

Wildlife, Tribes and Dolphins



Overview

This trip of a trip of a lifetime gives an 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 we 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.

DAY 3:

Today is a free day, with the following activities 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. We 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 4:

This morning guests have an option to take a drive through the Greater St Lucia Wetlands Park - a World Heritage Site encompassing five major ecosystems and an abundance of wildlife. The drive includes a visit to Cape Vidal where guests can snorkel (tide dependent) in the Indian Ocean, take a walk along the endless beaches, or venture up into the dune forests to our whale and dolphin viewing platform.

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platform. We organise a traditional beach braai for lunch, after which guests can join in a game of volleyball or relax on the beach. Alternatively, guests may choose from the optional activities listed above or simply to relax in St Lucia.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast & Lunch included (for Cape Vidal option). Tonight, guests can eat at a local restaurant in the village.

DAY 5:

This morning we 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 our guide's game-spotting skills and knowledge will provide an informative experience.

We will stop for lunch at a spectacular view point overlooking the Hluhluwe River before continuing on through the park to our Bush Lodge. Guests 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.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

DAY 6:

We take an early morning game drive or walk, before returning to the Lodge for breakfast. We keep our route flexible according to where sightings are reported. After breakfasting we will leave the lodge, continuing our drive through the park before continuing north to Tembe Elephant Reserve passing through the town of Hluhluwe where we will visit Ilala Weavers. Here guests will be able to see Zulu baskets, lamps and various crafts and artefacts being crafted, and buy gifts and souvenirs directly from the source. After settling into our luxury permanent tented camp within a game reserve, we take a late afternoon game drive. (Total drive time approx 3 hours).

After dinner tonight, guests 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.

DAY 7:

We surface early for a safari through Tembe Park. This area is dominated by sand forest and wetlands and is home to some of Africa's largest elephants.

After brunch, we drive to Southern Mozambique via the Kosi Bay Border Post (30 minute drive). Activity options here include scuba diving (diving certificate required), fishing or snorkelling or relaxing: the beach here is beautiful and ideal for relaxing and swimming in the sheltered waters.

Later this afternoon, we can visit a local market to purchase local handicrafts before returning to a beachside restaurant for a typical Mozambican dinner.

Meal Arrangements: Brunch and Dinner included

DAY 8:

This morning guests can opt for an early start to search for and possibly swim with wild dolphins. We may also spot the gentle but gigantic whale shark, turtles and whales. For those not wishing to take this trip, the other activities or the beach beckons. The rest of the day is given to relaxation or optional activities.

Dolphin Swimming: R250

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and dinner included.

DAY 9:

This morning, we drive back into South Africa, to Kosi Bay, (approx 2 hours drive). After checking into our luxury Lodge accommodation, guests have a



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choice of activities, including kayaking, taking a river cruise, walking through the Raffia Forest or relaxing by the pool. From Nov-Mar, guests can take a night walk along the beach to watch turtles heave themselves up the beach to lay their eggs or watch new hatchlings racing for their lives towards the ocean.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast included.

DAY 10:

For those wishing to extend this trip with the Wildlife, Battlefields and Mountains trip, please see separate itinerary. For those wishing to end their trip today, we return to St Lucia / Richard's Bay airport in time for the South African Airways flight to Johannesburg and your return flight to the UK.

DAY 11:

Arrive UK

For departures dates and costs, please see nativescapes.com

Joining the Tour (ground arrangements only)

Trip begins Friday (day 1) in Richards Bay (customers will be met at Richards Bay airport if they follow the flight instructions below)

Trip ends Saturday (day 9) in Richards Bay (customers will be transferred to Richards Bay airport for their onward flight). For customers wishing to book the 'Wildlife, Battlefields & Mountains' extension, the trip will continue on from Kosi Bay.

We advise customers to book flights via Johannesburg to Richards Bay. Please note that flights from London to Johannesburg tend to operate overnight: **customers wishing to join this trip must book to fly on the Thursday evening, arriving in Johannesburg for their connecting flight to Richards Bay on day 1, Friday morning. Customers wishing to return to the UK directly after this trip ends should book their return flight from Johannesburg on the Saturday, 8 days later.**

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.

