



KRUGER SOUTH TOUR

SAFARI GUIDE



SleepOver Orpen Gate

SleepOver Kruger Gate

SleepOver 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 a suggested self-drive itinerary, including distances, drive times, routes, rest stops, and key wildlife hotspots along the way. If you're looking for more of a laid-back experience, we offer guided drives through our SleepOver Safaris.

Route Overview

Starting Point: SleepOver Orpen Gate (Central Kruger Region)

Midway Stop: SleepOver Kruger Gate

Final Stop: SleepOver 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)

Conservation Fees:	Nationality	Nov 2025 - Oct 2026	Nov 2026 Onward
	SA Citizens & Residents	R134 for Adults (12+)	R140 for Adults
		R67 for Children(2–11)	R70 for Children
	SADC Nationals	R275 for Adults	R296 for Adults
		R137 for Children	R147 for Children
	International	R602 for Adults	R692 for Adults
		R300 for Children	R345 for Children

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	Kruger Gate > 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
- H-numbers are official Kruger road names – you'll see matching signage at junctions to help you find your way

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.

SAFARI CONDUCT:

- Stay in the vehicle except at designated rest camps and picnic areas. Wild animals see your car as one large object, so breaking from the group can alarm them.

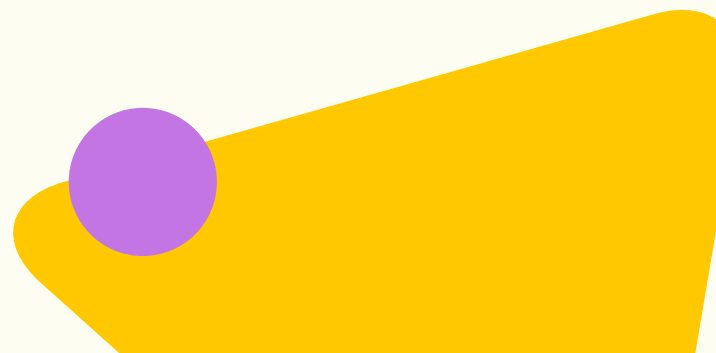
- Stay on the designated path. Driving off-road may disturb animals and damage plants.

- Windows up and whisper around predators. Loud voices and sudden movements may startle wild animals.

- Don't feed the animals, even the non-threatening ones. Feeding animals creates dangerous habits.

- Leave everything as you found it. 'No littering' goes without saying, but even something as simple as stacking stones can harm the bugs, frogs, and lizards that live there.

- Follow the speed limits to avoid disturbing or harming the animals. You'll enjoy the sights more when you're driving slow enough to see them.



SUGGESTED DRIVING PLAN

DAY 1: ARRIVAL AT SLEEPOVER ORPEN GATE

Check-in: By 14:00

Stay: SleepOver Orpen Gate

Highlights:

- Settle in before your Kruger adventure begins
- Enjoy a relaxed evening without rushing to the gate
- Grab-&-Go Breakfast available for an early safari start
- Dinner at the on-site restaurant
- Secure parking and comfortable accommodation

Rather than trying to reach the Kruger after a long day on the road, arrive at SleepOver Orpen Gate the day before. You'll have time to unwind, enjoy dinner, and get a good night's sleep before heading into the Park. Order a Grab-&-Go Breakfast the evening before so you're ready to leave early and make the most of the morning game viewing.

DAY 2: ORPEN GATE > 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 > 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 Kruger Gate & Proceed to SleepOver Kruger Gate

DAY 3: KRUGER GATE > LOWER SABIE REGION (SOUTHERN REGION)

SECTION 4:

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

DAY 4: DEPARTURE FROM MALELANE GATE

Check-in: By 10:00

Breakfast: Enjoy breakfast at the on-site restaurant before you leave

Highlights:

- Relaxed morning before the journey home
- Fresh breakfast on-site
- Easy access to the N4 and surrounding routes
- A comfortable end to your Kruger getaway

After a few unforgettable days in the Kruger, there's no need to rush straight onto the road. Enjoy breakfast at the on-site restaurant before checking out by 10:00, then begin your journey home well-rested and ready for the drive ahead.