

# The Red Cross Big Five Marathon 2010

This exclusive event combines a challenging marathon experience with a classic African safari vacation. Situated in the Limpopo province, the Entabeni Private Game Reserve provides the perfect setting for the event. Within this 22,000 ha private game reserve, several accommodation facilities are provided, varying from tented camps to luxurious lodges. For this event we have the pleasure in offering three accommodation packages as described further below. The programme detailed below is for all participants regardless of the chosen accommodation. We offer 4 and 7 nights packages for the event. Please see detailed itinerary below.

## 7 nights' package

### *1st of June 2010: Arrival at Entabeni*

The participants are transferred to the Entabeni Private Game Reserve from Johannesburg. After arriving and checking into the respective lodges, and enjoying some sandwiches and snacks, it is time for the first of several exciting game drives. These drives will provide the opportunity to experience an authentic African safari in serene surroundings. The Entabeni Private Game Reserve offers diverse wildlife, open safari vehicles and relatively few tourists, creating an ideal wilderness atmosphere.

### *2nd & 3rd of June 2010: Entabeni Game Drives*

Days two and three of the programme are dedicated to exploring the game reserve through daily game drives and a bush walk. During these days you will get accustomed to the park's geography, and climate, and you will slowly begin to look forward to the big event: The Red Cross Big Five Marathon®. During these two days there is one daily game drive included in the programme, which will take place either in the early morning or in the late afternoon. Also a bush walk is included on day 3.

The early morning game drive typically takes place between 0600hrs and 0930hrs. During these early hours you will enjoy the cool African morning, spot spectacular wildlife, and most probably work up an appetite. Upon your return from morning safari you will be richly satisfied by the overwhelming breakfast buffet that awaits you at the lodges!

The afternoon game drive begins around 1600hrs, arriving back at the lodge in time for dinner around 1930hrs. Similar to the morning game drive, the afternoon drive provides great wildlife experiences. Moreover the afternoon drive offers you 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 you will get the chance to spot the fascinating nocturnal wildlife with a spot light.

Over the last few years the reserve's wildlife has become increasingly accustomed to the visiting tourists. It is therefore not uncommon to see elephants, giraffes and different species of ante-lopes 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.

As an alternative to the game drives, the lodge offers "Bush Walks" that allows you to examine the surroundings on foot in the company of an armed ranger with extensive tracking experience.

During the stay, the participants will have a number of park rangers allocated: one for approximately every ten participants. The rangers ensure your safety, drive the safari vehicles, provide competent guiding, coordinate the events with the race management, and are at your disposal around the clock. Everything is done for you to have an unforgettable experience.

### *4th of June 2010: Route Inspection*

After breakfast all the participants are transported from their respective lodges to the starting point of the marathon. It is now time for 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 lunch buffet will be served for all the participants. This is the time where everyone is gathered – the participants, technical staff, medical staff and race co-ordinators - for a formal introduction to the event, and a presentation of the practical issues surrounding the marathon. (no scheduled game drives on this day)

### *5th of June 2010: The Red Cross Big Five Marathon ®*

The big day has come. Today you will be met by a challenge that will be worth remembering: The Red Cross Big Five Marathon®. In the morning all the 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 0800hrs, however the exact time will be dependent on the location of the local pride of lions, as they are often found at the foot of the Entabeni ridge, where the route is going. Good luck! (no scheduled game drives on this day)

### *6th of June 2010: After Marathon party*

Today you will experience yet another fantastic game drive followed by our After Marathon-Party. There will be great food, live entertainment, prize ceremonies, and partying under the African skies.

### *7th of June 2010: 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.

### *8th of June 2010: Depart for Johannesburg*

After breakfast transfer to Johannesburg Airport.

## 4 nights' package

### *3rd of June 2010: Arrival at Entabeni*

The participants are transferred to the Entabeni Private Game Reserve from Johannesburg. After arriving and checking into the respective lodges, and enjoying some sandwiches and snacks, it is time for the first of several exciting game drives. These drives will provide the opportunity to experience an authentic African safari in serene surroundings. The Entabeni Private Game Reserve offers diverse wildlife, open safari vehicles and relatively few tourists creating an ideal wilderness atmosphere.

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### *7th of June 2010: Depart for Johannesburg*

After breakfast transfer to Johannesburg Airport.