

First Annual International Grannies Tournament

Opening ceremonies for the tournament will be Sunday afternoon, March 26. Games will be played on Monday through Wednesday March 27-29.

Please refer to the documents provided by the South Africa tournament organizers for more information about the tournament:

- South Africa Tournament flyer
- Grannies International Tournament 2023 Profile
- Profile Annex 1 - tournament structure details
- Profile Annex 2 - tournament structure details
- Profile Annex 3 - photos of the fields

Participation will be limited to 32 teams. We expect teams from each of the 9 provinces of South Africa. Teams from the USA, Togo, Mozambique, Lesotho, France and Brazil have already shown interest. With more to come!

There will be one over-50 division. It is our understanding from the organizers that each team can have two players under 50, but they must be over 47. Games will be 11v11.

The tournament will span four stadiums on the first day, two stadiums on the second day, and everyone will be together at the same stadium for the third, final day. Note the stadiums are 30-60 min drive from Tzaneen.

The games on the first two days will be two 20-minute halves. Semi finals and finals will be two 30-minute halves.

We expect that each team will play 3x40 min games on the first day, at least one real game or one friendly, consolation 40-min game on the second day. Up to three 60-minute games on the third day if your team makes the quarter final, semi final, and final games!

One or two teams from Massachusetts will be attending the tournament. We are sharing this information to help make the tournament a success and to facilitate the formation of other teams from the US. We are going to the Limpopo region to help our soccer sister Beka build an investment in her community. We are there to show the government that women are important and can bring money into the community. This tournament will

increase employment opportunities as well as give more respect to the elders in the community.

We anticipate that the level of soccer competition will vary team to team with some experienced teams used to tournament play and some teams of women who have come together on the soccer field for the first time recently, just to join in the fun. Participants need to have a spirit to adjust their play, be respectful, and celebrate women coming together from around the world.

This tournament will be a cultural experience - as much or more than - a typical competitive soccer experience. For those of you who met the South Soccer Grannies when they played in the Veterans Cup 2010, you enjoyed their smiles, song, and dance on the sidelines. For those from Massachusetts who visited South Africa in 2011, we can vouch that it will be an unbelievable experience!

ACTION REQUIRED: If you are interested, please fill out all columns of the Spreadsheet to Organize National Participants.

When we reach a “critical mass” of 16 players that are definite we can form a team. We will be looking for someone to be a “team manager” at that point to coordinate with our travel agent-below (or pick your own) to figure out the costs, etc. We recommend purchasing travel insurance.

Allison Bothma: Allison@rhinoafrica.com

The Boston team’s planned itinerary and cost at the bottom of this document are provided just as an example of the trip we have assembled. We are staying in South Africa after the tournament and spending a few days at Kruger National Park. Your team could do the same before or after the tournament if you wished.

******* VERY IMPORTANT*******

If you have any interest in going, your passport has to be valid for 6 months after we come back (so, at least thru November 2023) AND you need at least 2 blank pages in the passport. No visas needed.

CDC guidelines:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/south-africa#vaccines-and-medicines>-PLEASE READ

Hep A,B, Malaria, routine vaccines, typhoid, COVID (up to date with vaccines)

The weather in Tzaneen in March 2022 was low 80's during the day, 60's at night

Here's a fun Soccer Grannies video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvNfKFztXPk>

After reading if you have further questions please email us at:
satournament2023@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest. It should be a once in a lifetime trip!!!!

Massachusetts Travel Itinerary and Costs

Dates: March 23-April 2 2023

Place: Tzaneen SA and Kruger National Park

Itinerary: (This is the trip the MA team has planned)

March 23rd: Leave Boston

March 24th: Arrive Jburg-stay overnight at airport hotel

March 25th: Leave Jburg in hired bus to Tzaneen -staying in Tzaneen x 5 nights

Tournament

March 26th: Opening ceremony in afternoon

March 27-March 29th: games/closing ceremony

Kruger

March 30-April 2: Kruger National Park

April 2: Fly out of Hoedspruit (airport in Kruger) to J burg connect on flight to Boston

Most hotels have shuttle transfers from the airport to the hotel. We are hiring a luxury bus that will transport us from Jburg to Tzaneen, to and from all games and to the hotel in Tzaneen, and then drop us off at the lodge in Kruger. The driver will be with us for the entire trip from the airport hotel to the lodge in Tzaneen and then to Kruger, where we will be dropped off as the

resort is all self-contained, as below. They will be helping us out, translating, running errands , whatever we need as things come up during the tournament.

It may seem like we have a lot of extra time from when we get to Johannesburg until the opening ceremonies. We are giving this leeway due to recent plane cancellations, etc and the road to Tzaneen sometimes has delays, due to protests. It's about 5 hours by bus from Jburg to Tzaneen. The flight is LONG. It's nice to just stay in the airport overnight, when we get there.

Food: breakfasts are included. We are still researching lunches (maybe boxed by the hotel). The grannies will have some food for us, but, the question is whether we can get enough calories from it as it will all be foreign food to us. Dinners may be served when we return, or maybe cooked and reheated when we get back. This is still in the works. Bars/peanut butter will be good to bring.

Cost: (Note costs are tentative until we purchase the flights).

Total Package (based on 25 people): Flying from Boston, through Atlanta. Price may change with change in airfare, number of people going, etc

Boston to Jburg airfare is about \$1200 which is included in the below cost.

Per person Double occupancy

Full trip all air/transfers/accommodations, 3 nights in Kruger- \$3315

Full trip all air/transfers/accommodations, 2 nights in Kruger- \$2919

Per person Single occupancy:

Full trip all air/transfers/accommodations, 3 nights in Kruger- \$3711

Full trip all air/transfers/accommodations, 2 nights in Kruger- \$3250

Trip without safari: really wouldn't recommend this

Full trip all air/transfers/accommodations (double): \$1941

Full trip all air/transfers/accommodations (single): \$2161

Other expenses may include

1. All meals except breakfast- which is usually included
2. All beverages
3. Tipping-suggested

Safari ranger/guide: \$25/day per couple

Safari tracker: \$12/day per couple

Safari staff: \$12/day per couple

Road transfer drivers (bus driver/guide):\$5-10/day/couple

4. Personal purchases

5. **Travel Insurance: about \$200 cancel for any reason-did a quick look up. Very important to purchase cancel for any reason insurance and can only usually purchase this when it is bought within 21 days of the initial deposit for the trip.**

Kruger National Park:

March 30-April 1 or 2nd (2 or 3 day option)- you can really stay as long as you like

Arrive by bus on March 30th with game drive that evening

2 games drives each full day

1 game drive the am on the day you leave

meals/drives included in the price

Fly back to Boston via Hoedspirit (kruger airport) to Jburg to Boston