



Southern African Explorer (19SAK62) – Tour Dossier

Included Highlights

Panorama Route
2 days, Kruger NP, Game Drives *
Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary
Royal Enclosure/ Swaziland Village
St Lucia Boat Cruise *
Sani Pass Excursion *
Battlefields
Royal National Park
Drakensberg Mountains
Mountain Zebra National Park Game Drive
Addo Elephant NP, Game Drives
Garden Route
Cango Caves, Visit*
Cape Agulhas
Wine Tasting
Cape Town Township Tour*
Sesriem Canyon

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

Sossusvlei 4x4 Shuttle*
Dune 45
Spitzkoppe, Bushman Paintings
Etosha NP, Game Drives
Kalahari Bushman Walk
Okavango Delta Wilderness Excursion, Mokoro/Walking Safari*
Chobe NP, Fish Eagle Boat Cruise*
Chobe NP Open Vehicle Game Drive with Resident Guide*
Mosi Oa Tunya NP, Victoria Falls Visit
South Luangwa NP, Open Vehicle Game Drive with resident guide*
Zanzibar, Return Ferry & Accommodation
Maasai Village Walk with resident guide
Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater Excursion in Purpose Built Vehicles, Game Drives with resident guide*
The Great Rift Valley

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.

Your tour starts in **Pretoria**, South Africa's administrative capital. Close enough to Johannesburg to almost be considered a suburb, Pretoria is known as the Jacaranda City, with purple blossoms covering the streets in October each year. Pretoria boasts many sights of interest – such as the 10m bronze statue of Nelson Mandela standing beside the historic Union Buildings. Various cultural sites, shops, bars and restaurants are within an easy walk of our recommended hotel (and tour start point).

How do I get to Pretoria? Simple. Book a transfer before you leave home to meet you at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International and take you direct to the hotel in Pretoria. Journey time is about 45 minutes depending on traffic. We particularly recommend a pre-booked transfer if you are arriving late. Alternatively, there is a regular low-cost train service called the Gautrain which runs from OR Tambo International to both Johannesburg and Pretoria. If the train interests you, email or ask Acacia for more information.

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

Duration: 62 Days

Countries visited: South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania & Kenya

Day 1:

Pretoria – Greater Kruger Park, South Africa

Distance travelled: +/- 390 Km

Approx driving time: 7 Hours

Departing from South Africa's administrative city, Pretoria, we drive across the scenic Mpumalanga province and enjoy the spectacular mountain scenery before heading to the Panorama Route where we view Blyde River Canyon. We make our way to Hazyview bordering Kruger. Fences between the National Park and surrounding private reserves were removed several years ago to form the Greater Kruger, an area of some 24000 sq km. Wildlife is free to roam the whole enormous area and it has become incredibly diverse

in both fauna and flora. From the dwarf mongoose to the famed 'Big Five', almost every major African mammal is present. There is also prolific birdlife and over 330 varieties of trees. This evening we enjoy our first night under the African stars.

Accommodation: Numbi Hotel or similar - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 2:

Full Day Kruger National Park

Approx driving time: Full day with game drives



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Waking at sunrise, we eagerly wait for Park Rangers to open the park gates to let us enter the wilds of Kruger for an intense yet rewarding day of game tracking with our eagle-eyed guide at the wheel. Kruger is home to over 505 species of birds, 148 species of mammals and many reptiles which we enthusiastically search for during the morning and afternoon. The impressive atmosphere of the park enables you to understand why it is held in such high esteem amongst wildlife lovers from all over the world. We avoid the hot midday sun and enjoy the peacefulness the rest camp has to offer. There are many facilities available for game viewers such as restaurants, souvenir stores and swimming pools. We return to our camp in the late afternoon, happily exhausted and highly satisfied with the day's events. For those wanting more game driving there is the option of heading out on a night safari. Early evening, we all enjoy a lovely dinner gathered around the warm fire crackling in the stillness of night.

Accommodation: Numbi Hotel or similar - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Kruger Night Game Drive US\$75

Day 3:

Full Day Kruger National Park

Approx driving time: Full day with game drives

After a light sunrise breakfast, we re-enter the Park in an open 4x4 safari vehicle for our second day's game driving day. With cameras and binoculars on hand we spend the morning and afternoon winding along beaten tracks and marked routes encountering many species which are indigenous to this region. Kruger has over two million hectares of unrivalled diversity of ecosystems boasting an incredible concentration of wildlife and we hope to encounter some of these including the 'Big 5' - elephant, rhino, leopard, lion and buffalo. We return to our camp during the late afternoon.

*For clients not making use of the Adventure Pass, alternate optional activities are available today

Accommodation: Numbi Hotel or similar - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Kruger Night Game Drive US\$75

Day 4:

Kruger National Park – Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, Swaziland

Distance travelled: +/- 450 Km

Approx driving time: 8 Hours

Leaving Hazyview, we travel south along the edge of the Kruger National Park, passing many farming towns and

Shangaan settlements. After a short stop in Nelspruit, the road takes us through lush citrus farms before crossing the Crocodile River and into the Kingdom of Swaziland, a land-locked country snuggled between Mozambique and South Africa. Arriving at Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, our base for the next two nights is Swaziland's oldest protected area located in the stunning Ezulwini Valley, 'Valley of Heavens'.

Accommodation: Mlilwane Camp or similar - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 5

Day 5:

The Kingdom of Swaziland

Distance travelled: +/- 60 Km

Waking to the sounds of grunting antelope and wild exotic birds, we enjoy breakfast soaking up the natural beauty of our surroundings. A short drive through the sanctuary brings us to the Royal Enclosure where we discover an abundance of history and culture about the last African monarchy-controlled country. A local Swazi guide walks us through a traditional village explaining many customs and rituals. After leisure time browsing street side markets and trying our hand bartering with crafters, we find our way back to the sanctuary for lunch. This afternoon is free for those who wish to try some of the activities offered in the sanctuary - horseback trails, game drives, mountain-bike riding, guided walks, or just to enjoy some rejuvenating time-out around the pool. There are over forty species of animals found here including the exotic species such as Honey Badger, Dwarf Mongoose, Aardwolf, Striped Polecat and the more common including Hippo, Ostrich, Kudu, Zebra and Baboon. Enjoy cool sun downers and admiring the view overlooking the hippo pool while our crew prepares a delicious dinner.

Accommodation: Mlilwane camp or similar - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Mountain Biking Tour US\$10, Sunset Game Drive US\$30, Guided Bird Tour US\$18, Umphakatsi Culture Tour US\$10

Day 6:

Swaziland – St Lucia, South Africa

Distance travelled: +/- 330 Km

Approx driving time: 7 Hours

Leaving this amazing sanctuary behind us, we travel south through the Swazi countryside before crossing the border and re-entering South Africa via the KwaZulu-Natal province. We head to the small coastal town of St Lucia, set amongst the wild beaches and a tropical estuary. This afternoon, we join the river cruise on the St. Lucia Lagoon viewing many



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Hippo pods, lazy crocodiles, and numerous bird species on the sandy banks, or cooling down in the water for a refreshing swim.

After dinner, we have the opportunity to relax in the camps gardens gazing up into the clear southern hemisphere sky, star watching.

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

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Night Game Drive US\$40, Culture Tour US\$25, Bicycle Tour US\$18, Birding/Hiking Tour US\$25*

Day 7:

St Lucia - Durban

Distance travelled: +/- 260 Km

Approx driving time: 4 Hours

This morning is yours at leisure to explore the town and the numerous shops and markets stalls or simply relax in the campsite's stunning settings. We leave St Lucia mid-morning and drive through pine forests and sugar cane fields to one of Africa's largest commercial ports, Durban. The afternoon is yours at leisure to enjoy what this city has on offer from stunning beaches and a vibrant night life.

Accommodation: *Road Lodge or similar - Twin share accommodation*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *City Tour US\$10*

Day 8:

Durban

Today is a day of leisure to explore the beauty Durban has to offer. Head to the Durban beachfront, known as the Golden Mile and visit the colourful flea markets and the stretch of numerous quality restaurants with a view. A must is to try a delicious local dish, the Durban Curry. Visit uShaka Marine World, Africa's biggest marine theme park boasting the largest collection of sharks in the Southern Hemisphere. You may choose to partake in scuba diving or find your thrill on the water slides. For the more adventurous, why not take a leap from the 'big swing' at the Moses Mabhida stadium which offers 360 degrees views of Durban.

Accommodation: *Road Lodge or similar - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *uShaka Marine US\$20, Moses Mabhida Stadium Big Swing US\$60*

Day 9:

Durban – Underberg Area

Distance travelled: +/- 220 Km

Approx driving time: 3 Hours

Today 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 - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Walking and hiking trails*

Day 10:

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 shepherd village. We 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 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 - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Walking and walking trails*

Day 11:

Underberg Area – Battlefields - Drakensberg

Distance Travelled: +/-240 Km

Approx driving time: 5 Hours



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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 retire to our bush lodge in the late afternoon where we suggest an early night in preparation for a day of hiking tomorrow.

Accommodation: Amphitheatre Lodge - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 12:

Drakensberg

We pack up our day packs ready to go and travel the short distance to the Royal Natal 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 - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Guided Tugela Falls Hike US\$65

Day 13:

Drakensberg – Malealea, Lesotho

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 Mareru 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 - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 14:

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 - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Pony Trek to Waterfalls and Bushman Paintings US\$45, Bushman Paintings Pony Trek US\$35, 1 Hour Pony Ride to Village US\$25, Guided Hiking Trails from US\$3, Mountain Biking from US\$20, Village, School and Museum Hike (3 Hours) US\$5

Day 15:

Malealea to 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 zebra after which the park is named. With a camera and binoculars at hand, we game drive in our overland truck 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 - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil



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Day 16:

Mountain Zebra National Park – 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 - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WiFi: *No*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

Day 17:

Port Elizabeth area – Storms River / Tsitsikamma Forest

Distance travelled: +/- 170 Km

Approx driving time: 3 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: *Tube and Axe Boutique Lodge or similar – Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WiFi: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Bungee Jump US\$85, Bridge Walk US\$12, Half-day Tubing US\$50*

Day 18:

Storms River - Oudtshoorn

Distance travelled: +/- 210 Km

Approx driving time: 4 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 - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WiFi: *No*

Day 19:

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. Enroute 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 - Shared dorm with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch*

WiFi: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Hermanus Whale Watching/Cruise from US\$80*

Day 20:

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



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axis around which the original fishing village 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. We end the day in the late afternoon at the foot of Table Mountain in the popular mother city of South Africa, Cape Town.

Accommodation: *Ashanti Gardens - dorm room with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

Optional Activities: *Shark Cage Diving from \$185*

Day 21:

Cape Town

Today is free for you to enjoy the many sights of South Africa's mother city. No group activities are arranged in Cape Town, this is time for you to spend at leisure taking in the sights and sounds of Africa's most beautiful city. A number of optional activities are typically available, all bookable at the hotel reception. Explore the Cape Peninsula and the Boulders Beach penguins, Muizenberg and Hout Bay, or spend the day in the city visiting Bo Kaap, Table Mountain and the historic sights and museums.

Accommodation: *Ashanti Gardens - dorm room with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast included in accommodation*

Optional Activities: *Peninsula Tour, Table Mountain Cableway, Robben Island*

Day 22:

Cape Town – Cederberg Area, South Africa

Distance travelled: +/- 260 Km

Approx driving time: 4.5 Hours

We renew our overland journey but before we leave the city we tour the Cape Flats, one of Cape Town's intriguing townships, and visit some of the local community projects in the area. The 'townships' illustrate both South Africa's tumultuous history and its hope for the future, making for a fascinating visit. From here we head north through the Western Cape passing the fruit growing region of Citrusdal before reaching our campsite for the evening near the Olifants River and overlooking the Cederberg Mountains. After setting up camp we have the option to sample some of the local wines of the region and enjoy camping again away from the city lights.

Accommodation: *Highlanders Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast included in accommodation, Lunch included on township tour, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Wine Tasting US\$10*

Day 23:

Cederberg Area – Gariep (Orange) River

Distance travelled: +/- 400 Km

Approx driving time: 8 Hours

Continuing north, the landscape gradually turns drier and rockier as we head towards the Namibian border crossing at Vioolsdrift. We set up camp tonight on the Namibian side of the Gariep (Orange) River, a stunning backdrop. Our camp provides you with the necessary comforts like hot showers, flush toilets, grassy campsites, swimming pool, bar facilities and the Orange River is safe for swimming! You will be briefed on an optional Orange River canoe safari for later this afternoon or the following morning. The camp by night is showered with stars of the Richtersveld – a truly peaceful and tranquil experience.

Accommodation: *Felix Unite - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Canoe Safari US\$40*

Day 24:

Gariep (Orange) River – Fish River Canyon, Namibia

Distance travelled: +/- 180 Km

Approx driving time: 3.5 Hours

This morning we have the opportunity to partake in an optional canoe safari on the river, or simply relax on the water's edge before making our way to the majestic Fish River Canyon. One of the natural wonders of Africa, the canyon is some 500m deep and over 160km long and often referred to as the second largest canyon in the world. There are plenty of opportunities for keen photographers this afternoon especially at the canyons infamous sharp river bend known as 'Hells Corner'. A great opportunity to find a quiet spot and marvel at the sheer beauty of the Fish River Canyon.

Accommodation: *Canyon Roadhouse - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Canoe Safari US\$40*

Day 25:

Fish River Canyon – Sesriem Area

Distance travelled: +/- 600 Km

Approx driving time: 10 Hours

After a night near the canyon we continue north to the Sesriem Area, the gateway to the Namib Naukluft National Park, containing the world's oldest desert and highest sand dunes. The Namib-Naukluft National Park contains part of



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the Namib Desert and the Naukluft mountains. With an overall area of 49,768 km² it's larger than Switzerland and is the second largest park in Africa, and the fourth largest in the world. Here we set up camp for the evening under the starry Namibian sky.

Accommodation: *Little Sossus Lodge - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

Day 26:

Namib Naukluft National Park – Sossus On Foot

Distance travelled: +/- 240 Km

Approx driving time: 5 Hours

This morning we enter the National Park to trek to the top of famous Dune 45. A spectacular sight but be warned, it's not an easy feat to reach the top as some dunes are over 300m high! After a well-deserved breakfast we continue deeper into the park for a short shuttle ride and nature walk to 'Dead Vlei', amidst the giant sand dunes – a real glimpse of Namibia's unspoilt natural environment. Bring your camera – the shifting colours of the desert as the sun climbs throughout the mid/late morning offer some brilliant photographic opportunities. Departing from the dunes, we stop off at the smaller Sesriem Canyon where the multiple layers of rock and pebbles make for an interesting insight to what lies beneath the mountains of sand. Thereafter we make our way via Namibia's smallest town, Solitaire to our camp for the night.

Accommodation: *Sossus On Foot Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Desert Experience US\$25*

Day 27:

Sossus On Foot Camp - Swakopmund

Distance travelled: +/- 260 Km

Approx driving time: 4.5 Hours

Leaving our desert camp, we head for the Atlantic coast for the next two nights, crossing over the Tropic of Capricorn, and stopping for a photo opportunity en route. Swakopmund makes for a refreshing change with cooler Atlantic sea air, a taste of civilization and a swathe of exciting things to do and places to explore. Be daring and try some desert-based adventure activities – quad biking, sand boarding, skydiving (weather permitting) and more! For those not seeking adventure enjoy what the town has to offer: shopping, restaurants, museums, aquarium, art galleries – or else simply walk along the promenade admiring

the ocean, the quaint German-style architecture and indulge in the town's café culture.

N.B: For the sake of practicality, meals in Swakopmund are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back for meal times. Swakopmund town offers a variety of bakeries and cafes with a selection of reasonably priced meals (allow ZAR 80-150 per meal). Relax and enjoy these days at your own leisure.

Accommodation: *Amanpuri Dorm Bed*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities *See day 28*

Day 28:

Swakopmund

Today is a free day to enjoy all this quaint seaside town has to offer - from the many optional activities to the German patisseries, cafés and restaurants.

Accommodation: *Amanpuri Dorm Bed*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Sandboarding - Stand Up US\$50 Sandboarding - Lay down US\$40, Quad Biking US\$55, Skydiving US\$200, Deep Sea Fishing US\$120, Scenic Flights US\$360, Swakopmund Township Tour US\$40, Dolphin and Seal Cruise US\$60, Kayaking US\$60*

Day 29:

Swakopmund – Spitzkoppe

Distance travelled: +/- 150 Km

Approx driving time: 3 Hours

Leaving the coast we turn inland to the beautiful Damaraland region and explore Spitzkoppe where we admire ancient bushman paintings still visible on peculiar rock formations. The giant boulder-like rock formations peak at approx 1800m above sea level and form a spectacular view. Take your time to explore the area and its delightful calmness. Keep an eye on the ever-changing colour of the rock, especially during sunrise and sunset, when they acquire intense red shades. The most impressive rock painting is "Bushman Paradise" and the natural rock bridge is a favourite viewpoint.

The Spitzkoppe Rest camp lies at the base of the mountain and is owned and maintained by the local community. All proceeds from our visit go directly to this community.

Please note that some group members may be starting their tour on this day.



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Accommodation: Spitzkoppe Community Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared basic toilet facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 30:

Spitzkoppe – Etosha

Distance travelled: +/- 420 Km

Approx driving time: 6 Hours

From Spitzkoppe we turn north again making our way to Etosha National Park, a vast reserve of over 20,000 sq km surrounding a central salt depression or 'pan.' The pan is seasonally full of water but specially managed waterholes sustain some 114 mammal and 340 bird species. We spend two nights here, usually making camp near a floodlit waterhole. Observers frequently see a range of night visitors including elephant, giraffe, zebra, even lion and hyena, making it one of the most memorable wildlife encounters in Namibia - a truly African experience and a highlight of any trip to Namibia. We have a short afternoon game drive on entering the park and heading to the camp.

Accommodation: Okaukuejo or Halali or Namutoni Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 31:

Etosha National Park

Distance travelled: +/- 250 Km

Approx driving time: Full day including game drives

Today, we enjoy a full day game driving in this magnificent animal kingdom - taking in the park's main characteristic, the salt pan which can be seen from space - in search of elephant, rhino, zebra, giraffes and the numerous grazing animals frequently spotted around the water holes. Despite the dry nature of the terrain, the park sustains a wide variety of bird species including the large Kori Bustard, Secretary Bird and many other seed & insect eaters, as well as birds of prey.

After a full day game driving we return to camp, or onto the next camp and enjoy our last evening around the floodlit watering holes, observing natural animal behaviour at its best.

Accommodation: Okaukuejo or Halali or Namutoni Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 32:

Etosha – Windhoek

Distance travelled: +/- 420 Km

Approx driving time: 8.5 Hours

Heading south, we arrive in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, which is located in a basin between the Khomas Highland, Auas and Eros Mountains. Windhoek (Windy-corner in English) is home to approximately two hundred thousand people, an extremely small capital by global standards. The city centre is characterized by a proliferation of German style buildings, a lasting reminder of Namibia's early colonial history and atmosphere. Take the opportunity to enjoy a night out at one of the local restaurants.

Please note that some group members may be ending their tour in Windhoek. Both old and new are invited to join for the group outing.

Accommodation: Urban Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 33:

Windhoek – Ghanzi, Botswana

Distance travelled: +/- 530 Km

Approx driving time: 10 Hours

Leaving Windhoek, we travel east into the Kalahari region and cross into Botswana. Our first stop is at the town of Ghanzi. Here, in this midst of (seemingly) barren terrain we meet the San/Bushman and have a guided bush walk for a cultural experience and insight into these ancient people's way of life. We learn how they work with nature and manage the renewable resources found in their natural surroundings without damaging the fragile balance found in this ecosystem. Something we can all learn from. Your support of this ecotourism venture gives the San/Bushman a sustainable income and helps keep their culture alive.

Around the campfire at night, you can experience the ancient dance rituals of the San/Bushman. On special occasions this could be a healing or trance dance, which can continue all night, and is an intense spiritual experience for both participants and visitors alike.

Accommodation: Ghanzi Trailblazers - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Traditional Dancing US\$15



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Day 34:

Ghanzi – Maun

Distance travelled: +/- 280 Km

Approx driving time: 5.5 Hours

Maun is the fifth largest town in Botswana and is an eclectic mix of modern buildings and native dwellings. Although officially still a village, Maun has developed rapidly from a rural frontier town to a community that has distributed along the wide banks of the Thamalakane River where red lechwe antelope can still be seen grazing next to local donkeys, goats and cattle. Since Maun's founding in 1915 it has had a reputation as a hard-living 'Wild West' town helping the local cattle ranching and hunting operations. Maun today is a thriving tourist town famous for its donkey population and to a lesser extent, goats. These animals can be seen standing around town as they are used by local traders and farmers alike to transport their wares to sell on the curb side.

NB: If time allows, we have the opportunity to take an optional scenic flight over the Okavango Delta, either this afternoon or on day 36 on our return from the Delta excursion

Accommodation: Delta Rain's Sitatunga Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Okavango Delta Scenic Flight per 5-seater plane – 45 min flight time from US\$650, Maun Horse Riding (2 Hours) US\$50

Day 35:

Maun - Okavango Delta

Distance travelled: +/- 50 Km

Approx driving time: transfer 2 hours

Leaving the campsite in Maun we begin our excursion into the Okavango Delta by an open 4x4 truck to the mokoro station. Here we will be introduced to the local Tswana Polers that will be guiding us on this expedition. We travel by mokoro (dugout canoe) amongst the giant lily pads, tall grasses and labyrinthine channels in search of resident wildlife and a variety of birds, to our tented camp from which we can explore the area on a walking safari. The Okavango is a natural wetland spreading over some 1,600,000ha of northern Botswana that offers a perfect habitat for the many species of wildlife that roam here freely. The Okavango River rises in Angola (farther to the north) and flows south dividing repeatedly after crossing into Botswana to form an intricate floodplain of channels and which spreads out into a broad flat inland delta – the only one of its kind in the world. We enjoy the afternoon wilderness experience and overnight listening to the sounds of the African night - an unforgettable experience!

Accommodation: Elephant Camp – Twin share pre-erected tents with en-suite facilities (basic-style bucket shower & toilet)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 36:

Okavango Delta - Maun

Distance travelled: +/- 50 Km

Approx driving time: transfer 2 hours

This morning we take an easy paced mokoro ride out of the Okavango Delta back to the polers station from where we will drive back to Maun, our overnight stop. We aim to get back to camp around lunch time to allow for the opportunity to enjoy an optional scenic flight over this spectacular UNESCO world heritage site. Alternatively, the afternoon can be spent at leisure at the camp's pool.

Accommodation: Delta Rain's Sitatunga Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See Day 34

Day 37:

Maun – Elephant Sands, Nata

Distance travelled: +/- 380 Km

Approx driving time: 5 Hours

Today, we make our way towards Nata travelling through a wide-open wildlife corridor between the Nxai and the Makgadikgadi Pans. We stop off to see one of Africa's most iconic trees - the Baobab along the way and arrive at the Elephant Sands Lodge during the late afternoon. The camp has no fences so all wildlife can roam freely from one waterhole to another and one can expect to see a variety of antelope and other wildlife during your stay at Elephant Sands. It is one of the most unique and amazing experiences to watch wild elephants and their behaviour at such close proximity.

Accommodation: Elephant Sands Lodge - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Morning Bush Walk US\$20, Evening Game Drive US\$25

Day 38:

Elephant Sands, Nata - Kasane

Distance travelled: +/- 270 Km

Approx driving time: 5 Hours



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We make our way to the northern corner of Botswana to Kasane, the gateway to Chobe National Park. By size, it is the third largest park in the country and is the most diverse; home to elephant, lion, buffalo, hippo and abundant birdlife, including the famous African fish eagle. We take a 'Fish Eagle' cruise on the Chobe River – a great opportunity to see hippo and perhaps elephant or buffalo coming to the river to bathe and drink.

The Chobe River is a major watering spot for large breeding herds of elephants, as well as families of giraffe, sable and cape buffalo. The flood plains are the only place in Botswana where the puku antelope can be seen. Birding is also excellent here. When in flood spoonbills, ibis, various species of stork and other waterfowl flock to the area.

Accommodation: *Thebe River Lodge - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

Day 39:

Kasane – Livingstone, Victoria Falls, Zambia

Distance travelled +/- 80 Km

Approx driving time: 1.5 Hours

This morning we head out to explore the Chobe National Park on an open vehicle game drive where we have the opportunity to spot not only elephant that are so prolific in the park, but also lion, and different antelope species. Moving on from Kasane we take the ferry across the confluence of the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers into Zambia. Zambia, formerly known as Northern Rhodesia took its name from the Zambezi River at independence in 1964. The Zambezi River is the fourth longest in Africa (after the Nile, Congo and Niger) and the largest flowing into the Indian Ocean. Home to one of the world's largest waterfalls, we visit Victoria Falls and try to take in the immensity of one of nature's Wonders of the World. At various times of year, the spray from the Falls can be seen from up to 20 or 30 kilometres away, hence the local name 'Mosi oa Tunya' – the 'Smoke that Thunders'.

We set up camp at the Waterfront campsite on the banks of the Zambezi, just a few kilometres from the Victoria Falls and the small town of Livingstone. We will give a full briefing on the various optional activities available in the area (typically these include rafting, canoeing, bungee, abseiling, gorge swinging, horse riding, scenic flights and river cruises), allowing you to plan your time accordingly.

NB For the sake of practicality, meals in the Livingstone/Victoria Falls area are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back with the group at mealtimes. The Waterfront camp restaurant

overlooks the Zambezi River and offers a good selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (allow US\$15 - \$30 per meal). Relax and enjoy these few days at your own leisure. Alternatively, take a taxi into Livingstone to try local fare.

Accommodation: *Waterfront - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *See day 40*

Day 40-41:

Livingstone, Victoria Falls, Zambia

Over the next two days we have free time at leisure to explore the Victoria Falls area to the full. Apart from the adventure activities already mentioned check out the markets, volunteer a day in some worthwhile local projects, or simply relax at the beautiful waterfront and watch the Zambezi River flow quickly past on its way to Victoria Falls.

Please note that some group members may be starting or leaving their tour in Livingstone on this day.

Accommodation: *Waterfront - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Bungee Jumping US\$160, Full Day Abseil US\$190, Mosi Oa Tunya National Park Game Walk US\$110, Chief Mukumi Village Tour US\$50, Gorge Swing US\$95, Zambezi Jet Boat & Cable Car from US\$120, Half Day Canoe US\$110, Zambezi Sunset Cruise US\$75, Full Day White-water Rafting US\$160, Helicopter/Microlight Flights from US\$185, Half Day Fishing US\$145, Bridge Tour US\$65*

Day 42:

Livingstone – Lusaka

Distance Travelled: +/- 450 Km

Approx driving time: 9 Hours

Departing early, we head through lush country and small villages to Lusaka, Zambia's Capital city. Lusaka is Southern Africa's fastest growing city with approx. 1.7 million people and is located on the southern plateau at an elevation of 1300m with four main highways running north, south, east and west to different parts of Africa. This city is the commercial hub as well as the centre for the government. Our campsite for the evening is set in a tranquil and relaxing setting on a farm.

Accommodation: *Eureka Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*



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Optional Activities: Nil

Day 43:

Lusaka – South Luangwa

Distance Travelled: +/- 600 Km

Approx driving time: 12 Hours

We leave early and take the Great Eastern Road through lush countryside and small villages, crossing the Luangwa River to the South Luangwa National Park, which is known to be one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world. The concentration of animals around the Luangwa River, and its oxbow lagoons, is among the most intense in Africa. There are 60 different animal species and over 400 different bird species inhabiting the area. Hippo's, elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo, giraffe with many other species flourish in the 20,000 sq miles of savannah woodland watered by these 500 miles-long river. The river itself is the most intact and unaltered major river system in Africa and covers 9059 km². The changing seasons add to the Park's richness, ranging from; dry, bare bushveld in the winter, to lush green lands in the summer months. On arrival we set up camp and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to enjoy the many optional activities from walking safaris and village walks.

*Driving times vary dependent on the number of stops en route. While we try to get to the camp in daylight, today is a long day on the road and we may arrive in the early evening.

Accommodation: Wildlife Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 3

Day 44:

South Luangwa National Park

Relax around the pools edge, which is the best place to be in the hot hours of the day. Later that afternoon we embark on an open vehicle game drive with a local ranger along the river's edge to see the abundance of animal and birdlife inhabiting the area. Your tour includes one guided game drive during our stay. Additional walks and drives can be booked on arrival.

Accommodation: Wildlife Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Village Tour US\$35, Walking Safari US\$60, Game Drives from US\$55

Day 45:

South Luangwa National Park – Kande Beach, Malawi

Distance Travelled: +/- 420 Km

Approx driving time: 8 Hours

Leaving Zambia behind, we cross the border to Malawi. Please be patient as the officials process the group's visas as this may take some time to complete. Lake Malawi formerly 'Lake Nyasa', covers almost a fifth of the country's area and provides the source of livelihood for many of the Malawian people. Fishermen, fish traders, canoe and net makers all ply their trade, and a common sight is that of a fisherman in his *Bwato*, (dugout canoe made from hollowed out tree trunk) fishing on the lake at the break of day or with lanterns by night

The lake also has the highest number of endemic freshwater fish species of any in the world and attracts divers globally to seek out the many colourful Cichlid species. We arrive at camp on the lake's shore in the afternoon and have the rest of the day to swim and explore the beach and surrounding area.

NB: Although it is our intention to adhere to the campsites described, a certain amount of flexibility is built into our time in Malawi and the crew may make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the Malawi section of the dossier as a guideline only.

Accommodation: Kande Beach - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 5

Day 46:

Kande Beach

Today you'll have some free time to try some of the water sports available including diving and snorkelling, take a horse ride along the beach or simply relax and enjoy the warm fresh waters of Lake Malawi. There is the opportunity to meet the local people, generally known as amongst the friendliest in Africa, to gain insight into their way of life on an optional guided Village Walk, or you can simply head out and explore the lakeside, craft market and meet some of the locals.

Accommodation: Kande Beach - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Horse Riding US\$55, Village Walk US\$10, Snorkelling Day Trip from US\$15, Fresh Water Scuba Diving from US\$45, Canoe Hire from US\$10

Day 47:

Kande Beach – Chitimba Beach

Distance Travelled: +/- 240 Km



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Approx driving time: 5 Hours

Taking a nice scenic drive through rubber plantations to Mzuzu – the capital of the northern region and the third largest town in Malawi, where we stop for a short while to grab supplies and check out the markets before arriving to Chitimba Beach where time is at leisure in the afternoon to enjoy a game of beach volleyball or relax in the various lounge areas at this beach-side camp.

Accommodation: Chitimba Beach - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 48:

Chitimba Beach

Relax on the beach, take a leisurely village walk or do the full day trip to Manchewe Falls where after 11km of hiking you can cool off in a natural bath. The surrounding hills are home to the Livingstonia Mission where David Livingstone worked from for a time while staying in Malawi. The views from here are simply magnificent and well worth the effort of hiking to. For those staying at the campsite, there is a local craft market where you can enjoy learning the ins and outs of woodcarving your own souvenir, or learn to play the game of Bao, haggle for some souvenirs or enjoy a relaxing day admiring the shimmering waters on the beach.

Accommodation: Chitimba Beach - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Livingstonia Day Hike US\$10

Day 49:

Chitimba Beach – Iringa, Tanzania

Distance Travelled: +/- 550 Km

Approx driving time: 11 Hours

Leaving Chitimba Beach, we travel the short distance north to cross the border into Tanzania. We steadily climb in altitude through Tanzania's Southern Highlands all the way to Kisolanza Farm House. This farm is at an altitude of 1600m ensuring a pleasant fresh climate in one of the most scenic areas of Tanzania. Home to the Ghau family for over 70 years, Kisolanza remains a working farm providing organic meat (beef, lamb and chicken) and vegetables to the surrounding markets as well as further afield in Dar es Salaam.

Accommodation: Kisolanza Farm House - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 50:

Iringa – Mikumi National park area

Distance travelled: +/- 200 Km

Approx driving time: 5 Hours

Leaving the Southern Highlands, we make our way east to Mikumi National Park. Our campsite is located a short stone's throw from the park and we enjoy sundowners at the local bar/ restaurant followed by the evening around the open fire under the blanket of stars.

If time allows we can go on an optional game drive in the afternoon to explore the magnificent park – Tanzania's 5th largest. Expect to see Elephant, hippo, crocodiles, antelope and with some luck some buffalo or lion.

Accommodation: Tan-Swiss Lodge - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Mikumi Game Drive US\$150

Day 51:

Mikumi National Park area – Dar es Salaam

Distance Travelled: +/- 300 Km

Approx driving time: 8 Hours

We continue towards the Indian Ocean coast and the port city of Dar es Salaam ('Haven of Peace'). This route runs through the Mikumi National Park and we may, with luck, spot forest elephant or giraffe feeding near the side of the road. 'Dar' is Tanzania's hub of commerce and industry – a hot, humid and bustling seaport city of high rises, colourful markets and Arab influenced architecture on the coast accessing one of the most important sea routes on earth (with an interesting history too). To a majority of travellers, this city is the port of call to the more exotic Zanzibar and the remaining of the Archipelago islands. We set up camp at our campsite on the beach just outside of the city centre, usually having time to browse curio markets - best known for ebony wood - and prepare for our trip to Zanzibar.

Accommodation: Kipepeo Village - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 52:

Zanzibar Island

Distance Travelled: Ferry crossing



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Evocative and exotic, Zanzibar conjures up images of idyllic, sandy, palm fringe beaches; romantic winding cobbled alleys and lush tropical forests. You will find all of these here – and an intriguing history. Zanzibar was the base of the great 19th century explorers such as John Hanning Speke, Richard Burton and David Livingstone and once was a major trading centre of spices. Indeed, the spice trade is centuries old: Zanzibaris have traded with the people of the Arabian Peninsula for generations, plying the ocean in simple dhow sailboats relying on the annual trade winds for passage. The Arab influence is evident in the architecture and diverse street stall offerings of the capital, Stone Town. This influence can be seen right along the Eastern coast – the Swahili language itself is a result of the mixing of Arab and African languages and cultures over many centuries.

Zanzibar's other history is not romantic. The island was also a staging post for slaves bought from the African interior being held before shipping to slave owners in the Middle East. You can still see the places where these men and woman were held – and even a short visit is enough to convey the appalling conditions they had to endure.

Our time on the island over the next 4 nights is not structured and your time is at leisure. Perhaps the best way to see Stone Town is on foot: explore the bazaars for old maritime trinkets, cloths, wooden carvings, visit mosques, palaces, courtyards and alleyways of the old town. Spices are grown in plantations nearby and you can take day tours to visit some and have your senses dazzled by the tastes and scents experienced. If it's white sand, sparkling ocean and hot sun you prefer – head to the northern beaches and enjoy the Indian Ocean at its best. Try snorkelling and diving, indulge in some sumptuous seafood, or simply relax beneath a coconut palm with a cocktail and a good book.

NB: As we leave the truck on the mainland, basic tourist class accommodation and breakfast on Zanzibar are included in the tour price, but for the sake of flexibility other meals are left for your own account. Typically, we spend one night in Stone Town and the next three nights in the north of the island at one of the beaches. Your tour leader will be available to assist if you have any questions or need activities arranged.

Please note that some group members may be starting their tour in Dar es Salaam today.

Accommodation: Stone Town - Safari Lodge or similar – twin/ triple rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Spice Tour US\$35, Slave Markets US\$15, Arabic Fort US\$5, Palace Museum US\$10

Day 53

Zanzibar Island

Enjoy free time on Zanzibar and transfer to the northern beaches from Stone Town. Relax on the sun kissed beaches of Kendwa, northwest part of the island, take an optional diving trip to the rich colourful reefs or grab a snorkel and goggles to explore these from above

Please note that some group members may be starting their tour in Dar es Salaam. Both old and new are invited to join in any group outings

Accommodation: Kendwa Northern beaches – Sunset Bungalows or similar – twin/ triple rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast is included with hotel accommodation

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Spice Tour US\$35, Scuba Diving local US\$150, Yacht Trip US\$120, Snorkelling Safaris from US\$40, Massages from US\$20

Day 54

Zanzibar Island

Browse markets or enjoy hanging in a hammock with a cocktail and a good book. The beach is a great place to catch up with the locals who will pass by selling their wares, offering henna tattoos and inexpensive massages. Round the day off with a sunset dhow cruise or chilling to the tunes from the nearby beach bars.

Accommodation: Kendwa Northern beaches – Sunset Bungalows or similar – twin/ triple rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast is included with hotel accommodation

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 12

Day 55

Zanzibar Island

Adjusting to the lazy ways of the northern beaches is easy to do in such picturesque surroundings. Enjoy your last day on the island swimming in the warm ocean, snorkelling in the crystal turquoise waters and enjoy time at leisure in this tropical haven.

Accommodation: Kendwa Northern beaches – Sunset Bungalows or similar – twin/ triple rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast is included with hotel accommodation

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 12

Day 56:



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Zanzibar – Dar es Salaam

Distance Travelled: Ferry crossing

We have the morning to do any last minute shopping or enjoy one last swim before catching the ferry back to the African mainland to Dar es Salaam and onwards to our campsite on the coast for the evening.

Please note that some group members may be ending their tour in Dar es Salaam. Both old and new are invited to join in any group outings.

Accommodation: Kipepeo Village - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 57:

Dar es Salaam – Marangu

Distance Travelled: +/- 570 Km

Approx driving time: 11 Hours

Departing early from Dar es Salaam, we head north past the Usambara and Pare Mountains in the Eastern Arc Mountain Range to Marangu, nestled at the base of the famed Kilimanjaro. The camp takes its name from the surrounding area. "Marangu" means "full of water" in the local Chagga language, and the lush green surroundings demonstrate the truth of this. If weather is clear we will gain a view of the magnificent snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain (5895m).

Accommodation: Marangu Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 58:

Marangu - Arusha

Distance Travelled: +/- 120 Km

Approx driving time: 2.5 Hours

We drive past the town of Moshi and eventually reach Arusha; a city situated exactly mid-way between Cape Town and Cairo. This is Tanzania's 'safari capital', a city of some 2 million people, a bustling melting pot of markets, vehicles and people – all nestling in the shadow of the brooding Mt Meru (4556 m). With time to explore town we head out to our camp just outside the city at the edge of the Masai plains.

This afternoon we enjoy a walk to one of the local Masai villages, a local school and clinic, a small but highly

interesting Masai museum, and the snake enclosure at the Meserani Snake Park.

It is from here that we prepare for our two night/three day excursion to the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Accommodation: Meserani Snake Park - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Camel Ride US\$10

Day 59:

Arusha - Serengeti National Park

Distance Travelled: +/- 250 Km

Approx driving time: Full day including game drives

This morning we transfer to smaller more 'game park friendly' vehicles and drive west across the Great Rift Valley, passing through Mto Wa Mbo ('mosquito creek') and enter the Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area. We pass into the park and drive around the 'Crater's rim and down onto the Serengeti plains. Green after the rains, brown and burnt in the dry, this is home to an enormous variety of grazing animals, predators, and birdlife. Flatter and larger than the Masai Mara the Serengeti is simply huge - indeed the name derives from the Masai word *Siringitu* – 'the place where the land moves on forever'. We game drive to our designated (but unfenced) campsite for the evening where lion and hyena roam nearby for an unforgettable experience.

Accommodation: Serengeti National Park: Bush Camp - Camping in twin share tents with basic shared facilities (no shower, pit latrine)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Day 60:

Ngorongoro Crater

We drive out of the plains, game driving en route, and after lunch ascend the outer wall of the Ngorongoro Crater. We spend the night camping on the rim (you may need a jacket; it can be cold at night due to the high altitude here), where wildlife also roams free. At 326 square kilometres in area the Ngorongoro is Africa's largest intact caldera and a World Heritage Site. If the view from the rim (2400 metres above sea level) is spectacular, the site from the Crater floor (some 600 metres below) is equally enjoyable.

Accommodation: Simba Camp - Camping in twin share tents with basic shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil



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Day 61:

Ngorongoro Crater - Arusha, Meserani Snake Park

Distance Travelled: +/- 250 Km

Approx driving time: Full days including morning game drive

We wake early and descend the steep dirt road of the Ngorongoro Crater for a morning of game driving in this spectacular wildlife haven. All of the major mammals are present except giraffe (which cannot manage the steep slopes leading down onto the Crater floor). After our game drive we ascend to our campsite on the rim for a final view over the Ngorongoro Crater, pack up our camp and have lunch before retracing our steps to Arusha and our campsite at the Meserani Snake Park where we will overnight.

Accommodation: *Meserani Snake Park - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

Day 62:

Arusha – Nairobi, Kenya

Distance Travelled: +/- 270 Km

Approx driving time: 7 Hours

We make our way across the Maasai Steppe to the Kenyan frontier. Completing formalities at Namanga border post, we drive the last stretch of road to Nairobi, Kenya's capital, where our tour ends in the late afternoon.

Accommodation: *Nil*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Camping Overland 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 truck 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 Acacia overland 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, 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 and Excursions, visas, travel insurance, flight departure taxes, airport transfers, optional activities, tips, drinks, sleeping bag, meals as indicated and items of personal nature.

ADVENTURE PASS:

Every Overland 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). 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.



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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 to Uganda. 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 safari truck 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:

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 (JNB) nearby Pretoria and Nairobi (NBO) 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

This tour starts in Pretoria. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour departs at 07:00 on day 1 and ends in Nairobi on Day 62**

Tour start point in **Pretoria:**

Address: Sentinel Hotel
276 Orient Street,
Arcadia, Pretoria

Contact details: Tel. +27 12 342 9130
reception@senitel.travel

Tour start time: 07:00 on Day 1

Tour end point in **Nairobi:**

Address: Hotel Boulevard, Nairobi
Harry Thuku Rd
PO Box 42831, Nairobi

Contact details: Tel. +245 722 200 755
Fax: +245 233 4071
E-mail: hotel@hotelboulevardkenya.com

Tour end time: late afternoon/ early evening on day 62

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Pretoria 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 guide line only and are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices.**

Description	Price (USD)	Description	Price (USD)
Pretoria – Sentinel Hotel		Nairobi – Hotel Boulevard	
Pre tour accommodation – twin pp/pn	\$ 50	Post tour accommodation – Twin/Double pppn	\$ 60



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Pre tour accommodation – single pp/pn	\$ 85	Post tour accommodation – single	\$ 90
		Post tour accommodation – Triple	\$ 50
PPPN = Per person, per night		PPPN = Per person, per night	

ADVENTURE PASS

Paid in the currency listed in the brochure or on the website (usually US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2008 edition notes) 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.

Day 3 Kruger National Park Game Drive	✓
St Lucia Boat Cruise	✓
Sani Pass Excursion	✓
Cango Caves Visit	✓
Cape Town Township Tour	✓
Sossusvlei Shuttle	✓
Okavango Delta	✓
Chobe Fish Eagle Boat Cruise	✓
Chobe NP Morning Game Drive	✓
Matobo National Park	✓
South Luangwa NP Game Drive	✓
Serengeti/Ngorongoro Crater Excursion	✓

LUGGAGE

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

NB KENYA PLASTIC BAG BAN - All forms of plastic carrier bags are banned in Kenya; including 'Airport Duty Free' plastic bags, airport security plastic bags for liquids, shopping bags, storage bags, zip-lock plastic bags. The strict ban applies to everyone and it is mandatory that you leave any form of plastic bag/s at your country of origin.

NB TANZANIA PLASTIC BAG BAN – Tanzania has a ban on single-use plastic. Prohibited items include single-use plastic carrier bags, shopping bags/packing plastic carrier bags. Ziplock bags and storage compartment bags (e.g toiletries) will be permitted as they are expected to remain in possession of traveller. We do however suggest that you leave these items behind in your country of origin.

N.B: Acacia 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. Please note some areas visited are **malarial**. We recommend you speak to your doctor or travel clinic about appropriate anti-malarial tablets.



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Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
South Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R
Lesotho	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	-	*	-
Swaziland	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	*	R
Namibia	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R
Zambia	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	*	R
Malawi	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	C	R
Tanzania	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	C	R
Kenya	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	C	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. For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

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	Yes	No														
Swaziland	No	Yes	Yes														
Namibia	No	Yes	Yes														
Botswana	No	Yes															
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes									
Malawi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes									
Tanzania	Yes																
Kenya	Yes																

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 Acacia will not be able to assist where the correct visa is not obtained. Please contact Acacia should you be unsure and require any assistance with visa application letters in this regard.

Kenya E-VISA: Should you wish to have your visa before arrival, Kenya now offers the option to pre-apply for an e-visas online. This may take up to 7 days to process. Alternatively, qualifying passport holders can obtain an entry visa on arrival in Kenya. To check whether you qualify, please check with the Kenyan Embassy or Mission in your country of origin.

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia 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. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please refer to: <https://acacia-africa.com/travel-info> 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.



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Money Matters

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for Activities and Excursions, snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-20 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

Spending money is best carried as cash in US dollars (US Dollars in clean, un-torn, **post 2008** edition notes), Sterling or Euro which you then exchange into local currency on arrival and as you go. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.

Currencies are as follows: South Africa Rand. Swaziland – South African Rand is legal tender, Namibian Dollar (interchangeable with South Africa Rand), Botswana Pula, Zambian Kwacha, Malawi Kwacha, Tanzania – Tanzania Schilling; Kenya – Kenya Shilling

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

In order 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 US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change.

Activity	Price (USD) or (ZAR)	Activity	Price (USD) or (ZAR)
South Africa		Botswana	
Wine Tasting	\$10	Okavango Scenic Flight per 5-seater plane – 45 min flight time	From \$650
Namibia Orange River Canoe	\$40	Bushman Traditional Dancing	\$15
Kruger National Park		Elephant Sands Bush Walk	\$20
Kruger Night Game Drive	\$75		
Swaziland		Livingstone	
Mountain Bike Tour	From \$10	Vic Falls Bungee (single/tandem)	\$160
Sunset Game Drive	\$30	Mosi Oa Tunya National Park Game Walk	\$110
Guided Bird Walk	\$18	Chief Mukumi Village Tour	\$50
Umphakatsi Culture Experience	\$10	Gorge Swing	\$95
St Lucia		Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	From \$120
Isimangaliso Night Drive	\$40	Half Day Canoe Safari	\$110
Culture Tour	\$25	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$75
Cycle Tour	\$18	White-water Rafting – Full Day	\$160
Bird & Walking Tour	\$25	Helicopter/Microlight flight over the Falls	From \$185
Durban		Fishing – Half Day	\$145
City Tour	\$10	Bridge Tour	\$65
uShaka Marine		Full Day Abseil	\$190
Moses Mabhida Stadium Big Swing	\$60	South Luangwa National Park	
Drakensberg		Village Tour	\$35
Tugela Falls (Full Day Hike)	\$65	Walking Safari	\$60



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Malealea		Game Drives	From \$55
Pony Trek to Waterfalls and Bushman Paintings	\$45	Malawi	
Bushman Painting Pony Trek	\$35	Horse Riding	\$50
1 Hour Pony Trek Ride to Village	\$25	Village Walk	\$10
Hiking Trails with Guide	From \$3	Livingstonia Day Hike	\$10
Village School and Museum Hike (3 Hours)	\$5	Snorkelling Day Trips	From \$15
Mountain Biking (half day)	\$20	Fresh Water Scuba Dives	From \$45
Garden Route		Canoe Hire	From \$10
Bungee Jumping	\$85	Tanzania	
Bridge Walk	\$15	Mikumi Game Dive	\$150
½ Day tubing	\$50	Zanzibar	
Hermanus Whale Watching/Cruise	From \$80	Massages – on the beach	From \$20
Shark Cage Diving	From \$185	Yacht Trips (Snorkeling and sunset)	\$120
Namibia		Snorkelling Day Trip	\$40
Desert Excursion Walk	\$25	Zanzibar Food (per day)	\$30 - \$35
Sand Boarding – Stand Up	\$50	Spice Tour	\$35
Sand Boarding – Lay Down	\$40	Scuba Dive – local	\$130
Quad Biking	\$55	Slave Markets	\$10
Kayaking	\$60	Arabic Fort	\$5
Deep Sea Fishing	\$120	Palace Museum	\$10
Scenic Flights	\$360	Arusha	
Tandem Skydive	\$200	Camel Ride	\$5
		Arabic Fort	\$5

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.

Contact Us

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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.



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Join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travellers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour.

Upload your travel stories to Acacia Live: www.acacialive.com

Find us on Instagram #acaciaafrica and tag us in your amazing travel photographs!

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter! Or tag us at #AcaciasAfrica

Follow our blog at <http://acacia-africa.com/blog> and get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers.

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Camping & Accommodated Overland Tours, Small Group Safaris, Short Safaris & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, please visit www.acacia-africa.com