

SleepOver

KRUGER SOUTH TOUR SAFARI GUIDE

SleepOver Kruger Park: Open Gate > SleepOver Kruger Park: Paul Kruger Gate > SleepOver Kruger Park: Malelane Gate

Embark on a wildlife-rich journey through the central and southern regions of the Kruger National Park. This self-drive safari route transitions from the predator-dense plains of Satara to the riverine ecosystems of Skukuza and the wildlife-heavy Crocodile River region near Malelane.

This guide outlines distances, drive times, suggested routes, rest stops, and key wildlife hotspots along the way.

Route Overview:

- **Starting Point:** SleepOver Kruger Park: Orpen Gate (Central Kruger Region)
- **Midway Stop:** SleepOver Kruger Park: Paul Kruger Gate
- **Final Stop:** SleepOver Kruger Park: Malelane Gate

Total Estimated Distance: ± 260 km - 300 km

Inside Park Over 2 Days

Estimated Total Drive Time: ± 6 - 8 Hours

Excluding Wildlife Sightings & Rest Stops

Gate Opening Times: 05:30 - 06:00 (Season Dependent)

Gate Closing Times: 17:30 - 18:30 (Season Dependent)

Speed Limits: 50 km/h Tar Roads
40 km/h Gravel Roads

WILDLIFE HOTSPOTS ALONG ROUTE:

- **H7:** Orpen Gate > Satara Lions, Cheetahs, Large Plains Game
- **H1-3** Satara > Tshokwane Predator Corridor
- **H4-1** Skukuza > Lower Sabie Leopard, Hippo, Crocodile
- **H3** Lower Sabie > Malelane Rhino Territory

SUGGESTED TIMING & TIPS:

- Start Early (05:30 – 07:00) for Best Wildlife Activity
- Allow Extra Time for Sightings & Photography
- Fuel Available at Satara & Skukuza
- Cell Signal Limited inside Park (Download Offline Maps)
- Carry Water, Snacks, Sunscreen & Binoculars

EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW:

This Kruger South route offers a gradual transition from open predator-rich grasslands to lush river ecosystems, and finally to rhino-dense southern plains.

It is ideal for travellers wishing to experience multiple ecological zones within one seamless safari journey, while enjoying comfortable stays at SleepOver properties.

SUGGESTED DRIVING PLAN

Day 2: Orpen Gate > Paul Kruger Gate

Section 1: Orpen Gate > Satara Rest Camp

Distance: ± 48 km

Drive Time: ± 1 Hour

Route: H7 East

Rest Stop: Satara Rest Camp (Restaurant, Shop, Restrooms & Fuel)

Highlights:

- Open Savannah Grasslands
- Excellent Lion Territory
- Buffalo Herds
- Cheetah Sightings
- Large Zebra & Wildebeest Concentrations

Section 2: Satara > Tshokwane Picnic Site

Distance: ± 50 km

Drive Time: ± 1½ Hours

Route: H1-3 South

Rest Stop: Tshokwane Picnic Site (Kiosk, Restrooms & Shaded Seating)

Highlights:

- High Predator Activity Corridor
- Elephants Herds Common
- Occasional Leopard Sightings Along Drainage Lines

Section 3: Tshokwane > Skukuza > Paul Kruger Gate

Distance: ± 65 km

Drive Time: ± 1½ - 2 Hours

Route: H1-2 South

Rest Stop: Skukuza Rest Camp (Restaurant, Shop, ATM, Fuel)

Highlights:

- Sabie River Crossings
- Dense Riverine Bushveld
- Hippos & Crocodiles
- High Leopard Activity

Exit: Via Paul Kruger Gate & Proceed to SleepOver Kruger Park: Paul Kruger Gate

Day 3: Paul Kruger Gate > Malelane (Southern Region)

Section 4: Paul Kruger Gate > Lower Sabie Region

Distance: ± 45 km

Drive Time: ± 1½ Hours

Route: H4-1 (River Road, Highly Recommended)

Highlights:

- One of Kruger's Most Wildlife-Dense Routes
- Big 5 Territory
- Excellent Rhino, Elephant & Predator Sightings

Section 5: Lower Sabie > Afsaal Picnic Site

Distance: ± 40 km

Drive Time: ± 1 Hour

Route: H3 West

Rest Stop: Afsaal Picnic Site (Kiosk, Restrooms & Braai Facilities)

Highlights:

- Mixed Woodland
- Rhino Territory
- Frequent Lion Sightings

Section 6: Afsaal > Malelane Gate

Distance: ± 35 km

Drive Time: ± 1 Hour

Route: H3 West

Highlights:

- Mixed Woodland
- Rhino Territory
- Frequent Lion Sightings

Exit: Via Malelane Gate & Proceed to SleepOver Malelane Gate