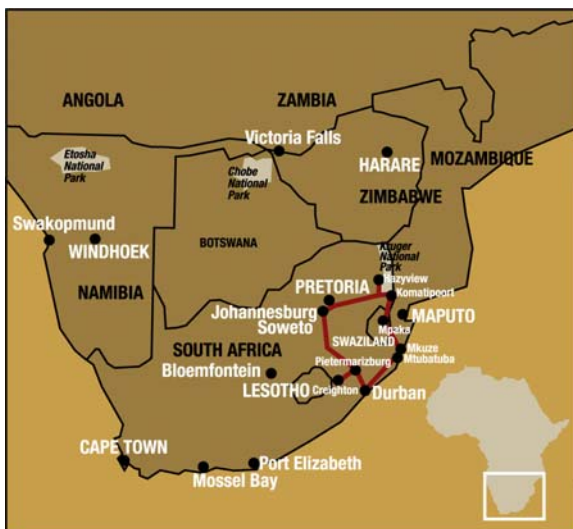
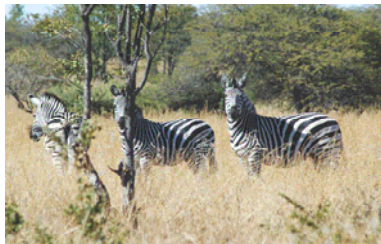


For those with a passion for the wild side of life, this 8-day tour offers guests the opportunity to explore the most celebrated regions of wildlife preservation. Explore the World Heritage Sites Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park and the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, as well as Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi, Swaziland's Big Game Parks and the world famous Kruger National Park. Visit Africa's highest Inn on an exciting 4x4 tour up Sani Pass, and enjoy a steam train journey in the unforgettable landscape of southern Natal.

WILDLIFE FOCUS

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS



2007

TOUR DATES

24 Nov 07 – 01 Dec 07
26 Jan 08 – 02 Feb 08

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
LAND EXCURSIONS – Free choice of available land excursions			Always Optional

DAY 01 - ARRIVAL JOHANNESBURG (Saturday: 24 November 2007 / 26 January 2008)

You will be met upon arrival at Johannesburg International Airport and transferred to the train. Please note that you should arrive no later than 08:00 at the airport if you would like to participate in any of the specialised activities:

SPECIALISED ACTIVITIES

1. The Cradle of Humankind: Maropeng and Sterkfontein Caves

The Cradle of Humankind developments (the Maropeng Visitor Centre and Sterkfontein Caves) are a Blue IQ initiative. Our visit will start at Maropeng (Setswana for “returning to the place of origin”), the visitor centre at the Cradle of Humankind. An exciting 4-billion-year journey through the elemental forces - water and ice, air, fire and earth - is simulated on an underground lake. One emerges at the beginning of the world after dipping through waterfalls and icebergs, into the eye of a storm, past erupting volcanoes and through the depths of the earth. The journey continues through an experience that highlights the history of our world and humankind as a species. Real fossils are also on display. We continue for a visit to the Sterkfontein Caves, 10 km away, most famous for the two world-renowned hominid finds, namely Mrs Ples in 1947 and Little Foot in 1997. Since excavations at the site first began, hundreds of hominid fossils as well as stone tools have been found here. The excavation of Little Foot and other fossils is an ongoing process at this still active fossil dig. The scientific exhibition here includes lifelike models of hominids as well as specific finds such as Mrs Ples, the Taung Child and Little Foot.

2. Lesedi Cultural Village

We visit this multi-cultural African Village set among pristine Bushveld and rocky hills. Experience the culture of five of South Africa’s major indigenous tribes: the Xhosa, the Zulu, the Pedi, the Basotho and the Ndebele. Lunch will be included.

Return to the train in the late afternoon. Dinner will be served on board.

Overnight train journey to Creighton.

DAY 02 - DRAKENSBERG (Sunday: 25 November 2007 / 27 January 2008)

Breakfast on board.

LAND EXCURSION

4x4 Sani Pass Tour and Steam Train Journey

Our vehicles will take you to the town of Underberg from where you will climb the magnificent Sani Pass in 4x4 vehicles. Starting at 1540 metres above sea level you will follow the deep valley incised by the Mkhomazana River to breast the summit at 2873 m - with almost 1000 m climbed in the last 8 km of your trip. This is the only road link between KwaZulu-Natal and the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho. After reaching the summit, where we will enjoy our packed lunches, we will turn around for the spectacular descent. From Underberg back to Creighton our afternoon return journey will be on the rails - this time however under steam, giving you the opportunity to experience the nostalgia of times gone by. This steam experience will take you through a magnificent landscape dotted with mountains, rural communities and small streams.

(Full day; ± 220 km)

IMPORTANT: YOUR PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO LESOTHO!

Evening Activity

A special boma evening will be hosted at the beautifully restored Creighton train station, which also houses the municipality of Ingwe.

Overnight train journey to Durban.

DAY 03 - DURBAN (Monday: 26 November 2007 / 28 January 2008)

Breakfast on board.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
LAND EXCURSIONS – Free choice of available land excursions			Always Optional

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Durban City Tour

Durban is the third largest city of South Africa and enjoys great importance due to its industry and its very large port. Thanks to the subtropical climate and the long stretches of beautiful beaches large numbers of “uplanders” retreat to Durban in winter. An orientation tour of the city will allow you to experience the mix of old and new, African, Oriental and Western influences. We will drive along the “Golden Mile” promenade where numerous hotels and restaurants are situated. A visit to the Victoria Market will also be included. Around noon we will take you to uShaka Marine World, Africa’s largest marine theme park, where you can have lunch and spend your afternoon (all entrances and lunch for your own account). You will be picked up again at an arranged time later in the day.
(Morning; ± 50 km)

2. Durban Spiritual Tour

Guests depart for Mariannhill to visit the monastery for a guided tour and to spend time in this beautiful, tranquil setting. This is followed by a short visit to the Hari Krishna “Temple of Understanding”, before returning to Durban for lunch (guests’ own account). We visit Phoenix, the spiritual settlement created by Mahatma Gandhi, before returning to Durban, the centre of Indian culture in South Africa, with its vast array of Hindu, Sufi and Muslim temples. You will see the Juma Masjid, the largest mosque in the Southern Hemisphere, whose twin minarets are a striking city feature, as well as the Kendra Hindu Temple and Community Centre.
(Full day; ± 150 km)

3. Beach Day

On our way to the beaches north of Durban, we will stop at the Umgeni River Bird Park. The rest of the day can be spent on the beach, or if you choose, we could take you shopping in the late afternoon at the nearby Gateway Shopping Centre, before returning to pick up the other guests at the beach. Return to the train after a laid-back day in the sun.
(Full day; ± 60 km)

Dinner on board, overnight train journey to Mtubatuba.

DAY 04 - ZULULAND (Tuesday: 27 November 2007 / 29 January 2008)

Breakfast on board.

LAND EXCURSION

Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve and Marine Mammal Experience

We visit the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve. The park lies in the heart of Zululand where ancient trails lead through the thornveld and along the mighty rivers of Africa’s oldest established wilderness area. Once the exclusive royal hunting ground of King Shaka, it is a tapestry of natural and cultural history. The park is a treasure store of species including Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo, Wildebeest, Zebra, Giraffe, Kudu, Bushbuck, Cheetah, Hyena and many others. Over 300 bird species have been recorded. Game drives will be conducted in our air-conditioned vehicles. We drive to the St Lucia Wetlands, a world heritage site, from where our Marine Mammal Experience will start. Experience the thrill of surf-launching with the possibility of seeing Turtles, Sharks, Dolphins, pelagic sea birds and flying fish. Between June and November this excursion also offers the possibility to spot Southern Right and Humpback Whales from as close as just 50 metres away from the boats.
(Full day; ± 300 km)

The train moves to Mkuze Station during the day, where it remains stationary over night. Dinner on board.

DAY 05 - SWAZILAND (Wednesday: 28 November 2007 / 30 January 2008)

The tiny Kingdom of Swaziland covers only 17 000 square kilometres, making it the second smallest country in Africa.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
LAND EXCURSIONS – Free choice of available land excursions			Always Optional

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Safari Cruise on Lake Jozini and Mkhaya Game Reserve

Situated directly on the Swaziland border is Lake Jozini, surrounded by the Pongola Game Reserve. Enjoy an early morning boat cruise to spot the wildlife coming to drink in the early hours. Lake Jozini is a unique habitat for its abundant bird life, as European migrating birds meet the endemic land and water dwelling African birds. Breakfast will be enjoyed during the cruise. We then cross the border into Swaziland in our air-conditioned vehicles and journey through the south of this small mountainous African kingdom towards Mkhaya Game Reserve, where a lunch will await us, before an afternoon game drive in open vehicles. Mkhaya currently supports four of the Big Five, with Leopard, Buffalo, Elephant and Rhino being present on the reserve. Giraffe, Hippo, Crocodile, Roan and Sable Antelope, Tsessebe, Eland, Kudu, Waterbuck, Nyala, Zebra, Wildebeest, Impala, Warthog, Grey Duiker, Steenbok, Ostrich, Bushbaby and Vervet Monkey are also seen daily.

(Full day, including breakfast and lunch; ± 220 km)

2. Safari Cruise on Lake Jozini and Hlane Royal National Park

Situated directly on the Swaziland border is Lake Jozini, surrounded by the Pongola Game Reserve. Enjoy an early morning boat cruise to spot the wildlife coming to drink in the early hours. Lake Jozini is a unique habitat for its abundant bird life, as European migrating birds meet the endemic land and water dwelling African birds. Breakfast will be enjoyed during the cruise. We then cross the border into Swaziland in our air-conditioned vehicles and journey through the small mountainous African kingdom towards Hlane Royal National Park, where a lunch will await us, before an afternoon game drive in open vehicles. Hlane supports four of the Big Five: Lion, Leopard, Elephant and Rhino. Lion were reintroduced to Swaziland after an absence of 30 years on the 9th of February 1994. There are small populations of Rhino, Giraffe, Hippo, Crocodile, Hyena, as well as large populations of Zebra, Wildebeest, Impala, Kudu, Warthog and Duiker. Also to be seen are many smaller mammals, Baboon, Vervet Monkey, Ostrich, Steenbok, Nyala, Bushbuck and Waterbuck. Jackals also play their very important role in the ecology of the park.

(Full day, including breakfast and lunch; ± 250 km)

The train will cross empty into Swaziland and move to Mpaka, where guests will embark in the evening. Dinner on board and overnight train journey to Komatipoort in South Africa.

DAY 06 - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (Thursday: 29 November 2007 / 31 January 2008)

Breakfast on board.

LAND EXCURSION

Kruger National Park

The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that equals the best anywhere. Its 2 million hectares are unrivalled in diversity of life forms and the park is a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques. The park is home to an impressive number of species, e.g. 336 species of trees, 49 species of fish, 34 species of amphibians, 114 species of reptiles, 507 species of birds and 147 species of mammals. Game drives will be conducted in our air-conditioned vehicles.

(Full day; departure time depends on the season, as gates open and close with sunrise and sunset; ± 220 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

Privates Game Reserve

You will join the rest of the group for a morning game drive (in our air-conditioned vehicle) through the south of the Kruger National Park. Late morning (at around 11:00) you will be transferred to the luxury lodge, situated in a private game reserve on the banks of the Sabi River, where a lunch will await you. After a siesta, followed by coffee and cake, you will depart on a sunset safari, in search of the Big Five. Encounters with all spheres of the eco-system, from the smallest insect to the mighty African Elephant, are possible. After a sundowner drink in the bush you will return to the lodge, where a delightful dinner awaits you. Early the next morning (just before sunrise) you will be awakened to depart on an open vehicle game drive to experience the African fauna at its most active. A mouth-watering breakfast will round off your experience, before you will be taken back to the train at Hazyview Station.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
LAND EXCURSIONS – Free choice of available land excursions			Always Optional

(Bookings subject to availability; due to the late arrival back from the private game reserve the Panorama Route experience will not be possible the next day)

The empty train will be moved from Komatipoort to Hazyview during the day. Clients will board the train there, where it will remain stationary over night. Dinner on board.

DAY 07 - MPUMALANGA (Friday: 30 November 2007 / 01 February 2008)

Mpumalanga means “Land of the Rising Sun”. It is a province of extraordinary natural beauty.

Breakfast on board.

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Panorama Route

We visit the village of Pilgrim’s Rest, a living museum and declared National Monument. Gold was discovered in this area in 1873, attracting 1500 diggers. Today, many of the restored miner’s houses serve as shops. Further along the escarpment we find the great Blyde River Canyon, a gorge of 26 km long and 800 m deep, carved from the face of the escarpment. The Three Rondavels present an unforgettable view of three huge rock spirals rising out of the far wall of the canyon, looking like African huts. Bourke’s Luck Potholes are strange deep cylindrical cavities formed by river erosion and floodwater. From the vantage point of God’s Window we gaze across sweeps of the Lowveld, where subtle fragrances of the lower region rise to merge with the crisp winds of the Highveld.

(Full day; ± 280 km)

2. Kruger National Park

The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that equals the best anywhere. Its 2 million hectares are unrivalled in diversity of life forms and the park is a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques. The park is home to an impressive number of species, e.g. 336 species of trees, 49 species of fish, 34 species of amphibians, 114 species of reptiles, 507 species of birds and 147 species of mammals. Game drives will be conducted in our air-conditioned vehicles.

(Full day; departure time depends on the season, as gates open and close with sunrise and sunset; ± 220 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITIES

1. Sunrise Balloon Experience

Early morning pick-up at Hazyview Station and transfer to the balloon launch site. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served on arrival, followed by a scenic balloon flight lasting about an hour. Cape sparkling wine will be served upon landing followed by a breakfast at a country lodge and a transfer back to meet the rest of the group.

(This activity is weather dependent)

2. Open Vehicle Safari

Game drives are conducted in open safari vehicles, specifically designed to ensure safety as well as optimum game viewing. Guides have intimate knowledge of the fauna and flora. Breakfast will be enjoyed at one of the many picnic spots and lunch (guests’ own account) at one of the rest camps in the park. Game viewing continues for the remainder of the afternoon.

Dinner on board. Overnight train journey to Johannesburg.

DAY 08 - GAUTENG (Saturday: 01 December 2007 / 02 February 2008)

Gauteng is the economic powerhouse of the Southern African region and home to some of Africa’s greatest cities. The name of the province derives from the Sotho word meaning “Place of Gold”, which is very suitable since much of the wealth of Gauteng has come from this precious metal.

Breakfast on board.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
LAND EXCURSIONS – Free choice of available land excursions			Always Optional

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Johannesburg and Soweto

Our day starts at the tranquil Brenthurst Gardens, the private property of the Oppenheimer family, where we will be taken on a guided tour through this very special haven of peace in the heart of the bustling “City of Gold”. This is followed by a lunch break (guests’ own account) in the suburb of Rosebank, where you can experience the multi-cultural “Rainbow Nation” in a modern, yet ethnocentric setting. Rosebank shows you the mix of first and third world cultures and showcases arts and crafts from all over the African continent. In the afternoon, we travel to Soweto to experience the heartbeat of this township, comprising one million people and made famous by the Apartheid laws. We pass the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (the largest hospital in the Southern Hemisphere) and also drive past the only street in Africa that once housed two Nobel Peace Laureates, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. We visit the Hector Petersen Memorial, named after one of the first students to be killed in the 1976 uprising against the Apartheid government.

(Full day; ± 150 km)

2. Tshwane (Pretoria) and Soweto

We will spend the morning in Tshwane, previously known as Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa. We visit the Union Buildings, housing the offices of the President and Ministers, designed by the famous colonial English architect, Sir Herbert Baker, and completed in 1913. The buildings overlook the city towards the once fortified hills to the south. A grand bronze statue of “Oom Paul (Kruger)”, the patriarch president of the ZAR or old Transvaal Republic, surrounded by his Boer fighters, dominates Church Square, central point of the city. Before leaving the capital behind, we visit the Voortrekker Monument that commemorates the “Great Trek” of the 1830s. In the afternoon we travel to Soweto to visit the Hector Petersen Memorial, named after one of the first students to be killed in the 1976 uprising against the Apartheid government.

(Full day; ± 200 km)

Depending on your travel arrangements, transfer to Johannesburg Airport for your onward flight or to a city hotel in Johannesburg / Rosebank / Sandton.

Included in the package price:

- 8 days’ touring programme on the Shongololo Express Heritage Train from Johannesburg and back
- 7 overnights on board the Shongololo Express Heritage Train in the booked class (Ivory, Gold or Emerald)
- 7 x South African breakfast, brunch or breakfast pack (as per the itinerary)
- 7 x dinner (as per the itinerary)
- 2 x lunch or lunch pack (as per the itinerary)
- Transfers and excursions in our fleet of modern air-conditioned mini-buses with registered multi-lingual driver-guides
- Free choice of available Land Excursions
- Entrance fees for all such Land Excursions
- Tourism levy

NOT included in the package price:

- All flights (international, regional or domestic)
- Airport taxes
- Porterage
- Meals not indicated above
- Gratuities for our train staff (recommendation: ± US\$ 10 per guest for each day spent on board)
- Travel and medical insurance
- Visa fees (where applicable)
- Personal expenses such as drinks, curios and laundry
- Specialised Activities