



THE BUSH, THE BEACH AND THE BERG: 3 WEEKS

THREE COUNTRIES, THREE TRANSFRONTIER PARKS, THREE CULTURES

This *concept itinerary* can be used for self-drive or guided trips.

- Includes South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland,
 - Showcases three Transfrontier Parks: Great Limpopo; Lubomobo and Maloti Drakensberg
 - Introduces thee cultures: Shangaan, Swazi and Batlokoa.
 - Covers three topographies: The Bush, the beach and the mountains (colloquially called 'berg, in South Africa)
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DAYS 1: JOHANNESBURG TO PHALABORWA

Arrive O.R Tambo International airport, and drive via the Panorama Route to Phalaborwa. This 500km trip takes you from the Highveld, into the Lowveld of Mpumalanga, and to the gates of the Kruger National Park. Choose from the many interesting destinations, or add in a game drive in the Kruger National Park.



Overnight: Sefhapane Lodge: <http://www.sefapane.co.za> or other excellent accommodation options in the Lowveld, Kruger National Park or on the Panorama Route.

DAY 2: EXPLORE THE PANORAMA ROUTE



Overnight: Forever Resorts: <http://www.phalaborwasafaripark.co.za/> or other excellent accommodation options in the Lowveld, Kruger National Park or on the Panorama Route.

DAY 3: GAME DRIVE THROUGH KRUGER & LIMPOPO NATIONAL PARKS

Enter the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park through the Kruger Park's Phalaborwa Gate. Enjoy a game drive across the width of Kruger to the Giriyondo Border Post, and enter Mozambique. Arrive at Machampane Wilderness Camp in time for dinner. It's been a game drive through "Big 5" territory all day.



Overnight: Machampane Wilderness Camp: www.dolimpopo.com

DAYS 4 & 5: MEET THE SHANGAAN PEOPLE AND EXPLORE THE BUSH

Spend two glorious days at Machampane. Join early morning and late afternoon game walks, and explore the Mopani bushveld, the riverine areas and the Lebombo sandveld. Spend time in the camp, watching the most amazing variety of birds. Unwind and relax into the rhythm of the African bush.



Overnight: Machampane Wilderness Camp: www.dolimpopo.com

DAYS 6 & 7: EXPLORE MASSINGIR FROM COVANE FISHING & SAFARI LODGE

Travel through the Limpopo National Park via Massingir to Covane Fishing & Safari Lodge, which has bungalows, camping and houseboats available. Go on a boat-based game view up the Massingir dam into the Elefantos Gorge, or spend a day on a canoe trip down the river. Add cultural tourism to your experiences by visiting the Massingir market. Meet the Shangaan people in their own communities.



Overnight: Covane Fishing & Safari Lodge: www.covanelodge.com

DAYS 8: GET SAND BETWEEN YOUR TOES

You reach the Indian Ocean at Beline after a 240km journey. Nestled on a network of lagoons, Pria do Sol is family-orientated resort providing a variety of activities. Situated on the Uembje Lagoon, you have the option of lagoon or sea-based water activities, with canoe and boats.



Overnight: Praia do Sol: www.pdsol.co.za

DAY 9 & 10: EXPLORE THE MOZAMBIQUE COAST

Day 9 will be taken up by the drive up the coast of Mozambique to Tofo in Inhambane. This is not a trip that can be hurried, and many beautiful photographic opportunities await. Reach Tofu by evening, and check in at Baia Sonambula with the bungalow decks overlooking the beach.



Overnight: Baia Sonambula Guest House: www.baiasonambula.com

DAY 11 & 12 (OPTIONAL, ADD DAY 13): SCUBA DIVE AT POMENE LODGE

From Inhambane it's a 4 hour drive to Pomene Bay Lodge, one of the most picturesque spots in Mozambique. It's remote, with a very low local population assuring pristine and unspoilt conditions. Pomene is renowned for diving, and game fishing. Pomene Bay is a sheltered haven for swimming. Be lulled to sleep with the rhythmic sound of the ocean.



Overnight: Pomene Lodge: www.barradiveresorts.com

DAY 13 (OPTIONAL BREAK IN JOURNEY):

If you wish to break your drive from Pomene Lodge to Maputo, the ideal (optional) break will be at the Zongoene Lodge at the Limpopo River mouth. With both self-catering and catering available there are a variety of options.



Overnight: Zongoene Lodge: www.zongoene.com

DAY 14: SOAK UP THE VIBE IN THE CITY OF MAPUTO

Welcome to the Capital of Mozambique. Maputo is a vibrant, interesting city with a culture that combines older Portuguese influences, with modern African rhythm and colour. Go on a guided tour of the city to see and understand the depth and complexity of this beautiful place. Get to know the Shangaan people of the city.



Southern Sun: www.southernsun.com or Hotel Cardosa: www.hotelcardoso.co.mz

DAYS 15 & 16: MEET THE SWAZI PEOPLE & THE RHINO OF HLANE

Leave the city of Maputo, and travel south, passing through the Mozambique/Swaziland border at Goba. Enter the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area, and choose between Hlane Royal National Park (yesteryear park feeling with 4 of the Big 5); Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (scenic with no big game, and fantastic activities like self-guided hiking, horse riding, mountain biking & sun set drives) or Mkhaya Game Reserve with game drives, and 4 of the Big 5.



Overnight: Hlane National Park/ Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and/or Mkhaya Game Reserve: www.biggameparks.org

DAYS 17 & 18: EXPERIENCE THE BATTLEFIELDS OF ZULULAND

Travel through Swaziland's Sicunuza/Ehlatini border, which comes out less than 20km from Piet Retief, and drive south to Vryheid in the northern Natal Battlefields. Plan to spend the night at Fugitive's Drift Lodge or Guesthouse, or Isibindi Zulu Lodge, and soak up the atmosphere of the history of "The Battlefields". Go on a full-day guided tour of the battlefields – gaining an unforgettable understanding of local history and the local communities.



Overnight: Fugitive's Drift Lodge or Guesthouse: www.fugitivesdrift.com or Isibindi Zulu Lodge: www.isibindi.co.za

DAY 19: HEAD FOR THE HILLS

Leave Vryheid and travel through the rolling hills and farmlands of Kwa-Zulu Natal, to Ladysmith. Enter the Free State and follow the N3 to Harrismith, and Phutidjtjaba. By evening, you will be in another world. Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, at 2286m, is the highest Lodge in the Northern Drakensberg, and is perched below the Drakensberg's Amphitheatre and Sentinel Peak.



Overnight: Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge: www.witsieshoek.co.za

DAYS 20 & 21: MEET THE BATLOKOA PEOPLE OF THE DRAKENSBERG

The activity options from Witsieshoek are amazing: Climb the Sentinel Peak Chain Ladders to the top of the Drakensberg, watch the Bearded Vulture, go mountain biking, take a guided walk to see ancient Bushman rock paintings – or relax with the heart-warmingly friendly Batlokoa people.



Overnight: Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge: www.witsieshoek.co.za

DAY 22: DRIVE TO JOHANNESBURG

Complete the tour by returning by road to Johannesburg and O.R. Tambo International airport.

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