

# Experience the Thrill of Travelling Through Rarely Seen Areas in Southern Africa

The Eswatini Legend Tour (camping) is brought to you exclusively by Bonsai Technologies

## Day 1

We meet at the Oshoek Border Post between South Africa and Eswatini at 13:00. Pretoria to Oshoek (on your own) (340 km). After the border formalities, we drive to the Malolotja Nature Reserve (26 km). Alternative arrangements will be made when you fly to Eswatini.

Common ablution facilities with water but no electricity is available at Malolotja.



## Day 2

Explore Malolotja Nature Reserve on your own or book a Canopy Tour (Ziplining), game drive or guided walk.

## Day 3



We drive to the Hlane Royal National Park (170 km) following the scenic route. North of Malolotja, the MR1 highway from Mbabane winds steeply down into a spectacular valley, where the Nkomati river – Swaziland's second largest – carves its winding way east across the top corner of the country towards the Indian Ocean.

The Maguga Dam, an impressive expanse of blue water, can be viewed along the way. It is Swaziland's largest reservoir and its wall, which stands 115m high, is the fourth largest in southern Africa. We will have views of the dam at various points.

The dam was built under the auspices of the joint South Africa/Swaziland Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA), and today produces hydroelectric power and supplies irrigation to farmers across a wide area. When completed in 2001, it received the South Africa Institute of Civil Engineering award for "most outstanding achievement" in the international category.

Common ablution facilities with water but no electricity is available at Hlane.



## Day 4



Explore Hlane Royal National Park on your own or book a game drive or guided walk.

Hlane is Eswatini's (Swaziland's) largest protected area. Among a wealth of wildlife reintroduced to its former home, elephant, white rhino, lion and leopard all occur. The rhino and elephant often visit the waterhole at Ndlovu Camp, while lions – the emblem of royal Eswatini – occupy a separate fenced area, where you can see them on a guided game drive. Leopards are more elusive, as are spotted hyenas, whose whooping calls blend with the roars of the lions at night. Giraffe, zebra and hippos are among the other large mammals, while antelope include abundant impala, plus kudu, wildebeest and waterbuck. Highlights among more than 300 species of bird include a large breeding colony of white-backed vultures.

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## Day 5

After breakfast we drive to Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (105 km). During this drive you will experience more of the Eswatini landscape.

## Day 6

Explore Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary on your own or book a game drive or guided walk.

Mlilwane is Eswatini's (Swaziland's) best-known nature reserve. It was here in 1961 that Ted Reilly – whose father had settled at the property in 1906 – first took action to save what remained of the kingdom's wildlife, converting it into a sanctuary and rounding up animals from elsewhere around the country before they were hunted out.

Mlilwane is just a 15-minute drive from the Ezulwini Valley and its landscape is dominated by Nyonyane mountain, visible from afar. This dramatic peak is known as Execution Rock, taking its name from the grisly fate that once befell the condemned folk



who were led to its summit. The reserve is not "Big Five" country, and indeed the proximity of busy Ezulwini Valley, together with the stands of alien gum trees and old tin mine workings, mean that it cannot be considered a pristine wilderness. Nonetheless, it is a beautifully scenic and wonderful oasis for wildlife, with a lovely relaxed ambience.

Common ablution facilities with water and electricity is available at Mlilwane.



## Day 7

Depart back home (on your own) from Mlilwane to Oshoek Border Post (45 km). I will say goodbye to my new found friends at Mlilwane after breakfast.

A visit to the Ngwenya Glass Factory (S26° 13' 19.1" E31° 01' 52.5") on your way to the border post is recommended.



- END OF SERVICE-

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