

SETTING A STANDARD FOR THE FUTURE OF ALL SANCTUARIES

Nestled in the heart of the beautiful Garden Route are three uniquely different sanctuaries; **Monkeyland Primate Sanctuary, Birds of Eden and Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary**. These sanctuaries come under the umbrella of the South Africa Animal Sanctuary Alliance (**SAASA**).

SAASA takes the welfare of the animals and birds in their care very seriously and without exception. Therefore, Monkeyland, Birds of Eden and Jukani all abide by very exacting standards, ensuring the utmost quality of care together with promoting responsible tourism. In recognition of their high standards, SAASA has recently been awarded the highly acclaimed award, '**Best Major Tourist Attraction**' in the SKAL International 'Sustainable in Tourism Awards' and furthermore won the Gold Award for '**Best Animal Welfare Initiative**' and overall winner for the '**World Responsible Tourism**' award.

It is not only the animals that benefit from SAASA's approach, Monkeyland and Birds of Eden are also **Fairtrade** accredited which means that we also take great care of the environment and our staff. Monkeyland and Birds of Eden are the only primate and bird sanctuaries to receive this accreditation in South Africa and it is hoped Jukani will soon follow suit.

All SAASA controlled sanctuaries have a strict 'no touch' policy. These are not petting zoos and their purpose is not primarily entertainment. They are sanctuaries in every sense of the word, where previously abused animals and birds can develop a freedom they never had before and without human interference e. Monkeys play with monkeys, birds flock with their own kind and cats live out the rest of their lives in blissful laziness.

There is absolutely no conservation value in the allowing of 'petting' wild animals; primates are prone to many human diseases, which could prove fatal to them, it also interferes with their natural behaviour and complex hierarchies. Many so called 'sanctuaries' that breed lions and tigers etc. in order for visitors to 'pet' cute cubs are often involved in the 'Canned Lion' industry whereby once the cubs have grown too big to be cute or safe are sold off to be killed by trophy hunters in small enclosures where they have no means of escape. Other attractions even drug adult lions and tigers so that they can be pawed over by humans. One also has to ask the question, why is there a seemingly endless supply of 'orphaned' cubs at these facilities?

If the idea of cuddling cute lion cubs or having a monkey sitting on your shoulder appeals to you, then all the more reason why you should visit our sanctuaries where you will achieve a greater understanding of why it is simply not a good idea. The sight of wild animals and birds in close proximity, acting naturally is a far greater experience than seeing them caged and harassed.

Our primates and birds go through long periods of rehabilitation to 'de-humanize' them. Many had never even seen a tree before let alone one of their own kind. Eventually, they are released into a forest where they can swing from trees, make their first flight and gain a sense of being where they belong. Allowing human interaction is a step backwards, not only can it upset the natural equilibrium within their own societies; primates and birds can become aggressive and deliver a nasty bite, it is what they do to each other in the wild and, therefore, if we humans wish to become part of their 'community' then we are expected to endure the consequences. It is one of the main reasons that many pets arrive here, they bite!

A visit to our Monkeyland, Birds of Eden and Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary is more than just entertaining; it is an educational and enlightening experience. Our experienced rangers and guides will offer you a wealth of information on each species; discuss conservation issues and the dangers that the animals face in the wild.

Monkeyland first opened its gates to the public in 1998 amidst much scepticism, a sanctuary of this kind had never been attempted before; multiple primate species all running free and together in one big forest. But, despite the fears, it was a huge success and the world's first multi-species, free roaming primate sanctuary has set a standard that other sanctuaries now aspire to.

Twelve hectares of indigenous forest is home to over 550 primates of 13 different species; Common & Bolivian Squirrel monkeys, Douroucoulis monkey, Hooded Capuchin monkey, Black Howler monkeys, Vervet monkeys, Spider monkeys, Hanuman and Spectacled Langur, Red-backed Saki, Lar Gibbon, Ring-tailed and Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs all enjoy the freedom to climb trees, forage amongst the undergrowth and live a life that is far removed from where they came. Ex-pets, laboratory animals and surpluses from zoos that used to live in cages now have the opportunity to behave in a way that is natural to them.

Our experienced rangers will guide you on a one-hour tour of the forest, pointing out the different species whilst offering a wealth of information on their ecology and conservation. An added attraction is the 128m long suspension bridge that stretches across the forest canopy offering magnificent views of the surrounding forest.

Birds of Eden is the largest single-dome free flight aviary in the world, spanning 2.3 hectares of natural forest, streams and dams. With over a kilometre of walkways, visitors can experience the thrill of spotting almost 3500 previously captive birds of over 200 different species flying free and living natural lives. The scenery alone warrants a visit with hundreds of different plant and tree species plus there are giant fruit bats, golden-handed tamarins and the smallest of the antelopes; Blue duikers. Visits to Birds of Eden are self-guided and you are free to wander for as long as you wish at your own pace. Guided tours for group bookings can also be arranged on request.

Jukani is the latest addition to the SAASA family and recently celebrated its first birthday after being relocated from Mossel Bay. Here you can experience all of the big cats; lions (white and tawny), tigers, jaguars and leopards together with cheetahs, cougars and caracals. Other apex predators include African painted dogs, hyenas, jackals and the notoriously fearless honey badger. All of the animals have been rescued from human exploitation. 'Spirit', the black leopard has achieved significant fame having found peace at last after the trauma of living in the confines of a zoo. All of the animals at Jukani live in very large natural enclosures, each species with their own private dam or watering hole and shelters that blend in with the environment. Tours are led by our expert rangers where the focus is primarily on conservation education.

Naturally, for safety reasons, Jukani is our only sanctuary where you view the wildlife from behind a fence rather than mingle amongst them. For this reason, special ramps have been being erected so that you can obtain an uninterrupted view of the animals.

The animals at Jukani do not breed, there is already a surplus of white lions and tigers in captivity around the world and it is virtually impossible for them to survive in the wild. In fact it is very rare for any apex cat to be successfully re-introduced into the wild. Many organisations that offer 'lion cub petting' are quite simply supporters of the 'canned' hunting trade. The cubs are not orphans; they are cruelly taken from their mothers at a very early age and subjected to hours of manhandling by humans on a daily basis. When they become too big to be 'cute' they are sold off to be killed in an enclosed area by ruthless trophy hunters.

Monkeyland, Birds of Eden and Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary are all situated in The Craggs, approximately 16km east of Plettenberg Bay. For further information please visit our websites:

www.monkeyland.co.za

www.birdsofeden.co.za

www.jukani.co.za

Or call us on +27 (0) 44 534 8906 / +27 (0) 82 979 5683