

ACACIA AFRICA

Updated
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FOR 2012
DEPARTURES

KRUGER WALKING SAFARI - TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code KWS4

JOHANNESBURG - JOHANNESBURG

4 DAYS

Departure Point & Time: **05h00 pick-up from joining hotel on Day One**

HIGHLIGHTS

Blyde River Canyon
Open vehicle game drives
Walking in the African bush
African sunsets & camping

A classic adventure safari in South Africa's Greater Kruger. Enjoy a unique safari experience in a private concession within the Balule Private Game Reserve, staying in walk in safari tents in comfortable surroundings, enjoying expert guiding and superb 'bush' cuisine.



INTENDED ITINERARY

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below but a certain amount of flexibility is built into this tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary.

Duration: 4 Days
Countries visited: South Africa

DAY 1

D

Pre erected tents- shared facilities

Leaving Johannesburg we head through scenic Mpumalanga passing by spectacular scenery as we ascend the Drakensberg escarpment and over-look the Blyde River Canyon, the third largest canyon in the world. We stop to see the beautiful Three Rondavels rock formations which dominate the area. After lunch we continue to the Balule private game reserve which borders the Kruger National Park. On arrival at Balule we make our way to the Tsakane Walking Trail Camp where we unpack and begin to unwind in the peaceful surroundings of the Africa bush.

DAY 2 - 3

**Kruger National Park
Wilderness Trail Camp
Bx2, Lx2, Dx2**

Pre erected tents-shared facilities

Over the next two days we explore the Balule reserve. Each day we wake to coffee brewing on the fire and a light cereal breakfast before venturing out on a walking safari. The morning walk takes place from (about) 07h00 to around 10h00 in winter and from around 06h00 to 10h00 in summer. Depending on sightings and safety considerations we cover between 4km and 7km. These walks are designed to explore the smaller components of the reserve's ecology although still hoping big game such as elephant, buffalo and lion. Walking in the reserve - with no physical man-made boundary between you and the animals - is an exhilarating way to encounter wildlife. On returning from the walk 'brunch' is prepared and served. We then rest for a few hours during the heat of the day (just as do most of the larger animals) before going out again on an afternoon game drive. More ground is covered in our open safari vehicle but keep in mind that we are in a natural habitat, not in a wildlife park or zoo and so patience is needed while the driver search for wildlife. Each evening we enjoy dinner and relax around the camp fire before retiring to bed.

DAY 4
Kruger National Park – Johannesburg
Bx1

We have a final early morning walk before leaving Balule and the Kruger area. We transfer back into mini-vans and make our way through Mpumalanga and Gauteng provinces to Johannesburg where we aim to arrive by late afternoon/ early evening.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, meals as indicated, camping equipment, services of an English speaking driver and tour leader.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visa for South Africa (if required); travel insurance; flights; airport transfers; optional activities; laundry; gratuities to driver / guides; passport ; items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is in twin share- pre erected tents with shared facilities at the Tsakane Walking trail camp, situated inside the Balule private game reserve. This wilderness trail camp has been designed to afford guests the opportunity to get close to nature while ensuring safety and basic comforts.
Shared showers/ toilet facilities.

TRANSPORT

Mini-bus or microbus, open safari vehicle

MEALS

Breakfast/Lunch and dinner prepared in bush camp by camp chef.

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 details of your joining hotel. Johannesburg is 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

Meeting point in **Johannesburg**:
Address:

Backpackers Ritz

1A North Rd
Dunkeld West
Johannesburg
Tel. +27 11 325 7125/2520
Fax +27 11 325 2521
ritz@iafrica.com
www.backpackers-ritz.co.za

Contact details:

E-mail:

Website:

Tour start time:

05h00 on day 1

Finishing point in **Johannesburg**:

Finish time

Backpackers Ritz (as above)

Late afternoon day 4

PRE/ POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Johannesburg 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 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 the Johannesburg area.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices are correct at time of print but are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices.

Description	Price (£)		
Johannesburg			
Pre tour accommodation – twin pppn	£23		
Pre tour accommodation – single pppn	£30		
Pre tour accommodation – dorm pppn	£16		

WHAT TO BRING

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 should bring a mixture of lightweight, cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (ie. 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. Bring a towel and personal toiletries. A money belt/pouch, worn under your clothing is recommended. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safes wherever possible, to store your cash, passport and airline tickets.

Please note you do NOT need a sleeping bag for this tour.

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
S Africa	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 Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
South Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes									

NB The above is a guide only. Please check all visa requirements at least one month in advance of travel. Most nationalities do not need to obtain any of the above visas in advance. They are available at the border entry points and payable in US\$ cash.

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$10-15 per day. Most spending will be in South Africa Rand (for incidental expenses along the way, optional activities, most additional accommodation before/after the trip) but it's a good idea to

bring along some US\$ cash for any international airport taxes or visas.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in either South Africa Rand or in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can be exchanged into Rand on arrival. Exchange facilities on safari are very limited – we therefore suggest you exchange your money into Rand at Johannesburg airport on arrival.
- **Currencies** are as follows: South Africa Rand.
- **ATM machines** are found in Johannesburg, Johannesburg airport and most large towns and cities.
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for larger optional activities although fees for use may be higher than you are accustomed to at home.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

It is recommended you bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can advise what to use where.

TIPPING

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 at the end of a tour for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia 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 help provide specialist travel insurance for this tour through our local operator. Please contact Acacia for more information.

ACACIA ON THE ROAD



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 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.

GET CONNECTED

Join our facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travelers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter!

Follow our blogs from the road <http://acaciaontheroad.blogspot.com/> and <http://africastuckonyou.blogspot.com/> get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Premium Overlanding, Acacia Small Group Safaris, Short Safari's & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours and Dive Tours please visit www.acacia-africa.com



Acacia Adventure Holidays Ltd

London

23A Craven Terrace
London
W2 3QH
Tel: +44 (0)20 7706 4700
Fax: +44 (0)20 7706 4686
Email: info@acacia-africa.com

Cape Town

PO Box 27632
Rhine Road
Cape Town 8005
Tel: +27 (0)21 556 1157
Fax: +27 (0)21 557 5983
Email: info@acacia-africa.com

