



# Hoedspruit and The Panorama Route

## 2 Nights, 3 day photo safari



**Duration:** 3 days, 2 nights

**Destinations:**

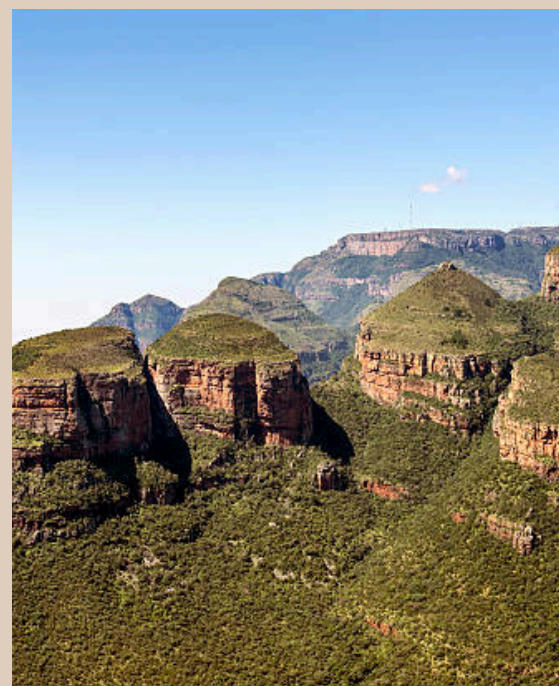
- Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province
- Panorama Route, Mpumalanga Province

**Trip Highlights:**

- Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre
- Blyde River Canyon Boat Cruise
- Jessica Hippo
- The Three Rondavels
- Bourke's Luck Potholes
- Berlin Falls
- Lisbon Falls
- God's Window
- The Pinnacle
- Graskop Gorge Lift Co - Gorge Walk

The Hoedspruit and Panorama route on the Drakensberg Escarpment tour is a 3-day sightseeing tour that traverses through the magnificent panorama route and the wildlife-rich Lowveld area. Both Hoedspruit and the Lowveld escarpment area are close to Kruger National park, and this safari can be done on its own or combined with a Kruger National Park Photo Safari.

Home to some of South Africa's most striking landscapes, the Drakensberg Escarpment was, until a couple of centuries ago, untamed rainforest roamed by elephants, buffaloes, and even lions. Today, it is holidaying South Africans and, increasingly, international visitors who wander the highlands and enjoy the beautiful landscape. The escarpment marks the point where the highveld plateau plunges over 3000 feet to the Lowveld, forming a dramatic knot of soaring cliffs, canyons, sweeping hillsides, and cool valleys thick with pine trees and waterfalls.





## Jessica Hippo

Meet Jessica, the friendly and loving hippo, where you can interact and feed this hippo. Jessica is an orphan hippo found during the floods of 2000 by Tony and Sherley Joubert, who then raised her. Jessica enjoys a life of freedom with wild hippos, but she returns to the homestead every day to greet her people and drink two bottles of iced tea.



## Blyde River Canyon Boat Cruise

A boat cruise on the Blyde River Canyon offers a breathtaking view of the natural scenery, featuring the iconic Three Rondavels and the Kadishi Tufa Waterfall.

This 1.5-hour guided tour aboard a comfortable pontoon boat allows you to fully appreciate the canyon's stunning beauty and its rich variety of flora and fauna.

This cruise is a favourite among nature lovers and photographers. Navigate through the Blyde River Canyon, admiring the impressive Three Rondavels and the vibrant subtropical vegetation that adorns its slopes. A knowledgeable tour guide shares fascinating details about the canyon's history, geology, and wildlife. Stay alert for hippos, crocodiles, various antelope species, and an array of birdlife, including the majestic African fish eagle.



## Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre

Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre is home to the famous Stoffel, the honey badger. Situated in the shadow of the majestic "Mariepskop," which forms part of the mighty Drakensberg mountains, the unique Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is home to many of South Africa's abandoned, injured, and poisoned wildlife. Often Moholoholo is faced with the difficult decision of what to do with an injured or poisoned animal, which can't be released back into the wild. As a result, several "permanent residents" are used as "ambassadors" for their respective species. Therefore, you will be able to get an up-close and personal experience of these incredible creatures. With Moholoholo's hands-on approach, they can demonstrate the threats and problems our wildlife faces today. A visit to the Centre is "an experience of a lifetime" and will leave you with lasting memories.





# *The Three Rondavels*

The word "rondavel" is a South African word that refers to a round hut-like dwelling (usually with a thatched roof). The three well-known gigantic peaks of quartzite and shale, with their sheer rock walls tower more than 2300 feet above the surrounding landscape. Viewpoints offer stunning views of the Three Rondavels and Blyde River Canyon, the third-largest canyon in the world.



## *Burke's Luck Potholes*

Time to explore Burke's Luck Potholes. The natural water feature marks the beginning of the Blyde River Canyon. The swirling whirlpools that occur as the Treur River plunge into the Blyde River caused waterborne sand and rock to grind huge cylindrical potholes into the river's bedrock. Bourke's Luck Potholes were named after prospector Tom Bourke who discovered alluvial gold in the late 1880s. A long circular path with several pedestrian bridges over the river directs visitors towards the best vantage points. The interesting and informative visitors centre sheds light on the region's natural history and introduces the area's early inhabitants, the San.





# The small town of Graskop

Enjoy lunch at a town named Graskop. Graskop means "grass hill" and is famous for its pancake restaurant. Get the chance to do souvenir shopping at the many art & craft shops where you can find anything from woven carpets, and elephant dung paper to handmade crafts, and local artists' paintings.



## Berlin Falls and Lisbon Falls

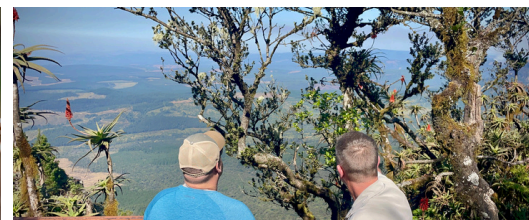
A short walk to Berlin falls will bring you to a vantage point overlooking the beautiful falls that tumble down in a single drop for about 260 feet before crashing dramatically into a round basin that is an irresistible jade colour. Seeing the green waters set off by the red cliffs around them is unforgettable and best enjoyed from the observation platform above.

At 301 feet, Lisbon Falls is the highest waterfall in the area. European prospectors named both Lisbon and Berlin falls after their hometowns.



## God's Window

Experience the breathtaking scenic splendour of God's Window. God's Window is so-called for the Lowveld's panoramic view more than 900 m down into the lush indigenous forest-clad ravine. The majestic cliffs plunge over 2900 feet to the Lowveld and the private game reserves, which have made the area one of South Africa's main wildlife destinations. God's Window is a small part of a 250km long earthwork of sheer cliffs and extravagant beauty. One can observe the hills and forests as far as the eye can see. It seems as if one can see forever!

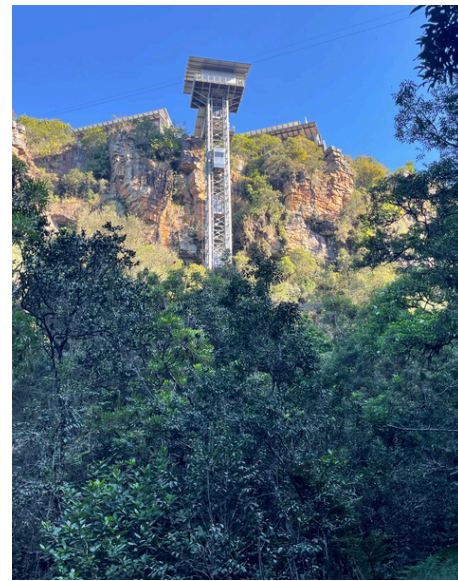




# Graskop Lift Co - Gorge Walk

The Graskop Gorge Lift stands as South Africa's latest and most innovative tourism attraction, uniquely positioned as the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Your adventure begins as you descend from the grassy cliff top in a specially designed 26-passenger viewing elevator, which travels 51 meters down the cliff face into the refreshing mountain forest below. An extensive network of elevated walkways, suspension bridges, and interactive exhibits guides you along the 500-meter forest trails and across picturesque streams. The towering cliffs have been gradually shaped by the Motitsi River, showcasing the breathtaking Panorama Gorge waterfall that plunges 70 meters into the gorge beneath.

Although the elevator ride lasts only a few minutes, you can spend hours discovering the wonders of the indigenous forest below. The Lift Co Lifestyle Centre serves as the gateway to the forest and features a variety of small retail shops, a community craft market, and a restaurant and bar area. Perched on the cliff edge, these facilities offer stunning views of both the waterfall and the lush forest below.



## ADD ON ACTIVITIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE SAFARI PACKAGE

### *Zipline*

### *Big Swing at Graskop*

Experience the adrenaline rush of the world's highest cable gorge swing with a 223 feet freefall. 0-99 mph in 2.3 seconds! This is not an upside-down bungee jump - you are strapped in an upright position.

If you're seeking an adrenaline rush but find the Big Swing too intense, try our thrilling Double Zipline! Start from a 5-metre tower with stunning 360° views, then zip across the Graskop Gorge on a 120-metre line. Enjoy a scenic platform walk, taking in the vistas, before soaring back across the gorge on a second zipline. Feel the wind and appreciate the landscape from a new perspective!

