

## **Itinerary: 6 days/5 nights. 18.-23. June 2015**

### **Day 1: Arrival Entabeni**

The tour starts and ends in Johannesburg International Airport (also known as OR Tambo). All participants are transferred at set transfer times from the airport to Entabeni Safari Conservancy.

Transfer DEPARTURE times from the airport are: 08:30, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00. If any of the above transfers don't fit in your travel plans it is possible to book an individual transfer at an extra surcharge.

Upon arrival to Entabeni you will meet your tour leader and be checked in at your respective lodge/camp. Participants arriving on one of the first three transfers (departure from Johannesburg International Airport at 08:30, 10:00 & 12:00) will have the possibility to go on the first of a number of exciting game drives.

The afternoon game drive begins around 16:00 arriving back at the lodge in time for dinner around 19:30. Similar to a morning game drive, the afternoon drive provides great wildlife experiences. Moreover the afternoon drive offers the opportunity to experience a genuine African sunset in ideal settings: enjoying a cold drink on the savannah, while admiring the changing colours of the darkening evening sky. The afternoon drive then turns into a night safari, where we will get the chance to spot the fascinating nocturnal wildlife with a spot light.

PLEASE NOTE: June is winter time in South Africa and while the temperature often rises to 20-25 degrees Celsius during the day temperatures around 0 degrees Celsius at night time is not unusual! Especially the large drop from day to night time temperature makes the evenings and mornings feel extremely cold. It is therefore essential to bring a winter jacket, warm hat and gloves when going on game drives!

Over the last few years the reserve's wildlife has become increasingly accustomed to the visiting tourists. It is therefore not uncommon to see elephants, giraffes and different species of antelopes grazing in close proximity to the safari vehicles. A pride of lions even occasionally holds up traffic, lying lazily across the track. We use open 4x4 safari vehicles, which provide us with an excellent opportunity for viewing the wildlife in safety.

During our stay we will have a number of park rangers allocated: one for approximately every ten participants. The rangers ensure our safety, drive the safari vehicles, provide competent guiding, coordinate the events with the race management, and are at our disposal around the clock. Furthermore a Tour Leader will be with the group from beginning to end assisting with every need of the participants.

### **Day 2: Route Inspection**

After breakfast all participants are transported from their respective lodges/camp to the starting point of the marathon. Before we set off for the start line, there will be a short briefing about the route inspection. All safari vehicles follow the route in a convoy, allowing the participants to examine the different running surfaces, note the locations of water posts and assess the overall difficulty of the route.

After the route inspection a large buffet lunch will be served for all the participants. This is the time where everyone is gathered - the participants, race officials, medical staff and rangers - for a formal introduction to the event, and a presentation of the practical issues surrounding the marathon. There are no scheduled game drives this day.

### **Day 3: Race day**

The big day has come. Today you will be met by a challenge that will be worth remembering: The Big Five Marathon. In the morning all the participants will be transported from the various lodges and camps to the starting line in time for final preparations. The marathon is planned to start at 09:00, but delays must be expected, as the exact start time will be dependent on the location of the big five game - if too close to the route, the start will be postponed.

There are no scheduled game drives this day.

### **Day 4: After marathon party**

Today we have time to relax after running on the African savannah. Additional game drives and excursions can be purchased and in the afternoon we will experience yet another fantastic game drive followed by our After Marathon Party. There will be great food, live entertainment, prize ceremony, a big bonfire and partying under the starry skies. Please be aware that the party takes place in a traditional South African boma with open roof and large open doorways. It is therefore advisable to dress warm! For the same reason there's no dress code and casual clothing is recommended.

### **Day 5: Entabeni**

On the final day at the Entabeni Private Game Reserve you will have one last game drive either in the morning or in the afternoon. Those interested will also get the opportunity to stretch their legs on one final bush walk. In the evening farewell dinners will be held at the respective lodges.

A bush walk with an experienced armed ranger is also included today, giving us a chance to get really close to the African nature and wildlife. In the evening farewell dinners will be held at the respective lodges/camp.

### **Day 6: Depart for Johannesburg**

Our days at Entabeni Safari Conservancy has come to an end and it's time to head back to Johannesburg. As upon arrival all participants are transferred from Entabeni to Johannesburg International Airport.

Transfer ARRIVAL times at the airport are 08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00 and 18:00. As on arrival it is possible, for an extra charge, to book an individual transfer to Johannesburg if the group transfers don't fit your onward journey.