



Inspiring new ways



April 2015

Big Five safaris in South Africa are a must-do for anyone fascinated by wildlife. Big Five refers to buffalo, elephant, lion, leopard and rhino and the term comes from the animals considered most dangerous to hunt. Now the thrill comes from photographing them in their natural habitat. If you're looking for a Big Five safari experience in South Africa you can go to almost any province in South Africa, but the Kruger National Park in Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces remains an iconic tourism drawcard. The Big Five abound in the parks and you see them by self-drive, guided drives or guided walks through the bushveld. In this edition, we present other possibilities to do safari, besides the traditional one, in a jeep. Take a look!

WALKING SAFARI

Safaris in South Africa are amongst the most popular holiday choices, with options to suit all tastes and needs. Specialist walking safaris are a great choice for those wanting to absorb the sights, sounds and smells of the bush up close and personal.

While any safari in South Africa will be memorable, if you want to get the real feel of the bushveld, go on foot. Walking in the bush, accompanied by knowledgeable guides, is about as close to nature as you can get, especially in wildlife areas where most visitors are restricted to exploring from the confines of their vehicles.

More information: www.southafrica.net/za/en/articles/entry/article-southafrica.net-big-5-safaris





HOT AIR BALLOON SAFARI

There are several ways to explore South Africa, but a hot-air balloon safari is surely the most scenic and relaxing method. The tours depart at sunrise and include a champagne breakfast. The balloon safaris are suitable for anyone older than seven, with the oldest passenger so far being 92. Passengers need to be fit enough to stand for at least one hour, the average duration of a balloon safari. Special arrangements can be made for people with disabilities. Each balloon can accommodate up to 18 passengers, with a minimum of two passengers required per safari.

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ELEPHANT-BACK SAFARIS

Elephant rides are a great way to experience these enormous, highly intelligent land mammals close-up. Most people in this world have not even had the opportunity to see a live elephant. Here in South Africa though, not only can you see these magnificent creatures, but you can experience a safari on the back of an elephant. Two popular elephant-back safari operators are to be found near the Addo Elephant National Park in the Eastern Cape and near Pilanesberg in North West province. You can also enquire at many other game reserves in South Africa about this unique experience.

More information: www.southafrica.net/za/en/articles/entry/article-southafrica.net-big-5-safaris



RHINO WALKING SAFARI

You've done your Big Five safari game drives but now you want to get closer and more intimate with the bush. On a Rhino Walking Safari in the Kruger National Park you'll get close to the second largest land mammal on earth. All you need is a sense of adventure, to be reasonably walking fit, and to be ready at all times to listen to your knowledgeable ranger. Then it's off at dawn on a Rhino Walking Safari in the Kruger National Park.

You can choose to stay in one of the park's many luxury game lodges, but to get a real taste of the African bush opt instead for the Rhino Walking Safari Plains Camp.

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FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA – APRIL 2015



KLEIN KAROO NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

When: 3 – 11 April 2015

Where: Oudtshoorn

More information: www.kknk.co.za

Klein Karoo Arts Festival (KKNK) is an Afrikaans arts and culture festival in the Karoo town of Oudtshoorn. Ten years after the first festival, the KKNK starts its second decade with a shift of emphasis to the classical, without changing its winning recipe drastically.



PINK LOERIE MARDI GRAS

When: 27 April – 3 May 2015

Where: Knysna

More information: www.pinkloerie.co.za

This very popular and highly colourful celebration is always a highlight on the international Gay Calendar. The Pink Loerie Mardi Gras offers four days of non-stop entertainment to everybody that wishes for superb entertainment or major partying.



THE FREEDOM SWIM

When: 11 – 12 April 2015

Where: Big Bay

More information: www.freedomswimseries.co.za

The Cadiz Freedom Swim is considered to be one of the toughest, most extreme long distance cold water sea swim races in the world - 7.5km across the famous Robben Island channel, known for its bitterly cold water (+/- 13 - 14°C) and strong, unpredictable currents.



MORE EVENTS

- Constantia Food and Wine Festival (17-19 Apr) www.constantiafoodandwine.co.za
- SA Cheese Festival (25-27 Apr) www.cheesefestival.co.za
- Splashy Fen Music Festival (2-6 Apr) www.splashyfen.co.za
- Afrika Burn (27 Apr-3 May) www.afrikaburn.com
- Two Oceans Marathon (4 Apr) www.twooceansmarathon.org.za

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