

ROYAL RHINO EXPERIENCE



ROOTS & JOURNEYS
UNDER AFRICAN SKIES

THE ROYAL RHINO EXPERIENCE

3 NIGHTS IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

Eswatini is rated as one of the best places in the world to see both black and white rhinos in the wild. Here you have a real chance to see the rhinos in their natural habitat. You can choose to view them on foot, from a vehicle or a combination of the two. Both are different experiences.

Rhinos are under threat everywhere, and it is becoming more and more difficult to see these incredible beasts in the wild. Only a few countries have managed to protect their rhinos during the last surge in rhino poaching and one of them is Eswatini.

This adventure is hosted by Marie Dahl. She is a biologist and wildlife guide who lives permanently in Eswatini.

FROM US\$ 1,450

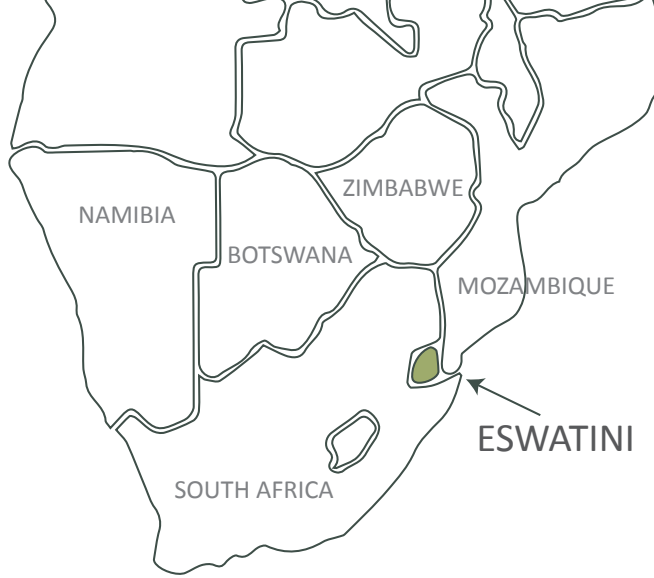
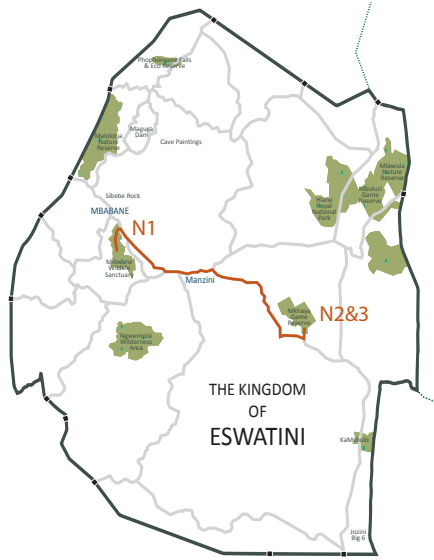
PER PERSON SHARING

HIGHLIGHTS

Reilly's Rock • Rare Antelopes

Black & White Rhinos

Game Drives • Bush Walks



THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, is a small kingdom landlocked between South Africa and Mozambique. Eswatini is the last absolute monarchy in Africa.

We begin this adventure in Ezulwini, a culturally important part of the kingdom. Here we stay at Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, which is home to many rare species of antelope.

We spend the second and third day in the lowveld of the kingdom, where we go in search of the white and black rhinos.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1: Arrival – Shuttle from Johannesburg to Eswatini

NIGHT 1: Reilly's Rock in Mlilwane

DAY 2 & 3: Rhino Safari

NIGHTS 2 & 3: Stone Camp in Mkhaya

DAY 4: Departure – Shuttle to Johannesburg





DAY 1 – ARRIVAL REILLY'S ROCK

Your shuttle will leave at 9 AM from OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg and will arrive in Eswatini's capital, Mbabane, approx. 4.5 hours later. Here you will be met by your host, Marie Dahl. We will then take a short drive to Ezulwini, also known as the Valley of Heaven, where we will enter Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, Eswatini's oldest nature reserve.

After a late lunch, we will spend the afternoon exploring the beautiful grounds around Reilly's Rock. We can either walk on the plains below the lodge or in the hills below Execution Rock nearby.

Reilly's Rock is an old colonial homestead and many of the old features and furniture have been kept and restored. The grounds around the lodge are always busy with animal activity: blue and red duikers dash between the bushes, klipspringers and the small suni are often seen just outside the rooms and on the lawns. Many species of birds are attracted to the lush gardens, so there is always something to watch.

On the plains below, we often find herds of roan, waterbuck, hartebeest and single oribis hiding in the grass or between the rocks. This is truly an animal lover's paradise.

Weather permitting we will enjoy dinner under the stars by a roaring campfire.



DAY 2 & 3 – RHINO SAFARI

We will get up with the sun and enjoy a beautiful breakfast overlooking the Ezulwini Valley and the Mdzimba Mountains. After breakfast we will drive to the lowveld of the kingdom, where we will enter Mkhaya Game Reserve, home to both the black and the white rhinoceros. We will spend the next two days tracking down these massive pachyderms in their natural habitat. There will be two daily activities (morning and late afternoon), which we can spend either on foot or on an open game drive vehicle.

Walking and driving amongst wildlife are two very different experiences. While driving you can get fairly close to animals without disturbing them, ideal for photographic opportunities. When we walk – lead by a local guide from Mkhaya – we will spend time looking at tracks and signs of animals, learning about the trees and sounds of the bush. To get the full experience we recommend that you try both game drives and bushwalks.

There's plenty of other game to see at Mkhaya as well – giraffes, buffalos, zebras, hippos, tsessebe and sable antelopes, to name but a few.

DAY 4 – DEPARTURE

After breakfast we will drive back into civilization and you will be dropped off by the shuttle in the capital, Mbabane, and head back to Johannesburg, South Africa. Arrive at OR Tambo International Airport around 3:30-4 PM.

MORE INFORMATION

Find information on everything relating to our Eswatini itineraries on the last two pages of this brochure. Didn't find what you were looking for? Contact us today!

QUAINT ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation at Reilly's Rock in Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and Stone Camp in Mkhaya Game Reserve are considered experiences in their own right. Both places are comfortable, exclusive and have plenty of charm. You support local efforts in conservation and endangered species protection by staying in both locations.

REILLY'S ROCK

The lodge is a former colonial homestead on the foothills of Execution Rock in Eswatini's oldest nature reserve, Mlilwane. The 7 en-suite rooms are charming and quaint, and every room is different. (Rooms are allocated on a first booking basis). We dine outside, weather permitting. A large variety of unique and rare antelope live around the lodge.



STONE CAMP

We spend two nights at Mkhaya Game Reserve's Stone Camp; A rustic but charming and comfortable camp in the middle of the bush. There are 12 semi-open thatched, stone cottages with half walls - no windows, no doors, but all en-suite. We dine outside, weather permitting.





INCLUDED:

- Accommodation
- All meals
- Sundowners
- Water & soft drinks
- Equipment use
- All mentioned activities
- Professional safari guides for all activities
- Host Marie Dahl
- In country transport
- Shuttle to/from Eswatini/OR Tambo
- Gratuity

* Maximum 8 guests/group

NOT INCLUDED

Flights • Travel Insurance
Additional Activities • Single Supplement

CHILDREN

This itinerary is not suitable for children under the age of 13, as we will be walking in areas with dangerous game.

COST

From

US\$ 1,450

per person sharing
(4-8 guests)

US\$ 1,650 pps (3 guests)

US\$ 2,075 pps (2 guests)

Single Supplement pp **US\$ 335**



Interactive buttons below:

[MORE INFO](#)

[BOOK NOW](#)

CONTACT US:

E: RES@ROOTSANDJOURNEYS.COM

C: +267 7747 9188

WWW.ROOTSANDJOURNEYS.COM 

ESWATINI FACTS

LOCATION

26 ° 30' S, 31° 30' E

With only 17,364 sq. km it is the smallest country in Southern Africa, completely landlocked by South Africa and Mozambique.

ACCESS

By Road: Approx. 4 hours from Johannesburg, South Africa. (Road shuttle or pick up from Johannesburg is included in all Eswatini itineraries).

By Air: 45 min. flight from OR Tambo in Johannesburg, South Africa.

FLIGHTS

Upon booking you will get itinerary specific arrival and departure times, so that you can find a flight that matches your chosen tour. Most of our guests arrive at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport in South Africa (Airport code: JNB). You can take a local flight from there directly to Eswatini.

TIME ZONES

GMT + 2 hours

CURRENCY

Credit cards, such as Visa, MasterCard are accepted by most ATMs, so there is no need to exchange money from home. Roots & Journeys recommend withdrawing money upon arrival in Johannesburg airport. (All essentials are already paid for from home, so you only need extra cash for souvenirs, gifts, and anything of a personal nature).

The currency in South Africa is called Rand (Currency code: ZAR) The Rand notes (10, 20, 50, 100 and 200) are also accepted in Eswatini (Rand coins are not accepted in Eswatini).

The Eswatini currency is called the Lilangeni (Emalangeni in plural) – the currency is only used in Eswatini and not accepted in South Africa, although it is on a par with the Rand.

GRATUITY & TIPPING

Basic tips are included (We tip waitresses, guides, camp hands, etc.).

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Most countries get a three-month visa on arrival in South Africa and a one-month visa on arrival in Eswatini (This goes for most European nationals – check with your foreign affairs department, embassy or consulate. You need to check both South Africa and Eswatini, as they may differ). It is the guest's own responsibility to have the appropriate visas upon arrival. A passport is required for all foreign visitors and must be valid for at least six months. All foreign visitors will need to carry a return ticket.

INSURANCE

Comprehensive travel insurance is a prerequisite for joining Roots & Journeys' Eswatini itineraries (We will need a copy prior to tour departure). It is the personal responsibility of the guest to acquire suitable insurance.

ESWATINI/SWAZILAND?

In April 2018 the country changed its name from Swaziland to the Kingdom of Eswatini. Read more about this on our website.

POWER

230V supply (Basic adaptors available for 220-240V) Expect frequent power outages during summer storms.

CONNECTIVITY

Wi-Fi is limited in the places we visit. You can ask your guide for a hotspot, if needed.

MEDICAL

Malaria: Eswatini is considered malaria FREE, whereas the Northern part of Kruger is a risk area during the rainy season (Always consult with your doctor, before departure).

Vaccinations: Roots & Journeys recommend that you speak to a travel doctor prior to departure. (See more information in our Eswatini FAQ on the website)

CLIMATE

Sub-tropical to tropical in the low-lying east, and temperate climate in west (due to differences in altitude)

Dry Season: May to September, also our cooler months.

Rainy Season: October to March, our summer season.

Kruger National Park: The climate is similar to Eswatini's low veld – warm and humid summers and cool, dry winters.

	Average Morning Temp	Average Afternoon Temp
Dry Season/ Winter (May-September)		
May	12°C	27°C
Jun-Aug	9°C	26°C
Sept	14°C	29°C
Wet Season/ Summer (October-April)		
Oct-Nov	18°C	31°C
Dec-Feb.	20°C	32-40°C
March-April	16°C	30°C

WHEN TO GO?

Winter: great for hiking and for safari (easy to see game).

Summer: landscapes are lush and green, migrating birds are back.

Our 16-day itinerary is based in winter months, as the cooler winter weather makes hiking more pleasurable. (Learn more in the Eswatini FAQ)

AGE LIMITS

16-day – Eswatini & Kruger: Min. age is 15 (Special permission can be given for younger teenagers at discretion of management). We advise that guests above the age of 65 years get a medical clearance from their general practitioner no earlier than two weeks prior to departure.

7-day – The beautiful Kingdom: Min. age is 6. This is an ideal itinerary for families with children or young adults. A reasonable level of fitness is required, but we can easily adapt the itinerary to suit your family's desired activity level.

4-day Royal Rhino Experience: Min. age is 13.

4-day Lubombo Explorer: No age limit, but we urge parents to be realistic about their children's hiking abilities to make it enjoyable for all. (The terrain is rocky and strenuous in sections)

GROUP SIZES

Our group sizes vary from 4-8 guests. (Smaller and larger groups are possible on all tours, except the 16-day Eswatini and Kruger, which has a maximum capacity of 7 guests).

ESWATINI GUIDE

Your host in Eswatini is called Marie Dahl, a biologist (MSc) and wildlife guide, who is passionate about nature and creating great guest experiences. She lives permanently in Eswatini.

ACTIVITIES

We say our itineraries are hiking-based, because as a general rule, we WALK, but each of them is packed with a variety of activities, such as full day hikes, game drives, visits to local communities and much more.

HIKING FITNESS LEVEL

Our itineraries are hiking based, so we recommend a reasonable level of fitness. No hiking experience is required and you do not need to be an athlete to participate. We will always walk at the pace of the slowest in the group and we take lots of breaks to enjoy the stunning views this region of the world has to offer.

16-day & Lubombo specific: You should be able to walk minimum 10-14km in a day.

KRUGER TRAIL

When we go on the trail in the Kruger National Park guests are expected to carry a full backpack. Our pre-packed backpacks are of good quality, but if you prefer to use your own, you are welcome to do so. Our backpacks usually weigh approx. 10-15 kg/person, so you must be strong enough to carry this for 4 days in the wilderness.

We camp in the wild and there are NO facilities on the trail.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation standard will vary between the itineraries, but do not expect luxury or high-end lodges. All accommodation used has characteristics that make it charming and different from a regular hotel. We strive to make sure you are comfortable throughout the itinerary, but there may be compromises necessary during overnight hikes. Find specific descriptions under each itinerary.

MEALS & DRINKS

All meals are included in the itinerary. Expect good hardy food, but not gourmet style. Vegetarian and vegan options are available most places – please let us know in advance.

Water and soft drinks are included.

WHAT TO PACK

Roots & Journeys provide all the gear you need for the wilderness trails and other itineraries where equipment is needed – we have fully equipped hiking backpacks with everything you will need. We provide a water bladder (also known as a camel pack) that you can use on hikes. You can also borrow one of our hiking poles (we have 1/person available).

What you need to bring: See full packing list on the Eswatini FAQ on our website.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Due to the nature of the activities, the Eswatini itineraries are not suitable for people with limited mobility.

STAYING OVER IN JOHANNESBURG

Please contact us for recommendations if you are spending a night in Johannesburg before or after the itinerary or ask your travel agent.

