South Africa Family Lodge Safari

Trip Code: FSD

Version:

MULTI ACTIVITY	FAMILY	LEISURELY
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Seek out the big 5 and countless other species on game drives with experienced guides in Kruger National Park and Mohololo, and enjoy a walking safari at Hlane.
- Thrill seekers will be excited to jump onboard a toboggan ride at Long Tom Pass.
- Embark on a boat cruise at the Blyde Canyon Dam and see the weeping face tufa waterfall of Kadishi.
- Explore the village of Mantega and learn about the traditional Swati way of life.

- Visit the coastal wetlands of St Lucia and relax on the beaches of the North Natal Dolphin Coast.

AT A GLANCE

- 13 days lodge safari including 6 game drives
- short walks including a game walk
- traditional village visit
- boat trips
- and a toboggan ride.
- Join at Johannesburg

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This classic route through the north eastern corner of South Africa takes you and your family on a 2-week tour driving through some of the world's finest and wildest game reserves, spectacular landscapes, and activities including indigenous community visits, toboggan rides, and boat trips among canyons and along the coast with two days on the beautiful Natal coast. Starting in Johannesburg we meet our specialist guide and for the first week, we will be spending our time driving the Panorama route through Graskop, the Blyde River Canyon, Mohololo and eventually on to Kruger. This national park offers the opportunity to seek out all creatures great and small in this natural paradise for thousands of animal species including the mighty big 5: elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and rhino. We'll stay in a variety of lodges along the way, from tourist resorts with plentiful facilities, pools and putt-putt courses, to tiny rest stops close to the entrance gates to these mighty reserves. These family friendly lodges offer chance to relax by the pool after a day exploring, and at the smaller sites we can gather round the boma (campfire) and tell stories of our sights and sounds of the bush.

We then continue to Hlane Reserve in eSwatini where we can experience a walking safari (over 12yrs only) and camp next to a waterhole watching the wildlife come for a drink at sunset. The safari tradition of a 'sundowner' (a G&T or the like as the sun sets) is a practise all the parents can perfect over the two weeks, and at this waterhole is where we should reach perfection as we watch the wildlife emerging to take a drink at dusk. Travelling onwards to the coast we visit the Mantega Village to learn about Swati village life, and at the coast we have a boat tour at the St Lucia Wetland Park, a UNSECO heritage site to see turtles, hippos and crocodiles. Our trip culminates on the lapping shores of the North Natal Dolphin Coast, where we have a couple of days of pure relaxation. The beach stretches for miles here, and there are opportunities to swim and surf, as well as plenty more options if the adrenalin of the last ten days of exploring is still running high. A beautiful end to an incredible 2-week adventure holiday through South Africa with the family.

Is this holiday for you?

Suitable for children from 6yrs old

This fantastic family adventure holiday in South Africa is a busy itinerary, with lots of sightseeing, wildlife

viewing and exciting activities. There are a few long drives and game drives in safari vehicles on dirt roads and tracks, although this refined itinerary now contains far less long drives than it used to. Accommodation is in a mix of chalets, lodges and apartments. There are several accommodations with swimming pools (children should be supervised at all times), and most have either a bar and restaurant on site or immediately nearby. This is a participation safari where all members of the group will be called upon to help with preparing dinners, washing up and the like. This is all part of the trip and helps to bond group during our time together. Direct flights from London to Johannesburg make this destination very appealing for families seeking great wildlife experiences and adventure, with direct flights available for the outbound leg, and just a short connection required back through Johannesburg from Durban on the way home.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional local guide and driver
- Single timed airport transfers on the first and last day
- All land transport involved in the itinerary
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Entry fees to the various parks and reserve areas

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Tips for local staff
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Entrance fees for optional excursions
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at Johannesburg Airport.

You should aim to arrive in Johannesburg on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary between 7am-8am in order to make the long drive to the first night's accommodation. A money saving tip might be to arrive the day before and overnight near the airport.

On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, a single transfer will depart from the apartments on the Dolphin Coast in the early afternoon arriving at Durban King Shaka Airport in time for a late afternoon check-in.

Private transfers are expensive due to the distances. Pre and post tour additional nights are available at an airport hotel.

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

Meal Plan

All breakfasts, 9 lunches and 7 dinners are included in the holiday price. The group will take the included meals together in camp or lodges, and the meals will be prepared by the guides. While staying on the North Natal Coast only breakfast is included so families can take advantage of the free days. There are many restaurants to choose from, and you should allow approximately £10 per person for lunches and £20 per person for dinners.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

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

Food throughout the trip will mostly be prepared by the guides within the lodge kitchens, although as this is a participation safari, everyone will be expected to lend a hand! This is usually a fun and sociable time. Breakfast will consist of cereals and yoghurt, with coffee, tea, toast and the occasional cooked breakfast. Lunch will typically be picnic style - cold meats, cheese, salads, bread, rolls and fruit. Dinner is sometimes at own expense where there are a decent amount of local restaurants to chose from, but when cooked by guides will include potjies (traditional stews), braais (barbecue), stir fries and pasta. Fresh produce will be used wherever possible and fruit squash, tea and coffee will be served with breakfast and dinner.

Accommodation

During this holiday we stay in a mix of accommodations. Many of the accommodations have access to a swimming pool. The accommodations are selected for their small and family friendly atmospheres, and are often local family businesses. Please note that all accommodation is subject to change, but where possible a similar standard and facilities will be selected.

Our first three nights are in family chalets on small resorts each comprising 2 bedrooms with a shared bathroom and an open plan lounge/kitchen area. The first two of these nights there are pools for swimming in our downtime, and all three locations have bar/restarant communal areas. On day 4 we spend the night in a family sized reed hut chalet. At Kruger (2 nights) and Hlane (1 night) we stay at rest camps inside the National Parks in twin chalets with en-suites. Larger than two person families will have two adjacent chalets booked to accommodate them. Hlane is a particularly stripped back experience with no electricity available on site. Our evening meal and rooms are lit only by candlelight making for an incredibly wild and intimate wildlife experience. At Mlilwane we stay in twin room traditional bee hive huts with en-suite facilities. Again two adjacent huts will be booked for larger families. Both Mlilwane and Kruger have swimming pools, and all three have restaurant/bar communal areas. At St Lucia and the Dolphin Coast we will be in modern and functional apartments. St Lucia has two room apartments with shared bathroom facilities, and the Dolphin Coast are twin rooms with en suites, so again larger families will have two adjacent rooms booked to accommodate. Dolphin Coast has a dip pool and both have breakfast room restaurants.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied by a local English-speaking professional guide from arrival on day 1 to departure on day 13. During the tour the group will travel by minivan driven by a professional driver.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

We estimate that a total of around £200 per person (or equivalent in euros/dollars) should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks, non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses. Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and optional activities are additional so you may wish to budget for these.

You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars, euros or in South African Rand. There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at Johannesburg Airport, but you may be able to obtain a better exchange rate if you exchange in advance of your trip. Additionally, you will be able to get currency from bank ATMs in many of the towns that we will visit. Credit cards are particularly useful as many businesses post covid are becoming cashless, this won't be everywhere is SA, particularly in more rural locations, but it is increasingly common, so it is a good idea to carry one with plenty of credit available. There are many interest free cards that work well when travelling abroad. Check with your supplier for the best way to use your card whilst travelling.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY COSTS:

Please note that these prices are correct at time of writing, but are subject to change without warning. Optional activities taken outside the KE holiday are at your own risk.

Graskop Gorge (cashless location so please bring a payment card):

Big Swing: R700pp

Zipline: R265pp

Big Swing & Zipline combined: R850pp

Cliff Walk: R595pp

Cliff Walk & Zipline combined: R745pp

There are age and weight limitations for each activity as follows:

Big Swing: 12 years and up, max weight: 135kg

Zipline: 7 years and up, max weight: 120kg

Cliff Walk: min height: 1.2m, max weight: 120kg

Optional night game drive (2hrs) in Kruger National Park (note that during this period all other morning and evening game drives in our vehicle are already included):

Adult: R343

Under 12: R172

Optional game drives in Hlane Royal National Park (note that there is one morning (non big game) walk already included here) no child discount available.

Big Game Drives (No children under 13 years permitted in big game area):

Sunrise/Sunset (2½ hrs) R545pp

Midday (2½ hrs) R500pp

Non big game drive (No children under 6 years permitted):

Rhino Drive (1½ hrs) R390pp

Optional game drives at Mlilwane Wildlife sanctuary

Game Drives:

Roan Drive (1½ hrs) R390pp

Sunrise/Sunset Drive (2 hrs) R515pp

Guided Walks:

Guided Game/Birding Walk (2½ hrs) R310pp

Guidance on Tipping

In South Africa it is usual to tip staff including your local guide and driver if you are happy with the services provided. We suggest you co-ordinate these tips as a group and as a rough guide we recommend each group member contributes around £30 per family member. The exact amount should be determined by the group and the guide will give advice on the appropriate levels.

Beat the Jet Lag

Our holidays are normally designed with minimal 'down time' at the start of the trip, but having a day or two at the beginning will have the additional benefit of allowing you time to get over the stress of a long journey or travelling across time zones, leaving you refreshed and ready for your holiday. We can easily arrange for you to have additional nights and airport transfers.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will travel in the vehicle with the group, and you should try to keep the weigh to approximately 12kg. You should bring a soft bag as these are more suitable to pack in the vehicle. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

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

South Africa Indemnity Form

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

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

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

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa South Africa

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

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

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

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

Climate

South Africa has a generally sunny and pleasant climate, with regional differences due to the weather systems from the surrounding oceans and altitude above sea level. This area experiences most of its rainfall in the southern hemisphere summer, from October to March. From May through to August is drier, with long spells of mild, stable weather. Daytime temperatures range from around 10 - 20°C between April and September, to 20 - 30°C between October and March.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

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

Single Use Plastic

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

FAQ's about our family holidays

We welcome all family dynamics and we will try to accommodate you in the roomings of your choice. The only stipulation for joining a family group holiday is that 1 party member is 17yrs or under, and they are accompanied by an adult. An average group size is around 10 members in total. Further general information and FAQ's are available here: KE Family Adventure Holidays general information.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE family holiday your own!

- Choose your own departure date
- Travel on this holiday with just your family and friends
- Tailor your holiday by adding extra days for relaxation or upgrade your hotels

If our standard dates do not fit with your school holidays or you wish to travel with just your family or with your family and friends, we will be pleased to set up a private departure for any of our family holidays.

Depending on what you are looking for we can look at tweaking the itinerary to allow you some extra relaxation time or upgrading the hotels. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect family adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE private family group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for you and your family and friends by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your family and friends complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

Travel Insurance

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

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

Equipment Information

Equipment List

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

You should bring the following items:

- Comfortable walking shoes/trainers and sandals
- Lightweight trousers / shorts / skirts
- Socks & underwear
- T-shirts / tops
- Fleece jacket
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Swimwear
- Sunhat with wide brim
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 20 to 30 litres (depending on how much of the kids' stuff you need to carry)
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 Litre x2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Dry bags(s) for daypack (to ensure they keep dry)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Headtorch and spare batteries

- Basic First Aid Kit - Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, blister treatment, Insect repellent, antihistamine cream and tablets, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are a good idea.

The following items are optional:

- Binoculars (a really good idea so you can see the wildlife better)
- Travel clothes
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary, joining at Johannesburg Airport.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

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

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

Why Choose KE

Why KE

A point to point adventure through the wilds of north eastern South Africa, finishing on the stunning Indian ocean coast. This refined itinerary has chopped up all of the big driving days common on adventure trips in this region, whilst maintaining all of the most incredible sights and wildlife interest. We take our time to fully immerse ourselves in the places that most tours skim over, and now with beautiful lodge stays throughout, this trip is the perfect mix of adventure and comfort. A complete, once in a lifetime safari adventure for all of the family.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 23/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change