

GREATER KRUGER



*Moments in
the Wild*



- Guided by passion - Driven by the wild -

8-DAY ITINERARY

Magagazi Adventure Co.

FEATURED CAMPS:

- Umkumbe Safari Lodge Riverside

ITINERARY BREAKDOWN

- 3 nights, 4 days

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL & FIRST ENCOUNTER

Arrive in the Sabie Game Reserve and make your way to Umkumbe Safari Lodge Riverside, set on the banks of the seasonal Sand River. After settling into your room and taking in the riverine surroundings, enjoy a light lunch or refreshment while the bush slowly reveals itself.

In the late afternoon, head out on your first photographic game drive. This is prime time along the Sand River, when elephants, buffalo, and predators begin to stir. With Magagazi Adventure Company guiding the experience, the focus is on positioning, light, and reading animal behaviour rather than rushing sightings.

Return to the lodge after sunset for a relaxed dinner under the stars. Fall asleep to the sounds of the river and the distant calls of the African night.

DAY 2 - SAND RIVER STORIES

Wake early to the sounds of the bush and enjoy coffee before heading out on a morning photographic safari. The Sabie Game Reserve is renowned for its leopard sightings, and the early hours offer the best opportunities for spotting big cats in soft morning light.

After the drive, return to the lodge for a hearty breakfast. The late morning is spent at leisure – reviewing images, receiving one-on-one feedback, or relaxing by the pool overlooking the river, where wildlife often passes by.

Lunch is served at the lodge, followed by downtime to recharge.

In the late afternoon, depart on another guided game drive, exploring different sections of the reserve and adjusting photographic techniques to suit the changing light conditions. End the drive with a classic sundowner before returning to camp for dinner and fireside conversation.



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Day 3 - REFINED SKILLS & RARE MOMENTS

Begin the day with another early morning safari, building on the skills developed over the previous days. With growing familiarity with the terrain and animal movements, the focus shifts to anticipation, composition, and capturing behaviour rather than simply recording sightings.

After breakfast back at the lodge, enjoy a relaxed mid-morning image review session, refining techniques and discussing storytelling through photography.

Spend the afternoon at leisure – enjoy the deck, watch the riverbed activity, or simply soak in the unfenced wilderness atmosphere.

The final afternoon drive is unhurried and immersive, offering the chance to revisit favourite sightings or seek out elusive species one last time. Return to the lodge for a celebratory final dinner, sharing stories and standout images from the journey.

Day 4 - FAREWELL TO THE RIVER

Enjoy a gentle morning and breakfast overlooking the Sand River as the bush awakens for the day. Depending on departure times, a short morning activity or photographic walk around the lodge may be possible.

Depart Umkumbe Safari Lodge Riverside with memory cards full, skills sharpened, and a deeper connection to one of the Greater Kruger's most iconic river systems.



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INTRODUCTION

Set along the quiet banks of the seasonal Sand River, Umkumbe Safari Lodge Riverside serves as an intimate base for a dedicated wildlife photography course within the renowned Sabie Game Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger ecosystem. This unfenced wilderness allows wildlife to move freely between the private reserves and Kruger National Park, offering exceptional year-round photographic opportunities – particularly for the area's world-famous leopard sightings.

Hosted by Magagazi Adventure Company, this course is designed for photographers seeking depth rather than just sightings. Twice-daily game drives focus on light, positioning, animal behaviour, and storytelling, while time between drives is dedicated to image review and personalised guidance.

More than a safari, this is a structured photographic journey through one of South Africa's most celebrated wilderness regions.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Riverside safari lodge in the heart of the Sabie Game Reserve
- Unfenced wilderness with free-roaming Big Five wildlife
- Prime leopard habitat along the Sand River
- Owner-managed lodge with warm, authentic hospitality
- Comfortable accommodation suitable for couples and families (children 5+)
- Twice-daily guided game drives in open safari vehicles
- Easily accessible by road from Johannesburg or via Nelspruit (MQP) Airport
- Optional Wi-Fi available daily between 09h30 and 16h00 (additional cost)

A TYPICAL DAY

05:00	05:30-09:30	10:00	11:00-14:00	14:30	15:30-19:30	20:00
Wake up call and coffee	Morning game drive	Breakfast at camp	Relaxation or conservation talk	Lunch at camp	Afternoon game drive	Dinner at camp



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ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES

- Maximum capacity: 20 guests
- 8 Superior Suites and 3 Standard Rooms
- All rooms air-conditioned; selected suites overlook the Sand River
- Outdoor seating areas ideal for birdwatching and river views
- Swimming pool and deck overlooking the river
- Comfortable lounge and communal areas
- Spa treatments available (pre-booking required; payable in camp)
- Wi-Fi available during set hours for a fee

ACTIVITIES

- Morning and evening Big Five game drives
- Sundowner stops in the bush
- Birdwatching along the Sand River
- Traditional boma dinners around a campfire
- Optional guided morning bush walks after breakfast
- (Guests must be 16 years and older; walks conducted in English)

WHAT TO PACK

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Light, neutral-coloured clothing
- Sun hat, sunglasses, and sunblock
- Camera equipment and binoculars
- Swimwear
- Warm jacket for early mornings and evenings (May-October)
- Beanie and gloves during winter months



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General Travel Information

Weather:

The region receives an average annual rainfall of approximately 350mm, with most rain falling between November and February in short summer thunderstorms. Temperatures range from average winter minimums of 8.5°C in July to summer maximums of around 31.5°C in January. Winters are dry and cooler, with cold early mornings.

Wildlife:

Game viewing varies seasonally, with wildlife concentrating around water sources in the dry season and dispersing during the lush summer months. The area offers excellent opportunities to see the Big Five, particularly leopard, along with a wide variety of plains game, predators, nocturnal species, and diverse birdlife.

Malaria:

The Sabi Sand region is considered a low-risk malaria area. Guests are advised to consult their doctor regarding preventative medication. Mosquitoes are more common during the warmer, wet season, so repellent is recommended.



RESERVATIONS & MARKETING

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*Please note that these are suggested packages, and the rate listed is the from rate, subject to availability, and doesn't include extras, transfers or single supplement.