

Meals: Dinner.

Big Five Marathon Itinerary



11 - 17 June 2025

ITINERARY	7 DAY / 6 NIGHT PACKAGE	
DAY 1	WED 11 JUNE	Arrival at Entabeni (game drives available if arriving early)
DAY 2	THU 12 JUNE	Entabeni Game Drives & Bush Walk
DAY 3	FRI 13 JUNE	Route Inspection
DAY 4	SAT 14 JUNE	The Big Five Marathon or Half Marathon
DAY 5	SUN 15 JUNE	Optional Entabeni Game Drive. Celebration Dinner
DAY 6	MON 16 JUNE	Entabeni Game Drive & Escorted Bush Walk
DAY 7	TUE 17 JUNE	Depart for Johannesburg

Day 1 - Wed 11 June: Arrival at Entabeni

Your tour will start and end at Johannesburg International Airport (also known as OR Tambo). All participants will be transferred at set transfer times from the airport to Entabeni Game Reserve. The set transfer departure times from the airport are: 08:30, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00. If none of these transfers fit with your arrival, it is possible to book an individual transfer at an additional cost.

Upon arrival to Entabeni, you will meet you 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 Game Reserve offers diverse wildlife, open safari vehicles and relatively few tourists, creating an ideal wilderness atmosphere.

Day 2 - Thu 12 June: Entabeni Game Drives & Bush Walk

Day two of your stay in Entabeni is dedicated to exploring the game reserve through a morning game drive and a bush walk. You will get accustomed to the park's geography, and climate, and we can slowly start preparing yourself for Saturday's exciting event: The Big Five Marathon.

The game drive is 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 during your stay, giving us a chance to get really close to the nature and wildlife. Early morning game drives typically takes place between 06:00 and 09:30. During these early hours you will experience the cool morning, spot spectacular wildlife, and most probably work up an appetite. The afternoon game drive begins around 16:00 and arrives back at the lodge in time for dinner around 19:30. Similar to the morning game drive, the afternoon drive provides great wildlife experiences. The afternoon drive then turns into a night safari, where we will get the chance to spot the fascinating nocturnal wildlife with a spotlight.

PLEASE NOTE: June is winter time in South Africa and while the temperature often rises to 20-25 degrees Celsius during the day, temperatures around 0 degrees Celsius at night time is not unusual! Over the last few years, the reserve's wildlife has become increasingly accustomed to tourists. It is therefore not uncommon to see elephants, giraffes and different species of antelopes grazing in close proximity to the safari vehicles. A pride of lions even 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





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Day 3 - Fri 13 June: Route Inspection

After breakfast, all participants will be 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 stations and assess the overall difficulty of the route.

After the route inspection, a large buffet lunch will be served for all of the participants. Everyone will be gathered - 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 - Sat 14 June: Race Day - Big Five Marathon & Half Marathon

The day you have been waiting for has arrived! Today you will take part in an unforgettable challenge: The Big Five Marathon. In the morning, all participants will be transported from the different lodges/camps to the starting line in time for final preparations. The marathon is scheduled to start at 09:00, but delays are to be expected, as the exact start time will depend 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 - Sun 15 June: Celebration Dinner

Today you get some time to relax after running through the African savannah. You will have the option to purchase additional game drives and excursions for the morning. In the afternoon, you will venture out for yet another fantastic game drive followed by our post-marathon party. There will be delightful food, live entertainment, a prize ceremony, a big bonfire, and partying under the starry skies. Please be aware that the party takes place in a traditional South African boma with open roof and large open doorways. It is therefore advisable to dress warm! For the same reason, there will be no dress code and casual warm clothing is recommended.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 - Mon 16 June: Entabeni Game Drive & Bush Walk

On the final day at the Entabeni Safari Conservancy, you will have one last game drive in the morning.

In the evening farewell dinners will be held at the respective lodges and camps.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 - Tue 17 June: Depart for Johannesburg

Our time at the Entabeni Game Reserve has come to an end and it's time to head back to Johannesburg. As upon arrival, all participants will be 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 on arrival, it is possible, at an additional cost, to book an individual transfer to Johannesburg, if the group transfers don't coincide with your onward journey

