



in partnership with



in support of



# 7 DAY SOUTPANSBERG Conservation & Community Tour

From Johannesburg to Johannesburg

2 Nights Homestay, 2 Nights Camping, 2 Nights Accommodated

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Limpopo, the Northernmost Province of South Africa, offers some of the most breathtaking, scenic and adventure filled unique wildlife experiences in the Southern Hemisphere.

Known for its beautiful wildlife reserves, strong traditions and cultures as well as some of the most unique biodiversity and biosphere reserves – Limpopo truly offers some of Southern Africa's most incredible hidden gems – The Soutpansberg!

On this tour we will be exploring the rich Venda culture and heritage of the local Makushu community and explore the Soutpansberg and Medike Nature Reserve with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. An immersive, experiential and educational conservation experience awaits the wildest of souls as we will partake in and contribute to some of the most rewarding conservation projects associated with the EWT and the Soutpansberg Protected Area.

### **INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS**

- Traditional African Homestays (TAHS-SA) – Makushu Homestay
- Medike Game Reserve – an Endangered Wildlife Trust Property
- Cheetah Tracking Experience (Rietvlei Nature Reserve)
- EWT Field Ranger/Officer for a Day Experience
- Carnivore Conservation Activity (Dinokeng)
- EWT Soutpansberg Protected Area
- EWT Scientist for a Day Experience
- Community Projects and Activities
- Conservation through Education
- Hike the Soutpansberg
- Wild Camping
- Stargazing

### **DAY 1: JHB – DINOKENG**

Departing from JOHANNESBURG at 08h00, we jump right into the adventure as the group will partake in a Cheetah Tracking Experience at Rietvlei Nature Reserve. Our activity here will shed some light on the EWT's Carnivore Conservation Program and will focus on the Cheetah Meta Population & Cheetah Range Extension Program that has had a huge amount of success throughout Southern and East Africa over the last decade.

After the tracking, we proceed to Dinokeng. Clients will enjoy a lunch on route and partake in another Carnivore Conservation Program/Activity/Experience in the afternoon. Our activity here will depend on the current needs of the field rangers and EWT Field Staff.

Tonight, our first night on tour will be spent in the Dinokeng Game Reserve.

*MEALS INCLUDED: DINNER (Lunch own expense)*

*DRIVING DISTANCE: 95 KM*

*ACCOMMODATION: Dinokeng*

*INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS/ACTIVITY:*

*- Rietvlei Cheetah Tracking Experience*

*- Rietvlei Nature Reserve*

- *Dinokeng Carnivore Conservation Project*
- *Dinokeng Game Reserve*

## **DAY 2: DINOKENG TO MAKUSHU**

Today, and after our breakfast, we proceed further north to Makushu. For the next two nights, we will experience a Traditional African Homestay in a Venda Community.

We follow the winding roads, scattered with majestic baobab trees, until we reach the village of Makushu.

Upon arrival we are met by the Homestay Mamas and Community guides whereby they will show and assist you to your accommodation in the village. We will enjoy our lunch and there will be a short briefing by the local guides to give you a run-down of what to expect over the next couple of nights. Although the group will need to split up at different accommodations, the group will take part in all the activities together.

Tonight we enjoy a local meal which the group helped to prepare. We listen to some stories and partake in the interactive dances around the campfire.

*MEALS INCLUDED: BREAKFAST AND DINNER (Lunch own expense)*

*DRIVING DISTANCE: 395 KM*

*ACCOMMODATION: Makushu Traditional African Homestay*

- *AM EWT Project activity*
- *Traditional African Homestay*
- *Community Life*
- *Community activities (cooking, singing and dances etc)*

## **DAY 3: MAKUSHU**

Today we wake up to the sounds of the community. We will spend the day exploring the village and taking part in some of the day-to-day community activities.

An early morning hike up the mountain (depending on the weather) with a spectacular view of the village and Nzhelele Nature Reserve and dam. Return for breakfast and refreshments at one of the meal hosts.

Today we will also cook, play games, do some walking, help make a cow dung floor, learn how to do some beading and experience the real day to day life within the community.

Lunch today is prepared by the mamas in the afternoon and dinner will be together as a group, but the exact program and timing for the rest of the day will depend on the rhythm of the community on that specific day.

Our last night in the community before we head out to the Soutpansberg in the morning.

*MEALS INCLUDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER*

*DRIVING DISTANCE: 0 KM*

*ACCOMMODATION: Makushu Traditional African Homestay*

*INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS/ACTIVITY:*

- *Beading*
- *AM Hike*
- *Community activities and upliftment*
- *Day in the life of the community*

#### **DAY 4: ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST – MEDIKE NATURE RESERVE**

After an easy morning in the community, we enjoy our breakfast after which we proceed to the EWT Soutpansberg Protected area and spend the next three nights in the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Property – Medike Nature Reserve. Here we will be helping, assisting and partaking in the day-to-day conservation activities and efforts of the EWT staff, field rangers and field scientists.

We stop for lunch at the local Protea Farm – The King Protea also being South Africa's National Flower and a symbol of a number of local sports teams and clubs (eg South Africa's national cricket team is also known as the Proteas)

After our lunch we proceed to our campsite in Medike – set between an amphitheatre of spectacular rock formations, scenic beauty and surrounding wildlife. Upon arrival we set up our camp for the next three nights.

Our first afternoon will be spent learning and orientating ourselves about the area and getting an insight into the work of the EWT in this area. We will also familiarize ourselves with the projects and programmes that the Endangered Wildlife Trust is actively conducting and managing in this Soutpansberg Protected Area.

We will do a short hike to one of the nearby viewpoints in the reserve for a sun downer before heading back to camp and cooking up a storm.

Tonight will be our first night camping wild under the stars.

*MEALS INCLUDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER*

*DRIVING DISTANCE: 85 KM*

*ACCOMMODATION: Medike Campsite*

*INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS/ACTIVITY:*

- *Makushu Morning activities*
- *Soutpansberg Protected Area*
- *Medike Game Reserve*
- *EWT Orientation of Medike and the SPA*
- *Sundowner viewpoint and camping under the stars*

#### **DAY 5: ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST – MEDIKE & SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA**

After our morning breakfast, we all gear up and get ready for the day out in the bush exploring the reserve and assisting and partaking where we can during a day in the life of a Ranger/Field Officer.

Today we hike in search of the protected Pepperbark Trees, we try and identify, spot and remove any snares we might encounter. We look for signs of poaching and assist the field



ranger in some of their daily duties such as road building, exotic species removal, species identification etc.

With lunch packed, we would like to enjoy the scenic cliffs and hiking routes on this spectacular property which will also allow us to get a better understanding of the tireless work that goes into protection, rewilding and sustaining an endangered area and its associated endemic species.

This will be an educational, immersive and experiential two days spent inside the reserve.

*MEALS INCLUDED: BREAKFAST, PACKED LUNCH AND DINNER*

*DISTANCE: 0KM DRIVING, +- 10-15KM WALKING / HIKING*

*ACCOMMODATION: Medike Campsite*

*INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS/ACTIVITY:*

- *Medike Game Reserve*
- *Soutpansberg Protected Area*
- *A day in the life of a EWT Field Ranger/Officer*
- *Snare spotting*
- *Anti poaching*
- *Pepper bark Tree Identification*
- *Data Capture*
- *Field Work*

## **DAY 6: ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST – MEDIKE & SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA**

Today we wake up to the sounds of the surrounding bush.

We enjoy an early morning rusk and coffee before we set out on foot.

Today is another amazing day spent out in the field exploring some new areas and partaking in our Field Scientist for a Day program. Clients will spot, replace and collect the data from the camera traps, we will collect data from species we come across, look for tracks and signs of animals as well as identify the species of fauna and flora that do occur on the reserve.

We will actively monitor the biodiversity on the reserve. We will hike in search of the camera traps throughout the reserve and replace the batteries where necessary, we will collect the data and sort through it back at base.

We enjoy a substantial brunch at camp with a little bit of siesta time or a bit of down time to experience nature. In the early afternoon we will set down the camp and pack the truck as we spend the night in the Medike Accommodation. A nice 9km hike takes us to the top of the mountain where our accommodation is located for the night.

Our last dinner on tour will be enjoyed as we talk about the amazing stories and experiences from our adventures during this tour.

*MEALS INCLUDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER*

*DISTANCE: 10-15 KM*

*ACCOMMODATION: Medike Accommodation*

*INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS/ACTIVITY:*

- Medike Game Reserve
- Soutpansberg Protected Area
- Species Identification
- Camera Traps reset and data collection
- Track and Signs identification
- Swim in the local pool (if weather permits)
- A night in Ficus House

### **DAY 7: MEDIKE TO JOHANNESBURG**

After a relaxed breakfast, we descend down the mountain to our truck in the gorge, where we begin our journey back to Johannesburg. We will drive the scenic route back to Johannesburg and also stop for an own expense lunch on route.

We aim to be back in Jhb in the late afternoon.

Our tour officially comes to an end upon our arrival in Johannesburg

*MEALS INCLUDED: BREAKFAST (Lunch own expense)*

*DISTANCE: 455 KM*

*ACCOMMODATION: POST NIGHT ACCOMMODATION (Own arrangements)*

*INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS/ACTIVITY:*

- Morning walk on Medike Game Reserve
- Scenic drive back to Jhb

### **Airport Drop-off:**

On the last day of the tour the truck will make a short stop at the Johannesburg airport (O R Tambo International) in order for guests that have evening flights to leave the tour.

Please note we cannot guarantee a specific time of arrival at the airport and will not take any responsibility for delays on the road.

Should guests need to fly back on the last day, the flights must be evening departures.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

This tour is a camping tour and a sleeping bag and pillow is required. Seasonal malaria precautions may be advisable and are locally obtainable. Game viewing on foot is difficult, so we also place importance on some of the smaller aspects of the bush. It can get very hot so suitable precautions against sunburn should be taken.

Our price includes all transport, food (as per the itinerary), coffee, tea, accommodation, walks, game drives, entry fees and permits, group equipment and a professional guide.

**YOUR TOUR PRICE ALSO INCLUDES A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST FOR FUTURE PROJECTS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS!**

The price does not include alcohol, bottled water and soft drinks, curios, tips and meals whilst in transit to and from Johannesburg. Before departure, clients will be required to enter

into an agreement pertaining to our booking conditions and general information. Clients are required to have their own comprehensive personal travel insurance which you can also obtain directly from our website.

At time of going to print the above itinerary was correct but we continually strive to offer our clients the best available tour options and as such we reserve the right to change aspects of the itinerary at our discretion. During the validity of the published itinerary conditions will change, roads are improved or deteriorate often opening up new routes, contracted camps and accommodation facilities change standards, optional activities become available or are discontinued, new border posts open and old ones become congested, etc. We are continuously monitoring all of the factors that make up a successful tour and as such will make amendments to the published itineraries if circumstances demand or if we believe that the change will enhance the tour.



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