



RETURN
AFRICA

CELEBRATING
TEN YEARS

PREPARE
for your journey



RETURN

to what matters.

To stillness, to story, to the rhythm of the bush.

Pafuri is not just a destination: it's a threshold, where ancient trees meet river light, and the rhythms of the bush unfold at their own pace. This northern corner of the Kruger is shaped by the Luvuvhu and Limpopo rivers, by elephants and baobabs, by silence and birdsong.

Your time at Pafuri Camp offers a rare chance to slow down, tune in, and connect: with nature, with heritage, and with yourself. This guide will help you prepare practically, so you can arrive ready to experience Pafuri with comfort, curiosity, and presence.





GETTING to Pafuri

RETURN Africa - Pafuri Camp is situated in Makuleke Contract Park, which is at the northernmost extent of Kruger National Park.

GPS Co-ordinates: 22°25'15.81" S / 31° 13'45.81" E

Self Drive

- 640km / 7h00 hours from Johannesburg to RETURN Africa - Pafuri Camp. Follow N1 North to Louis Trichardt (Makhado) ±430km from Johannesburg.
- Continue on the N1 for ±60km (over Soutpansberg mountains and through Verwoerd tunnels).
- 500m after the Baobab toll plaza, turn right onto the R525 towards Tshipise.
- Follow the R525 for ± 135km until you reach the Pafuri Gate entrance to the Kruger National Park.
- After paying the Kruger National Park entrance fees continue for 22km inside the park.
- Look out for a left turn onto a gravel road signposted to RETURN Africa - Pafuri Camp.
- The left turn is 150m before the road crosses the Luvuvhu River Bridge. (Turn back if you find yourself crossing a river!).

Flights

- RETURN Africa offers flights from Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport and Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA). Enquire about rates with our reservations team.

Road Transfers

- Transfers can be arranged with our reservations team.



PAFURI Collection



WHAT to pack?

Pack for comfort, curiosity, and the changing moods of the bush.

- Neutral clothing, include short and long-sleeved shirts, shorts and trousers
- Warm clothing for cool mornings and nights, include jerseys and jacket's
- Swimming costume
- Raincoat in case of rain
- Hat or cap for sun protection
- Comfortable closed shoes
- Comfortable walking shoes, an important item for Walking Safaris
- Sandals/open shoes for use in camp
- Sunblock
- Torch
- Mosquito repellent (moderate malaria risk - please consult a medical professional as to whether you should take malaria prophylaxis).
- Binoculars
- Camera
- Bird and mammal guides/reference books
- South African Plug Adapter



PAFURI COLLECTION *activities & times*

Our ethos

RETURN Africa operates in partnership with the Makuleke community, custodians of this land. By choosing to stay at Pafuri Camp, you support conservation, cultural heritage, and sustainable tourism. We invite you to engage with the landscape respectfully and with curiosity, every footprint matters.

Typical daily routine

- Dawn wake-up call
- Early tea, coffee, and snacks in the dining area overlooking the river
- Morning activity, either a game drive or a guided bush walk
- Mid-morning RETURN to camp for a sit-down brunch
- Siesta in your tent, a drink at the bar or around the pool, or book a massage in your tent
- Mid-afternoon high tea served on the decks overlooking the Luvuvhu River
- Afternoon activity, either a drive or bush walk
- Dinner on the decks or under the stars in the boma
- Nightcaps and stories around the bar and the fire pit

Summer

November to March

- Wake Up Call: 04h45
- Morning Tea/Coffee: 05h15
- Morning Activity: 05h45
- Brunch: On arrival
- High Tea: 15h00
- Afternoon Activity: 16h30
- Dinner: 20h00

Spring & Autumn

September to October, April to May

- Wake Up Call: 05h00
- Morning Tea/Coffee: 05h30
- Morning Activity: 06h00
- Brunch: On arrival
- High Tea: 15h00
- Afternoon Activity: 16h00
- Dinner: 19h30

Check-In
Check-Out

From 14h00
Before 10h30

A handful of the experiences which make us unique

- Morning coffee at Mangala
- The Big Baobab (climb it, or give it a hug)
- An expertly guided bush walk through Hutwini Gorge
- Crooks Corner, where three countries meet
- The captivating bird and animal life right in front of your tent
- Sundowners at Reedbuck Vlei A Pafuri-inspired cocktail from the bar
- The allure of the Fever Tree Forest
- Spectacular Lanner Gorge
- The mysterious ancient citadel of Thulamela
- A relaxing Makuleke massage
- Dinner and dance in the boma under the stars
- The view over the immense Limpopo floodplain
- The warmth of our Makuleke hospitality

Winter

June to August

- Wake Up Call: 05h30
- Morning Tea/Coffee: 06h00
- Morning Activity: 06h30
- Brunch: On arrival
- High Tea: 14h30
- Afternoon Activity: 15h30
- Dinner: 19h00

GENERAL *information*

Weather

- Winter and summer in Makuleke Contract Park occur at opposite times of the year when compared to the northern hemisphere.
- Hot and humid weather characterises the wetter summer season (November to April).
- In contrast, the dry winter season (May to October) features warm and mild days but cooler nights.
- Refer to the packing list suggestions.

Curio shop

- There is a curio shop at RETURN Africa - Pafuri Camp, which offers a charming selection of local handicrafts, souvenirs, and clothing.

Connectivity

- Pafuri Camp is a place to disconnect and tune in. There is no mobile signal, and Wi-Fi is available only in the main areas of Pafuri Camp and Baobab Hill House. We recommend downloading maps, guides, or entertainment before arrival. This is your chance to return to stillness — uninterrupted by screens.

Gratuity guidelines

Tipping is at the discretion of the guest and should be subject to service standards. If you wish to tip, please do so only once - at the end of your stay. At the request of guests, we offer a guideline on suggested tipping amounts but please feel free to tip according to your standards should you be uncomfortable with our suggestions.

As a general recommendation:

- R200 - R300 per person per day, for the communal staff, which should be left in the gratuity box in reception.
- R300 to R400 per person per day, handed directly to your guide on the day of departure.

Cash is recommended, but if guests prefer to settle this by card it can be arranged when checking out.

Currency

- Visa/MasterCard credit and debit cards are accepted in Camp.
- We can also accept local cash (South African rands).

Visa for international travel

- You may need a visa to travel to South Africa as a foreign citizen. Visa requirements vary by country and can change. Consult your nearest South African consulate for specific details and fees.
- A yellow fever certificate is mandatory for travellers over one year old who reside in specified countries with a risk of yellow fever transmission

Emergency & medical support

- In case of emergency, our camp team is trained in first aid and carries radio communication equipment. The nearest medical facility is in Musina, approximately 2.5 hours away. We recommend travel insurance that includes medical evacuation cover. Please inform us of any medical conditions or allergies prior to arrival.



PAFURI *experiences*



MAKULEKE

massage

This massage therapy aims to promote healing and balance. Our therapists are trained in massage techniques, providing a professional and authentic experience. All experiences are offered in the comfort of your RETURN Africa - Pafuri Camp tent.

Experiences offered:

- 60-75 minutes full body massage (general relaxation)
- 75-90 minutes full body massage (deep release/ relax/renewal)
- 30-45 minutes back, neck & shoulder (soothing the travel tension)
- 50-60 minutes back, neck & shoulder (deeply healing extra focus on tension release)
- 75-95 minutes big 5 (Makuleke scalp massage + hand & arm + foot & ankle)

Book your experience with our reservations team or whilst you're at RETURN Africa - Pafuri Camp. An additional charge may apply.



THULAMELA tour

Explore the sacred stone ruins of Thulamela, an Iron Age citadel overlooking the Luvuvhu River, where echoes of an ancient civilisation still stir the air.

Step into Africa's living history at Thulamela, perched high above the Luvuvhu River in the Makuleke region. Once a thriving kingdom of trade and governance, its stone walls, gold ornaments, and iron relics speak of a people who shaped the land long before colonisation.

A declared National Heritage Site, Thulamela honours a past that still resonates today.

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PAFURI

birding challenge

A celebration of avian diversity in one of Africa's richest birding regions.

The Pafuri Birding Challenge invites you to explore the astonishing diversity of birdlife found within the Makuleke Contractual Park. With over 450 recorded species, this corner of Kruger is a haven for birders of all levels, from curious beginners to seasoned twitchers.

Whether you are scanning the canopy for Böhm's Spinetail or listening for the call of a Gorgeous Bushshrike, the challenge encourages slow observation, patient listening, and a deepened connection to place. A printed species checklist is available from reception, and sightings are logged via the BirdLasser app, which allows you to track and share your observations in real time.

Guests staying at Pafuri Camp are eligible for tiered rewards based on the number of species recorded during their stay. These include small tokens of appreciation and recognition from our team, designed to celebrate your contribution to our growing birding archive.

Complete the challenge at your own pace, or simply use it as a companion to your walks, drives, and quiet moments on the deck.

To learn more or download the bird list, visit returnafrica.com/birding-pafuri.



MAKULEKE

village tour

Immerse yourself in authentic cultural experiences with the Makuleke community, featuring traditional singing and healing ceremonies.

Discover the vibrant spirit of the Makuleke people through interactive cultural encounters.

Enjoy performances by the Makuleke Gigi's singing group, visit a local Sangoma for traditional healing insights, and share in the community's warm hospitality amid the stunning landscapes of the Makuleke Contract Park.

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SUGGESTED *itinerary*

Hutwini & Nkula Walking Camps

Day One

- Meet your guide at RETURN Africa's RETURN Africa - Pafuri Camp where you will check-in and park your vehicles.
- Your guides will then transfer you to your walking safari camp.
- Settle in at the camp and safety briefing with your guide.
- Short afternoon walk.
- RETURN to camp for drinks and/or shower before the evening meal.
- Relax after dinner and then retire to bed.

Day Two & Three

- Early wake-up call followed by coffee, rusks/biscuits.
- Morning walk.
- Brunch.
- Relaxation.
- Afternoon walk.
- RETURN to camp for sundowners and/or a shower before the evening meal. Relax after dinner and then retire to bed.

Day Four

- Early wake-up call followed by rusks/biscuits.
- Short morning walk.
- Brunch.
- Transfer back to RETURN Africa - Pafuri Camp for check-out procedures and RETURN to your vehicle.

Walking safari's etiquette

- Walking groups are limited to a maximum of eight guests.
- Your guide will give you a briefing before you set out.
- This is big game country where we regularly encounter potentially dangerous animals.
- It is therefore imperative that you read and sign the indemnity before you embark on a walk; that you pay close attention; and that you follow your guide's instructions without hesitation or question.
- We recommend walking shoes, hats, binoculars, and sunblock.
- Long pants or a repellent spray for your legs are useful against tick bites, especially in the wet months.
- Your guide will carry a limited amount of water, a first aid kit, and an emergency radio.
- You may want to take some extra water and snacks in a small rucksack, but we generally recommend that you carry as little as possible.



WE LOOK FORWARD *to your arrival in a place shaped by stillness, story, and the wild.*

Whether you're returning or arriving for the first time, Pafuri has a way of staying with you. It's a place of stories, of shifting light, of quiet encounters that linger long after you've left.

Thank you for choosing RETURN Africa. We look forward to welcoming you to Pafuri Camp, and to sharing the beauty, depth, and rhythm of this extraordinary landscape.



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