

MAPUTALAND SLACK-PACK ADVENTURE



THONGA TRAILS

BLUE TRAIL

TURTLES AND TUSKERS IN UNIQUE MAPUTALAND



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TUSKERS AND TURTLES

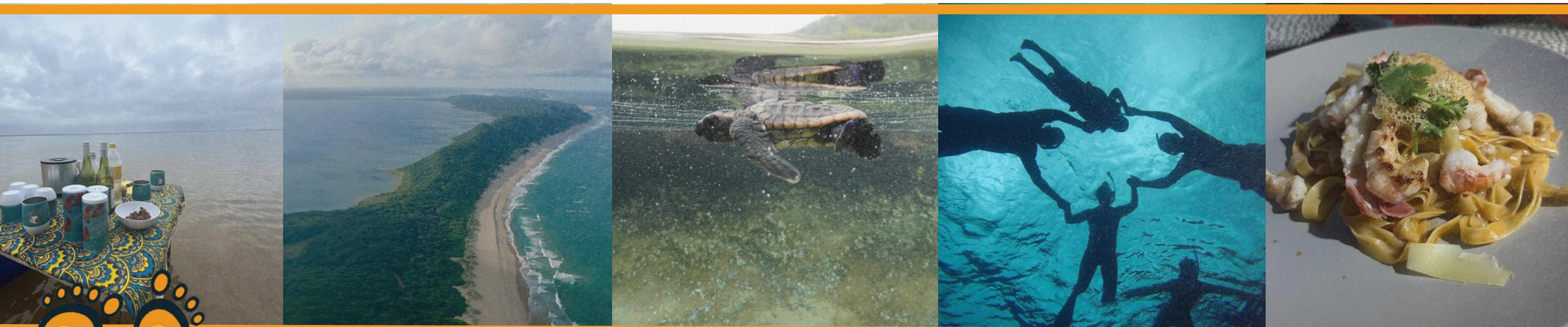
Discover the unique coastline of Maputaland

What is the Blue Trail?

A fully catered marine wilderness journey with a turtle twist (in Summer) and Chef Reynaud's famous cuisine, beer, wine & ciders all included.

(The Turtle Twist is applicable November to mid-March · Max 10 guests)

Breathe in the salt air, feel sand beneath your feet, and chase the rhythm of the tides on this wild, ocean-inspired trail. Settle into life at Skhova Lodge - named after the owl, iSiKova in isiZulu - your base for days filled with wonder, water, and walking with ancient creatures.



Accommodation and Meals

Kwa-Skhova Bushcamp is Thonga Trails' newly renovated lodge, set in coastal forest near the ocean, offering comfortable shared accommodation in a relaxed, nature-filled setting with evenings under the stars. All meals are included and freshly prepared by in-house chef Reynaud, with delicious, wholesome dishes served in a relaxed lodge atmosphere.

Dates & Park Fees

The trail is available on request for group bookings, with a minimum of eight and a maximum of ten guests, typically running from Wednesday to Sunday morning. During turtle season, from November to mid-March, guests have the option to participate in turtle tracking. All park entry fees and activity permits are included in the package, ensuring a seamless experience.

Beverages

A full selection of beverages is included, ranging from soft drinks and water to beer, wine, ciders, and G&T's, allowing guests to relax and enjoy their stay without any extra hassle.

The Trail/Ocean Days

This 4-night marine wilderness adventure combines ocean exploration and wildlife encounters, including dolphin and whale safaris, snorkelling on coral reefs, guided beach walks, optional turtle tracking, and a visit to Tembe Elephant Reserve. The trail offers the perfect balance of adventure and relaxation in one of South Africa's most pristine coastal regions.

What to expect on Blue Trail



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DAY 1

ARRIVAL AND TURTLE MAGIC

Ease into trail life with a lunch & a drink by the pool and a view into the trees while we brief you. As the light fades, climb into our 4x4 and head down to the shore at Mabibi, where our local turtle guide leads you on a silent beach walk beneath the stars to search for Loggerhead and leatherback turtles.

They emerge from the surf to nest, or—later in the season—you might witness hatchlings sprinting toward the sea. These moonlit walks are raw, real, and unforgettable.



DAY 3

VOICES OF THE OCEAN AND FOREST SECRETS

Another sea day takes you into deeper water, this time with a hydrophone to listen to the sea itself. The clicks, songs, and pulses of the ocean soundtrack your search for the large and the elusive—sharks, dolphins, rays, or a gliding manta.

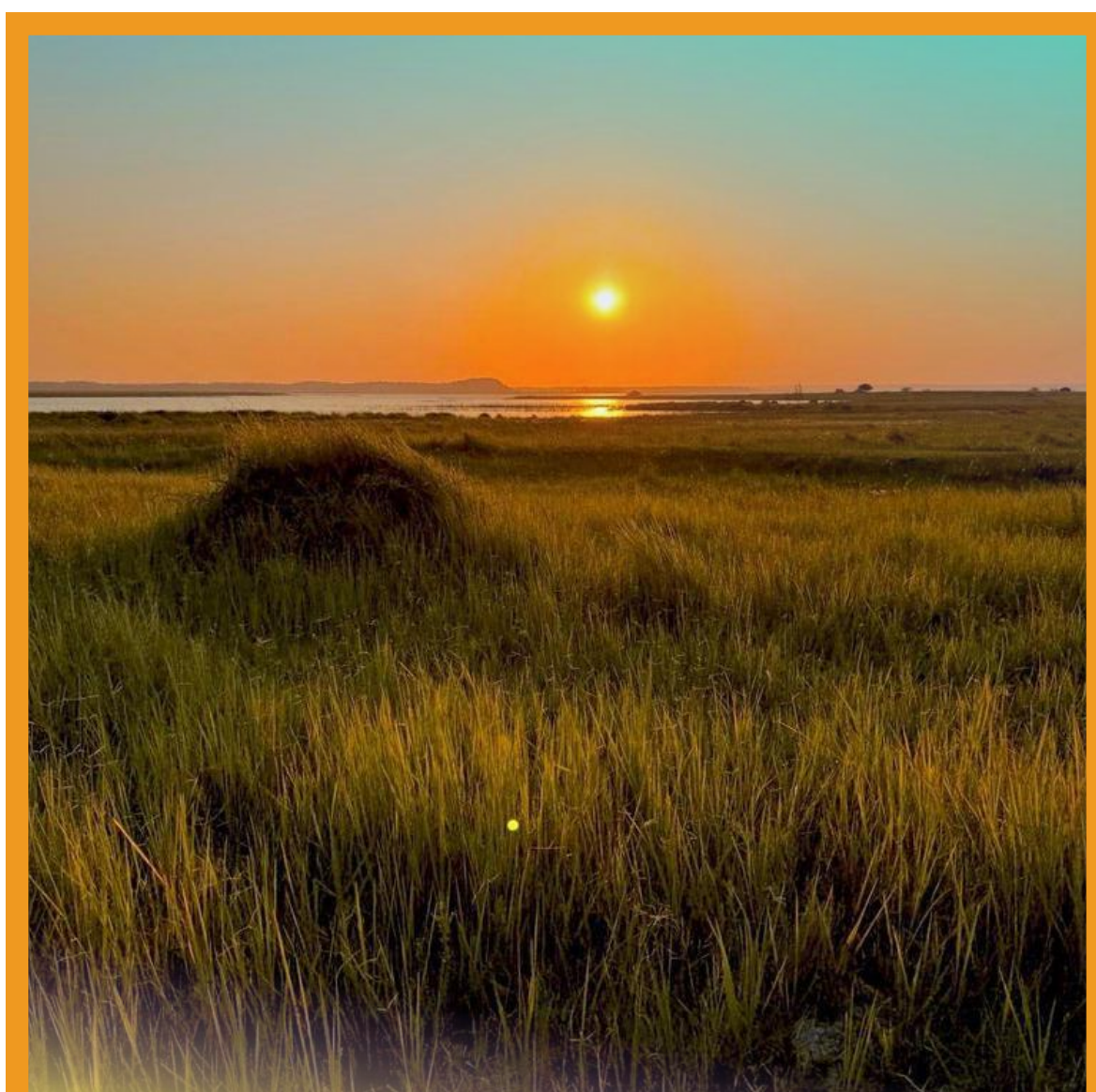
Back on land, step into the cool shade of the forest for a shoreline walk beside Lake Sibaya—South Africa's largest freshwater lake. Watch for hippos, duiker, hornbills and lake vistas to die for. At twilight, return to Mabibi beach for another turtle walk. No two nights are the same—perhaps tonight you'll see a hatchling's first breath, or a nesting female's final push.

DAY 2

INTO THE BLUE

Fuel up on breakfast before heading for the sea. After a quick briefing, you'll surf-launch into the Indian Ocean on our Blue Safari. This is no ordinary boat ride—scan the water for Spinner and Bottlenose dolphins, mantas, five species of turtles, coral reefs and in Winter a Humpback whale or ten.

Later, unwind at the lodge with Damien's famous meals and optional fireside stories from ocean photographers, turtle researchers, or shark scientists—intimate, unscripted, and full of wild encounters from the deep.



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DAY 4

THE GIANTS OF TEMBE

Today, head inland to Tembe Elephant Reserve, home to Southern Africa's last great tuskers. Drift slowly through sand forests, pausing at quiet hides to watch for elephants, lions, and the secrets that move through Tembe's shaded paths.

That evening, return to Skova Lodge for a final dinner under the stars—stories swirling, glasses clinking, the sound of the bush wrapping around you.

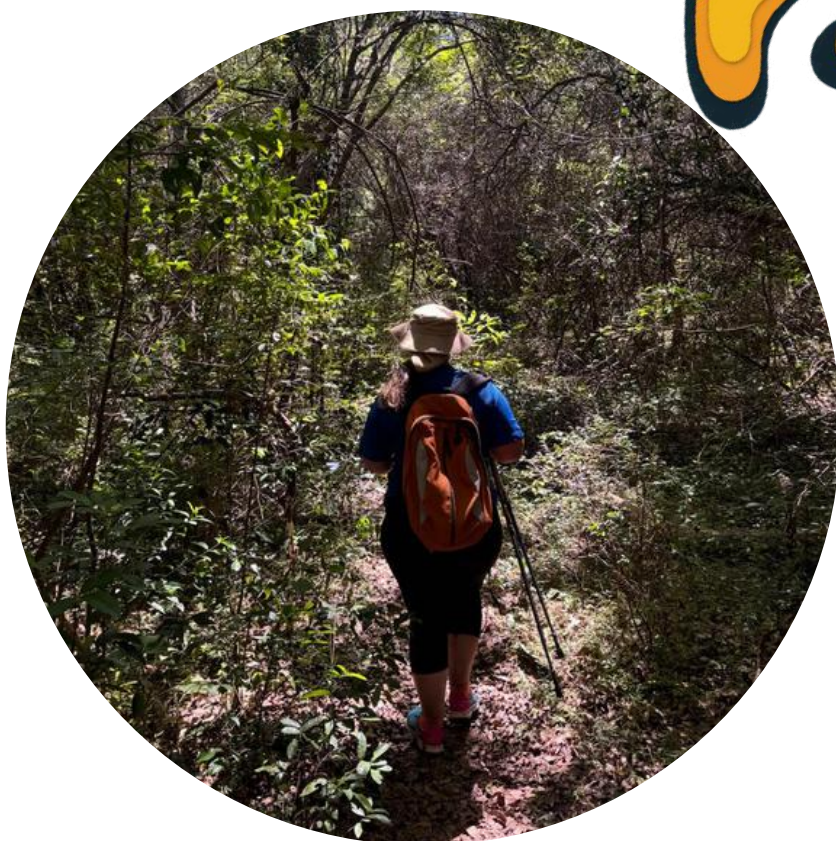
DAY 5

FAREWELL, FOR NOW

A slow breakfast. A last swim. One final glance through binoculars at a flash of feathers in the trees. The ocean stays with you, tucked in your skin, echoing in your chest.

Please note that depending on the weather and ocean-conditions, the order of the programme might be swapped around.

Out of turtle season we follow a similar programme, but without the walks at Mabibi at night.



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How To Book

Packages start from R14 500 per person until December 2026 (R15 500.00 in 2027). Our packages accommodate groups of 8 to 10 people and include the following:

- Guides and Entry Fees: Enhance your trail experience with knowledgeable guides.
- Meals and Drinks: Enjoy freshly prepared meals, soft drinks, water, ciders, G&Ts, beers, and wine.
- Turtle Walks: Seasonal turtle walks, with an optional second walk.
- Tembe Elephant Park: Explore the giants of Tembe and the incredible sand forest.
- Ocean Safaris: Experience exciting ocean safari's, without time limits.
- Snorkeling Gear: Masks, wetsuits/rash vests and snorkels for underwater adventures.

Almost everything is included, except for gratuities. Bring some cash for spending money or to support local crafters.



About Thonga Trails

Thonga Trails offers fully guided, all-inclusive wilderness experiences along the pristine coastline of northern KwaZulu-Natal. Combining ocean adventures, coastal exploration and rich wildlife encounters, each trail is designed to immerse guests in one of South Africa's most untouched natural environments. With experienced local guides, comfortable accommodation and exceptional catering, Thonga Trails blends adventure with ease, creating a unique and memorable way to connect with nature, the ocean and the surrounding community.

The Thonga Trails Foundation supports local communities and conservation in the Maputaland region through education, sustainability and upliftment initiatives. By travelling with Thonga Trails, guests directly contribute to protecting this unique environment and supporting the people who call it home.



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