TRIP ITINERARY  

Safari and Beach (Families)  
South Africa & Mauritius

A Safari and Beach itinerary provides the perfect variety for a combination of activity and relaxation. Whilst Kruger National Park is one of Africa’s best known safari destinations, there are other options for a safari - including non malarial options and lodges offering children's safari programmes – we will advise according to budget, journey time and length of time on safari. Safari lodges on Private Game Reserves offer the best experience: the guides are able to drive off-road to get closer to the wildlife. Lodges range from super-luxury to budget - though the latter category still provides a high level of comfort and if you choose the right lodge, a fabulous experience. The super-luxury lodges offer the very best in guiding, cuisine and accommodation.

From South Africa, Mauritius is an ideal beach destination. Mauritius has an excellent selection of accommodation to suit all budget ranges, and has direct flight routes to/from London. Beaches here are beautiful, and a range of land and water based activities are available at most hotels.

At Native Escapes, we select accommodation according to particular interests, season of travel, budget and availability. We have travelled extensively in Southern Africa, and have a good level knowledge of the destinations and things to do. Because we have visited many of the accommodations, we can make personal recommendations according to budget levels. We have on-the-ground services by way of ground handlers, who provide an excellent service in the event of emergency. Because we purchase accommodation through ground handlers who sell to agents such as ourselves around the world, we have access to excellent rates which are not available for direct bookings; you should pay no more for direct bookings than if you book through us. Our ground handlers’ contact number will be included in your final documentation for you to contact should you require assistance during your trip.

Day 1
Overnight flight to Johannesburg

Days 2 -5
Arrive Johannesburg International Airport where you will transfer to the Waterberg National Park for a 3 night stay at a safari lodge on full board basis including 2 safari activities per day.

The Waterberg is a non malarial reserve offering Big 5 game viewing in spectacular scenery consisting of grasslands, lakes and mountains. Other activities available include scenic helicopter flights, horseback safaris, abseiling, quad biking and an observatory for star gazing.

Please note that the majority of safari lodges will not allow children under the age of 8 on full game drives. There are family units available for family however most rooms are also large enough for children to share with their parents. Cots are also available for infants. Many lodges have special children’s menus as an option and high chairs are available.

Special activities can be arranged for children whilst their parents are out on other activities such as bug walks, game drives or walks and lodges have heated pools, sand pits, trampolines and toys to keep them entertained.

Day 5
Today, you transfer back to the Johannesburg area for an overnight stay, ready for your flight to Mauritius.

Days 6 -13
Today you head to Johannesburg International Airport in time for your flight to Mauritius.

On arrival in Mauritius, you transfer to your 4 star family-friendly hotel located on a beautiful stretch of sandy beach for a 7 night stay on a half board basis, including non motorised water sports. Hotels have a large array of activities to get involved in and a number of options for children to be kept occupied.
Day 13
This morning, you transfer back to Mauritius airport for your return flight to London.

Trip Extensions - some ideas:
Consider extending your stay in the area the scenery is breathtaking … visit the Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, God's Window and historic gold mining towns. White water rafting, quad biking, hot air ballooning and a helicopter scenic flight are also available. There is also an opportunity to visit a local Shangaan Tribal community, where guests will visit a school, spend time with the traditional healer, and learn about tribal practices such as initiation ceremonies and craftwork.

If you have more time, consider spending a few days in Cape Town: a vibrant cosmopolitan city offering outdoor activities, a lively music scene and a host of trendy bars and restaurants. Close by are the Winelands an area renowned not only for producing some of the world's best wines, but fast becoming a top gastronomic destination too.

The Garden Route, approximately 4 hours drive from Cape Town, is one of the most scenic areas of the country, with miles of white-sand beaches, pretty lagoons crossed by low bridges, forested mountains with a network of footpaths, and pretty towns with excellent seafood restaurants. There are opportunities for dolphin and whale watching, hiking, canoeing, rafting, and visiting some excellent wildlife rehab reserves.

Spend a few days at the Victoria Falls - one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Walk through rain forests or view the falls from the air by helicopter. Other activities include a Zambezi River cruise, elephant-back safaris, canoeing or white water rafting and a visit to nearby Chobe Game Reserve in Botswana or neighbouring Zimbabwe.

GENERAL INFORMATION – PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THE FOLLOWING

Passports: Please ensure these are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below). You are required to take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Visas: Not required for South Africa, Namibia or Botswana for UK or Irish nationals for stays of up to 90 days. An onward or return ticket is required, as well as sufficient funds and documents needed for further travel. Please note that visitors to South Africa must have a MINIMUM of two blank/empty VISA pages in their passport each time entry is sought. Visitors to South Africa with foreign passports who do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding their aircraft at their point of departure or risk deportation on arrival in South Africa.

Health: The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers to Southern Africa are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for Hepatitis B. Inoculation against Hepatitis A and Typhoid is also recommended for travel in South Africa. Depending on the area visited, anti-malarial drugs may also be recommended. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options. Travel insurance is part of the Terms and Conditions of your trip with Native Escapes it is essential that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Your insurance should be inclusive of full medical cover including costs of emergency repatriation, cancellation and travel delay.

Native Escapes complies with the UK Package & Travel Regulations 1992. Holidays with flights included are covered by the company’s ATOL Bond (Air Travel Organisers’ Licence) held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). This means that in the unfortunate event that our company should fail, the CAA will arrange any necessary repatriation and any refund of monies paid to Native Escapes in advance. Our ATOL number is 9709. We have testimonials on our website: visit www.nativeescapes.com/aboutus for more information.