

South Africa Family Safari (Guided)



Overview

This trip of a trip of a lifetime gives a family opportunity to see the Big Five in their natural habitat, an insight into the Zulu tribal culture, provides a range of activity options and a mixture of luxury and authenticity in accommodation. Our expert guide will provide lively information along the way on local customs, flora and fauna and wildlife.

Trip Highlights

- Game viewing in Hluhluwe/Imfolozi Game Reserve, with expert guide
- Swim with wild dolphins in Mozambique
- Visit a Zulu village and witness modern day Zulu life
- Take a hippo cruise at sunset
- Evening sundowners around a traditional braai

DAY 1:

Fly from London to Johannesburg (overnight)

DAY 2:

Fly from Johannesburg to Richards Bay and transfer to St Lucia, where you will spend the next three nights. The village is uniquely situated in a World Heritage Site, an area renowned for its outstanding natural beauty and diversity in eco systems. The area offers a wide range of activities, including snorkelling and whale watching in the Indian Ocean, golf, horse riding and hiking trails through the bush. We stay at an upmarket, small and friendly B&B. This evening, we will eat at a restaurant overlooking the Estuary where hippos and crocs may be spotted. (Drive time today approx 1.5 hours).

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included.

DAYS 3 & 4:

The next two days are free and the following activities are on offer;

Whale Watching (Available July - November) or Marine Mammal Experience (rest of year). The trip lasts 2-3 hours in season, guests can see Humpback whales as they migrate north to give birth. Tour Cost: Approx R600pp.

Hiking trails through the wetlands park and along the rocky shores (opportunity to see turtles, dolphins and whales in season). Lunch will be a picnic or braai. You will be accompanied by an armed ranger as buffalo and various game species are often sighted. Cost: R300pp (min 2 people)

Horse Riding along the beach or through the bush. Cost: 1 hour R170pp; 2 hours R280-340pp

Golf: 9 hole course available 15 minutes drive away. No handicap required. Cost: R200 including club hire, cart & caddie.

Hippo and Crocodile estuary cruise: this 2 hour sunset cruise is recommended.

Deep Sea Fishing: trips begin early in the morning and last approx



6 hours. Depth of fishing will dictate species but may include Marlin, Grunter, Rockcod, Tuna, Kob, Dorado, and King and Queen Mackerel. Cost: R550pp.

Night Drive: an opportunity to see wildlife activity at night: sightings may include buffalo, hippo, chameleons, bush babies, jackals, hyena and leopard.

Local Village Tour: 15 minutes from St Lucia is the contemporary Khula Village. Your guide for the day is a resident of the village and he will give you an overview of modern Zulu life before taking you to see a local school and church. You can try the local Zulu beer and visit a traditional Zulu Sangoma (witch doctor). Cost: R180pp

Astronomy Evenings: a wonderful evening with telescopic view at the stars and planets: on a clear evening, it's possible to see Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Saturn and the craters in the moon.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and Dinner included at our B&B.

DAY 5:

This morning you head into the Hluhluwe/Imfolozi Game Reserve, the oldest game reserve in Africa. The reserve is renowned as a sanctuary for rhinoceros and has the largest concentration of White Rhino in Africa. It is well populated with wildlife, including lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant and giraffe, and your guide's game-spotting skills and knowledge will provide an informative experience.

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Lunch will be at a spectacular view point overlooking the Hluhluwe River before continuing on through the park to your Bush Lodge. You can opt to take a walk in the bush led by a ranger before returning for dinner cooked by the resident chef. The evening can then be spent relaxing in the living room area with the nocturnal sounds providing an intimate and unique encounter with the African bush.

Accommodation is in a luxury bush lodge reserved for your exclusive use, giving you the opportunity of a real bush experience without losing any comfort. Dinner will be prepared by a resident chef, and afterwards you may choose to sit under the stars around the boma (outdoor fire area).

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

DAY6:

There is an opportunity for an early morning game drive or walk, before returning to the Lodge for breakfast. The route for game drives is kept flexible according to where sightings are reported. After breakfasting you will leave the lodge, continuing your drive through the park before continuing north to Tembe Elephant Reserve. There is an opportunity to stop en route for lunch at Ilala Weavers, a local co-operative where Zulu baskets, lamps and various crafts and artefacts can be seen being crafted with an option to buy gifts and souvenirs directly from the source. After settling into your luxury permanent tented camp at Tembe, you can take a late afternoon game drive. (Drive time 3 hours)

After dinner tonight, you can relax around the fire in the boma (a BBQ area usually with a fire) with a glass of the local Amarula!

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included.

DAYS 7-10:

It's worth an early start for a final game drive through Tembe Park. This area is dominated by sand forest and wetlands and is home to some of Africa's largest elephants.

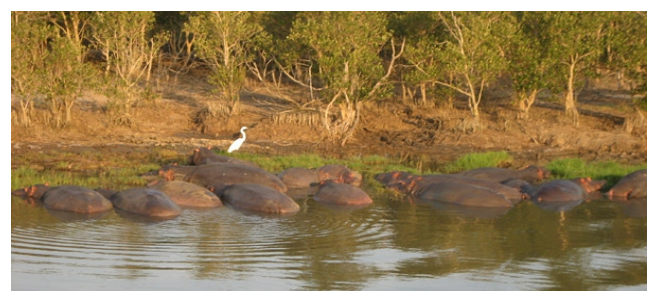
After brunch, drive to Southern Mozambique via the Kosi Bay Border Post. The beach is unspoilt and the sea turquoise, so perfect for relaxation and swimming in the sheltered waters. The drive into Mozambique is on sand roads: this is a real adventure: kids often run alongside the vehicles, fruit sellers dot the sides of the road and the maze of sand tracks with little signage over the dunes is astonishing! The journey from the border to Ponta Mamoli will take approx 1.5 hours and from Tembe to the border

approximately 20 minutes.

Your accommodation here is situated directly on the beach, and has a pool, open air restaurant and bar which is ideal for watching sunsets with a cocktail! As well as relaxing on the beach or by the pool, the lodge has a PADI diving centre, (diving certificate required, cost per dive R275; equipment hire R225), offering diving and snorkelling trips (snorkel & dolphin trip R195: the coral and colourful fish here are reckoned to be world class). They also offer horse riding on the beach (R180 per hour) and game drives into the coastal forest and dunes.

There is also an opportunity to take a trip to search for and possibly swim with wild dolphins (Cost R290, including wetsuit hire. Please note this trip is subject to local weather conditions and dolphin sightings is not guaranteed). Through a snorkel mask, you can see these mammals circling and interacting with each other, but of course from the side of a boat they are equally fun to watch jumping out of the water alongside the boat. The excursion is run by a research project, and the welfare of the mammals is uppermost in organisers' minds. You may also spot the gentle but gigantic whale shark, turtles and whales. (This trip operates in the early morning: you can choose which morning you would like to take the trip). Drive time from Ponta Mamoli to Ponta da Ouro, where the dolphin swim take place, is approximately 45 minutes.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner included.



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DAY 11:

You leave early and head back into South Africa, to Kosi Bay, (approx 2 hours drive). After checking into your luxury Lodge accommodation, there is a choice of activities, including taking a guided canoe trip on the lakes and a walk in the Raffia Forest ... or simply relaxing by the pool.

The canoe trip on the Kosi Lakes is recommended: guests get the opportunity to canoe along the Sihadla channel and admire the magnificent Raffia Palms. The bird life while canoeing is very rewarding. Canoeing is always accompanied by a guide and is included in your stay. No experience is required.

The guided walks through the magnificent Raffia Palm Forest are undertaken in the early morning or late afternoon. Guests can listen out for the abundant birdcalls and perhaps catch a glimpse of the rare palm-nut vulture in the canopy. The raffia palm is the largest palm in the world. This activity is included in your stay.

Basis: Breakfast & Dinner included

DAY 12 Kosi Bay - Cape Town

After breakfast, you leave Kosi Bay for the final drive to Durban airport and connection to Cape Town. (Drive time 6-7 hours including bathroom stops). This is the end of the guided part of your trip.

On arrival at Cape Town, you transfer to your hotel

DAYS 12-15 Cape Town

Cape Town is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city offering outdoor activities, a lively music scene and a host of trendy bars and restaurants. Contrasts abound in this city, with beaches, vineyards, and of course Table Mountain within easy reach, and of course the stark differences between the townships and beachside mansions provide a constant reminder of this nation's tumultuous history.

To do: Table Mountain, Robben Island, V&A Waterfront, District Six Museum, Robben Island, Botanical Gardens, drive the Peninsula Circuit including a drive along Chapman's Peak Drive a spectacular road which follows the coast down the Peninsula.

Accommodation: Bed and Breakfast

DAY 16

Transfer back to Cape Town airport for your overnight flight to London

DAY 17

Return to UK

For departures dates and costs, please see nativescapes.com

General Information

Visas

Visas are NOT required by UK citizens for South Africa. (Note that all nationalities travelling to South Africa must have 2 consecutive blank pages in their passport which lie side by side when the passport is open. Passports must also be valid for at least six months from the date of entry to South Africa. Passengers travelling to South Africa with passports that do not comply with these requirements could be refused entry.

The Visa for Mozambique can be bought at the Kosi Bay Border for R160

Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.

Health

The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps,



rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B.

Hepatitis A, malaria and typhoid are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for travel in South Africa. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up to date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. Guests on group departures must take their policy documents with them on the trip as the guide will ask to see this at the start. The documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for the period of travel. The policy document must also indicate that medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover is included and a 24 hour contact telephone number for the insurance company must be shown on the documentation in case of emergency. Guests unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip will be asked to purchase a policy prior to joining the trip.

Electricity supply

220v, 3pin South African plug. Adaptors are required to charge cameras, etc.

Money

Currency is the South African Rand. There will be ATM's en route for guests to withdraw money.

What to bring

Binoculars, torch, walking shoes, swimming gear, plenty of high factor sunscreen, sunhat, insect repellent, camera, a day pack. Warm clothing is recommended for evenings, and a waterproof jacket. Lightweight clothing is recommended for the day. Avoid brightly coloured clothing for game viewing.

Tipping

It is normal to tip for good service in bars and restaurants in South Africa. Guests may also consider tipping their guide at their discretion.

