



PONDO TRAIL

PONDOLAND - SOUTH AFRICA

Owned and operated by


WILD CHILD
AFRICA



Take a walk on the Wild side

The Pondo Trail is undoubtedly the flagship product of Wild Child Africa. After 30 years of exploring the many paths of the Wild Coast, we have carefully and purposefully curated our Pondo Trail experience - a tapestry of defining moments and meaningful connections.

The Pondo Trail™ was born in 2016 when the brothers Tim and Matt Botha set out to create an identity for an adventure unlike any other. People have been walking along the cattle trails in Pondoland for centuries, but the Pondo Trail is not a route or path, neither is it a hike in the traditional sense. The Pondo Trail is more a series of very intentionally curated experiences that our team crafts together for our guests.

This unique coastline is too fragile to sustain high density tourism. As such, we have developed an exclusive, high-end product with a low environmental impact, with a strong focus on community upliftment and conservation. Our 4-night trail is fully catered and supported, allowing guests to travel light and embrace their natural surroundings. Behind the scenes, our ground crew will transport your luggage to each overnight stop and make sure the champagne is chilled and the fire dancing on your arrival.

Through our knowledge, passion and love of this area, we will enrich your time with visits to secret waterfalls and hidden valleys. It is our privilege to highlight aspects of the vibrant Mpondo culture and enthrall you with many wonderful tales of adventure, shipwrecks and survival. The unique microclimate presents countless opportunities to observe and appreciate the many endemic plants and animals that occur in this area. Our time is governed by the tides and when the ocean allows, we harvest oysters or crayfish to put over the coals of a lunch time braai.





*The Pondo Trail™ is not a hike.
It's a journey, an experience, an adventure.*

Our Pondo Trail guides are hand-picked, extensively trained and all share the same passion for this spectacular section of the coast. Each day on the trail is professionally guided and, to ensure the safety of the group, two staff members will accompany you each day. Our incredible guides are there to keep you safe, but of equal importance, to ensure that you experience all that each day has to offer.

Guests leave Pondoland somewhat changed by their trip. Words like defining, seminal, elemental, spiritual and life-changing are often mentioned during the many hugs, teary eyes and emotional goodbyes at Manteku on the final morning.

Anyone can walk this coastline. Only Wild Child Africa offers the Pondo Trail: a carefully crafted journey where barefoot luxury meets untamed Africa, and every detail is designed to deepen your connection to this extraordinary place.



“I have been fortunate enough to travel around the world, stay in the best hotels, and dine with royalty. However, my time with Wild Child on their Pondo Trail, with the many unexpected secrets along the way, has changed my definition of true luxury.”

TOBY FENWICK-WILSON
Founder, Storm Lantern Expeditions





DAY 1

Welcome to Pondoland: where time rests and the earth heals

Our adventure starts at around 8am in Port Edward where, should you choose the ocean safari, you will embark on a phenomenal boat transfer to view dolphins, whales and the sardine migration in season – this option comes highly recommended and cuts out a long and bumpy dirt road to the official start of your adventure near Mtentu. Should you prefer to travel by road, you'll arrive at Mtentu at around 10.30am.

DISTANCE 12 - 15 km

After disembarking, the day then offers incredible diversity through the mostly forgotten wilderness of the Mkambathi Nature Reserve; grassy plains boasting scattered herds of antelope, a picnic lunch beneath an exquisite waterfall and signature Wild Child sundowners overlooking the Msikaba estuary are a few of the highlights. The Msikaba Beach Camp will be your home for the evening.

DAY 2

Shipwrecks and champagne showers

An early wake up will coax you out of bed for a sunrise kayak up the Msikaba estuary. Resident Cape Vultures circling overhead and rapturous greetings from on-looking baboons punctuate our paddle, before returning for a delicious breakfast back at camp. Setting off for the day's walk, we continue south from Msikaba, with numerous opportunities for a refreshing swim in one of the many streams or a break in a shady spot for a mid-morning snack. Our journey takes us past the site of the famous Grosvenor shipwreck and then on to Lambazi Beach, the perfect place for lunch and siesta under the milkwoods. Champagne Mile and the celebrated 'Pondo Shower' marks the end of another spectacular day's walk and brings us to the Luphutana Beach Camp for the night.

DISTANCE 19 km



DAY 3

Waterfall wonderland

Today is the day Pondoland shows off! Majestic landmarks, breath-taking viewpoints, hidden caves and secret valleys are revealed around each new section. Waterfall Bluff, Cutwini Valley and Cathedral Rock are only a few of the highlights that can be enjoyed as you discover the majesty and mystery of the Pondoland coast. When the ocean allows, freshly harvested seafood can be included in our menu for the day. The journey ends with a final beach crossing before reaching our home for the evening, Mbotyi River Lodge.

DISTANCE 20 km





DAY 4

Secluded beaches and spectacular sunsets

As in every good story, we save the best for last. The essence of this beautiful coastline is captured in the short stretch from Mbotyi to Manteku and our walk takes us past five secluded, remote and pristine beaches, linked only by secret cattle paths.

A cheeky last climb presents the perfect viewpoint over a fairy-tale finish line; Manteku's private beach and estuary.

Spend the afternoon sipping gin, paddling in the Manteku estuary or enjoying a well-earned foot massage, before the final Pondo Trail feast and celebrations later that evening.

DISTANCE 10 km



DAY 5

Homeward bound

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before returning home sporting the glorious "Pondo Glow".

"We are safely back from Africa, but my heart was left somewhere in Pondoland."

SIR JIM RATCLIFFE - Ineos



“It was seminal, elemental and profoundly healing. We all felt held by you, enough to shed our layers, our grief, our fears and we experience unbridled joy, having returned quite open, raw and changed by it – you have a real gift.”

JUSTINE GEVISSER

Accommodation and Catering

Our first, second and fourth nights are spent in our comfortable Pondo Beach Camp chalets. These en-suite units accommodate 2 people (sharing). Our third night is spent at the beautiful Mbotyi River Lodge. Linen and bath towels are provided at all stops. Our now famous Pondo Trail cuisine is freshly prepared by our team each day. We take pride in sourcing locally and utilising much of what we harvest from our journey. Our set menu is tried and tested and guarantees to be healthy, tasty, and fresh. During season and when ocean conditions are favourable, delicacies can be sustainably harvested and enjoyed along the way!





Packages

NON-EXCLUSIVE DEPARTURE

4-night Pondo Trail™ with a mixed group of like-minded individuals, couples or families.

STANDARD EXCLUSIVE DEPARTURE

4-night Pondo Trail™ with your own hand-picked group of guests. (20 – 24 pax)

PREMIUM EXCLUSIVE DEPARTURE

4-night Pondo Trail™ with your own hand-picked group of guests, premium menu, premium bar and wines, and some specially selected camp comforts. However, the defining moments lie in the element of surprise and so we intentionally won't give too much away. In the words of Londolozi's Dave Varty, "Now that's proper!" (20 – 24 pax)





Package pricing

4 NIGHT PACKAGES	MAX PAX	PRICE PP SHARING	SLOT PRICE (BASE RATE)	ADDITIONAL PAX PP (21-24)	KIDS UNDER 12YRS DISCOUNT PP
Non-Exclusive	24	R23 500	N/A	N/A	R2000
Exclusive	24	N/A	R470 000 (20 PAX)	R23 500	R2000
Premium	24	N/A	R630 000 (20 PAX)	R31 500	N/A

"What you guys have created is a priceless gift – to disconnect from work and to reconnect with each other, to discharge our daily responsibilities, and recharge our batteries. To throw caution to the wind and just say – YES!"

NATASHA STONE

SADC residents' discounted rate

4 NIGHT PACKAGES	MAX PAX	PRICE PP SHARING	SLOT PRICE (BASE RATE)	ADDITIONAL PAX PP (21-24)	KIDS UNDER 12YRS DISCOUNT PP
Non-Exclusive	24	R15 900	N/A	N/A	R2000
Exclusive	24	N/A	R318 000 (20 PAX)	R15 900	R2000
Premium	24	N/A	R438 000 (20 PAX)	R21 900	N/A

- Single supplement – 50% surcharge
- All standard exclusive packages can be upgraded to premium

HOSTED BY



WILD CHILD
AFRICA



QUOTED RATES INCLUDE

Guided-4 night adventure, accommodation, all meals, vehicle support, luggage handling, snacks, refreshments, G&T, beer and wine.

QUOTED RATES EXCLUDE

Road and ocean transfers, drinks at Mbotyi River Lodge, conservation and community levy.

ADD-ONS

Helicopter and chartered flight transfers in and out of camps. Please contact [Airtrack Aviation](https://www.airtrack.co.za) (079 890 3988) or [KZN Aviation](https://www.kznaviation.co.za) (082 655 7811) respectively to arrange this.

PAYMENT TERMS

- A deposit of 50% of total trip amount is required to secure booking for agreed date.
- Rates are all per person sharing. A 50% single supplement surcharge applies to people wanting their own unit.
- Exclusive and premium departures – a R35 000 holding deposit is required to reserve slot, thereafter 50% of total trip cost is due 6 weeks after slot reservation.
- Balance of payment, including any extras and transfers, is due 45 days prior to departure of the trip.
- A full explanation of T&Cs can be found on your invoice.





The Pondoland Conservation Trust was created as the result of a deeply emotional connection that our guests felt during their time in Pondoland, and their subsequent desire to assist in preserving this pristine environment for future generations.

Exploitation of the natural resources is nothing new to this area and many battles have been fought to protect it from unscrupulous titanium mining, environmentally unsustainable business practices and the search for oil and gas.

It is our belief that the only sustainable way to preserve Pondoland, is to uplift the local communities through high-end, low-impact tourism. To bring influential and significant individuals to this area, show them the wonders that it offers and, in doing so, inspire them

to assist us with its preservation through non-invasive and eco-friendly development that has a direct impact on the local communities.

Since the creation of the Pondoland Conservation Trust in 2021, and with the support of our generous donors and loyal partners, we have been able to implement several successful projects thus far.

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about the Trust or would like to donate to one of our projects.



PONDO
PEOPLE
PLANET



A large, dark brown zebu cow with prominent horns is shown in profile, grazing on dry grass in a savanna landscape. The background features rolling hills and a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

WILD CHILD A F R I C A

Wild Child Africa is an adventure tourism company, inspired by the untouched coastline of Pondoland. We specialize in privately-guided, tailor-made adventures for tourists and corporate groups. Our mission is to safeguard the environments in which we operate through community focused and sustainable eco-tourism.

Tim and Matt Botha, brothers and founders of Wild Child Africa, spent a large part of their upbringing combing Pondoland's beaches, fishing in the rock pools and cooking their catches under the Milkwoods. Today, they take great pride in inspiring others to embrace this area, and in doing so, enable meaningful benefit to the local communities through their Pondoland Conservation Trust.

Wild Child Africa invites you to fall in love with Southern Africa, and develop a deep appreciation for the wild spaces we explore. Our carefully integrated 'Wild Child touches' create a series of unforgettable and life-changing moments. Join us on a journey where barefoot luxury meets community development and environmental sustainability.

Be Wild. Be Free.



TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFO:

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