



DIEMERSFONTEIN



JOURNEYS WITH PURPOSE (JWP) PONGOLA

## “Elephants & Rhinos ”

12 to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020

3 nights/4 days

### Self Drive

**Group size: 8 – 12 PEOPLE (Limited numbers)**

**Rate: R5645pp (sharing).** (Which includes a R250pp is a fundraising donation towards the elephant research project)

**Accommodation: White Elephant Bush Lodge**

\*\*Single supplement available on request.

### SUMMARY

At the foot of the majestic Lebombo mountains and the shimmering waters of Lake Jozini, you will find a special destination called White Elephant. It is a place with magic and soul, inspired by a dream and created with passion.

Pongola Game Reserve is the World's second-oldest private reserve and the Oldest in Africa, dating back to 1894. Here, at the shore of the 15000-hectare Lake Jozini and at the foot of the majestic Lebombo Mountains you will find White Elephant Safaris. It is a place with magic and soul inspired by a dream and created with passion.

This unique lodge provides for a relaxed, private, bush experience. White Elephant Bush Camp is an escape from the busy, hurried world for families and friends. A Private Ranger will cater to your group's activity needs. White Elephant is the only lodge in South Africa to offer Kariba-like, water-based safari activities (motorized and canoeing) as well as the traditional land-based activities. This sets them apart from other safari destinations.

Seven thatched en-suite chalets are generously spacious with quality linen and overhead fans. Open plan kitchen, dining room, bar, swimming pool and spectacular views ensure a “close to nature” relaxed ambience. We will venture into the wilderness with a field guide on bush walks, game drives, and a boat cruises looking for the Pongola Elephant herd. White Elephant Bush Camp is an ideal escape from the busy, hurried world and re-ignite the fire in your soul that might have gone out during covid 19.

White Elephant bush lodge owners and staff, are passionate about conservation and we will hear about their superb Black Rhino conservation project and they also have a fascinating Elephant research activity, which offers an educational, interactive and visual experience and an opportunity to spend time with our elephant researcher at the research centre.

They also offer the conventional activities such as game drives, educational bush walks, and superb bird watching possibilities, making this a truly unique South African Safari experience.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the extraordinary experiences you can look forward to as part of this group of eco-travellers includes:

- 3 nights and 4 days immersed in one of the most magnificent places on Earth
- Exploring the breath-taking Lake Jozini, looking for elephants and other animals;
- Visiting the Research Centre to hear about the history of the elephants of Pongola;
- Searching for the endangered black rhino on the shoreline, bird watching and other plains game;
- Enjoying an exceptionally organised once-in-a-lifetime African experience where all logistical details are taken care of for you;
- Tasty home cooked scrumptious meals;
- Food (Kitchen Confidential) and wine pairing (Diemersfontein wines), fireside stories and FUN;
- Meeting A group of travellers who are passionate about making a difference in Africa
- Raising funds for the research project
- We are super excited to meet and spend time with you!

DAY	DATE	DAY	DETAILS	TYPE / MEALS	ITINERARY
1	Thursday	12 Nov	DBN/JHB to Pongola	Snacks- sunset Dinner (2 course)	Self-Drive to Pongola Game Reserve 14h00 Arrival and relax (afternoon) 17h00 - Sunset snacks & drinks at Bush Lodge or similar 18h00 – Dinner + Story telling *Dr Heinz Kohrs to come talk about Pongola Game Reserve
2	Friday	13 Nov	Pongola	Breakfast at BL Snacks on boat Dinner (2 course)	07h00 - 08h00 - Breakfast at Bush Lodge 09h00 – 13h00 – Elephant river cruise & research project 19h00 – Food and Wine pairing (Diemersfontein wines)
3	Saturday	14 Nov	Pongola	Breakfast/Snacks Brunch Dinner (2 course)	06h30 - 07h00 – Coffee/tea/snacks 07h00 - 10h30 – Game Drive (3 to 4 hours) 11h00 - Brunch Afternoon – Personal Chill Time 15h00 - 16h30 Afternoon visit to Research Museum (Self Drive) 16h30 - Sundowners & Gin Bar 19h00 – Dinner + Carla presentation/talk (casual chat)
4	Sunday	15 Nov	Pongola - DNB/JHB	Breakfast	06h30 - 09h30 – Game Walk / Game Drive (*OWN Account) 09h00 - 10h30 - Breakfast 11h00 - Depart

*\*Please note this itinerary may change slightly but the expedition leader will keep you posted and updated.  
Terms and conditions apply due to availability.*

### WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Expedition host – Carla Geysler
- En-suite thatched chalet accommodation (\*\*Sharing accommodation)
- All meals & water in itinerary. Food done by Kitchen confident.
- Diemersfontein Wine and Food pairing (Day 2)
- All Park Fees & conservation levies
- Daily Housekeeping services
- **R250pp fundraising** fee for the elephant research project
- All activities detailed in the itinerary above
- Blue sky society trust conservation Buff
- One bottle of Diemersfontein wine
- Coffee/Teas & snacks

### WHAT IS EXCLUDED:

- Any flights & any necessary transfers or travel (self-drive) to get to the start/finish of the weekend
- Gratuities (We recommend R50 to R100 per guide or activity)
- Any visas & border costs
- Alcoholic drinks & Beverages (BYO)
- Any personal expenses – laundry, tips etc
- Extra nights' accommodation
- Any additional activities not covered in the itinerary
- Additional snacks/food
- Transfers to and from the camp
- Gate entrance fee payable at the gate (\*\*R25 per car CASH please)



These self-drive adventures are organised and led by Carla Geysler, the founder of the Blue Sky Society Trust (BSST) and Blue Sky Expeditions who has, to date, led many successful trips into Africa. If you are an enthusiastic adventurer who is passionate about conservation and takes life as it comes, then this is for you! #JWP brings together like-minded people from around the world on trips that focus on visiting and raising funds for wildlife initiatives along the route.



#### **PAYMENT & BOOKING:**

- DEPOSIT: A **R1000pp** non-refundable deposit is required to be paid within 24 hours to reserve/book your spot on the expedition.
- FULL PAYMENT DEADLINE: The remaining balance should be paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020
- OR Full payment upfront (100%)

#### **CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:**

- 7 days or less: Cancellation by you up to 7 days prior to departure results in no refund. (100% Cancellation fee applies i.e. no refund)
- 7 days – 21 days prior to departure date. 70% cancellation fee applies. 30% will be refunded.
- 22 – 30 days prior to departure date. 30% cancellation fee applies. 70% will be refunded.
- Blue Sky Expeditions is not responsible for cancellations due to medical or family emergencies.
- A cancellation request must be received in writing by email from the participant. Verbal notice will not serve as a valid cancellation.
- Should you choose to withdraw from the program, kindly note that the deposit is non-refundable.
- In the event that the trip is cancelled due to inadequate enrolment, Blue Sky Expeditions is not responsible for reimbursement of non-refundable airline tickets. While we do our absolute best to fill each trip, we highly recommend that you buy refundable airline tickets.

## GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Please note the itinerary may change slightly but we will keep you posted as to any amendments or changes. This is Africa (TIA).
- MEALS: Most meals will be eaten together at the places we stay. Food restrictions and allergies can be accommodated, just please let us know beforehand.
- SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS: Pricing is based upon a double occupancy sharing. Unless a specific person has been identified, you will usually be assigned a roommate. Each person will have their own bed. So find a friend, bestie, partner and come have some much needed fun and adventure.
- Make sure you have sufficient supplies of any prescription medicine. In fact, it might be wise to bring a small personal first aid kit, including any patent medicines you prefer. You are responsible for taking all necessary health precautions before and during your trip. It is the client's responsibility to ensure they seek professional medical advice before travelling and to take all necessary health precautions and preventative measures.
- Vaccinations: Be an informed traveller! Ultimately, it is up to you to consult a physician. We are here to help but cannot legally provide medical advice.
- Please bring your own mask and hand sanitizer.

## ENTRY & VISA INFORMATION

- If needed - Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months from the date of entry and that you have at least two blank pages in your passport (the back page does not count).

## MONEY & TIPPING

- The currency in South Africa is the Rand. Credit cards are accepted so please do not rely on this as your main form of payment. Please also bring cash with you.
- There will some situations where you may feel the need to tip but, as always, it is up to your discretion. Typically, it is customary to tip our local guides R50 to R100 per day per guide.

