



Tracking African Wildlife

Biologists Without Borders

May 7 to 18, 2019 (12 Days / 11 Nights)



Introduction

Biologists without Borders is proud to offer our new “Tracking African Wildlife” safari where we will visit some of South Africa's most game rich wildlife destinations. Unlike most safaris where you sit passively in a vehicle, on this safari we will spend most of our time exploring the African bush on foot. We will be joined by expert trackers who will teach us how to identify and interrupt tracks, signs and behaviour - and of course, keep us safe. Heading out on walking safaris into the heart of the bush in search of wildlife, including leopards, lions, elephants and hippos is truly amazing. This is not your typical safari!

Our adventure will start at Thanda Private Wildlife Reserve where we will walk with expert trackers who will teach you the language of the African bushveld (tricks of the trade) to find and follow wildlife; then onto Phinda Private Game Reserve (an award-winning safari destination), where we will join our research biologists conducting studies on endangered wildlife such as elephants, hyenas, and rhinos; and finally to iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your small group tour (only 7 guests) will be led by expert South African wildlife trackers/guides and myself – Sue Orloff – a professional wildlife biologist and president of Biologists without Borders.

Thanda Private Wildlife Reserve is located in the lush Kwazulu-Natal (Zululand) region of northeastern South Africa. Thanda provides an opportunity for close encounters with a diversity of wildlife including elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino and leopard along with painted dog, cheetah, and hyena. Thanda is also home to over 400 bird species.

Phinda Private Game Reserve is also situated in the Zululand region of South Africa and 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 abound here!

Sodwana Bay National Park is situated along the Elephant Coast in KwaZulu-Natal within iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a World Heritage Site, which forms a continuous protected area stretching 93 miles along the Indian Ocean and 3 nautical miles out to sea. One of the most unique and unspoiled parts of the world, it is renowned for its scuba diving, snorkeling, and sport fishing.

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	7 th to 18 th May 2018 (12 Days / 11 Nights)
Tour Price	Cost per person: \$3600.00 (\$500 of which is tax deductible). Single supplement: \$200.00
Tour Size	Not more than 7 Participants plus wildlife guides and tour leaders.

Day 1, 7 th May	Arrival Day in Johannesburg and overnight – City Lodge
Day 2, 8 th May	Fly from Johannesburg to the Richards Bay and then transfer to Thanda Private Wildlife Reserve – Intibane Camp
Day 3, 9 th May	Thanda Private Wildlife Reserve – Intibane Camp
Day 4, 10 th May	Thanda Private Wildlife Reserve – Intibane Camp
Day 5, 11 th May	Thanda Private Wildlife Reserve – Intibane Camp
Day 6, 12 th May	Transfer to Phinda Private Game Reserve – Bayete Camp
Day 7, 13 th May	Phinda Private Game Reserve – Bayete Camp
Day 8, 14 th May	Phinda Private Game Reserve – Bayete Camp
Day 9, 15 th May	Phinda Private Game Reserve – Bayete Camp
Day 10, 16 th May	Transfer to Sodwana Bay National Park – Sodwana Bay Lodge
Day 11, 17 th May	Sodwana Bay National Park – Sodwana Bay Lodge
Day 12, 18 th May	Sodwana Bay National Park to local airport and depart for Johannesburg

Your safari in detail

Day 1, 7th 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 at the hotel will be offered the night of your arrival which will afford the opportunity for tour leaders to discuss the tour itinerary with you in more detail.

Overnight City Lodge

Day 2, 8th May: Fly from Johannesburg to Richard's Bay and then transfer to Thanda Private Wildlife Reserve.

Today will leave behind the bright city lights and head for **Thanda Private Game Reserve** nestled in prime African bushveld in the heart of Zululand. We will spend 4 nights Intibane Camp (pictured below) where we will be joined by prize winning wildlife tracker **Massimo Rebuzzi**. Accommodation is in thatched chalets with a fan, air conditioner and en suite bathroom.

Overnight Intibane Camp (room and full meals).



Day 3 -5, 9th - 11th May: Full days walking and tracking at Thanda.

Over the next three days we will be sharpening our observation skills and learning to identify tracks and scat, and interpret a variety of animal behavioral signs.

On foot and in open-aired safari vehicles we will explore the trails, dirt roads, and waterholes found in this game rich area. 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 here.

Our days will start at the crack of dawn, armed with your binoculars, cameras and flasks of hot coffee. We will return for breakfast and rest and then head out again in the late afternoon. We also have an opportunity to enjoy night drives.

Nights at Intibane Camp.





Day 6, 12th May: Transfer from Thanda Reserve to Phinda Private Reserve.

Today will be travel to Phinda Private Game Reserve. We will leave Thanda with all our luggage and enjoy a short road transfer 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 have lunch. Accommodation is in a tented camp with a fan and en suite bathroom.

Overnight Phinda Private Game Reserve - Bayete Camp



Taken at Phinda Wildlife Reserve

Day 7 - 9, 13th - 15th 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 will include daily interpretive game drives/walks in the early morning and afternoon, led by professionally trained guides, as well as a wide range of optional adventures in the bush. The afternoon activities begin 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. 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 lions with radio collars, dehorning rhinos for their protection, and monitoring camera traps for endangered species. We will also get to participate in tracking the movements of collared hyena with Axel Hunnicutt, the reserves hyena expert and Southern Africa’s leading authority on suni antelope (Africa’s second smallest antelope – only 14 inches high). We will also take walks in the unique sand forest where we can get a glimpse of the elusive suni antelope and other rare species.

Overnight Bayete Tented Camp



Taken at Phinda Wildlife Reserve

Day 10 - 11, 16th and 17th September: Transfer from Phinda to Sodwana Bay National Park.

After a final early morning game drive/walk and breakfast, we will depart for an hour and half drive to the Sodwana Bay National Park for a two-night stay. Forest and ocean go hand in hand at Sodwana Bay National Park along South Africa's relatively undeveloped eastern coast of the Indian Ocean.

Sodwana Bay Lodge offers a variety of activities including diving (5 star), snorkeling tours, fishing, quad biking, bird tours, microlight flights, and canoeing (all at own expense). But bring your own snorkeling equipment and it's free. Sodwana Bay is one of the premier dive sites of the world. You might even spot a whale-shark here. Here we can have an adventure or just relax by the pool and enjoy the memories of our wildlife adventures.

Accommodation is in thatched chalets with a fan, air conditioner and en suite bathroom.

Overnight Sodwana Bay Lodge



Day 12, 18th September: Departure Day

Following breakfast and a final visit to iSimangaliso Wetland Park, we will leave and head to the airport for your departure flight, where sadly this tour will come to an end. You can choose to fly back to Johannesburg from Richards Bay 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 to your destination. We thank you for your participation in this very memorable tour.

Financial Arrangements

The fee for this 12-day **Tracking Safari** is:

- \$3600.00 (\$500 of which is tax deductible).
- Everyone will get a single room at Phinda and Sodwana. There is a \$200 single supplement for the Thanda Reserve of which there is limited availability.

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 Johannesburg to Richard's Bay;
- 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;**
- Travel Insurance and Visa fees;
- Internal flight from Richard's Bay back to Johannesburg or Durban to Cape Town;
- 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 sufficient 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 Tour

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

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

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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