

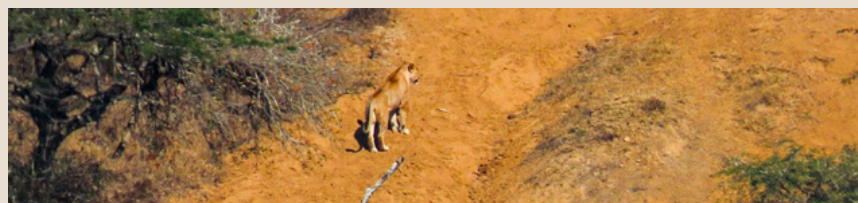


Base Camp Trail 3-6 August 2026

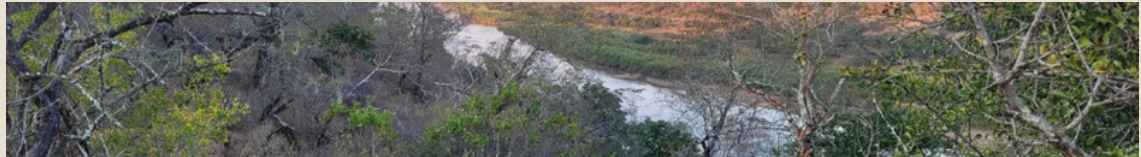
Hluhluwe-iMfolozi

8 Hikers

Led by Barry Jennings



Photos Iain Kerr



The Base camp trail is one of several wilderness trails offered by Kzn Wildlife. It is probably the more luxurious of them, with a kitchen, fridge, proper ablutions with hot water. Accommodation is in four double tents.

Day 1

Eight of us met at Impila Camp, where we were greeted by our guides, Mphile and Jabu. They would lead us on daily walks from Mdindini Tented Camp, which would be our home for our next few days. Once settled and introduced to our cook Siphso, we were briefed on what to expect and importantly, how to behave should we have an unexpected encounter with wildlife. Apparently climbing a tree to escape a rhino was not recommended.

After this, a short 3km walk took us to a viewpoint overlooking the white iMfolozi River. On our return, a welcome coffee break with warm "bush bread" with cheesy crust and jam was enjoyed by all.

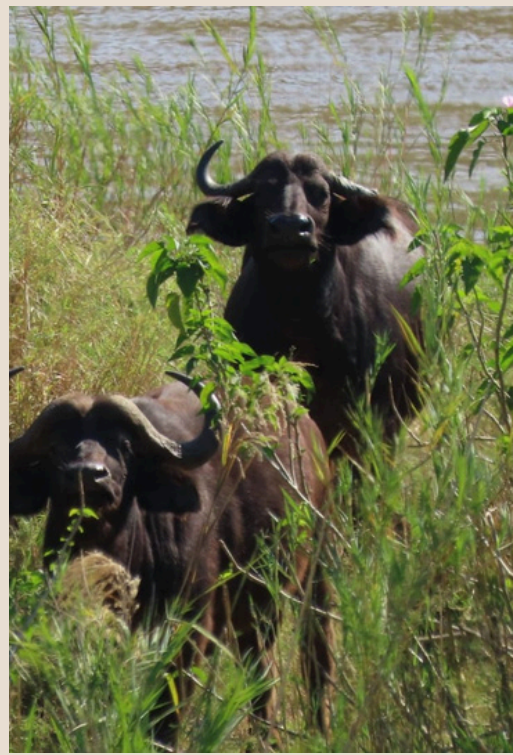
A good night's sleep was accompanied by the calls of owls and frogs, with the occasional hyena cackle adding to the ambience.

Day 2

After a hearty breakfast, we set off for the first of our two full days of hiking,. Although the distance was only 10 km the pace was not frenetic, punctuated by stops where the guides shared interesting snippets about our surroundings.



Pat Jennings



Pat Jennings



Este Bundell



We made a total of four river crossings that day. Lunch was enjoyed on a cliff edge overlooking the river, where a lion was spotted looking for some shade to lie under. Due to the heat some of the group took advantage themselves of a shady post-lunch nap. On arrival back at camp coffee, showers and a good meal were had before a good nights rest.

Day 3

Dawning warmer than the previous day, we embarked on a 12 km walk after breakfast, heading inland this time away from the river.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly being privileged to catch sight of two rhino in close proximity. The going was tougher than the previous day with the heat factor slowing us down, and a lunchtime siesta was enjoyed under the shade after making an unscheduled detour on the way back to get closer to an elephant, that however managed to elude us. A bushpig did give us a fright, but fortunately no harm done.

A braai prepared by Sipho was enjoyed by all that night.

Day 4

Some enjoyed a short walk before breakfast and packing up, and were surprised by coming face to face with a buffalo. Luckily, he understood "Voetsek!"

All in all, an amazing trip and privilege to walk through this wilderness area of the park. The amount of wildlife, birds, plants made it a trip well worthwhile. Having knowledgeable guides such as Mphile and Jabu added considerably to the experience.

A fantastic few days in the bush with great company, excellent food, knowledgeable guides and just enough close encounters to keep things interesting!