

# ACACIA AFRICA

## TREK SOUTH AFRICA - TOUR DOSSIER

TOUR CODE TSA13

JOHANNESBURG – JOHANNESBURG

13 DAYS

Tour Starts – Pick up at 05:00 from joining hotel

### HIGHLIGHTS

Mpumalanga Province –  
Blyde River Canyon, Bourkes Luck Potholes & Three Rondavels  
Kruger National Park – game drives  
Swaziland – Mlilwane National Park  
Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve – game drive – St Lucia  
Durban – Drakensburg – Historical Battlefields – Lesotho Trekking  
Exploration

**An exotic mix of game parks, culture, South African History, beach and stunning scenery. A perfect thirteen day break of variety and adventure off the well beaten track.**



### INTENDED ITINERARY

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below but there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.

#### DAY 1

##### **Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, Three Rondavels, Private Game Reserve**

Dx1

Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

Leaving Johannesburg we head through the scenic province of Mpumalanga, stopping at spectacular Blyde River Canyon to admire the view and at the 'Three Rondavels'. Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in Africa and we descend a little way into it to view the perfectly rounded 'potholes' formed by erosion by the Blyde River. We stop again for the view over the lowveld before descending the escarpment and travelling to our bush camp located in a private reserve beside Kruger National Park. A recent development in the 'Greater Kruger' was to dismantle the fences between national park and surrounding private game concessions allowing wildlife to migrate freely throughout the entire area.

#### DAY 2

##### **Kruger National Park**

B D

Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

We rise early to enter into the Kruger National Park. This is South Africa's flagship park with over two million hectares of unrivalled wildlife diversity as well as historical and archaeological sites. We explore the wilderness hoping to catch sight of the 'Big 5' (elephant, rhino, leopard, lion and buffalo) – but Kruger contains far more than just the larger mammals. Indeed it is home to over 500 species of birds, 100 species of mammals and many reptiles. The impressive park allows you to understand why Kruger holds such an important place amongst the world's great game reserves. A typical day is to leave camp early, game drive until mid morning, then stop at a rest camp (inside the park) for lunch. After resting we venture out again in the late afternoon, when wildlife is usually more active, before finally we exit the park at around sunset and return to camp.

**DAY 3 – 4**  
**Swaziland**  
Bx2 Dx2  
Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

We leave South Africa and travel into Swaziland, where we head for the capital, Mbabane, visiting a local glass works factory en route. We continue through this mountainous landlocked kingdom sandwiched snugly between Mozambique and South Africa and spend two nights in the 'Big Game' Parks area. We visit the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and Royal Enclosure and have time to browse local craft markets in this rich cultural country.

**DAY 5**  
**Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve**  
B D  
Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

After a relaxed morning we cross back into South Africa and make our way to Hluhluwe where we visit a local village and gaining an insight into the Zulu culture. We spend the night nearby at a secluded lodge.

**DAY 6 - 7**  
**Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game, St Lucia, Durban**  
Bx2 Dx2  
Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

We rise for an early morning game drive in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi reserve, South Africa's oldest game reserve, before continuing to the wild beaches and natural beauty of St Lucia. There is usually an option to enjoy a boat cruise here and to see the wildlife of this World Heritage site before we drive down the coast to the bright lights and beaches of Durban, South Africa's largest port and premier beach resort.

**DAY 8**  
**Valley of a 1000 Hills - Dundee**  
B D  
Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

Leaving Durban we travel through the 'Valley of a 1000 Hills' and experience and learn more of the Zulu culture. We continue to Dundee, the gateway to the battle sites of the early colonial days between the Zulu and the British and Afrikaner settlers.

**DAY 9 - 10**  
**Dundee – Battlefields – Royal National Park - Drakensburg**  
Bx2 Dx2  
Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

We take in the battlefields of Blood River (Zulu/Afrikaner), Talana Hill (British/Afrikaaner), and Rorke's Drift (Zulu/British) and other sites of the early South African colonial conflicts. These battles played an immense role in South Africa's history. After a second night in Dundee we move on to the Drakensberg Mountains where we have time to explore on foot some of the bushman paintings and nature paths of the area. We enter the Royal Natal National Park and explore one of South Africa's most beautiful parks.

**DAY 11 - 12**  
**Drakensburg – Lesotho - Trekking**  
Bx2 Dx2  
Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

After an early start we continue over the Drakensbergs and cross into the Kingdom of Lesotho where we spend the next two nights. In deeply rural areas we explore local villages, meet the Basotho people and experience something of the life of these traditional folk. There is the opportunity to try pony trekking or take guided walks to explore the beauty of the local scenery and culture.

**DAY 13**  
**Lesotho - Johannesburg**  
B  
Tour Ends

After breakfast we say goodbye to our Lesotho hosts and cross back into South Africa for the final drive to Johannesburg where our tour ends in the late afternoon.

## TOUR INFORMATION

### TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, optional activities, laundry, gratuities, passport & visa fees, items of a personal nature.

### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is mainly in twin share chalets/ cabins or rondavels (bungalows) with shared facilities. Some are situated in comfortable and in picturesque locations with pool, restaurant and bar; other accommodations are more simple yet still clean and secure.

### TRANSPORT

Minibus or microbus. Maximum group size: 14 passengers.

## 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 full details of your joining point. 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 <b>Johannesburg</b> :	Backpackers Ritz 1A North Road Dunkeld West Johannesburg
Contact details:	Tel: +27 (11) 325 7125/ Fax: +27 (11) 325 2521
Tour start time:	05:00 on Day 1
Tour ends in <b>Johannesburg</b> :	Backpackers Ritz 1A North Road, Dunkeld West Johannesburg
Contact details:	Tel: +27 (11) 325 7125/ Fax: +27 (11) 325 2521
Tour end time:	Late afternoon on Day 13

### PRE 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 Durban and the surrounding 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 (£)
<b>Johannesburg</b>	
Pre/post tour accommodation – twin pppn	£23
Pre/post tour accommodation – single pppn	£30
Pre / post 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 sleeping bag, a towel and a pillow if required. A money belt/pouch, worn under the clothing is also a good idea. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safes wherever possible, to store your cash, passport and airline tickets.

## 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
Swaziland	R	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](http://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									
Swaziland	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. Your guide will give general guidance about spending during the tour.

- **Currencies** are as follows: South Africa Rand.
- **ATM machines** are found throughout South Africa
- **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.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (subject to change and availability).

#### Optional Activities – approximate prices; subject to change & availability

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
<b>Kruger National Park</b>		<b>Lesotho</b>	
Kruger Night Game Drive	\$40	Waterfall Pony Trek	From US\$25
<b>Swaziland</b>		Village Walk	
Swaziland Dinner and Dance	From US\$35	Guided Mountain Hiking Trail	From US\$25

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.acacia-africa.com)



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