



SOUTHERN AFRICA SPECIAL : 7 DAY ITINERARY: from only \$2200 per person



Private Game Reserve Safaris ☀ Blyde River Canyon ☀ Johannesburg ☀

Monday: Private Game Reserve



Arrive in Johannesburg, and connect to Hoedspruit, gateway to the luxury private reserves of the “Greater Kruger National Park”. After a delicious lunch and check-in to your luxury lodge, set out on your first exciting open-jeep safari. With the help of off-road access and specialized game-trackers, getting close to the “Big 5” has never been easier,- but this is NO zoo, and there are NO guarantees- anything can happen at any time on safari!

www.aksafaris.com

Tuesday,Wednesday : Private Game Reserve

The routine on safari is geared to take advantage of the best hours of the day for game-viewing: early mornings, and late-afternoons- animals generally are less active in the heat of the day.

We rise early before dawn for coffee and biscuits, and enter the park in search of the still-active nocturnal animals such as lion and leopard, as well as the antelope and other species they prey on.



Even the leopard needs a siesta, and the middle of the day is relaxed, consisting of time to daven, a splendid late breakfast, an optional bush walk, time to relax by the pool or take a spa treatment, and of course, a delicious light lunch!



In the late afternoon, we continue our safari, searching for species we have not yet seen, and more of those we have already seen. Every game-drive is completely unique-, and the bushveld is always on the move- what one vehicle is lucky enough to spot, the next might miss by a few seconds!



Thursday : Blyde River Canyon

Today, we drive up the magnificent “Drakensberg Escarpment”- the high mountains that form the edge of the Great African Plateau. The Escarpment is at its most dramatic at the “Blyde River Canyon”, the world’s third largest canyon, where the Blyde river meanders its way 1000m down from the highlands of the plateau to the “Lowveld”- the low-lying basin of the Kruger National Park Region.



We admire the view from “G-d’s Window”, where a scenic trail takes you through lush rain-forest and spectacular views. The mysterious “Bourkes Luck Potholes”- massive holes in the canyon floor formed by the power of water erosion, are clearly one of the highlights of the day.

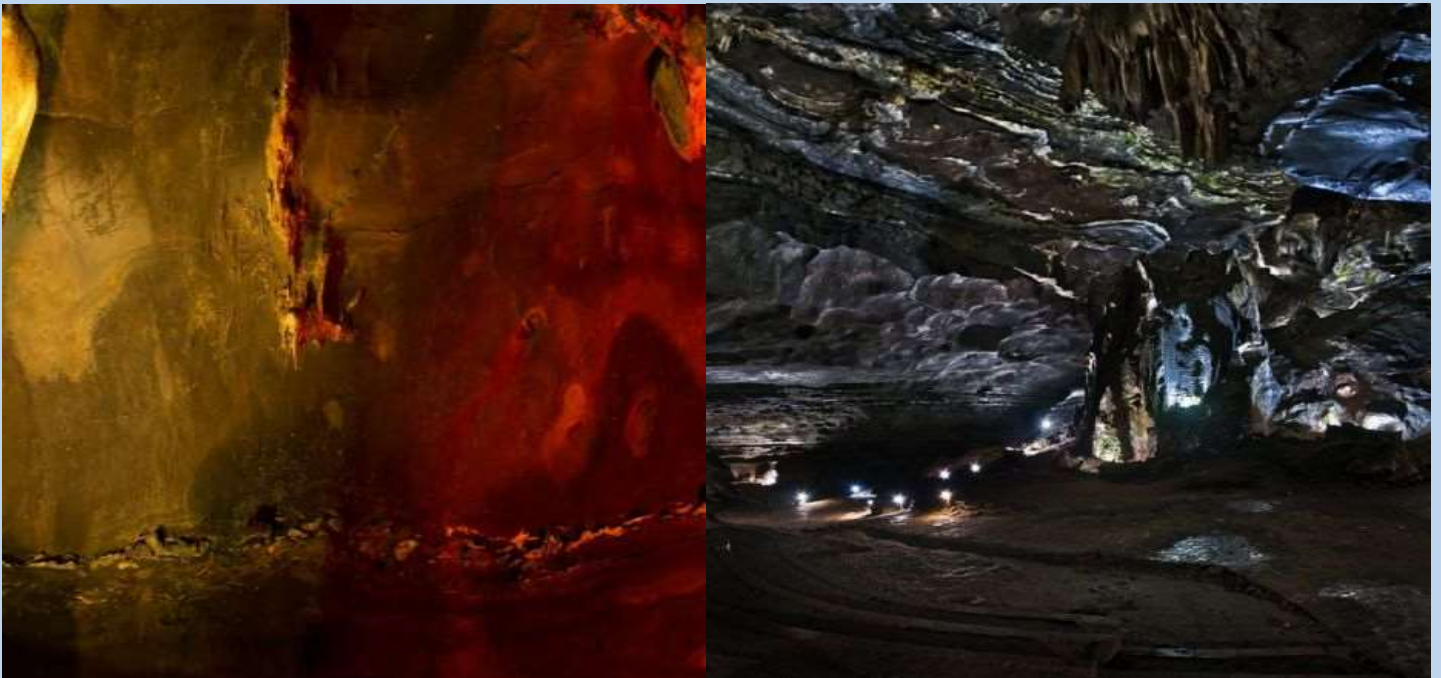
We end off with some postcard perfect views of the canyon floor, “Blyde Dam” and iconic “Three Rondawels,” where we spend the night.



Friday: Sudwala Caves - Johannesburg



Today, we leave the Blyde River area and drive a short distance to the amazing Sudwala caves. Look at the fine collection of stone age tools ranging in date from 2,5 milion years ago to up to a few thousand years BC. Embark on an epic underground adventure that takes you 2000m into the heart of the caves. Be prepared to be awestruck by the splendor and beauty of the crystal chamber with its amazing array of sparkling aragonite crystals.



The journey then takes us back to Johannesburg and our hotel, where we freshen up for Shabbos.

Saturday : Johannesburg / Shabbos



Enjoy a leisurely Shabbos day with the friendly Jewish community of Glenhazel. Johannesburg has a wonderful variety of Synagogues and communities, and what better way to get to know them than to spend a Shabbos with them.... Depending on your Shabbos hotel and your preference, we will guide you to the shuls of your choice, after which a delicious Shabbos lunch will await you.



Sunday : Soweto and Apartheid Museum



Head south of Johannesburg to the SOuth WEstern TOWnships passing the magnificent calabash designed Soccer City stadium near Soweto where the World Cup Final was held. Head further into Soweto via an upmarket area where some of the houses can cost in the millions! In complete contrast, we visit an informal settlement where you will get a chance to get out and see the poor shanty living conditions but also the amazing work being done to uplift education and social development amongst the youth from the area.



Drive past the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital where you can 'soak' up the sights, sounds and smells of Africa at close quarters – informal open air markets, barber shops etc. Continue past the colourful Orlando Towers and through Orlando East – where you can view the Maponya Mall – a great example of Soweto's modernization.

Onto Orlando West – a major focus point during the '76 student uprising and visit the state of the art Hector Pieterse Museum which is a modern interactive museum depicting images and footages of the struggle.

Continue to the famous Vilikazi street, which is the only street in the world where two Nobel Prize winners lived: Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu. Visit the Mandela House and Visitors Centre which is filled with many interesting artefacts pertaining to South Africa's greatest icon.

After visiting Soweto, drive on to the Apartheid Museum - where the injustice, cruelty and day-to-day absurdities of the white minority rule are impressively detailed. This informative experience will leave you in awe of the transformation of a truly diverse nation.



Enjoy a delicious dinner at one of Johannesburg great kosher restaurants.