



# 18 Day South African Accommodated Explorer

## 17 Nights Lodge Accommodation

South Africa. A country virtually the size of Europe, with over 3000 kilometres of unspoiled coastline, a climate ranging from searing hot desert to cool, crisp mountain air, an enormous diversity of ecosystems harbouring an equal diversity of fauna and flora, and varied cultures, from the original Bushman to the most Western of ways. We visit the highlights, but leave the beaten track to explore the great outdoors and visit a variety of South African ecosystems. Overnight stops are all at comfortable lodges, in pristine reserves, high in the mountains, or on the beach, always in truly unique surroundings. The tour is enjoyed by those with a flexible attitude and adventurous mind.



## INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

- “Big Five” game walk
- Open vehicle game drive
- Game reserves/national parks
- Kruger National Park
- Zululand Game Reserve
- Drakensberg Mountains
- Swaziland Kingdom (eSwatini)
- Cape wine farm and wine tasting
- African culture

- Garden Route
- Coastal hike
- Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Point
- Table Mountain hike
- Unspoiled beaches
- San rock art
- Nelson Mandela memorial

## ITINERARY

### 18- Days - South Africa and Swaziland

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below but a certain amount of flexibility is built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary.

**Accommodation: 17 nights lodge**

### DAY 1 JHB – BUSH LODGE

Departing from the GREENFIRE LODGE JOHANNESBURG at 06h30, we set off on the scenic road to Mpumalanga. We enjoy a lunch stop in the historic town of Dullstroom before we wind our way down the Drakensberg escarpment and into the untamed Lowveld. The road is filled with scenic beauty, from mountain passes to the Acacia trees scattered across the African bushveld.

We spend the next two nights at our well-appointed GREENFIRE BUSH LODGE, situated in a private reserve unfenced to the Kruger National Park; an area where animals roam naturally and unrestricted. Being on a privately-owned reserve we have the freedom to explore the wilderness in search of a variety of animals both on foot and in open game drive vehicles.

The tented lodge blends into the bush and offers comfortable beds, en-suite bathrooms, a refreshing splash pool and stunning views over the surrounding wilderness. Dinner tonight is cooked in the traditional manner over an open fire.

*Meals: D (Lunch own expense)*

*Distance: 490 km*

*Accommodation: Bush Lodge - Twin-bedded en suite tented units*

*Included Highlights/Activity:*

- Scenic Drive down to the Lowveld Region
- Private Game Reserve Accommodation

*Optional Activities:*

- None, all included

### DAY 2 BUSH LODGE

As is custom in the bush, we start the day with a light breakfast of coffee and rusks before embarking on a guided



game walk within this Big 5 area. Although we will walk for some three hours, the purpose is not to cover distance but rather to search for animals and to focus on the smaller things one misses while out driving around in the bush. A guide and/or tracker will lead the walk. Before the heat of the day, we return to the lodge for a sumptuous brunch, after which it's time to relax around the lodge and enjoy the serenity of the surrounding wilderness. A nearby waterhole in front of the camp is the source of water for many animals that come here to quench their thirst.

In the afternoon, we conduct an open vehicle game drive which develops into an extensive night drive, all the time searching for animals. Groups will drive in search of animals until just before the sun set, when the guide will stop, and we have time to enjoy a sundowner drink as the sun sets over the bushveld. Once it is dark, we continue our game drive. Being in the bush at night provides us with the opportunity of viewing nocturnal animals. This evening we enjoy a hearty bush "braai" cooked on an open fire. Fall asleep to the sounds of the wild.

**Meals: Brunch, Dinner**

**Distance: 20 km (Game Drive)**

**Accommodation: Bush Lodge - Twin-bedded en suite tented units**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Exclusive Private Reserve
- Morning guided walk in Big 5 area
- Afternoon Game drive / Night drive

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

### DAY 3 PANORAMA ROUTE -HAZYVIEW

Rising with the African sun, we enjoy a hearty breakfast before setting off to explore the highlights of the Panorama Route. Our first stop will be to view the impressive Blyde River Canyon, then on to Bourke's Luck Potholes, Gods Window, and the cosy little town of Graskop where we enjoy an own expense lunch. The Panorama Route offers guests some of the best natural wonders in the area and we will spend as much time as possible at each of the highlights.

This afternoon we make our way to the tranquil GREENFIRE LODGE HAZYVIEW, a log cabin built spectacularly on stilts in the indigenous forest on the banks of the Sabie River. Time permitting guests are free to walk on the property and enjoy the surrounding forest. We spend two nights here.

**Meals: B D (Lunch own expense)**

**Distance: 195 km**

**Accommodation: Greenfire Lodge Hazyview - Log Cabins**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Panorama Route
- God's Window
- Bourke's Luck Potholes
- 3 Rondavels

**Optional Activities:**

- Gorge Swing

### DAY 4 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

An early start, we depart at sunrise and travel the short distance to enter a different area of the Kruger National Park for a full day of game viewing. Slowly traversing in search of the many animals that inhabit this area, we enjoy the high vantage point and comfort of our well-equipped vehicle. Our guide will take time to explain the behaviour of the animals we see in this fascinating environment.



Although most of the day will be spent game viewing, we will stop at various designated sites to stretch our legs, to enjoy brunch, and to wander around one of the park's rest camps. Late this afternoon we exit the park and return to the comfort of our GREENFIRE LODGE HAZYVIEW.

**Meals: Brunch, Dinner**

**Distance: +- 160 km**

**Accommodation: Greenfire Lodge Hazyview - Log Cabins**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Southern section of Kruger National Park
- Full Day Game Drive

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

## DAY 5 SWAZILAND

We depart after breakfast and enjoy a scenic drive south, before we leave South Africa and cross the border into the Kingdom of eSwatini. A small landlocked country, Swaziland is rich in culture and natural beauty. Our journey today takes us into an area of spectacular scenery and past numerous traditional homesteads, surrounded by vast fields of sugar cane. Our first destination is Sibebe rock, a granite mountain rising some 350 metres above the Mbuluzi valley. We make a short stop at the foot of the mountain, while our guide explains the history and beliefs surrounding Sibebe, before we continue our journey, visiting some of the local markets on the way.

In the late afternoon we pass through the capital city of Mbabane, en-route to our accommodation for the night, a short distance outside the city. On arrival we check in and enjoy a catered meal.

**Meals: B L D**

**Distance: 290 km**

**Accommodation: Foresters Arms / Maguga Lodge**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Swaziland
- Scenic Drive
- Sibebe rock

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

## DAY 6 ZULULAND

Today we follow the winding roads through Swaziland and cross back into South Africa in the late morning. After completing the border formalities, we enter Zululand, an area once ruled by the infamous Shaka Zulu. The reserves in this area are lush and offer protection to a variety of indigenous animals including Black and White Rhino.

This afternoon we enjoy a game experience that will allow us to appreciate the fauna and flora of the Zulu Kingdom.

**Meals: B L D**

**Distance: 225 km**

**Accommodation: White Elephant Bush Camp**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Scenic drive through Swaziland
- Bush Walk

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included



## DAY 7 - 8 DRAKENSBERG

Traveling inland today, we pass through a tranquil region of rolling hills, but don't be fooled, this region has hosted many historic wars fought over time by the Zulu's, the Boers (pioneer settlers), the British, and many others fighting for a stake in Africa. Our lunch stop will be at one of the famous battlefields in the area where we will have time to learn a bit more about this fascinating time in South Africa's history.

This afternoon we reach the majestic Drakensberg mountain range, "Barrier of Spears". On reaching the foothills, we transfer to a 4x4 vehicle, and then enjoy an exciting drive on mountain tracks to the GREENFIRE LODGE DRAKENSBERG located high up in the Drakensberg Mountains with a perfect view of the famous Drakensberg Amphitheatre. Guests are welcome to skip the drive and walk up the mountain to the lodge.

We spend two nights here in cosy log cabins surrounded by breath taking views and will have a day of hiking, exploring, and simply enjoying the wonders of this national heritage site. A walk to the San Rock Art gallery is well worth the effort. Pony trekking is also available.

**Meals: B L D; B L D**

**Distance: 390 km on day 7**

**Accommodation: Greenfire Drakensberg Lodge**

**Included Highlights / Activity:**

- Drakensberg World Heritage Site
- San Rock Art
- Drakensberg Hike
- Vulture Colony

**Optional Activities:**

- Horse riding
- Fishing

## DAY 9 - 10 DOLPHIN COAST

A relaxed start, after a transfer (or walk) back down to our vehicle, it is with new energy that we make our way toward the Indian Ocean. Our journey today will take us through the rolling hills and natural beauty of the Natal Midlands. We stop for an own expense lunch near Nottingham Road before continuing to the Mandela Capture site for a short visit, from where we continue and travel down to the coast where we spend the next two nights.

The GREENFIRE LODGE DOLPHIN COAST is located literally on the beach and the sound of the waves pounding is relentless. We will have a "free" day here to spend soaking up the sun and simply enjoying the beach and warm ocean, or to stroll through the village enjoying the cheerful hospitality. One night we enjoy a traditional fish braai on the lodge's patio. Lunch and dinner are own expense. Guests can also choose to visit the city of Durban on their free day.

**Meals: B D; B (Lunch on day 9, lunch and dinner on day 10 all own expense)**

**Distance: 300 km on day 9**

**Accommodation: Greenfire Lodge Dolphin Coast**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Nelson Mandela Capture Site
- Natal Midlands Scenic Drive
- East Coast
- Beach

**Optional Activities:**

- Visit Durban



**DAY 11 - 12  
WILD COAST**

Setting off early, we pass through the outskirts of Durban this morning and follow the coast south into an area that can only be described as one of the highlights of the tour – The Wild Coast. Having formerly been an independent homeland, there has been little development in this area resulting in endless unspoiled beaches, natural estuaries, rolling grassland, and a tapestry of traditional Xhosa villages. We will spend two nights at a remote GREENFIRE LODGE and will spend a full day exploring this rugged but stunningly beautiful area. Our guide will take us on an extended hike along this stretch of coastline that offers some of the best hiking routes in the country. Guests will also have time to relax on the secluded beach in front of the lodge or to go and swim in a nearby waterfall.

**Meals: B L D; B L D**

**Distance: 380 km on Day 11**

**Accommodation: Greenfire Lodge Wild Coast**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- **Scenic Drive to the Wild Coast**
- **Private Beach**
- **Waterfall Walk**
- **Hike along the coast**

**Optional Activities:**

- **None, all included**

**DAY 13  
FRONTIER COUNTRY**

Leaving the lush coastal forests behind, our journey will take us into what is known as the “Frontier Country”, a region that was settled in the 1820’s by European immigrants and that was host to many frontier wars. The road is defined by scattered hills and deep valleys with distant glimpses of the ocean. We cover some distance today and spend the night in comfortable accommodation overlooking the city of Grahamstown.

**Meals: B L D**

**Distance: 534 km**

**Accommodation: Mountain View Manor**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- **Scenic Drive in Frontier Country**

**Optional Activities:**

- **None, all included**

**DAY 14 - 15  
GARDEN ROUTE**

Entering the renowned Garden Route, our first stop will be at the Tsitsikamma Coastal National Park where we will enjoy a walk along the rugged coast and over the suspension bridge spanning the Storms River. Traveling further we then pass through Plettenberg Bay before arriving in Knysna where we spend the next two nights.

Our time here will give us the freedom to explore this quaint town and its many attractions. Optional excursions include kayak trips, mountain bike rides in the forest, a tour of the local township, and many more (Own expense). Lunch and dinner will be own expense.

**Meals: B L D; B (lunch and dinner own expense)**

**Distance: 380km**

**Accommodation: Wayside Inn**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- **Tsitsikamma National Park**



- *Hike in Tsitsikamma*
- *Suspension Bridge Walk*

**Optional Activities:**

- *Boat Cruise*
- *Bridge Bungee jump*
- *Mountain biking*

## DAY 16 - 18 CAPE TOWN

We leave Knysna to travel through the Garden Route's Lake District and then to follow the "Whale Route" through Hermanus and around the Hottentots Holland Mountains. Arriving in the "Mother City", Cape Town, in the late afternoon, we check into the GREENFIRE LODGE CAPE TOWN, located in Sea Point the lodge is conveniently situated close to shops, restaurants and the ocean promenade.

Cape Town is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities in the world and we will spend two full days here - visiting Cape Point, Hout Bay, The Waterfront, secluded beaches, a wine farm, and many other attractions. We will also hike up Table Mountain. Lunches and dinners in Cape Town are own expense.

**Meals: B; B; B (Lunches and dinners on Day 16 & 17 as well as lunch on day 18 own expense)**

**Distance: 550 km on day 16**

**Accommodation: Greenfire Lodge Cape Town**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- *Cape Point National Park*
- *Cape of Good Hope*
- *Wine tasting*
- *Table Mountain hike*
- *Coastal Roads*

**Optional Activities:**

- *Shark Cage Dive*
- *Parasailing*
- *Boat Cruises*

This tour ends at 16h00 on Day 18. Clients may, however, extend their stay by booking post-tour nights at the GREENFIRE LODGE CAPE TOWN. If arranging an onward flight on this day, please allow time for an airport transfer and for check-in procedures (up to three hours)

## Tour Information

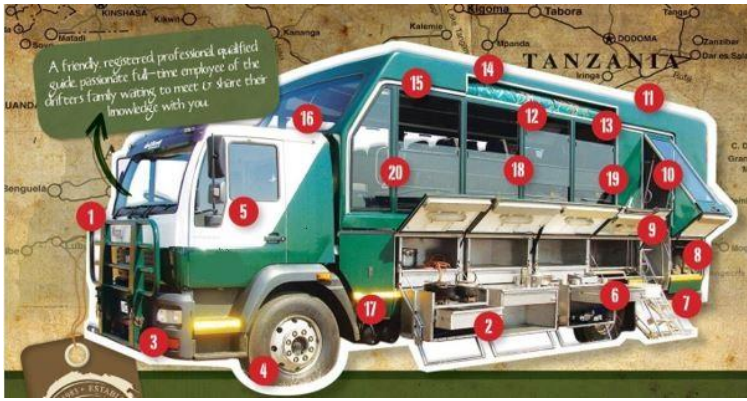
**VEHICLE:**

Custom 17-seater adventure truck

Group size varies from 4 – 17. Our Trucks are all exactly the same and can take 16 Passengers (all forward facing seats) in the back of the truck and 1 passenger can join the Guide in the front.

The guide will always advise clients to rotate seats for everybody to get a different view.





**ACCOMMODATION:**

17 nights Lodge

**ROUTE:**

Johannesburg to Cape Town

**DEPARTURE POINT**

Greenfire Lodge in Johannesburg

**ACCOMMODATION ON TOUR:**

Please note that linen will be provided for the duration of your tour and there is no need to bring along a sleeping bag or pillow.

- Batteries can be charged from a 220-volt source pre tour departure in Johannesburg, on most nights at the lodges and every day on the truck while the truck is driving from a 12 V inverter.
- Currency exchange opportunities: Arrival at Johannesburg Airport
- Limited Laundry facilities: Available post tour from the JHB Lodge if you are staying an extra day
- Internet facilities: Pre night in the Greenfire Johannesburg Lodg, Greenfre Dolphin Coast Lodge and Greenfire Cape Town Lodge

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

Please ensure that you are in possession of valid travel documents for all the countries that you will visit (South Africa & Swaziland). If you have any queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please ensure that you have proof of further travel arrangements if you do not have a South African passport, permanent residency permit, work permit or study permit. Although we will endeavour to assist, we do not accept any liability or obligation for your travel documents.

**HEALTH PRECAUTIONS & REQUIREMENTS**

The only necessary prophylaxis for Southern Africa is against Malaria, but on this tour there is no eminent danger as South Africa is regarded mostly as a Malaria free zone however prevention is better than cure, so we do advise to also use insect repellent on exposed areas after sunset. Please consult with your general practitioner regarding this. All guides have first aid boxes for use in emergencies, however we recommend that you bring a long your own basic supply of medication, headache tablets etc.

**MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS**

Meals are provided as indicated in the brochure/website. Soft drinks, bottled water and alcohol are for your own expense; there is ample opportunity during the tour to buy refreshments. The guide will advise when you need to stock up for a couple of days.

**PERSONAL EXPENSES**

A reasonable amount of personal spending money must be brought on our tours. This is to cover own expense meals as indicated in our Brochure, bottled water, soft drinks, alcohol, sundry goods purchased- such as suntan cream etc., curios, optional extra excursions, airport tax, transfers and tips.

**INSURANCE**

It is a booking condition that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact.





## ON SAFARI

All our tours require a certain level of participation from all group members. This entails assisting with the food preparation, washing of dishes and keeping the truck clean.

Please keep in mind that flexibility and an open mind will greatly contribute to an enjoyable safari.

We are travelling in developing countries therefore please do not expect the punctuality you have come to expect in first world countries. Things do not always run according to plan; however, we do endeavour to run according to the itinerary as best as possible.

## RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimizes negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

**Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details.**

<b>General Enquiries &amp; Reservations</b>	- <a href="mailto:info@detourafrica.co.za">info@detourafrica.co.za</a>
<b>Toll Free US/Canada</b>	- <b>1-800-287-0823</b>
<b>Toll Free UK</b>	- <b>0-808-134-9963</b>
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**SAFARI NJEMA**

