



OWL Safaris - SOUTH AFRICA & MOZAMBIQUE - Best of Beach & Bush



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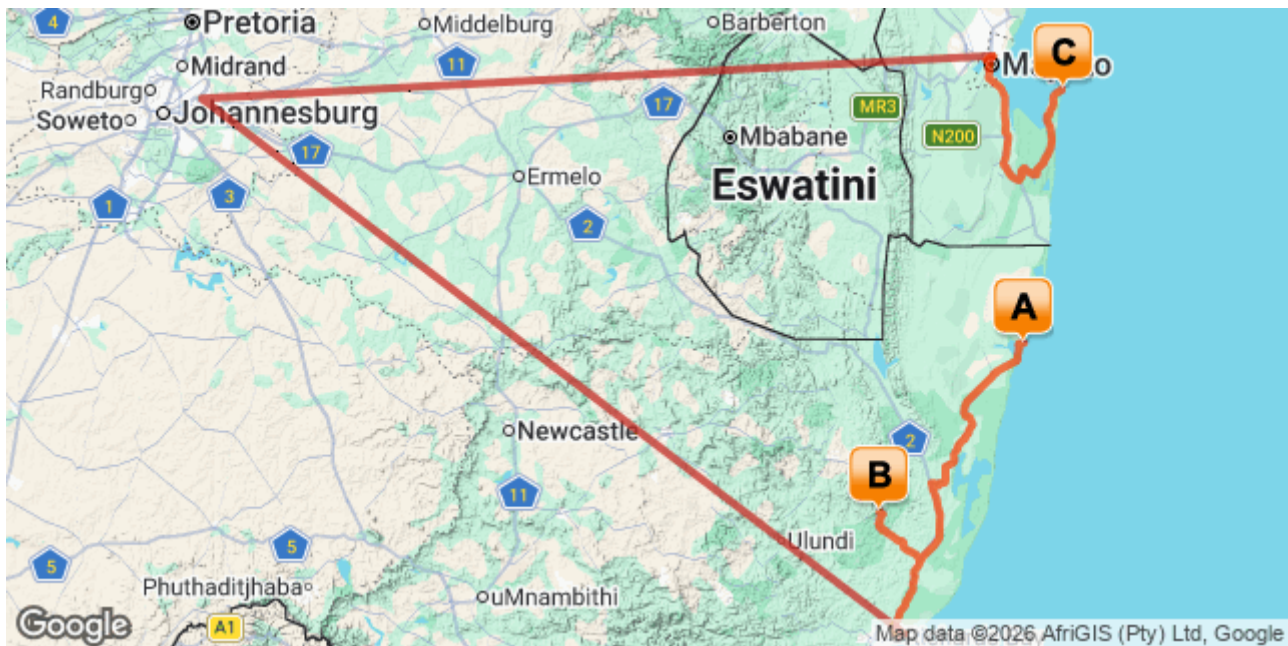
Maputaland Marine Protected Area - Hluhluwe–Imfolozi Park - Inhaca

12 Days / 11 Nights

Group Size: | Couples | Families | Friends

Reference: OWL BOBB-001

2026



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Introduction

Your journey unfolds as a seamless blend of wild beauty and barefoot luxury, beginning on the untouched shores of northern KwaZulu-Natal - South Africa. Tucked between coastal forest and the warm Indian Ocean, **Thonga Beach Lodge** sets the tone with its castaway charm—think sunrise snorkels, candlelit dinners, and days guided by the rhythm of the sea.

From here, the adventure deepens as you head inland to **Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge**, where sweeping views over ancient wilderness frame unforgettable game drives and evenings alive with the sounds of the bush.

The journey then comes full circle back to the coast, crossing into Mozambique for a serene finale at **Machangulo Beach Lodge**—a remote peninsula where dune forests meet turquoise waters, and time seems to slow to a blissful pause. Together, these three exceptional stays create a richly layered escape, balancing adventure, indulgence, and pure relaxation.

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Thonga Beach Lodge	Maputaland Marine Protected Area	FB	3 Nights
Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge	Hluhluwe–Imfolozi Park	FB	3 Nights
Machangulo Beach Lodge	Inhaca	FB	5 Nights

Key

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Price

On confirmation of approximate dates, price will be quoted.

Included

Inclusions and exclusions as listed for each Lodge.

Price includes all domestic flights.

(Johannesburg - Richards Bay - Johannesburg)

And

(Johannesburg - Maputo - Johannesburg)

Excluded

International Flights

Travel & Medical Insurance

Gratuities

All items of a personal nature

Lodge activities listed that are not included and will be charged extra

Day 1-4: Thonga Beach Lodge, Maputaland Marine Protected Area

Maputaland Marine Protected Area

Set on South Africa's northeastern coast, the UNESCO-listed Maputaland Marine Protected Area falls within the awe-inspiring iSimangaliso Wetland Park and comprises three protected areas: Lake Sibaya Nature Reserve, Kosi Bay Nature Reserve, and Rocktail Bay. Extending all the way from the northern Mozambican border to Sodwana Bay in the south, it encompasses forests, wetlands, lakes, marshes, and coral reefs near glorious, deserted golden-sand beaches. Local wildlife includes large numbers of leatherback turtles, numerous bird species, and many species of freshwater fish - also look out for Nile crocodiles and hippos at Lake Sibaya. A superb dive site (arguably one of the best in the world) can be found at Sodwana Bay, with its magnificent 50 kilometre-long reef complex.

Day Itinerary

A typical day at Thonga Beach Lodge is relaxed, nature-focused and shaped by the rhythm of the ocean. Mornings begin with the sound of waves and a leisurely breakfast overlooking the forest or sea, followed by optional activities such as guided coastal forest walks, snorkeling on the nearby reef or birdwatching. Late morning and midday are often spent at leisure, enjoying the beach, swimming, or relaxing by the pool before a light lunch served in an open, shaded setting.

Afternoons may include excursions to Lake Sibaya for kayaking or sundowners, cultural experiences with local guides, or simply time to unwind with a spa treatment or a book. As the day cools, guests gather for sundowners, often on the beach, before returning to the lodge for a relaxed dinner featuring fresh, locally inspired cuisine. In turtle nesting season, evenings may include a guided turtle tracking walk along the beach. Nights are quiet and atmospheric, with the sound of the Indian Ocean and a strong sense of being immersed in a remote, protected wilderness.

Expert Tips

Plan activities around tides and wildlife timing, with early mornings best for birdwatching and coastal walks, and late afternoons ideal for dolphin or whale spotting. Pack lightweight, breathable clothing for walks and boat trips, plus a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a light jacket for cooler evenings. Take advantage of the lodge's guided experiences—walks, marine excursions, or turtle tracking—to deepen your understanding of the local wildlife, reefs, and conservation efforts.

Overnight: Thonga Beach Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Thonga Beach Lodge is set on the pristine shores of the Maputaland Coast, KwaZulu-Natal. This 24 bed luxury lodge is the ideal place to discover one of Africa's last unspoilt wilderness beaches. It is a magical place of coastal forests, grasslands, bush, shimmering lakes and exquisite sandy beaches. Its crystal clear, warm waters offer South Africa's best snorkelling and excellent off-shore SCUBA diving and excellent birding opportunities. Guided birding, scorpion & spider walks & Turtle Tracking are offered in season. The 12 thatched bush suites offer either Ocean or Forest Views with Deluxe Ocean Views room sporting private plunge pools. The suites are positioned to afford maximum privacy & minimal environmental impact. Excellent cuisine is enjoyed al fresco on the dining deck or beach deck overlooking the sea. This is an ideal choice for honeymooners, families, SCUBA divers or anyone who wants to simply relax. A civilized distance from civilization.



Scuba Diving and Snorkelling

SCUBA diving at Mabibi is phenomenal. Our professional lodge diving team can accommodate enthusiasts, from the beginner to the veteran. For those who don't dive, we have an Open Ocean Experience. An exciting launch through the surf in front of the lodge takes you beyond the breakers to a world of dolphins, whales and many other creatures. The warm Indian Ocean supports a myriad of fish and marine life.

Guests can sometimes swim with dolphins or whale sharks, or snorkel with Manta rays and giant turtles. Scuba Diving and ocean experience are at an extra cost.

Daily guided snorkeling is done a 5 minute walk away from the Lodge at low tide in our beautiful rock pools. Guided snorkelling is included in the rate.

Turtle Tracking - in season only

In summer there are nocturnal walks and drives along the beach in search of pre-historic turtles laying their eggs. Witness the culmination of an incredible journey as giant Leatherback and Loggerhead turtles come ashore to lay their eggs in carefully prepared nests.

Turtle tracking is offered in the evening from November to end of February. The turtles lay their eggs from November to February. Hatchlings arrive from end December to end February.

Every precaution is taken to ensure these magnificent creatures are not disturbed during the laying process and data collected from the turtle drives is submitted to the Ezemvelo Turtle Monitoring program.

Turtle walks take place 3 times a week and are included in the rate.

Nightly turtle tracking in 4x4 vehicle is at an extra cost.

Ocean Experience

Open Ocean Experience. An exciting launch through the surf in front of the lodge takes you beyond the breakers to a world of dolphins, whales and many other creatures. The warm Indian Ocean supports a myriad of fish and marine life.

Guests can sometimes swim with dolphins or snorkel with Manta rays and giant turtles

Ocean Experience is an extra charge.

Sundowners at Lake Sibaya

A leisurely drive along the lake shore looking for Hippo's , Birds and Crocodiles, then surrounded by the magical sounds of dusk settle with a drink to watch the sunset over the lake. Sundowners are Included in the rate, with either a glass of house wine, cider, local beer or soft drink per person.

Cultural Tours

Daily tours are on offer to visit the local rural Community of Mabibi. This includes a visit to the clinic and the school, as well as a homestead visit. Optional is to include a visit to the local Sangoma (witch doctor), which may incur a cost.

Standard tours are included in the rate.

Spa

Relax with a soothing treatment in the Sea Spa - extra charge.

Forest Walk

Daily guided walks through the indigenous dune forest, where the local guides share their knowledge of the flora and fauna. This activity is included in the rate.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Tea and Coffee Included

Included

Accommodation, all meals, conservation fees & levies, teas and coffees, guided snorkeling and use of snorkeling equipment, guided kayaking on Lake Sibaya, guided forest walk, spider and scorpion walk and sun-downer experience at Lake Sibaya.

Road Transfers:

1. Richards Bay Airport to Librodi Lodge around 2½ - 3 hours. (Guest Collection Point)
2. 4x4 transfer from Librodi Lodge to Thonga Beach Lodge approx. 1½ hours.

Excluded

Drinks, SCUBA, open ocean experience, Spa treatments, gratuities and items of a personal nature.

Day 4-7: Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge, Hluhluwe–Imfolozi Park**Hluhluwe–Imfolozi Park**

The Hluhluwe–Imfolozi Park is the jewel in the crown of the KwaZulu Natal game reserves. Proclaimed in 1895, it is also the oldest game reserve in Africa. Initially two separate reserves, they were joined to create a single 94 000 hectare reserve which is home to one-fifth of the world's black and white rhino population. It was here that the internationally acclaimed Operation Rhino started in the 1960s, successfully capturing and relocating white rhino to havens within South Africa and abroad. The Hluhluwe–Imfolozi Park was the first reserve to introduce walking safaris and its Wilderness Trails are internationally renowned. Visitors can also look forward to visiting a traditional Zulu

village, enjoying a horse riding safari, and spotting the world-renowned Big Five as well as a wide variety of bird species.

Day Itinerary

You will usually start the day with an early wake-up call for a **morning game drive**. This is when wildlife is most active, and experienced guides help spot the Big 5, rhinos, and other animals in the reserve. After returning to the lodge, a **hearty breakfast** is served, often overlooking the bush with views of grazing wildlife nearby.

Late morning and early afternoon are for **relaxation at the lodge**, enjoying the swimming pool, reading in shaded lounge areas, or taking short guided bush walks. Lunch is served at the lodge, typically fresh and locally inspired.

The **afternoon game drive** begins in the cooler late afternoon, often timed for sundowners in scenic spots within the reserve. Returning to the lodge, guests enjoy **dinner**, sometimes under the stars, followed by quiet time in their rooms or around the firepit, listening to the sounds of the African bush.

Optional activities may include cultural visits to local communities, night drives to spot nocturnal wildlife, or simply soaking in the lodge's tranquil bush setting. The day blends adventure with relaxation, giving a full safari immersion without feeling rushed.

Expert Tips

Expect your days to be framed by **twice-daily guided game drives**, one in the cool of early morning and another in late afternoon around sundowners, offering excellent opportunities to see the Big 5 and other wildlife in one of Africa's most historic conservation areas.

Pack appropriately for safari conditions with layered clothing for chilly mornings and comfortable neutral tones for game drives, plus sturdy shoes for optional guided bush walks if you plan to take part.

Take advantage of the lodge's **local guides and community experiences**—their expertise enhances wildlife spotting and understanding of the ecosystem, and cultural visits connected to the Mpembeni community enrich the overall stay.

Overnight: Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge

[View iBrochure](#)

Established to protect the previously endangered white rhino, Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve is a triumph of conservation efforts. Celebrate this legacy in exclusive luxury at Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge - the only private lodge in the reserve - offering exceptional safari experiences in the heart of Big 5 territory. 18 well appointed, air-conditioned rooms nestle on a ridge, each with their own private deck giving expansive and uninterrupted views of the reserve. The lodge, built in 2015, is designed in a contemporary style with overtones of organic forms utilising natural finishes and materials.



Activities

Game Drives
Dining Room

Game Walks

Guests can enjoy guided walks lasting 3-4 hours inside the park in Big 5 territory. No children under 14 years. Additional cost.

Spa

Treat yourself to a relaxing spa treatment - extra cost.

Community Tour

Visits into the local Mpembeni Community are offered as well as a visit to the Isibindi Foundation community centre.

Game Drives

Twice daily game drives are conducted to explore the magnificent hills and valleys of the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. Nothing is predictable in the bush; therefore each safari offers a potentially new and unique experience. Our guides will share their wealth of bush experience which involves the identifications of animals, trees, grasses, insects and birds. The medicinal uses of plants and local folk lore is also discussed as well as looking for the ever fascinating Big 5!

Dining Room

All meals included. Continental Buffet and hot breakfast available from 07h00 to 11h00, High Tea and delicious dinners.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Tea and Coffee Included

Included

Accommodation, all meals, Conservation & Park fees and two safari drives per day.

Road Transfers:

4x4 transfer from Thonga Beach Lodge to Librodi Lodge - approx. 1½ hours.

Road transfer from Librodi Lodge - Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge around 3 hours.

Road transfer from Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge - Richards Bay Airport is around 2½ - 3 hours.

Excluded

Drinks, gratuities, spa treatments, bush walks and items of a personal nature.

Day 7-12: Machangulo Beach Lodge, Inhaca

Inhaca

Clustered along the western edge of Inhaca Island, the village of Inhaca takes its name from Tsonga chief Nhaca, a local leader famed for sheltering shipwrecked Portuguese sailors centuries ago, and now functions as the island's bustling heart. Its centre hums with a small market, general dealers, lively bars, and simple eateries where fresh local seafood is served. At low tide, families wade into tidal flats to gather shellfish while colourful fishing dhows rest on sandy shores nearby. From here, local guides organise snorkelling and scuba diving trips to reefs like Coral Gardens and Santa Maria Wall, where underwater gardens teem with marine life. Elevated guesthouses overlook the shore to the south, contrasting with campsites near the runway to the north. Functioning as the practical base for exploring the island, Inhaca connects visitors to beaches, forests, and mangroves through walking trails, tuk-tuk routes, and boat trips.

Day Itinerary

A typical day at **Machangulo Beach Lodge** combines relaxation on pristine Mozambique beaches with a range of ocean and nature activities. Mornings often begin with breakfast overlooking the Indian Ocean, followed by time on the beach or by the pool. Many guests take advantage of the warm waters for swimming, snorkelling over vibrant coral reefs either right in front of the lodge or at the nearby Inhaca Island Marine Reserve, or go kayaking through estuaries alive with birdlife. There are also options for deep-sea or shore fishing, guided walks along dunes and forest trails, and excursions to local villages or Inhaca Island to explore culture and scenery. Lunch is usually served at the lodge, with fresh ingredients and local flavours, and afternoons can be spent relaxing in hammocks, enjoying spa treatments, or taking boat trips for whale watching or picnics on secluded beaches (season and tides permitting). Evenings often include sundowners at the beach bar or around a fire, followed by dinner in the main dining area and quiet time back on your private deck listening to the waves

Expert Tips

Once you touch down in Maputo, a Machangulo representative will collect you and transfer you to the Maputo Dock for a short boat ride of about 1 hour.

Pack smart and locally aware – lightweight, breathable clothing, sun protection, insect repellent, and sturdy water shoes are essential. Bring cash (Meticais or South African Rand) for local purchases, and respect local customs when visiting nearby villages or cultural sites.

Did you know that the **Machangulo Peninsula** is one of Mozambique's best-kept kitesurfing secrets. The peninsula's unique geography and steady coastal winds make it possible to switch from calm, beginner-friendly areas to more challenging waves just a short ride away.

Overnight: Machangulo Beach Lodge

Machangulo Beach Lodge offers an authentic Mozambican escape on a secluded peninsula between the warm Indian Ocean and the tranquil Inhaca Bay. The lodge provides 10 rooms thoughtfully designed with modern amenities to ensure a relaxing and comfortable stay. Guests can enjoy delicious meals and refreshing drinks from the on-site dining facilities. Additional amenities and services include Wi-Fi and complimentary bottled water. Guests can take part in activities such as fishing, kayaking or snorkelling.



Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch
Tea and Coffee Included

Included

All meals, local drinks, road & boat transfers and selected activities like unguided kayaking

Excluded

Guided extra activities (i.e. fishing, snorkeling etc.) gratuities, spa treatments, bush walks and items of a personal nature.

Day 12: End of Itinerary

Transport

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
	Scheduled		Johannesburg International Airport		Richards Bay Airport [RCB]			
	Scheduled		Richards Bay Airport [RCB]		Johannesburg International Airport			
	Scheduled		Johannesburg International Airport		Maputo International Airport [MPM]			
	Scheduled		Maputo International Airport [MPM]		Johannesburg International Airport			

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
		Richards Bay Airport [RCB]	Thonga Beach Lodge		Transfer
		Thonga Beach Lodge	Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge		Transfer
		Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge	Richards Bay Airport [RCB]		Transfer
		Maputo International Airport [MPM]	Machangulo Beach Lodge		Transfer
		Machangulo Beach Lodge	Maputo International Airport [MPM]		Transfer

Travel Information

Owl Safaris – Travel Quick Reference Guide

Southern Africa & Indian Ocean Islands

1. Travel Documents

- Passport valid **6+ months** beyond travel dates
- **2–3 blank pages** for visas and stamps
- Visas may be required depending on nationality – check before travel
- Carry **travel insurance info** and emergency contacts

2. Health & Vaccinations

- Consult your **local travel clinic** for the latest vaccine requirements
- Yellow fever certificate if arriving from endemic countries
- Malaria prophylaxis recommended in certain regions
- Bring medications & a basic first aid kit

3. Safety & Security

- Exercise usual caution in cities; avoid displaying valuables
- Follow ranger instructions and park rules in wildlife areas
- Stay informed about local conditions and political stability
- Use reputable transport operators

4. Money & Payments

- Major credit and debit cards are generally accepted in towns, lodges, and tourist areas
- Carry some cash for rural locations, markets, or smaller vendors where cards may not be accepted
- ATMs are widely available in towns and larger lodges, but may be limited in remote areas
- Check with your bank about international fees and notify them of your travel plans

5. Local Laws & Customs

- Respect local customs, dress codes, and religious sites
- Strict penalties for drugs or wildlife violations
- Environmental rules enforced – do not remove plants, animals, or coral

6. Transport & Driving

- Drive on the **left-hand side** of the road
- **International Driving Permit** recommended
- Rural roads may be unpaved; drive cautiously, especially at night
- Use reputable taxis, shuttles, or rideshare apps in cities

7. Communication

- Local SIM cards are inexpensive and widely available
- Internet is generally available in towns, lodges, and tourist areas
- Mobile coverage may be limited in remote areas

8. Climate & Packing

- Coastal areas: tropical; inland: arid; highlands: temperate
- Light clothing for daytime; warm layers for evenings/high altitude
- Comfortable walking shoes and safari-appropriate clothing
- Sun protection: sunscreen, hat, sunglasses

9. Wildlife & Nature

- Maintain a safe distance from animals; never feed wildlife
- Follow park rules and ranger guidance
- Binoculars and cameras recommended

10. Emergency Contacts

- **Contact Owl Safaris directly** for assistance or support during your trip
- Keep travel insurance provider contact info accessible

Tip: Travel prepared, respect local culture and wildlife, and enjoy an unforgettable adventure