



The Kingdom of Swaziland's
BIG GAME PARKS



Itinerary Suggestions

Wild Focus

HLANE
MLILWANE
MKHAYA

Birding Week

2 nights Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary; 2 Nights Hlane Royal National Park; 1 night Mkhaya Game Reserve **X** **X** **X**

- Day 1:** Arrive Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary
Spend the evening on the Rest Camp Botanical Trail revealing forest species - purple crested touraco, narina trogon, green pigeon, tinker bird and up to 5 robin species
Dinner in the Hippo Haunt Restaurant, or self-cater
Accommodation – Beehive Huts or Lontweni Self-catering Rondavels
- Day 2:** Get up at day break, pack your hat, sunblock, camera and binoculars, and head for the White-fronted Bee-eater colony. Take the Shallows Trail, onto the Hippo Trail and get to the colony as early as possible to witness the bee-eaters emerge for the day. Beware of hippo returning to water at this time.
Continue with the Hippo Trail around the Hippo Pool, through forest, onto the lower slopes of Nyonyane Mountain and along the furrow through the grasslands. The diverse habitats are home to a wide variety of birds.
For the more energetic, detour up the Summit Trail for montane species, taking time in the ravine forests for more forest birds. For the less energetic, an afternoon drive up the mountain will offer similar results with less effort!
Accommodation – Beehive Huts or Lontweni Self-catering Rondavels
- Day 3:** A leisurely breakfast, with time spent enjoying the heronry in front of the Hippo Haunt Restaurant.
Walk the Sondzela Trail for grassland and aquatic birds - or simply drive to the Sondzela Dams and take a leisurely stroll along the Sondzela Trail for snipes, teals, herons and egrets. Who knows a swamp hen may be spotted!
Check out of accommodation, heading for Hlane Royal National Park via the Malkerns Craft Route with lunch at Mandela's Restaurant or Sambane Coffee Shoppe (Swazi Candles) recommended.
Arrive at Hlane Royal National Park late afternoon, settle in to your accommodation and spend the last golden hours bird-watching around Bhubesi Camp (self catering) or Ndlovu Camp (restaurant or self catering, no electricity). Ndlovu Camp has woodland species, Bhubesi is riverine forest species.
Accommodation – Hlane Royal National Park



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Birding Week Continued

- Day 4:** Early morning game drive, observing vulture and marabou nests, spending time at Mahlindza Dam and moving slowly along self-drive roads for woodland and thicket species.
Breakfast
Relax and birdwatch around camp
Evening guided birding walk departing Ndlovu Camp
Accommodation – Hlane Royal National Park
- Day 5:** Early morning birding by vehicle or on foot (guided)
Return for Breakfast
Depart for Mkhaya Game Reserve, to arrive 10h00
Guided Game Drive en-route Stone Camp, spotting woodland with some forest species
Lunch under the Sausage Tree
Afternoon birding around Stone Camp and Kirky's Hide – specials include narina trogon, crested guineafowl, spotted nicator, green & pink throated twinspots, purple crested touraco.
Evening Game Drive
Accommodation – Mkhaya Game Reserve, Stone Camp (no electricity)
- Day 6:** Early morning game drive or birding walk, returning for breakfast.
Depart Mkhaya by 10h00