



Your Sample Itinerary



HIPPO LAKES

Trip Summary

Day 1

Warmest welcome to your Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari

Flight To Johannesburg

Check in at your selected Hotel

Day 2

Transfer from The Intercontinental to the African Elephant Interaction

African Elephant Interaction

Transfer from the African Elephant Interaction to Hippo Lakes

Lunch

4:00 PM Check in at Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari Lodge

Dinner

Day 3

Morning Game Drive

Breakfast

Free Time

Lunch

4:00 PM Afternoon Game Drive

6:00 PM The Bush Braai

8:00 PM Nighttime Game Drive

Day 4

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Big Game Drive

Free Time

Dinner

Day 5

Morning Game Drive or Fishing

Breakfast

1:00 PM Big Game Drive and packed lunch

Dinner

Day 6

Bush Walk

Breakfast

Free Time

Lunch

South African Sundowner Game Drive

Fireside Dinner

Day 7

Breakfast

Check out Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari Lodge

10:00 AM

Transfer Back to OR Tambo International Airport (JNB)

Flight out of OR Tambo International Airport

Information & Documents



Welkom to Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari Lodge

Dear Guests,

Hippo Lakes brings you an exceptional luxury safari experience. Nestled along the edge of a beautiful lake in the breathtaking Waterberg region, our lodge is the perfect setting for a memorable adventure. Here, you'll encounter a rich variety of wildlife, birds, and lush plant life—all within a malaria-free UNESCO World Nature Site.

As you prepare for your unforgettable journey with us, we excited to share your day-to-day itinerary and some valuable insights to enhance your experience. To ensure a seamless and enjoyable trip, please review the attached document which includes:

- WhatsApp link
- Weather updates
- Packing suggestions
- Entry requirements
- Health and safety recommendations, and more

Travel Insurance While travel protection is **not** included with your stay at Hippo Lakes Safari Lodge, we highly recommend securing comprehensive travel insurance. This will ensure coverage for cancellations, trip interruptions, baggage claims, and medical needs while traveling overseas. Recommended Travel Insurance Providers:

- [World Nomads](#)
- [Allianz Travel Insurance](#)
- [Travel Guard](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to your concierge.

Cheers,

Concierge Team

Hippo Lakes Luxury African Safari Lodge
+1 (404) 602-9177 (US Eastern Time Zone)
bookings@hippolakes.co.za

Day 1



Warmest welcome to your Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari

We are thrilled that you have selected Hippo Lakes and are excited to share our African wilderness with you. Our dedicated team is here to ensure that your stay is nothing short of extraordinary.... providing you with memories and adventures to treasure long after you return home.

Your itinerary provides a great feel for what you can expect. We have attached **'Helpful Information'** along the way to assist you with your planning for your African Safari. **Please note that your Rangers at Hippo Lakes may need to adjust varying activity times and logistics, due to weather, to ensure a wonderful experience.**

Our primary mode of communication will be with [WhatsApp](#) and you can download on your phone before you travel. We will use this platform to communicate during with you. It will also be the depository for everyone to share photos!

Once you have filled out the [Logistics Form](#), your host, Shinade, will email you the **"Welkom to South Africa"** form that will provide any final details for your trip within 3 days before your arrival.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your concierge.

Cheers!

The Hippo Lakes Team



Flight To Johannesburg

When booking your flights to Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari Lodge, we recommend planning to arrive at OR Tambo International Airport (JNB) in Johannesburg by Saturday evening before your safari adventure. This will help ensure a smooth and stress-free journey!



Check in at your selected Hotel

We strongly recommend staying at one of the two hotels listed below. You will enjoy the convenience of being right at the airport, with no need for a transfer—everything is within walking distance!

[InterContinental OR Tambo Hotel \(5-star\)](#)

This 5-star hotel is conveniently connected to JNB Airport. When you walk into the airport Arrivals Hall, the hotel is just outside across a one-way street (there will be signs).

[City Lodge OR Tambo \(3-star\)](#)

An alternative option is the City Lodge OR Tambo, also located inside the airport. Upon arrival:

Exit the airport terminals and cross the pedestrian bridge.

Turn left and walk toward the City Lodge Hotel

- 1) Go up the elevator or escalator to level 2 in the airport.
- 2) There will be signs directing you to the City Lodge. You will walk down a long hall until you reach elevators.
- 3) Press the button to go to Level H which will take you to the lobby of the City Lodge OR Tambo.

If you choose to stay at the City Lodge OR Tambo, you will need to walk to the front doors of the InterContinental OR Tambo for pickup on Sunday morning.

Remember that anyone in uniform at the airport would be glad to show you the way. Airport staff are very friendly!

Day 2



DEPARTURE - 2 hr - South Africa Standard Time

Transfer from The Intercontinental to the African Elephant Interaction

PRICE

\$200.00 USD

Today, the adventure begins! Your drivers will meet you at the *front doors of the InterContinental OR Tambo* at **9:00 AM**.*.

For seamless communications, your [WhatsApp](#) link is now your primary contact hub for communications from your rangers, drivers and fellow guests.

As you drive toward the African Elephant Interaction, we will provide a restroom break and the opportunity to purchase snacks and beverages as well as trying Biltong, a South African form of "beef jerky". Your driver would be happy to advise you on which kind to get.

**Occasionally this pickup time will be changed to 10:00 am.*

****Per person round trip transfer - (JNB) OR Tambo to Hippo Lakes**



- 2 hr - South Africa Standard Time

African Elephant Interaction

PRICE

\$180.00 USD

We have now arrived at the African Elephant Interaction!*

More than just a "touch and feed" experience, This comprehensive interaction aims for each guest to witness acutely, the intellect and warmth of these gentle giants! Photo opportunities abound as you interact with these amazing animals.

If this experience is not your cup of tea, enjoy browsing the gift shop for curio items. Also, drinks and ice cream will be available to have as you watch the elephants and other game from the viewing patio.

***Prices are per person**

This activity is subject to favorable weather. Also, on occasion this experience is closed for elephant research and study.



DEPARTURE - 2 hr 30 min - South Africa Standard Time

Transfer from the African Elephant Interaction to Hippo Lakes

You're on your way to Hippo Lakes! Sit back, relax, and take in the beautiful scenery. We can't wait to greet you!



Lunch

We will provide a light South African lunch before continuing our journey to Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari Lodge.



CHECK-IN 4:00 PM - South Africa Standard Time

Check in at Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari Lodge

Welkom to Hippo Lakes!

We're thrilled to have you join us for what promises to be an unforgettable adventure! As you arrive, take a moment to unwind and savor a light refreshment while soaking in the stunning beauty of the wild around you.

At Hippo Lakes, we believe you deserve personal service that truly reflects the splendor of our luxury tents. Our guests often rave about our friendly, attentive team, consistently earning top marks for creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. We're here to ensure you feel special and experience the best of African hospitality.

Your safety is our top priority. You can relax knowing that your luxury tent and the rockpool Lapa are thoughtfully designed, elevated on solid decks, keeping you safely above any curious wildlife. Our lodge areas are enclosed, allowing you to explore the breathtaking landscape at your leisure. For those seeking a bit more adventure, our experienced rangers are here should your desire optional hikes outside the safe zone.

Now is your time to unpack, settle in, and enjoy your beautiful accommodations. Our staff will keep you informed about the evening's activities, including drinks and dinner. We can't wait to share this incredible experience with you!



Dinner

Welcome to your first South African dinner as fellow travelers experiencing this wonderful safari adventure together. Come enjoy a glass of wine or a beer and get to know your companions. Bon Appetit!

Note that if you have specific dietary needs, the chef will be confirming the meal with you before serving.

Day 3



Morning Game Drive

Good morning! We hope you had a restful night and enjoyed the soothing sounds of our resident wildlife.

Daily game drives are led 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.

Animal species roaming our area include hippo, buffalo, wildebeest, leopard, giraffe, kudu, sable, eland, nyala, hyaena and wild dog. You also have the option to go on Big Game Drives to encounter lion and elephant.

The greater Waterberg is a rhino haven and we proudly support anti-poaching initiatives to keep this magnificent species viable.

Join us at Hippo Lakes Lodge for a warm cup of coffee or tea before your first morning game drive! Typically starting at 7:00 - 7:30 AM, these drives last about 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on the weather and what we see. Your ranger will keep you updated on what to expect!

We can't wait to get started!



Breakfast

Breakfast will be served at the Hippo Lakes Lodge. Bring your appetite!!



Free Time

During the unscheduled hours of the day, you can enjoy taking a dip in the rock pool, fishing off the Hippo Lakes deck, reading a book with the sounds of hippos and birds in the background, or going for a walk/hike in the reserve. As long as you don't jump over any gates or take a dip in the lake, you'll be safe!



Lunch

A light lunch will be served at the Hippo Lakes Lodge (typically around 1:00 pm)



4:00 PM -

Afternoon Game Drive

You will be heading out on this afternoon game drive that will lead you into our Bush Braai experience, and followed by the Evening Game Drive, so come prepared to enjoy the afternoon and evening.



6:00 PM -

The Bush Braai

PRICE

\$65.00 USD

One of the many highlights is our '**Bush Braai**' (BBQ) dinner, which some would say is the equivalent to a "Wilderness BBQ." Our chefs will prepare you an unforgettable traditional South African meal cooked over hardwood coals. Included are two traditional South African liqueurs for each guest to enjoy.* The Bush Braai will directly follow this evening's game drive.

Your dinner ambiance includes "Bush Babies" in the trees, the grunts of our hippos and the crackling of the fire. A wonderful opportunity for you to connect with your fellow travelers, taste the incredible African cuisine and listen to the sounds of the African night under the canopy of stars and planets breathtakingly visible in the Southern hemisphere.

If you choose to opt out of this experience, you can enjoy dinner at the Hippo Lakes Lodge.

***Prices are per person**

**The legal drinking age in South Africa is 18 years old.*



8:00 PM -

Nighttime Game Drive

This is an opportunity to see nocturnal species. Keep an eye out for our hippo, hare, armadillo, African wildcat, African civet, caracals, bush-babies, small-spotted genet and of course our elusive leopards.

Night game drives

The best way to scan the bush using a flashlight is to slowly scan horizontally across the horizon line looking *through* the bush. What you are looking for is the reflection of eyes back at you! However, be careful...if you shine a light in the eyes of plains game they are temporarily blinded and become vulnerable to predators. Here are some eye colors to look out for:

African civet: red or brown

Armadillo: blue, brown, and green

Cape Hare: red or brown

Impala: red or brown

Wildebeest: brown

Bush baby: brown or yellow

Hippo: red

Serval: amber

Caracal: green or copper

African Wild Cat: green or copper

Leopard: green or copper

**8:00 AM -****Breakfast**

Savor a delicious breakfast while sharing stories and photos of yesterday mornings game drive.

**9:00 AM -****Big Game Drive**

PRICE

\$150.00 USD

This excursion takes you to one of the Waterberg's famous 55,000 to 85,000 acre big game conservancies, giving you an opportunity to see varying topography and wildlife in the Waterberg (specifically lions and elephants!).

Note that the group typically departs at 9:00am and the drive time is 1.5 hours to the conservancy (lunch is packed). If you'd like to opt out of this experience, your ranger will take you on a South African Sundowner game drive instead on the Hippo Lakes Reserve.

***Prices are per person**

**Free Time**

Cast a line in the lake, relax on your deck, take a walk, enjoy new friends. Take advantage of the time to catch up on photos and post for others to enjoy.

**Dinner**

After a full day of adventure, sit back and relax by the fire at the Hippo Lakes Lodge for drinks and dinner.

Day 5**Morning Game Drive or Fishing**

Guests will have the option of enjoying a relaxed morning of fishing or joining for another morning game drive, exploring Hippo Lakes.

**Breakfast**

Enjoy, coffee, tea or a cappuccino with breakfast back at the Hippo Lakes Lodge.

**1:00 PM -****Big Game Drive and packed lunch**

PRICE

\$150.00 USD

You will have the option to go on another Big Game Drive at a neighboring reserve. Most weeks the group departs at 1:00 pm with a packed lunch. The drive time to this experience is also 1.5 hours. If you would rather opt out, there will also be the option of an afternoon game drive on the Hippo Lakes Reserve.

***Price is per person**

**Dinner**

Dinner will be served at the Hippo Lakes Lodge after getting back from the Big Game Drive. As you will likely enjoy a game drive that creeps into the evening, this will be a late dinner (7:30pm or 8:00pm).

Day 6**Bush Walk**

After seeing the animals from a game viewer, you are now ready to step into the bush and get a closer look. This is also a chance to experience the landscape, plants, and smaller creatures from a new perspective.*

Your rangers will be with you the whole time to give insights and answer any questions you may have.

There will also be the option of a game drive if you prefer.

**The age limit for this experience is 15 years old. For guests 15 years or older, please note that this experience involves walking long distances at a fast pace without talking. Therefore, we ask that guests who have walking difficulty, endurance challenges or health risks to please stay safe and enjoy the game drive instead.*



Breakfast

Following your morning Bush Walk, breakfast is served at the Hippo Lakes Lodge.



Free Time

Enjoy your time as you wish. Relaxing, reflecting, reading, or taking a quick nap, it is up to you how you choose to fill your time.



Lunch

Enjoy Lunch at the Hippo Lakes Lodge.



South African Sundowner Game Drive

Gaze at the vista before you from Tabletop Mountain as you enjoy beverages and snacks while the sun sets on another fabulous day. This is a unique experience to scan the horizon from the deck of Tabletop and enjoy a dusk game drive on the way back to the Lodge.



Fireside Dinner

What a perfect way to conclude your adventure at Hippo Lakes! Join us for a special meal around the fire at the lodge, where you can savor delicious food, bask in the warmth of the flames, and share the incredible stories and memories from your week.

Day 7



Breakfast

Your bags are packed and it is time to enjoy breakfast with your fellow travelers and friends. Breakfast will be served at the Hippo Lakes Lodge.



Check out Hippo Lakes Luxury Safari Lodge

We have loved hosting you! As you depart our African haven, we thank you for sharing your time with us.

After breakfast you will have time to settle your account which will include the opportunity to show your appreciation for our staff, rangers, drivers, chefs, housekeepers and wait staff. (*see attachment*)

We wish you safe travels and hope that our paths will cross again in the future.

Warmly,

The Hippo Lakes Team



DEPARTURE 10:00 AM - 3 hr 30 min - South Africa Standard Time

Transfer Back to OR Tambo International Airport (JNB)

Your transfer will be a smooth drive straight to the same airport (JNB). We'll make a stop along the way for restroom breaks and snacks to keep everyone comfortable.

Please keep in mind that while the drive typically takes about 3 hours and 30 minutes, traffic can occasionally extend the journey. For this reason, we kindly ask guests to book flights departing at 4:00 PM. Safe travels!



Flight out of OR Tambo International Airport

Your Hippo Lakes journey may be ending, but we hope that the impact of this incredible experience will stay with you forever. Wishing you safe travels home and we look forward to hosting you again.

Cheers,

Concierge Team

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bookings@hippolakes.co.za