



Trip Dossier for South Africa – Kruger under canvas

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There is no better way to enjoy the thrill of the African bush but being under canvas. During the day you'll go on game drives and then before dusk falls you help erect your tents and sit around the campfire listening to the call of the wild and tales of the African wildlife. You'll travel to the Kruger through Swaziland to the coast and then on to the Drakensberg Mountains, visit the local Swazi and Zulu villages (even meet the chief!) and a wildlife rehabilitation centre, enjoy a boat cruise in the St Lucia estuary and finally see the amazing rock paintings of the San Bushmen. If you have time we recommend a short visit to Cape Town, explore this beautiful cosmopolitan city and opportunities to visit Cape Point and Boulder Beach.

Day 1 Fly to Johannesburg

Depart from London flying overnight to Johannesburg.

Day 2 Arrive Johannesburg

On your way to your hotel you'll have an opportunity to have a snapshot tour of the city. Founded by prospectors in the 1800s, Johannesburg is the economic hub of South Africa. You'll drive through the Rainbow Nation's financial capital past the banking district, the magistrate's court and the supreme court. Ascend to 'Top of Africa' at the top of the Carlton Centre for amazing views across the city and then visit Museum Africa with its focus on the culture of the indigenous people. **Hotel with pool (breakfast)**

Day 3 Blyde River Canyon

You leave the hustle and bustle and drive across the Highveld. Known as "Paradise Country", the stunning beauty of the Escarpment encompasses mountains, panoramic passes, valleys, rivers, waterfalls and forests. Drop down through one of four mountain passes. You visit Bourke's Luck Potholes, a collection of strange smooth formations in the Blyde river, and God's Window which gives visitors some of the finest panoramas of the Lowveld and forms part of the Blyde River Nature Reserve, situated at an altitude of 1,730 metres. The annual rainfall of around 3,000 millimetres results in lush, damp forest festooned in Old Man's Beard. Viewpoints overlook precipitous wooded slopes over a distance of four kilometres, whilst the landscape drops a dramatic 900 metres before fading into the distant haze of the Lowveld. You'll arrive in the campsite, set up your tent and enjoy your first camp dinner. **Camping (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Days 4 – 5 Visit Moholoholo; continue to Kruger National Park

After breakfast bring your day with a visit to Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, which contributes to the conservation of endangered species and the rehabilitation of injured and poisoned wildlife. Moholoholo also facilitates a number of successful breeding programmes. Situated in the shadow of the majestic "Mariepskop", and run by the very knowledgeable and experienced Brian Jones, this unique conservancy is home to, amongst others, three abandoned lions from an Egyptian circus, injured raptors, poisoned vultures, "Humpfree" the hippo, "Porsche" the cheetah and "Chui" the leopard.

After your tour of Moholoholo, you'll head to the famous Kruger National Park and the Timbavati area. Not long after you enter the park gates you will undoubtedly catch your first sighting of game as a herd of giraffe amble past or some zebra skitter into view. Home to a stunning variety of wildlife, birdlife, and plant life, the Kruger has been in existence for over 100 years. It takes very careful management to maintain the balance with respect to wildlife, water resources, fire and tourism, but as a result the Park has one of the largest herd of elephants in the African continent. Along with elephant, the 'Big Five' also include lion, leopard, rhino and buffalo, all of which are prevalent. After lunch and setting up camp you'll head out on your first game drive in your own vehicle. Return to camp for a much deserved dinner. The following day you will go out on a full day game drive. **Camping (breakfast, lunch & dinner) – 2 nights**

Day 6 Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, Swaziland

An early start this morning as you leave Kruger by the southern Malelane Gate en route to Swaziland, the tiny kingdom carved out of South Africa. Your destination is the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary which was created by Ted Reilly to safeguard Swaziland's wildlife over forty years ago. These game-filled plains are home to mainly herbivores such as antelope, giraffe, zebra and warthog. Watch out for crocodiles and hippo too. **Camping (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 7 Cultural tour of local village

After breakfast you'll head to the Mlilwane gate to meet your guide who will take you on a cultural tour of a local village. Umphakatsi Chief's Homestead visit is a hands-on experience and you will get a very real glimpse of Swaziland's culture when you visit a neighbouring local lady chief in her homestead, leaving you with a newfound respect and basic understanding of the Swazi way of life. This afternoon you'll enjoy a boat cruise down the St Lucia Estuary. The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park is the jewel of KwaZulu-Natal, with five distinct ecosystems and a unique biodiversity found nowhere else on earth. Lake St Lucia, the largest estuarine water body in Africa, is teeming with hippo lazing in the waters and crocodiles basking in the sun. Pelicans riding the thermals overhead and sights of Goliath Herons stabbing at fish in the lake make this a true African experience.

You'll camp tonight in Hluhluwe - in the heart of Zululand. This is Africa's oldest game park and due to its varied topography it has a wide range of plant life which gives rise to a diversity of mammals, birdlife, reptiles and amphibians. The Big Five can all be seen and it is renowned for its white rhino conservation. It is a top birdlife destination too. **Camping (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 8 Zulu Cultural Village; Zinkwazi Beach

Pack up camp and head down towards Eshowe, located in Shakaland. You'll visit the oldest Zulu Cultural Village in Zululand, originally built as scenery for the movie "Shaka Zulu". Shakaland represents the kraal of Senzangakhona who was the father of the legendary Zulu King Shaka, who conquered the various clans and tribes in Zululand and founded the Zulu nation by uniting them all. After your cultural experience, you'll carry on down the coast to your camp located along a lagoon at Zinkwazi Beach. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax and enjoy a swim.

Camping (breakfast, lunch & dinner)

Days 9 – 10 Drakensberg Mountains

After breakfast you'll drive to the majestic Drakensberg Mountains. The first European settlers called them 'Dragon Mountains'; the Zulus call them 'Barrier of Spears' – whatever their name, the Drakensberg mountain range is one of the most spectacular natural features of Africa. There are easy walks through lush meadows and across clear streams, or more strenuous hikes up and across rugged mountain terrain. But in addition there are countless other activities to enjoy including horse riding, fly-fishing and art courses. On your second day here you will take a guided walk to see the San Rock paintings. These paintings date back thousands of years and are still clearly visible on the walls and ceilings of the caves. They depict hunting, dancing and animals, symbols of their religious beliefs. **Camping 2 nights (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 11 Transfer to Durban; flight to London

Today you bid farewell to South Africa and drive to Durban Airport. Here you board a flight to Johannesburg to connect with your overnight return flight to London.

Day 12 Arrive London

This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start or end of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets.

Each itinerary is planned many months in advance and although it is our intention to operate the itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed here, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors which are beyond our control. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined but we will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary.

Cape Town Extension

You can extend your stay in South Africa with a few days in Cape Town

Days 1 – 10 as above

Day 11 Fly from Durban to Cape Town

You'll be driven Durban Airport for your flight to Cape Town where you will be met and driven to your hotel. As you head into the city you will be greeted by the sight of Table Mountain. The rest of the day is at leisure to settle in and explore. Tonight you'll be able to sleep in a proper bed! **Hotel (breakfast)**

Day 12

After breakfast your guide will meet you and take you to the lower cableway station for Table Mountain. Head up in the rotating cable car to the very top where you can get a bird's eye view of the whole of Cape Town. Your next visit is to the Two Ocean's Aquarium on the V&A Waterfront. Cape Town is ideally positioned to showcase the incredible diversity of marine life found in both the Atlantic and Indian oceans. You'll see thousands of species of fish, invertebrates, mammals, reptiles and birds in this spectacular underwater world. There will be plenty of time to wander around the Waterfront before heading back to your hotel. **Hotel (breakfast)**

Day 13 Cape Town

Today's tour is to the towering headland known as Cape Point. Magnificent beaches, breathtaking views, historic and picturesque coastal villages are seen along Cape Peninsula which stretches from the city centre to Cape Point. Stop at Llandudno look-out point before arriving in Hout Bay, a quaint fishing village where you can take an optional boat trip to Seal Island (seasonal). Carry on through Chapman's Peak to Cape Point and the Good Hope Nature Reserve. Here you can see magnificent fynbos vegetation, birdlife, antelope and zebra, historic lighthouses and shipwrecks. After lunch return to Cape Town via historic Simon's Town, a charming village and naval base and home to a large colony of penguin at Boulders Beach. The tour ends with a visit to the world famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. **Hotel (breakfast)**

Day 14 Return flight to London

The day is at leisure to explore the city some more, relax by the beach or make last minute purchases. In the late afternoon you will be picked up and taken to the airport for your return flight to London.

Day 15 Arrive London

Optional Extras

Drakensburg – Horse Riding	From £40.00
– fly-fishing	From £50.00
– art courses	From £70.00
Cape Town – Seal Island boat trip	£10.00
- Two Oceans Aquarium	£6 adult / £3 child
- Robben Island	£13.50 adult/£7 child
Day trip to Gansbaai, Hermanus and Gordon's Bay	From £160.00
- Cage diving in Gansbaai (min age 10yrs)	From £100.00

Please note these prices are a guideline only and are subject to change.

Is this right for your family? This trip is all about sleeping out in the magical African wilderness in two-man dome tents, then sitting round the campfire watching the sun set having had a day's safari. You're expected to help in camp and with food preparation, but that means you have some say in what you eat! Transport is by Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4 safari vehicle. There are a couple of long days of driving but the vehicles have a comfortable cruising speed and the emphasis of the trip is getting out and doing things.

Lone Parents Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries, including the UK, require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the relevant country embassy for further information on exactly what may be required. These details can be found on the Foreign & Commonwealth Website under the appropriate country www.fco.gov.uk/travel

Climate During winter in the Kruger (June, July and August) you will find the days are mild and the nights cool, and this is the best time for game viewing when the animals have to come to the waterholes to drink. The rainy season starts in September and carries on until March, when it is quite humid and of course much hotter. When you get to the KwaZulu-Natal coast, winters are mild to warm with little threat of rain, whilst in summer temperatures can rise over 30°C with attendant humidity. Swimming in the Indian Ocean is good all year round.

Average monthly climate in Durban

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max °C	27	27	27	26	24	23	22	22	23	24	25	26
Min °C	21	21	20	18	14	12	11	13	15	17	18	19
Rainfall (mm)	109	122	130	76	51	33	28	38	71	109	122	119



FAMILIES

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Accommodation In Johannesburg you will stay in a comfortable three-star hotel close to the airport. The rest of the trip you will be camping, All equipment is supplied, except for sleeping bags and pillows which you can hire if you prefer. Campsites are generally very good with hot showers and washing facilities, laundries and restaurants. The dome tents take minutes to put up and take down and thick 5 cm mattresses are supplied. The camp chairs have a backrest. The mention of a swimming pool at a hotel should not be taken as a guarantee but rather an indication. You should also be aware that swimming pools at the hotels are often unheated and so can be cold in the winter months or even closed.

Food and Drink All meals are organized and prepared by the guide with the help of the group. They are nutritious and filling, using fresh local produce where possible. Groceries are bought along the way so you'll have plenty of input!

Currency The South African currency is the Rand (R). At the time of writing (Oct 2009) £1 = 11.53 R. Banks and ATMs can be found nearly everywhere, except the most remote villages where you will need cash. Traveller's cheques are widely accepted. It is a good idea to carry your money and cards securely in a money belt or something similar under your clothes.

Local Costs (costs will be less outside the Parks)

A small bottle of mineral water (500ml)	£0.90
A large bottle of mineral water (1 litre)	£1.65
A can of coke (soft drinks)	£0.75
A carton or bottle of fruit juice	£1.00
A bottle of beer	£1.00
A light lunch time snack – sandwich for example	£2.50
A two course meal* - excluding drinks	£5.00
A three course meal* - excluding drinks	£10.00

**Based on a mid range tourist restaurant.*

Tippling is a recognised part of life and although at your discretion you will be expected to reward service. Please remember that all tips should be a way for individuals to thank staff for good service. As a guideline, expect to tip 10 to 15% in restaurants and taxis, and leave something in your room for the hotel staff.

Language The predominant language in South Africa is English although there are ten other official languages including Afrikaans which you will certainly encounter on road signs and official forms. The other nine languages are African which are split into four groupings.

Time South Africa is s GMT +2 hours

Safety Although you are unlikely to encounter problems in the well policed tourist areas it is wise to take sensible precautions: in the evenings don't go for walks through parks or along the beach; don't enter townships; keep your handbag closed when walking through markets or shopping malls; don't stop if someone suspicious indicates they need help in case it is a trap. If out on your own, travel with your mobile switched on if possible.

Packing List Please refer to our separate "packing list"

Clothing & Equipment List for S Africa - Kruger under canvas

The following list of clothing and equipment is intended to be fairly comprehensive and experienced travellers may well take a good deal less luggage than we recommend. It is a good idea to wear muted colours while on safari as bright colours can be seen by animals and birds from a long way off.

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
Walking Shoes	1 pair (optional)		Soft-sided bag 50 – 80 litres	
Trainers or Strong Sandals	1 pair – all purpose wear		Lightweight Daypack – 25 litres	
Waterproof Jacket	1 lightweight		Sleeping bag (can be hired locally if preferred – cost approx. £25 per bag)	
T-Shirts	3+		Sunglasses	
Long Trousers or Skirt	2+		Personal First Aid Kit	
Short Trousers	2		Sunscreen	
Long Sleeve Shirt	2+		Insect Repellent with high DEET content	
Sunhat / Baseball cap	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		Torch and Batteries	
Warm jacket	1		Camera, Memory card + Accessories	
Thin Fleece or Sweatshirt			Guide Book & map	
Warm hat, scarf and gloves	Woolly or fleece (July - Sep)		Washing Kit – dry-anti bacterial hand wash and wet wipes	
Swim Wear	1		Towel (+ Sarong)	
			Binoculars – optional	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport/ Visa		Small Sewing Kit & Safety Pins	
Air Tickets		Universal travelling adapter	
Travel documents			
Cash / Credit Cards		Loo Kit (in small bag) loo paper/tissues	
Insurance Documents		Notebook/Diary/Pen	
Trip Information and Itinerary		Small presents for local kids – biros, balloons, colouring books, coloured pencils, coloured chalk	

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions** please visit www.baa.com