NEUTRON STARS AND NEBULAE:
HABITATS FOR PHOTONS, COSMIC RAYS AND OTHER ANIMALS

A conference celebrating the lifetime contributions of Alice Harding and Isabelle Grenier

Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger National Park, South Africa

August 9 - 14, 2026

More information is available on the **Conference Website**



Fifth Circular

First circular | Second circular | Third circular | Fourth circular

Dear all

We are about 10 days away from the start of the **Neutron Stars and Nebulae conference**! To assist with your travel arrangements and help ensure a smooth journey, we include final thoughts, reminders, and a travel checklist below. Please contact info@nsn-knp2026.org.za for any other questions.

Science Programme

An updated science programme is available **here**.
Presenter information and guidelines are available **here**.

Please note requests for chairs - if you have been nominated but are unwilling or unable to be a chair, **kindly let the LOC know** so we can make alternative arrangements. No comments will be taken as confirmation of availability.

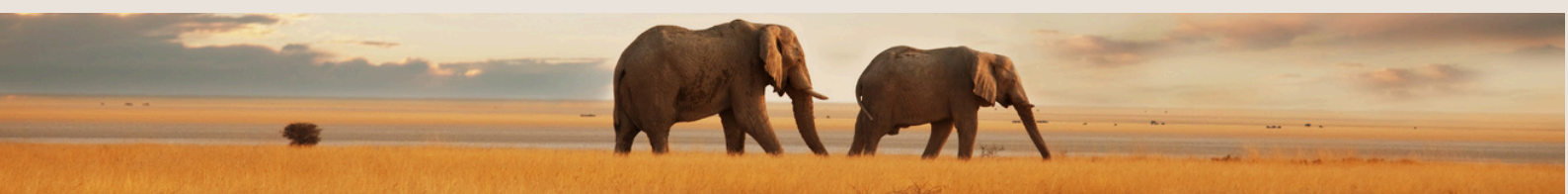
Daily Conservation Fee / Wild Card

Delegates are reminded that the Kruger Park requires the following **daily fees** (different for different categories of visitor).

These may be paid upon arrival via debit or credit card. It may be prudent for locals to buy a **Wild Card** and save costs.

An indemnity form will be available for signature upon arrival (at the reception desk of the Lodge or at the SANPARKS registration desk).

The Daily Conservation Fee is valid for the day, i.e., multiple exits and entries into the Park will be allowed upon showing one's receipt and entry permit. It allows entry to the Park, but does not include the cost of game drives. **More**



Online Travel Declaration

From 1 July 2026, every traveller entering or leaving South Africa by air, land, sea or rail must submit an online traveller declaration before they travel. This applies to South African citizens, residents **and foreign travellers alike**, including children and infants. One would need a single declaration per traveller. A parent or guardian completes it on behalf of a child.

The declaration must be submitted **no more than 24 hours before departure from the country one is flying from**. For journeys with stops, this means 24 hours before the final leg into South Africa. A separate declaration is required when **leaving** South Africa.

After submission, each traveller receives an emailed confirmation that should be saved or printed. One may file the declaration **here** or by using the SATMS App (Apple, Google or Huawei stores). There may be scan-to-declare QR codes or self-service kiosks at certain ports. The following information will be needed: passport details, travel details, contact details, and details of any travel companions. Ordinary personal effects do not need to be declared.

Use the following **address for Skukuza**:

- **Unit Number**: N/A (or leave blank if optional, or enter bungalow/unit number if assigned, e.g. Bungalow C2)
- **Complex Name:** Skukuza Rest Camp
- **Street:** Kruger National Park
- **Suburb/District:** Skukuza
- **City/Town:** Skukuza or Mbombela
- **Postal Code:** 1350

Ordinary personal effects do not need to be declared. Goods, currency or bearer negotiable instruments above the allowance do. The currency threshold is R100 000 in or out of South Africa without prior approval, and goods up to R5 000 per person are free of duty and VAT. Travellers will not be refused entry or departure simply because they have not declared in advance. Customs officers and self-service terminals are available at the ports to assist, and in limited cases a paper declaration may still be used. Details can be found **here.**

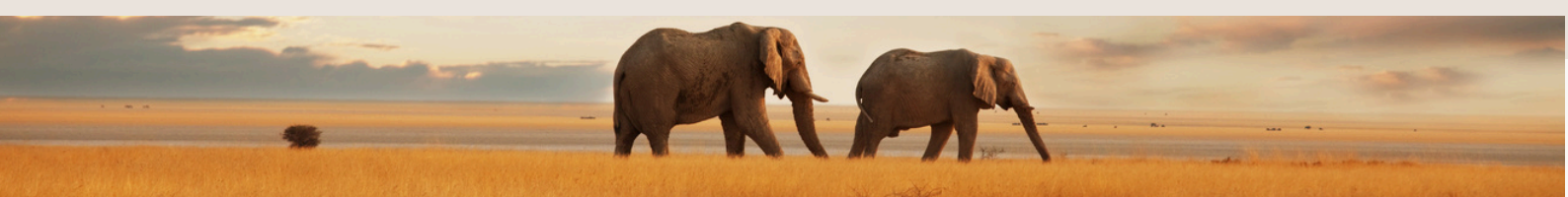
Arrival Information / Shuttles

It may take around **7 hours** to reach Kruger by car from OR Tambo Airport. If your flight arrives after noon, consider spending the night on OR Tambo. The gates to Kruger Park **close at 18:00**. From Nelspruit's Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA/MQP) to Kruger National Park takes about **1-1.5 hours** by car.

Given responses by delegates, we have decided to provide *ad hoc* **shuttle services free of charge using our LOC vehicles on Sunday 9 August**. This will be between Skukuza Airport and the Skukuza Rest Camp only - any other arrival points should be serviced by their own shuttles.

To assist in our planning, we ask that you please capture your itinerary information **here**, if you have not done so already. Additionally, please be patient as we shuttle groups of passengers to Skukuza Lodge or the bungalows.

Since the LOC is returning to Potchefstroom on **Saturday 15 August**, delegates will need to **book their own return shuttle** (which may be shared to save costs) at the SANPARKS registration desk or at the Skukuza Lodge Concierge.



Accommodation

There are a few more single rooms available at Skukuza Lodge at discounted prices. *Ad hoc* queries may be directed to **info@nsn-knp2026.org.za**.

Game Drives

Game drives may be booked at the SANPARKS Reception or via the Skukuza Lodge Concierge. These are separate from and additional to the Daily Conservation Fees. There are three daily drives (around 05:30 / 16:30 / 20:00 SAST; final times will be confirmed in the Park). The duration is around 3 hours, and for the night drive it is 2 hours. Online reservations may also be done **here**.

Breakfast / Dinner

A Buffet **Breakfast** is either included in the room rate at the Skukuza Lodge, or delegates may enjoy breakfast at one of the **three restaurants** in Skukuza. There is also a **small shop** for basic needs.

Apart from the **dinners at the social functions**, delegates may enjoy dinner at one of the three restaurants in Skukuza.

Daily lunches and teas / coffees are included for delegates in their registration fees. These will be separate expenses for accompanying persons.

Visa / Cash

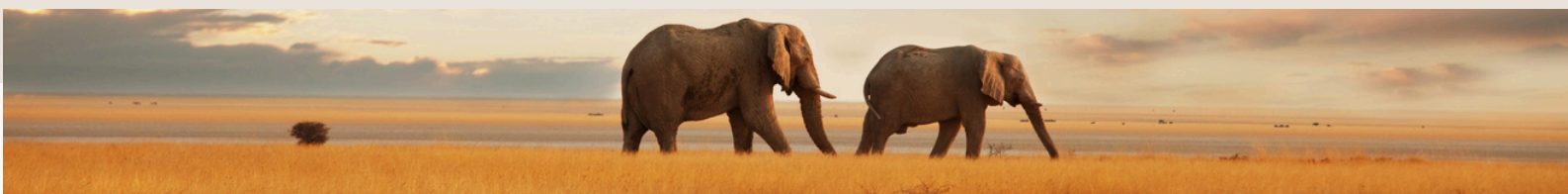
There is a **First National Bank ATM** for cash withdrawals in Skukuza, although it may be prudent to withdraw cash outside the Park (and ensure that your bank card is enabled for international withdrawals). An international withdrawal fee may be charged for foreign bank cards.

Visa **debit and credit cards** are widely accepted as a means of payment. Less than R1 000 in cash is usually enough as a backup (for **tips** at the 10% level, buying from small vendors, etc.), while larger expenses such as meals, groceries, fuel, and souvenirs can typically be paid by card.

Malaria Advisory

Kruger National Park is located in a **malaria-risk area**, although the risk is generally low and seasonal. Delegates are advised to consult a healthcare professional or travel clinic well in advance of travel to determine whether malaria prophylaxis is recommended based on individual circumstances.

The Kruger Park had above-average rainfall and wide-spread flooding this summer, increasing the number of mosquitos in the Park. As an additional precaution, the use of mosquito repellent and wearing long sleeves and trousers during the early morning and evening hours is advised. There is also a medical doctor on site.



Travel Checklist and Skukuza Information

Please consult the website for a **full Packing List** of Essential Travel Documents, Clothing, Health & Safety Essentials, Electronics, Money, Safari Essentials, Useful Information and Helpful Tips and information about **Skukuza Rest Camp's amenities**.

Safety

South Africa is a vibrant country with warm hospitality, but like any international destination, **it is important to remain vigilant**.

Please:

- Keep your personal belongings secure and avoid displaying valuables in public.
- Use registered transport services and avoid travelling alone at night in unfamiliar areas. Keep to main roads.
- If possible, travel in groups. Let others know where you are every day.
- **Within Kruger National Park, your safety is our highest priority. Please:**
    - Remain inside designated vehicles during game drives and **never approach wildlife on foot.**
    - Adhere to **speed limits** and **Park Regulations**.
    - Be mindful of **gate opening and closing times** (August: 06:00 & 18:00). People travelling in the Park outside this window (i.e., after dark) may be mistaken for wildlife poachers.
    - Carry sufficient **water, sunscreen, and insect repellent**.

Emergency services and Park staff are available to assist at all times. Should you require help, please contact the nearest ranger station or lodge reception. There is also a medical doctor on site.

Skukuza number: **+27 (0)13 735 4325**

Conference Bulletin Board

Our **Conference Bulletin Board** will soon replace the Website Homepage, so that we can keep you informed.

Facebook and Instagram

Please like and follow us on **Facebook**, and **Instagram**, where we can share photos and news.

