

6 DAY

KRUGER, SWAZILAND & WILD COAST (25KSWC6A)

Signature Tours & Safaris Dossier

Included Highlights

Pilgrim's Rest Gold Mining Town
Pinnacle Rock
Blyde River Canyon
God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes
Lisbon Falls
Balule Private Game Reserve, Game Drives
Kruger National Park, Game Drives
Ngwenya Glass Factory
Swazi Candles
Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park, Game Drives
St Lucia, Boat Cruise

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 and/or accommodation at short notice. Driving times are approximate and may vary due to bad weather, traffic, police check-points, road works or road conditions and do not include any stops en-route. **Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.**

Duration: 6 Days
Countries visited: South Africa, Swaziland

Day 1: Johannesburg, South Africa - Panoramic Route - Graskop

Distance travelled: +/- 450 km
Approx. driving time: Full day including activities

Depart Johannesburg and travel via Middleburg and Dullstroom, and the scenic Robber's Pass, to Pilgrim's Rest. This is a small museum town and a protected provincial heritage site. This town was declared a gold field in 1873, soon after digger Alec "Wheelbarrow" Patterson found gold in Pilgrim's Creek. The Valley proved to be rich in gold and by the end of the year, there were some 1500 diggers working in the area. We meander down the main road to soak up the rich history of the area. Continuing along the Panoramic route, we stop to admire the views before heading to our accommodation for the night.

Accommodation: Angels View Hotel (or similar) - Twin / Double share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Dinner

Wi-Fi: Yes (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 2: Graskop - Panoramic Route - Balule Private Game Reserve, Hoedspruit

Distance travelled: +/- 200 km
Approx. driving time: Full day including activities

We drive to the picturesque mountainous views of the Mpumalanga area visiting some wonderful sites: The Pinnacle, God's Window, Lisbon Falls, Bourke's Luck Potholes and the Blyde River Canyon – the largest green canyon in the world. We walk along the sheer cliffs to take in these breath-taking views. We then descend to the Lowveld via the Abel Erasmus Pass and Strijdom Tunnel to arrive at Mohlabetsi in the Balule Private Game Reserve, a part of the Greater Kruger National Park. After lunch we take an open safari game drive for an opportunity to encounter the 'Big 5' – elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo and leopard - and the Reserve's diverse range of wildlife.

Accommodation: Mohlabetsi Safari Lodge (or similar) - Twin / Double share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wi-Fi: Yes (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 3: Balule Private Game Reserve, Hoedspruit - Kruger National Park

Distance travelled: +/- 220 km
Approx. driving time: Full day including game drives in our enclosed vehicle

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This morning, we enjoy a game drive or if the weather permits, a nature walk to view on foot numerous antelope and other grazing species. We continue to the famed Kruger National Park. At 19,485 sq. km, this is one of the largest wildlife parks in the world. Wildlife is free to roam the whole enormous area, and it contains an enormously diverse range of fauna and flora. From the 'dwarf' mongoose to the 'Big Five', almost every major African mammal is present. There is also prolific birdlife and over 330 varieties of tree.

Accommodation: Skukuza Camp Bungalows (or similar) - Twin / Double share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Wi-Fi: No (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Kruger National Park Open Vehicle Game Drives (afternoon / evening)

Day 4: Kruger National Park - Mbabane, Eswatini

Distance travelled: +/- 250 km

Approx. driving time: Full day including game drives in our enclosed vehicle (border crossing)

Rising early, we set off for the day in Kruger. This impressive park is justifiably world renowned, and we trust will allow you to understand why it is held in such high esteem amongst wildlife lovers all over the world. Drawing ourselves away from Kruger, we travel into Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland), a land-locked country nestled between Mozambique and South Africa. Passing by Piggs Peak and driving through magnificent, lush mountain terrain we come to the Ngwenya Glass factory to witness first-hand the magical art of glassblowing. Browse around the well-stocked adjoining showroom and have the options to purchase a keepsake. We eventually arrive at Eswatini's capital, Mbabane and our accommodation for the evening.

Accommodation: Foresters Arms Hotel (or similar) - Twin / Double share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Wi-Fi: Yes (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Kruger National Park Open Vehicle Game Drive (early morning)

Day 5: Mbabane - Zululand, South Africa - Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park

Distance travelled: +/- 350 km

Approx. driving time: Full day including activities (border crossing)

Continuing after breakfast, we visit the Swazi Candles – beautifully hand decorated candles made with traditional paraffin wax, and organic soya candle tea lights. On site, visit the many other talented crafters, artists and artisans, and browse around the bustling market. Sample the 'Black Mamba' chilli sauce or stroll through Yebo Art Gallery. We then continue along the Ezulwini Valley towards Manzini, the country's industrial centre. We turn south towards Nhlanguano on a scenic route and exit Eswatini at the Onverwacht border post to re-enter South Africa. Passing through Zululand we travel south to Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park for a game drive in the Reserve. Home to over 40 different species of wildlife including rhino, elephant, leopard, buffalo, giraffe, cheetah and an array of birdlife.

Accommodation: Zulu Nyala Heritage Lodge (or similar) - Twin / Double share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Wi-Fi: Yes (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 6: Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park - St Lucia (iSimangaliso) - Durban (uMhlanga)

Distance travelled: +/- 345 km

Approx. driving time: Full day including activities

We spend an enjoyable morning with an open safari vehicle game driving in the private reserve. Moving on we travel to St Lucia, gateway to the iSimangaliso Wetland Park (proclaimed a World Heritage Site in 1999). We enjoy a cruise on the estuary to view the numerous bird species, including the African Fish Eagle and Goliath heron, together with hippo and crocodile which can be seen lying along the estuary's sandy banks. Leaving iSimangaliso we make our way through towering eucalyptus forests and sugar cane fields to southern Africa's largest commercial port, Durban, and nearby uMhlanga where our tour ends.

Accommodation: Nil

Meals Included: Breakfast

Wi-Fi: N/A (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Nil

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Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

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This tour is operated by a locally based (African) ground handler who has maintained standards at a high level over a period of time. We believe that working with a local operator in this way assists the community to benefit in a sustainable way from tourism. At the same time, it provides our clients with the extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm of the local staff and guides employed to ensure your safari is as enjoyable as it is memorable.

YOUR FELLOW

TRAVELLERS:

Group Size: Maximum 8

Group Age: 8+

Signature Tours & Safaris' travellers come from all over the world and from all walks of life.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, meals as indicated, services of an English-speaking driver tour leader.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED: Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, optional activities, laundry, gratuities, passport & visa fees, items of a personal nature.

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.

ACCOMMODATION:

Twin / double share accommodation with en-suite facilities as indicated. We mainly use accommodation situated in comfortable and picturesque locations with a pool, restaurant, and bar.

Wi-Fi ON TOUR:

While Wi-Fi is becoming more common in some areas of Africa, we cannot guarantee the availability, coverage, speed, cost, or reliability during your tour.

TRANSPORT:

8-seater microbus / 3-seater sedan.

Tour Preparation

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent the booking documents and a pre-departure booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Johannesburg (JNB), nearby Pretoria, and Durban (DUR) 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

Meeting point in **Johannesburg/Pretoria:** Pick up from your hotel in Johannesburg/Pretoria
(If we have not reserved your accommodation in Pretoria or Johannesburg for you please remember to tell us where you are staying the night before departure!)

Tour start time: 9:00am

Tour end point in **Durban/Umhlanga:** Drop off at your hotel in Durban

Tour end time: Late afternoon on Day 6

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Johannesburg/Pretoria early on Day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive at least the day before departure to overcome any jetlag and to 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 this part of Africa. Accommodation is usually available locally on arrival, but you can pre-book this with Acacia or your agent.

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.

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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 to charge electronic devices.

VACCINATIONS / HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure. Please be aware that some of the areas visited on this tour are **malarial**. We strongly recommend you seek professional medical advice for the appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
South Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R
Eswatini	R	R	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. Alternatively, contact Acacia for any queries or advice regarding vaccination requirements.

COVID-19: International requirements are constantly changing; please contact Acacia for the latest information as it relates to your tour.

VISA AND ENTRY 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.

NB: Please ensure you check the tour itinerary to determine whether you require a Multiple or Single-Entry visa for the relevant country prior to applying for your visas.

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

SOUTH AFRICA

Certain nationalities requiring a visa are required to apply for a visa in advance of arrival.

Travelling with children: Please note that South Africa Immigration requires for all children under the age of 18 to travel with an unabridged birth certificate to enter this country. Specific requirements apply if the minor is not travelling with both parents listed on the certificate. Please see <https://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/types-of-visas> for more information.

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.

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, Eswatini - South African Rand is legal tender

ATM machines are found throughout South Africa

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

We recommend you bring your spending money in several different ways (some cash and some cards); your guide can best advise on what to use where.

TIPPING

This is always a matter for your own individual discretion but as in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your tour leader / driver, at the end of a tour if services rendered have been to your satisfaction.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

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 (All prices subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (ZAR)
SOUTH AFRICA	
Kruger National Park	
Kruger National Park Open Vehicle Game Drives	From R850

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 lodges 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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QUALITY & PROTECTION

As a member of ABTA (W4093), we are fully bonded for your financial protection and adhere to the highest standards set by the organisation for quality and service.

Get Connected

FACEBOOK:	Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and connect with other Acacia travellers and people booked on your tour. Tag us in your amazing travel posts / stories to be featured.
INSTAGRAM:	Find us on Instagram @acaciaafrica and tag us in your amazing travel posts / stories to be featured.
BLOG:	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.
NEWSLETTER:	Sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Adventure Camping and Accommodated Tours, Small Group Safaris, Signature Tours & Safaris, Short Safaris & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays and our Tailor-Made Travel, please visit www.acacia-africa.com