

Travel Information

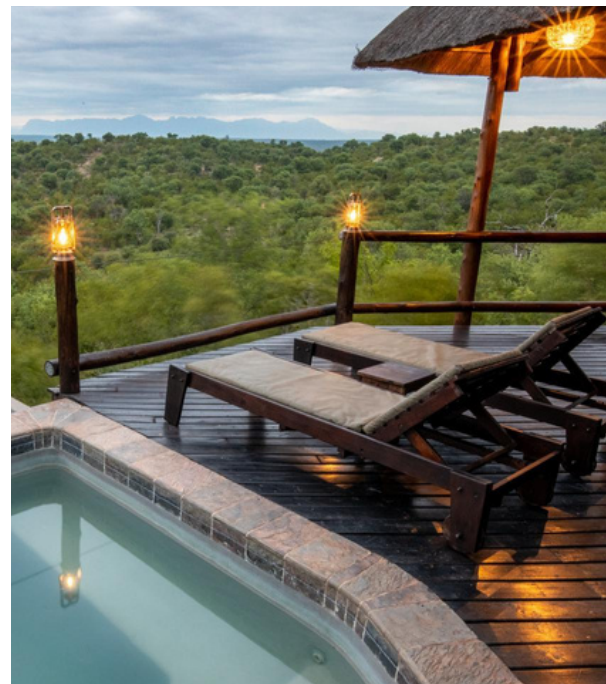


Discover the Wild



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Travel Information

Traveling with us is an invitation to explore the untamed beauty of South Africa's Limpopo province. This vibrant town, nestled on the doorstep of the world-famous Kruger National Park, promises an adventure like no other.

To make the most of your visit, it's crucial to have the best information at your fingertips. In this comprehensive guide, we'll provide you with the essential Hoedspruit info every traveller should know, with a spotlight on how you can enhance your journey.

If you only visit two
continents in your life visit
Africa twice





Major Airports in South Africa

The majority of foreign visitors arrive in South Africa at OR Tambo International Airport, located in Johannesburg in the Gauteng Province.

Johannesburg is the economic hub of South Africa and the gateway to the main safari destinations in northern regions. OR Tambo International Airport International has undergone major reconstruction and is state of the art. You'll find a range of top class food chains and shopping outlet

From the UK a direct flight to Johannesburg take about 10hrs. Overnight flights are perfect with little time difference. Direct Flights are offered by British Airways and Virgin Atlantic.

How to get to Hoedspruit

From Johannesburg take a short connecting flight to Hoedspruit the Safari capital. Flights are about 30 mins and take you directly to Eastgate Airport.

Flights can be booked with Airlink and CemAir



Alternatively you can travel with your personal guide directly for around 5.5 hrs or travel to the picturesque town of Dullstroom (halfway) for one night before continuing onto Hoedspruit the following morning.



South Africa is a year round destination and when you visit depends largely on what interests you where you want to go and what you want to see and do in South Africa.

The best time to visit the northern regions of South Africa for a Big 5 safari tour in the Kruger National Park or the premier game reserves of Greater Kruger, is in the cool, dry winter months between May and September.

The bush is dry and sparse which makes it ideal for game viewing animals also tend to congregate close to permanent water sources. November to February in the northern regions is the best time of year for birding; the Palearctic migrants start arriving in November and the intra-African migrants usually by mid October. However, this time of the year is the rainy season in South Africa and you may experience rain spells.



- South Africa is 2 hrs ahead GMT
- 1 hr ahead Central European Time
- 7 Hours ahead of USA East Coast time



English is widely spoken across South Africa and is one of the country's official languages, making it the primary language used in business, education, and tourism.

In major cities and popular tourist areas, you'll find that most people speak English fluently, so there's no need to worry about communication during your travels.

INTERESTING FACT : There are 11 official languages in South Africa. The most common language spoken as a first language by South Africans is Zulu (23 percent); followed by Xhosa (16 percent) and Afrikaans (14 percent).



South African Currency

The currency is the South African Rand, where one SA Rand is divided into 100 cents.

Most Businesses accept major debit and credit cards. Therefore it is not necessary to carry a large amount of cash with you.

There are a number of main stream banks in Hoedspruit and ATM's available in Hoedspruit.

What to wear on Safari

When planning your safari packing list, and especially when thinking about what to wear on safari, there are a few things that you need to be kept in mind.

Our general advice, which is actually valid for all trips anywhere in the world, is to pick versatile items that can be easily mixed and matched together in terms of colours and fabrics, in order to create a good number of outfits with just a handful of items and which, with the right accessories, can be used either as casual wear or become more dressy.

Having this in mind, the main considerations when deciding what to wear on safari are comfort, ease, temperatures, colours and style.



Look for comfort.

Both men and women can look stylish on a safari, and yet stay comfortable.

Pick clothes that are breathable, in neutral colours and that can adapt to the changing temperatures throughout the day.

Another thing to consider is that safaris hardly involve any physical exercise – most of the day is spent sitting in the car, looking for animals. Yet, getting on and off the jeep for the occasional bush stop, or to stretch the legs, calls for comfortable attire.



Layers are Key.

There is a common misconception that all of Africa is warm, if not even hot, throughout the day and night, and year round. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Temperatures can drop dramatically as soon as the sun starts to set.

Game drives are usually timed to follow the lifestyle of animals. The typical safari will have two game drives per day: one starting soon after sunrise, before the animals find a hiding spot from the afternoon heat; and one in the late afternoon – with some private game reserves allowing drives to continue on a bit after dark.

Therefore wearing layers is essential.

A good packing list for Africa will include plenty of cotton shirts to wear during the day, and a few sweaters and a light jacket to wear in the early morning hours and in the evenings. We also recommend bringing a scarf, a hat in the winter months.



Traditional South African Dishes to

SOUTH AFRICA IS RENOWNED AS A CULINARY DESTINATION, WITH A VAST CHOICE OF RESTAURANTS AND DELIS THAT COMPETE WITH THE BEST IN THE WORLD. WHAT MAKES SOUTH AFRICAN CUISINE SO SPECIAL IS ITS UNIQUE FUSION OF THE MANY CULTURAL INFLUENCES WHICH INCLUDES AFRICAN, INDIAN, MALAYSIAN AND EUROPEAN FLAVOURS.. MOST RESTAURANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA OFFER A SELECTION OF DELICIOUS MEALS FOR VEGETARIANS ALSO.

Biltong: Dried, cured meat similar to jerky

- **Drooiwors:** Dried, cured sausage made from thin, spicy boerewors •

Boerewors: Seasoned sausage that's popular for braais (barbeques)

- **Potjiekos:** Traditional Afrikaans stew cooked in a 3-legged cast iron pot over an open fire

- **Bobotie:** A Cape Malay version of shepherd's pie

- **Bredie:** A traditional tomato and meat stew

- **Bunny chow:** An authentic dish made by hollowing out a half loaf of white bread and filling it with a delicious Indian curry

- **Koeksisters:** Traditional Afrikaans pastry that braided and syrupy

- **Samoosas:** A 3-corner Indian pastry filled with meat or vegetables

- **Sosaties:** Cubed chicken or beef/lamb marinated in a sauce and braaied

- **Pickled fish:** With unique Cape Malay flavours

- **Pap:** Traditional African side dish made from maize meal and served with meat or veggie stew

- **Chakalaka:** Traditional spicy vegetable relish served with bread, pap, samp, stews or curries

- **Samp:** Traditional African side dish consisting of dried corn kernels that have been stamped and chopped until broken

- **Vetkoek:** Traditional Afrikaans fried dough bread filled with cooked mince or with honey or jam

Local Restaurants

Savor the flavors of Hoedspruit at our diverse range of restaurants.

From traditional South African cuisine to global flavors, indulge in memorable dining experiences.

Whether you're looking for a cozy café, a lively bar, or a fine-dining experience, Hoedspruit has something for every taste.



Blue Mountain

📍 Blyde Wildlife Estate

Nestled in a breathtaking setting with panoramic views of the Drakensberg Mountain range within the enchanting Blyde Wildlife Estate, Blue Mountain offers a remarkable dining experience. Combining an enticing array of delectable cuisine with an ambiance enhanced by delightful music and a curated selection of wines, all set in an open-air environment.



Hat And Creek

📍 Main Street, Hoedspruit

Fantastic location, The Hat and Creek has garnered a well-deserved reputation as the top-rated restaurant in Hoedspruit.

With its diverse range of South African dishes, exceptional wine selection, and inviting ambiance, it has become a favorite among both local residents and international visitors alike.



Sleepers

📍 1 Python Street, Hoedspruit railway Station

Sleepers Restaurant in Hoedspruit offers a wide range of tasty South African meals from Burgers, Pizzas and so much more. The Restaurant has a pub that is a firm favourite for its regulars and is a great place to watch the game.

Sleepers is located along the railway line and was once used as the local train station in Hoedspruit. The interior walls of the restaurant is plastered with old newspapers and other interesting historical items.

Local Restaurants



The Brewery Co.

📍 Bosveld centre R40

The Brewery, Sushi & Grill in Hoedspruit is a must-visit spot for great food, craft beer, and a relaxed bushveld vibe. Whether you're in the mood for fresh sushi, wood-fired pizza, or something from the grill, their menu has something for everyone. Their on-site brewed craft beers are the perfect match for a warm Lowveld afternoon. Set under shady trees with a lively, welcoming atmosphere, it's a favourite for both locals and travellers. They are open for lunch and dinner.



The Arugula Experience

📍 Zandspruit Boulevard Hoedspruit

A great spot just outside town with an atmospheric terrace, an elevated terrace overlooking the mountains. They cater for fresh food and are surrounded by some nice local shops. They are open for breakfast and lunch and dinner with special evenings like Mexican or Asian Stir Fry themed.



The Harvest House

📍 Zandspruit Boulevard, Hoedspruit

The Harvest House, offers fresh and nutritious homemade meals in an open air dining space. Have dinner under the stars or coffee and lunch with a friend between the trees. They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Local Restaurants



The Clubhouse

📍 Hoedspruit central

Located just outside Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate, The Clubhouse Restaurant offers a relaxed and stylish setting for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. The menu features a variety of delicious dishes, from grilled meats and fresh salads to gourmet burgers and pizzas. With its laid-back atmosphere and convenient location, it's a great spot to enjoy quality food.



Hoedspruit Padel & Sports Bar

📍 Zandspruit Boulevard Hoedspruit

Sports Bar is a lively local hotspot perfect for the whole family. With delicious burgers, wood-fired pizzas, and ice-cold drinks, it's a great place to unwind after a day in the bush. The fenced kids' playground makes it a relaxed and safe space for families. It's also a popular spot to meet friendly locals, especially on Friday and Saturday evenings when the vibe really comes alive.



Thirsty Giraffe GrillHouse

📍 Just outside town R40 to Phalaborwa

The Thirsty Giraffe is a bush pub that serves great meals, burgers and pizzas and divine Espetatas. Just 5km out of town on the R40 towards Phalaborwa. Saturday night is the busiest night when locals come to meet up and have a drink. It's also a popular spot to watch the Rugby Games of the Bokke, the South African national team. And don't be surprised if you see a Donkey walking past in the restaurant;) They are open for lunch and dinner.



Tipping In South Africa

Many workers in South Africa rely on tips to supplement their weekly wages. You are not obliged to tip someone if you feel they have not provided you with a sufficient and friendly service. The guideline for tipping waiters/ waitresses is 10% of the food bill.

Public Holidays in south Africa

1st JANUARY

NEW YEAR'S DAY

21 MARCH

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

13 APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY (DATES DIFFER EACH

YEAR)

16 APRIL

FAMILY DAY (DATE DIFFERS EACH YEAR)

27 APRIL

FREEDOM DAY

1 MAY

WORKERS' DAY

16 JUNE

YOUTH DAY

9 AUGUST

NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

24 SEPTEMBER

HERITAGE DAY

16 DECEMBER

DAY OF RECONCILIATION

25 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY

6 DECEMBER

DAY OF GOODWILL



Why Book with us?

We are a family-run business, born from a couple's shared love for the bush. With first-hand experience owning and managing a safari lodge. We offer a warm, personal approach to every journey in the Greater Kruger area. Each accommodation we recommend has been personally visited and vetted by us, and we maintain strong relationships with local management on the ground.

Our online Customer Support team brings years of professional experience in the travel industry and is ready to assist with any tour-related questions you may have.



No Booking Fees

We charge 0% booking fees/. You won't find any hidden costs.



We are experts

You can feel confident in booking with us, we have experienced first hand where you will be staying.



Flexible Payment Options

We offer payment plan option on both accommodation and activities.



24/7 Customer Support



We are available 24/ 7 however you will have contact with us prior, during and after your stay ensuring the best experience.

Testimonials



"The trip of a lifetime! We saw the Big Five within a few days and every moment was seamless from the accommodation to the game drives. It was my partners birthday Charlotte at greater Kruger Safari's ensured it was unforgettable."



Mr & Mrs Ruck - Gloucestershire



"Seeing Lions on foot during a walking safari was absolutely thrilling. Every day brought something new and breath-taking. Thank you"



Mr D jenkins - Bristol



"We were initially nervous about bringing our children on safari but Greater Kruger safaris made it a magical, safe and unforgettable experience. From watching elephants in the wild to roasting marshmallows under the stars our kids have not stopped talking about it"



Mrs P Lewis - South Wales



Contact us

We're on a journey to transform ordinary trips into extraordinary ones. We are your guide, bringing you personal experiences.

Lets build your Safari together. We will show you the unique and unmissable things to do on your Safari holiday.



Send an Email

Get in touch with our customer service team

info@greaterkrugersafaris.com



Message us Using Whatsapp

This is our preferred and quickest way of contacting us.

+44 7823555745



Call Customer Service

Talk to us over the phone

+44 7823666745



Online

Lets chat!

Book a free Safari consultation online through our webpage and we will arrange a time to meet online and chat about how we can assist with your dream safari.



24/7 Customer Support

“Africa changes you forever, like nowhere on earth. Once you have been there, you will never be the same.” - Brian Jackman



A photograph of two giraffes against a warm, golden sunset sky. One giraffe is in profile on the left, and the other is facing forward on the right. A semi-transparent grey rectangle is centered over the image, containing a quote.

“The only man I
envy is the man
who has not yet
been to Africa - for
he has so much to
look forward to” -
Richard Mullin