

ACACIA AFRICA

Updated 2011-10-28
FOR
2012 DEPARTURES

KRUGER, LESOTHO & GARDEN ROUTE - TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code – KLGR19

JOHANNESBURG – CAPE TOWN

19 DAYS

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Safari in the world famous Kruger National Park
- Historic South Africa retold on the battlefields of 'Blood River', Rorke's Drift and Talana Hill
- Zulu and Basotho (Lesotho) villages
- Sunning mountain scenery in the Drakensberg Mountains and Royal National Park
- Remote Wild Coast beaches
- Elephant encounters at Addo Elephant Park
- Garden Route adventures



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: 19 Days
Countries visited: South Africa

DAY 1

Dx1

Private Game reserve-Pre Erected Tents- Stretcher Beds

Leaving 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 near kruger gate.

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 500 species of birds, almost 150 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

We complete our Kruger Park experience with an early morning game drive in the tour mini-bus (not open vehicle) before we exit the park and 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

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
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.

DAY 12

Durban

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
B

You have this day free at leisure in South Africa's most popular tourist town. You have the opportunity (your own expense) to enjoy the broad sandy beaches, shop for souvenirs, visit the large Indian market or take a tour of one of the biggest harbours and try out some popular eastern foods in fine restaurants of your choice.

DAY 13 - 14

Durban, Wild Coast

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
Bx2 Dx2

We leave Durban and continue along the rugged Wild Coast, meet the Xhosa people many of whom are still deeply rooted in their tribal traditions and customs. We have two nights in the charming town of Cintsa on the great Kai River mouth to enjoy beautiful beaches and unspoilt coastline. Optional activities including horse-riding, canoeing and surfing.

DAY 15 - 17

Addo Elephant National Park, Tsitsikamma National Park, Knysna

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
Bx3 Dx3

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 18 - 19

Hermanus, Cape Vineyard, Cape Town

Twin Share – Share Facilities per 6 clients
Bx2 Dx1

We continue along the coast to Hermanus, one of the most attractive and relaxed towns on the Garden Route. The town is known particularly for whale and dolphin watching, often possible from shore, in season. The Western Cape area is famous for its vineyards and we visit a local winery and have the opportunity to sample (and buy) the products! After a pleasant few hours we continue into cosmopolitan Cape Town, one of the world's most picturesque cities, where our tour ends.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, stretcher beds (in Kruger), 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 days in Johannesburg & Durban.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is mainly in twin share chalets/ cabins/ or rondavals (bungalows) with shared facilities, except for the first 3 nights in Kruger, which is camping in pre erected dome tents with stretcher beds (sleeping bag needed but can be provided if you inform us at time of booking).

TRANSPORT

Minibus or microbus.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 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 19

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 Cape Town 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 (£)	Description	Price (£)
Johannesburg		Cape Town	
Pre tour accommodation – twin pppn	£23	Post tour accommodation – twin pppn	£23
Pre tour accommodation – single pppn	£30	Post tour accommodation – single pppn	£32
Pre tour accommodation – dorm pppn	£16	Post tour accommodation – dorm pppn	£14

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. Your own sleeping bag is recommended for this tour – for 2 nights 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.. 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.

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. Afr	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 you exchange 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 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 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 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\$)
Kruger National Park		Lesotho	
Kruger Night Game Drive	\$40	Waterfall Pony Trek	From US\$25
Swaziland		Village Walk	
Swaziland Dinner and Dance	From US\$35	Guided Mountain Hiking Trail	From US\$25
Wild Coast		Storms River	
Horse riding	\$20	Bungee jumping	\$65
Surf lessons	\$15		

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.

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



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