

Included Highlights

Sani Pass Excursion*
Battlefields
Royal Natal National Park
Drakensberg Mountains
Mountain Zebra National Park, Game Drive

Addo Elephant NP, Game Drives
Tsitsikamma NP
Garden Route
Cango Caves, Visit*
Cape Agulhas
Wine Tasting

***Highlights are included in the Adventure Pass**

Intended Itinerary

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below but a certain amount of flexibility is built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only. This is a participation tour. Our accommodated tour option travels together with the camping counterpart.

The description below assumes you have purchased the optional Adventure Pass for the tour.

Duration: 12 Days
Countries visited: South Africa and Lesotho

Day 1:

Durban – Underberg Area

Distance travelled: +/- 220 Km
Approx driving time: 3 Hours

Our adventure starts as we head inland and drive via Pietermaritzburg and the lush mountainous countryside to our camp for the next two nights at Sani Lodge. This magnificent place is situated at the foot of the Sani Pass, the gateway to the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho. Once a mule track for trading blankets, clothing and maize meal for wool and mohair. This stunning pass is the only vehicle access road over the Drakensberg escarpment. This afternoon is yours at leisure to enjoy the spectacular views and the many amazing walking and hiking trails.

Accommodation: Sani Lodge or similar - Twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Hiking and Walking Trails

Day 2:

Underberg Area – Sani Pass

Distance travelled: +/- 30 Km
Approx driving time: Full day tour

Today, we meet our local guides and join a guided tour of Lesotho via the spectacular gateway of the Sani Pass (2874 m). We travel in 4x4 vehicles through the rugged cliffs of the Drakensberg Mountains listening to the tales of pioneering of the route, history of the area and the stunning wildlife that dot the sloping mountains. We drive further into Lesotho and visit a small household and a shearing shed in a Shepherds village. We experience a local way of life and depending on the season and shearing times, we may get to

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view an angora goat, or a sheep been sheared by hand. Next on the list we ascend the Black Mountain, the second highest road pass in Lesotho rising 3240m for a picnic lunch overlooking the majestic views. After lunch we meet the shepherds of the area who spend the summer months tending to their flocks before taking a short walk to view Thabana Ntlenyana. Rising at 3482m, this is the highest point in Southern Africa. We return to our camp for the night stopping en-route for a beverage at the highest bar in Africa at the Sani Mountain Lodge.

Accommodation: Sani Lodge or similar - Twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Hiking and Walking Trails

Day 3:

Underberg Area – Battlefields - Drakensberg

Distance Travelled: +/- 240 Km
Approx driving time: 5 Hours

Today we take in some history and take a drive to the Battlefields. Soaked with the blood of thousands of British, Boer (Dutch-speaking farmers) and Zulu soldiers, the Battlefields of KwaZulu-Natal hold a deep-seated silence that speaks to the many lives lost here. We stop off at some of the historic sites. We retire to our lodge in the late afternoon where we can enjoy some table tennis, foosball, pool or chill in the nearby rock pool.

Accommodation: Amphitheatre Lodge - Twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 4:

Drakensberg

We pack up our day packs ready to go and travel the short distance to the Royal National Park entry gate. This leading KwaZulu-Natal reserve offers wonderfully scenic views, lofty mountains and waterfalls in a prime location within the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park. There are many optional trails to explore on foot and on horseback with a comprehensive guidebook available for visitors. Walkers and hikers can enjoy short journeys which take about an hour, or longer excursions over a half or full day. This is a great way to explore the stunning picturesque surroundings at the foot of the Drakensberg, including the well-known Amphitheatre rock face. We also get to visit some ancient cave dwelling and witness bush rock art sights. Satisfied and with our muscles stretched for the day, we enjoy the stillness and crispy clean air of the Drakensberg over a wholesome dinner.

Note: This day may alter to an alternative hiking trail due to poor visibility or severe weather conditions

Accommodation: Amphitheatre Lodge - Twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Guided Tugela Falls Hike R795

Day 5:

Drakensberg – Malealea

Distance Travelled +/- 350 Km

Approx driving time: 8 Hours

Departing the Drakensberg this morning, we drive around the northern section of Lesotho re-entering at the Maseru Bridge Gate. We drive south over the rolling mountain ranges via the narrow passes to Malealea Lodge, high in the mountainside. Situated in the Mafeteng District of remote Western Lesotho, Malealea Lodge offers many optional activities to get to know the local culture amidst breath-taking scenery.

Accommodation: Malealea Lodge - Twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 6:

Malealea

Today you have a free day to explore this beautiful mountainous country on the many optional activities on offer. Venture on a mountain bike into the mountains climbing and descending the narrow paths with spectacular

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views. Enjoy a hike at leisure and mingle with the local Basotho people as they tend to their day to day duties. But most of all, no visit to Lesotho would be complete without a pony trek. Trails traverse hair-raising narrow mountain tracks and visit some of Lesotho's amazing waterfalls. You can explore Bushman paintings of the area and experience Basotho culture all on a day's ride.

Accommodation: Malealea Lodge - Twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Pony Trek to Waterfalls and Bushman Paintings R690, Bushman Paintings Pony Trek R550, 1 Hour Pony Ride to Village R380, Guided Hiking Trails from R30, Mountain Biking from R300, Village, School and Museum Hike (3 Hours) R 85

Day 7:

Malealea - Mountain Zebra National Park

Distance Travelled +/- 430 Km

Approx driving time: 9 Hours

Getting an early start, we leave the Lesotho highlands and cross back into South Africa and through stunning diverse country to the Mountain Zebra National Park. At 284km², this park is home to over 700 animals including eland, cape buffalo, cheetah, lion, caracal, black rhino and the bat eared fox, not to be missed! However, the highlight of the park's mammalian fauna is the over 700 Cape mountain zebras after which the park is named. With a camera and binoculars at hand, we game drive in our vehicle in search for these animals en-route to our camp for the evening located inside the National Park.

Accommodation: Mountain Zebra National Park Rest Camp - Twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 8:

Mountain Zebra National Park – Addo / Addo Elephant National Park – Port Elizabeth area

Distance travelled: +/- 300 Km

Approx driving time: 5 Hours

Today, we drive to the Addo Elephant National Park where we spend the day exploring the park for some serious animal spotting. Addo can exclusively claim to be the only national park in the world to conserve the "Big 7" – the Big 5 as well as the southern right whale and great white shark off the Algoa Bay coast. This wonderful park is sanctuary to over 600 elephants, lion, buffalo, black rhino, spotted hyena, leopard, a variety of antelope and zebra species – so you are sure to spot many animals during your time here! After an enjoyable

day's safari, we make our way to our accommodation, which is situated a few metres from the beachfront just outside of Port Elizabeth.

Accommodation: *Willows Resort or similar - Twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

Day 9:

Port Elizabeth – Storms River/ Tsitsikamma Forest/ Plettenberg Bay

Distance travelled: +/- 230 Km

Approx driving time: 4 Hours

We rise early and make our way over to the exciting adventures at Storms River within the Tsitsikamma forest. Tsitsikamma National Park is a multi-dimensional destination with dramatic coastal scenery, reefs, rivers, lush forest and delicate Fynbos. A hiking and birders paradise, this region forms the top section of the magnificent Garden Route National Park. It's here you have the option to choose from a selection of optional activities depending on your energy and interests. From boat cruises and canoe trips to nature hikes and bird watching, the forest has something to offer for most visitors' curiosity and exploration desires. Alternatively, visit the famous Bloukrans Bridge where you could be tempted to a jump off one of the highest bungee jumps.

Accommodation: *Plettenberg Bay Forever Resorts or similar – Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Bungee Jump R1400, Bridge Walk R250, Half-day Tubing R610*

Day 10:

Plettenberg Bay - Oudtshoorn

Distance travelled: +/- 150 Km

Approx driving time: 3 Hours

After breakfast we're off to Oudtshoorn in the Klein Karoo between the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountains. Oudtshoorn is the ostrich capital of the world with a number of farms based in the dry Karoo. This region is home to the spectacular Cango Caves, Africa's largest show cave system. Situated in a limestone ridge parallel to the well-known Swartberg Mountains, here we find the finest dripstone caverns, with their vast halls and towering formations. After exploring the caves, we enjoy the night in the old settlers' town in the Karoo.

Accommodation: *Kleinplaas or similar - Twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Day 11:

Oudtshoorn – Hermanus

Distance travelled: +/- 420 Km

Approx driving time: 8 Hours

Relaxed and revitalized from the wonderful Oudtshoorn hospitality, we board our vehicle and head south across the farmlands of the Cape to the coastal town of Hermanus, famous for its whale and dolphin sightings. En route we stop off at Cape Agulhas, the place where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet, lying at the southernmost tip of Africa. Historically, the 'Cape' coastline has been recognised by sailors as extremely hazardous, notorious for winter storms with huge rogue waves reaching a spectacular height of 30 metres. Therefore, it's no surprise that the coastline is littered with lonely shipwrecks. We visit the gigantic lighthouse built as early as 1848 before enjoying a lunch break. The late afternoon is spent exploring Hermanus, a haven for the outdoor enthusiast! We spend the night enjoying the town's atmosphere.

Accommodation: *Hermanus Backpackers or similar - Shared dorm with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Hermanus Whale Watching/Cruise from R950*

Day 12:

Hermanus – Cape Town

Distance travelled: +/- 130 Km

Approx driving time: 3 Hours

A free morning in Hermanus gives us ample opportunity to join a whale watching tour or explore the town's variety of shops and boardwalk on foot or visit the Old Harbour Open-Air Museum that is a provincial heritage site. This museum is unique as it is only one of two fishing harbours in the world that has been conserved intact and remnants of the vibrant fishing industry can be seen everywhere. The museum is the axis around which the fishing village of Hermanus was developed. We leave Hermanus before lunch and follow the rough coastal route taking a leisurely drive through small fishing towns. We visit a winery en route to Cape Town where we enjoy wine tasting. The tour draws to an end towards late afternoon at the foot of Table Mountain in the popular mother city of South Africa, Cape Town.

Accommodation: *Nil*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Optional Activities: *Shark Cage Diving from R2400*

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Adventure Camping Tour

Travelling on an adventure camping tour is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a *participation* tour and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the vehicle and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip. Our accommodated tour option travels together with the camping counterpart.

Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to 'expect the unexpected' in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes-rough travel and long driving days worthwhile. Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your African adventure across this amazing continent.

Africa provides an ever-changing environment, power failures, water and fuel shortages, temperature fluctuations, and other uncontrollable / unplanned situations do occur. You will need to remain flexible, understanding and good-humoured. "African time" can be difficult and frustrating for those who are used to a very structured life, so this is something to keep in mind!

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

All tour highlights, 2-person dome tents, fully equipped safari vehicles, camping and cooking equipment, mattresses, service of two crew, all road and vehicle taxes, all ground transportation, meals as indicated.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

Adventure Pass activities, visas, travel insurance, flight departure taxes, airport transfers, optional activities, tips, drinks, sleeping bag and items of personal nature. NB Breakfast on day 1, dinner on Day 11, and lunch and dinner on Day 12 are not included.

ADVENTURE PASS:

Every Adventure camping tour has an Adventure Pass which is paid to your tour leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour (or pre-paid by arrangement prior to your tour at the time of booking). This is separate and in addition to the Tour Price. The Adventure Pass is paid in the currency listed in the brochure or on the website (usually US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2008 edition notes however on this tour the Pass may be paid in ZAR – please confirm the amount with your booking agent prior to departure). The Adventure Pass covers selected park entries, activities and excursions along the way where payment goes directly to the supplier. The purpose of the separate payment is to ensure local suppliers benefit directly from the income.

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS:

These are optional activities that are booked during your holiday and paid directly to the provider whilst on tour. These options offer a variety of experiences and allow you the freedom to decide what activities you would like to do.

EXTENDING YOUR TOUR: This tour can be extended to travel from Johannesburg. Ask your agent for more information.

ACCOMMODATION:

We use 2-person dome tents with fly sheets, sewn-in groundsheets, zip-up insect screens and foam mattresses. We mainly use campsites, which usually have reasonable wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop, bar or swimming pool.

TRANSPORT:

24-seater, self-contained, custom-built vehicle with on-board tables, plug sockets, freezer, water tank, library, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers, 4x4 safari vehicle. Travel times indicated are approximate and do not include stops en-route.

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GAME PARK VISITS: To maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. As well as enhancing our experience using local guides and smaller vehicles it also allows us to contribute at a ‘grassroots’ level to local economies from which local people benefit.

Tour Preparation

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Johannesburg and Cape Town are well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Tour start point: | Durban: Road Lodge Umhlanga Ridge Cnr Medigate Road & Hospital Road, Umhlanga, 4056 | Tour end point: | Cape Town: Ashanti Lodge Gardens 11 Hof Street Gardens Cape Town, 8001 |
| Contact Details: | Tel: +27 (0)3131580 200 rlymhlanga.dm@clhg.com | Contact details: | Tel +27 (0)21 423 8721 Email: info@ashanti.co.za |
| Tour start time: | 08h00 on Day 1 | Tour end time | Late afternoon/ early evening on Day 12 |

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Durban early on Day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation and transfers for you – please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements. However please book early to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings.

If time allows, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of Cape Town and the surrounding area.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. **These prices are a guideline only and are subject to change so please check with Travel Talk for current prices.**

| Description | Price (USD) | Description | Price (USD) |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| Durban – Road Lodge, Umhlanga Ridge | | Cape Town - Ashanti Lodge, Gardens | |
| Pre tour accommodation – twin pp/pn | \$ 60 | Post tour accommodation – Twin/ double pp/pn | \$ 55 |
| Pre tour accommodation – single pp/pn | \$ 115 | Post tour accommodation – Single pp/pn | \$ 75 |
| | | Post tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn | \$ 40 |
| *includes breakfast and airport transfer | | PPPN = Per person, per night | |

ADVENTURE PASS

Paid in the currency listed in the brochure or on the website directly to your Tour Leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour, or pre-paid by arrangement, the Adventure Pass of this tour covers the following.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sani Pass Excursion | √ |
| Cango Caves Visit | √ |

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack is ideal. On this tour you will need a mixture of lightweight cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (i.e fleece, long trousers and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be cool on game drives. Pack a light rain jacket. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray throughout the year. A money belt/pouch that can be worn comfortably beneath

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your clothing is recommended. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables. A full 'What to Bring' list is included in our **pre-departure booklet**, issued when you book. A power bank is useful for recharging electronic devices.

VACCINATIONS / HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

| Country | Tetanus | Diphtheria | Polio | Hepatitis A | Hepatitis B | Typhoid | Meningitis | Rabies | Yellow Fever | Malaria |
|--------------|---------|------------|-------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| South Africa | R | R | R | R | - | R | - | - | * | - |
| Lesotho | R | R | R | R | R | R | - | - | * | - |

C = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, ***** = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

NB To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk.

| Nationality | UK | AUS | NZ | USA | CAN | BEL | IRE | NED | DEN | ITA | GER | AUT | SWE | FIN | NOR | MEX | KOR |
|--------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| South Africa | No | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | No |
| Lesotho | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | No |

NB Certain nationalities travelling to South Africa are required to apply for a visa in advance of arrival. Please check your itinerary carefully as you may be exiting and re-entering South Africa and so require a MULTIPLE ENTRY visa. Obtaining the correct paperwork is the responsibility of the traveller and Travel Talk will not be able to assist where the correct visa is not obtained. Please contact Travel Talk should you be unsure and require any assistance with visa application letters in this regard.

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Travel Talk that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. Please refer to: [Travel Talk Tours - Terms & Conditions](#) for more details.

In the UK the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (www.fco.gov.uk) issues free up to date travel advice for all countries visited on tour. Most other governments offer a similar service to citizens. We recommend you review this information before you book your tour. Naturally we welcome any questions you may have about security and safety on tour.

Money Matters

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-30 per day. Most spending will be in South Africa Rand (for incidental expenses along the way, optional activities, most additional accommodation before/after the trip) but it's a good idea to bring along some US\$ cash for any international airport taxes or visas.

Spending money is best carried as cash in either South Africa Rand cash or US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can be exchanged into Rand on arrival and as you travel. Your guide will give general guidance about spending during the tour.

Currencies are as follows: South Africa - South Africa Rand. Lesotho– South African Rand is legal tender

ATM machines are found throughout South Africa

Credit cards can be used to pay for larger optional activities although fees for use may be higher than you are accustomed to at home.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy it has become customary to offer a small gratuity to local staff at the end of the tour if service has been of a high standard. Naturally this always remains at your discretion.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

To give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in ZAR unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change).

| Activity | Price (ZAR) | Activity | Price (ZAR) |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Drakensberg | | Mountain Biking (half day) | R300 |
| Tugela Falls (Full Day Hike) | R795 | Garden Route | |
| Malealea | | Bungee Jumping | R1400 |
| Pony Trek to Waterfalls and Bushman Paintings | R690 | Bridge Walk | R250 |
| Bushman Painting Pony Trek | R550 | Tubing ½ day | R610 |
| 1 Hour Pony Trek Ride to Village | R380 | Hermanus Whale Watching/Cruise | From R950 |
| Hiking Trails with Guide | From R30 | Shark Cage Diving | From R2400 |
| Village School and Museum Hike (3 Hours) | R85 | | |

Responsible Travel

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

Get Connected

WIFI on tour:

While WIFI is becoming more common in some areas of Africa we cannot guarantee the speed, cost or reliability during your tour.