
19 Day South Africa & Eswatini Family Tour





*Pretoria - Forever Resort Blyde River - Forever Resort Swadini - Close to Orpen Gate OR Manyeleti - Kruger National Park - eSwatini - Kosi Bay - St Lucia - Dolphin Coast - Northern Drakensberg
19 Days / 18 Nights*



Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Court Classique Suite Hotel	Pretoria	B&B	1 Night
Forever Resort Blyde Canyon	Panorama Route	B&B	1 Night
Forever Resorts Swadini	Panorama Route	B&B	1 Night
Timbavati Safari Lodge or Shalati Safari Camp	Kruger Private Reserves or Manyeleti	B&B	2 Nights
Satara Main Camp	Kruger National Park	NO MEALS	1 Night
Pretoriuskop Rest Camp or Berg-en-Dal Main Camp	Kruger National Park	NO MEALS	2 Nights
Maguga Lodge	eSwatini	B&B	2 Nights
Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp	Kosi Bay	NO MEALS	3 Nights
Hippo Lodge	St Lucia	B&B	1 Night
Mini Villas	Dolphin Coast	NO MEALS	2 Nights
Sandford Park Country Hotel	Northern Drakensberg	DB&B	2 Nights

INCLUDED

- 18 x Nights accommodation (mixture of camping & rooms)
- 9 x Breakfasts
- 2 x Dinners
- SA Registered Tour guide
- Transport
- Activities & Excursions as mentioned below
- Conservation fees as mentioned below

EXCLUDED

- Flights and airport taxes
- Visas (where applicable)
- Other Conservation fees/entrance fees not specified
- All drinks/beverages
- Meals not indicated above
- Curios
- Telephone calls, faxes,
- Internet / Wi-Fi
- Laundry
- Anything of personal use etc.
- Tips
- Optional activities
- Other expenses not specifically mentioned in the quote
- Porterage fees at hotels & airport

RATES:

Please email us for up to date rates: lizelle@highline.co.za

Day 1: OR Tambo International Airport - Pretoria

Meals included: NONE

Pretoria

The cosmopolitan city of Pretoria, also known as 'Tshwane', is situated in the province of Gauteng and functions as one of the three capitals of South Africa. Pretoria has been dubbed 'The Jacaranda City', which is owed to the annual bloom of magnificent purple blossoms that adorn the Jacaranda trees which line the wide avenues of the city. This cosmopolitan city boasts several historic monuments, fine government buildings, and fascinating museums. Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of interesting sites including: The Transvaal Museum, a natural history museum showcasing an ancient dinosaur fossils found at the nearby Cradle of Humankind; the Pretoria Botanical Gardens, offering visitors a glimpse of different biomes; and the Voortrekker Monument, a National Heritage Site. Don't miss the nearby Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary as well as the beautiful Wonderboom and Groenkloof Nature Reserves.

Itinerary

Arrive at OR Tambo International Airport on the late KLM flight.

Your Afrikaans/Dutch speaking guide will meet and greet you at the Airport.

Depart from the airport to your overnight accommodation situated in Pretoria. Check-in and enjoy a good night's rest after your International flight.

(Note: we will stop the following day to exchange money)

Overnight @ Court Classique Suite Hotel

Website: <https://www.courtclassique.co.za>



Day 2: Pretoria - Forever Resort Blyde Canyon, Panorama Route
Meals included: Breakfast

Panorama Route

Connecting the Lowveld and the spectacular Drakensberg, sandwiched between the Kruger National Park and the Highlands Meander, the historical Panorama Route is a scenic road in the Mpumalanga Province. The route features sensational views of breathtaking natural wonders, fascinating rock formations, impressive waterfalls, scenic hiking trails, and a myriad of fauna and flora. The quaint little town of Graskop serves as the gateway to this wonderful route. Panorama's undoubtable highlight is the verdant splendour of Blyde River Canyon, one of the world's largest green canyons featuring lush subtropical vegetation. Some other popular natural attractions along the route include: the spectacular Lisbon, Berlin, and Mac Mac Falls, Bourke's Luck Potholes, Three Rondavels and the astonishing God's Window. Don't miss the world-famous Kruger National Park and the picturesque gold rush town of Pilgrim's Rest, a historic living museum.

Itinerary

Breakfast is included at Court Classique Hotel.

(Suggest that we don't leave too late so that guests have some time in Dullstroom)

After breakfast we depart the hotel and enjoy an Orientation Pretoria city tour.

We start at the **Union Buildings**.

The Union Buildings form the official seat of the South African Government and also house the offices of the President of South Africa. The imposing buildings are located in Pretoria, atop Meintjieskop at the northern end of Arcadia, close to historic Church Square and the Voortrekker Monument.

Our next stop will be **Church Square**, with beautiful buildings from the late 19th century.

Our last stop before departing to Forever Resort Blyde Canyon will be at the **Voortrekker Monument** (entrance fee included). It is a unique monument which commemorates the Pioneer history of Southern Africa and the history of the Afrikaner and is situated in a beautiful setting.

We will stop in Dullstroom and stretch our legs and enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants (lunch for your own account - not included)

Guests can visit the following in Dullstroom:

- **The Clock Shop** (free entry). The shop has the largest selection of clocks in the southern hemisphere. (www.theclockshop.co.za)
- **Polly Potter toy store**, their emphasis on old-fashioned wooden, educational toys and puzzles seems especially fitting in this quaint old town and especially inside the Old Transvaal Inn, with its stone walls, deep porch and pretty front garden. Delightful things to ooh and aah about. Mon – Sun: 07:00 – 17:00

Arrive at Forever Resort Blyde Canyon, and time permitting enjoy some of the lodge facilities.

Dinner can be enjoyed at the restaurant (dinner for your own account - not included)

Overnight @ Forever Resort Blyde Canyon

Website: <http://www.foreverblydecanyon.co.za>



Day 3: Forever Resort Blyde Canyon - Forever Resorts Swadini

Meals included: Breakfast

Itinerary

Breakfast is included at Forever Resort Blyde Canyon.

After breakfast our coach will drive us to the look-out point where some of the walking trails start. (If you are fit and want to walk to the look-out point you can do so as well.) At the beautiful lookout point you will be able to see the **Three Rondavels**. (nice photo opportunities) (no cost for this - free)

We get back onto the coach and depart towards **God's Window** (entrance fee included) With magnificent views, canyons, rock formations and waterfalls, God's Window is truly an area of breathtaking scenic splendour. It is no wonder that Mpumalanga is known as Paradise Country. God's Window is a small part of a 250km long earthwork of sheer cliffs and extravagant beauty. One can observe the hills and forests as far as the eye can see.
(note we will drive past Bourke's Luck Potholes)

We stop at **Potluck Boskombuis** for lunch (lunch not included - for own account)

(note: your guide will phone them in advance and place your lunch order /the coach will stop at a certain point and you will have to walk to the restaurant)

Our last stop will be at **Bourke's Luck Potholes** (entrance fee included) (*approx. 700m winding pathway that leads down to waterfalls and bridges over the canyon.*)

This natural water feature marks the beginning of the Blyde River Canyon. Through countless eons the swirling whirlpools which occur as the Treur River plunges into the Blyde River caused waterborne sand and rock to grind huge, cylindrical potholes into the bedrock of the river. The Potholes were named after a gold digger, Tom Burke.

After all our visits & lunch we head to Forever Resorts Swadini.

15h00: Afternoon included **Boat Trip On Blyde Dam**

An interpretation tour by a tour guide will take you to the rare living Kadishi Tufa waterfall and the Three Rondavels. An abundance of wildlife will keep you distracted while learning more about the natural history of the Blyde Canyon. The Canyon is famous for the Kadishi Tufa waterfall. At 200m (around 660 feet) in height it is the second tallest tufa waterfall on earth. In the case of the Kadishi Tufa fall, the formation that has been produced strikingly resembles a face which is crying profusely, and is thus sometimes known as 'the weeping face of nature.

Duration of the boat trip: 1h30 minutes

Note: You are allowed to bring your own drinks and snacks on the boat (NO alcohol is allowed)

Min: 6 guests / Max: 30 guests

Dinner can be enjoyed at the restaurant this evening. (dinner for your own account - not included)

Overnight @ Forever Resorts Swadini

Website: <http://www.foreverswadini.co.za>



Day 4: Forever Resorts Swadini - Timbavati Safari Lodge, Kruger Private Reserves **OR**
Shalati Safari Camp, Manyeleti

Meals included: Breakfast

Kruger Private Reserves

Scattered along the unfenced western boundary of the world-renowned Kruger National Park, private game reserves combine with the Kruger to establish one of the world's largest game reserves. This incredible destination offers visitors excellent Big Five game viewing opportunities and an array of luxury safari accommodation complete with world-class cuisine, relaxing spas and private pools. Visitors can look forward to fascinating night-drive safaris, guided nature walks, and open-top safari adventures. Some of these prestigious private reserves include: Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve, Thornybush Private Game Reserve, and Timbavati Private Game Reserve, to name a few.

OR

Manyeleti

Shalati is situated in a rural area of pristine bush veld directly adjacent to the Manyeleti Game Reserve in the Greater Kruger National Park area. Manyeleti, meaning "the place of stars" is a prolific game viewing area, making it one of the best areas to visit for Big Five game viewing and exceptional scenery.

Itinerary

Breakfast is included at Forever Resort Swadini.

We arrive at our overnight accommodation, check-in and relax around the pool.

Children: Afternoon included mini ranger course

Adults: Afternoon bush walk

Lunch & Dinner for your own account - not included

Overnight @ Timbavati Safari Lodge

Website: <https://timbavatisafarilodge.com>



or

Overnight @ Shalati Safari Camp (alternative)

Website: <http://shalati.co.za>



Day 5: Timbavati Safari Lodge/ Shalati Safari Camp

Meals included: Breakfast

Itinerary

Breakfast is included this morning

This morning, we visit Sihlekisi Primary School (included) where we have the opportunity to interact with the local community and kids.

Afternoon included visit to HESC (Standard Tour)

Following an introductory presentation, day visitors will embark on an in-depth tour of the centre. Open safari vehicles with experienced guides depart every 2 hours, commencing at 09h00 every day, with the last tour at 15h00 (a slightly different schedule is applied during peak periods). HESC houses a number of animal species including cheetahs, African wild dogs, lions, African wild cat, Ground hornbill, Sable antelope, to name just a few. Visitors can view the resident animals in close proximity, in a habitat simulating what they would experience in the wild.

Suggestion for Lunch: (lunch for your own account - not included)

The Deli @ HESC offers a wide variety of meals and snacks, as well as hot and cold beverages. Visitors can choose from a selection of cakes, home-cooked meals and traditional South African dishes.

Return to your overnight accommodation in the afternoon.

Dinner can be enjoyed at the restaurant this evening. (dinner for your own account - not included)

Overnight @ Timbavati Safari Lodge or Shalati Safari Camp

Day 6: Timbavati Safari Lodge/ Shalati Safari Camp - Kruger National Park

Meals included: Breakfast

Kruger National Park

Stretching over more than two million hectares, the Kruger National Park is one of the world's largest game reserves and a truly remarkable destination. Owing to its exceptional size, visitors are able to experience fantastic diversity – from changing scenery and ecosystems to an impressive array of animals, plant life and birdlife. The park is home to over 130 mammals and over 500 bird species. Visitors can look forward to learning about the area's prehistoric past, enjoying a host of accommodation options, and viewing the abundant wildlife including the famed Big Five. The diversity sheer density of wildlife makes Kruger National Park an unforgettable and potentially life-changing experience.

Itinerary

Breakfast is included this morning

Depart this morning to the world famous Kruger National Park, entering at Orpen gate. Game viewing in the coach **(not open vehicle)** en-route to our overnight accommodation.

Kruger National Park Conservation fee is included

We arrive at our campsite in the afternoon and set up our camp.

5 Things To Seek at Satara Rest Camp

1. Red-billed Buffalo Weaver
2. Lion
3. Giraffe
4. Blue Wildebeest
5. Honey Badger

Lunch & Dinner for your own account - not included

Overnight Camping @ Satara Main Camp

Website: <https://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/camps/satara>

Satara Camp is situated in an excellent game viewing area, with the bush relatively open and the animals plentiful and diverse. The camp is surrounded by huge grass plains which are crossed by rivers at regular intervals. The plains attract game, which in turn attracts predators. Satara is well wooded and the birdlife is prolific. The camp has a wonderful lawn in front of the restaurant and cafeteria where you can relax and watch game at the waterhole on the other side of the fence.

Day 7: Satara Rest Camp - Pretoriuskop Rest Camp/Berg en Dal Rest Camp

Meals included: NONE (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner not included - for own account)

Itinerary

We breakdown our camp, get into the coach and enjoy a full day game drive in the comfort of our air-conditioned touring vehicle until we reach our next camp. (not open vehicle)

Kruger National Park Conservation fee is included.

5 Things To Seek at Pretoriuskop Rest Camp

1. Sable Antelope
2. Lichtenstein's Hartebeest
3. Wild Dog
4. Kudu
5. Brown-headed Parrot

Overnight Camping @ Pretoriuskop Rest Camp or Berg en Dal Rest Camp

Website: <https://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/camps/pretoriuskop>
<https://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/camps/berg-en-dal>

Day 8: Pretoriuskop Rest Camp/Berg en Dal Rest Camp

Meals included: NONE (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner not included - for own account)

Itinerary

Open vehicle game drive in Kruger National Park either a SUNRISE **OR** SUNSET DRIVE is included.

Half day game drive in the comfort of your air-conditioned touring vehicle (not open vehicle)

Kruger National Park Conservation fee is included.

Overnight Camping @ Pretoriuskop Rest Camp or Berg en Dal Rest Camp

Day 9: Kruger National Park - eSwatini

Meals included: NONE (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner not included - for own account)

eSwatini

Officially known as the 'Kingdom of Swaziland', this tiny landlocked nation boasts a rich historical and cultural heritage. Swaziland encompasses a diverse array of ecosystems featuring towering mountains and low-lying savannah, tangled rainforests and lush river valleys. Highlights of this laid-back land include the mesmerizingly beautiful 'Valley of Heaven', the handicraft haven of the Malkerns Valley and the Hlane Royal National Park, famed for its white rhinos, antelopes and lions. Visitors can look forward to excellent wildlife watching, rafting, mountain biking, and hiking along a network of scenic trails which traverse spectacular mountainous landscapes.

Itinerary

Today we head south and visit **the Lowveld Botanical Gardens** in Nelspruit. (entrance fee included).

The character of the Garden is shaped by the two main rivers that cut across it, namely the Crocodile and Nels Rivers. Before these two rivers converge in the Garden, they form spectacular waterfalls which can be viewed at the Cascades and the Nels viewpoints.

Lunch can be enjoyed at any of the two restaurants on site. (lunch for your own account - not included)

Afterwards, we drive to **Chimp Eden, a Jane Goodall Institute** for an optional tour (own account).

Tour Times: 10:00; 12:00; 14:00

Arrive at our accommodation in eSwatini in the afternoon.

Dinner can be enjoyed at the lodge (dinner for your own account - not included)

Overnight @ Maguga Lodge

Website: <https://magugalodge.com>



Day 10: eSwatini

Meals included: Breakfast

Itinerary

Breakfast is included at Maguga Lodge

Today, guests have the opportunity to enjoy numerous optional activities at **Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary**. (Conservation fee is included) approx. 1.5-2 hours drive (excludes any stops)

All for own account.

Activities include: Horse riding, Mountain biking, Hiking, Game drives and Cultural village visits.

When we return to our overnight accommodation we can stop at Ngwenya Glass and visit the chocolate shop.

<https://ngwenyaglass.co.sz/ngwenya-glass-chocolate-shop>

Lunch & Dinner for your own account - not included

Overnight @ Maguga Lodge

Day 11: eSwatini - Kosi Bay

Meals included: Breakfast

Kosi Bay

Situated just north of Durban along South Africa's scenic coast, Kosi Bay lies only two kilometres from the Mozambique border. It encompasses a pristine lake system consisting of a series of four lakes that form part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and eventually drain via a sandy estuary into the Indian Ocean. Beachgoers can enjoy a calm, quiet beach and a river mouth with exceptionally clear water home to an abundance of fish species. Other fauna in the area include duikers, hippopotamuses, crocodiles, bull sharks, loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles – which lay their eggs on the beach – and a diverse bird life. An interesting fact about Kosi Bay is that it is home to the Kosi Palm, which has the largest leaf of any plant in the floral kingdom.

Itinerary

Breakfast is included at Maguga Lodge

Early departure recommended as today will be a long drive to Kosi Bay Mouth.

We arrive in the afternoon and set up our tents/camp for the next two nights.

Lunch & Dinner for your own account - not included (The lodge offers Braai pack which can be purchased upon arrival)

Overnight Camping @ Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp: Fish Eagle Camp Sites

Website: <https://kosibay.info>

All of our campsites are private and are enclosed in reed fencing and shaded under large Waterberry trees. Each site has a braai, an electrical plug point, a light, and water tap. There are clean serviced communal ablutions with hot showers. Our boma has a swimming pool, braai facilities, bar with DStv, dining room and lounge.



Day 12: Kosi Bay

Meals included: NONE (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner not included - for own account)

Itinerary

Full day to relax or enjoy some optional activities.

Optional activities include: (all for guests own account)

- Sea & Estuary swimming
- Snorkelling,
- Boat Cruises on the lake,

- Hiking,
- Birding,
- Evening loggerhead turtle tours (Nov-March only)

Overnight Camping @ Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp: Fish Eagle Camp Sites

Day 13: Kosi Bay

Meals included: NONE (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner not included - for own account)

Itinerary

Full day to relax or enjoy some optional activities.

Optional activities include: (all for guests own account)

- Sea & Estuary swimming
- Snorkelling,
- Boat Cruises on the lake,
- Hiking,
- Birding,
- Evening loggerhead turtle tours (Nov-March only)

Overnight Camping @ Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp: Fish Eagle Camp Sites

Day 14: Kosi Bay - St Lucia

Meals included: NONE (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner not included - for own account)

St Lucia

Encircled by the iSimangaliso Wetlands Park, St Lucia is South Africa's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. St Lucia lies on the magnificent St Lucia Estuary, which is one of the largest in Africa stretching over 85 kilometres. St Lucia features abundant wildlife, pristine natural beauty, and a wide range of wonderful activities. This haven of tranquillity offers a variety of activities including excellent mountain biking, hiking, bird watching and deep-sea fishing. Visitors can also look forward to thrilling night drive safaris, hippo and crocodile cruises, and many comfortable accommodation options.

Itinerary

Enjoy morning optional activities and afterwards we depart for St. Lucia where we enjoy a boat cruise (from 15:00 to 17:00) on the St. Lucia Estuary (included).

Lunch & Dinner for your own account - not included

Overnight @ Hippo Lodge

Website: <https://www.elephantlakestlucia.co.za/accommodation/hippo-lodge>

Day 15: St. Lucia - Dolphin Coast

Meals included: NONE (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner not included - for own account)

Dolphin Coast

Dubbed the 'Dolphin Coast', KwaZulu Natal North Coast is known for its abundant population of bottlenose dolphins that surf in the balmy waters of the Indian Ocean. The Dolphin Coast is one of the province's main attractions offering a rich cultural heritage, excellent fishing, and spectacular golden beaches fringed by fields of sugarcane interrupted by pretty coastal holiday towns. This exceptionally scenic coastline stretches north from the metropolis of Durban, passed well-developed beach resorts and golf courses to more remote areas featuring long stretches of unspoilt beaches, wetlands and lake systems. Visitors can enjoy the sunshine-filled days with a fantastic array of activities including: swimming in tidal pools, surfing incredible waves, lazing on beaches all day; or taking a guided walk through the Harold Johnson Nature Reserve.

Itinerary

Early morning departure (08:00) to Cape Vidal (entrance fees into the park for own account).

Optional snorkeling (own account) or spend the morning on the beach.

Please note that snorkeling would only be possible during low tide.

NOTE: FOR TOURS WHERE SNORKELLING IS NOT POSSIBLE IN THE MORNING, WE WILL SWOP THE ITINERARY AROUND AND WILL DRIVE FROM KOSI BAY TO CAPE VIDAL ON **DAY 15** WHERE **PM SNORKELING** IS POSSIBLE. GUESTS WILL ENJOY A **MORNING BOAT CRUISE** IN ST LUCIA ON **DAY 16** BEFORE DEPARTING FOR BALLITO.

Lunch not included - *for guests' own account*.

NOTE: The shop in Cape Vidal only sells snacks, ice creams and cold drinks. Guests can also buy snacks for lunch the day before in St. Lucia.

We depart from Cape Vidal at around 14:00 and arrive at our accommodation in Ballito in the late afternoon.

Overnight @ Mini Villas

Website: <https://minivillas.co.za>

Day 16: Dolphin Coast

Meals included: NONE (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner not included - for own account)

Itinerary

Full day to enjoy optional activities (all for guests own account).

Your guide to help with activity arrangements.

Overnight @ Mini Villas

Day 17: Dolphin Coast - Northern Drakensberg

Meals included: Dinner

Northern Drakensberg

Situated in northeastern South Africa, the Northern Drakensberg rises up to 3000 metres in height creating spectacularly scenic views from every direction. Featuring cascading waterfalls, sandstone caves and countless San rock art paintings, the Northern Drakensberg is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which also boasts a network of scenic hiking trails. Falling within the Royal Natal National Park, the 'Amphitheatre', comprised of over 5 kilometres of sheer cliff, is regarded as one of the most impressive cliffs faces on earth with the Tugela Falls, the world's second tallest falls, plunging almost a kilometre from its clifftops. Nature lovers will delight in this unspoilt landscape and enjoy a wide variety of outdoor adventures.

Itinerary

Depart and drive to Durban for an orientation tour of this vibrant city and stop at the **Moses Mabhida Stadium** where guests can ride the Skycar for about 106 m up to enjoy a fantastic view over the city and the Indian Ocean.

Afterwards, we make our way to the Nelson Mandela Capture Site at Howick where the group enjoy a tour and lunch - *for guests' own account. (At this time the Capture Site does not charge a set amount for tours but asks for a donation that will go towards maintaining the exhibition, gardens, ablution facilities and staff wages).*

There are activities for kids at the site, including jungle gyms and a trampoline.

We arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon.

Onsite activities include badminton, volleyball, mountain biking, dam boating and bass fishing and nature walks.

Dinner is included at Sandford Park Country Hotel.

Overnight @ Sandford Park Country Hotel

Website: <https://www.sandford.co.za>



Day 18: Northern Drakensberg

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner

Itinerary

Breakfast included at Sandford Park Country Hotel

This morning we depart for Spioenkop Nature Reserve (conservation fees included) where optional activities such as fishing, walking, game viewing, horse riding and birding can be enjoyed.

We make our way back to the hotel in the early afternoon to relax and / or enjoy the hotel facilities.

Dinner is included at Sandford Park Country Hotel.

Overnight @ Sandford Park Country Hotel

Day 19: **Departure day**

Northern Drakensberg - OR Tambo International Airport

Meals included: Breakfast

Itinerary

Breakfast is included at Sandford Park Country Hotel

We drive to O.R.Tambo International Airport, your guide will help you check-in and say goodbye.

Travel Information



This vast country is undoubtedly one of the most culturally and geographically diverse places on earth. Fondly known by locals as the 'Rainbow Nation', South Africa has 11 official languages and its multicultural inhabitants are influenced by a fascinating mix of African, Asian and European cultures. Spend your days: discovering the gourmet restaurants, impressive art and nightlife scenes and fine beaches of Cape Town; enjoying a typical local braai (barbecue) in the Soweto township; browsing the bustling Indian markets in Durban; or sampling some of the world's finest wines at the myriad wine estates dotted around the picturesque Cape Winelands. Due to its rich and turbulent history there are plenty of historical attractions to explore including the Zululand battlefields of KwaZulu-Natal, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg and Robben Island, just off the coast of Cape Town. Above all else, South Africa's attraction lies in its remarkably untamed wilderness with its astonishing range of wildlife roaming freely across massive unfenced game reserves such as the world famous Kruger National Park. With all of this variety on offer, it is little wonder that South Africa has fast become Africa's most popular tourist destination.

Banking and Currency

Currency

The currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. There are R200, R100, R50, R20 and R10 notes. Coins come in R5, R2, R1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c.

Banking

Banks are found in most towns, and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays (Closed Sundays and Public Holidays). Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank & credit cards as well as travellers cheques. You can also obtain cash from automatic teller machines (ATMs). Several international banks have branches in the main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they are not informed.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Travelling around South Africa is relatively easy by air, road and rail.

Principal air routes are serviced by SAA and British Airways, operated by Comair. There are 2 low-cost carriers on main routes, namely Kulula.com and Mango.

Facilitating travel around South Africa are 10 airports managed by the Airports Company South Africa (Acsa). In addition, there are some 90 regional airports, including the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport in Nelspruit and the Skukuza Airport, offering access to the Kruger National Park.

An extensive tarred road system makes travelling in South Africa by vehicle convenient and easy. You will find gravel roads in rural areas though. Note:

- A valid international driver's licence is required.
- We drive on the left hand side of the road.
- Wearing seat belts is compulsory and cell phones can only be used 'hands free'.
- Speed limits are generally set at 120km on freeways, 100km on secondary roads and 60km in urban areas.
- Toll fees apply on certain national roads.
- Petrol stations are widespread.
- Most global car hire firms have branches in South Africa

Another means of getting around South Africa are luxury inter-city bus services such as Greyhound and Trans-Lux. Metrobus buses are available for in-city transport. Metered taxis must be ordered by telephone. There is a hop-on-hop-off bus in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Our rail system includes the long-haul, inexpensive Shosholoza Meyl Metrorail trains. More luxurious options are the Blue Train, Premier Classe and the steam train Rovos Rail. There is also the new Gautrain rapid transit railway system in Gauteng Province which links Johannesburg, Pretoria, Ekurhuleni and OR Tambo International Airport.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Standards of hygiene in relation to food health and safety in South Africa, are generally high in hotels, restaurants, pubs and nightspots. Tap water in South Africa is safe to drink and cook with when taken from taps in urban areas. Not all tap water in rural areas is safe for consumption, so take precautions if necessary.

It is safe to eat fresh fruit, vegetables and salads, and put ice in your drinks. South Africa's fish, meat and chicken are of excellent quality, so there is no need to limit yourself when enjoying the local cuisine.

Restaurants are subject to South Africa's food safety control legislation, which is implemented by local government. Regulations include certification and regular inspections by health inspectors to ensure hygienic standards are maintained.

Street food is not as common in South Africa as it is in other countries, although vendors selling traditional snacks and meals can be found in city centres and townships. Food safety in such instances cannot always be guaranteed.

Climate and Weather

South African temperatures, which are measured in centigrade, average at highs of 28°C to average lows of 8°C in the summer months while winter temperatures range from 1°C at night to around 18°C in the day. Average annual rainfall is on the low side at under 500mm a year, making the country somewhat dry. Much of the rain falls in the Western Cape in the winter, differing from the rest of the country, which experiences summer rainfall. On the plus side, the South African climate boasts more than its fair share of sunshine, recording an average of 8.5 hours a day.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Summer

Bring clothes that are cool, light and comfortable because summer temperatures can get well into the 30 - 40 degree Celsius range in some areas. Also bring an umbrella or raincoat during summer as this is when most of the country gets its rain, but don't forget a swimming costume (bathing suit).

Winter

The winters are generally mild, comparing favourably with European summers. But there are days when temperatures dive, especially in high-lying areas such as the Drakensberg, so be prepared with jerseys and jackets. Cape Town gets its rain during the winter season so it's advisable to bring rain gear along.

General

Always bring a hat, sunglasses and sunblock as the sun can be strong even in the winter months.

Walking shoes are a good idea all year-round, with warm socks in the winter.

If you are doing business in the country, business attire (suit and tie) is generally called for in the corporate sector, but media for example generally dress more casually.

For game viewing, a couple of neutral-toned items will be useful, but there's no need to go overboard. A good pair of walking shoes is also advisable.

For the evening, if you are dining at an upmarket restaurant or seeing a show, smart-casual attire is recommended.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. A three-point round-pin adapter plug should be brought for your electrical appliances - such adapters are also available at major airports..



Officially known as the 'Kingdom of Swaziland', this tiny landlocked nation boasts a rich historical and cultural heritage. Swaziland encompasses a diverse array of ecosystems featuring towering mountains and low-lying savannah, tangled rainforests and lush river valleys. Highlights of this laid-back land include the mesmerizingly beautiful 'Valley of Heaven', the handicraft haven of the Malkerns Valley and the Hlane Royal National Park, famed for its white rhinos, antelopes and lions. Visitors can look forward to excellent wildlife watching, rafting, mountain biking, and hiking along a network of scenic trails which traverse spectacular mountainous landscapes.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Lilangeni (SZL; symbol E) = 100 cents. The plural of Lilangeni is Emalangeni. Notes are in denominations of E200, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of E5, 2 and 1, and 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

The South African Rand is also accepted as legal tender (E1 = 1 Rand) so if coming from South Africa, there's no need to change money.

There are no restrictions on the import or export of local or foreign currency.

Visitors are advised to exchange Emalangeni back into their own currency (or into South African Rands) before leaving Swaziland.

Banking

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0830-1430, Sat 0830-1100.

Only a few ATMs accept international credit/debit cards. American Express, MasterCard and Visa are accepted at hotels and upmarket shops and restaurants.

Travellers cheques are widely accepted. Several banks will exchange travellers cheques, but to avoid additional exchange rate charges, travellers are advised to take them in Euros, Pounds Sterling or US Dollars.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Cars are driven on the left side of the road in Swaziland. The road system is largely well developed, although there is little street lighting. The main road from east to west is the MR3. Some roads are winding and roads can be rough in the bush.

Car hire: There are a number of international car hire companies in Swaziland.

Regulations: The maximum speed limit is 80kph (50mph) on the open road, and 60kph (37mph) in areas that are built-up.

An International Driving Permit is required; or domestic licence (with photo ID).

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Mains water is generally safe but bottled or sterilised water is preferable. Drinking water outside major cities and towns may be contaminated. Milk is pasteurised and dairy products are safe for consumption; exercise caution if milk is of uncertain provenance. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

Restaurants are found mainly in Mbabane and in tourist areas such as the Ezulwini Valley. Portuguese cuisine (an influence from nearby Mozambique) including seafood, and especially prawns, can be found in areas like Big Bend. African staples such as stew and pap can be sampled in more remote locations. Other international food available includes Indian, German, Swiss and French.

Tipping 10 to 15% of the bill is customary for good service in restaurants and hotels.

Climate and Weather

Due to the variations in altitude the weather is changeable. Except in the lowland, it is rarely uncomfortably hot and nowhere very cold, although frosts occasionally occur in the Highveld which has a wetter, temperate climate. The Middleveld and Lubombo are drier and subtropical with most rain from October to March.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Lightweight cotton or linen clothing is recommended, and a jacket is advisable for the evenings. Waterproofs are rarely needed unless you're doing a lot of walking between October and March. Sunscreen, a sunhat and sunglasses are essential as is a good pair of walking shoes.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Swaziland are the "Type M " South African SABS1661 ("Large" 15 amp BS-546) sockets. This is actually an old British standard. The "Type M " South African plug and socket is not to be confused with the "Type D " Indian plug and socket. In pictures, they look very similar, but the South African type is much larger than the Indian type, and they are physically incompatible. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Swaziland usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters do not change the voltage, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. North American sockets supply electricity at between 110 and 120 volts, far lower than in most of the rest of the world. Consequently, North American appliances are generally built for 110-120 volts.
