



## SOUTH AFRICAN EXPLORER – 20 DAYS

3 STAR 

The only way to get to know the land is to travel over it; experience what it has to offer, mingle with the people, eat the food and get to know their diverse cultures. You cannot only read about a country and think you know it, you have to live it, sleep it and immerge yourself in it.



### HOLIDAYS

-  South Africa
-  Cape Town & Cape Peninsula

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## INTRO

The only way to get to know the land is to travel over it; experience what it has to offer, mingle with the people, eat the food and get to know their diverse cultures. You cannot only read about a country and think you know it, you have to live it, sleep it and immerge yourself in it.

This 20-day overland adventure tour has been created to give exactly that. You will explore South Africa and all the wonderful things on offer, visit the mountainous Lesotho and visit the kingdom of Swaziland. At the end of 20 days you will have met people and seen places you never knew existed before and you will have had a grand adventure. The memories of the people, the places, the wildlife and the extraordinary varied scenery will stay with you for the rest of your life.

## MORE

### Countries Visited

South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho.

### **Vehicle**

Adventure Truck.

### **Departure Point**

We depart from Leadership House, Shortmarket Street, Greenmarket Sqaure, Cape Town, South Africa at 8.00 am in the morning.

### **End Point**

Our overland adventure tour will officially end at the Lakes Hotel, Benoni, Gauteng, South Africa.

### **Included**

- Meals as indicated on the itinerary.
- Accommodation.
- Transport and registered guides.
- Activities as stated on the day-to-day itinerary.

### **Excluded**

- All items and purchases of a personal nature
- Souvenirs, alcohol, tips, snacks and optional activities.

## INTINERARY

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### **Health**

It is important that you advise us of the following:

- Anyu pre-existing condition such as diabetis or asthma
- Any and all prescription medication that you are taking
- Any food allergies
- Any physical disabilities.

### **Malaria**

for the last leg of this overland adventure tour you will need malaria prophylactics so visit your GP or health centre and discuss the matter with them timeous, so that you can enter your tour with peace of mind.

### **Vaccinations**

There are no vaccinations prescribed for the countries we will be visiting during our overland tour.

### **Visas**

Obtaining the necessary visas are your responsibility and some nationalities are required to have visas to enter Swaziland and Lesotho.

## Climate

The sun in Africa is strong and it is highly recommended that you bring sunscreen of Factor 30 and above and that you wear a hat at all times. High humidity tends to dehydrate the body, so drinking sufficient water is important. During the winter months it can get cold on the route we will travel, so bring appropriate clothing.

## Currency and Banking

The best currency to use throughout this adventure tour is the South African Rand. Cash is preferred and travellers cheques can be cumbersome to exchange and in remote areas it is time consuming and the charges are very high. Many of the more remote areas will not accept credit cards.

## Local Payment

On this tour there is no local payment.

## Onward Travel

This tour can be easily linked with the Chobe Trail North and the Okavango Tour.

## Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

We can arrange accommodation for you if you require it before the tour starts and after it ends. We can also arrange your airport transfers for you upon request.

## Arrival

To avoid any problems with unforeseen problems that could delay the overland tour departing on time, we strongly suggest that you plan your arrival for at least one day earlier than our tour departure date. This way you ensure that you will be ready to depart with the rest of the tour group.

## Departure

It is also wise to book your departure flight back home for the day after the overland adventure tour officially ends. In this way you will have left enough time for any unforeseen delays due to weather, bad roads or any other emergency.

## Green Seats Making Africa Greener

You have the opportunity of offsetting your carbon footprint by purchasing what is called a green seat. Discuss this with the operator when you do your booking or with your tour guide once you have arrived.

## Take Note

All the information given here is subject to change without prior notice. Campsites and travelling times may have to change due to weather and/or road conditions so the information here should be treated as a guideline.

## Optional Activities

- South Africa, Oudtshoorn tour of ostrich farm
- South Africa, Bloukrans Bridge worlds highest bungee jump
- South Africa, Drakensberg horse riding per hour
- South Africa, Knysna lagoon cruise and Knysna Forest entrance fee
- Lesotho, Malealea pony trekking
- South Africa, Durban dinner at local restaurant

- South Africa, Kruger National Park dawn game walk (2 or 3 hours) and sunset game drive (3 hours)
- South Africa, Tsitsikamma N.P canopy/treetop tour
- Swaziland, Milwane NP horse riding and mountain biking
- South Africa, Johannesburg dinner at a local restaurant

#### Note

Please note that these are just the most popular optional activities, there are many more and if you want to do something that is not on the list, then speak to your guide for advice and assistance.

Also take note that due to seasonal movements by the animals we cannot always guarantee exact accommodation as specified, for we may have to relocate to keep following the animals. This is how we can guarantee you the best possible game viewing on your overland adventure tour.

#### Itinerary

##### Day 1 Stellenbosch Wine Route/Swellendam

Once we leave Cape Town behind us we point our adventure truck towards the Stellenbosch wine lands that are world-famous. We stop of at the Spier Wine Estate to sample the excellent regional wines before moving on to the cheetah rehabilitation Centre. Later the guide will sit the whole tour group down and give a complete briefing on what to expect on this overland adventure tour.

Our destination for the day is Swellendam, which means a drive of about 300 km. We will overnight at the Kambati Camp with lunch and dinner included. The facilities at the camp are shared ablutions with hot showers and there is a bath available. The water is drinkable. Included activities are the entrance to the Cheetah Breeding Project and the wine tasting.

##### Day 2 Oudtshoorn

Today our route is about 270 km and that will bring us to the town of Oudtshoorn. On our agenda today is a visit to the famous Cango Caves which is a must for everyone. We will have a guided tour through these awesome limestone caves. In the afternoon there is the optional activity of visiting an ostrich farm.

Our overnight accommodation is Kleinplaas Holiday Resort Campsite with all meals included. The facilities include drinkable water, and shared ablutions with hot showers.

##### Day 3 Knysna

South Africas Garden Route is aptly named; it is one of the most scenic routes in South Africa. We will pass through Mossel Bay and continue on to our overnight campsite near Knysna. Our drive today is about 150 km. Optional activities include canoeing, a lagoon cruise, hiking and the Knysna Elephant Park.

We overnight at Monks Caravan Park with all meals included. The facilities at the camp are shared ablution with hot showers.

##### Day 4/5 Bloukrans and Tsitsikamma National Park

From Knysna we travel about 90 km to our next overnight camp, the Tube n Axe. All meals are included and the facilities at the camp include shared ablution with hot showers, a bar and drinkable water. We will overnight here for two nights while we explore the Tsitsikamma National Park. The scenery in the Tsitsikamma NP is great and the park has some exceptional hiking trails that make people come back time after time.

Included activities are the Tsitsikamma NP entrance fees and optional activities include treetop canopy tours, hiking and bungee jumping (highest in the world).

##### Day 6 Addo Elephant National Park

We continue our overland adventure tour (330 km) into the Eastern Cape to the Addo Elephant National Park that boasts many of Africas big game. Our adventure truck being high gives guests excellent photographic

opportunities and game spotting on our game drives.

We overnight at the Addo Elephant Park Camp with breakfast, lunch and dinner included. Facilities at the camp include shared ablutions with hot showers and a restaurant plus drinkable water. Included activities are the afternoon game drive in our adventure truck.

### **Day 7/8 Hogsback**

After a last game drive in the Addo National Park we continue our journey to Hogsback via Port Elizabeth, a journey of 450 km. we will see some stunning waterfalls and part of the original Afro-Montane Rainforest. The guide will take guests on a short hike through this charming area. Optional activities such as mountain biking and horse riding are on offer.

We will overnight at the Away with the Faeries Camp for two nights with all meals included. Facilities at the camp include a bar, drinkable water and shared ablutions with hot showers. Included activities here are the hiking trail into Hogsback and the morning game drive in Addo National Park.

### **Day 9/10 Lesotho Malealea**

We have a long day as the next step in our overland adventure tour takes us from Hogsback to Malealea Lodge, which is about 510km. We also leave South Africa and enter Lesotho at the border post at Maseru Bridge. Our destination is the Malealea Camp and once there the tour group will split up for a while. Some will remain behind and explore the local craft markets and the local village. The others will go on a pony trekking expedition with a guide into the remote hills of Lesotho.

Our accommodation at Malealea Camp includes all meals and the facilities include drinkable water, a basic shop, and a bar. Included activities are visits to the village and the local school. Optional activities are hiking and the pony trekking excursion.

### **Day 11/12 South Africa Drakensberg**

The tour group reforms and we re-enter South Africa at the Van Rooyens Hek border post. We have another long day on the road (550 km). During our journey we will explore the Drakensberg Mountains on the mountain paths in the Royal Natal National Park.

Included activities are the Royal Natal National Park entrance fees and there are optional activities such as hiking and horse riding available.

Our overnight accommodation for two nights is the Amphitheatre Backpackers Camp with facilities that include a swimming pool, restaurant and bar. There are shared ablutions as well. All meals are included.

### **Day 13 Kwa-Zulu Natal Coast Durban**

Once we leave the mountains we head for the coast in KwaZulu Natal and our 350 km journey takes us to South Africa's largest port; Durban. Tonight we can dine out and try some local cuisines as an optional activity.

We will overnight at the Happy Hippo Hostel in dorm rooms. Our accommodation includes breakfast and lunch. The facilities include drinkable water, a bar and shared ablutions with hot showers.

### **Day 14 Isimangaliso (Greater St Lucia) Wetland Park**

Today we head north for about 280 km up the coast until we enter the Isimangaliso Wetland Park. In the afternoon we will go on a river cruise on the lagoon and hopefully get in some good wildlife spotting. The sunset lagoon cruise is an included activity. There is also an optional activity of visiting a traditional Zulu village.

Our accommodation is the Bibs Backpackers Camp with all meals included. Facilities include drinkable water, a bar and shared ablutions with hot showers.

### **Day 15/16 Hluhluwe - Imfolozi and Swaziland**

Today we will head for Swaziland, but first we have a morning game drive in the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve that is well-known for its hippos. We cross into Swaziland in the afternoon at the borders posts of Golela (South African) and Lavumisa (Swaziland). The distance we travel from St. Lucia to Milwane is roughly 280 km.

Our destination is the Milwane Wildlife Sanctuary Camp inside the Milwane Wildlie Sanctuary. We will overnight here for two nights. As there are no large predators in the Sanctuary, tour members can go on any of the self-guided hikes that are on offer.

Included activities are the 3-hour morning game drive in Hluhluwe/Mfolozi Natinal Park and the optional activities include horse riding, mountain biking and hiking. Facilities at our accommodation at the Milwane Camp include drinkable water and shared ablutions with hot showers. All meals are included.

### **Day 17/18 Timbavati Area**

We go through the Swaziland Matsoma border post and enter South Africa through the Jeppes Reef border post. Our journey of 300 km will bring us to the Kruger National Park where we will spend two wonderful days game spotting. The included activity for Day 18 is a full day game drive in our adventure truck.

Optional activities such as night drives and dawn game walks are on offer, subject to availability.

Our overnight accommodation for two nights is at Marula Camp with all meals included. Included activities are a visit to the Shangaan Village with a fire dancing show. Facilities at Marula Camp include swimming pool, a bar and shared ablutions. All meals are included.

### **Day 19 Timbavati Area**

Once we leave the Kruger National Park we drive into the greater Kruger area and stop for a visit at the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, which is an included activity. Our overnight accommodation is at the Marula Camp with all meals included. The camp facilities are a swimming pool, a bar and shared ablutions.

Leaving the Worlds most famous nature conservation area behind, we drive to tonights campsite in the greater Kruger area and visit Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

### **Day 20 Panorama Route Johannesburg**

We go for an early morning walk near our campsite with a local guide and spend as much time as possible with the animals before we must leave. We have a 600 km journey today along the Panorama Route and along the way we pass through the Blyde River Canyon, Bourkes Luck Potholes and Gods Window. We have breakfast and lunch en route (included).

Our overland adventure tour comes to an official end in Johannesburg. There is a final optional activity that most tour group members will use, which is having a farewell dinner together.

### **Tour Ends**

The drop off zone is the Lakes Hotel in Benoni and this is a good place to book overnight accommodation. If you choose other accommodation you must arrange your own transfer as the adventure truck does not drive through Johannesburg dropping individual guests off.



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## PRICING INFORMATION

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