

ACACIA AFRICA

Updated 09 Nov11
FOR 2012
DEPARTURES

KRUGER, LESOTHO & BATTLEFIELDS - TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code – KLB11

JOHANNESBURG - DURBAN

11 DAYS

Departure Point & Time: **05:00 pick-up from joining hotel on Day One**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wildlife encounters in Kruger National Park
- Battlefields, 'Blood River', Rorke's Drift, Talana Hill
- Zulu and Basotho villages
- Drakensberg and Royal National Park trekking
Kingdom of Lesotho

INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, 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.

Duration: 11 Days
Countries visited: South Africa

DAY 1

Cheetah Rehabilitation Centre

Dx1

Twin Share – Private Game reserve-Pre Erected Tents- Stretcher Beds

Leaving behind Johannesburg we head through the scenic province of Mpumalanga and visit a cheetah rehabilitation centre, a non profit organisation, where we see the remarkable work carried out by volunteers to rehabilitate cheetah and other wildlife. Travelling onwards, we reach a private game reserve bordering the Kruger National Park and our bush camp accommodation.

DAY 2 - 3

Kruger National Park

Bx2 Lx2 Dx2

Private Game reserve- Pre Erected Tents – Stretcher Beds

We rise early and transfer into our open safari vehicles for two full days in Kruger National Park. South Africa's flagship game park the 'Kruger' has over 2 million hectares of unrivalled diversity of life forms fused with historical and archaeological sights. With cameras and binoculars at the ready, we explore the untamed wilderness on game drives, and hopefully we will see some of the Big 5 - elephant, rhino, leopard, lion and buffalo. The Kruger is home to over 505 species of birds, 148 species of mammals and many reptiles. The impressive atmosphere of the park enables you to understand why it holds such a unique place amongst the world's great game reserves. We spend two nights here and camp within the park; staying in pre erected tents with camper beds and sleeping bag (please see 'What to Bring' section below). A typical day will be to rise early for an early game-drive, return to camp for lunch and going out again later in the afternoon.

Whilst in Kruger there is usually the opportunity of taking (at own cost) an 'early evening' game drive to view nocturnal animals in their natural habitat.

DAY 4 -5

Kruger National Park – Johannesburg
Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
Bx1

After breakfast we make our way back to Johannesburg arriving late afternoon/ early evening. We have the following day at leisure in Johannesburg, This is a free day where you have the opportunity (your own expense) to book a tour of Soweto, Gold Reef city, Lion Park or even do a tour to Sun City for the day. Johannesburg has many exciting attractions, restaurants and shopping malls to visit or you may choose to relax at the lodge on this stay over day.

DAY 6 - 7

Kingdom of Lesotho

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
Bx1 Dx2

We leave Johannesburg and head south to the mountainous Kingdom of Lesotho. In deeply rural surroundings 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 a guided walk in the local area – an ideal opportunity to get away from it all and discover something of the local scenery and culture without the frills of the western lifestyle.

DAY 8

Drakensberg Mountains

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
B D

After two nights we cross back into South Africa to the Drakensberg Mountains (Barrier of Spears), a 200 km long world heritage site that separates the Kingdom of Lesotho from South Africa's Kwa-Zulu Natal province. We have time to explore on foot some of the bushman paintings, waterfalls, cliff faces, forest and riverine bush on nature paths that crisscross this area. We then head towards the Royal National Park and overnight in a nearby country lodge.

DAY 9 - 10

Royal Natal National Park, Battlefields, Dundee

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
Bx2 Dx2

We enter Royal National Park in the early morning to explore the stunning picturesque surroundings. Highlights here include the Amphitheatre - a 5 km long, 100 metre high rock wall - and the Tuglea Falls, the second highest waterfalls in the world. We then continue to Dundee, gateway to battlefield sites which date from colonial wars involving the English, the Zulu and the Afrikaner settlers - Blood River (Zulu/Afrikaner), Talana Hill (British/Afrikaner), and Rorke's Drift (British/Zulu).

DAY 11

Valley of a Thousand Hills, Durban

B

On our last day we travel through the 'Valley of a 1000 Hills', a stronghold of Zulu villages and culture where we have the chance to learn a little more about this proud warrior culture. Finally we make our way to the Indian Ocean coast and the beaches and bright lights of Durban, South Africa's most popular tourism beaches where the tour ends.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari

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, transport & guide on free day in Johannesburg.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is mainly in twin share chalets/ cabins or rondavels (bungalows) with shared facilities + three nights camping in pre erected tents with stretcher beds. Many are situated in comfortable and in picturesque locations with a pool, restaurant and bar; other accommodations are more simple yet still clean and secure.

TRANSPORT

Minibus or microbus and open safari vehicle (Kruger) Maximum group size: 14 passengers

PARTICIPATION

This is a participation tour and your help is needed (usually on a roster basis) with the various day to day chores - shopping, cooking etc. But don't worry it's not all hard work, and it's a good way to meet local people and get to know your fellow travellers. This is part of your contribution to the success of the tour and most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment. Please come along with a sense of adventure and flexible attitude and we are sure you will have a wonderful time.

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 and Durban are well served by a variety of airlines, and your travel agent will 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

Contact details:

Tel. +27 11 325 7125/2520 Fax +27 11 325 2521

E-mail:

ritz@iafrica.com

Website:

www.backpackers-ritz.co.za

Tour start time:

05:00 on day 1

Tour end point in **Durban**

On the Beach Hostel
17 The Promenade, Glenashley
4051 Durban North
Tel: +27 (0)31 562 1591
Fax: +27 (0)31 572 7262

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you spend the night before Day 1 in Johannesburg and plan to stay the last evening there as well in case of unexpected delay on the final day. Acacia can help book extra accommodation, usually arranged on a direct pay basis. The prices given above are intended as a guide only and may be subject to change - especially in June/July for the 2010 World Cup. Please therefore contact Acacia or your agent to check current rates.

Description	Price (GBP)	Description	Price (ZAR)
Johannesburg		Durban	
Pre tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	18	Pre tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	18
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	23	Pre tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	35

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. It should be brought in a soft holdall or rucksack along with a smaller day bag. You will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for the evenings and early morning game drives. Your own sleeping bag is recommended for this tour – 2 nights for Kruger – and many clients prefer to use their own but if you don't own a sleeping bag, we will provide a basic one if you wish. You will need a sleeping bag if you have booked into a dorm prior and after your tour. Please let us know at time of booking. We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that can be easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safe (before/after your tour) to store the bulk of your money, 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 may be **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.

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
S. Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes									

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 South Africa Rand or in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can be exchanged into Rand on arrival. Your guide will give general guidance re spending on tour.
- **Currencies:** 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 (4%-5% is not unusual).
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

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. However naturally this is at your own discretion. Optional Activities – approximate prices; subject to change & availability.

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 (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price
Kruger Night Game Drive	\$40		

NB The above costs have been converted into approximate US dollars for convenience.

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 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



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