

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

The Highlands 6-night Tour (camping) is brought to you exclusively by Bonsai Technologies

Day 1

We meet at the Digger's Retreat Hotel (S25° 40' 43.5" E31° 04' 47.9") near Barberton in South Africa. Common ablution facilities with water and electricity are available.

Day 2

The pass between Barberton and the Josefsdal border post is the drive's highlight. The incredibly scenic mountain pass is regarded as, arguably, one of the most spectacularly scenic drives in southern Africa. People describe it as 'jaw droppingly beautiful'. After entering Eswatini via the Josefsdal/Bulembu Border Post, we visit the Bulembu Mining Museum en-route to the Malolotja Nature Reserve. Common ablution facilities with water but **without electricity** are available.



Day 3



We drive to the Maguga Dam 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.

The Nsangwini Rock Art site, an atmospheric site, preserves Swaziland's best bushman paintings. The paintings, which lie beneath a rock overhang down a rocky trail, are the work of the hunter-gatherer San people and could be up to 4,000 years old. Guides from the local community will point out various animal and human bearing spears, and bizarre spirit sporting insect heads. Archaeologists believe that these paintings were completed in a shamanic trance and that many carry symbolic meaning. The work is executed in red ochre and animal blood with wonderful delicacy and precision.



Here you can step back to a time when wild creatures roamed a land unfettered by power lines, roads, dams and the trappings of modern living; a land where people competed with nature to survive. Nsangwini Rock is a great example of one of the places these people recorded their experiences, visions and dreams.



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

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Day 4



We drive a 4x4 trail down to the Malolotja River that are not open to the public (this is optional). You are welcome to explore the nature reserve on your own or book a Canopy Tour (Ziplining), game drive or guided walk.

Day 5

After breakfast we drive to Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (100 km). En-route we visit the Ngwenya Glass Factory where you will see how a small group of Swazi craftsmen and women – with age old artistry – breath life into enchanting interpretations of the animals and birds of Africa, imbuing each with its own irresistible personality. You will witness first-hand the magical art of glassblowing from an overhead balcony.



The Ngwenya Mine is considered to be the world's oldest mine. The haematite ore deposit was used in the Middle Stone Age to extract red ochre, while in later times the deposit was mined for iron smelting and iron ore export.

Ngwenya means "crocodile" in siSwati. This name comes from the fact that the mountains containing the mine was crocodile-shaped, before heavy-mining began in the 1960s and defaced this ancestral shape. Radiocarbon dating yielded the age of the oldest mining activities as 41,000 to 43,000 years.

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.



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.

Explore Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary on your own or book a game drive or guided walk (excluded from the tariff).

Common ablution facilities with water and electricity are available.

Day 6

You will start the day with a sunrise drive (included in the tariff). After that, we will drive to the top of the mountain for incredible views (weather permitting). Explore Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary on your own or book a game drive or guided walk.

Day 7

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

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