



BAREFOOT SAFARIS & Adventure Tours

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TRIP DOSSIER

CAMPING TOUR SOUTH AFRICA

(18 DAYS)

Revised 05 March 2012

FROM THE KRUGER NAT PARK TO, SWAZILAND, TO LESOTHO, TO CAPE TOWN

Tour Highlights

- Travel along the Panorama Route and view the Blyde River Canyon in the Mpumalanga Province
- Game drives in the Kruger National Park
- Mountain walks in Swaziland and the Drakensberg
- Visit cultural villages and enjoy game drives in Zululand
- Trekking with ponies in Lesotho
- Walks, ostrich viewing and wine tasting in the Karoo and along the Garden Route
- Visit the world famous Cape Point and Table Mountain while in Cape Town

Departures

Tours depart Johannesburg on Saturday at 06:30. South African Tour ends in Cape Town on Tuesday at 18:00. Scheduled departure dates can be found below.

Guests

Minimum 4 - Maximum 12

- *South Africa is one of the best tourist destinations in the world. You can find almost everything you would like to have or choose from for your holiday; mountains, oceans, lakes, rivers, delicious food and excellent wines, history and culture, fauna and flora. The list goes on: South Africa also has a spectacular diversity of wildlife and scenery, beautiful beaches, luxury hotels, attractive wine estates, and unspoiled wilderness areas. We at Barefoot Safaris have tailored made tours and safaris to suit all your traveling expectations to this special country and below we highlight some of South Africa's unique features. If you do not find anything here or in our trip dossiers that you would want to do we are able and willing to create your own personalized tour or safari for you.*
- *A little bit about South Africa: it is the 25th biggest country in the world, but its rainfall is only half of the world's average. Sunshine is plentiful, varying from 7.5 to 9.5 hours an average day compared to 3.8 hours in London and 6.9 hours in New York. So it is a perfect destination for a beach holiday or to explore the Cape of Good Hope.*
- *Not only does South Africa have lots of sunshine it also has more animal species than north and South America combined, or Europe and Asia added together. On a Barefoot safari you can view, in their natural haunts, "The Big Five" – elephant, lion, leopard, rhinoceros and buffalo – or be shown "The Sea Big Five"- Right Whale, Great White Shark, endangered Bottle nosed Dolphin, Blue Marlin and Tuna. Look, also, for "The Little Five" – elephant shrew, ant lion, rhinoceros beetle, buffalo weaver and leopard tortoise. We at Barefoot can also introduce you to the South Africa's history and rich cultural heritage. Did you know that South Africa has produced seven Nobel Prize winners (for Peace, Literature and Medicine).*



But that is not all; South Africa is the only country with an entire floral kingdom within its borders. The tiny Cape Floral Kingdom has at least 8,578 flowers – the richest variety on earth. Altogether, South Africa has 23,200 plant species – a greater variety than that of the entire northern half of the planet.

And South Africa is also home to:

- *The world's largest land mammal (African elephant)*
- *The tallest (giraffe) and fastest (cheetah) mammals*
- *The largest antelope (eland) and bird (ostrich)*
- *And to 900 bird species, 6,000 spider species, 175 varieties of scorpion and 100 different snakes.*

Now: Barefoot Safaris has more than 20 years' experience in the sub-continent of southern Africa and Barefoot Safari's mission is to share our knowledge and love of this wonderful continent with you on an eco-friendly tour or safari. Our tours take you to the real Africa, giving you the opportunity to feel, touch and smell Africa and our offices are in Johannesburg close to all the major hotels. Perhaps you are after a cultural tour, steeped deeply in our South African history or perhaps you wish to seek out one of our great food and wine tours. Whatever your needs may be, with our excellent up market accommodation and unspoiled wilderness safaris here in South Africa, we are the tour company to assist you in all your traveling requirements.

All of these possibilities above are yours to choose from and Barefoot Safaris has the pleasure of presenting them to you through our customized tours designed around your wishes – no more large groups that limit your freedom or sense of exploration – with our knowledge and advice you can plan the holidays of your dreams.

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Welcome (English)/Ngiyanemukela (Zulu)/Welkom (Afrikaans)!



Grading: *Anyone in good health with a sense of adventure should be able to take part. There's no real physical difficulty involved, but as in much of Africa – rough roads in the national parks, limited facilities and basic accommodation may require you to adjust your levels of expectation. Walking on and around Sabi is graded 'moderate'.*

NB: *Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed and detailed below, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure such as accommodation, or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary i.e. B LD - Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner).*

Day 1: Pilgrim's Rest

Departing from Johannesburg at 06:30 we head east towards Mpumalanga. A landscape characterized by mountains, panoramic passes, valleys, rivers, waterfalls and forests. We will camp the night in the old gold rush town of Pilgrims Rest, a living museum dating back to 1873. We explore the quaint town, visit Bourkes Luck Potholes and God's window viewpoint.

Distance/ Time: 350km, +/- 5 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing and lunch

Overnight: Camping - Pilgrims Rest (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

DAY 2-3: Kruger National Park

The Kruger National Park Safari - Big game country - exciting game drives provide us with excellent

game viewing. Spot lion, elephant, rhino and other animals in one of the last African wildernesses. Early morning & afternoon game drives get us close to the wildlife.

Distance/ Time: 150km, +/- 2 hours, plus 3x3 hour game drives

Overnight: Camping - Kruger National Park (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

Day 4: Malalotja, Swaziland

The mountainous Kingdom of Swaziland, led by King Mswati III, is one of 3 monarchies in Africa. Swazi's are proud of their traditional lifestyle & cultures. Malalotja borders on the Drakensberg escarpment and we explore the reserve on foot to enjoy the mountain scenery, rare birdlife, and the 95m high Malalotja waterfall. Overnight in log cabins with fantastic panoramic views.

Distance/ Time: 200km, +/- 4 hours, excluding 2-3 hour morning drive out of Kruger, Shopping stop in Malelane, Jeppe's

Reef border formalities and stops for sightseeing

Overnight: Cabin - Swaziland (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

Day 5-6: Mkuzi Game Reserve

After visiting craft markets near Mbabane, we re-enter South Africa. Mkuzi Game Reserve is a safe haven for the endangered black rhino. We have a full day to game drive and stop at waterhole hides and watch game come down to drink.

Distance/ Time: 300km, +/- 4 hours, excluding border formalities and game drives in Mkuzi

Overnight: Camping - Zululand (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

Day 7-8: Drakensberg Mountains

Moving further south to the base of the Drakensberg (Dragon Mountains). We have two nights here in chalets allowing time for walking along beautiful mountain stream paths, looking for Bushman rock paintings or just enjoying spectacular views.

Distance/ Time: 400km, +/- 6 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing and lunch

Overnight: Camping - Drakensberg Mountains (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

Day 9-10: Lesotho

We travel through the towering red sandstone cliffs of Golden Gate en route to Lesotho. Quaint villages and towns offer interesting stops along the way. We cross the border and head to southern Lesotho to our overnight chalets at Malealea. This lodge nestled in the mountains forms our base for two nights. The next morning we are up early and spend the day trekking with local guides and their ponies through the rugged mountains.

Distance/ Time: 370km, +/- 8 hours, excluding stops for border formalities, sightseeing and lunch

Overnight: Chalets - Lesotho (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)



Day 11: The Karoo, South Africa

Descending from the Lesotho highlands we make our way into the Karoo. It covers most of central South Africa and is a vast semi desert. It has become famous for its sheep and ostrich farming industries, and roadside stalls selling handmade windmills.

Distance/ Time: 370km, +/- 8 hours - a long day! Excluding stops for border formalities, sightseeing and lunch

Overnight: Guest House - Karoo (Lunch, Bed & Breakfast)

Day 12: Addo Elephant National Park

A conservation success, Addo Elephant National Park offers a unique wildlife area, famous for the Addo elephants. We head out on game drives in search of elephant, black rhino, lion, buffalo and leopard. Evening viewing at the floodlit waterhole allows us to watch the nocturnal animals.

Distance/ Time: 280km, +/- 3 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing, lunch and game drives

Overnight: Camping - Addo Elephant National Park (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

Day 13-14: Tsitsikamma Forest, Knysna

Indigenous Tsitsikamma forests surround the campsite at Storms River mouth, and there are walks up the Storms River Gorge and along the rocky coastline. There is an option of the world's highest bungi jump (own expense). Whale watching in season (July to November).

Distance/ Time: 220km, +/- 3 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing

Overnight: Camping - Tsitsikamma (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

Day 15: To Franschoek

After visiting "The Heads" in Knysna, a town nestled on a tranquil lagoon we travel south along the Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve and Threewaterskloof Dam before heading over the Franschoek Pass to our campsite near Franschoek for the evening.

Distance/ Time: 510km, +/- 7 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing and lunch

Overnight: Camping - Franschoek (Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

Day 16-17: Cape Town

We enjoy a morning walk in historic Franschoek. Visit Stellenbosch, for wine tasting and a cellar tour. Explore Cape Town and the "mother city's" many attractions, visit Cape Point, the Cape of Good Hope, Chapman's Peak drive, the harbor at Hout Bay, enjoy the famous beaches and the V&A Waterfront. Optional visit to Robben Island (own expense). Meals at a variety of local restaurants (own expense).

Distance/ Time: 160km, +/- 2 hours and Wineland Tour, full day Cape Peninsula Tour on day 17

Overnight: Guest House - Cape Town (Bed & Breakfast)

Day 18: Cape Town

We climb Table Mountain in the morning admiring the views over Table Bay and Cape Town. Spend the afternoon catching up on last minute curio shopping or just lazing on the beach absorbing the Cape's sunshine. The tour ends at about 18:00. Transfers can be arranged to Cape Town International Airport.

Distance/ Time: N/A

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Since January 2003, Barefoot Safaris has donated £10 for every person we take to Malawi and Zambia, to assist with the funding and development of **Chanyoli School**. Parents and school staff have recently fired 60,000 bricks and began building this year. You may like to bring some books or school equipment to assist this very deserving project and see for yourself how well received it is. Any donations in cash are always welcome.

We also support the **SOS Children's Village**, which you can visit in Lilongwe. They would be most grateful for any children's clothes or toys that you might donate.



Price Includes:

- 11 Nights Camping Accommodation
- 6 Nights Cabin/ Guest House Accommodation
- Entrance Fees
- Use of camping equipment (except sleeping bags and pillows)
- Meals as per itinerary
- Transportation in Minibus/ Safari Truck
- Professional Guide

Price Excludes:

- International & Domestic Flights
- Unspecified Meals
- All Beverages
- Sleeping Bags (and small pillow) for camping
- Optional Extra Activities & Entrance Fees
- Visas
- Curio's, Gratuities, Telephone calls etc.
- Travel Insurance

**** Excursions:** A qualified grade 1 safari guide from Barefoot Safaris will accompany clients on all excursions except where it is necessary to employ a guide from local parks.

Please Note

- This tour is operated as a Scheduled Tour. Departure dates can be found below.
- There are only two single tents available for this tour, which attracts the single supplement charge. On the nights that the camping tours stay in Guest Houses or Chalets the single travelers will be roomed with another same sex single traveler. Should there be no single tents available single guests will pay the sharing rate and then be accommodated in a twin share tent with another traveler of the same sex.
- Please feel free to add on

to this tour with any of the other possible tours we offer in the area.

- The accommodation specified in the itinerary is a guide only and subject to availability. Alternatives will be of a similar standard if required.
- The Euro rate is just an indication of the price at the current exchange rate, it cannot be guaranteed until a confirmed booking is made

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Climate: South Africa's wet season runs from mid October or early November to March or April. During the rainy season, daytime temperatures are pleasantly warm, but low lying areas can sometimes be humid. The heaviest rain is confined to the highlands, while the lakeshore is much drier. The dry season tends to be cooler and generally runs from May to early October. During the dry season, daytime temperatures in the lower areas are fairly consistent at 21°C to 26°C. In the highlands daytime temperatures can be considerably cooler ranging between 10°C and 20°C. Nights can be particularly cold during the dry season, so warm clothing is essential. Kruger's can be cool and dry season runs from May to Aug; the hot and dry from Sep to Oct, and the wet season from Nov to Apr. South Luangwa is relatively low lying, so evening temperatures shouldn't be too low!

Baggage:

- One piece of main luggage only (**max 12kg**), this should be a soft bag rather than a hard suitcase, so it can be easily stowed and not take up too much room in the vehicle or in the tent. Space in the vehicle is restricted.
- A day sack (large enough to carry your camera, water bottle, & binoculars etc) is also essential.
- Sleeping Bag

Clothing and Footwear:

- For comfort in the heat, lightweight cotton is best. Brightly colored clothing is not appropriate for safari because it is easily seen by animals and has the added discomfort of attracting insects (wear muted tones in natural colors i.e. beige, khaki, olive, etc, but **not** army-style camouflage clothing).
- A long-sleeved shirt is essential to protect neck and arms while on game walks/drives.
- Long trousers and socks for evenings.
- Windproof/waterproof jacket.
- Lightweight trail boots.
- Trainers or sandals for relaxing.
- Sunhat.
- Swimming gear.
- Warm mid layers i.e. fleece or jumper for cool nights and early mornings
- Kagoul if you are travelling during the rains.

Equipment:

- A laundry service may be available in some hotels, but we recommend you take biodegradable travel detergent
- Torch (Head torch is ideal)
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lipsalve
- Insect repellent
- Binoculars
- Dust can be a problem for cameras; take a dustproof bag

Medicine:

- Basic personal first aid kit
- Any prescription drugs required
- Female sanitary products
- Malaria prophylaxis



Visas and Permits:

South Africa: Holders of UK, USA, CAN, AUS, NZ, IRL, NOR, NL passports do not require a visa.

This information is given in good faith, but may be subject to change without warning. Please note that, where appropriate, obtaining a valid visa is ultimately your responsibility. Please consult a visa agency or the consular authorities 4-6 weeks before departure for the most up-to-date information.

Vaccinations & Health Advice:

Vaccination requirements & other health advice can change, so please check with a specialized travel clinic for up to date information before you depart. For useful advice you can visit The Medical Advisory Service for Travelers Abroad www.masta.org Nevertheless we recommend that you protect yourselves against: *Malaria, Hepatitis A, and Polio & Typhoid as a minimum.*

Food: Although every effort will be made to accommodate any dietary requirements, the availability of certain products is limited in South Africa. Any special dietary requirements should be explained to us in writing at time of booking. Gluten free flour should be brought with you if required. Decaffeinated coffee should be brought with you if required.

Local Costs: 10 Breakfasts, 0 lunches and 4 evening meals are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself (you can eat very well for \$10 a day). Approximate costs are given for guidance only, and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

Coffee/tea	USD\$0.30
Soft drink	USD\$0.30
Medium beer	USD\$0.60
Local snack lunch	USD\$2.00
3-course dinner*	USD\$7.00

*reasonable mid-range tourist class restaurant.

Optional excursions:

Some or all of the excursions detailed below may be available; others not listed may also be available. Approximate per person costs are given for guidance only, and may depend on the number of participants. Your safari guide should be able to assist you in arranging them as well as advise you on any.

Tiping: For better or worse, tipping is an accepted part of everyday life, and - although it is always at your discretion - you will be expected to tip to reward service. Your group leader will give you an indication of when and how much is appropriate. This can vary widely, but please allow USD 25 per person for this tour.

Seasonal changes: Although all rooms/chalets in malaria areas that we use are protected with mosquito netting; there will be insects and mosquitoes about. The camps are essentially "al fresco" so you should be prepared with insect repellent and appropriate long sleeved/legged clothing.

Insects are attracted to lights at night and are especially prevalent during the rainy season. Switching the lights off and placing a hurricane lamp a distance from you will remove the problem.

The evenings and mornings will be chilly from about June to August; so it is advisable to take a light sweater or fleece. The Highlands in Malawi has a much cooler climate, so if you are visiting these areas warmer clothes will be required during these months.

Currency: South African Rand. We recommend that you bring all you need for the trip as cash in US\$ or to make use of your debit or credit card.

NB: Pre 1990 dollar bills are not accepted in most African countries.

Airport Tax: This should be included in your air ticket. Please confirm with your air carrier



Temperature data for Johannesburg

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	25.6	25.1	24	21.1	18.9	16	16.7	19.4	22.8	23.8	24.2	25.2
Average low °C	14.7	14.1	13.1	10.3	7.2	4.1	4.1	6.2	9.3	11.2	12.7	13.9

Temperature data for Cape Town

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	26.1	26.5	25.4	23	20.3	18.1	17.5	17.8	19.2	21.3	23.5	24.9
Average low °C	15.7	15.6	14.2	11.9	9.4	7.8	7	7.5	8.7	10.6	13.2	14.9

Temperature data Kruger NP

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	33	32	31	29	28	26	26	27	29	30	31	32
Average low °C	21	20	19	15	10	6	6	9	13	16	18	20