africa's third-largest protected area, spanning 173 miles of coastline, from the Mozambique border in the north to the Lake St. Lucia estuary to the south, and made up of around 1266 sq. miles of natural ecosystems. The name iSimangaliso means miracle and wonder, which aptly describes this unique place.

Join us on an unforgettable 12-Day safari experience as we celebrate the magnificent animals that makes South Africa such a must visit destination to wildlife enthusiasts from across the globe.

## Your safari at a glance

Tour Dates	22 <sup>th</sup> September to 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020 (12 Days / 11 Nights)
Tour Price	Cost sharing per person sharing: \$5900.00 (\$500 of which is tax deductible). Single supplement: \$800.00
Tour Size	Not more than 11 Participants plus two wildlife tour leaders.

Day 1, 22 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Arrival Day in Johannesburg and overnight – City Lodge
Day 2, 23 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Road transfer Johannesburg to the Kruger National Park – Umkumbe Safari Lodge
Day 3, 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Kruger National Park – Umkumbe Safari Lodge
Day 4, 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Kruger National Park – Umkumbe Safari Lodge
Day 5, 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Kruger National Park – Umkumbe Safari Lodge
Day 6, 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Fly to Phinda Private Game Reserve – Bayete Camp
Day 7, 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Phinda Private Game Reserve – Bayete Camp
Day 8, 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Phinda Private Game Reserve – Bayete Camp
Day 9, 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Phinda Private Game Reserve – Bayete Camp
Day 10, 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.	Transfer to iSimangalizo Wetland Park – Makakatana Lodge
Day 11, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.	iSimangalizo Wetland Park – Makakatana Lodge
Day 12, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct.	iSimangalizo Wetland Park to airport and departure

## Your safari in detail

### Day 1, 22<sup>nd</sup> September: Arrival day in Johannesburg and overnight.

Upon arrival at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, you will be met by one of our tour guides who will escort you to your overnight accommodation at the comfortable City Lodge, located near the airport terminal building.

If you so desire, dinner will be offered at the City Lodge restaurant which will afford the opportunity for tour leaders to discuss the tour itinerary with you in more detail.

*Overnight City Lodge*

**Day 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> September: Road transfer from Johannesburg to the Kruger National Park.**

Today will be a travel day as we leave behind the bright city lights and head for the bush. The drive will take us through breath-taking scenery and we will make time for a few photo stops and lunch along the way.

We will head to Umkumbe Safari Lodge which will be our base for the next 4 nights (<https://www.umkumbe.co.za/>). Umkumbe is located in the **Sabi Sands** portion of the Greater Kruger National Park which is considered by many to be the **premier wildlife reserve** in South Africa. Lying on the banks of the seasonal Sand River, it offers guests breathtaking views in an area that attracts large numbers of game. Almost daily, guests are treated to sightings of various animals grazing in the riverbed. Remote wilderness combined with luxury accommodations and award-winning meals. Here we can unwind, surrounded by bush colors, textures and sounds. All the rooms are en-suite and airconditioned and have full electricity. Ultimate privacy and relaxation in this secluded luxury lodge.

*Overnight Umkumbe Safari Lodge.*



**Days 3 -5, 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September: Full days exploring the Sabi Sand Reserve.**

Over the next 3 days, we will explore the dirt roads, waterholes and viewing hides found in this game rich portion of the Greater Kruger National Park. Our focus will be wide spread, from the largest of Africa's land mammals, the African Elephant, to the dainty Steenbok, one of Africa's smallest antelope. Also, high on our list will be the incredible birdlife that is found in this part of the park.

Activities included are game drives in open Land Rovers, guided bush walks and tracking game on foot with highly experienced rangers and trackers. Two game drives per day are offered. The morning game drive will leave at dawn and the second drive will leave in the late afternoon and return after dark.

*Nights at Umkumbe Safari Lodge.*

**Day 6, 27<sup>th</sup> September: Transfer from Kruger National Park to Phinda Private Reserve.**

Today will be partly a travel day. Following another early start of the day, we will leave Kruger Park with all our luggage and enjoy a road transfer to an airport near Kruger Park where we will hop on a flight directly to Phinda Private Game Reserve which will be our base for the next 4 nights. We will arrive at Phinda Reserve in the early afternoon and will enjoy lunch and a late afternoon safari drive.

*Overnight Phinda Private Game Reserve - Bayete Camp*



**Days 7 - 9, 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September: Phinda Private Game Reserve**

Enjoy three full days of safari activities at Phinda Private Game Reserve. Because we are conducting research at Phinda and supporting their management activities, we are privileged to be able to stay at their “friends and family tented camp” with *en suite* bathrooms. Otherwise the average price for lodging at Phinda is over \$600/pp/night.

Thanks to its coastal rainfall pattern, Phinda enjoys a lush green environment that contains seven distinct ecosystems - a magnificent tapestry of woodland, grassland, wetlands, sand forests, interspersed with mountain ranges, river courses, and pans. This fascinating variety of landscape and vegetation shelters an abundance of wildlife.

Activities include twice daily interpretive game drives in the early morning and afternoon in open 4x4 safari vehicles, led by professionally trained guides, as well as a wide range of optional adventures in the bush. The afternoon drive begins in the late afternoon and lasts until after dark, when spotlights are used for a glimpse into the nocturnal bush life. Listen to lion's roar in the dark or admire the small nocturnal animals like bush babies. Phinda is renowned for its exceptional sightings of the elusive cheetah and the rare black rhino.

Biologists without Borders in conjunction with our sister organization (Wild Tomorrow Fund) are conducting/supporting several research projects at Phinda. Consequently, you will have the opportunity to participate in some of our exciting work, such as fitting elephants or hyenas with radio collars, dehorning rhinos for their protection, and monitoring camera traps for endangered species. We will get to check on some families of hyena with Axel Hunnicutt, our ecologist and hyena expert, who is tracking their movements for his research. We will also take walks in the unique sand forest where we can get a glimpse of the elusive suni antelope (only 14 inches high) and other rare species.

#### *Overnight Bayete Tented Camp*

#### **Days 10 - 11, 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> October: Transfer from Phinda to Western Shores of iSimangaliso Wetland Park.**

After a final early morning game drive/walk and breakfast, we will depart for a short drive to the Western shores of iSimangaliso Wetland Park for a two-night stay. The 4-star Makakatana Bay Lodge is set on the banks of Lake St Lucia within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site, one of the few natural wonders left on earth. **Makakatana Bay Lodge** is the only privately-owned lodge within the park and is hidden amid riverine forest mere meters from the water's edge. We will take a river boat tour to explore the St. Lucia Estuary that boasts the largest concentration of Hippo in South Africa.

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park was listed as South Africa's first World Heritage Site in December 1999 in recognition of its superlative natural beauty and unique global values. The Park contains three major lake systems, eight interlinking ecosystems, 700-year-old fishing traditions, most of South Africa's remaining swamp forests, Africa's largest estuarine system, 526 bird species and 25,000-year-old vegetated coastal dunes – among the highest in the world.

Here we can relax in luxury, take walks in the sand forest, and enjoy the memories of our wildlife adventures.

#### *Overnights Makakatana Bay Lodge*



### **Day 12, 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Departure Day**

Following breakfast and a final visit to iSimangaliso Wetland Park, we will leave and head to the airport for your departure flights, where sadly this tour will come to an end. You can choose to fly back to Johannesburg from Richards Bay airport or extend your tour by flying to Cape Town from Durban. Either way, we wish you a very pleasant stay followed by a safe journey home. We thank you for your participation in this very memorable tour and for supporting our conservation efforts.

## Financial Arrangements

The fee for this 12-day **South Africa - Biologists Without Borders safari** is:

- \$5900.00 (\$500 of which is tax deductible).

A single supplement cost will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation (\$800). Most tour companies in Africa either don't accept single travelers or charge 30 to 50% more. Our single supplement is only 15% more. If we cannot provide you with a rooming partner (if you choose to share,) the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

**THE TOUR FEE INCLUDES:**

- All accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary;
- All meals from Dinner on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 12;
- Internal flight from Kruger to Phinda
- All activities as mentioned in the itinerary;
- Bottled water and snacks on activities;
- Teas and coffees on activities;
- All transfers as per the itinerary;
- All park fees and entrance fees as specified in the itinerary; and
- Guiding services of a professional tour leader and/or guide.

**THE TOUR FEE EXCLUDES:**

- **All international flights;**
- Internal flight from Richard's Bay to Johannesburg or from Durban to Cape Town;
- Travel Insurance and Visa fees;
- Gratuities;
- All beverages except bottled still water and teas and coffees during activities;
- Telephone calls, curio purchases and items of a personal nature; and
- Any item which is not included in the inclusive list above.

**PASSPORT & VISAS:**

- All visitors to southern Africa require a valid passport together with onward travel documents and enough funds for the duration of your stay. Please ensure you have sufficient blank VISA pages (not endorsement pages) in your passport, with at least two consecutive/side by side blank pages. Our recommendation is **3 pages (or even 4 if you are travelling through more than one country on your journey)**. If there is insufficient space in the passport then entry into a country could be denied.
- All passport holders should verify with their travel agent or relevant consulate concerning visa entry requirements. All US citizens can get your visa at the Johannesburg Airport upon arrival. If you are extending your journey to other countries, please establish entry requirements for those countries as well. Applications, costs and relevant documentation are the responsibility of the traveller.

**TIPPING:**

Tipping (drivers, guides, hotel staff, porters and restaurants) is NOT included on this tour. Therefore, if you feel that he/she and / or any other staff have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

**ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:**

This tour **does not** include any international airfares. The tour will start with your arrival in Johannesburg on day 1. Further details will be forwarded to you closer to the departure date.

**FLIGHTS:**

Please DO NOT book your international flights until you have consulted with us for confirmation on the status of the tour.

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## Comments on First and Second Tours

*Africa wasn't even on my bucket list! But Sue Orloff, my good friend and founder of Biologists Without Borders, organized this trip to raise awareness of conservation projects that BWB and her sister organization (Wild Tomorrow Fund) are conducting in South Africa. I signed on. It was a life changer. I was captivated. I remain captivated. The biodiversity of these reserves is unparalleled anywhere in the world. It is an immense thrill to see all these profoundly physically different creatures cavorting in a landscape you are also temporarily occupying. This trip opened my heart to a treasure trove of potential positivity on this glorious but beleaguered planet of ours, at a time when "positive" is in short supply. It touched me deeply. And I learned so much my head still hurts.*

***Anne Dorsey, Asian Art Expert***

*While this was my third time to South Africa, Sue Orloff with BWB put together an awesome trip that was second to none. Spectacular wildlife viewing, varied habitats, very knowledgeable guides, and lovely accommodations. Tours and lectures from very passionate researchers and conservationists added to this incredible experience and provided a bonus you will not get from other tours. BWB and Wildlife Tomorrow Fund are dedicated to funding studies and purchasing critical conservation lands. Going on this tour also gives you a personal, up-close view to the implementation of these efforts. You become a part of it and will feel empowered by it.*

***Linda Spiegel - Assistant Director of Public Interest Energy Research and Wildlife Biologist***

*Being on safari with Biologists Without Borders is remarkably different than going on safari. Sue Orloff invites guests to immerse themselves a world where passion, science and adventure coalesce to promote conservation. Her unique background as a wildlife biologist, curious world traveler and ardent advocate of African wildlife elevates the entire experience from just going on safari to one of being a fellow traveler. BWB succeeds beyond expectations in providing realistic experiences, comfortable accommodations, knowledgeable guides, and excellent researchers sharing their expertise.*

***Carol Cole, Educator***

*Traveling to South Africa with Sue Orloff and Biologists Without Borders has been an experience of a lifetime. It was an adventure that exceeded all expectations for me. The guides, the biologists, and all those who are part of this wonderful conservation movement gave me so much insight. They shared vast knowledge of wildlife, insects, plants and African history with our group and showed us the importance of conserving the land saving the lives of all these beautiful magnificent animals. For me the highlight of the trip was being involved in the tracking, anesthetizing, examining and re-collaring a female elephant. I got the chance to feel her pulse and touch her tongue. It is something I will always treasure. Some of the other highlights were tracking a lion while she was tracking her prey and waking up to a giraffe just outside my tent door. I hope this way of life can be preserved in the years to come.*

**Donna Hawkins, Nurse**

*On my recent trip with “Biologists without Borders” we had a behind the scenes look at wildlife parks and management in amazing areas of South Africa. The trip changed my perspective and focus on the need for more help to conserve wildlife and habitat in Africa. I shared [several experiences I had on the trip on the radio](#) including monitoring the breathing of a sleeping elephant. What an experience! I can’t wait to go back and am determined to stay involved in this important work.*

**Dale Steele, Retired Wildlife biologist**

*All good tours of African reserves will allow you to see elephants, lions and other wild animals. What was unique about our tour is that it allowed us to see biologists studying wild animals close-up.*

**Matt Fink, Retired Washington Trade Association CEO**

*The entire trip was fantastic with great local guides, excellent food, plenty of wildlife and good camaraderie. But I especially enjoyed our stay in Phinda whose guides took us up close to lions, leopard and cheetahs. It was a thrill of a lifetime to quietly watch these magnificent animals in their environment.*

**John Sterling, Wildlife Biologist, International Birding Expert**

*Traveling with Biologists Without Borders on our wildlife safari was my door into learning about different animal species and their behaviors, and the challenges of wildlife habitat management in Africa. Our guides were very knowledgeable folks! Riding in the sand veld in open-air jeeps and seeing all the animals up close was a life-changing experience!*

**Amanda Stennick, Retired**

*A “bucket-list” trip that turned out to be a bottomless well of delightful experiences with the animals, environment, the stewards of the land, and my fellow travelers. Thanks so much Sue Orloff for making this happen.*

**Lyle Mayer, Sailing Instructor**

*I thought the Wildlife Without Borders tour was a unique behind the scenes experience with the biologists studying and managing the wildlife and the land. Superb historical context of the country and the wildlife. We were well cared for and very comfortable and food.*

**Sally M Walters, Retired Wildlife Biologist**