

Kruger National Park, South Africa

"Sore throats and a touch of the flu were soon forgotten as twelve intrepid travellers from Hay penetrated the wilderness of two million hectares of the Kruger National Park. After a comfortable overnight stop at Hippo Water Front Lodge Nelspruit, and sleep only broken by the tuba-like utterances of hippos in the Crocodile river beside our chalets, we entered this famous park to set up camp under the mopane and acacia trees in the lovely river setting of Letaba.

Here we were enthralled by the mighty disturbances of lion calls, the plaintive cry of bushbabies and the chilling cackle of hyaenas around the camp. Our daily game drives revealed an unbelievable plethora of sights as we witnessed the huge diversity of wildlife go about its daily business in their natural surroundings.

Our safari then travelled south to Sukuza with excited chatter from an exuberant team having witnessed a rare sighting of a copulating pair of leopards during a night drive in the park. The well honed skills of Paul Wooding with the spotlight, ably assisted by Jane Weymouth, sharply brought light onto this voyeuristic event. The highlight at Suzuza camp was the wonderful chance sighting of two endangered painted hunting dogs confronting a hyaena on the road beside the Sabie river. Cameras clicked and rolled in profusion as another sighting of three dogs brought them within metres of our vehicles. With lions almost coming out of our ears, we now sadly set off by road for Johannesburg to bid farewell to a marvellous experience. While Robyn O'Brien, John Blomfield and Margaret Campbell seek greater heights at the mighty falls of Queen Victoria, the rest of the team return home to spill their unadulterated story of a great African adventure."