

South Africa Knicker & Sodwana Bay

THE BIG 10 ADVENTURE
SAVANNAH TO SEA

BOLDER 

Adventure

HIGHLIGHTS



THE BIG FIVE TO THE BIG BLUE

Experience the contrast between Kruger's savannah and Sodwana's tropical reef system, with wildlife encounters always governed by season and chance.



KRUGER WILDLIFE SCIENCE

Combine game drives with camera traps, species monitoring, bush interpretation, leadership roles and learning at the SSLI campus.



PADI OPEN WATER PATHWAY

Complete knowledge development, confined-water skills and four open-water training dives with an approved PADI centre, subject to eligibility and performance.



MARINE CONSERVATION

Explore coral-reef biodiversity, protected-area management, turtles and the pressures facing ocean ecosystems through guided learning.



Destination

SNAPSHOT



LANDSCAPE

Kruger bushveld and river systems, then the forested dunes, beaches and offshore coral reefs of the Maputaland coast.



WILDLIFE

The Big Five and Kruger's wider biodiversity on land; tropical fish, turtles, rays, sharks, dolphins and seasonal ocean giants at Sodwana. No sighting can be guaranteed.



CHALLENGE LEVEL

Active and skills-based. Dive participants must meet age, medical, swimming and water-confidence requirements.



ACCOMMODATION

Johannesburg hotel or guesthouse, dormitory-style accommodation at SSLI, then a vetted group lodge or camp near Sodwana Bay.



CLIMATE

Bush temperatures and coastal weather vary by season. Surf, swell, wind and visibility may alter the dive schedule even when conditions on land appear calm.



TRAVEL

Road travel from Johannesburg to Kruger and onward to the KwaZulu-Natal coast, followed by a long return journey.



ATMOSPHERE

A bold two-world adventure: dawn game drives, research and campfire leadership followed by dive briefings, reef colour and a slower coastal rhythm.



BEST FOR

Schools looking for a distinctive Biology, Geography, personal-development or marine-science journey, with a credible alternative track for students who are not diving.



KRUGER NP

SODWANA BAY
SOUTH AFRICA



KRUGER & SODWANA

BIG 10 ADVENTURE

14 DAYS

ONE POSSIBLE JOURNEY This sample itinerary shows how we believe you can get the most from your time and create a well-balanced adventure. The exact running order and individual elements may vary according to availability, local conditions and the needs of the group. Most aspects can also be tailored to suit your school's aims, preferred duration and priorities, so please get in touch and we can shape the right programme with you.

Day 1

Depart the UK

Fly overnight to Johannesburg. Students will have begun developing their knowledge before departure, taking part in Bolder briefings on wildlife ethics, marine conservation, water confidence and team roles. The two halves of the journey are introduced as one question: what changes, and what remains the same, when conservation moves from savannah to sea?

Day 2

Arrive in Johannesburg

Meet the local team and transfer to your accommodation. You'll have a chance to complete in-country orientation and safety briefings; alongside checking equipment, picking up supplies, and getting some rest ahead of travel to Kruger National Park.

Day 3

Johannesburg to Kruger & SSLI

Travel north-east through changing landscapes towards Skukuza. On arrival at SSLI, complete the campus and park briefings, organise dorm spaces and begin listening to the bush. A first game drive, if flight and road timings allow, opens the land-wildlife phase and begins the Big 10 story.

Day 4

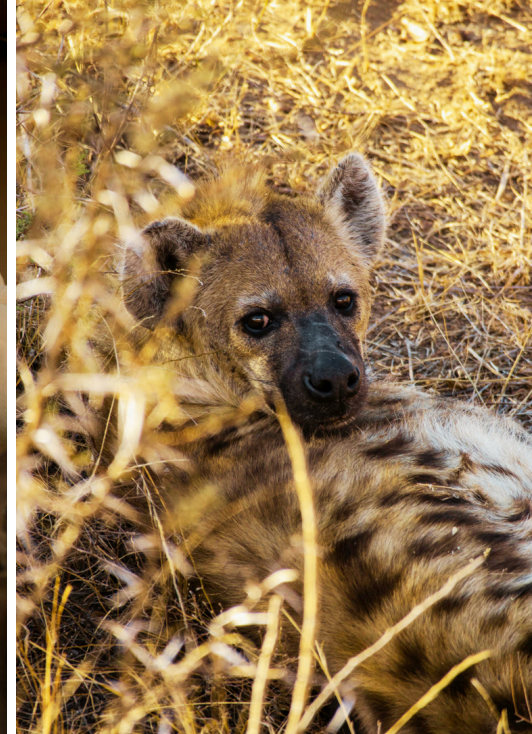
Wildlife, Ecology & the Big Five

Begin with a guided game drive focused on habitat, behaviour and the ecological role of both famous and less obvious species. Workshops at SSLI explore how savannah systems function and why effective conservation depends on far more than protecting individual animals. A guided bush activity helps students notice tracks, dung, plants, insects and sound as evidence.

Day 5

Conservation Fieldwork

Students work in small teams on suitable live activities such as camera-trap deployment, species monitoring or habitat observation. The day emphasises accurate recording, patient attention and the limits of a single observation. Guides and conservation educators explain how repeated data can support decisions, while rotating roles give students a practical opportunity to lead, listen and solve problems together.





Day 6

Wayfinding, Leadership & Game Drive

Students use maps, compass work and route interpretation to understand how awareness changes with analogue planning. During a guided game drive or field challenge, they take increasing responsibility for briefings, timing and group decisions while professional staff maintain the safety framework. Reflection links wayfinding in the park to confidence, judgement and the ability to lead in unfamiliar environments.

Day 7

Wilderness Experience & Research Debrief

Complete the Kruger phase through a supervised sleep-out or approved night-ecology alternative, subject to conditions. Students contribute to camp routines, share a bush braai and experience the park after dark. A final data and reflection session asks what the group has learned about observing wildlife ethically, then prepares students to apply the same disciplined curiosity to the ocean.

Day 8

Kruger to Sodwana Bay

Travel towards the KwaZulu-Natal coast and iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The journey is long but the environmental transition is dramatic: dry bushveld gives way to warmer coastal forest, dunes and the Indian Ocean. Settle into the confirmed group base, meet the dive and marine team, and complete site, equipment and ocean-safety briefings.

Day 9

PADI Skills: Knowledge to Confined Water

Students move from theory into carefully supervised confined-water sessions, learning equipment setup, mask and regulator skills, buoyancy, communication and safe entry and exit procedures. Progress is calm and performance-based.



Day 10

Open Water Training Dives 1 & 2

Subject to conditions and individual readiness, students complete their first two open-water training dives with the PADI team. Skills are practised within the ocean environment while instructors control depth, group size and progression. Everyone contributes to a common reef field journal.

Day 11

Open Water Training Dives 3 & 4

The final training dives bring together buoyancy, communication, awareness and basic navigation. Students who complete the training will earn their PADI Open Water certificate. The afternoon closes the diving programme and allows the team to enjoy some rest and relaxation, ahead of travel back towards Johannesburg.

Day 12

Marine Conservation - Dive-free surface interval

Today, the team may take the opportunity to explore iSimangaliso's coral reefs, turtle beaches and the wildlife that uses the Maputaland coast. This could consist of shore-based fieldwork, a beach ecology session or just recovery and reflection!

Day 13

Sodwana to Johannesburg

Travel back towards Johannesburg after the protected post-dive interval. The road journey becomes a comparison workshop: students examine similarities and differences between conserving Kruger's terrestrial system and iSimangaliso's marine system, including tourism, data, community livelihoods and protected-area rules. Settle in for a celebratory final evening, ahead of your journey home.

Day 14

Depart Johannesburg

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK. Students leave with memories from two very different environments, and one connected understanding of conservation: tracking signs in the bush, managing data, learning to breathe and move calmly underwater, and recognising that both ecosystems depend on skilled people, strong communities and responsible choices.





WHAT'S INCLUDED



Free teaching staff places
Bolder Adventure Programme Leader 

International flights



All in-country transport
All accommodation, meals and safe drinking water

All required permits/park fees
Guided activities with expert local partners



Group safety, communication & sleep-out equipment
Travel Pack, inc. hoody or tech tee

Comprehensive travel insurance
Safety management & planning
24/7 support during travel



Highly experienced UK account management
Pre-trip briefings & training (*as applicable*)

PLEASE NOTE: Cancellation insurance, visas, vaccinations, personal expenditure, tips for leaders, guides and drivers - and any other services not listed above are not included.

NEXT STEPS

1

Consider your preferred itinerary or direction



2

Book a 20 minute planning call. We'll confirm your aims, shape the itinerary, and prepare what you need for SLT and promotion

3

Receive your customised pack for confirmation and launch

4

Reserve your dates with a small holding deposit



BOLDER 

**SEE THE WORLD
DIFFERENTLY**



hello@wearebolder.co.uk



+44 (0)1244 794601