THE BIG FIVE MARATHON

20 JUNE 2020

The Big Five Marathon in South Africa is held amongst the wildlife of the African Savannah. Runners from all over the world will meet in one of the most spectacular “Big Five” game reserves in Africa. In these magnificent surroundings, participants can combine exciting game drives with a challenging marathon route going right through the habitat of the most famous African game: Elephant, Rhino, Buffalo, Lion and Leopard. No fences, no rivers, nothing at all separates the runners from the African wildlife.

This is an exclusive event situated in the Limpopo province, and the Entabeni Private Game Reserve provides the perfect setting for the event. Within this 22,000 hectare private game reserve, several accommodation facilities are provided, varying from tented camps to luxurious lodges.

marathontours

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0800 RUNNING | RUN@MARATHONTOURS.CO.NZ | WWW.MARATHONTOURS.CO.NZ

6 DAY ITINERARY

DAY ONE
Thursday 18 June *(D)*

Arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa

On arrival, transfer from the airport to Entabeni Safari Conservancy to meet your tour leader and check in to your respective lodge/camp

Afternoon game drive followed by dinner

DAY TWO
Friday 19 June *(B, L, D)*

Breakfast at your lodge/camp

Transfer to the marathon starting point where you will be briefed and able to inspect the trail. A buffet lunch will be available, followed by a formal introduction to the marathon

DAY THREE
Saturday 20 June *(B, L, D)*

RACE DAY!

Rest of day at leisure

DAY FOUR
Sunday 21 June *(B, L, D)*

Morning at leisure with options of doing a game drive at an additional expense

The afternoon will be spent doing a game drive followed by an 'After Marathon' Party

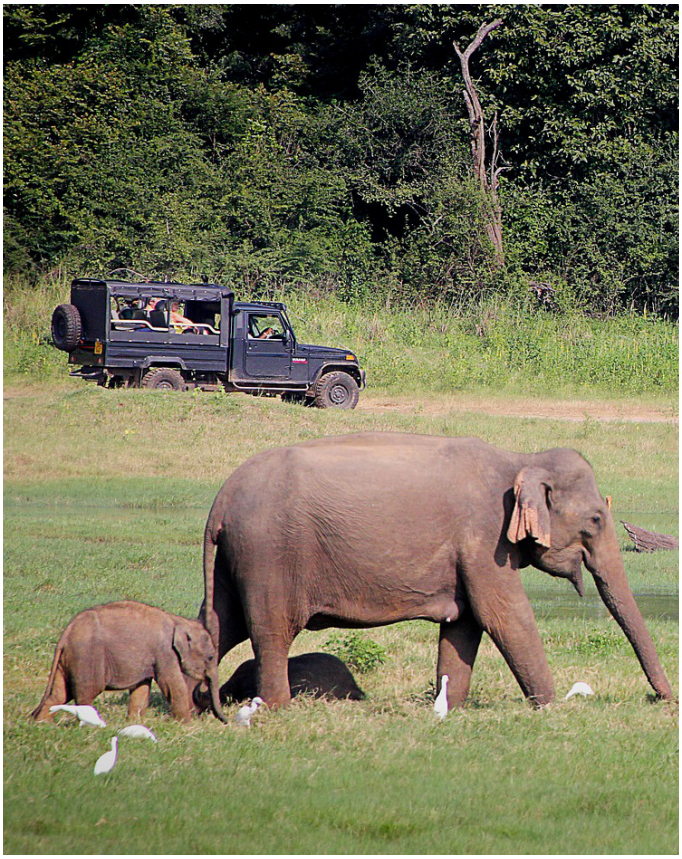
DAY FIVE
Monday 22 June *(B, L, D)*

Final optional game drive for the group and a bush walk with a tour guide

A farewell dinner will be held at the respective lodges/camps

DAY SIX
Tuesday 23 June *(B)*

Transfer from Entabeni to Johannesburg International Airport where you will continue on your travel plans



6 DAY PACKAGE

Day 1: Arrival Entabeni

The tour starts and ends at Johannesburg International Airport. All participants are transferred at set transfer times from the airport to Entabeni Safari Conservancy.

Transfer departure times from the airport are:

08:30, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00

If any of these transfer times don't fit in your travel plans it is possible to book an individual transfer at an extra charge.

Upon arrival to Entabeni you will meet your tour leader and be checked in at your respective lodge/camp. Participants arriving on one of the first three transfers (transfers time of 08:30, 10:00 & 12:00) will have the possibility to go on the first of a number of exciting game drives.

The afternoon game drive begins around 16:00, arriving back at the lodge/camp in time for dinner around 7:30pm. Similar to a morning game drive, the afternoon game drive provides great wildlife experiences. Moreover, the afternoon game drive offers the opportunity to experience a genuine African sunset in ideal settings, enjoying a cold drink on the savannah while admiring the changing colours of the darkening evening sky. The afternoon drive then turns into a night safari where we will get the chance to spot the fascinating nocturnal wildlife with a spot light.

Day 2: Route Inspection

After breakfast all participants are transported from their respective lodge/camp to the starting point of the marathon. Before we set off for the start line, there will be a short briefing about the route inspection. All safari vehicles follow the route in a convoy, allowing the participants to examine the different running surfaces, note the locations of water posts and assess the overall difficulty of the route.

After the route inspection a large buffet lunch will be served for all the participants. This is the time where everyone is gathered (the participants, race officials, medical staff and rangers) for a formal introduction to the event and a presentation of the practical issues surrounding the marathon.

There are no scheduled game drives this day.

Day 3: Race day

The big day has come! Today you will be met by a challenge that will be worth remembering: The Big Five Marathon. In the morning all the participants will be transported from the various lodges/camps to the starting line in time for final preparations. The marathon is planned to start at 09:00, but delays must be expected, as the exact start time will be dependent on the location of the big five game - if too close to the route, the start will be postponed.

There are no scheduled game drives this day.

Day 4: After marathon party

Today we have time to relax after running on the African Savannah. Additional game drives and excursions can be purchased. In the afternoon we will experience yet another fantastic game drive followed by our 'After Marathon' Party. There will be great food, live entertainment, prize ceremony, a big bonfire and partying under the starry skies. It is advisable to dress warmly; there's no dress code and casual clothing is recommended.

Day 5: Entabeni

On the final day at the Entabeni Private Game Reserve you will have one last game drive, either in the morning or in the afternoon. Those interested will also get the opportunity to stretch their legs on one final bush walk. In the evening farewell dinners will be held at the respective lodges/camps. A bush walk with an experienced armed ranger is also included today, giving us a chance to get really close to the African nature and wildlife.

Day 6: Depart for Johannesburg

Our 5 days stay at Entabeni Safari Conservancy has come to an end and it's time to head back to Johannesburg. As upon arrival, all participants are transferred from Entabeni to Johannesburg International Airport at the set transfer times.

Transfer arrival times at the airport are:

08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00 and 18:00

As upon arrival it is possible, for an extra charge, to book an individual transfer to Johannesburg if the group transfers don't fit with your onward journey.

6 DAY PACKAGES

TWIN/SHARE PACKAGE FROM $4,229* PP

SINGLE PACKAGE FROM $4,969* PP

*Flights are not included

- ✔ RACE ENTRY
- ✔ AFTER MARATHON PARTY
- ✔ ACCOMMODATION
- ✔ TRANSFERS
- ✔ SIGHTSEEING
- ✔ MEALS
- ✘ FLIGHTS

  Can be added for an additonal cost.
  Please contact our Marathon Tours team on 0800 RUNNING or run@marathontours.co.nz for a quote.

TAKE NOTE IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

WEATHER

June is winter time in South Africa and while the temperatures often rise to 20-25°C during the day, temperatures around 0°C at night are not unusual. The large drop from the day to night time temperatures makes the evenings and mornings feel extremely cold. It is essential to bring a winter jacket, a warm hat and gloves when going on game drives.

SAFETY

Over the last few years the reserve's wildlife has become increasingly accustomed to the visiting tourists. It is common to see elephants, giraffes and different species of antelopes grazing in close proximity to the safari vehicles. A pride of lions occasionally holds up traffic, lying lazily across the track. We use open 4x4 safari vehicles, which provide us with an excellent opportunity for viewing the wildlife in safety.

During our stay we will have a number of park rangers allocated; one for approximately every ten participants. The rangers ensure our safety, drive the safari vehicles, provide competent guiding, coordinate the events with the race management and are at our disposal around the clock. Furthermore, a Tour Leader will be with the group from beginning to end, assisting with every need of the participants.

8 DAY PACKAGE

Day 1: Arrival at Entabeni

The tour starts and ends in Johannesburg International Airport (also known as OR Tambo). All participants are transferred at set transfer times from the airport to Entabeni Safari Conservancy.

Transfer departure times from the airport are:

08:30, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00

If any of these transfer times don't fit in your travel plans it is possible to book an individual transfer at an extra charge.

Upon arrival to Entabeni you will meet your tour leader and be checked in at your respective lodge/camp. Participants arriving on one of the first three transfers (departure from Johannesburg International Airport at 08:30, 10:00 & 12:00) will have the possibility to go on the first of several exciting game drives.

The game drives will provide the opportunity to experience an authentic African safari in serene surroundings. The Entabeni Safari Conservancy offers diverse wildlife, open safari vehicles and relatively few tourists, creating an ideal wilderness atmosphere.

Day 2 & 3: Entabeni Game Drives

Day two and three of your stay in Entabeni are dedicated to exploring the game reserve through a daily game drive. We will get accustomed to the park's geography and climate, and we can slowly start preparing ourselves for Saturday's exciting event: The Big Five Marathon.

The daily game drives are included in the itinerary and will take place either in the early morning or in the late afternoon. A bush walk with an experienced armed ranger is also included on the third day, giving us a chance to get really close to the nature and wildlife. Additional game drives and bush walks can be purchased on the spot. Alternatively, some of your free time can also be used for shorter runs outside the Safari Conservancy; the tour leader will help organise the runs.

Early morning game drives typically take place between 06:00 and 09:00. During these early hours we will experience the cool morning, spot spectacular wildlife, and most probably work up an appetite. Once back from the morning safari we will be richly satisfied by the overwhelming breakfast buffet that awaits us at our lodge/camp.

The afternoon game drive begins around 16:00, arriving back at the lodge in time for dinner around 19:30. Similar to the morning game drive, the afternoon drive provides great wildlife experiences. Moreover, the afternoon drive offers the opportunity to experience a beautiful sunset in ideal settings, enjoying a cold drink on the savannah while admiring the changing colours of the darkening evening sky. The afternoon drive then turns into a night safari where we will get the chance to spot the fascinating nocturnal wildlife with a spot light.

Day 4: Route Inspection

After breakfast all the participants are transported from their respective lodges/camp to the starting point of the marathon. Before we set off for the start line, there will be a short briefing about the route inspection. All safari vehicles follow the route in a convoy, allowing the participants to examine the different running surfaces, note the locations of water posts, and assess the overall difficulty of the route.

After the route inspection a large buffet lunch will be served for all the participants. This is the time where everyone is gathered (the participants, race officials, medical staff and rangers) for a formal introduction to the event and a presentation of the practical issues surrounding the marathon.

There are no scheduled game drives this day.

Day 5: RACE DAY!

The big day has come! Today you will be met by a challenge that will be worth remembering: The Big Five Marathon. In the morning all participants will be transported from the various lodges and camps to the starting line in time for final preparations. The marathon is planned to start at 09:00, but delays must be expected, as the exact start time will be dependent on the location of the big five game - if too close to the route, the start will be postponed.

There are no scheduled game drives this day.

Day 6: After Marathon Party

Today we have time to relax after running on the African savannah. Additional game drives and excursions can be purchased. In the afternoon we will experience yet another fantastic game drive followed by our 'After Marathon' Party. There will be great food, live entertainment, prize ceremony, a big bonfire and partying under the starry skies. It is advisable to dress warmly; there's no dress code and casual clothing is recommended.

Day 7: Entabeni

On the final day at the Entabeni Private Game Reserve you will have one last game drive, either in the morning or in the afternoon. Those interested will also get the opportunity to stretch their legs on one final bush walk. In the evening farewell dinners will be held at the respective lodges/camps.

Day 8: Depart for Johannesburg

Our week at Entabeni Safari Conservancy has come to an end and it's time to head back to Johannesburg. All participants are transferred from Entabeni to Johannesburg International Airport.

Transfer arrival times at the airport are

08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00 and 18:00

As upon arrival it is possible, for an extra charge, to book an individual transfer to Johannesburg if the group transfers don't fit with your onward journey.

8 DAY PACKAGES

TWIN/SHARE PACKAGE FROM $4,989* PP

SINGLE PACKAGE FROM $6,029* PP

*Flights are not included

- ✔ RACE ENTRY
- ✔ AFTER MARATHON PARTY
- ✔ ACCOMMODATION
- ✔ TRANSFERS
- ✔ SIGHTSEEING
- ✔ MEALS
- ✘ FLIGHTS

Can be added for an additonal cost.
Please contact our Marathon Tours team on 0800 RUNNING or run@marathontours.co.nz for a quote.

8 DAY ITINERARY

DAY ONE
Tuesday 16 June *(D)*

Arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa

On arrival, transfer from the airport to Entabeni Safari Conservancy to meet your tour leader and check in to your respective lodge/camp

Afternoon game drive followed by dinner

DAY TWO
Wednesday 17 June *(B, L, D)*

Morning at leisure

Afternoon game drive followed by dinner

DAY THREE
Thursday 18 June *(B, L, D)*

Day at leisure with a game drive to explore the wildlife and an optional bush walk with an experienced ranger

DAY FOUR
Friday 19 June *(B, L, D)*

Breakfast at your lodge/camp

Transfer to the marathon starting point where you will be briefed and able to inspect the trail. A buffet lunch will be available followed by a formal introduction to the marathon

DAY FIVE
Saturday 20 June *(B, L, D)*

RACE DAY!

Rest of day at leisure

DAY SIX
Sunday 21 June *(B, L, D)*

Morning at leisure with options of doing a game drive at an additional expense

The afternoon will be spent doing a game drive followed by an 'After Marathon' Party

DAY SEVEN
Monday 22 June *(B, L, D)*

Final game drive for the tour and a bush walk with a tour guide

A farewell dinner will be held at the respective lodges/camps

DAY EIGHT
Tuesday 23 June *(B)*

Transfer from Entabeni to Johannesburg International Airport where you will continue on your travel plans

TAKE NOTE IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

How to protect yourself against the unknown

It is compulsory that each person has travel insurance before travelling for the Big Five Marathon. Although it isn't compulsory that it's purchased via Allianz Global Assistance (our preferred provider), we do highly recommend it, as unlike other companies, they provide cover for the actual marathon event.

We recommend you take out insurance as soon as you book, as it will ensure you are covered in case you injure yourself prior to the event and can no longer travel.

We're constantly reminded about just how important it is to have the very best travel insurance cover, and being in New York during Hurricane Sandy certainly highlighted this once again. We know that our customers who purchased their travel insurance via AGA were hugely relieved they'd done this, whilst others were left wishing they had. Allianz Global Assistance (AGA) is the preferred travel insurance provider, both of Marathon Tours, and also House of Travel nationwide, and they're a world leader in assistance services and travel insurance.

They also include:

- Unlimited medical cover
- AGA – helping someone, somewhere in the world, every two seconds!
- Terrorism cover for emergency medical assistance and hospital expenses
- Consultant backup and support – our booking system allows us to travel our customers around the world
- 24-hour emergency assistance number, based in New Zealand
- As Marathon Tours staff are covered by AGA when we travel, in the event of something unforeseen happening if you've chosen to purchase your travel insurance via AGA, it means we can assist you immediately without hesitation and delay.

We will tailor-make your travel insurance so that you're covered for the entire time you're away from New Zealand.

Prices start from NZD$130 per person for 8 days cover* subject to pre-existing medical conditions and age.

What do you need to travel to Africa?

You will need a current New Zealand Passport to travel overseas, with a validity of six months or more after the due date upon which you are scheduled to arrive back in New Zealand.

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct documentation in place to allow your return to New Zealand.

Terms and conditions

THE BIG FIVE MARATHON - Participation in The Big Five Marathon is part of a tour package, with a wide range of options to choose from. It is not possible to participate in the Marathon independently of a package. Individual requests for extra days and visits to other parts of Africa can be combined with any of the packages.

DEPOSITS – to secure a place on one of our packages, a $1,500 non-refundable deposit per person is required at the time of booking and must be received along with your completed official entry form.

PRICES – all prices in this brochure are correct as at 26 August 2019 and are shown in New Zealand dollars, and are based on payment by cash or cheque. Prices are subject to change at any time due to currency fluctuations and until payment is received in full. The final payment is due on 01 March 2020. A late entry fee of NZ$100 will be applied for participants who book and register after 01 March 2020.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS – all cancellations must be advised in writing. Please note, if you cancel part or all of your booking, you may incur cancellation charges from our suppliers. If you have any doubts as to the potential cost of amendment or cancellation fees, please check with Marathon Tours.

AMENDMENTS – if you wish to amend your booking after you have paid your deposit, this will incur an amendment fee of NZ$50 per amendment per person, along with any fees charged by airlines and/or other suppliers.

UNUSED SERVICES – refunds will not be provided if due to illness or personal choice you do not utilise part or all of your chosen package.

INDIVIDUALISED ITINERARIES – we are more than happy to arrange individual itineraries upon request. We can tailor make an itinerary to meet your needs, whether it be for business or pleasure. You can depart from New Zealand earlier, make a stopover, or extend your stay – our Marathon Tours consultants will be pleased to help.

CHANGES – as airlines reserve the right to alter schedules, Marathon Tours cannot be held responsible when confirmed departures are subsequently changed. Once issued, airline tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable. Upgrades are available at an additional cost – subject to availability.

TAXES, SURCHARGES, AND LEVIES – all taxes and levies associated with the airfare ie. Airport departure taxes and government security levies are included in the package price provided (fully inclusive package only).

DOMESTIC CONNECTIONS – please contact Marathon Tours if you require assistance with add-on fares from provincial New Zealand points.

PREMIUM ECONOMY AND BUSINESS CLASS UPGRADES – if you require Premium Economy or Business Class upgrades, please discuss your requirements with Marathon Tours. Bookings will be subject to availability.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS, ACCURACY – this brochure is current as at 26 August 2019. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this brochure at the time of printing, but services offered could be subject to availability.

TWIN SHARING – if you are travelling alone, but wish to share a twin room please indicate this on the booking form. We will do everything possible to find a suitable roommate for you. However, if a suitable match cannot be found then the single room supplement will apply. While we do our best to satisfy your twin share request, we do not accept liability for any extra costs if the room sharing arrangements do not work out to your satisfaction.

HOTEL CREDIT – credit card imprints may be required by hotels providing telephone, mini-bar, in-room movies, laundry and other facilities and services that can be charged to guest rooms. These will be required by the hotel at the time of check-in.

OUR SERVICES AND OBLIGATIONS

1.1 We supply travel agency services consisting of arranging, booking, and co-ordinating travel facilities and services. The actual services and products are provided, supplied or performed by suppliers of travel, entertainment and accommodation facilities or services ("Suppliers").

1.2 We undertake to perform our travel agency services described in 1.1 above ("the Services") with reasonable care and skill. We will not however, be liable for any loss or damage which results from the act, default or omissions of any person other than ourselves, our employees or agents, or any cause independent of human control. This includes (but is not limited to) loss or damage which arises directly or indirectly from an act of God, weather disruptions, dangers incidental to the sea or air, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Governments or other authorities de jure or de facto, wars whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, deaths, acts of terrorism, pilferage, pandemics, quarantines or medical or customs regulations.

1.3 We will endeavour to provide the most suitable travel arrangements to meet the particular requirements you make known to us. However, travel is an individual experience, and your preferences and opinions may vary from our own. For this reason, we cannot take responsibility for your individual satisfaction.