

RIO OLIFANTES CANOE TRAIL

Spend three days canoeing down the Rio Olifantes in Southern Mozambique, camping wild along the river banks. A cast for tiger fish, a sighting of a hippo pod or the call of the fish eagle will enthrall you on your 50km journey downstream that will end close to the confluence of the Limpopo.

The clean waters of the Rio Olifantes flow at a swift 4-6 km/ hour, so you need not be a Pope Ellis to participate in this canoe safari. In fact, you hardly need pick up your paddle as you drift downstream on the lookout for circling birds of prey or that flash of a tiger. Our professional guides will keep you safe and informed as they share interesting knowledge about the dynamic ecosystems we pass through.

The daily paddle distances allow plenty of time for swimming, snack-breaks and game viewing enroute. A picnic lunch is usually had under the cool shade of a fever tree, or we'll pull up on a sandbar where you can cool down with a refreshing dip in the river.

Before you know it, we'll drift around a bend and on the river banks will be our mobile tented camp – ready and waiting your arrival with the beers chilling in the generator fridge! The locations for these mobile camps are all carefully chosen to offer a *true* wilderness experience. The camp assistants will go out of their way to make your night in the bush as 'comfortable' as possible, but the spirit of the experience remains an *intimate* and *adventurous* wilderness encounter. After a freshen-up with a hot-water bucket shower, trailists gather around the campfire, recalling the sights and funny incidents of the day, whilst a sumptuous dinner is prepared over the coals, by your able guide. With tummies full we retire to the tents, lulled to sleep by the symphony of the night.

This 4 day-3 night canoe safari is the perfect getaway for family and friend groups – looking for a true wilderness experience, but not without some 'creature comforts'. Let our professional guides take care of the logistics whilst you get to take the pictures.



TRAIL INFORMATION



Location: Southern Mozambique – interior. The Rio Elefantos River on the section between the confluence of the Shingwedzi and the confluence of the Limpopo Rivers – a 50km stretch of clean warm water, within the Parque Nacional do Limpopo (the Mozambican side of the Limpopo Transfrontier Park)

Trail Description / Daily Distances: 50km of paddling over 3 days of canoeing. Day 1 – 10km, Day 2 & 3 – 20km each.

Fitness Required: Whilst not necessarily strenuous, conditions during the summer months can be very hot and humid. Participants on the trail must be well prepared for the climatic conditions. There is no upper age limit but participants on the trail must be medically fit and be aware that the experience involves paddling distances of up to 20 km / day.



Child policy: For safety considerations, regrettably, no children under the age of 11 may participate in the canoe trail.

What to look forward to: Abundant birdlife, animal sightings, knowledgeable interactive guiding, tiger fishing, traditional campfire cuisine, bright starry skies, no cellphones & the tranquility of WILDERNESS

Getting There: Trailists enter Parque Nacional do Limpopo from Kruger National Park via the Giryondo Border Post. Coming from South Africa, the most direct point of entry is Phalaborwa through to Letaba Camp in Kruger (50km) & then Letaba to Giryondo (45km/1hr drive). From Moçambique the route to meeting point is via the Massingir dam entry gate

Meeting point for the canoe trail is **Campismo Albufeira at the Massingir dam** entrance gate to Parque Nacional do Limpopo. Vehicles are parked at Campismo Albufeira for the duration of the trail.



Price: R4900/pp – Based on a minimum of 4 persons & maximum of 10 persons

Price includes

Qualified guide

Full Vehicle Back-up Support for set up Mobile Tented Camp

Double canoes, paddles and safety equipment for 3 Days on the River

Transfer from meeting point (Campismo Albufeira) to river & back

2 person dome tent and camping mattresses for 3 nights

All meals

Price excludes

National Parks' entry fees

Bedding (sleeping bag, pillow etc)

Beverages

Gratuities.

Transfer to meeting point

General Trail Description

- This Canoe Trails is led by a qualified & experienced Wilderness Trail Guide.
- On the first day trailist's meet their guide at Campismo Albufeira from where you are transported some 40km along tracks through remote villages to the starting point of the canoe trail. Today is a 10 km paddle to the first overnight camp.
- Day two starts with breakfast and then a gentle-paced 20 km paddle, breaking for a picnic lunch, before reaching the overnight campsite.
- Day three is also a paddle of around 20 km before leaving the water close to the Limpopo confluence. Lunch is enjoyed in a village after which we return by road to the overnight camp.
- On the fourth day, after coffee and rusks, we depart camp and journey by road through this remote area back to Campismo Albufeira
- The river flows at four to six kilometres per hour and provides a relaxing and thoroughly enjoyable paddle and an opportunity to cast for Tiger fish (catch and release)
- Birding is excellent en-route and sightings of hippo and crocodile, as well as a shy buck or two are likely.
- Each night offers the prospect of its own special experience, from the sun setting over the river, to the "laughing" of a pod of hippo or the call of a fish eagle in the riverine forest. Even the possibility of trumpeting elephant.
- Trailists gather around the fire chatting whilst 'bush cuisine' meals are prepared by the camp assistants. Then head off to the shelter of your tent to be lulled to sleep by the sounds of the night.
- The purpose of the Rio Olifantes Canoeing Trail is to afford trailists an intimate and adventurous wilderness encounter in this remote area. The Guide will, within reason, adjust the pace at which the trail is paddled to accommodate the group's pace and interests.

OPTIONAL TRANSFER TO CANOE TRAIL MEETING POINT

Optional Transfer to/from Letaba Camp (Kruger) to start of Canoe Trail (meeting point: Campismo Albufeira) at the Massinger Dam entrance – return back to vehicles left at Letaba camp: **R930/pp – for the return transfer** – INCLUDES the Open Safari Vehicle (OSV) levy charged by Kruger Park of R180/pp + Parque Nacional do Limpopo Entrance Fee and 3rd Party Vehicle Insurance

GENERAL INFORMATION - ACCESSABILITY

Ports of entry for arrival by air

- Phalaborwa in South Africa (SA Airlink operates daily scheduled flight from Jhb)
- Hoedspruit (SAA operates daily scheduled flights from Jhb)
- Maputo in Moçambique
- Most major car hire companies have desks at these airports

Transfers to Machampane Tented Camp or to meeting points for Wilderness Trails (separate quote)

- For guests flying to Phalaborwa or Hoedspruit a return road transfer is available.
- For guests self-driving but who prefer to leave their vehicles in Kruger National Park, parking is available at Letaba Restcamp from where the transfer to Machampane Tented Camp departs.
- For guests flying to Maputo a return road transfer is available.
- **Please note:** Return transfers from Letaba Restcamp to Machampane Tented Camp or the meeting points for Wilderness Trails are usually undertaken in an Open Safari Vehicle. Please see note below re. Kruger National Park's Open Safari Vehicle entry fee policy for re-entry charges into Kruger.

Self-drive options

- Self-drive to Letaba camp in Kruger National Park then transfer to Machampane Tented Camp or meeting point for wilderness trails
 - Can be done in any standard sedan motor vehicle.
- Self-drive directly to **Machampane Tented Camp** or to meeting points for wilderness trails
 - 4x4 vehicle is not required but it is recommended that clients have a vehicle with high ground clearance e.g. Nissan X-Trail.

Access to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park and travelling distances

- By road from South Africa, through Kruger National Park.
 - Distance from Phalaborwa gate via Letaba Restcamp to Giriyondo border post is 95 km.
 - The route is a game drive all the way and takes approximately 2,5 to 3,0 hours.
 - 70 km is on tarred road and the remaining 25 km on gravel which can be corrugated and stony.
 - Distance from Giriyondo border post to the Elephant Release Boma (starting point of the Palarangala Wilderness Trail, Lebombo Hiking Trail and Elefantos Gorge Backpacking and Fishing Trail) is 31 km and to Machampane Tented Camp is 33 km.
 - It is a game drive all the way and driving time is around 1, 0 hour.

- **Distance from Giryondo border post to Massingir gate (Campismo Albufeira, starting point of the Rio Elefantes Canoeing Trails at this gate) is approximately 75 km and driving time is around 2,5 hours**
 - Road surfaces in Parque Nacional do Limpopo are a combination of gravel and sand and can be corrugated and stony
 - Rain also affects road surfaces and creates poor driving conditions
 - **Vehicle with good ground clearance is strongly recommended, but a 4x4 is not essential.**
- By road from Maputo via Macia, Chokwe and Massingir.
 - Distance from Maputo to Massingir is approximately 400km and takes around 5, 0 hours.
 - From park entry gate at Massingir to Machampane Tented Camp is approximately 50 km and takes 1, 5 hours.
 - Road is good tar to Massingir although pot-holed for the last 90 km.
 - From Massingir the road is gravel (currently being upgraded) and traveling is done through a National Park with a speed limit of 40km.
 - Vehicle with good ground clearance is strongly recommended, but a 4x4 is not essential.

Fuel for self-drive vehicles

- Fuel can be purchased at Phalaborwa and Letaba restcamp.
- Guests traveling on to the coast in Moçambique can obtain fuel in Massingir, Chokwe and Macia. In Moçambique only cash is accepted for fuel purchases.

Giryondo border post

- Operating Hours:
 - Summer (1 October to 31 March) 08.00 to 16.00
 - Winter (1 April to 30 September) 08.00 to 15.00
- Foreign visitor visas (not required by South Africans) can be obtained at the border post and take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to issue.
- Border officials are always efficient and courteous in the execution of their duties.
- **Please remember:** a valid passport is required.
- **Please remember:** Self-drive guests must be in possession of the motor vehicle licence papers or a cross-border letter of authority from the vehicle owner or the car hire company

Import duties

- As with any country, Moçambique imposes import duties on goods brought into the country in quantity or value beyond the duty free allowance
- At present duty free allowances on relevant items include:
 - 1 litre spirits and 2,25 litres wine per adult
 - 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 gram tobacco per adult
 - US\$ 50 in goods, including food, per person
- **Please note:** All beer imported from South Africa is subject to duty at the rate of 141%. Local beers can be purchased at Machampane Tented Camp, at the border post on entry into Moçambique and at tuck shops in all villages.
- **Please note:** On occasions duty is levied on fuel carried in jerry cans in excess of 20 litres, particularly in cases where it seems apparent that the value of 'other goods' is close to or exceeds the duty free limit of US\$ 50 per person

Fees not included in our rates

- **Conservation fees:**
 - Kruger National Park daily conservation fee is payable on entry into Kruger National Park and on re-entry from Parque Nacional do Limpopo (currently R45 SA residents/ R80 SADC residents/ R180 Foreign visitors).
 - **Please note:** When traveling on an Open Safari Vehicle through a Kruger National Park entry gate Wild Cards (South African or International) are not accepted as a method of payment for entry to the Park. Instead an Open Safari Vehicle entry fee (currently R180 per person irrespective of nationality) is charged. This fee is payable on re-entry from Parque Nacional do Limpopo and may be paid only in cash or by credit card.
 - Parque Nacional do Limpopo conservation fee (approx R50 per person irrespective of duration of stay)
 - Parque Nacional do Limpopo vehicle entry fee (self drive-approx R50).
- **Moçambique border fees**
 - Foreign visitors visa, single entry valid for 30 days (R563, €77, \$108)
 - Border entry fee:- South African residents (approx R17 per person)
 - Motor vehicle entry fee (approx R10)
 - Vehicle third party insurance, valid for 30 days, only required if exiting Parque Nacional do Limpopo into Moçambique and can be purchased at the Park exit gate to Massingir (approx R150)
- Fees are based on the Moçambique Meticaís exchange rate prevailing from time to time and are therefore approximated.
- All the charges mentioned above can be paid in Rands and change is given in Rands. Meticaís, US\$ and Euros are also accepted, but change is not available.

This information is correct at January 2011. Please feel free to call or email us should you have any questions that are not answered in this information sheet.

