

# EXPEDITIONS



## SIGNATURE: SOUTH AFRICA FROM CAPE TOWN TO KRUGER

10 days, Cape Town to Johannesburg

Trip code DSCJNS

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your G for Good Moment: !Khwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre, Yzerfontein
- Your G for Good Moment: Shabalala Interpretation of Culture Centre Visit, Hazyview
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Cape Town
- Signature Moment: !Khwa ttu San Cultural Experience, Yzerfontein
- Your Foodie Moment: Interactive Cape Malay Cooking Class & Neighbourhood Walk, Cape Town
- Signature Moment: Private Tour & Talk at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg
- Arrival transfer
- Private wine tasting at Groote Post Wine Estate
- Table Mountain Aerial Cableway ride to the summit
- Walking tour of the Bo-Kaap Neighbourhood
- Guided visit to District Six Museum
- African Dining Experience at Gold restaurant
- Guided visit of Cape of Good Hope with a ride on the Flying Dutchman Funicular
- Visit to the Boulders Penguin Colony Visitor Center
- Internal flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg
- Private guided tour of the Apartheid Museum
- Internal flight from Johannesburg to Hoedspruit
- Afternoon safari drive with an EWT conservationist in the Greater Kruger Area
- Morning and afternoon safari drives in the Thornybush Private Game Reserve
- Kruger National Park Safari Drives
- Internal flight between Kruger and Johannesburg
- Departure transfer
- Engaging Discussions with the National Geographic Expedition Expert throughout
- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
- Tips are included for all activities, meals and porterage, except for your Expedition Leader

- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing October 20th, 2025 and onwards

## ITINERARY

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**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## CAPE TOWN

Welcome to South Africa. Your expedition begins at the airport where you will be met and transferred to your hotel near the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, where the hum of the city meets the crash of the Atlantic. Take the evening to settle in, stretching your legs along the harbour promenade or simply admiring the silhouette of Table Mountain rising above the city lights as you prepare for the experience ahead.

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### ACCOMMODATION

InterContinental Table Bay Cape Town by IHG (or similar) Hotel

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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Arrival Day Cape Town

The adventure begins tomorrow. Feel free to explore on your own before your welcome meeting on the morning of day two. Check for the meeting time in the welcome note at the hotel.

Arrival Transfer Cape Town International Airport - Cape Town 45m 24km

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

Day 2

## CAPE TOWN

Meet your fellow travellers and National Geographic Expedition Leader to begin the adventure. Travel along the windswept west coast to the !Kwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre. Here, step into the origins of humankind, connecting with San culture through the rhythm of traditional storytelling and the taste of indigenous foods. Continue inland to the rolling vineyards of Groote Post Wine Estate in the Darling Hills to sip award-winning vintages and meet acclaimed winemaker Lukas Wentzel. Return to the hotel for a welcome dinner, reflecting on the landscapes and flavours of your first full day.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

InterContinental Table Bay Cape Town by IHG (or similar) **Hotel**



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your Expedition Leader and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group on the morning of day two.

Private Vehicle

Cape Town - Yzerfontein

1h15m

74km

Settle in and enjoy a comfortable ride in your private vehicle on a scenic drive up the West Coast.

#### ACTIVITY

The San people of Southern Africa have historically faced centuries of political and cultural oppression. The !Kwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre provides tailor-made training for young San women and men of Southern Africa. Travellers learn about San culture and history at the interpretive museum. Visits help trainees gain experience with international clients while garnering support for the centre's efforts to preserve San culture and history.

#### ACTIVITY

The San people of Southern Africa have historically faced centuries of political and cultural oppression. The !Kwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre provides tailor-made training for young San women

and men of Southern Africa. The guides come from a diverse range of San communities, each with their own language and story. You will discover some of the qualities that enabled San to survive, and thrive, for centuries during your unique storytelling visit. Topics covered are First people, origins of mankind, food from the Ancestors, and storytelling through generations.

Private Vehicle

Yzerfontein - Cape Town

1h45m

96km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Groote Post Wine Estate Private Tasting

Cape Town

1h30m

Groote Post is a historic, family-owned wine estate located in the scenic Darling Hills along South Africa's West Coast. Once a thriving 18th-century farm, it has grown into a celebrated producer of premium wines while preserving its deep agricultural roots. Winemaker, Lukas Wentzel—recognized as one of South Africa's top winemakers—will lead your private tasting of a few premium selected wines that are not available to the general public.

Day 3

## CAPE TOWN

Ascend Table Mountain via the Aerial Cableway, watching the city shrink below as you reach the summit for panoramic views of Table Bay and Robben Island. Descend to the vibrant streets of Bo-Kaap for an interactive Cape Malay cooking class, filling the air with the scent of fragrant curries and freshly made roti. Tour the area and visit the District Six Museum to understand the scars of Apartheid. Back at the hotel, join Christo Brand, Nelson Mandela's former guard, for an intimate discussion on his time at Victor Verster Prison. End the day immersed in the beat of African drums and diverse flavours at Gold restaurant.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

InterContinental Table Bay Cape Town by IHG (or similar) **Hotel**



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Table Mountain Visit via the Cable Car **Cape Town** 3h

Take the cable car to the top of Table Mountain, 1,085m (3,562ft) above Cape Town, and explore the summit. This is a great spot to sit and soak up the commanding 360-degree views of Cape Town, Table Bay, the peaks of surrounding mountains, and the rest of Table Mountain National Park. Once at the top, take your time to enjoy the expansive vistas, explore walking trails, or simply relax and take in the mountain's serene ambience.

#### ACTIVITY

Travel to Lekka Kombuis for an interactive Cape Malay Cooking Class where the group will learn how to make a traditional curry, how to fold samosas, chilli bites, and rotis. Meet your host in the intimate embrace of a warm, homie setting which celebrates the traditional values of the Cape Malay culture. Everything will be made from scratch. After lunch embark on a short walking tour of the Bo-Kaap to uncover more of the history of the area and its colorful houses.

National Geographic Expert Talk by Christo Brand **Cape Town** 1h

Join Christo Brand, a former prison guard at the Victor Verster prison where Nelson Mandela spent the last 14 months of his imprisonment, for a talk on Apartheid and listen to some of the fascinating stories he has to share.

Gold Restaurant Dinner Cape Town 2h

End the day with an immersive African Dining Experience at Gold restaurant where the diverse flavours of Africa can be celebrated alongside an interactive drumming experience to feel the rhythms of the nation.

Guided Visit of District Six Museum Cape Town 1h

Experience an immersive look at how apartheid shaped the South African identity throughout the 20th Century.

Day 4

## CAPE TOWN

Set out on a scenic drive along the Cape Peninsula, where rugged cliffs drop into the swirling ocean. Stop at the Cape of Good Hope before winding along the spectacular Chapman's Peak to Cape Point. Take the Flying Dutchman Funicular to the lighthouse for sweeping views of the coastline where two oceans meet. After lunch, visit Boulders Beach to walk the raised boardwalks above the granite coves, observing endangered African penguins waddling in the surf. Return to the hotel and enjoy a free evening to explore Cape Town's vibrant culinary scene.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

InterContinental Table Bay Cape Town by IHG (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Boulders Penguin Colony Visitor Center Cape Town 1h15m

Visit Boulders Penguin Colony Visitor Center where you'll learn about the endangered African penguins of Boulders Beach while observing them from a raised boardwalk above their natural habitat.

Free Time Cape Town

Enjoy a free evening to yourself back at the hotel. Ask your National Geographic Expedition leader if they have any dinner recommendations in the area.

Cape Peninsula Day Tour Cape Town 4h30m

Enjoy a tour of the Cape Peninsula. Along the scenic drive stop for views found on the Cape of Good Hope. Arrive to Cape Point via Chapman's Peak Drive. Once here, board the Flying Dutchman Funicular to take in the views of the turbulent seascape that has impacted the lives and legends of seafarers for centuries. It's the perfect way to fully appreciate the landscape and its long history.

Day 5

## CAPE TOWN/JOHANNESBURG

Catch a flight to Johannesburg and head directly to the Apartheid Museum, the world's premier institution exploring South Africa's 20th-century history. On a guided tour, walk through exhibitions that lay bare the institutionalised segregation of the Apartheid era, gaining a profound understanding through moving personal narratives and historical artifacts. Transfer to your hotel to check in and refresh. In the evening, enjoy a dinner in Johannesburg with your group, where you will be joined by fellow travelers arriving for the safari chapter of our expedition.

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### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

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### ACCOMMODATION

The Leonardo Hotel (or similar) Hotel



## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Cape Town - Cape Town International Airport

45m

24km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Plane

Cape Town International Airport - Oliver Reginald Tambo International

2h15m

Sit back and enjoy the views from above on a flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg.

Private Vehicle

Oliver Reginald Tambo International - Johannesburg

45m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private, Guided Tour of the Apartheid Museum

Johannesburg

The Apartheid Museum is a museum in Johannesburg, South Africa, that chronicles the history of apartheid from its rise in 1948 to its fall in 1994, showcasing the struggle against racial segregation and the transition to a democratic society through exhibits like photographs, artifacts, and personal stories. It is considered a leading institution for understanding 20th-century South Africa and features immersive exhibits, including separate "White" and "Non-white" entrances that reflect the country's past segregation. It is a significant cultural and educational destination, considered the preeminent institution for studying South Africa's apartheid history. There will be refreshments and a light lunch before your guided, private tour.

Day 6

## JOHANNESBURG TO GREATER KRUGER AREA VIA HOEDSPRUIT

Visit the Nelson Mandela Foundation for a tour of Madiba's post-presidential office, a quiet space filled with the history of his legacy. In South Africa, Madiba is an affectionate and respectful name for Mandela, originating from his Xhosa clan name, and symbolizing deep admiration of his legacy. Later, fly to the Greater Kruger area and settle in at your safari lodge. This afternoon, meet a researcher from the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and learn about their vital work protecting cheetahs and wild dogs, and supporting local communities. Afterward, head off on your first safari drive in the private reserve with the researcher, scanning the bush for Africa's famed 'big five' as the sun begins to lower.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Thornybush Game Lodge (or similar) **Lodge**

Thornybush Game Lodge offers exceptional hospitality from its legacy setting on 14,000 pristine hectares, sharing an unfenced border with Kruger National Park. The Lodge provides sophisticated accommodation in sixteen luxurious riverbed suites. Expect world-class 'big five' encounters from this haven, which features a spa, gym, pool, and library for downtime. Dining is a celebration, highlighted by unforgettable riverbed dinners.



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

#### ACTIVITY

The Nelson Mandela Foundation is a non-profit organisation focused on memory, dialogue and legacy work, founded by Nelson Mandela in 1999. The Nelson Mandela Foundation's research and archive aims to generate an integrated and dynamic resource on the life and times of Nelson Mandela. Enjoy a private, guided tour of the foundation and gain a deeper understanding of the ripple effects spanning from Mandela's life and legacy.

Plane **Oliver Reginald Tambo International - Hoedspruit** 1h

Sit back and enjoy the views from above on a short flight between Johannesburg and Hoedspruit.

National Geographic Expert Presentation by Derek Van Der Merwe

Hoedspruit

45m

Enjoy a National Geographic Expert-led talk given by Derek Van Der Merwe, part of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Carnivore Conservation Program. He will give a short presentation on The Big Cat Project and conservation work that has surpassed 50 years and is still going.

Afternoon Safari Drive With Conservationist

Hoedspruit

2h

Embark on an afternoon safari drive with an Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) conservationist. Search for all different kinds of wildlife in the area and learn more about their daily habits and environment.

Free Time

Hoedspruit

Take advantage of free time this afternoon to get settled and enjoy amenities at the lodge.

Day 7

## GREATER KRUGER AREA

Rise early for a wildlife safari drive, spotting lions, elephants, and other famous species in the soft, golden light of dawn—the prime time for viewing. Return to the lodge for a hot breakfast and leisure time to relax on the deck, listening to the sounds of the bush. This afternoon, during high tea, join a talk to gain deeper insight into local conservation efforts and the area's intricate ecosystems. After an afternoon safari tracking wildlife through the reserve, return to the lodge to refresh before gathering for dinner, sharing stories from an unforgettable day in the bush.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Thornybush Game Lodge (or similar) **Lodge**

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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Early Morning Safari Drive in Private Wildlife Reserve **Kruger** 3h

Rise early this morning for a safari drive in Thornybush's private reserve. This is one of the oldest lodges in the safari industry and one of the first commercial camps in South Africa. The nature reserve is now a world renowned wildlife-viewing destination in the Greater Kruger Park area. Keep your eyes peeled as the day sheds its golden light across the landscape and your guide points out must-see sites along the way.

Free Time **Kruger**

Enjoy free time back at the lodge after your morning safari drive. Relax onsite and take advantage of the property's amenities. There will be the option to join a guided walking safari with an expert tracker should you choose. The group will reconvene in the afternoon for high tea and an expert-led discussion.

Afternoon Safari Drive in Private Wildlife Reserve **Kruger** 3h

Spend three hours out on a safari drive in the lodge's private wildlife reserve. Be on the lookout for the famed "Big Five" and simply enjoy the beauty of your surroundings.

Day 8

## GREATER KRUGER AREA TO KRUGER NATIONAL PARK VIA HAZYVIEW

Begin with a morning safari drive in the reserve, returning for breakfast before checking out. Travel to Hazyview for a stop at the Shabalala Interpretation of Culture Centre, an immersive experience of traditional dress, rhythmic dance, and local cuisine. Continue to your lodge, a restored train permanently suspended on a historic bridge over the Sabie River—a vantage point like no other. Check in and refresh before high tea and a talk on local wildlife. Afterward, embark on a safari drive in Kruger National Park—South Africa's largest wildlife sanctuary—returning to the lodge for dinner above the river.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Kruger Shalati - The Train on the Bridge (or similar) **Hotel**

Kruger Shalati offers a breathtaking stay in a restored train suspended over the Sabie River. This first-of-its-kind retreat features 24 Carriage Suites on the historic bridge and seven Bridge House Suites. Named after an African warrior queen, the lodge blends 1920s rail safari nostalgia with contemporary African design. Guests can enjoy an overhanging pool, bespoke spa treatments, and daily safari drives in prime 'big five' territory, all while overlooking a permanent waterway rich with diverse wildlife like hippos and crocs.



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Private Vehicle **Kruger - Hazyview** 2h 101km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

## ACTIVITY

Enjoy a visit to the Shabalala Interpretation of Culture Centre in Hazyview. The centre offers a unique experience into traditional African dance. This form of self expression is not only a statement of art, but of grace and culture. Learn more about the traditions and customs of the Swati people and get lost in the storytelling of these ancient songs.

Private Vehicle **Hazyview - Kruger National Park** 1h15m 56km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Afternoon Wildlife Safari Drive Kruger National Park **Kruger National Park** 3h

Head out into the stunning beauty of Kruger National Park on an afternoon safari drive and try your hand at spotting the legendary "Big Five."

Day 9

## KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Spend the day on morning and afternoon safari drives, scanning the bush for lions, elephants, leopards, and other iconic wildlife moving through the vast Kruger landscape. Return to the lodge for meals and free time to relax, perhaps watching hippo or buffalo in the river below from the train bridge. During high tea, join a talk on conservation and local ecosystems. After your afternoon drive, gather for a dedicated bush dining experience, sharing stories of your African adventure under a canopy of stars—a fitting conclusion to your time in the wilderness.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Kruger Shalati - The Train on the Bridge (or similar) **Hotel**

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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Morning Safari Drive in Kruger National Park

**Kruger National Park**

3h

Set off on an early morning safari drive in the southern section of Kruger National Park. Catch a glimpse of predators on the move and grazing wildlife along the Sabie River. Pass through the varied landscapes east and west of Skukuza, including a riverine forest, mixed woodland, and open grassland.

Free Time

**Kruger National Park**

Enjoy free time back at the lodge after your morning safari drive. Relax onsite and take advantage of the property's amenities. The group will reconvene in the afternoon for high tea and an expert-led discussion before an afternoon safari drive.

Afternoon Safari Drive in Kruger National Park

**Kruger National Park**

3h

Enjoy an afternoon safari drive back into the southern section of Kruger National Park. Search for wildlife, listen as your Endangered Wildlife Trust Conservationist regales you with knowledge of the landscape and animal kingdom within it.

Day 10

## KRUGER NATIONAL PARK/JOHANNESBURG

Enjoy breakfast and depart the lodge in Kruger National Park this morning for the airport. Fly to Johannesburg where our expedition to Southern Africa concludes.

Flights must depart after 7pm.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Kruger National Park – Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport

2h

113km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Plane

Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport – Oliver Reginald Tambo International

1h

Sit back and enjoy the views from above on a short flight between the Kruger National Park area to Johannesburg.

## What's included

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- Your G for Good Moment: Shabalala Interpretation of Culture Centre Visit, Hazyview
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Cape Town
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## **What are the main highlights of this trip?**

Connect with the San people through immersive history storytelling and traditional food, Sip award-winning vintages and meet one of South Africa's top winemakers in the Darling Hills, Join Nelson Mandela's former guard Christo Brand for an intimate discussion on his time at Victor Verster Prison, Sleep suspended over the Sabie River in a restored train carriage at Kruger Shalati

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## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

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**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

### 1. TRAVEL DAYS

This is not a physically demanding journey; however, travelling can be difficult, with long drives and poor road conditions at times. Despite this, most clients feel that the diversity of the African landscape, countries, culture and wildlife are all well worth the experience. We use a comfortable and safe air-conditioned touring vehicle for the long drives.

### 2. YELLOW FEVER

It may be required to show a Yellow Fever certificate if you are traveling to South Africa from a Yellow Fever endemic country.

### 3. COMBO TRIP

Please note that this trip is a combination of multiple G Adventures tours (Cape Town, Kruger). As such, the staff and/or particular vehicles operating your tour may change between tour segments. You may also expect some group members to join or leave the tour, between tour segments.

### 4. MONEY EXCHANGE

We strongly advise that you bring ZAR or USD from your home country or exchange money before the start of the tour, to avoid delays on tour. Please see the Money Exchange section for more details.

### 5. DRONES

The use of drones in national parks in Southern Africa is prohibited.

## What is the group leader like?

All National Geographic Signature group trips are accompanied by one of our National Geographic Expedition Leaders throughout. The aim of the Expedition Leaders is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

## How large will the group be?

Max. 22, avg. 16.

## What meals are included in this trip?

9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners

## What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Private vehicle, 4x4 safari vehicle, plane, walking

## What transportation will we take on this trip?

This trip is run in private 7-seat 4x4 safari vehicles, with sliding windows and a large pop-up roofs, designed for wildlife viewing. There is a maximum of six passengers per vehicle, and we will use up to 3 vehicles for our larger group sizes. Road conditions can run the full range of conditions from new to very poor, and during dry seasons, the roads can become very dusty. This style of travel is the best under the local circumstances, as the seats are comfortable and having our own private vehicle allow us the flexibility of making stops when needed, and to stay and watch that crouching lion prepare for an attack.

Speed governors set to 80kph are used on all vehicles to ensure a safe driving speed. Please note for your own safety it is mandatory to wear your seat belt at all times when in a vehicle.

All G Adventure vehicles are regularly serviced and follow a strict maintenance schedule. However given the long travel days and rough conditions of many of the roads in Africa, vehicles can and do breakdown on occasion. If such situations occur all drivers are trained mechanics and any vehicle issues are rectified as quickly as possible so as to not disrupt your trip. Your patience is requested if the vehicle you are traveling in happens to encounter a mechanical fault.

## Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

Yes, for those travelling solo there is a single supplement.

## Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotel (5 nts), Lodge (4 nts).

## What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through National Geographic Signature Journeys in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a National Geographic Signature Journeys sign, and they will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your National Geographic Expedition Leader. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 2 (in the morning), where you will get a chance to meet your leader and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (South Africa)

From outside South Africa: +27 713823286

From within South Africa: 071 3823286

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 800 394 5416

Calls from UK: 0800 041 8146

Calls from Germany: 0800 181 9454

Calls from Australia: 1 800 204 905

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 424 389

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?

Fly to Johannesburg airport where our expedition to Southern Africa concludes.

Please book your departure flight for no earlier than 7pm.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Cold weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Warm gloves
- Warm layers
- Scarf
- Warm hat

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

**Health & Safety:**

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

**Smart Dress:**

- Smart outfit (For evenings out)

**Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: Seasons in Southern Africa are quite extreme. Winters (May to October) can be really cold and summers will be really hot. It is important to pack clothes for warm days and cool evenings, as well as a warm jacket for early morning wildlife safari drives.

## **When can I do my laundry on this trip?**

Please ask your expedition leader to arrange if any laundry needs to be done, so that he / she can make arrangements for you.

## **What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?**

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

## **What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## **What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?**

The currency in South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR).

Rand can be obtained locally by changing foreign currency or by using ATMs (where available) which will dispense local currency. Your Expedition Leader will inform you where you can change money throughout the tour and approximately how much money you will need.

Please note that due to past problems with forgery, \$US notes that are older than year 2006 are not accepted in Africa. Large note (\$US 50, \$US 100 etc) can be difficult to change in some places, but will gain you the best exchange rate.

If you plan to buy your visas at borders, you will need to bring \$USD cash to pay for these visas. Please note you cannot use the local currency or any other currency to buy these visas- they must be purchased in USD.

Please do not bring Travellers' cheques to Africa. They are difficult if not impossible to exchange in many places.

Visa/Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. It is harder to find machines Mastercard/Cirrus cards. We highly recommend that if you hold a Mastercard, you obtain a Visa card prior to departure and travel with both. This is also useful should something unforeseen happen to one of your cards during your travels.

While there are many ATMs in the major centres, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work in Africa. Check with your bank.

Credit cards can be used in major cities and towns ONLY but please do not rely on them as a method of payment because they are generally not widely accepted. You should be aware that to purchase products or services on a credit card a fee of 5%-10% usually applies. The majority of our optional activities can also be paid by credit card. Your Expedition Leader will advise on these.

Please note that in many areas there may be occasional power-outages, where there will be no electricity for hours at a time. In addition, ATMs outside of larger centers often run out of cash or can be out of order unexpectedly. These factors could affect your ability to access money from ATMs. As such, please do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money.

A combination of foreign currency and debit/credit cards for cash advances is best. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

## **How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?**

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

On our National Geographic Signature tours, tipping is included for all included activities and meals, and portage. Tipping is not included for the Expedition Leader. Should you want some basic guidelines on tipping for the activities you do on your own, please see below. At the end of each trip if you felt your National Geographic Signature Expedition Leader did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline would be \$10-\$15 per person per day.

For meals and activities not included in your itinerary, it is appropriate in Africa to tip 10%. Though not compulsory, tipping is expected. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels and shows an expression of satisfaction.

In addition, please note that tipping is not required or expected for the Expedition Expert.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

# Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

We recommend you contact your family physician, or your local travel clinic for the most up-to-date health information at least one month before departure. Travellers should also carry a basic first-aid kit and hand sanitizers/antibacterial wipes on their travels. Medical facilities are basic throughout these countries. For your own safety, we strongly recommend that you advise your tour leader of any medical condition that may affect you while travelling with the group. Your tour leader will be able to inform you of local health advisories (e.g. drinking water quality). Please ensure you have all the inoculations recommended by your doctor.

Yellow Fever Certificate Note: (Updated: May 2023)

It is compulsory to show a valid Yellow Fever Certificate if you are travelling to the following G Adventures-visited countries from a Yellow Fever endemic country:

- Botswana
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

For some of these countries, proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is also required for passengers who have travelled more than 12 hours through the airport of an endemic country. If other countries not endemic to Yellow Fever have been visited after visiting an endemic country, then a Yellow Fever certificate may still be required on entry. Please check country-specific regulations before your departure.

## Malaria

Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease that is present in some regions in Africa. Risk of malaria can increase during periods of heavy rain, during the rainy seasons, and in densely populated areas of Southern & East Africa. To prevent malaria, we recommend speaking to your doctor about taking preventative medication (prophylaxis), combined with regular use of insect repellent spray/cream. Please check updated travel health advisories specific to malaria before your departure.

## **What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?**

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Expedition Leader will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your Expedition Leader will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions. Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our Expedition Leaders to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s). Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. Read more about travel safety for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## **What rules should I know before joining this trip?**

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our Expedition Leaders have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## **Is travel insurance required for my trip?**

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your National Geographic Signature Specialist or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

# What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.