

Walking South Africa

Trip Code: WSA

Version:



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Game viewing, drives and unique safari walks in search of the Big 5 in Kruger and Hluhluwe
- Day walks in the dramatic Drakensberg Mountains, eSwatini & Blyde River Canyon
- Stay on the Msinene Nature Reserve which is reintroducing wildlife and conservation orientated
- Visit the historic battlefield of Zululand at Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift

AT A GLANCE

- 14 days with game drives & bush walks
- 8 half or full day walks
- Join at Johannesburg

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Our unique South Africa walking safari adventure takes in some of the world's finest game reserves and national parks of Northern South Africa and eSwatini. The focus is on walking and we intersperse these days with game drives to ensure we see the full spectacle of the Africa wildlife. We walk in the Blyde River Canyon before a Big 5 walking safari and game drive in Kruger National Park - a gem of South Africa. With plenty of opportunity for wildlife sightings during our visit, we are likely to come across the huge African Elephant, big cats such as lions, and of course giraffe, zebra, many species of antelope as well as birds and small animals such as warthogs. We travel to eSwatini where we walk in the seldom explored mountainous reserve of Malalotja. Continuing on we visit Hluhluwe and the surrounding nature reserve in Zululand for game drives and a unique walking safari. On the way to the Drakensberg, we visit the Zululand Battlefield and walk the Fugitives' Drift Trail. The finale to this super holiday are the days walking in the Drakensberg Mountains showing off some of the most dramatic and breath-taking scenery in South Africa. This is a holiday perfect for walkers who enjoy wildlife and want to experience Africa's beauty.

If you would like further information on when to go to Southern Africa on safari and which trip suits you the best please refer to our detailed guide: [Which safari is right for you?](#)

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is ideal for people wanted to experience African safaris but do not want to spend all their time in a vehicle. We have included a number of walks and walking safari's with local guides and armed rangers. Some of these require an early morning start and walking in the bush. There are 8 days with walks of between 1-6hrs with the average walk being 4 hrs. The hardest and longest walks are when we are in the Drakensberg Mountains. There is one section of chain ladders to get onto the plateau which is not optional for this day walk - although staying at the lodge is an option!

There are a number of game drives, often on rough roads. Everything in South Africa is on a big scale and includes a few long drives as we travel over a large distance in between visiting some spectacular places. The driving times are indicated on each day. These times do not include stops along the way. We ensure that regular comfort breaks are taken, and stops try to be scheduled to visit interesting towns or sights.

You will be in your safari vehicle for the duration of the 'game drives'. You will slowly drive on the dirt tracks and stop for periods to see the wildlife. Unless specifically stated, these game drives are not

included in the total drive times mentioned at the end of the day-by-day details.

The terrain, people, culture and wildlife are splendid and will not disappoint even the most travelled of traveller!

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Two professional and qualified guides
- Airport transfers as described
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as per the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- National park entrance fees
- All excursions mentioned in the itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tips for local staff
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Optional excursions
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Johannesburg.

On arrival airport transfers are provided for all clients to the group hotel.

Return flights, on the last day of holiday, should not depart before 1900. On the last day of the land only itinerary the tour will end in the late afternoon at the group hotel near Johannesburg Airport via one stop at the airport.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

13 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 10 dinners are included in the holiday price. On days where there is a variety of dining options it makes sense to give you the choice. In practice this means you will pay directly for a total of 3 dinners, 1 lunch and 1 breakfast. We recommend you budget £10 - 15 for each of these meals.

Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as [Water-to-Go](#), which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

The majority of the meals are included. Breakfast will be cereals and yoghurt, with coffee, tea, toast and the occasional cooked breakfast. Lunch will typically be picnic style and prepared by the guides - cold meats, cheese, salads, bread, rolls and fruit. Dinner will be potjies (traditional stews), braais (barbecue), stir fries and pasta. Fresh produce will be used wherever possible and fruit squash, tea and coffee will be served with breakfast and dinner. A few of the meals are prepared and cooked by your tour leader. It is good group etiquette to help with preparation and washing up on these days and this is usually done on rotation.

Accommodation

During this holiday the group will spend 13 nights on safari staying at small, intimate and often private lodges (including tented camps), with en suite facilities and some with swimming pools. You have 1 night at a hotel near the airport in Johannesburg.

An African Tented Lodge or Camp is a permanent set up, with safari style tents built on platforms above the ground. They have beds and all bed linen is provided, and usually en-suite facilities. Each tent usually also has its own little veranda.

Some of the meals are prepared by the guides and it is good group etiquette to help with preparation and washing up on these days and this is usually done on rotation - it's all part of the adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip runs smoothly.

All accommodation is subject to change at any time without prior notification.

Limited wifi is available on 2 or 3 nights, otherwise it is wifi free living!

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. A limited number of single rooms are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

SAFARI TRUCKS

Years of safari experience into the design of the trucks. The trucks are built to comply with the latest South African transport and safety regulations. Your comfort is catered for with individual seats (with safety belts), ample legroom and large vertical sliding windows for unobstructed viewing and photography.

There are roof hatches for excellent "open" views and an integral cab and passenger compartment so contact with the driver is easy. Each truck also has large packing compartments, a built in kitchen, freezer, drinking water tank, interior lights and a gas stove (to minimise use of wood and destruction of forest areas). There is also a pullout set of steps into the passenger compartment, making access for clients easier. There is usually a bank of plug sockets in the vehicles. These plugs are the South African 3 round pin or 2 round pin with a hexagonal base. We also use minibuses for some small group safaris. All of our vehicles are bought new and serviced by Mercedes and Toyota agents, thus ensuring trouble free touring with backup support in practically every town in Southern Africa.

Where road conditions allow we may also use minibuses. On 5% of tours we may use minibuses with 12 seats and air conditioning (with trailer for equipment and baggage). The safaris often have several long days of travel providing for a beautiful journey on the way to exciting and varied destinations.

Group Leader & Support Staff

Group leaders are the key to any successful safari. On this adventure safari, you will travel with two qualified and experienced, registered field guides (FGASA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, adds up to an informative and interesting small group holiday. Our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.

Spending Money

We estimate that approximately £300 per person (or equivalent in euros/dollars) should be allowed for personal spending. This amount is sufficient to cover non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses, including tips to local staff. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs or undertake any additional activities or excursions, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). If you expect to buy considerable quantities of soft drinks or beer, you should make an allowance for this.

You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros. Small craft traders generally will accept €, £, US\$ or local cash. It is important that you ensure that your notes are clean and undamaged, as many banks and exchange bureau will not accept dirty, damaged or torn notes. Please also avoid bringing US\$100 notes, as there is a high incident of forged notes around and they may not be accepted. Old issue "small head" US\$ notes are also not always accepted. There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at the airport (which we advise you to do) and your local leader will advise further places to change money en-route and at borders. Additionally, you will be able to get currency from bank ATMs in many of the towns that we will visit.

On day 1, on arrival at the hotel in Johannesburg you can book a half-day SOWETO tour for \$75 per person, or an afternoon tour to Maropeng Cradle of Humankind and Sterkfontien Caves is also bookable for \$100 per person (min 2 people). Please check that Sterkfontien Caves are open, as they can close due to high water levels. Both of these tours should be booked on arrival (before 12midday) with our local agent and are payable locally in cash.

Guidance on Tipping

In South Africa it is usual to tip staff including your local guide and driver if you are happy with the services provided. We suggest you co-ordinate these tips as a group. We suggest that a tip of €2-5 (or £/\$/R equivalent) per client per day for your tour leader is reasonable. When it comes to tipping the guides that we sometimes use for various activities (e.g. game walks) we suggest that a tip of €1-3 per client per ½ day activity, or the local currency equivalent, is acceptable. As in all cases with tipping, the final decision of the amount tipped is up to the individual. It is up to you to decide if you thought the service was poor, or exceptional, and the amount tipped should reflect that. The amounts quoted above are guidelines for you to get an idea of what to tip.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will travel in the gear compartment of the truck with the group, and there is a finite amount of space. Please keep the weight of your main luggage to 12kg. You should bring a soft bag as these are more suitable to pack in the vehicle. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Group Members

We sell this holiday in conjunction with our local operator in Southern Africa. This enables us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get the holiday up and running quickly. For this holiday the minimum age is 12 yrs, however it is unusual to have people under 16yrs.

South Africa Indemnity Form

As a member of the South African Tourism Service Association, our ground agent in South Africa may require you to complete an indemnity form at the start of your holiday, which you will need your insurance details for. As a client of KE Adventure Travel, your rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Regulations (2018) are unaffected and KE Adventure Travel will remain liable for the actions of our suppliers.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Visa South Africa

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays. You must have 2 blank pages in your passport.

Rules on **travelling with children under 18 years** have been relaxed. Visa exempt children entering South Africa only need passports, and not birth certificates as previously required. This applies if the child is travelling with both parents, one parent or an adult who is not a biological parent, and school groups. There are some different requirements for unaccompanied children, and children who do not have UK passports or visa exempt passports. For full details please see the FCDO website.

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you specific require any vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella), along with hepatitis A and typhoid. Malarial prophylaxis are required. A certificate of yellow fever vaccination is required if travelling from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transited for more than 12 hrs through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dentist check up. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Currency

The unit of currency in South Africa is the South African Rand.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. You should be comfortable with walking 1 to 6 hours. Hill walking is the best way to get fit for this holiday, but running, cycling and swimming are also good.

Climate

South Africa has a generally sunny and pleasant climate, with regional differences due to the weather systems from the surrounding oceans and altitude above sea level. From May to August the days are pleasant and sunny, and in the mountains (eSwatini & Drakensberg) it can be cool to cold! September to April is pleasant, warm to hot with the occasional thunder showers.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through one of our international partners. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You should bring the following items:

- Lightweight walking boots or shoes
- Sandals
- Socks
- Underwear
- Long lightweight trekking trousers
- Shorts
- Lightweight waterproof jacket & trousers
- T-shirts
- Casual shirts with sleeves
- Thermal base layer top
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Daypack 20-25 litres
- Dry bags to keep contents of day pack dry
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sunhat with wide brim
- Small towel/Travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries (biodegradable soap is preferred)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Insect repellent
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, re-hydration salts (Dioralite), anti-nausea tablets and antihistamine cream/tablets.

The following items are optional:

- Travel clothes

- Light cotton dress or sarong
- Walking poles
- Spare laces
- Swimwear
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Binoculars (highly recommended)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

Please be aware that in the Southern African the winter months, June-September, the nights can be cold with an average of between 0-5 degrees Celsius in some places, and the days can be warm between 20-30 Degrees Celsius. You may wish to take a hat and gloves during this period.

Bright bold colours and white are not suitable for game viewing or bush wear as they attract insects and the attention of animals. Please do not bring camouflage or military style clothes as they can cause problems with local authorities.

Please dress appropriately for border crossings, village and market visits - ie: no bare feet, no bare chests, no bikinis and no hats. A few restaurants are also not keen on T-shirts and jeans either.

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Johannesburg. Airport transfers are provided.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Johannesburg.

Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the evening, arriving the morning of the following day (day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Johannesburg in the evening of the last day of the land only itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Smashing safari and walking holiday, visiting the famous Blyde River, Kruger and the Drakensberg. As well as smaller and more intimate conservancy rehabilitating wildlife, and walks in rural eSwatini. And the price is BRILLIANT! AIRPORT TRANSFERS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Please Note This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change