

GHOST MOUNTAIN SAFARIS

Discover the wildlife, history, scenery and cultural wealth of Zululand and the Elephant Coast with Ghost Mountain Safaris. Join our enthusiastic and knowledgeable rangers on variety of excursions. From game drives to boat cruises and tiger fishing on Lake Jozini to hikes and Zulu homestead visits. Our qualified guides are passionate about game, birds, botany, craft and Zulu Culture. Should you have any specific interests they are able to tailor-make itineraries for you.

GAME AND BIRDING SAFARIS

Boat Cruises and Tiger Fishing on Lake Jozini (Half and Full Day)

Lake Jozini lies in a dramatic setting at the foot of the Lebombo Mountains and is one of South Africa's largest dams. There are several exquisite gorges which abound with cycads and a wide variety of birds. On the western side of the dam one might see elephant, rhino, hippo and crocodile. The 13 varieties of fish found in the dam include tilapia, catfish, mud fish, carp and the sought after tiger fish. A catch and release policy for the tigers is promoted and anglers are encouraged to retain only one trophy fish each per day, releasing the live smaller ones.

Mkhuze Game Reserve Game Drives (Half and Full day)

Mkhuze harbours an astonishing diversity of habitats ranging from the eastern slopes of the Lebombo Mountains to stretches of rolling acacia savannah, swamps, woodlands and riverine forest. Wildlife includes black and white rhino, elephant, giraffe, leopard, cheetah, buffalo and a multitude of plains game. The birding is exceptional - 420 species recorded. A walk in the fig forest is an awesome experience for both birder and nature enthusiast.

Hluhluwe Game Reserve Game Drives (Half and Full day)

The oldest game park in Africa was proclaimed to prevent the white rhino from becoming extinct. Eighty species of mammal (including the big five) and in excess of 300 species of birds are supported in this 96 000 ha reserve.

Night Drives (3 to 4 Hours) *seasonal

Experience the African night with its magnificent skies and the possibility of nocturnal species such as ant-bear (aardvark), leopard, genet, night jays and a host of smaller creatures. The night also allows one the opportunity to use other senses and to relax to the sounds and aroma of Africa

Birding Trips (Half and Full day)

With more than 420 bird species on record, Mkuze and the surrounding area is renowned as a mecca for bird lovers. Some of the specials one might go in search of are: Mangrove Kingfisher, Pink Throated Twin Spot, Blue Billed Fire Finch, Narina trogon

CULTURAL AND SCENIC SAFARIS

Lebombo Scenic Drive (3 to 4 Hours)

A leisurely drive that winds up the Lebombo Mountain through some extremely attractive scenery and views of Lake Jozini. Experience rural Africa as it is today. Your guide will discuss Zulu culture, western impact and rural living. If the drive is arranged in the evening sundowners up here should not be missed

Myeni Cultural Experience (3 to 4 Hours)

This is a truly unique and authentic experience and includes a visit to a local homestead interacting with members of the Myeni family. With prior arrangement one can also experience a visit to a Sangoma with a bone reading if desired, Stick fighting, and/or a sampling of traditional food and drink. Finish the experience with a drive through the Lebombo Mountains taking in some of the areas magnificent views and rural life happening around you.

Africa Today * by prior arrangement

Experience some of the areas problems and rays of hope. Get a glimpse of Zulu culture in today's world. A flexible tour that takes into account the fluctuating day to day activities of the people involved. One can organise to visit a school and/or orphanage as well as any community projects that are happening at the time of your visit. Each trip will be planned to fit in with your particular interests and as such is flexible with regards to time and activity.

WALKING SAFARIS

All our walks are accompanied by nature guides well versed in local history and culture, as well as the fauna and flora of the area.
** Please request a specialist bird guide if birders in group.

Mkhuze River Bird Walk (1 to 2 Hours)

This is a gentle walk that leaves the hotel and traverses the dam in front of the hotel into the Mkhuze riverbed and along to the old weir. A large number of birds both water and open savannah species are to be seen with specials including palm swifts, white-eared barbets, giant and malachite kingfishers, black coucal and many others. The scenery offers wonderful views of both Ghost Mountain and the Lebombo Mountain Range.

Ghost Mountain Hike (3 to 4 Hours)

This is a strenuous hike up the eastern side of Ghost Mountain to the top of Tshaneni peak but the end result is an uninterrupted view of magnificent scenery. Local legend has it that the mountain is haunted and there are claims that, at times, lights can be seen emanating from the summit and eerie sounds can be heard. This intriguing mountain is a protected site of cultural and historical significance. Hike and learn more about the history and folk lore of the mountain and the surrounding area. The guide is also well versed on the plant and birdlife of the mountain and as such this is an interesting hike for all.

Culture Walk (3 to 4 Hours)

Drive up into the rural community of the Lebombo mountains and enjoy a walk with mountain views learning about rural Zulu customs and living as it is today. This walk allows for interaction with the people of the area and gives a greater insight into traditional life in rural Zululand.

Fig Forest Walk (5 to 6 Hours)

Although the Fig Forest Walk is only about two hours long the walk itself is situated deep in the Mkhuze Game Reserve so the activity includes a game drive to and from the walk. This walk is not strenuous but does require traversing two short swing bridges over the Mkhuze River. It meanders under the canopy of giant sycamore figs. The oldest of which is estimated at 450 years. The silence of the forest is broken by a multitude of bird calls typified by the wail of trumpeter hornbills. Special sightings have included Pels Fishing Owl, African Broadbill and Blue mantled Flycatcher.