

Included Highlights

Panorama Route

2 days, Kruger NP, Game Drives*

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

Royal Enclosure/ Swaziland Village

St Lucia Boat Cruise*

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

Intended Itinerary

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

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 Travel Talk for more information.

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

Duration: 7 Days

Countries visited: South Africa and Swaziland

Day 1:

Pretoria – Greater Kruger Park, South Africa

Distance travelled: +/- 380 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 of the Panorama Route. 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 - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 2:

Full Day Kruger National Park

Approx driving time: Full day with game drives

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 may be 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 - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Kruger Night Game Drive R850

Day 3:

Full Day Kruger National Park

Approx driving time: Full day with game drives

After breakfast, we re-enter the Park for our second day's game driving to seek out the wildlife we have yet to spot. 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 accommodation during the late afternoon.

Accommodation: *Numbi Hotel or similar - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Kruger Night Game Drive R850*

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 Milwane 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 - Twin share accommodation 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. 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 we recommend you participate in some of the many activities offered in the sanctuary such as horseback trails, game drives, mountain bike riding, and guided walks or just enjoy some rejuvenating time-out sun tanning around the cool swimming pool with a good book. 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 - Twin share accommodation with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Mountain Biking Tour R190, Horse Riding from R290, Sunset Game Drive R370, Guided Bird Tour R250, Guided Walk R140*

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 the 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 accommodation/tent with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Mountain Biking Tour R190, Horse Riding from R290, Sunset Game Drive R370, Guided Bird Tour R250, Guided Walk R140*

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 where our tour ends on arrival.

Meals included: Breakfast

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Accommodation: Nil

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Adventure Accommodated Tour

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

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

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

All tour highlights, twin share accommodation, fully equipped safari vehicles, cooking equipment, service of two crew, all road and vehicle taxes, all ground transportation, meals as indicated.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

Adventure Pass activities, visas, travel insurance, flight departure taxes, airport transfers, optional activities, tips, drinks and items of personal nature.

ADVENTURE PASS:

Every adventure accommodated tour has an Adventure Pass which is paid to your tour leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour (or pre-paid by arrangement prior to your tour). This is separate and in addition to the Tour Price, which is paid before travel, and 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.

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS:

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

EXTENDING YOUR TOUR:

This tour can be extended to travel to Cape Town. Ask your agent for more information.

ACCOMMODATION:

Twin share accommodation with facilities (6 nights) some camps may have a bar or swimming pool. In most cases rooms are en suite but from time to time some rooms may be shared facilities where en suite is indicated.

TRANSPORT:

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

GAME PARK VISITS:

In order to maximise the quality of game 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 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

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 Durban on day 7**

Tour start point in **Pretoria:**

Address: Court Classique Suite Hotel
743 Francis Baard Street
Pretoria, 0007

Contact details: Tel. +27 (0) 12 344 4420
E-mail: reservations@courtclassique.co.za

Tour start time: 07:00 on Day 1

Tour end point in **Durban:**

Road Lodge Umhlanga Ridge
Cnr Medigate Road & Hospital Road,
Umhlanga, 4056

Contact Details: Tel: +27 (0)3131580 200
rlymhlanga.dm@clhg.com

Tour end time: Late afternoon on Day 7

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 Durban and the surrounding area.

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

| Description | Price (USD) | Description | Price (USD) |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| Pretoria – Court Classique Suite Hotel | | Durban – Road Lodge, Umhlanga | |
| Pre tour accommodation – twin pp/pn | \$ 60 | Post tour accommodation – Twin/ double pp/pn | \$ 60 |
| Pre tour accommodation – single pp/pn | \$ 90 | Post tour accommodation – Single pp/pn | \$ 115 |
| PPPN = Per person, per night | | PPPN = Per person, per night | |

ADVENTURE PASS

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Day 3 Kruger National Park Game Drive | √ |
| St Lucia Boat Cruise | √ |

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.

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.

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

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 Travel Talk 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 |
| Swaziland | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | 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 Travel Talk will not be able to assist where the correct visa is not obtained. Please contact Travel Tal should you be unsure and require any assistance with visa application letters in this regard.

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Travel Talk that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please refer to: www.traveltalktours.com/terms-and-conditions/ for more details.

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

Money Matters

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for 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\$15-30 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 – South African Rand, Swaziland, South African Rand is legal tender

ATM machines are found in Kampala. Please note they are sometimes unreliable (and therefore should not be relied upon).

Credit cards can be used to pay for optional activities although charges may be may be high by western standards (+/- 5%).

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 and 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 (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change and availability).

| Activity | Price (ZAR) | Activity | Price (ZAR) |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Kruger National Park | | St Lucia | |
| Kruger Night Game Drive | R 850 | Isimangaliso Night Drive | R 520 |
| Swaziland | | Culture Tour | R 350 |
| Mountain Bike Tour | From R190 | Cycle Tour | R 230 |
| Sunset Game Drive | R370 | Bird & Walking Tour | R 300 |
| Guided Bird Walk | R250 | | |
| Horse Riding | From R290 | | |

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 and accommodation 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.