



Hippo Lakes Luxury African Safari Lodge and Cape Town - September 2022

Sep 8, 2022 - Sep 20, 2022

Grab your camera and join us as we head to Africa for the adventurous vacation that you've always dreamed of! A place where urban sophistication borders up against expansive terrain and abundant wildlife, South Africa has become a popular destination for travelers around the world. Join us for an extraordinary week of interaction with diverse plains game, relaxation amidst the African bushveld, and immersion within a unique culture.

September 8 - Thursday



Departing Flights to Johannesburg, South Africa

September 9 - Friday



Travel Day

September 10 - Saturday



Arrive Johannesburg - and Overnight

Johannesburg in South Africa is the second largest city in Africa, in 2016 there were 4.94 million people living in the City of Johannesburg. Jo'burg, or Jozi as some prefer to call it, offers visitors an experience as unique and diverse as the city itself.

Whether you are on business, in search of a cultural encounter, an adrenaline rush or simply want to relax and unwind for a few days, the city of Johannesburg has everything you're looking for and more!

Johannesburg usually enjoys pleasant weather throughout the year due to it being located at high altitude, at some 1,753 meters/5,751 feet above sea level. Another constant is a light breeze which helps to diffuse the heat over the summer period. The seasons are never clearly defined with summer sometimes running into autumn. Average September temperatures include 52 degree lows to 82 degree highs.



InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport Hotel

We will have one night at the Intercontinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport Hotel. This beautiful hotel is located within the airport for easy access to rest and refresh upon arrival for the night prior to the start of our safari.

September 11 - Sunday



Hippo Lakes Safari Begins

Departure time: 10:00 a.m.

Travel to Safari camp: approximately 3 hours

The safari camp is located just three hours north of Johannesburg in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Featuring four luxury tent accommodations, each with private bedroom, sitting area, en suite bathroom, Primus Villas' Safari Camp is arguably among the finest that South Africa has to offer.

During the next few days, you will experience and view an amazing display of wildlife and landscape just minutes from your quarters. You will want to keep your camera nearby for this adventure where you are situated on the banks of three hippo-filled lakes and surrounded by an abundance of African wildlife, the location and experience you will enjoy cannot be overstated. There is simply nothing like waking up immersed in the sounds of the African bush.

Each day, you will be led by your professional guides on a wild game drive through the property. Depending on the time of year, these tours typically last between two and three hours, and you will have the option to embark on these tours twice per day.

In addition to the daily game drives, gourmet meals, swim and relaxation time, additional excursions are available for you to add (for an additional cost) to your journey including:

- Big 5 Game Reserve Tour
- Elephant Encounter
- South African sundowner atop Topfokel Mountain, fireside Braai and nighttime game drive



About Hippo Lakes

Hippo Lakes brings you the ultimate luxury African safari experience. Situated in the spectacular Waterberg region, the lodge is uniquely nestled along the edge of a lake bank at the end of a long, rugged ravine. The lodge offers you a unique safari wildlife encounter with an unusually large number of animals, birds and plant life. Hippo Lakes lies within the Waterberg, a malaria free UNESCO World Nature Site.

There are eight luxury tent accommodations located at Hippo Lakes, therefore up to twenty total guests may be in lodge at a given time.

Daily games drives are lead by some of the most experienced game rangers in the industry with a passion for wildlife and an unusual gift in communicating with you the wonder of all the creatures you will encounter.

The team at Hippo Lakes does everything in their power to provide you with personal service and care that complement the beauty of their breath-taking luxury tents. Their lodge and luxury tent accommodations are located roughly 20 miles west of Vaalwater which is three hours north of Johannesburg in the Limpopo Province. At this magnificent property, you will enjoy a lavish lifestyle with all the comforts of home.

Wildlife

Each day, our group will be led by professional guides on a wild game drive through the property. Depending on the time of year, the daily tours will typically last between two and three hours. While the spotting of any one particular animal cannot be guaranteed, guests can generally expect to encounter the majority of South Africa's plains game, as well as baboons, monkeys, hippos, Cape buffalo, bush babies, giraffes, etc.

Optional Excursions

Throughout the week, you will have the choice to join in optional excursions including:

*Elephant Encounter: more than just a "touch and feed" encounter, this comprehensive interaction aims for each guest to experience, acutely, the intellect and warmth of these gentle giants. Interaction: \$180 per guest
Interaction + elephant back safari ride: \$230 per guest*

*Big 5 Safari: safari excursion to some of the Waterberg's famous 55,000 to 85,000 plus acre Big 5 Safari conservancies.
Big 5 Game Drive: \$150 per guest*

*Bush Braai (Bush BBQ): afternoon game drive and a South African "sundowner" with breath-taking views and sunset followed by a night drive on the way to an unforgettable Bush Braai (BBQ) the traditional South African way. Included are some traditional South African liqueurs and drinks. Bush Braai: \$65 per guest
Please note: this experience is an option if the weather permits.*

Helicopter Excursion: priced according to the number of guests participating and if weather permits.

Food and Beverages

During our stay, gourmet meals will be prepared on site by the Hippo Lakes resident chef. If you have any specific dietary restrictions, the team will prepare a menu to your liking. All meals are included in the pricing and a single glass of wine or beer at lunch and dinner is also included. Additional beverages may be purchased as you like.

Travel Documents

In addition to a minimum of 6-months validity remaining on your passport from date of departure from South Africa, it is advised that your passport have at least two blank visa pages when presented for entrance and exit of the country. No Visa is required for visitors from the United States.

Travel Time

South Africa is located at the southern tip of the African continent, roughly 15 hours by air and 8425 miles southeast of Atlanta, GA, USA or 12 hours by air, 9400km south of London. Travelers are advised to arrive on the Saturday evening before their pickup on Sunday morning in order to recover from their flight. We will be staying at the Johannesburg Airport hotel (cost of pre-night hotel not included in rates.)

Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccination and negative testing requirements will be confirmed prior to booking.

Additionally, there are no specific inoculations required for travel into and out of Hippo Lakes safari lodge; however, travelers are encouraged to visit with their doctor prior to visiting for consultation. Always be sure to bring all medications that you will require during your stay.

Weather

The average year-round temperature in South Africa is 72°F with an average water temp of 64°F. South Africa's coolest months are June and July, and the warmest months are between November and February. Summer temperatures can range from 75-85°F. Winter temperatures can range from 55-70°F.

September 12 - Monday**Hippo Lakes Safari Camp**

Situated on the banks of three hippo-filled lakes and surrounded by an abundance of African wildlife, the location and experience you will enjoy cannot be overstated. There is simply nothing like waking up immersed in the sounds of the African bush.

**September 13 - Tuesday****Hippo Lakes Safari Camp**

Live out your own National Geographic adventure on your daily game drives and rest easy in your well-appointed quarters that offer a perfect blend of rustic charm and total luxury, complete with en suite bathrooms and breathtaking views of the wild South African landscape.



September 14 - Wednesday



Hippo Lakes Safari Camp

Today you might want to include an optional excursion such as:

- *Big 5 Game Reserve Tour*
- *Elephant Encounter*
- *South African sundowner atop Topfokel Mountain, fireside Braai and nighttime game drive*

Please note: optional excursions are not included in the pricing and are an additional fee.



September 15 - Thursday



Hippo Lakes Safari Camp

Make the most of your final day in camp as you enjoy your wild game drives, relax in your tent listening to the sounds of nature all around and enjoy the delicious cuisine prepared just for you!



September 16 - Friday



Safari Ends - Transfer to Johannesburg Airport



Johannesburg to Cape Town

Arrival at Cape Town International Airport, followed by private transfer to your accommodations for the next 4-days in the Waterfront Area of Cape Town.

Located at the base of Signal Hill and on the deep blue waters of Table Bay, the Waterfront is a fantastic area to explore for eating, drinking, shopping, socializing and simply taking in the beauty of Table Mountain.

During your Cape Town adventure, your trip will feature touring and exploring the most iconic locales in the area and the sights and experiences you choose to do with your private guide will offer something for everyone.

You will be met at the Cape Town airport where you will enjoy a meet and greet after your trip. You will then be escorted in our private vehicle to your accommodations.

Your trip will include excellent lodging, English speaking guides, all ground transportation, two full days of touring, and more. From the moment you step off the plane in South Africa until you re-board for the U.S., our full-service courtesy will be at your disposal.

A trip to Cape Town without question should be on every world traveler's bucket list!



September 17 - Saturday



Capetown

Your day begins with breakfast and then on to one of the many options available to you for exploration!

You can spend the day touring Cape Town with highlights of the day to include Peninsula Drive, a visit to Boulder Beach for wild penguin viewing and a tour through Cape of Good Hope National Park.

September 18 - Sunday



Capetown

Breakfast is followed by a tour through the widely acclaimed Constantia Wine Region.

This valley truly is Cape Town's Vineyard. It is a region with a winemaking history that dates back to 1685 and which boasts 8 award-winning wine estates.

September 19 - Monday

Cape Town



Your day begins with breakfast and then on to one of the many options available to you for exploration!

You can spend the day touring Cape Town with highlights of the day to include Peninsula Drive, a visit to Boulder Beach for wild penguin viewing and a tour through Cape of Good Hope National Park.

September 20 - Tuesday



Depart from Cape Town

Today following breakfast, our amazing Safari and Cape Town adventure will come to an end, as we leave with memories and experiences to always be remembered!



Returning flights home.



Pricing for 5-night Hippo Lakes Safari and 4-night Cape Town Inclusion

Hippo Lakes is a small, intimate, luxury resort with 8 luxury tent accommodations. We are pleased to confirm Stone Arch Travel has received discounted group pricing for each of the following luxury tent options:

(2) Luxury Hippo Tents

2-4 guests · 2 bedrooms · 1 king bed & 2 twin beds or 2 queen beds

5 night package: Sunday to Friday

Large patio with lake view · en-suite bathroom · wifi

Living room · indoor shower · bath-tub · outdoor shower

Air conditioning / heating · private splash pool

Chef prepared daily: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Daily game drives (30 animal species)

Price per tent: \$6,800

(4) Luxury Rhino Tents

1-2 guests · 1 bedroom · 1 king bed

5 night package: Sunday to Friday

Patio with lake view · en-suite bathroom · wifi

Living room · indoor shower · private splash pool

Air conditioning / heating

Chef prepared daily: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Daily game drives (30 animal species)

Price per tent: \$5,100

(2) Luxury Kudo tents

1-2 guests · 1 bedroom · 1 king bed or 2 twin beds

5 night package: Sunday to Friday

Patio with lake view · en-suite bathroom · wifi

Please note: Kudo tents do not have a private splash pool

Air conditioning / heating · indoor shower · bathtub

Chef prepared daily: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Daily game drives (30 animal species)

Price per tent: \$3,400

In addition, Hippo Lakes camp has a rock pool available for all tent guests; as well as a dining tent for tent guests.

Cape Town Inclusion (5 days, 4 nights) Pricing:

\$2,300 (per couple)

\$1,700 (single traveler)

Pricing above includes: *all items as noted, including 3 chef prepared meals daily while on safari and one alcoholic beverage (additional beverages may be purchased), breakfast daily during the Cape Town experience.*

Pricing above does not include: *international airfare, travel protection insurance, pre-night Johannesburg hotel accommodations, roundtrip transfers from Jo'Burg to Hippo Lakes (\$300 per couple, \$150 per person), optional safari inclusions, ranger gratuities, or any item not specifically noted.*

Hippo Lakes Cancellation and Rebooking Policy:

In the event that a trip that has been paid for needs to be cancelled, a trip credit can be given for up to 1 year from the original booking date.

If the cancellation is made within 60 days of travel, a rebooking fee of \$500 USD applies. Refunds or reimbursements for cancelled trips are not possible; therefore we strongly encourage travel protection insurance for all of our clients.