



EXCEPTIONAL TIGERFISHING ON YOUR DOORSTEP



LAKESIDE LUXURY, NORTH KZN

The Pongolapoort Dam (Lake Jozini) is fed by the Pongola River and interestingly enough is South Africa's southernmost extent that Tigerfish occur. The summer months see the lake colouring up with dirty run-off, however the water clears through the winter. This presents a fairly short window of time that is ideal for flyfishing, as the clear water begins to warm in August and September before the first rains. Jozinis' Tigers on average are relatively small, and bread and butter fish are between 1lb - 3lbs. These are exceptional fun on a fly rod, especially for those that have not experienced the startling take of the 'striped water dog', on fly. In our opinion global warming is improving this fishery every season, and less and less rain means water clarity through the year is better, resulting in the tigerfish being able to feed more effectively through the seasons.

We have monitored the average water temperatures through the months we fish, and these are gradually rising, something which suits the warm water tigerfish.

The days are broken down into two sessions, morning and afternoon. Anglers meet at sunrise on the breathtaking viewing deck at the lodge, where Jonathan prepares excellent filter coffee and home made rusks, as life is just too short for instant. Boats leave from the moorage directly below, with two anglers to a boat driven by a local skipper. Although these guys predominantly take out lure and live bait fisherman, most have been trained to skipper for fly anglers over the years by Jonathan and his staff.

We fish hard till around 10H30 before returning for a mammoth cooked lodge brunch, after which you can enjoy a bit of a lie down, or get straight back on the water till sunset.



<i>Location</i>	Jozini Dam, Pongola
<i>Dates</i>	Prime New Moons Aug - mid Sept 2012
<i>Technical</i>	Local Tiger action on fly
<i>Cost</i>	R2,250 per night (25% off mid week) 2, 3 or 4 night options. includes accommodation, all meals, boats, unlimited fuel and guided fishing.
<i>Gear</i>	#7 - #9 single handed rods

Mavungana Tip!
Make long and accurate casts from the boat, and you will reap the rewards. Definately no wading allowed!



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SIGHT CAST AT SOUTH AFRICAN TIGERS

The low down:

Although this is not fishing the Zambezi or the Okavango, if you can cast and cover water well with the heavier rod, you WILL catch fish. Being the Tigers' most southerly range, fish are not huge, but they are plentiful. Cast most of a full 9wt fly line off both shoulders and you can expect to hook more than 15 fish a day, and with luck boat more than half a dozen. As conditions and our knowledge of the fishery improve every year, so does the average size and frequency of big fish. You could go all the way to the Zambezi in search of that double figure tiger on fly and you might not get lucky. You could fish Jozini with us, and boat a 10 pounder on your first afternoon.

This experience could well be described as a mini Kariba getaway. Pongolapoort dam is a man-made 13 276 hectare lake, and the Pongola Game Reserve over 600 000Ha, with prolific game including both Black and White Rhino, Elephant and Buffalo. There are over 350 bird species recorded, and there is no doubt that game viewing from a drifting boat with a fishing rod in one hand, and a cold beverage in the other, is rather hard to beat. Non fishing partners can enjoy the lodge, its facilities including heated and unheated swimming pool, viewing deck and the multitude of activities including game drives, tracking rhino on foot, sunset cruises and spa treatments.

The fishing:

The majority of the fishing is casting sinking lines and shooting heads from a drifting boat towards drop offs and deep water alongside weedbeds. Under certain conditions however, dominant winds push warmer water into dead end bays and the most exciting sport can be had, having the boat poled through the weedbeds looking for tailing cruising tigers. With one angler on the front of the boat, ready to cast his floating line at the sighted fish. Rod weights are from 7-9 with matching similar quality reels. Fly selections provided by Mavungana include black and purple brush flies and the famous 'Rosies Mudfish'.

Jonathan Boulton or a highly experienced Mavungana guide will rotate through each boat, each session ensuring anglers are guided professionally, get into good fish, and enjoy some jolly good company.

In case you are worried you wont do well on fly, the lodge has spinning and live bait gear available, although thats the way most people do it on the lake, make sure your casting is up to scratch and listen to your guide, and you will outfish the conventional gear guys, with the fly rod, every time.

Whats in and whats not:

Included in the package is excellent accomodation in spacious ensuite lakeside thatched chalets. All meals, use of boats, unlimimted fuel and guided fishing are inclusive. There is an extremely well stocked bar in the main lodge, and we have a special dispensation to bring our own refreshments to be consumed in your boat or in your own chalet. Not included are drinks purchased from the bar and staff gratuities. Recommended tipping rate R100/p/day split between guides and lodge staff. Non fishing partners R750 per person per night sharing, excluding activities.





Other Travel Info:

Although the best tigerfishing in South Africa, its a fair drive to Pongola. The road via Piet Retief experiences huge delays due to road works. This is a 6-7 hour drive from Johannesburg. Some people opt to fly to Richards Bay, now very popular, just an hour and a half flight from Joburg and an easy hour and a half drive to the Reserve. Else, most leave Joburg at the crack of dawn on a Friday, grabbing a bite to eat on the road, and arriving lunch time for a quick check in and getting on the water for the first afternoon session. Fish all day Saturday. Fish the morning session Sunday, driving back Sunday afternoon. It is however a long way to drive for 2 days fishing, with the scenery and game viewing as good as it is, and the tiger action addictive, we highly recommend at least a third night to maximise your enjoyment.

Weather:

Even though its tropical Northern Natal, we are fishing towards the end of winter, and the evenings and early mornings are often cold. Warm clothing including fleece, longs and a beanie (woolen hat) for the early morning boat rides, with the ability of being able to strip down to shorts and a fishing shirt, as the sun warms you up. Bugs and Mosquitos are non-existent.

Communications:

There is mobile phone reception at the lodge. As we are so close to Swaziland, your phone will more than likely pick that reception up. It is therefore advisable to manually search and select back to the South African network otherwise you could find you have been making calls all weekend on international roaming.

Equipment List:

- #7, #8 or #9 quality fast action rods with matching reels
- Tropically rated D17 or shooting head fly lines with a second rigged with a floater
- 20lb - 25lb straight mono leader
- Thin piano wire trace material
- Assortment of Mavungana custom tied Tiger clousers and brush flies
- #5/6 fast action rod, matching reel and floating line for Tilapia
- Selection of dries and nymphs



Clothing:

- Warm fleece, tracksuit pants and woollen hat for the mornings and evenings
- Warm semi formal wear for meals at the lodge
- Flats pants (zip offs) and shirts
- Buff and sunhat
- Swimming trunks
- Comfortable slops/crocs/sneakers for deck work
- Stripping gloves

Other:

- Cameras
- Quality Polaroid sunglasses plus one spare
- Sun tan cream, no bug repellent needed.
- Boga Grip (optional)
- Stripping basket (optional)
- Good quality saltwater pliers

