



Zululand, Battlefields & Zululand (ZBL6) – Tour Dossier

Introduction

This is a wonderful tour taking you off the beaten track, offering a soothing, unusual African experience focusing on natural beauty, rugged terrain, and rich local culture. Our unique itinerary has been carefully designed to maximize your experience within the short time you spend visiting us. Following your arrival in Durban, this adventure takes us through a variety of territories, crossing vast sky-scraping mountains, rural pony trekking regions and nature walks visiting the highest falls in Africa within the 2000m high Drakensburg towering over Lesotho and KwaZulu –Natal. En-route we encounter and engage in authentic African traditions oozing with marvellous cultures of ancient mankind, to the notorious intense battles of early western civilizations, satisfying your internal curiosity. This Adventure tour allows you to touch and embrace magical Africa on her terms leaving you with an everlasting desire to discover more of this dynamic and diverse continent.

Highlights

Zulu Traditional village
Valley of a thousand hills
Kwazulu - Natal battlefield sites
Drakensburg

Tugela Falls & Burg trek
Royal National Park bushman
paintings trek
Lesotho

Malealea Trading Post
Basotho Village exploration
Pony Trekking

Intended Itinerary

Day 1 Durban - Dundee

Distance Travelled: +/-350km

Drive Day: Half Day

Leaving Durban we drive up country to Botha's Hill overlooking the Inanda valley (valley of a thousand hills). The landscape is dotted with many rural Zulu homesteads and we are introduced to true Zulu traditions by an informative guide who takes us on a tour of a traditional Zulu village, ending with a dance show presented by little children and village leaders. On completion of the village tour we enjoy a knowledgeable local guide showing us around a reptile farm with crocodile and venomous snakes. Nearby we find some fantastic curio shops with lovely local crafts on display for us to visit and a rustic restaurant giving us a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a lunch overlooking the green hills and valleys. Weaving our way inland, the tour takes us to an interesting and intense part of South African history. The history covers the introduction of South Africa to westernisation and the vast bloodshed during the war between English (British) troops, Dutch settlers (Afrikaners), and the Zulu tribe (Kings Shaka's warriors) as the Zulus fought to defend their home land. We stay the night in Dundee savouring the night at a quaint lodge on the outskirts of the agricultural town, once occupied by the British forces.

Includes: Zulu village tour, Traditional dance show, Reptile Park

Optional extras: Game drive Phe- Zulu

Accommodation: Battlefield lodge (Twin share cabins with shared facilities)

Meals included: Dinner

Meals not included: Lunch (Botha's hill has suitable shops for your lunches and snacks purchases)

Day 2 Dundee – Battlefields - Drakensburg

Distance Travelled: +/-200km

Drive Day: Half Day

This morning after a fulfilling breakfast, we are joined by a passionate local guide taking us step by step through some nail biting battle sights. Starting at Talana where the first shots of the Boer War were fired on a hill just outside Dundee. We explore the notorious battle between handfuls of British soldiers against thousands of Zulu warriors at Rorke's Drift while visiting the actual sight. Following this, we experience eerie sights from the world famous battle of Blood River which saw the lives of many warriors lost against the few musketeers of the Dutch Settlers (Afrikaners). There is much to explore on each sight with interesting walks and rare discoveries to encounter. After saying good bye to our specialist guide, we travel via Ladysmith relevant to the Boer war, through to the foot of the Drakensburg Mountains noticing its sheer magnitude. We retire to our bush lodge in the late afternoon and we need an early night in preparation for a full day hike, witnessing the second highest falls in the world.

Includes: Entry fees, Talana, Rorke's Drift, Blood River, Services of a local historian

Optional extras: N/A

Accommodation: Amphitheatre Lodge (Twin share cabins with shared facilities)

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Meals not included: Lunch (We stop en-route at suitable shops for your lunches and snacks purchases)



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Day 3 Drakensburg – Tugela Falls

Distance Travelled: +/- 50km

After a light breakfast and day packs ready to go, we are collected with an all terrain vehicle carrying us over rough roads and steep tracks, finally reaching a spectacular altitude of 2500 meters. This is regarded as the most famous hike in South Africa, not just because it allows you to access the highest escarpment in one day but the waterfall is also the highest in Africa. The name Thukela Falls mean “the startling one” as it has the tendency to burst into flood without warning! The next two hours are mildly challenging as we hike up narrow rock trails with safe rock face ladders before breaking the clouds and reaching the summit. Taking time out to rest, we are in awe of our surroundings, connecting with the wonderful, pure environment. After absorbing the view of the crystal waters gushing miles below us, we start our two hour decent by carefully climbing down the rock face ladders and foot paths. Reaching our transfer vehicle we take the bumpy ride back to camp arriving during the late afternoon. Satisfied and relaxed we enjoy the stillness of the Drakensburg while sharing stories over a wholesome dinner.

Note: This day may alter to an alternative hiking trail due to poor visibility or severe weather conditions

Includes: Entry fees, Transfer vehicle, local guide, Tugela Falls

Optional extras: N/A

Accommodation: Amphitheatre Lodge (Twin share cabins with shared facilities)

Meals included: Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner

Meals not included: Snacks & Drinks

Day 4 Amphitheatre / Drakensburg – Malealea

Distance Travelled: +/-450km

Drive Day: Full Day

Waking early and enjoying a light breakfast, our first stop is trekking Royal National Park joining an informative hike with a knowledgeable guide. This hike explores ancient bushman paintings and rock art. There are many other interesting trails to wonder around after the tour. Royal Natal boasts some of the most splendid mountain scenery in Africa. The main feature is the world famous Amphitheatre, a rock wall approximately five kilometres in length, and five hundred metres high. After an early lunch stop, we drive through the central scenic parts of Golden Gate National Park nestled in the rolling foothills of the Maluti Mountains, stopping at some beautiful viewpoints and interesting sights. Travelling via Clarens, a small farming town, we cross the border into Maseru, the capital of Lesotho. Lesotho, officially the

Kingdom of Lesotho, is a landlocked country completely surrounded by South Africa. Climbing spectacular scenic mountain roads, we head for Malealea situated in a remote part of Western Lesotho that is absolutely breathtaking in its natural beauty, offering us time to truly experience traditional Basotho life. The evening brings the smell of wood fires burning and as dinner is prepared we can enjoy the serenity of Basotho land.

Includes: Entry to Royal National Park, Guided bushman painting walk

Optional extras: Short walks Royal National Park

Accommodation: Malealea Lodge (Twin share cabins with shared facilities)

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner

Meals not included: Lunch. (We stop en-route at suitable shops for your lunches and snacks purchases)

Day 5 Malealea

Distanced Travelled 0km

Taking in the clear crisp morning air, after our breakfast, we visit an authentic local Basotho village where a local villager explains to us life in the village while visiting the school with pupils in class, the church house and other important facts that makes their lives so special. We get to explore and browse the traditional handmade crafts and beaded jewellery while deciding on some fantastic optional activities on offer for the day. The rest of the day is free for us to choose selected hiking trails across marvellous terrains, visiting nearby waterfalls or bushman painting sights around the great Maluti Mountains. For people who are genuinely interested in finding out about Traditional healers, you can book an appointment with the village Sangoma who will throw bones and discuss your future well-being. The night is spent with various Basotho children’s choirs and local Basotho music bands who demonstrate their homemade instruments and entertains us around an open fire.

Includes: Malealea trading post, guided village tour

Optional extras: walking trails & treks, Sangoma

Accommodation: Malealea Lodge (Twin share cabins with shared facilities)

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner

Meals not included: Lunch. (Malealea has suitable shops or lunch packs for your lunch and snack purchases)

Day 6 Lesotho / Malealea - Johannesburg

Distance Travelled: +/- 500km

Drive Day: Full Day



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Waking for breakfast to the sounds of cattle lowing and chicken crows echoing through the rural trading post, our last morning swallows us into the pure splendour of Basotho land. Saddled up on some gentle Basotho ponies, we experience a guided pony trek following narrow trails and paths weaving through the rural mountainous terrain. Beginner riders can ask for a Basotho Child (at your own expense) to accompany you and lead your pony adding value for the local community. Returning for lunch we finally follow the windy roads to the capital city, Maseru, and cross the border back into South Africa. Cutting through the land of windpomp (windmills), the Free State is a rural farming

province of wide horizons and beautiful blue skies, farmlands, and widely dispersed towns, our expedition ends in the heart of the City Of Gold; Johannesburg.

Includes: Malealea trading post, morning pony trek

Optional extras: Local village & craft market

Accommodation: Not Included

Meals included: Breakfast

Meals not included: Lunch. (Malealea has suitable shops or lunch packs for your lunch and snack purchases)

Tour information

Tour style: Acacia Small Group Accommodated

What's included: Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, meals as indicated, 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, cosy huts with shared facilities. Many are situated in comfortable and picturesque locations with a pool, restaurant and bar.

Transport: Minibus. Maximum group size: 12 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 and Cape Town are 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

Tour Start point in **Durban:**

On the Beach Hostel

17 The Promenade, Glen Ashley

4051 Durban North

Contact Details: Tel: +27 (0)31 562 1591

Fax: +27 (0)31 572 7262

E-mail: Info@durbanbackpackers.com

Tour end point in **Johannesburg:**

Backpackers Ritz

1A North Road

Dunkeld West

Johannesburg

Contact details: Tel: +27 (11) 325 7125

Fax: +27 (11) 325 2521

Email: ritz@iafrica.com

Tour start time: 08:00 on Day 1

Tour end time: late afternoon/ early evening on day 7

Pre Tour Accommodation

This tour departs Durban 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.

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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 Johannesburg and the surrounding area.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. Pre / Post tour accommodation and transfers are paid to your agent or Acacia at the time of booking in the currency your tour is booked in and the prices below (shown in US\$) are a guide price. Please confirm the rate with Acacia or your agent

Description	Price (US\$)	Description	Price (US\$)
Durban		Johannesburg	
Pre tour accommodation – twin pppn	\$60	Post tour accommodation – twin pppn	\$40
Pre tour accommodation – single pppn	\$80	Post tour accommodation – single pppn	\$52
Pre tour accommodation – dorm pppn	\$30	Post tour accommodation – dorm pppn	\$27

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 will need a mixture of lightweight cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (i.e 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 a pillow if required. A money belt/pouch that can be worn comfortably beneath your clothing is recommended. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safe to store your cash, passport and air tickets. [NB: 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
South Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R
Lesotho	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 For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.



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Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
South Africa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Lesotho	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	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 cash or US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can be exchanged into Rand on arrival and as you travel. Your guide will give general guidance about spending during the tour.

- **Currencies** are as follows: South Africa Rand. Lesotho – South African Rand is legal tender

- **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.

Tippling

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy it has become customary to offer a small gratuity to local staff at the end of the tour if service has been of a high standard. Naturally this always remains at your discretion.

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

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Wild Coast		Lesotho	
Horse Riding	US\$20	Waterfall Pony Trek	From US\$25
Surf Lessons	US\$15	Village Walk	
		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.

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 minimizes 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.



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