

South Africa Kruger & Eswatini

WILDLIFE, COMMUNITY &
CANYON ADVENTURE

BOLDER 

Adventure

HIGHLIGHTS



KRUGER WILDLIFE & SSLI

Experience the park as a living classroom through game drives, bush activities, field research, leadership sessions and a possible wilderness sleep-out.



SAVANNAH RESEARCH IN ESWATINI

Use camera traps, field observation and biodiversity learning at Mbuluzi's Savanna Research Centre, supported by local ecological expertise.



BLYDE CANYON CHALLENGE

Guided trekking and adventure phase among the escarpment, waterfalls, forest and dramatic viewpoints of the Blyde River Canyon region.



SHEWULA COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Meet hosts on the Lubombo Plateau, learn about life and conservation in the region, and take part in an agreed exchange shaped around local priorities.

Destination

SNAPSHOT



LANDSCAPE

Kruger bushveld, the Lubombo savannah and river country of north-eastern eSwatini, then the green escarpment and canyon landscapes of Mpumalanga.



CULTURE

A cross-border journey shaped by South African and eSwatini perspectives, community exchange, local food and the relationship between conservation and livelihoods.



CHALLENGE LEVEL

Active and varied. Early game drives, simple research-centre living, a wilderness element and guided hiking require energy, flexibility and positive teamwork.



ACCOMMODATION

Dormitory-style accommodation at SSLI, simple tented or research-centre accommodation at Mbuluzi, and a lodge or trail base at Blyde.



CLIMATE

Conditions differ across bushveld, Lubombo and escarpment. Heat, cool mornings, rain, mist and strong sun can all affect timing and route choice.



TRAVEL

International flights to Johannesburg, with road transfer to Skukuza and Eswatini. Exact flight and transfer timings are set for each group.



ATMOSPHERE

Immersive and progressive: big wildlife, closer research and community connection, accompanied by physical adventure.



BEST FOR

Schools wanting a substantial Southern African expedition that balances flagship wildlife with research, cultural connection and an adaptable adventure phase.



KRUGER NP
SOUTH AFRICA



KRUGER, MBULUZI & BLYDE EXPLORER

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 from the UK to Johannesburg. Pre-departure sessions have introduced the route, responsible travel and the way students will rotate leadership roles across the expedition. The journey begins with a question that will run through every phase: how do wildlife, protected landscapes and neighbouring communities influence one another across national borders?

Day 2

Arrive in Johannesburg

Meet the local team, transfer to accommodation and settle into South Africa at an unhurried pace. A welcome briefing covers health, security, group routines and the practical shape of the journey. If time and energy allow, a short guided orientation begins placing Johannesburg within the wider social and historical context of the countries and communities the group will encounter.

Day 3

Johannesburg to Kruger & SSLI

Travel north-east through changing landscapes towards Skukuza. A confirmed food-security or agricultural learning visit can be included en route, helping students consider sustainability beyond protected areas. On arrival at SSLI, complete the campus and park briefings, organise dormitory spaces and begin listening to the bush. A first game drive may introduce the group to the scale and pace of Kruger.

Day 4

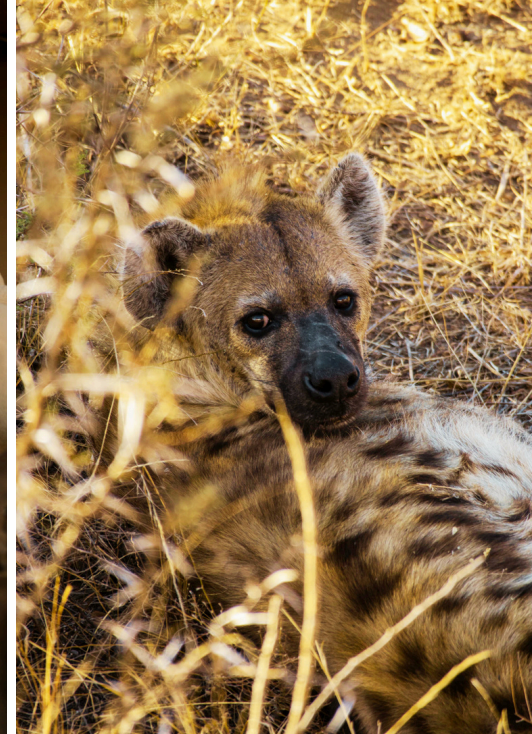
Wildlife, Ecology & Observation

Begin early on a guided game drive, learning to read habitat and behaviour rather than simply count species. Back at SSLI, workshops connect sightings to savannah ecology, food webs and the management of a vast protected landscape. A bush walk or field activity brings attention down to tracks, plants, insects and signs, revealing how much of the ecosystem is missed when attention stays only on large animals.

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

Maps, compass work and a student-led planning exercise turn movement through Kruger into a leadership lesson. With the guide holding the safety framework, students help interpret routes, manage timing and communicate decisions. A later game drive provides another chance to apply field knowledge, while reflection explores the difference between navigating towards a destination and finding a thoughtful way through uncertainty.

Day 7

Wilderness Experience & Research Debrief

Prepare for a supervised wilderness sleep-out or equivalent bush challenge. Students contribute to equipment checks, camp routines and a traditional braai before experiencing the park after dark. The following debrief connects practical resilience with the conservation learning already completed. If conditions prevent a sleep-out, an approved alternative keeps the focus on night ecology, bush skills and shared responsibility.

Day 8

Kruger to eSwatini

Say goodbye to SSLI and travel south towards the eSwatini border and Mbuluzi Game Reserve. Border formalities and the changing landscape make this a meaningful transition day. At the Savanna Research Centre, settle into simple accommodation beside the Mbuluzi River, meet the local team and begin comparing the research questions of this reserve with those explored in Kruger.

Day 9

Mbuluzi Biodiversity Research

Join conservation learning focused on the wider savannah system, including the birds, reptiles, small mammals, predators, vegetation and ungulates that sustain it. Activities may include camera-trap work, field observation or processing existing data. The smaller reserve and research-centre setting allow students to look closely at how protected areas, commercial land and rural communities meet within the Lubombo landscape.



Day 10

Shewula: Conservation & Community

Travel to Shewula on the Lubombo Plateau for a day shaped with local hosts. Students may share suitable Lessons in Conservation material with younger learners, take part in cultural exchange and enjoy a local lunch overlooking the lowveld. The emphasis is on preparation, listening and mutual respect. The exact education activity is agreed in advance so that it is useful, safeguarded and grounded in the priorities of the community.

Day 11

Eswatini Wilderness & Leadership

A guided wilderness trek or field journey draws together the Eswatini phase. Students take increased responsibility for pace, group care and decision-making while guides interpret the landscape and its conservation pressures. Back at the research centre or community camp, the group reviews camera-trap findings, discusses what has changed in its understanding and prepares to cross back into South Africa.

Day 12

Eswatini to the Blyde Escarpment

Cross the border and travel towards the Greater Drakensberg escarpment. The route climbs from warmer lowveld into a greener, higher landscape of forest, waterfalls and deep valleys. After settling into an approved trail base, complete a hiking briefing and take a shorter orientation walk or viewpoint visit. Weather and visibility will shape the exact programme.

Day 13

Blyde Canyon Adventure

Set out on a guided day trek into the canyon. The route will use a suitable section around the Blyde River Canyon and Panorama Route, with time to study geology, water, vegetation and the dramatic meeting of plateau and lowveld. Students manage pace, support one another and finish the expedition's active phase with a shared physical achievement.

Day 14

Return to Johannesburg & Depart

Travel to Johannesburg for the flight home, using the journey to consolidate learning from three distinct landscapes. Students leave with memories of Kruger's scale, Mbuluzi's close fieldwork, Shewula's community perspective and the Blyde escarpment underfoot. Flight timing may require a final Johannesburg night, which will be shown clearly in the school-specific itinerary.



SHAPE YOUR Adventure

ADD THE CANYON

BLYDE DAY HIKE

One strong day on foot

Keep the 14-day shape and add one substantial guided Blyde walk from a comfortable lodge base, supported by shorter Panorama Route stops. This gives mixed-experience groups a clear physical goal without committing the programme to a multi-day trail.



ADD MORE CANYON

BLYDE TREKKING

Make the canyon the challenge

Replace the day-hike with a two- or three-day Blyde trek. This makes the escarpment a significant expedition phase, increasing physical challenge and reducing time available for Johannesburg or Eswatini.



STAY LONGER

ESWATINI

Deepen research and connection

Replace Blyde with an additional field day, a second community exchange or a slower wilderness phase around Mbuluzi and Shewula. This deepens relationships, gives learning more time and reduces the number of one-night stops.

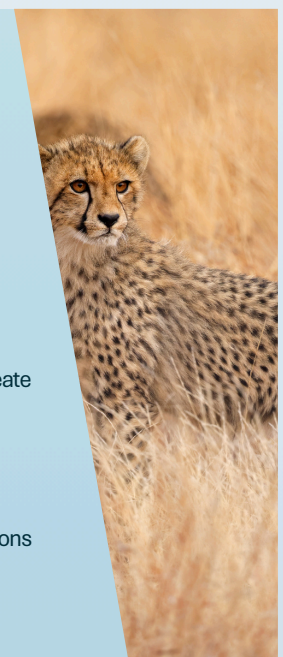


12 DAYS

KEEP THE CORE

Kruger and eSwatini only

Remove the Blyde module and reduce Johannesburg time to create a focused Kruger and eSwatini journey. This shortens the programme while protecting its central wildlife, research and community story, with fewer regions and less repacking.



NOT SURE WHICH WORKS BEST?

That's where we come in. We'll help shape the right adventure for your team.



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