

Trip Dossier for South Africa – Kruger & Coast

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A great combination of wildlife viewing, exploring the Kruger National Park and the eastern coast while relaxing in a combination of comfortable hotels, lodges and one night in a traditional rondavel. Kruger National Park provides fantastic game viewing opportunities where you can see the Big Five and scores of antelope, wildebeest and zebra roaming the savannah. Visit smaller conservations where optional riding and walking safaris are available, then onto Swaziland and join in the rhythmic tribal dancing. Finally heading down to St Lucia, where you can relax on the golden beaches, visit Cape Vidal and go on one of the many optional excursions where you can go whale watching, turtle-watching see hippos and crocodiles.

Day 1 to 2 Fly to Johannesburg

Depart from London flying overnight to Johannesburg. After a short transfer to your hotel, you can relax before taking up the option of a trip to Soweto Township and Gold Reef City (extra cost). Johannesburg is a huge sprawling city, with massive mansions set in leafy suburbs, juxtaposed with run-down neighbourhoods. Soweto provides a history lesson into South Africa's recent past and you will be able to see Freedom Square, Mandela House and the Hector Petersen Memorial (named after the first student to be killed in the Soweto uprising). In contrast, Gold Reef City is a historical amusement park themed around the gold mining on which South Africa's wealth was built. **Hotel with swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 3 Hazyview

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 and just outside the Kruger National Park you reach Hazyview, in the heart of the Lowveld of Mpumalanga, a perfect spot from which to explore the nearby scenic wonders. You stay at an award-winning country lodge with magnificent views over the Sabie River Valley. The lodge is surrounded by 10 acres of extensive colourful gardens shaded by magnificent trees with breathtaking views down the valley, each room with its own veranda. **Lodge with swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 4 Blyde River Canyon Excursion & visit Moholoholo

Today is one of breathtaking views over deep ravines seen as you drive round canyons, past gorges and towering mountains with lush vegetation and abundant bird and wildlife. You visit God's Window which gives visitors some of the finest panoramas of the Lowveld and forms part of the Blyde River Nature Reserve. It is 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. View points 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. The hills to the right of Mariepskop are known as Rodille, or "the bundles", because they resemble a file of women carrying bundles on their heads. The striking Three Rondavels are named after three of Maripi's wives. From lowest to highest, they are Magabolle, Mogoladikwe and Maseroto. Wind up the 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, "Humpfrees" the hippo, "Porsche" the cheetah and "Chui" the leopard. **Lodge with swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 5 to 6 Kruger National Park

Not long after you enter the gates of the Kruger National Park 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 plantlife, the Park 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. Game drives will take place both in the morning and afternoon and you have the possibility of a further drive at sunrise or sunset (optional). You spend the first night at a rest house, located in the centre of the Park and known for being one of the best spots in the world for spotting lion, cheetah and the elusive leopard. There is a shop on site for basic groceries and also a restaurant. On your second day you change location with yet more opportunities for game viewing on the way. This rest camp lies on the banks of the Sabie River and so perhaps a crocodile or two may drift by. Look for the Fruit Bat hanging under the eaves of the shop or a thick-tailed bush baby climbing the trees in search of gum. Some of the



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best game viewing in the park can be found down river on the Lower Sabie and to round off your time in Kruger we will enjoy a sunset drive in the National Park returning to the lodge for dinner. **2 nights - Bungalow (breakfast, lunch and dinner)**

Day 7 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. Depending on your preference you can enjoy the game from different vantage points such as horseback, mountain bikes, hiking or 4x4s (all optional). You stay in a traditional beehive hut, grass dome-shaped homesteads arranged in semi-circles, with a central log fire and seating areas, all semi-enclosed by traditional Swazi kraal fencing. Enjoy the Hippo Haunt Restaurant and be entertained by Sibacha dancing in the evening. **Traditional Hut with swimming pool (self catering)**

Day 8 Hluhluwe Game Reserve

Leaving Swaziland you cross back into South Africa and through Kwa-Zulu Natal to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park 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. You stay at Hilltop on the summit of a forested hill which offers wide ranging views of the surrounding countryside. As well as a game drive, you may also like to go on a walking safari in order to experience the wonder of the animals and the peace of the park more directly (optional). The camp has a restaurant-bar and convenience store for groceries as well as a gift shop. **Bungalow (breakfast)**

Day 9 to 11 St Lucia & the coast

Situated on the Elephant Coast, St Lucia lies at the southern end of the St Lucia World Heritage Park. This wetland is the jewel of KwaZulu-Natal, with five distinct ecosystems and a unique biodiversity found nowhere else on earth. Self-guided walking trails pass through sub-tropical forests, grasslands and lily-covered pans which abound in animal life. 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 can make an optional day trip to Cape Vidal to spend the day on the beach – here you have the best of both worlds, with access to the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia for a variety of game including reedbuck, other antelope, hippos, crocodiles and buffalo, spectacular water, forest and grassland birds and the wonderful Indian Ocean shoreline with its startling array of marine animals. This spectacular coastline is the natural breeding habitat for the leatherback and loggerhead turtles as well as being the route used by humpback whales on their northerly migration to Mozambique to calve. You can learn more about these extraordinary animals along with the turtles or study the hippos and crocodiles (optional). **Hotel with swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 12 Transfer to Durban

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 13 Arrive London

Two-tour combination: Kruger & Coast plus Garden Route & Cape Town

You can extend your stay in South Africa by combining this tour with our 'Garden Route & Cape Town' trip as follows (see separate Trip Dossier for a fuller description of that trip which is combined with the outline itinerary below):

Days 1 to 2 Fly overnight to Johannesburg. Trip to Soweto Township and Gold Reef City. Hotel with swimming pool (breakfast). **Days 3 to 4** Hazyview & Blyde River Drive across the Highveld to Hazyview. Visit God's Window, Blyde River Canyon and Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Lodge with swimming pool (breakfast). **Days 5 to 6** Kruger National Park Game drives in Kruger National Park in the morning and afternoon, with the possibility of a further drive at sunrise or sunset (optional). On your second day your rest camp lies on the banks of the Sabie River Bungalow (breakfast, lunch and dinner) **Day 7** Swaziland Drive into Swaziland to the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary. Optional riding and mountain biking. In the evening you are entertained by tribal dancers. Traditional Hut with swimming pool (self catering). **Day 8** Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Reserve Leaving Swaziland you cross back into South Africa and through Kwa-Zulu Natal to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park in the heart of Zululand,



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Africa's oldest game park. Optional walking safaris. Bungalow (breakfast). **Day 9 to 11** St Lucia & the coast, visit Cape Vidal, optional excursions to see hippos and crocodiles or whales and turtles. Hotel with swimming pool (breakfast). **Days 12 to 13** Transfer to Durban, Fly to Port Elizabeth & transfer to Addo Elephant for game viewing. Chalet with swimming pool. **Days 14 to 15** Tsitsikamma National Park. At leisure in Tsitsikamma National Park, optional wild water rafting trip on the Storm River. Chalet with swimming pool. **Day 16 to 17** Knysna River Club. Optional Activities include Bungee jumping, a trip on the Knysna Featherbed and a visit to the Oyster Factory, as well as dolphin and whale watching tours. Chalet with swimming pool. **Day 18** Oudsthoorn, Feather Capital of the World, visit to Ostrich Farms and Cango Caves. Guesthouse with swimming pool. **Day 19** Winelands to Cape Town via the winelands of the Western Cape. Hotel with swimming pool. **Days 19 to 20** In Cape Town. Orientation tour of the city of Cape Town, optional visit Gansbaai to watch the white-shark operations, cage dive with the sharks and orientation tour of Hermanus and Whale-watching. (own account). Hotel with swimming pool. **Day 21** Fly to London. **Day 22** 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.

Optional Extras

Johannesburg Township & Gold Reef City Tour	£70.00
Kruger Sunset or Sunrise Drive	£12.00
Swaziland – Game Drive	£9.00
– Sunrise Drive	£10.00
– Guided Walking/Driving/Cycling Tour per hour	£3.00
– Children's horse ride	£1.00
– Adult horse ride	£7.00
Hluhluwe – Walking safari	£11.00
Cape Vidal – entrance per day	£2.50
– Hippo and Crocodile Tour	£9.00
– Whale & Turtle Tour	£42.00
Knysna – Bungee Jumping	£56.00
– Dolphin and whale watching (two hours)	£37.00
– Oyster Factory (according to consumption – A la carte menu)	
– Featherbed Nature Reserve (including lunch)	£22.50
Cape Town - Two Oceans Aquarium	£6 adult / £3 child
– Robben Island	£13.50 adult/£7 child
Day trip to Gansbaai, Hermanus and Gordon's Bay	£160.00
– Cage diving in Gansbaai (min age 10yrs)	£100.00

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

Is this right for your family? You'll stay mainly at comfortable hotels, but also in varied local accommodation such as bungalows and an award winning country lodge. Children of all ages cannot fail to be fascinated by the variety of interests and activities on this trip. Transfers by road are in 14 or 22-seater buses.

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



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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

Accommodation Hotels (four nights), game lodge (two nights), bungalow (2 nights), traditional hut (one night).

Food and Drink Meals are included as per the itinerary. Much of the food in South Africa is international in nature. However there are local favourites which include *Boerekos*. This "farm food" stems from the Boer settlers and is characterised by hearty meals with a lot of meat. *Potjiekos* is lamb or any other meat, stewed for hours with lots of vegetables in a round cast-iron pot on three legs over a fire. And of course there is the ubiquitous *braai*, a form of barbeque loved by all South Africans. Beer is the preferred drink but South African wine is increasingly popular and relatively cheap. Please remember to drink plenty of bottled water during your trip.

Currency The South African currency is the Rand (R). At the time of writing (Oct 2009) £1 = 11.56 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.

Tipping 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 South Africa – Kruger & Coast

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		Sunglasses	
T-Shirts	3+		Personal First Aid Kit	
Long Trousers or Skirt	2+		Sunscreen	
Shorts	2		Insect Repellent with high DEET content	
Long Sleeve Shirt	2+		Torch and Batteries	
Sunhat / Baseball cap	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		Washing Kit	
Warm jacket	1		Camera, Memory Card	
Thin Fleece or Sweatshirt	1		Guide Book & map	
Warm hat, scarf and gloves	Woolly or fleece (July - Sep)		Wet wipes & dry anti-bacterial hand wash are useful in your day pack	
Swim Wear	1		Travel Towel or Sarong	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport/ Visa		Small Sewing Kit & Safety Pins	
Air Tickets		Universal travelling adapter	
Travel documents		Binoculars – optional	
Cash / Credit Cards		Sweets and Snacks for the journey	
Insurance Documents		Loo Kit (in small bag) loo paper/tissues	
Trip Information and Itinerary		Notebook/Diary/Pen	
Money Security Belt/Pouch		Small presents for local kids – biros, balloons, books	

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