



13TH INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY
IMMUNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM
17-21 NOVEMBER, 2023

Dear IVIS2023 delegate

ENTRY CODE
The booking reservation code
is **R8454502** and must be
presented to security
personnel at the entrance gate

The South African bush awaits you!

The 13th International Veterinary Immunology Symposium (17-21 November 2023 at Skukuza, Kruger National park, South Africa) promises to be a very exciting meeting. More than 220 delegates from 32 different countries will attend.

PROGRAMME

To download the symposium programme, which includes time-schedules for orals, posters and workshops, please click [here](#).

Guidelines for Orals

The time allocated for a presentation is 15 minutes, with a further 3 minutes allowed for discussion. In total an oral presentation is 18 minutes.

All oral presentations (in Powerpoint format 16:9) must be submitted to the organisers by latest Monday 13 November through corne@savetcon.co.za or via www.wetransfer.com.

Guidelines for Posters

Maximum poster size is A0 in portrait (84.1 cm wide x 118.9 cm tall) (A1 also permissible) and in portrait orientation (not landscape).

It can be full colour or black and white (colour is recommended for visual effect). It will be the speakers' responsibility to design, print, bring the poster with them to the conference and apply it to the Poster Area. Posters to be applied with double-sided tape or prestik only (no nails/thumbtacks). Kindly bring your own adhesive material wherever possible.

During the poster sessions, delegates are encouraged to please stand by their work for discussions and questions.

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
33° 22°	34° 18°	28° 18°	29° 18°	33° 21°	34° 22°	33° 22°
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
31° 21°	33° 22°	34° 21°	33° 20°	32° 19°	29° 19°	30° 19°

DRESS CODE

The dress code for the symposium is business casual. For all the evening social events, Smart Casual is recommended. Please re-member to bring something warm along.

The weather forecast for November predicts warm temperatures, with cooler evening temperatures.

Wildlife Rhythms

There are so many creatures to see, and sightings of rare species can be the highlight of your trip! Keep up to date with the movements of the wildlife in the Kruger National Park by consulting the sightings map at reception, it is updated daily!

5 Things To Seek

1. The Big Five – Buffalo, Elephant, Leopard, Lion and Rhino.
2. The Little Five – Buffalo Weaver, Elephant Shrew, Leopard Tortoise, Ant Lion and Rhino Beetle.
3. Birding Big Six – Ground Hornbill, Kori Bustard, Lappet- faced Vulture, Martial Eagle, Pel's Fishing Owl and Saddle-bill Stork.
4. Five Trees – Baobab, Fever Tree, Knob Thorn, Marula, Mopane.
5. Natural/Cultural Features – Letaba Elephant Museum, Jock of the Bushveld Route, Albasini Ruins, Masorini Ruins, Stevenson Hamilton Memorial Library, Thulamela.

Swimming Pools

Swimming pools for day visitors are available at Skukuza Day Visitor Site as well as at Letaba Day Visitor Site.

HOW TO GET TO THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

There are three main ways to reach the Kruger National Park namely:

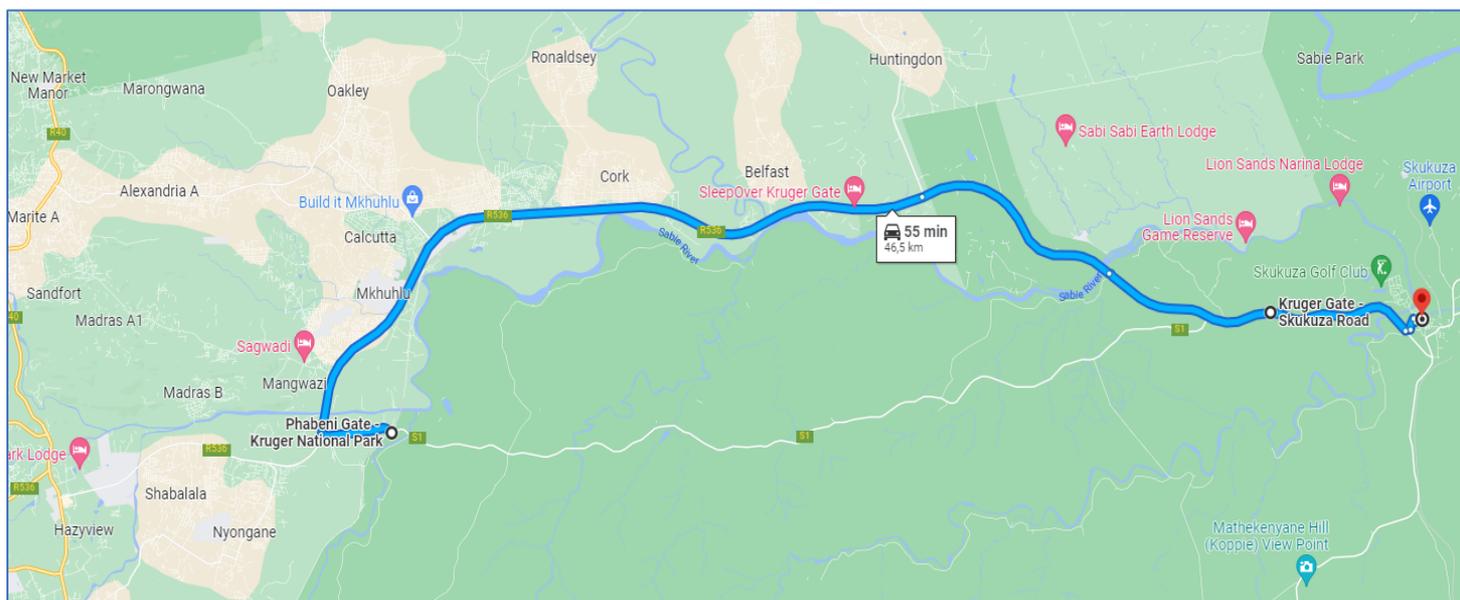
1. By plane to Johannesburg, followed by an almost six-hour drive to the park (contact Melanie at conference@savetcon.co.za should you wish to arrange for shuttle transport from the OR Tambo International Airport to Skukuza).
2. By domestic flight from Johannesburg to Kruger Mpumalanga airport, followed by an hour's drive.
3. By internal aircraft from Johannesburg to Skukuza directly (complimentary shuttles will be available on 15, 16 and 17 November).

- [Directions from Pretoria to the Kruger Gate Hotel](#)
- [Directions from Nelspruit to the Kruger Gate Hotel](#)
- [Directions from Skukuza to the Kruger Gate Hotel](#)
- [Directions from the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport to the Kruger Gate Hotel](#)

Flights to Skukuza airport

International delegates can fly to the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (Nelspruit) or directly into Skukuza Airport from Johannesburg or Cape Town.

A complimentary shuttle service will be available at the Skukuza airport on the 15th, 16th and 17th, and for departure from the conference venue on the 21st and the 22nd.



WHICH GATES TO USE WHEN TRAVELLING TO THE KRUGER

Before embarking on your trip, take note of the following opening and closing times of the Kruger National Park Gates:

Entrance Gate Opens: 05:30am
Camp Gate Opens: 04:30am
All Gates Close: 18:30pm

There are 10 entrance gates at the Kruger National Park. The best gates to use when travelling to the Kruger National Park are the Paul Kruger, Malelane, and Phabeni Gates.

Paul Kruger Gate: Paul Kruger Gate (Kruger Gate for short) is the closest entrance to Skukuza Rest Camp. The gate's also a good access point to the southern region of Kruger National Park.

[Skukuza Rest Camp](#) is 12km (7.5 miles) from Kruger Gate. Skukuza's one of the most popular places to stay at in Kruger National Park. It's the largest [rest camp](#) and has the most facilities, including banks, a golf course and a plant nursery.

You may also consider using Kruger Gate as your entrance to the park if you're heading towards [Lower Sabie](#). This rest camp is 53km (33 miles) away from the gate.

Kruger Gate is 442km (275 miles) from Johannesburg. It'll take you about 5 and a half hours to travel this distance by car.

There's a big statue of Paul Kruger at Kruger Gate, so when you see it, you'll know you've arrived!

Phabeni Gate: Built in 2002, the Phabeni Gate, with its modern indigenous inspired rondavels, allows travellers from Johannesburg or Pretoria via Hazyview to easily access the Kruger. If you're travelling from Johannesburg, you'll get to Phabeni Gate before Kruger Gate. If you enter the park at Phabeni Gate, Skukuza is further away, but it means you have more park road to drive on and therefore will be starting your safari sooner! In fact you'll have 39km (24 miles) of safari from Phabeni Gate to Skukuza.

Phabeni to Paul Kruger and on to Skukuza (S3)

The northern S3 tracks the Sabie River which is the border of Kruger Park and it's reported to be one of the best roads to see white Rhino. The riverine bush feeds browsers such as Giraffe and Kudu; sometimes there are sightings of Nyala, even though they prefer the extreme north of Kruger Park.

There are some thickets of Tamboti, Sycamore Fig and Leadwood rich with birdlife. There isn't too much development on the opposite bank of the Sabie River so the feeling of being in the bush is not compromised.

There are 2 spots where the road gets to the river's edge, and the drive usually traverses riverine bush crossing quite a few streams that flow into the Sabie River.

Despite the road being partly tarred, it is recommended to not take route after heavy rains.

[Phabeni and Paul Kruger Gates Route Map](#)

To enter the Park

- **The booking reservation code is [R8454502](#) and must be presented to security personnel at the entrance gate;**
- Proof of identity, identity document. (ID), passport or alternative valid identification e.g., driver's license card is required for scanning upon entering/exiting the Park
- For delegates arriving on the 10th, kindly collect your room key at the main reception.
- For delegates arriving on the 11th, please proceed to the Congress Venue Reception to collect your room key.

- Collect an exit permit at the Congress Venue the day before departure – you will not be able to exit the park without the exit permit.
- To view a map of the camp, please [click here](#).

ABOUT SKUKUZA

Skukuza is the biggest rest camp in Kruger National Park and a popular place to book into. It's conveniently located in the southern region of the wildlife reserve and you can find a lot of highly sought after game in the area.



The rest camp is well-equipped and has everything you'd find in a small village, such as:

- Bank
- Doctor
- General Store
- Petrol Station
- Post Office

The general store is the largest one in Kruger National Park and sells lots of souvenirs.

The administrative offices for the park are at this rest camp too.

The rest camp is on the banks of the Sabie River. If you're a day visitor, it's a good spot to see the river and some animals. Elephants and hippos often go there.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation has been reserved at Skukuza, Kruger National Park, and all accommodation bookings for the symposium have been made through SAVETCON.

Skukuza Camp has a cafeteria, a restaurant (Cattle Baron) and a well-stocked shop that offers basic commodities (e.g., groceries, bread, vegetables, drinks, meat, toiletries, etc.).

All coffee & tea breaks, lunches, the welcome reception, and the gala dinner are included in the full registration fee.

On the day of arrival occupation can be expected by 14:00 but not guaranteed, on the day of departure accommodation must be vacated by 10:00.

All units are self-catering and if your accommodation doesn't have its own kitchen, you'll be able to make use of the communal kitchens if you need to.

EATING OUT

There are a couple of restaurants and cafes to eat at, including the Selati Station Grillhouse, which is well-worth having a look at.

The Grillhouse is set around the original Selati Express train which brought the first tourists to Kruger National Park way back in the 1920s. Enjoy an evening there soaking up some Kruger Park history!

HANDY HINTS

Skukuza is the Kruger National Park's largest rest camp and administrative headquarters. It is situated on the southern banks of the Sabie River. The camp is well foliated and there are some lofty trees along the river's edge. Activities and facilities are diverse, as are the animal and plants found both within the camp and in the surrounding area.

Warnings

Please ensure that your stay is happy and safe by taking note of a few simple warnings. You will be sharing your stay with many exciting and unusual creatures but without knowledge some of them could be dangerous!

Bats, Spiders, Snakes, Scorpions, Malaria Zone

If you must walk around at night, please do not do so without a torch.

Remember: By feeding any wildlife, you are signing their death warrant as they become aggressive.

Climate

Kruger is in a summer rainfall area. Such precipitation is usually convectional and can result in heavy downpours. The summer months (October to April) are hot and often balmy. Winters are warm and mild, although visitors going on night-drives will require warm clothing.

Activities

- Game Drives (Night and Morning)
- Bush Breakfast and Braai (Barbeque)
- Golf
- Guided Bush Walks
- Stevenson Hamilton Memorial Library
- Wilderness Trail (Metsi Metsi)

If you want to go on a **safari tour** from the rest camp, you can book:

- Morning and afternoon [game walks](#)
- Sunrise and sunset [game drives](#)
- Bush breakfasts and [bush braais \(BBQs\)](#)

Kids Educational Programme

3 Swimming pools, two of these are in camp and for overnight residents only. The third is in a separate new day visitor's area, located downstream from the main camp.

These activities will ensure an exciting bush experience. All bookings as well as further details of these activities are available from the Skukuza reception.

Facilities

- Information at Reception 08h00 – 18h00
- Public telephone – All hours
- Post Office – 09h00 – 15h00
- Bank – 09h00-15h00
- Basic First Aid
- Restaurant - 07h00-09h00 breakfast, 12h00-14h00 lunch, 18h00-21h00 dinner
- Cafeteria
- Shop
- Emergency Road Services
- Garage with Workshop
- Petrol Station
- Laundromat 9 Hole Golf Course - 013 735 5543
- Auditorium and Conference Facilities
- Car Wash
- Limited DSTV Available in Luxury Units
- Avis Car rental – 013 735 5651

Other Facilities

- The Parks Shops
- Skukuza has a relatively large shop where a variety of items can be purchased including:
- Curios
- Safari and Ethnic clothing
- Binoculars, books, camera films and Videos on wildlife
- Magazines
- Meat, groceries, fresh milk, vegetables, and bread daily.
- Beverages: Spirits, Beer, Wine Cold Drinks, Fruit Juices and Mineral water
- Hardware (limited stock)
- Sweets and snacks
- Medicines (non-prescription)
- Stationary and stamps
- Braai wood and other accessories

Additional Information

- All accommodation, ablution and kitchen facilities are serviced by cleaning staff on a daily basis.
- Vehicle fuel is available near the reception at the main gate.
- Currently bedding is supplied in all accommodation except for self-camping.
- Cooking utensils and refrigeration are provided in most accommodation units, exceptions will be indicated while booking.
- Adults 12 years and above.
- Child (2-11 years), under 2 years – free.
- Additional Person Supplements are applicable to those units where number of beds exceeds the base occupancy, if these beds are occupied.
- No animals may be brought into a National Park.
- Plan your trip – do not try and cover too great a distance. The Kruger National Park is a massive tract of land a frequently visitors try to cover too much ground. Slow travel and regular stopping produce much more action than covering a lot of ground.
- Early mornings and evening time are usually the most productive game viewing periods.
- Remember to bring a camera, binoculars, bird and wildlife reference books, and a hat and sunscreen lotion. Also remember to take along medicine such as antihistamine and lotion for insect stings and bites.
- Do not leave any food unattended, as thieving monkeys and baboons are a constant threat.

General Malaria Information

Malaria is a word many people associate with game parks in Africa. However, only two of the South African National Parks are in a malaria risk area and they are the Kruger National Park and Mapungubwe National Park, although at both these venues the risk is usually low. Historically there have been incidences of malaria in other parks, but then there are recorded incidences of malaria from urban Europe and other non-risk areas. But to all intents and purposes Kruger is the only malaria risk park in the SANParks' set-up.

Anti-malaria prophylactics are thus recommended by visitors for Kruger. The highest risk period is between December and April (end of the rainy season). A 24-hour malaria hotline is available on +27 (0)82 234 1800 to give detailed explanation on risk and advice on precautionary measures. Visitors wishing to make use of prophylactics should consult a knowledgeable medical practitioner or recognized travel clinic about recommended medication, as certain products cause nausea, hallucinations or other negative side effects with certain people.

Areas of special interest

In Skukuza camp

- Stevenson Hamilton Memorial Library
- Dog Graveyard
- Selati Restaurant – the old railway carriage has been converted into a restaurant and sports bar

Out of camp

- Kruger Tablets
- Lake Panic Bird Hide
- Nursery
- Stevenson Hamilton Memorial
- Granokop

Five Things to seek

- Fruit Bat
- Thick-tailed Bush Baby
- Warthog
- Spotted Hyena
- Purple-crested Lourie

Plan your trip to adhere to gate closing times

The southern part of the Kruger National Park is approximately 5 to 6 hour's drive from Gauteng. Remember to plan your trip to make sure you are in the camp by these times.

Gate closing times

18h30 (a penalty fee of R850 will be charged for entry or exit after this time).

We are excited to meet you all at the Symposium!