

ACACIA AFRICA

Updated 09NOV11
FOR 2012
DEPARTURES

LESOTHO, BATTLEFIELDS & GARDEN ROUTE - TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code – LBG14

JOHANNESBURG – CAPE TOWN

14 DAYS

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Battlefields – ‘Blood River’ , Rorke’s Drift, Talana Hill
- Zulu and Basotho villages
- Drakensberg, trekking, Royal Natal National Park
- Kingdom of Lesotho
- Remote beaches of Cintsa and Wild Coast
- Scenic Garden Route

Twin share chalets for 13 nights with shared facilities.

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: 14 Days

Countries visited: South Africa

DAY 1 & 2

Johannesburg, Lesotho

Bx1 Dx2

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients

We drive out of South Africa’s largest city and into the Drakensburg Mountains and the 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 guided walks in the area to discover the beauty of the local scenery and culture.

DAY 3

Drakensburg Mountains

B D

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients

We cross back into South Africa and pass through the Drakensburg ranges and have time to explore (on foot) some of the bushman paintings and nature paths of the area.

DAY 4 & 5

Royal Natal National Park, Battlefields, Dundee

Bx2 Dx2

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients

We enter Royal Natal National Park, one of the most picturesque of all of South Africa’s national parks. We then continue to Dundee, gate-way to the battlefield sites dating from colonial wars involving the British, the Zulu and the Afrikaaner settlers- Blood River, Talana Hill, Rorke’s Drift.

DAY 6 & 7

Durban

Bx2

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients

We travel through the 'Valley of a 1000 Hills' enjoying a Zulu cultural experience en route. We then make our way to the Indian Ocean coast and the bright lights and boardwalks of Durban. We have a day in South Africa's best known resort to relax and enjoy the beach.

DAY 8 & 9

Cintsa, Wild Coast

Bx1 Dx2

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients

Continuing on we pass through the rugged Wild Coast, where the native Xhosa people are rooted deeply in tradition and custom. We have two nights in the charming town of Cintsa to enjoy beautiful beaches and optional activities such as horse-riding, canoeing and surfing.

DAY 10 to 12

Addo Elephant National Park, Tsitsikamma National Park, Knysna

Bx3 Dx3

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients

Addo Elephant National Park marks the beginning of South Africa's 'Garden Route'. It is sanctuary for the 'cape' buffalo, also rhino, antelope and elephant, much of which we hope to see on an afternoon game drive.

Further along the coast we visit the Tsitsikamma National Park where steep hardwood forest meets rugged coastline. There is the opportunity to try the highest bungee in the world before we continue to the picturesque town of Knysna for two nights.

DAY 13

Hermanus

Bx1 Dx1

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients

We continue to Hermanus, another attractive and relaxed town on the coastal route. Hermanus is particularly known for dolphin and whale watching (in season) but at any time of year is an ideal place to relax and enjoy a beautiful part of the coastline.

DAY 14

Cape Vineyard, Cape Town

B

The Cape is renowned for its vineyards and we sample the products of a local winery before continuing to Cape Town, one of the world's most beautiful cities, where our tour ends.

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 / 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. 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. 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 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

Meeting point in **Johannesburg**: 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 end point in **Cape Town**: **Ashanti Lodge Green Point**
Address: 23 Antrim Rd
Three Anchor Bay,
Green Point
Cape Town, 8005,
Tel +27 (0)21 433 1619
Email: ashanti@iafrica.com

Normal end time Late afternoon/ early evening on day 14

Optional Pre/Post Tour Accommodation – approximate prices; subject to change & availability

Description	Price (GBP)	Description	Price (GBP)
Johannesburg		Cape Town	
Pre tour accommodation – twin pp/pn	GBP23	End tour accommodation – twin pp/pn	23
Pre tour accommodation – single pp/pn	GBP30	End tour accommodation – single pp/pn	32
Pre tour accommodation – dorm pp/pn	GBP16	End tour accommodation – dorm pp/pn	14

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you spend the night before Day 1 in Johannesburg and give yourself time in Cape Town at the end of the tour to enjoy everything the city offers. Acacia can help arrange any extra accommodation, usually booked on a direct pay basis.

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 (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 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
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 either South Africa Rand cash or 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 in Johannesburg, Johannesburg airport, Durban, Cape Town, and most 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 best advise on 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. However naturally this is at your own discretion.

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 recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. 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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