

Included Highlights

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

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 and 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 accommodation 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 Drakensburg 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 accommodation with shared facilities

Meals included: Lunch, dinner

WiFi: No

Optional Activities: Hiking and Walking Trails

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 accommodation 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 accommodation 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 of the local 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 accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WiFi: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

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. Experience a local way of life and depending on the season and shearing times, we may get to view an angora goat, or a sheep been sheared by hand. Next

**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 crisp 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 accommodation with en-suite 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 accommodation with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

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 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 accommodation with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

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 accommodation with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

**Day 8:
Mountain Zebra National Park – Addo Elephant National Park – Port Elizabeth**

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 accommodation 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 – Twin share accommodation 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 several 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 accommodation with en-suite 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 ship wrecks. We visit the gigantic lighthouse built as early as 1848 before enjoying a lunch break. The afternoon is spent exploring Hermanus, a haven for the outdoor enthusiast! We spend the night enjoying the town's atmosphere, inhaling the cool breeze.

Accommodation: *Hermanus Backpackers or similar - Twin share accommodation with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Hermanus Whale Watching/Cruise 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 Accommodated Tour

This is a participation tour and your help will be needed in assisting with the various day to day duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the vehicle tidy (usually on a rota basis). 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 Travel Talk adventure tour 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, twin share accommodation, fully equipped safari vehicles, cooking equipment, 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 and items of personal nature. NB Dinner on day 11, and lunch and dinner on day 12 are not included in the tour price.

ADVENTURE PASS:

Every adventure accommodated 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 while 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:

Twin share accommodation with facilities (11 nights) some camps may have a bar or swimming pool. In most cases rooms are en suite but from time to time some rooms may be shared facilities where en suite is indicated.

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.

GAME PARK VISITS:

In order to maximise the quality of game viewing 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. Durban (DUR) and Cape Town (CPT) 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 & Hospital Road

Umhlanga Ridge

Gateway, 4321

Tel: +27 (0)31 580 7200

rlumhlanga.dm@clhg.

com

08h00 on Day 1

Tour end point:

Cape Town:

Ashanti Lodge, Gardens

11 Hoff Street

Gardens

Cape Town, 8000

Tel +27 (0)21 42308721

Email: info@ashanti.co.za

Late afternoon/ early evening on

Day 12

Contact Details:

Contact details:

Tour end time

Tour start time:

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 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 guide line 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		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 limit. It should be brought in a soft hold-all or rucksack along with a smaller day bag. You will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for the evenings and early morning game drives. You also need a sleeping bag (and small pillow if preferred). We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that can be easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets. A power bank is useful for recharging electronic devices.

N.B: Travel Talk Africa has teamed up with SAVE (South Africa Volunteer Experience) which is a non-profit organization (NPO #088 104) that assists, develops and uplifts the local disadvantaged communities in and around the Dunoon Township of the Western Cape, South Africa. If you have any unwanted blankets, sleeping bags, clothing and shoes that you do not wish to carry after your travel, pop it into a bag and give it to our crew to donate to SAVE. Read more about SAVE [Link to: <http://www.southafricavolunteerexperiences.org.za/>]

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	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.

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 Rand. Lesotho/Swaziland – 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

traveltalk Coast, Lesotho and Cape Town (20CTC12A) – Tour Dossier

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 several optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ 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.