

South Africa Kruger, Eswatini & Sodwana Bay

WILDLIFE, COMMUNITY & INDIAN
OCEAN ADVENTURE



BOLDER 

Adventure

HIGHLIGHTS



KRUGER WILDLIFE & SSLI

Live and learn inside Kruger through game drives, ecological fieldwork, student leadership, wayfinding and a possible supervised wilderness sleep-out.



ESWATINI CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY

Explore biodiversity at Mbuluzi's Savanna Research Centre and take part in an exchange at Shewula shaped around local hosts and priorities.



SODWANA COASTAL ADVENTURE

Discover the beaches, dunes, coastal forest and marine biodiversity of Sodwana Bay through guided, shore-based exploration and conservation learning.



THREE LANDSCAPES, ONE EXPEDITION

Move from vast national park to intimate reserve and community setting, then finish beside the Indian Ocean with a strong sense of progression and contrast.



Destination

SNAPSHOT



LANDSCAPE

Kruger bushveld and river systems, the Lubombo savannah of north-eastern Eswatini, then Sodwana's forested dunes, sandy beaches and Indian Ocean horizon.



CULTURE

South African and emaSwati perspectives, research-centre life, community hosts, local food and the relationship between protected landscapes and the people who live around them.



CHALLENGE LEVEL

South African and emaSwati perspectives, research-centre life, community hosts, local food and the relationship between protected landscapes and the people who live around them.



ACCOMMODATION

A Johannesburg hotel or guesthouse, dormitory-style accommodation at SSLI, simple research-centre or community accommodation in Eswatini, and a group lodge or camp near Sodwana Bay.



CLIMATE

Conditions change across bushveld, Lubombo and coast. Heat, cool mornings, rain, wind, surf and strong sun can all influence the daily plan.



TRAVEL

Substantial private road travel from Johannesburg to Kruger, across the Eswatini border and onward to Sodwana Bay, followed by a long return journey. The route is designed with realistic transition days.



ATMOSPHERE

Expansive and adventurous: dawn wildlife encounters, fieldwork and community connection followed by dune forest, open beach and the slower rhythm of the Indian Ocean.



BEST FOR

Schools seeking a substantial Southern African adventure that combines flagship wildlife, practical conservation, cultural connection and a memorable coastal finale.

SOUTH AFRICA





KRUGER, ESWATINI & SODWANA BAY EXPLORER

18 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. The expedition begins with three very different horizons ahead: the bushveld of Kruger, the Lubombo landscapes of Eswatini and the Indian Ocean at Sodwana Bay.

Day 2

Arrive in Johannesburg

Meet the South African team and transfer to a comfortable hotel or guesthouse. Time to rest, eat well and settle into the journey creates a calm start before the group heads into the Lowveld.

Day 3

Johannesburg to Kruger & SSLI

Travel north-east as the city gives way to farmland, escarpment and bushveld. Arrive at the Skukuza Science Leadership Initiative campus inside Kruger, settle into the dormitory base and take a first sunset game drive if timings and conditions allow.

Day 4

Wildlife, Ecology & Observation

Begin early on a guided game drive, learning to read behaviour, habitat, tracks and relationships rather than simply count species. Back at SSLI, ecology sessions and a guided field activity reveal the smaller signs and systems that hold the landscape together.

Day 5

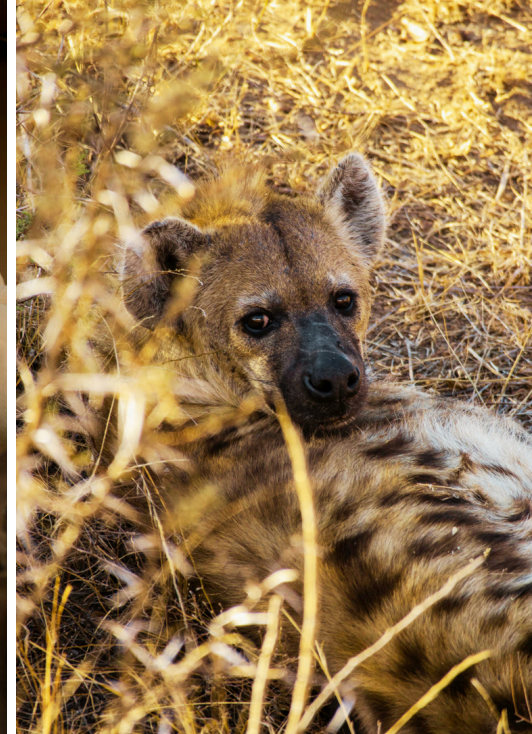
Conservation Fieldwork

Work in teams on an approved research activity such as camera-trap deployment, species monitoring or habitat observation. Students practise patient attention and accurate recording, discovering how repeated evidence can help conservation teams understand change across a vast protected area.

Day 6

Wayfinding & Student Leadership

Use maps, compass skills and route interpretation to move from passive passenger to active participant. With professionals maintaining the safety framework, student leaders help brief the day, interpret the landscape and manage group decisions. Reflection connects practical navigation with judgement and self-awareness.





Day 7

Wilderness Sleep-out

Prepare for an incredible and privileged experience! Your wilderness night in the reserve, focused on bush skills and night ecology. You'll check equipment, contribute to camp routines and share a traditional braai before listening to the sounds of the park after dark. The experience is managed carefully but still asks the group to step beyond most people's comfort.

Day 8

Safari & Kruger Reflection

Retrieve and review field data, identify patterns and consider what we've learned. A final student-led safari or interpretation exercise brings together observation, wayfinding and communication. The evening reflection closes the Kruger chapter and prepares the team for another conservation research landscape across the border.

Day 9

Kruger to Eswatini

Travel south and cross into Eswatini. At Mbuluzi Game Reserve, settle into the Savanna Research Centre beside the river, meet the ecological team and compare the reserve's setting with Kruger. Border processes and the environmental transition make this an important and interesting journey.

Day 10

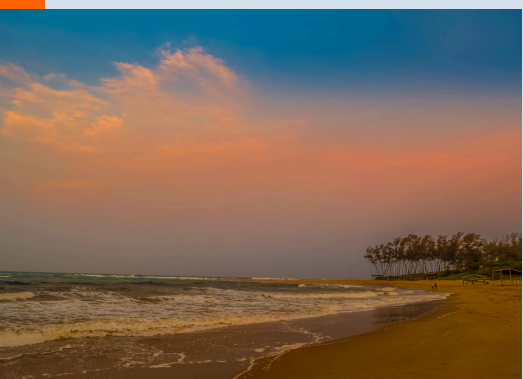
Mbuluzi Savannah Research

Explore biodiversity beyond the headline species. Depending on the live programme, students may use camera traps, observe birds, reptiles or small mammals, study vegetation or process existing data. The session examines how protected areas, agriculture and rural communities interact within the Lubombo conservation landscape.

Day 11

Shewula Community Exchange

Travel to the Lubombo Plateau for a day agreed with local hosts. Students may share suitable Lessons in Conservation activities with younger learners, join cultural exchange and enjoy a local lunch. Preparation and listening matter more than arriving with predetermined solutions, and all activity follows a sensible safeguarding approach and local priorities.



Day 12

Eswatini Wilderness & Leadership

Complete the Eswatini phase with a guided trek or field journey. Students take increased responsibility for pace, group care and decisions while local guides help them interpret the landscape. Back at camp, review research findings and reflect on how community, education and conservation connect.

Day 13

Eswatini to Sodwana Bay Cross back into South Africa and continue east to the Maputaland coast. Bush and savannah give way to coastal forest, high dunes and the warm Indian Ocean. Settle into your Sodwana base, and complete site, beach and coastal-safety briefings before a first walk in the softer evening light.

Day 14

Coastal Forest, Dunes & Indian Ocean

Wake to a very different rhythm from the bush, and begin exploring Sodwana's coastal setting on foot. Discover the meeting point of dune forest, sandy shoreline and ocean, examining how wind, waves, vegetation and wildlife shape the landscape. The pace is more relaxed and leaves time to absorb the colour, space and atmosphere of the Maputaland coast.

Day 15

Reef Ecology & Marine Biodiversity

Continue exploring the living story of Sodwana's offshore reefs through guided marine-ecology learning, visual resources and shoreline observation. You'll investigate coral systems, food webs, turtles, fish, sharks, rays and seasonal ocean visitors. The day links biodiversity with the protected status of iSimangaliso and asks how people can experience a fragile coast responsibly.

Day 16

Coastal Conservation in Action

Take part in a shore-based conservation activity such as a beach survey, litter clear, dune-vegetation study - or another task agreed with the local team. Students collect evidence, consider the pressures created by tourism and waste, and compare coastal management with the protected-landscape questions first explored in Kruger and Eswatini.



Day 17

Sodwana to Johannesburg

Leave the coast for the long road journey back to Johannesburg. The changing scenery becomes a final cross-section through the expedition, with time to connect three ecosystems and recognise how much the group has learned to notice along the way.

Day 18

Depart Johannesburg

Transfer to the airport for the journey home. Students leave with memories of wildlife at dawn, shared fieldwork, Eswatini's Lubombo landscapes and the open beaches of Sodwana Bay - three distinct chapters held together by curiosity, responsibility and adventure.





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



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DIFFERENTLY**



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