



Wild places. Real purpose.

With Taylor Franckewitz

WILD AT HEART IN SOUTH AFRICA

Wildlife Conservation in Kruger National Park

Wild Places & Real Purpose with Host Taylor Franckewitz

| | Day | | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|----|-------------|-------|--|--|---|
| 1 | 23-Jul-2026 | Thurs | Overnight flight from JFK International, New York to Johannesburg, South Africa | | |
| 2 | 24-Jul-2026 | Fri | Arrival in Johannesburg, clear Customs & Immigrations, meet local team, transfer to Hotel & Check-in | Refresh / Relax; Supply Store Run | Welcome Dinner & Orientation Overview: History, Geography & Culture of South Africa |
| 3 | 25-Jul-2026 | Sat | The Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre & Tour | The Cradle of Humankind Private Tour | Sterkfontein Caves, UNESCO World Heritage Site - Guided Caving Experience |
| 4 | 26-Jul-2026 | Sun | Travel to Swadini Resort, Kruger National Park Area; check-in at Field Camp, Blyde River Canyon | | |
| 5 | 27-Jul-2026 | Mon | Community Initiative & Service Project | Cultural Tribal Immersion Drumming, Dance & Lunch | Free Time in Camp: Swimming, Hiking, Mini-Golf |
| 6 | 28-Jul-2026 | Tues | Kruger National Park Game Drive / Orpen Gate / Coach Self-Drive | | |
| 7 | 29-Jul-2026 | Wed | Kruger Park Area: Morning Game Drive, Wildlife Conservation Focus | Kruger Park Area: Game Drive with Plant & Animal Identification, Behavior, Navigation & Bush Orientation | Potjie Cook-Off / Competition |
| 8 | 30-Jul-2026 | Thur | Kruger Park Area: Morning Game Drive, Wildlife Tracking Focus | Kruger Park Area: Game Drive, Ranger-led Field Research Project & Data Collection | Camp Dinner |
| 9 | 31-Jul-2026 | Fri | Travel to Johannesburg via Panoramic Route: Three Rondavels, Bourkes Luck Pot Holes, God's Window | | |
| 10 | 1-Aug-2026 | Sat | Apartheid Museum | Gold Reef City Theme Park & Guided Gold Mine Tour | Traditional South African Farewell Dinner |
| 11 | 2-Aug-2026 | Sun | Arrive New York City, New York | | |



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WILD AT HEART IN SOUTH AFRICA

Join host **Taylor Franckewitz** for an unforgettable journey into the heart of South Africa, where adventure meets impact. Wild at Heart is a thoughtfully curated travel experience designed for explorers who crave meaningful exploration. From the vibrant cultural tapestry of Johannesburg to the raw beauty of the bushveld, this 11-day itinerary invites you to engage deeply with wildlife, conservation, and the stories that shape this extraordinary region.

The highlight of the journey unfolds over three immersive days in the Kruger National Park area—one of Africa's most iconic wildlife sanctuaries. Here, travelers will embark on guided game drives, tracking elephants, lions, rhinos, and other majestic species in their natural habitat. Between safaris, participants will engage in conservation-focused sessions led by local experts, gaining insight into anti-poaching efforts, habitat restoration, and the delicate balance between tourism and preservation. Bush walks offer a more intimate encounter with the land, where every footprint and birdsong tells a story of resilience and interconnection.

Evenings in Kruger are equally rich—whether gathering around the fire for storytelling, learning traditional cultural rhythms, or reflecting on the day's discoveries under a canopy of stars. With Taylor's passion for adventure and ecological stewardship, each moment is designed to inspire curiosity, connection, and a renewed sense of purpose. This is not just a trip—it's a call to engage with the wild, protect what matters, and return home transformed.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

WILDLIFE SAFARI CHECKLIST

The Big 5: Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Rhino, and Buffalo

The Small 5: Ant Lion, Elephant Shrew, Rhino Beetle, Leopard Tortoise, and Buffalo Weaver

The Ugly 5: Spotted Hyena, Marabou Stork, Vulture, Warthog, and Wildebeest

The Shy 5: Meerkat, Aardvark, Porcupine, Aardwolf, and Bat-eared Fox

Other animals you may see: Zebra, Giraffe, Kudu, Impala, Waterbuck, Nyala, Vervet Monkey, Baboon, Hippopotamus, Cheetah, Eagle, Wild Dog, Caracal, Ostrich and more.

KEY INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES

Pridelands Conservancy at Kruger National Park with the Eco-Training Team

Dive in with specialized conservation training. We'll be working with the team at Eco-Training, an organization that trains wildlife guides in South Africa, while learning at the Pridelands Conservancy in the greater Kruger area. While



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here, we will be utilizing **Open Safari Game Viewers** and participate in game drives, plant and animal identification, wildlife behavior, bush orienteering, navigation, wildlife tracking through print and dung identification, plus a research project.

Greater Kruger Balule Pridelands is located in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, north of Hoedspruit. The summer weather averages a maximum temperature of 35°C between October and March, while in winter, the minimum temperature averages 6°C between April and September.



Maropeng Exhibition Center at The Cradle of Humankind, UNESCO World Heritage Site

Declared a World Heritage Site in 1999 because of the area's exceptional contribution to our understanding of humankind's history and development, over more than 3-million years. Altogether, there are 15 major fossil sites in the Cradle of Humankind, of which the Sterkfontein Caves (below) is the most famous.

Sterkfontein Caving Experience

On a guided tour of Sterkfontein Caves, you'll step into the depths of human history. This is one of the world's richest fossil sites, offering a thrilling glimpse into the origins of humankind. As you navigate ancient chambers and winding passages, you'll learn about the famous discoveries of early hominid fossils like "Mrs. Ples" and "Little Foot," and gain insight into the science of Paleoanthropology. The experience invites critical thinking about evolution, archaeological methods, and the shared story of humanity—transforming dusty textbooks into a living, breathing adventure beneath the Earth's surface.

The Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre

Nestled in the foothills of the Magaliesberg, this organization has played a pivotal role in rescuing the cheetah from the brink of extinction in South Africa. Founded in 1971, this non-profit sanctuary has successfully bred over 1,000 cheetahs—including the rare King Cheetah—through a meticulous program that ensures genetic diversity and prepares select individuals for release into protected habitats. The organization's impact goes beyond breeding: it has pioneered relocation efforts for wild cheetahs deemed "problem animals," contributed to over 80 scientific publications, and educated more than 100,000 learners through outreach programs. Witness the speed and grace of these magnificent cats, while learning how conservation, research, and public engagement come together to safeguard their future.

Community Service & Mission Project

Partnering with the [Timbavati Foundation](#), we'll get to know the local residents and lend our hands with assistance. Projects range from healthcare initiatives, education, environmental and social care. Specific projects will be determined prior to travel. Plan to get involved and help make a difference!



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Shangaan Cultural Immersion Presentation

Designed and built by local tribes, guests will be introduced to an example of South Africa's great cultural diversity. Through music, drumming, dance and storytelling, our hosts include singers, actors and dancers gathered to tell the story of the tribes of Africa. A traditional tribal lunch is served onsite.

Night Sky in the Southern Hemisphere Master Class

Once darkness sets in and the sky fills with millions of stars, you'll learn about Astronomy with a passionate expert. During our time, we'll find, study and learn about the constellations, locate the Southern Cross and determine how it helps us to find true South, learn about the Milky Way, plus identify Orion's Belt, Scorpio and many other southern constellations among other topics!

The Panoramic Route: Three Rondavels, Bourke's Luck Potholes & God's Window

Visiting [Three Rondavels](#), [Bourke's Luck Potholes](#), and [God's Window](#) offers a breathtaking journey through South Africa's geological and scenic masterpieces. The Three Rondavels rise like ancient sentinels above the Blyde River Canyon, their rounded peaks resembling traditional African huts and offering panoramic views of one of the world's largest green canyons. At Bourke's Luck Potholes, guests witness nature's artistry—cylindrical rock formations carved over millennia by swirling waters at the confluence of the Blyde and Treur Rivers, a vivid lesson in erosion and time. And at God's Window, the landscape opens up to reveal sweeping vistas across the Lowveld, with cliffs plunging over 700 meters and, on clear days, views stretching all the way to Mozambique. Together, these sites inspire awe, spark curiosity, and connect travelers to the deep natural and cultural heritage of South Africa's Panorama Route.

Apartheid Museum

A visit to the Apartheid Museum is a powerful and immersive journey through South Africa's struggle for freedom and equality. Through 22 thought-provoking exhibits—including original artifacts, film footage, photographs, and interactive displays—the museum traces the rise and fall of apartheid, the brutal system of racial segregation that shaped the nation from 1948 to 1994. Visitors enter through racially designated doors, immediately confronting the realities of institutionalized discrimination, and continue through exhibits that explore resistance movements, the role of leaders like Nelson Mandela, and the country's path to reconciliation.

Gold Reef City Theme Park & Mine Tour

Set against the backdrop of Johannesburg's gold rush era, the GRC Theme Park is a vibrant fusion of history and high-octane fun. Descending into the depths of Johannesburg's golden past, the Mine Tour offers an experience that brings South Africa's mining heritage vividly to life. Visitors travel 75 meters underground into a historic 19th-century gold mine shaft, once among the richest producers of gold in the world. Guided by experts, guests explore candlelit tunnels, witness the deafening roar of mining drills, and learn about the harsh conditions miners endured—including the use of Fanagalo, a simplified language developed for communication across cultures. Back on the surface, the tour includes live demonstrations of molten gold being poured into gleaming bars and more. A dynamic blend of history and culture that reveals how gold shaped the city—and the country.



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YOUR HOST

WILD AT HEART

with Taylor Franckewitz
July 23rd - August 2nd, 2026





TAYLOR FRANCKEWITZ

Taylor is an experiential travel specialist with a lifelong passion for wildlife, culture, and conservation. With a background in eco-tourism and a gift for Immersive storytelling, he partners with local experts to create hands-on adventures that inspire connection and curiosity. As host of Wild at Heart, Taylor brings warmth, insight, and purpose to every moment - from ranger-led fieldwork to starlit campfire conversations.



HAMMOCK
EXPEDITIONS

An adventurer from the start, Taylor grew up exploring far-off lands and immersing himself in the stories of the natural world. His lifelong love of travel, culture, and exploration sets the tone for this journey - one infused with curiosity, connection, and purpose. With a background in experiential travel and a deep respect for wildlife, Taylor brings a unique blend of enthusiasm and insight to every moment. Whether navigating the bushveld or sharing tales around the campfire, his presence invites travelers to see conservation not just as a cause, but as a calling.

Taylor's approach to eco-tourism is rooted in authentic engagement and hands-on learning. From community service projects to ranger-led field research, he curates experiences that foster both wonder and understanding. His passion for South Africa's biodiversity and cultural heritage shines through in every detail - from the tribal dance and drumming to the astronomy master class under southern skies. With Taylor as host, this isn't just a trip, it's a transformative adventure that celebrates stewardship, discovery, and the wild beauty of creation.

What's Included

Round-trip group international flights (coach class) from Boston, Massachusetts to Johannesburg, South Africa with 1 bag, 1 carry-on and 1 personal item included in luggage costs, per person
8-nights lodging + overnight air during outbound travel: 3-nights Johannesburg, 5-nights Greater Kruger area



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Breakfasts, lunches and dinners daily starting with your arrival and ending with your departure, plus meals in flight.

EXCEPTION: dinner is “on own” on Day 3 to enjoy a meal of your choice, not included in costs

Transportation: Motorcoach/Private Shuttle

Personal Tour Team to include your Host, your Tour Director, local guide, group Chef and Driver

Gratuities for your National Guide, chef, driver and activities guides

Activities:

- ❖ Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre with private tour
- ❖ Cradle of Humankind with private tour
- ❖ Sterkfontein Caving Experience
- ❖ Blyde River Canyon Evening Bush Walk
- ❖ Community Initiative & Service Project with the Timbavati Foundation (specific project TBD, dependent upon local needs)
- ❖ Cultural Tribal Immersion through Drumming, Dance & Song presentation
- ❖ Southern Hemisphere Astronomy Master Class
- ❖ Kruger National Park Full-Day Game Drive / Coach Self-Drive
- ❖ 2-Days of Safari / Conservation Training with Eco-Training Team at Pridelands Conservancy; topics include Wildlife Conservation, Plant Identification, Animal Identification, Wildlife Behavior, the Big & Small Five, Navigation, Bush Orienteering, Wildlife Tracking and Research Initiatives
- ❖ Guided Sunset / Night Drive at Kruger National Park
- ❖ Panoramic Route Viewing: Three Rondawels, Bourkes Luck Potholes & God’s Window
- ❖ Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg
- ❖ Gold Reef City Theme Park & Gold Mine Tour

Note: All included activities are based on operational availability at the time of travel

What's Not Included

- × Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
- × Transfers to/from departure airport; hotels or meals required pre/post trip in departure/return city
- × Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary
- × Meals other than what is shown above; meals other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions, vegetarian, vegan and halal if needed)
- × Alcoholic beverages, purchase on own
- × Baggage handling - each person should be able to carry/load their own suitcase
- × Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
- × Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- × Sightseeing / Entertainment not shown in Itinerary
- × Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, movies, etc.
- × Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH
- × Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or fees levied by governments / suppliers

IMPORTANT NOTE: All children traveling must be a minimum age of 6 to participate in wildlife programming. If you have children under this age, you are welcome to stay at the resort during the days we are on safari at Kruger. Unfortunately, the resort does not offer childcare services. Please contact us for guidance.



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Package Costs

Package pricing shown is per person. Packages are available for quad, triple, double and single occupancy. Packages options are available that include group flights as well as no flights so individuals can book independent options if preferred. Two things to note on flights:

- Group flights are for **coach seating** only. If you wish for first, business or extended-legroom cabins, please book these independently.
- If flights are booked independently, please understand that you are also independently responsible for any associated luggage costs as well as transfers to/from the Johannesburg International Airport on arrival and departure if they do not correspond with group transfer times.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Quad Occupancy - Without Flights | \$3748 pp |
| <i>Quad Occupancy - With Flights from DC</i> | <i>\$5689 pp</i> |
| Triple Occupancy - Without Flights | \$3835 pp |
| <i>Triple Occupancy - With Flights from DC</i> | <i>\$5775 pp</i> |
| Double Occupancy - Without Flights | \$3963 pp |
| <i>Double Occupancy - With Flights from DC</i> | <i>\$5876 pp</i> |
| Single Occupancy - Without Flights | \$4527 pp |
| <i>Single Occupancy - With Flights from DC</i> | <i>\$6467 pp</i> |

DEPOSIT / PAYMENT PLAN:

\$1000 to reserve your spot

Balance split between 3 payment dates, monthly from March through May, due on the 1st

Contact us if you need special assistance

INSURANCE: Travel insurance is mandatory. We partner with Travel Insured for our trips, or you may feel free to use any provider you wish and send us a copy of your personal coverage valid for the dates of travel. The choice is yours. If you do wish to use Travel Insured, please use this link so your insurance is tied to this trip: <http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=62443>. Unfortunately, you will not be able to travel without a policy in place and trip cost refunds will not be available due to lack of purchase.

Please click on the link below for registration. The registration process will require input of all personal information required for flights, passport details if known, places for medical conditions and dietary preferences, signature of required waivers, and more. All payments are made direct through the portal and guests may pay via ACH (online bank check) at no charge from select countries (USD, GBP, EUR, CAD, AUD, NZD, CHF, DKK, NOK, SEK, PLN, HKD and MXN). Guests may also make payment via credit card, however, please be advised that a 4% processing fee is charged by the processing agency.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)



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THE SMALL PRINT:

- As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.
- Please note that once paid, the trip is nonrefundable, so we strongly suggest that everyone has trip protection in place immediately after paying your initial deposit. For those needing to purchase trip insurance, a link is available (above) for independent purchase, or you may elect to use your own plan. Please understand that trip protection is mandatory and everyone will be required to submit proof of insurance prior to travel.
- Your trip is not confirmed until you have paid your deposit in full.
- Please read all details concerning booking conditions. This is reviewed during registration (acceptance required for booking), or you may review it directly from our website.
- Each person should be ready to issue a personal credit card to hotels at check-in for incidental deposits & bills. In most cases, a small amount will be pre-authorized and then released upon your departure.
- Please ensure that you are aware of passport requirements. Currently U.S. citizens traveling to South Africa must have a valid passport with at least two blank pages and proof of a return or onward ticket. Your passport must be valid for at least 30 days beyond your intended stay in South Africa. A Yellow Fever vaccination is required if arriving from a country with a Yellow Fever risk. It is crucial to check the latest requirements with your country's Embassy before you depart, as rules can change.
 - o The USA government suggests allowing a minimum of 3 months for passport processing time so if you need to obtain a passport, please apply early or request expedited processing.
- Unfortunately, there are no refunds available if you do not have a passport when required. **Passport details are required 3-months prior to travel.**
- Please understand that a waiver (Release of Liability) is required for each person traveling. Waivers are part of your online registration process. No one may complete their registration without agreeing to the required Release of Liability.
- Payments may be made via ACH (online bank check) at no at no charge from select countries (USD, EUR, GBP, CAD, AUD, NZD, CHF, DKK, NOK, SEK, PLN, HKD, and MXN). Guests may also make payment via credit card however a 4% processing fee is charged by the processing agency. If you have any questions concerning payments, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at our offices at 984.223.9866 for help and information. We pride ourselves on providing great service and unbeatable education in your continued learning journey. We look forward to serving you!

The Hammock Family



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