



## South African Explorer 13days



### Departures from November 2016 – 31 October 2017

Enjoy game viewing in five different areas, stay at three private lodges and see Africa's "Big Five". Spot unique wildlife at a World Heritage Site, interact with ostriches, go on an ocean safari, enjoy a sunset oyster cruise on the Knysna estuary and walk through the Tsitsikamma Forest.

Departure Days: 2016-2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						

- Departure time:** Sundays by arrangement from OR Tambo International Airport
- Guiding:** Bilingual English/German speaking
- Participants:** 2 – 14 per vehicle (some excursions with a larger vehicle and more pax)
- Accommodation:** 3/4 star hotels and game lodges
- Vehicles:** Luxury sedan, minibus or coach
- Meals:** 12 x breakfast, 4 dinners



**Entrance fees:** Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, God's Window, conservation fee into Kruger National Park, Conservation fee for Garden Route National Park (Storms River), sunset Cango Caves, ostrich farm visit

**Transfers:** All airport transfers (within 2 days before or after the tour)

**Optional:** Night game excursion in the St. Lucia iSimangaliso Wetland Park

### TRAVEL ITINERARY



#### DAY 1: SUNDAY – ARRIVAL IN JOHANNESBURG (+/- 30 km)

On arrival at the airport, guest will be collected and transferred to the hotel. After lunch (own account) embark on a guided afternoon city tour of Johannesburg. Share in the history of Johannesburg - the city of gold. Explore South Africa's heritage, experience the street life of Newtown and take a trip to the Carlton Centre and Constitution Hill.

**Protea Hotel Balalaika or similar – bed and breakfast**



**DAY 2: MONDAY – JOHANNESBURG TO HOEDSPRUIT VIA DULLSTROOM (+/- 470 km)**

This morning you will be collected from your Johannesburg hotel and leaving the city behind you head East, via Dullstroom, to Limpopo Province.

Stop for lunch (own account) en-route and arrive at Moditlo River Lodge set within the Blue Canyon Conservancy. Let the bushveld captivate you on a guided open vehicle game drive, view the Big-5 and other distinctive species like the giraffe, zebra and the endangered cheetah.

Return to the lodge and savour the luxurious yet rustic settings with pre-dinner drinks (own account) before tucking into a dinner of delicious local fare.

**Moditlo River Lodge or similar – dinner, bed and breakfast including two game viewing activities**

**DAY 3: TUESDAY – HOEDSPRUIT TO SABIE VIA PANORAMA ROUTE (+/- 145 km)**

An early start sees you catching the bushveld as it comes alive while on a guided open vehicle game drive. Enjoy coffee and rusks in the bush before breakfast back at the lodge. After breakfast head to one of Mpumalanga's most magnificent attractions, the Blyde River Canyon, on the Panorama Route. The Blyde River Canyon may be one of the largest green canyons in the world with its lush subtropical vegetation. The Panorama Route offers memorable views and unusual natural phenomenon's, like The Three Rondawels, Pinnacle Rock and Bourke's Luck Potholes. Lunch (own account) will be enjoyed along this scenic route. Venture onto the small town of Sabie in the Drakensberg escarpment for the evening. Check in and freshen up for dinner.

**Lone Creek River Lodge or similar – dinner, bed and breakfast**

**DAY 4: WEDNESDAY – SABIE TO MTHETHOMUSHA GAME RESERVE VIA KRUGER PARK (+/- 170 km)**

An early departure will see you leave the mountainous town of Sabie and drive, via Hazyview, onto Mpumalanga's flagship attraction, the Kruger National Park. The Kruger National Park forms part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

This peace park links the Kruger with Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, and with the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique and is 20 000 square kilometres in size, roughly the size of the Netherlands.

A closed vehicle game drive will give you the opportunity to take in the park's vastness and seek out the "Big 5" and other endangered and indigenous animals and plants. Amongst the park's diverse offerings are: 147 mammals, 507 birds, 114 reptiles and 1 982 plants species with several historical and ancient archaeological sites. Enjoy lunch in the park (own account).

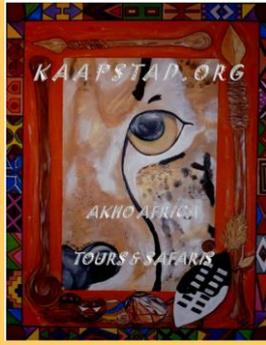
Exit the park at Malelane Gate and onto your lodge on the Mthethomusha Game Reserve. Enjoy an open vehicle game drive followed by dinner.

**Bongani Mountain Lodge or similar – dinner, bed and breakfast including one game activity**

**DAY 5: THURSDAY – MTHETHOMUSHA GAME RESERVE TO ST LUCIA VIA SWAZILAND (+/- 445 km)**

After an early breakfast you will travel to St Lucia via the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Swaziland, one of only two kingdoms in Southern Africa, is also the smallest country in Africa. This landlocked kingdom is named after the 19th century King Mswati II and is today still steeped in ancient cultural traditions. Enjoy lunch (own account) en route.



Exit Swaziland at the Lavumisa Border post and enter the sub-tropical Elephant Coast, the Zulu Kingdom of KwaZulu-Natal. An area naturally gifted with towering mountains, the blissfully warm Indian Ocean, lush tropical vegetation and a myriad of different animal species. In the late afternoon you will arrive at your hotel.

You will have an opportunity to freshen up before relaxing with pre-dinner drinks and dinner (both for own account) at the restaurant.

Optional night game activity available (own account).

**Elephant Lake Hotel or similar – bed and breakfast including one game activity**

*NOTE: When entering the Kingdom of Swaziland, please ensure that you are in possession of a valid passport, and for nationals of certain countries, multi-entry visa entry and conditions will apply.*

**DAY 6: FRIDAY – ST LUCIA – DURBAN (+/- 300 km)**

Awake in this little piece of paradise, ready to discover South Africa's first World Heritage Site, iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park was listed as South Africa's first World Heritage Site in December 1999.

The 332 000ha Park contains 3 major lake systems, eight interlinking ecosystems, 700 year old fishing traditions, most of South Africa's remaining swamp forests, Africa's largest estuarine system, 526 bird species and 25 000 year-old coastal dunes - amongst the highest in the world and home to the biggest hippo and crocodile populations in the world

The name iSimangaliso means miracle and wonder, which aptly describes this unique place.

Before breakfast, embark on an open safari vehicle, where you will be guided on a game drive through iSimangaliso. Observe hippopotamus, crocodiles, and an abundance of birds on an eco-friendly boat cruise on the Estuary. Enjoy a revitalising lunch (own account) while taking pleasure in the lovely lake views before departing for the city of Durban. Dinner (own account).

**Protea Hotel Edward or similar - bed and breakfast**

**DAY 7: SATURDAY – DURBAN – PORT ELIZABETH (flight own account)**

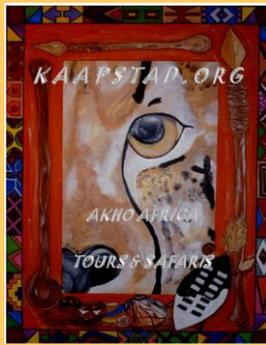
This morning enjoy a breakfast at your beachfront hotel followed by a morning at leisure. Take a walk along the promenade or perhaps catch a ride on one of the colourful Zulu rickshaws to the beachfront market (own account). You will be collected from your hotel for your transfer to King Shaka International Airport for your flight to Port Elizabeth. (Flight not included). In Port Elizabeth you will be collected from Port Elizabeth International Airport and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy dinner (own account) at your hotel or restaurant of your choice.

**Protea Hotel Marine or similar - bed and breakfast**

**DAY 8: SUNDAY – PORT ELIZABETH – KNYSNA VIA TSITSIKAMMA FOREST (+/- 265 km)**

This morning you will be collected from your hotel by our tourist guide and head south towards Knysna via Storm's River and the beautiful Tsitsikamma Forest. Our first stop brings us to Storms River. Take in the dramatic views on the suspension bridge of the Storms River mouth where you can view the river meeting the Indian Ocean.

Enjoy lunch (own account) in the Tsitsikamma Forest area. A short journey further south brings us to the small beautiful town of Knysna.



We arrive and check in before embarking on a sunset Knysna Oyster Cruise (weather permitting). This is an informative and interactive cruise that introduces you and your taste buds to the wild Knysna oyster while enjoying a drink in the natural surrounding beauty. Optional dinner (own account) at a restaurant next to the Estuary.

**Protea Hotel Knysna Quays or similar – bed and breakfast**

**DAY 9: MONDAY – KNYSNA – PLETTENBERG BAY – KNYSNA (+/-60 km)**

After breakfast we make our way to Plettenberg Bay or Plett as its known by the locals. From Lookout Beach you will be taken on an Ocean Safari (weather permitting), dedicated to observation and conservation and allows for extensive and memorable whale, dolphin and seal watching.

Enjoy a relaxing lunch (own account). In the afternoon we take a guided tour of the Qolweni Township, school and crèche. Guests are welcome to donate pencils, books and other stationary.

Take the scenic drive back to your Knysna hotel and enjoy some time at leisure. In the early evening we make our way to the Knysna Waterfront for a leisurely dinner (own account) at one of the many restaurants on offer.

**Protea Hotel Knysna Quays or similar – bed and breakfast**

**DAY 10: TUESDAY – KNYSNA – OUDTSHOORN VIA WILDERNESS (+/-125 km)**

Depart after breakfast and begin today's journey to Oudtshoorn, in the Klein Karoo, via Wilderness and the Outeniqua Pass.

Your first scenic stop is in Wilderness. Enjoy the photo opportunities and unspoilt views at the 'Map of Africa' lookout point (weather permitting) before you continue your journey via the Outeniqua Pass.

Enjoy lunch (own account) on an ostrich farm in the Cango Valley, on the outskirts of Oudtshoorn, before taking a tour of the farm. Learn about these birds, their industry and then dare to ride the world's biggest bird species. Following the ostrich farm tour, you will then drive to your lodge where an optional afternoon game drive will be available (own account) before dinner.

**Survall Boutique Olive Estate or similar – dinner, bed and breakfast**

**DAY 11: WEDNESDAY – OUDTSHOORN – CAPE TOWN VIA ROUTE 62 (+/-420 km)**

Today our trip takes us from Oudtshoorn to Cape Town via the Cango Caves and the iconic Route 62. After breakfast you will have the rare opportunity to experience an elephant interaction and feeding with the African elephants that were raised at Bufflesdrift Game Lodge. Leaving these gentle giants we make our way to the Cango Caves, a 20 million year old natural treasure at the foothills of the Swartberg Mountains.

Departing this world wonder, we travel along the much beloved and picturesque Route 62. With its ever changing landscapes, this route will escort you from tranquil winelands to dramatic mountain vistas and the unique beauty of the semi-arid Klein Karoo.

Enjoy traditional Mampoer tasting (included) and lunch (own account) en route. We continue our scenic journey onto the majestically beautiful Cape Town and arrive at your city hotel. This evening's dinner (own account) can be enjoyed out at the hotel.

**Protea Hotel Fire & Ice! Cape Town or similar – bed and breakfast**



### **DAY 12: THURSDAY – CAPE POINT FULL DAY TOUR**

Cape Town offers a wide range of activities and attractions from platinum beaches, a World Heritage Site Table Mountain, inviting night life, extensive shopping venues as well as art and cultural events. After breakfast, join a guided full day Cape Point tour. Travel along the Atlantic seaboard to Cape Point via Chapman's Peak and Cape Peninsula.

Visit the Cape Point Nature Reserve; Boulders Penguin Colony (own account) where you can see the Cape Fur Seal Colony and rare African Penguins. The tour ends at the world-renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

Freshen up before dinning out in one of the many restaurants in the city (own account).

**Protea Hotel Fire & Ice! Cape Town or similar – bed and breakfast**

### **DAY 13: FRIDAY – DAY OF DEPARTURE**

On your final day, enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel before spending the day at leisure. Your transfer to Cape Town International (included) sees the end of the tour.

### **END OF THE JOURNEY**

The tour price is quoted in ZAR and/or USD and is based on the cost (including hotel accommodation and other services as detailed above, to be provided by Kaapstad.org) at rates of exchange prevailing as at the date of the quotation.

Should there be any increase, between the acceptance date and the departure date, in the cost to Kaapstad.org for providing the Services as a result of increases in costs or any other reason over which Kaapstad.org has no control, Kaapstad.org will be entitled to increase the tour price proportionately. The client shall be obliged to pay the amount of the increase to Kaapstad.org prior to the departure date, failing which Kaapstad.org shall be entitled to cancel the contract, and retain deposits paid.

Upon acceptance of our quotation, reservations will be made. A deposit of 20% of the amount quoted will be required immediately upon confirmation. The balance of payment, as per the amount stated on the confirmation advice once reservations are made, is due no later than 4 weeks prior to your clients' arrival.

#### **PAYMENT CONDITIONS**

Kaapstad.org/Akho Africa Tours & Safaris accepts no responsibility for the progress of the confirmed services in the case of non-compliance to the following conditions of payment.

20%	15 Days from Booking
100%	30 Days before 1st Service

#### **GENERAL CONDITIONS / GENERAL SALES CONDITIONS SOUTH AFRICA**

- Quotation established subject to availability of hotels (and flights when applicable) after your confirmation.
- Standard practice: Check In from 14:00; Check Out before 11:00
- Private Game Reserves: Check In before lunch; Check Out after breakfast. IMPORTANT: Fully Inclusive packages include 3 meals per day. Our programs systematically indicate the meal basis. In practice, Lunch may be replaced by a High Tea and Breakfast by Brunch, depending on the Private Game Reserve and the season, according to what meal best complements the timing of the morning and afternoon game drives.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

That with immediate effect, anyone travelling to South Africa must have two consecutive blank pages in their passport, which lie side by side when the passport is open (i.e. left and a right hand page). Passports must also be valid for at least six months. Passengers travelling to South Africa with passports, which do not comply with these requirements, will either be stopped from boarding the aircraft or risk deportation on arrival in South Africa. In addition, a parent travelling with children, WITHOUT the other parent, will need a letter of consent from the absent parent. The police must certify the letter of consent.

#### **PAYMENT CONDITIONS**

There is no cancellation fee 30 days prior to arrival (except the relevant banking fees for full refund) for Walkersons  
There is no cancellation fee 45 days prior to arrival for Ulusaba.

#### **OUR RATES**

- Taxes are included (currently at 14%)
- Our rates do not include personal extras and expenses, gratuities, or insurance for repatriation assistance, luggage or cancellation.
- Ground transport according to program
- Services according to the program
- Guide English or German speaking
- Excluding flights, visas, travel insurance, hotel portorage, gratuities, drinks and meals not mentioned



-All overland tours are subject to a minimum of 2 passengers on all departures. If booked more than 30 days prior to the tour departure, the tour will be guaranteed irrespective of the amount of people with a minimum of 2.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

- 46 days or more prior to travel date 10%
- 45 – 36 days prior to travel date 15%
- 35-16 days prior to travel date 25%
- 15 days prior to travel date: 100%
- 100% cancellation fee applies for no-shows

Cost is based on a minimum of 2 paying guests travelling. A reduction in guests would result in a re-cost of the itinerary.