

- 1 Little bee-eaters
- 2 Male kudu
- 3 Elephant



FACT FILE

Time in the Kruger can be incorporated into most South Africa itineraries, or it can make a stand-alone trip. Prices vary considerably from the expensive private reserves to the SANParks rest camps. A 10-day trip incorporating eight nights in the Kruger, with six nights in three different SANParks rest camps (bungalows with self-catering facilities and ensuite bathrooms), and two nights at Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve (Bush Lodge), car hire throughout, and return flights from the UK via Johannesburg to Kruger airport costs from £1695 per person. For further details please call our South Africa specialists, Melissa and Cate, on 01869 276 250.



The Kruger Park in South Africa is one of the best known wildlife parks anywhere in the world, yet to the uninitiated it can seem a confusing array of private reserves, private concessions and rest camps. At the size of Wales, there is also a huge variety of habitats and game viewing available within the park. This, then, is the *Audley guide to the Kruger*.

GREATER KRUGER PARK VS KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

The Kruger National Park is that body of land governed by South African National Parks (SANParks), the government body. Within the National Park, the majority of accommodation is run by SANParks in the form of rest camps and most people self-drive, although SANParks do provide game drives and bush walks from the larger camps. The exceptions are the few private concessions within the park, which typically have a chunk of land which only they have access to, and operate on a similar basis to the private reserves.

The Greater Kruger Park encompasses the National Park, as well as the host of private reserves on the western flank of the park, most

of which share unfenced borders with the national park – to the animals, there is no distinction between the national park and the Greater Kruger Park.

NORTHERN KRUGER

The northern Kruger is nowhere near as popular as the southern half of the park, or the private reserves. It is, however, one of the most rewarding, particularly for the returning visitor. This is not the place to go to tick-off the Big Five, but instead to see open rolling plains and low hills, perfect for large herds of elephant, rarer antelope like the roan, and for superb birding. Up here, you can stay at the Shingwedzi rest camp, or at the new private lodge, Pafuri, on the banks of the Luvuvhu river right in the north of the park.

The Kruger

Experience

Getting to grips with
SOUTH AFRICA'S
FAMOUS
wildlife park



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OLIFANTS REST CAMP

Out on the eastern border of the park, this rest camp looks over the Olifants river in one of the most picturesque corners of the park. The Olifants river then continues on across the border to fill the Massinger Dam just in Mozambique. Thankfully this is now all part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP), an enormous park created by taking down fences between other parks on the borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The GLTP will allow visitors (and game) to cross between the countries, although infrastructure outside the Kruger is still basic.

SATARA REST CAMP

Satara marks the start of the plains – the south of the park being dominated by denser vegetation and rolling hills. In this area, large herds of zebra and wildebeest congregate, making it prime hunting ground for cheetah and lion.

THE N'WANETSI PICNIC SPOT

There are numerous picnic spots dotted throughout the park, where you can get out of your car and enjoy a pre-prepared bite to eat.

N'wanetsi is my favourite as it sits on a hill overlooking a bend in the river – whilst I enjoyed my sandwiches here, I watched kudu drink at the river, wary of the lurking crocodiles, whilst giraffe galloped across the open land inside the bend. It's a beautiful and peaceful spot.

THE LOWER SABIE – SKUKUZA ROAD

Lower Sabie and Skukuza are two of the biggest rest camps in the park, so aren't in themselves highlights. However the road between the two is a real game hotspot. It follows one of the larger rivers of the Kruger, and the dense riverine vegetation makes it the ideal habitat for browsers, like elephant, black rhino, nyala and kudu. It is also the favoured habitat of the leopard, the most elusive of the Big Five. The adjacent rolling hills and plains also means that lion and their prey are not uncommon.

THE PRIVATE RESERVES AND CONCESSIONS OF THE KRUGER PARK

These are either reserves, usually sharing unfenced borders with the park, typically 10-20,000 hectares, or small private concessions within the park itself – typically about 6,000 hectares. These

have the advantage of being private land, so game drives are allowed off-road to get you as close as possible to the game. Self-driving is not permitted within the reserves and concessions. The lodges themselves are normally superb, with a small number of rooms or suites and fantastic service. All your meals and two game viewing activities a day are typically included, and often all your local beers, wines and spirits too.

Andrew Hunt

South Africa Programme Manager



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