

EXPEDITIONS



SIGNATURE: SOUTHERN AFRICA'S KRUGER, CHOBE & VICTORIA FALLS

10 days, Johannesburg to Johannesburg

Trip code DSJBNS

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your G for Good Moment: Shabalala Interpretation of Culture Centre Visit, Hazyview
- Your G for Good Moment: Lusumpuko Women's Club Lunch, Victoria Falls
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Johannesburg
- Signature Moment: Private Tour & Talk at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg
- Signature Moment: Private Zambezi River Dinner Cruise, Victoria Falls
- Signature Moment: Pangolin Photo Safari Cruise on the Chobe River, Chobe National Park
- Arrival transfer
- Internal flight from Johannesburg to Hoedspruit
- Afternoon safari drive with an Endangered Wildlife Trust conservationist in the Greater Kruger Area
- Morning and afternoon safari drives in the Thornybush Private Game Reserve
- Kruger National Park Safari Drives
- Internal between Kruger and Victoria Falls
- Attend the Simunye Theatre Show and meet the cast
- Private, guided tour of Victoria Falls
- Talk given by the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust
- Chobe National Park Safari Drives
- Internal Flight from Kasane to 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

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 G Adventures. 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.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing October 21st, 2025 and onwards

ITINERARY



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

JOHANNESBURG

Welcome to South Africa. Your expedition begins at the airport where you will be met and transferred to your comfortable hotel in Johannesburg. In the evening, gather with your National Geographic Expedition Leader and fellow travellers, followed by a welcome dinner. Get to know one another and prepare for the experience ahead.



Meals included

Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

The Leonardo Hotel (or similar) Hotel



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Arrival Transfer

Oliver Reginald Tambo International - Johannesburg

45m-1h

31km

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

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. There will be an included group welcome dinner after the meeting.

Day 2

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 3

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 4

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.



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

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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 5

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 6

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK/VICTORIA FALLS

Fly to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and settle into your lodge, enjoying welcome cocktails with stunning views over the Batoka Gorge, carved deep by the Zambezi River. In the evening, experience the Victoria Falls Theatre's award-winning production, "Simunye: The Spirit of Africa." Meet the cast behind this vibrant celebration of African music, dance, and storytelling—an exclusive experience that offers true cultural immersion through rhythm and performance.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

The Elephant Camp (or similar) Lodge



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.

Private Vehicle

Victoria Falls International Airport – Victoria Falls

45m

Sit back and enjoy the scenery from the comfort of your private vehicle between Victoria Falls International Airport and your lodge stay.

Simunye Theatre Show: The Spirit of Africa

Victoria Falls

1h

Enjoy a lively theatre performance directed by the acclaimed handspring Puppeteer Mongiwekhaya, showcasing local professional artists in an intimate, open-air venue. This captivating fusion of dance, puppetry, music, and visuals delivers a powerful message of love and community and the universal spirit of togetherness. After the show the group will have some time to meet the cast of this award-winning production before returning to your haven on the banks of the Zambezi River.

Plane

Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport – Victoria Falls International Airport

2h

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

Day 7

VICTORIA FALLS

Start your day with a guided tour of Victoria Falls, feeling the mist of Mosi-oa-Tunya ('The Smoke that Thunders') as you witness its raw power up close. Next, visit the Lusumpuko Women's Club—a G for Good Project—for a cooking demonstration and traditional lunch prepared by the cooperative members. Return to the lodge to hear from the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust about their rescue work. As the sun sets, set out on a dedicated dinner cruise along the Zambezi River, watching the water turn to gold. A special guest will share tales of explorer David Livingstone, making this evening unforgettable.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

The Elephant Camp (or similar) Lodge



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Victoria Falls Guided Experience

Victoria Falls

2h30m

Victoria Falls is one of the most compelling sites in the world, this cascading column of sheer energy powers its way down a 100m chasm, taking your breath away with its strength and incredible beauty. Victoria Falls is the world's largest curtain of falling water, creating immense spray, rainbows, and a unique rainforest ecosystem. Take in this magnificent natural wonder during a private, guided tour on the Zimbabwe side of the falls.

ACTIVITY

Start your visit to Victoria Falls off on the right foot by sitting down to a traditional, Zimbabwean meal, cooked by the Lusumpuko Women's Club, a group of women from a nearby township. A demonstration by the ladies will show you exactly how Zimbabweans traditionally eat their food, and you'll be served a farm-to-table meal made with traditional, local, in-season ingredients. This meal provides much-needed income to the cooperatives' 20 members – changing their lives and families in the process.

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust Expert-led Discussion

Victoria Falls

1h

Gather together for a discussion on wildlife rescue and rehabilitation work from a member of the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust.

ACTIVITY

Board a private dinner cruise on the Zambezi River with a special guest speaker who will share tales of explorer David Livingstone. This unique experience combines gourmet dining with gorgeous scenery, creating an unforgettable evening on the water.

Day 8

VICTORIA FALLS/CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, drive through Zambezi National Park and cross into Botswana. Arrive at your hotel, settle in, enjoy a light lunch. During high tea, join a talk to gain deeper insight into the park's conservation efforts before boarding eco-friendly, electric boats to take in the stunning vistas and wildlife along the Chobe River. Spot elephants along the water's edge and relax with a sundowner on deck. Return to the lodge for dinner by the river, accompanied by the sounds of the African night.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

Chobe Game Lodge (or similar) **Lodge**

Chobe Game Lodge is a pioneer of sustainable tourism, uniquely located inside Chobe National Park to offer guests early wildlife access. This eco-conscious retreat features solar-powered boats and electric vehicles, led by an all-female guiding team. Between safaris, guests can relax by the pool, visit the Kalahari-inspired spa, or dine alfresco on the riverfront boardwalk. From the Tswene Rooftop Bar to air-conditioned suites with river views, every detail combines five-star comfort with a deep respect for the environment.



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle **Victoria Falls - Kazungula** 1h45m 88km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort of your private vehicle between Victoria Falls and the border crossing into Botswana at Kazungula.

Private Vehicle **Kazungula - Chobe National Park** 30m 14km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort of your private vehicle between the Botswana border crossing at Kazungula and your lodge stay in Chobe.

Chobe River Safari Boat Cruise **Chobe National Park** 3h

Board eco-friendly, electric boats and take in the stunning vistas along the Chobe River right by your lodge. The wildlife viewing while on a river safari in Chobe is unsurpassed anywhere else in Botswana. Elephants may line the water's edge, hippos will likely congregate in the lagoons, and many antelope and giraffe make their way to the water, while predators often wait patiently on the river banks. The lodge pioneered the use of electric boats for wildlife experiences on the water in 2014.

Day 9

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Start the day with an early morning safari drive through Chobe National Park, spotting majestic elephants, lions, and impala in the cool air. Return to the hotel for a hearty brunch. Then transfer to meet your dedicated, professional photo host before embarking on a Chobe River photo safari with camera equipment included. Glide along the southern channel of the Chobe River in search of elephants, hippos, and birdlife, capturing stunning wildlife shots with expert guidance along the water. Conclude the day with one final safari drive into the national park as you sip an included sundowner. Return to the lodge for a farewell dinner, celebrating your incredible journey through Southern Africa.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



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TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Chobe National Park Early Morning Safari Drive

Chobe National Park

2h30m

Rise early for a morning female-led safari drive inside Chobe National Park, where the lodge's specially adapted vehicles ensure that all guests enjoy a window seat and camera rest (should you have one.) Try to spot lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, giraffe, and more in the golden morning light.

ACTIVITY

Board a photo safari just 20 minutes from the Zimbabwe/Botswana border on the Chobe River. Alongside your photo host you will set off on a leisurely ride through the Southern Channel of the river that will take your wildlife viewing to the next level. Photography is often the gateway to memory and with more professional equipment you can snap moments that will remain in your heart and mind forever.

Chobe National Park Late Afternoon Female-led Safari Drive

Chobe National Park

2h30m

In the afternoon set off for another female-led safari drive in Chobe National Park. Capture images of the park during a different time of day and relax with a sundowner as you admire the landscape around you.

Day 10

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK/JOHANNESBURG

Wake up early for a final safari drive, enjoying one last chance to spot Botswana's iconic wildlife before you depart. Return to the hotel for breakfast, then catch your flight to Johannesburg where our expedition to Southern Africa concludes.

Flights must depart after 7pm.



Meals included

Breakfast



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Chobe National Park Early Morning Safari Drive

Chobe National Park

2h30m

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Private Vehicle

Chobe National Park – Kasane Airport

45m

13km

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

Plane

Kasane Airport – Oliver Reginald Tambo International

1h45m

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

What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Shabalala Interpretation of Culture Centre Visit, Hazyview
- Your G for Good Moment: Lusumpuko Women's Club Lunch, Victoria Falls

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Johannesburg
- Signature Moment: Private Tour & Talk at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg
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- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
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- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Meet the cast of 'Simunye: The Spirit of Africa' for an exclusive cultural immersion into African music and storytelling, Sleep suspended over the Sabie River in a restored train carriage at Kruger Shalati, Experience the sheer force and grandeur of Victoria Falls on a private guided tour offering an unforgettable, up-close encounter with "The Smoke That Thunders," Capture wildlife up close on the Chobe River with guidance from expert photographers

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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, 5 lunches, 9 dinners

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Private vehicle, 4x4 safari vehicle, boat, plane, walking

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

Local flights are included in this tour. Please note, there is a 20 kg weight limit for checked luggage and 7 kg for carry-on. The fee for additional weight or baggage is the sole responsibility of the traveller.

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?

Hotels (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.

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 Expedition Leader. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your Expedition 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!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your Expedition Leader will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

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
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers

Documents:

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

Safari:

- Lightweight, breathable clothing (required) (Neutral tones, like khaki, olive, and tan are recommended. Avoid bright colours and camouflage patterns.)
- Evening attire ("Smart casual" for dinners at the lodges (e.g., linen trousers, sundresses, or collared shirts))
- Layers (Early morning game drives can be quite cold, even in summer. Bring a high-quality fleece or windproof jacket.)

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.

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
- Eswatini
- 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.