



# Eswatini, KNP & Lowveld Road Trip

(Eswatini was previously Swaziland)

Self-Drive Guided Road Trips hosted by Platteland Tours

**Duration:** 7 Days/6 Nights

**Dates:** 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Monday to Sunday

**Departure:** Sasol Rosehaven North  
– 32 Km East of Pretoria on N4  
**OR** Alzu Petroport on N4, Middelburg

**Return:** Sasol Rosehaven South

**Departure time:** 09:00 (Route briefing and welcome **at 08:30**)  
10:30 Alzu Petroport, Middelburg

**Numbers:** Max. 11 Vehicles

Max 24 passengers

**Tour price:** R8500 pp sharing  
R1300 single supplement

**Distances:** +-1460 km. About 90 km on  
easy gravel roads.

**Last updated:** 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Tour Details:

Travel in your own vehicle in a convoy through towns that you normally just sped past or don't know exist like Carolina, Chrissiesmeer, Warburton, Mbabane, Piggs Peak, Komatipoort, Hazyview and many more (not in this order!) Real 'Platteland dorpiess'! (Small countryside towns).

This is a repeat of previous years' tours, but we've added 3 days and more interesting places to be included and visited.

On Day # 1 you'll cross the international border into Eswatini and head to our overnight lodge just South of the capital, Mbabane – a historical place with beautiful gardens.

Some of the places to be visited in Eswatini include a glass factory, a traditional market, candle factory, the King's Palace (drive by), a cultural centre, Game Park, and many more.

When in the Mpumalanga Lowveld, we'll visit an operational sugar cane farm, a sugar cane mill, stay at Marloth Park (with game roaming next to the guest house), dine on the banks of the Crocodile River, drive through the KNP, visit Hazyview and surroundings and pay a visit to 'The Lift' outside the town of Graskop. The latter is a very special and interesting venue to the visitors. The nature at this venue is exquisite.

Then onwards to the water falls of the Lowveld and an exciting thrilling fun ride on a Tebogo. Accommodation is in a hotel in the mountains with a 'view to die for'.

We'll stop en route for sightseeing, snacks, road stalls, photo's, toilets, coffee/tea, tourist destinations and less familiar places. Enjoy the drive and ride in your own vehicle. At night and en route you'll have the opportunity to mix, mingle and have fun.

There is a lot of photographic opportunities. If you've never been to this small neighbouring country, do so now and enjoy its beauty.



**Departure & Return Location:** Depart from Sasol Rosehaven North, on the N4, East of Pretoria **OR** at the Alzu Total Energies outside Middelburg on the N4 for people coming from Johannesburg, East Rand and other places. We'll return to the same venues, late afternoon on the last day. You can join and/or leave en route. Just inform us accordingly on the Booking Form.

**Price includes:** Accommodation for 6 nights (B&B), a tour leader with his own vehicle, all administration and leading of the tour (including booking of accommodation, meals & excursions, etc.), high frequency two-way radio per vehicle to use during the tour, lots of relevant info, group safety by traveling together, lots of photos, daily briefings of the tour, limited vehicle breakdown support, fun, new friends & new routes.

**Tour price excludes:** Lunches & dinners, fuel & toll gates for vehicles, Comprehensive Travel Insurance, gratuities, entry fees to venues or places, drinks, breakdown recovery costs and personal expenses.

**Accommodation:** We overnight two nights in Eswatini, two nights at Marloth Park and two nights outside Sabie, **including breakfast**.

**Dinner:** All other meals are optional, but budget for about R300 pp/dinner.

**Booking:** Complete the Booking Form and send it **with** your Proof of Payment (PoP) for the deposit to us. We'll confirm your booking in writing.

**Deposit:** At least 25% of the tour price with the booking, another 25% three (3) months before departure date (19<sup>th</sup> February 2025) and the outstanding balance by latest 6 weeks before departure date (7<sup>th</sup> April 2025).

If booked within the 3 months period prior to departure of the Road Trip, 50% deposit is required. If booked within the 6 weeks period prior to departure of the Road Trip, full payment is needed.

**Take on tour (suggested):** Your vehicle, **your passport**, your family & friends, pocket money, your Wild Card for free entry into the KNP & the game park in Eswatini, a smile and goodwill. Some other extras could include: Sneakers (walking shoes), a hat, binoculars, toilet paper, wet wipes, coffee flask, camera, torch and sunglasses.

**Vehicle:** Any 4 x 2, SUV vehicle or sedan with a good ground clearance, for when traveling on the gravel roads, is suitable for the tour. Low profile tyres not recommended. Only 11 vehicles allowed on tour. We do not speed whilst on tour, but we expect all vehicles to travel at the speed set by the tour leader.

**Who should go on this tour:** People who love travelling, enjoy back roads, singles, couples, those who have never been to the Eswatini & Lowveld region and would like to enjoy the natural beauty, flowers and friendliness of the people; people who are unfamiliar with driving at foreign places, people who'd prefer to travel with other people in a safe environment, people who don't like getting lost, those who'd like to be well informed as they drive along, those who like driving their own cars, people who like sharing their lives, interest, knowledge, fun and care with others. People who enjoy life at an easy pace.

**Who should not go this tour:** Moaners, groaners, whiners, speedsters, hooligans, boozers, people who can't drive on a gravel road; only talking about their pains, illnesses and operations they've had, etc.

**VHF Radio:** We provide each vehicle with a two-way radio for the duration of the tour in order to communicate with everyone. It charges on the vehicle's cigarette lighter. (Please make sure your vehicle's cigarette lighter is working **before** the tour starts).

**Money:** A credit or debit card, plus some cash, will be needed. You may use RSA money.

**Passport:** Yes, you do need a passport and your vehicle's papers to enter Eswatini.

**Fuel & toilets:** We'll stop regularly.

**Clothing:** Casual



### **What to expect:**

An orderly and well planned Road Trip, with a few surprises en route. Good food, a beautiful country, interesting roads and routes, tar and gravel roads, mountain passes and small towns, cute shops and funky art places, friendly people and something new... it's all part of the tour.

The natural beauty of Eswatini and the Lowveld will mesmerise you.

We are looking forward in welcoming you on this Road Trip.

Johan Badenhorst

### **Platteland Tours**

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## Itinerary:

### Day # 1 Monday

#### Pretoria to Mbabane 354 km

Welcome, briefing & handing out of 2-way radio's before departing via Pretoria, Emalahleni, Middelburg, Chrissiesmeer to Eswatini. En route you'll stop at interesting places, discover the small town of Chrissiesmeer and enjoy the surrounding areas.

Late afternoon you'll arrive at our lodge to enjoy the scenery, settle in and for the first dinner (at the venue) and overnight. We sleep two nights at the same venue.

### Day # 2 Tuesday

#### Circular Route into the district 125 km

After breakfast we depart for some sightseeing in Eswatini: Including a culture centre, the King's palace (drive by), the parliament building (drive by), markets, the candle factory, countryside, rivers and natural beauty.

Take your camera along and make use of the opportunity to take pictures; buy a beautiful candle or more; enjoy the cultural visit, colourful market and purchase some fresh fruit.

Time permitting, we'll pay a visit to a game reserve as well.

Dinner is available at the same lodge.



**Day # 3      Wednesday**

**Mbabane to Marloth Park**

**215 km**

After breakfast we depart for Marloth Park via Piggs Peak & Hectorspruit. We exit Eswatini, but en route we'll pay a visit to the Ngwenya glass factory. A very interesting place producing very special products.



In Marloth Park, enjoy the countryside and game next to the Kruger National Park.

We dine at a restaurant on the banks of the Crocodile River – viewing the KNP across.

We overnight two nights in Marloth Park in different guest houses.

**Day # 4      Thursday**

**Marloth Park into district**

**189 km**

Breakfast is en route at another interesting venue.

Today we'll visit a sugar cane farm and a sugar mill to observe their operations. This visit is very unique.



On the way home we observe the confluence of the Crocodile and Komati rivers and enjoy the nature from the Komatipoort golf course's restaurant' veranda.

Time permitting, we'll pay a brief visit to a local farm with more than 2000 different cycads ('broodbome'). A sight to behold.

An early dinner is to be enjoyed at Komatipoort. Overnight again in Marloth Park.

**Day # 5            Friday**

**Marloth Park via KNP to Sabie**

**251 km**

An earlier than normal departure from Marloth Park allows us time for a breakfast within the Kruger National Park at one of their overnight camps.

We continue driving through the KNP and exit at the Kruger Gate, en route to The Lift at Graskop.

This venue, The Lift, is a spectacular place. The beautiful nature in the gorge, the ferns, plants and trees, the spectacular rock formation and the waterfall make it a MUST SEE place to visit. There is a wooden walk way and a newly built 'cliff walk way' for the not-so faint hearted!



Late afternoon we drive to our overnight accommodation in the Long Tom Pass outside the town of Sabie. We stay here for two nights.

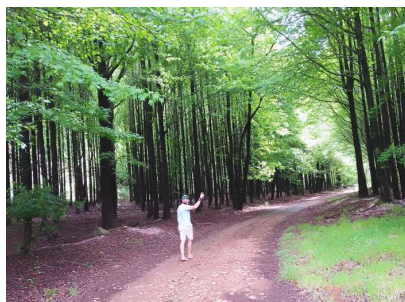
Dinner available at the Hotel.

**Day # 6            Saturday**

**Sabie & surroundings**

**48 km**

We depart after breakfast and travel on some back roads to spectacular waterfalls close by, as well as a visit to the town of Sabie.



In the afternoon time is spend at the popular Toboggan ride. A single line rail high-action thrilling cart-ride down a 1.7 km hill. When you've done it once, you want to go back for more!



We overnight at the same venue.

**Day # 7      Sunday**

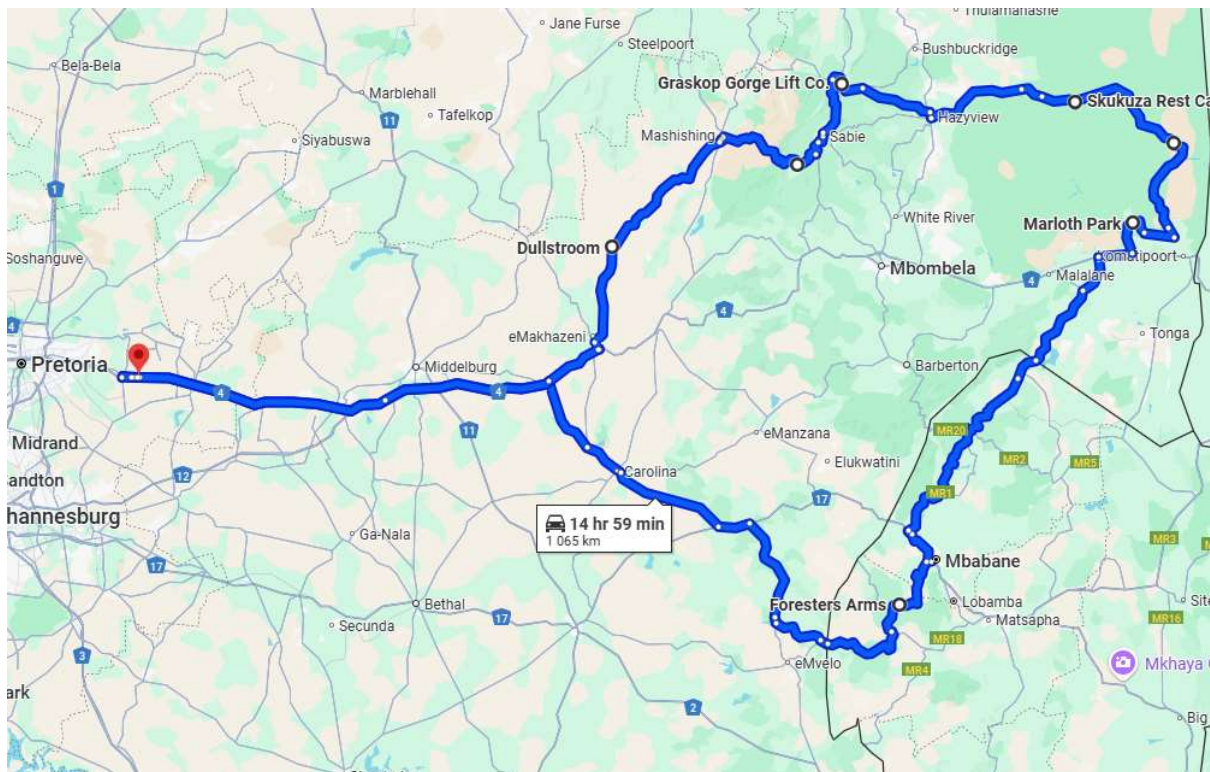
**Sabie to Pretoria**

**282 km**

A last breakfast on tour is enjoyed at this venue with its spectacular view over the forests.

The fact that it is our last day on the road trip does not mean that we speed for home. You'll visit the towns of Lydenburg and Dullstroom on the way back and travel via the N4 home. People living on the East Rand and Johannesburg can leave the group at Emalaheni, following the N12 home.

## End of Document



Proposed route, though not all the visiting points are included