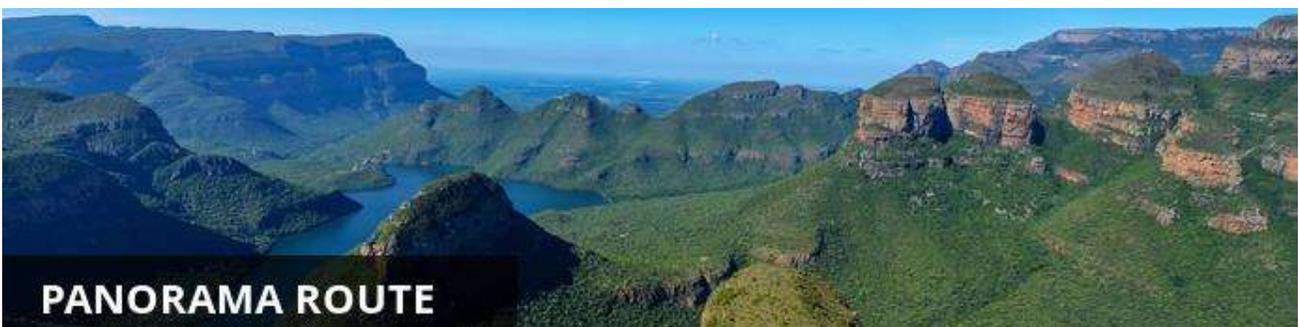

Self Drive part Camping Group Tour





Self Drive part Camping Group Tour

*Johannesburg - Golden Gate Highlands National Park - Underberg - Dolphin Coast - St Lucia - Kosi Bay - eSwatini -
Southern Kruger - Panorama Route
19 Days / 18 Nights*

Date of Issue: 20 December 2019



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Peermont Metcourt Suites Emperors Palace	Johannesburg	RO	1 Night
Glen Reenen Rest Camp	Golden Gate Highlands National Park	RO	2 Nights
The Old Hatchery	Underberg	RO	2 Nights
Mini Villas	Dolphin Coast	B&B	1 Night
Shonalanga Lodge	St Lucia		2 Nights
Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp	Kosi Bay		3 Nights
Maguga Dam Lodge	eSwatini	RO	2 Nights
Skukuza Rest Camp	Southern Kruger		3 Nights
Forever Resort Blyde Canyon	Panorama Route		2 Nights

Key

RO: Room only

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

Included

INCLUDES:

18 x nights accommodation (8 of the 18 nights will be camping)

6 x Breakfasts

6 x Dinners

Own touring vehicle

1 x guide with own touring vehicle

Camping equipment (exclude personal camping items such as sleeping bag, pillow, towels, insect repellent etc)

Accommodation taxes, the applicable Tourism Levies and all relevant Value Added Tax (VAT) or Government Sales Tax (GST);

Excluded

EXCLUDES:

Flights, airport taxes and visas (where applicable)

All conservation Fees/Entrance Fees

Meals not indicated above

All drinks/beverages

Vehicle Fuel

Vehicle Tollgate charges

Gratuuity fees, tips, curios, telephone calls, internet, laundry, fax, anything of personal use etc.

Optional activities

Personal camping items such as sleeping bags, cushions, water bottles, insect repellent is not provided.

Other expenses not specifically mentioned in the quote

Day 1: Peermont Metcourt Suites Emperors Palace, Johannesburg

Johannesburg

Johannesburg is one of Africa's biggest and most vibrant cities. It is the economic capital of Africa and the gateway to Southern Africa. Although not as famous as other South African destinations, there is plenty to do in Johannesburg and nearby Pretoria. The old city is a multi-cultural mixture of traditional medicine shops, Chinese restaurants, taxi ranks and ultra modern skyscrapers. There are excellent museums, art galleries and organised tours of historical and political interest. The shopping is Southern Africa's best and the many restaurants cater for all tastes. The nearby township of Soweto is Johannesburg's most popular tourist attraction.

Day Itinerary

Arrive at O.R Tambo Airport in Johannesburg, where guests will be met by their tour guide and receive their touring vehicles.

Please note that vehicle handover can take approx. 30-40 minutes.

(NOTE: Mon - Fri: last handover @ 15h00 / Sat: last handover @ 11h00/ Sun: no handovers)

Overnight: Peermont Metcourt Suites Emperors Palace [View iBrochure](#)

Affordable accommodation with friendly service...the 3-star select services Metcourt Suites offers a home away from home. The hotel features 77 spacious suites with contemporary furnishings. All the usual technology is available in the rooms with Wi-Fi connectivity available in public areas. Breakfast is served in the stylish Primavera restaurant. Guests also have access to the casino, dining, entertainment, convention and relaxation facilities of the Emperors Palace resort.



Basis

Room Only

Day 2: Glen Reenen Rest Camp, Golden Gate Highlands National Park

Golden Gate Highlands National Park

Resting in the rolling foothills of the majestic Maluti Mountains of the northern Free State, the Golden Gate Highlands National Park derives its name from the shimmering shades of gold which are cast by the sun on the park's sandstone cliffs. These highlands are some of the last protected highland areas in the country. Visitors can soak up spectacular views from Ribbokkop, the highest point in the Golden Gate park; hike along a network of short nature trails and spot a variety of game. Commonly spotted wildlife includes black wildebeest, eland, blesbok, oribi, springbok and zebra, and rare birds such as the bearded vulture and bald ibis, which breed on the ledges in the sandstone cliffs.

Day Itinerary

This morning, guests will be handed their **camping equipment (tents, camp chairs, mattresses) to be carried in their individual vehicles for the duration of the trip.**

We visit an outdoor / camping store in order for guests to buy personal camping items such as sleeping bags, pillows, insect repellent, water bottles etc. **(All for own account)**

Afterwards, we make our way to Golden Gate National Park **(conservation fees for own account)** and arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon.

Overnight: Glen Reenen Rest Camp

Glen Reenen Rest Camp is situated in close proximity to the Golden Gate Hotel & Chalets. The rest camp offers rondavels, longdavels and guest cottages, as well as caravan and camping sites in the beautiful shaded grounds.

Basis

Room Only

Excluded

Personal camping items

Golden Gate NP conservation fees

Day 3: Glen Reenen Rest Camp, Golden Gate Highlands National Park

Day Itinerary

Today, guests have the opportunity to enjoy optional activities **(all for own account)** in Golden Gate National Park.

Optional activities include abseiling, canoeing, game drives, hiking and nature walks as well as horse riding.

Guests can also visit the museum where architecture and the lifestyle of the Basotho people are presented.

Basis

Room Only

Excluded

Any optional activities at Golden Gate NP

Day 4: The Old Hatchery, Underberg

Underberg

The friendly farming town of Underberg lies at the feet of the mighty Drakensberg Mountains, in Kwa-Zulu-Natal's Southern Drakensberg region. Surrounded by verdant swathes of green hills and plains, pretty mountain streams, and dramatic peaks, this is a popular destination among hikers, mountain bikers and photographers. There are also three pristine golf courses on offer. Underberg lies on the Sani Pass, also known as the 'roof of Africa', an incredible network of hikes winding into Lesotho from the Drakensberg Mountains (where thirsty travellers can also enjoy a drink at the highest pub in Africa). Arts and crafts enthusiasts will delight in the charming Underberg Pottery Studio and the quirky Funky Cow shop, where they can buy traditional Basotho blankets and souvenirs.

Day Itinerary

This morning we drive south to the Himeville / Underberg area in the Southern Drakensberg. We arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon.

Formerly, the land of San hunter-gatherers, the Himeville Museum, which is located in what was once a fort built in 1900, has a valued collection of San artefacts and an insightful interpretation of their life and of those ancient times. **(Entrance fees for own account).**

Overnight: The Old Hatchery

Welcome to The Old Hatchery B&B Guesthouse and self-catering resort. Affordable B&B and self-catering accommodation, set in a tranquil country setting just 10km from Underberg in the Southern Drakensberg. Oak Tree Lodge 8 en suite bedrooms all with bath and shower. We use these rooms as our B&B rooms and each one is equipped with a TV, DSTV, air-con with heating. Kingfisher cottage 3 bedrooms en-suite. This cottage is a popular choice for families and small groups of couples wanting some time away in the Berg. The kitchen comes fully equipped with all the mod cons. Otters Den Otters den is also a 3 bedroom ensuite cottage with modern finishes. It had a beautiful deck and braai area. Suitable for families and groups of friends. Fishing cabins These are delightful little cabins suitable for couples. Each of them has a fireplace, bathroom, kitchenette and braai facilities. Walk past our waterfall and over the bridge. Cascata Restaurant The Cascata restaurant next to the waterfall and lake has the best views and food in the area. See our website. What to bring Passport for your trip up Sani Pass into Lesotho Warm clothes no matter the season



Basis

Room Only

Excluded

Himeville Museum entrance fees

Day 5: The Old Hatchery, Underberg

Day Itinerary

Today, guests have the opportunity to participate in numerous optional activities (**all for own account**) in the area.

Activities include guided horse riding which starts at Underberg and follows a trail to the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains, river rafting and tubing on the UMzimkulu River.

Alternatively, guests can enjoy a Sani Pass Day tour. The tour leaves in the morning and takes +/- 2.5 hours to reach the summit, stopping at breathtaking view sites along the Sani Pass and the two border posts (South Africa Border Control and Lesotho Border Control).

Once, at the top, guests can enjoy lunch at the highest pub in Africa. After lunch, the tour continues into Lesotho where guests have the opportunity to visit a Basotho village, before returning home.

Basis

Room Only

Excluded

All optional activities

Day 6: Mini Villas, Dolphin Coast

Dolphin Coast

Dubbed the 'Dolphin Coast', the 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.

Day Itinerary

This morning we leave the Drakensberg Mountains behind and drive south to the Dolphin Coast.

We arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon where guests can relax around the pool or take a stroll along the beach.

Overnight: Mini Villas

Located on the Dolphin Coast, South Africa, Mini Villas is a complex sited on a hectare of the beachfront. All villas include bed linen, crockery, cutlery, blankets, pillows, DSTV, a safe, a microwave as well as a fridge.

With the protected swimming beach directly in front, the villas are set on lawns and gardens on the first and second line, stretching up from the beachfront. Facilities and amenities featured at this accommodation include a large fenced swimming pool area, an on-site laundromat, braai facilities as well as 24-hour village security.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 7: Shonalanga Lodge, St Lucia

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.

Day Itinerary

Today, we drive north to the town of St. Lucia and arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon where guests have the opportunity to participate in optional activities (**own account**) such as an afternoon boat cruise on the St. Lucia Estuary.

Overnight: Shonalanga Lodge

Awake to the stirring call of birdsong and celebrate first light through the Umfolozi / Hluhluwe Game Reserve. End a busy day by relaxing in our private pool while enjoying the serenity of a peaceful nightfall over the African bush. Or spend the day fishing in Lake St Lucia or swimming with the tropical fish of the Indian Ocean. Set in a world of endless fascination, Shonalanga offers professional services and guided tours for encounters with the fauna and flora of Africa. Impeccable standards of service and hospitality ensure your enjoyment of a most memorable holiday with us.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Excluded

All optional activities

Day 8: Shonalanga Lodge, St Lucia

Day Itinerary

Guests have the opportunity to enjoy optional activities (**all for own account**) today.

Optional activities include a boat cruise on the St. Lucia Estuary, a visit to Cape Vidal for snorkelling and / or a game drive in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve.

Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park is the oldest proclaimed game reserve in Southern Africa with excellent birding and home to the Big 5. The park is best known for saving the white rhino from extinction through Operation Rhino which saved the few remaining white rhinos from the brink of extinction.

Basis

Room Only

Excluded

All optional activities

Day 9: Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp, Kosi Bay

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.

Day Itinerary

This morning we depart and drive further north towards the Mozambique border to **Kosi Bay** (South Africa). We arrive at our accommodation in the Kosi Bay Mouth area in the afternoon afternoon where we set up camp.

Overnight: Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp

Utshwayelo Lodge and Camp is the most North Eastern accommodation in South Africa. It is situated at Kosi Bay Mouth Reserve and Estuary entrance gate, 2,5 km from the beach. It offers en suite chalets and camp sites and is easily accessible by motor car. It is 5km from the KosiBay/Mozambique border post.

Snorkel in the channel at the mouth of the estuary, with its kaleidoscope of over 200 species of tropical fish, surf angling from unspoiled beaches, boating on the magnificent lakes, fly-fishing from the rocks and banks, or putting your 4x4 to the test are a few of the amazing activities which can keep you busy.



Basis

Dinner

Day 10: Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp, Kosi Bay

Day Itinerary

For the next two days, guests have the opportunity to enjoy optional activities such as sea and / or estuary swimming, snorkeling (snorkeling gear available from the lodge), hiking, cultural visits, guided evening turtle tours

(season and weather dependant). **(All activities for own account)**

Basis

Half Board - Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Excluded

All optional activities

Day 11: Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp, Kosi Bay

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 12: Maguga Dam Lodge, eSwatini

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 mesmerisingly 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.

Day Itinerary

Early departure this morning as we have a long drive ahead of us. We enter Swaziland from the south and arrive in the late afternoon.

Overnight: Maguga Dam Lodge

The lodge offers 35 Rondavel rooms sleeping two persons and a family unit, all with en-suite bathroom, DSTV, air conditioning and patio. There are 2 self-catering cottages on the banks of the dam; one sleeping 4 people and the other 10 people. Camping sites at the waters edge or away from the dam should you prefer.

Maguga Lodge boasts a large Restaurant with a-la-Carte menu (buffet can be pre arranged for larger groups) and deck looking out to the dam, as well as a stunning pool and lapa area, superb conference facilities and an array of activities. Our versatile venue makes Maguga Lodge an excellent and scenic choice for holidays, conferencing and weddings.



Basis

Room Only

Day 13: Maguga Dam Lodge, eSwatini

Day Itinerary

Today, guests have the opportunity to enjoy numerous optional activities (**own account**) in **Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (conservation fees for own account)** including game drives, walks, horse riding, cultural village visits and mountain biking

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary is Swaziland's pioneer conservation area. Located in the Ezulwini Valley of central Swaziland, south of the city of Mbabane, it's grassy southern plains are home to animals such as antelopes and zebras, as well as many birds.

Guests can also visit the nearby **Swazi Candles and Baobab Batik workshop**.

Basis

Room Only

Excluded

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary Conservation Fees

All optional activities

Day 14: Skukuza Rest Camp, Southern Kruger

Southern Kruger

The southern area of South Africa's most famous game reserve is separated from lush farmland by the Crocodile River, a popular spot for lazy crocs, playful hippos and thirsty animals. The game viewing area is known as the 'Southern Circle' and is renowned for its rhinos and lions, of which there are different prides with definitive hunting techniques and behaviours. Also found here, near the Hippo Pool, are ancient San rock paintings.

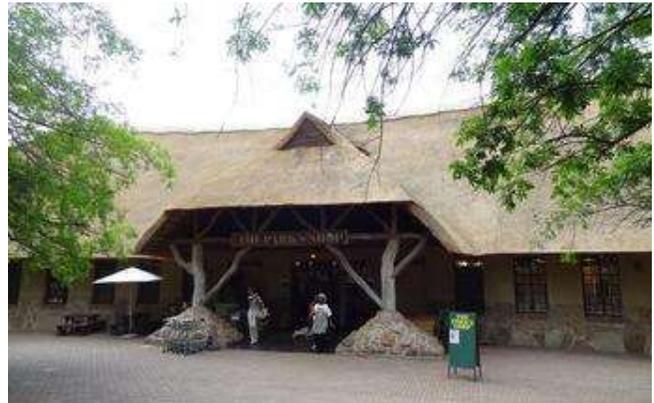
Day Itinerary

Today, we exit Swaziland in the north and make our way to the Kruger National Park.

Once arrived, we make our way to the rest camp where we set up camp. **(Conservation fees for own account)**

Overnight: Skukuza Rest Camp

As the headquarters of the Kruger Park, Skakuza has become a little town in the middle of the bush. Its 1400 residents and thousands of daily visitors enjoy wonderful views through Sycamore Figs and Natal Mahoganies. Situated on the banks of the Sabie River, the camp's activities and facilities are diverse, as are the area's plant and wildlife. Accommodation options include campsites, 21 furnished safari tents, semi luxury bungalows, cottages and 4 guesthouses. It also features a doctor, a shop, a bank, a post office, a library, a museum, a restaurant and a cafeteria with decks overlooking the river.



Basis

Dinner

Excluded

Kruger National Park Conservation Fees

Day 15: Skukuza Rest Camp, Southern Kruger

Day Itinerary

For the next two days, guests have the opportunity to enjoy activities in the Kruger National Park and can either enjoy game drives in the comfort of their own touring vehicle, or book open vehicle game drives (morning / afternoon / evening) with Parks Board **(own account)**.

The Kruger National Park is the largest wildlife sanctuary in South Africa and one of the largest controlled nature reserves in the world. Nearly 2 million hectares of land stretch for 352 kilometres from north to south and offers an incredible wildlife experience.

More than 500 species of birds, 147 species of mammals and 336 species of trees call this park their home. The early presence of man which includes bushman rock paintings and important archaeological sites are also conserved within the Park. The park has an excellent infrastructure that includes picnic sites, rest camps, waterholes and hides.

Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Excluded

All optional game viewing activities

Day 16: Skukuza Rest Camp, Southern Kruger

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 17: Forever Resort Blyde Canyon, Panorama Route

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, the 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.

Day Itinerary

This morning, we break down camp and enjoy one last game drive through the park (in the comfort of our own touring vehicles) before we make our way to our destination where we set up camp one last time.

Once arrived, guests can enjoy the resort facilities or visit the gorgeous Blyde River Canyon viewpoint on the resort grounds. There are also three hiking trails starting from the resort, including the Leopard trail which starts at the Canyon viewpoint and leads downhill where numerous waterfalls and creeks can be seen as well as the occasional monkey and baboon.

Overnight: Forever Resort Blyde Canyon

Forever Resorts Blyde Canyon has commanding views of the Blyde River Canyon, the third largest canyon in the world.

This three and four star Resort is located a mere 160 kilometers from Nelspruit and 50 kilometers from Graskop. It is the ideal base for hiking trails and scenic trips by car to well-known Mpumalanga locations, including Pilgrim's Rest.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 18: Forever Resort Blyde Canyon, Panorama Route

Day Itinerary

Today, we enjoy a full day Panorama Route Tour (**entrance fees all for own account**).

The Panorama Route tour encompasses spectacular scenery and breathtaking views. The Blyde River Canyon is South Africa's only true canyon where well positioned vantage points allow a view of the 33 km long gorge with its varied and lush vegetation. One of these vantage points, known as *The Three Rondavels*, feature huge triplet rock spirals rising out of the far wall of the canyon, and which resemble round hut like dwellings with thatched roofs. *God's Window* offers a panoramic view of the Lowveld, and in the distance of the Kruger National Park and Mozambique, almost 100 kms away. The drop from the viewpoint into the indigenous forest clad ravine below is more than 900m. *Bourke's Luck Potholes* can be found at the confluence of the Blyde and Treur rivers. Over millions of years waterborne sand and rock has scoured large cylindrical holes into the bedrock of the river, some of which are over 6m deep. Spectacular waterfalls abound in the area, some as high as 92m cascading over sheer cliffs and into rock pools or rivers below.

This morning we depart for Johannesburg International Airport where we return our vehicles.

(NOTE: Mon - Fri: last return @ 16h00 / Sat: last return @ 12h00/ Sun: no returns)

End of tour.

Basis

Room Only

Excluded

Panorama Route Entrance Fees

Day 19: End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

This morning we depart for Johannesburg International Airport where we return our vehicles.

(NOTE: Mon - Fri: last return @ 16h00 / Sat: last return @ 12h00/ Sun: no returns)

End of tour.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Transport

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
		OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]	Peermont Metcourt Suites Emperors Palace		Transfer

Service Provider Directory

Service Provider	Ref. Number	Telephone	Address
Forever Resort Blyde Canyon		+27 13 769 8900	
Maguga Dam Lodge		00268 2437 3975/6	Maguga Dam, Piggs Peak, Kingdom of Swaziland.
Peermont Metcourt Suites Emperors Palace			64 Jones Road Kempton Park Gauteng 1620
Shonalanga Lodge		+27 35 590 1087	McKenzie Street St Lucia
Skukuza Rest Camp		+27 21 424 1037	Kruger National Park, Skukuza, 1350
Southern Sun OR Tambo International Airport		+27 11 977 3600	SS OR Tambo International Airport Hotel Jones Road Kempton Park 1620
The Old Hatchery		+27 72 076 7125	Drakensberg Gardens Road Drakensberg Gardens Underberg 3257
Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp		0834381033	Utshwayelo Lodge and Camp, Kosibay, KZN.

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. There are also low-cost carriers on main routes, namely Kulula.com, Mango and Safair. 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. Please note that a valid international driver's licence is required. We drive on the left-hand side of the road. Most global car hire firms have branches in South Africa and Uber is available.

Another means of getting around South Africa are 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 the popular MyCityBus system in Cape Town as well as a hop-on-hop-off tourist bus in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

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 mesmerisingly 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

Car 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.
