Walking South Africa

Trip Code: WSA

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	LEISURELY
		3



HIGHLIGHTS

- Game viewing drives in search of the Big 5 in Kruger and Hluhluwe
- Day walks in the dramatic Drakensberg Mountains, Blyde River Canyon, and unique safari walks in private conservancies
- Stay on the Msinene Nature Reserve an ongoing project returning an old cattle farm to it's more natural state, including large game re-introductions

- Visit the historic battlefield of Zululand at Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift

AT A GLANCE

- 14 days with game drives & bush walks
- 8 half or full day walks
- Join at Johannesburg

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Our unique South Africa walking safari adventure takes in some of the world's finest game reserves and national parks of Northern South Africa and eSwatini. The focus is on walking and we intersperse these days with game drives to ensure we see the full spectacle of the Africa wildlife. We walk in the Blyde River Canyon before a Big 5 walking safari and game drive in Kruger National Park - a gem of South Africa. With plenty of opportunity for wildlife sightings during our visit, we are likely to come across the huge African Elephant, big cats such as lions, and of course giraffe, zebra, many species of antelope as well as birds and small animals such as warthogs. We travel to eSwatini where we walk in the seldom explored mountainous reserve of Malalotja. Continuing on we visit Hluhluwe and the surrounding nature reserve in Zululand for game drives and a unique walking safari. On the way to the Drakensberg, we visit the Zululand Battlefield and walk the Fugitives' Drift Trail. The finale to this super holiday are the days walking in the Drakensberg Mountains showing off some of the most dramatic and breath-taking scenery in South Africa. This is a holiday perfect for walkers who enjoy wildlife and want to experience Africa's beauty.

If you would like further information on when to go to Southern Africa on safari and which trip suits you the best please refer to our detailed guide: Which safari is right for you?

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is ideal for people wanted to experience African safaris but do not want to spend all their time in a vehicle. We have included a number of walks and walking safari's with local guides and armed rangers. Some of these require an early morning start and walking in the bush. There are 8 days with walks of between 1-6hrs with the average walk being 4 hrs. The hardest and longest walks are when we are in the Drakensberg Mountains. There is one section of chain ladders to get onto the plateau which is not optional for this day walk - although staying at the lodge is an option!

These trips cover thousands of kilometres on bumpy and sometimes unmade roads, in functional vehicles making them a physically demanding but rewarding experience. They start very early, often at or before dawn, and finish late, and require all members of the party to assist in food preparation and loading vehicles.

You will be in your safari vehicle for the duration of the 'game drives'. You will slowly drive on the dirt

tracks and stop for periods to see the wildlife. Unless specifically stated, these game drives are not included in the total drive times mentioned at the end of the day-by-day details.

The terrain, people, culture and wildlife are splendid and will not disappoint even the most travelled of traveller!

For further information on our participation safaris and what they entail, **click here.**

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Two professional and qualified guides
- Airport transfers as described
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as per the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- National park entrance fees
- All excursions mentioned in the itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tips for local staff
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Optional excursions
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Johannesburg.

On arrival airport transfers are provided for all clients to the group hotel.

Return flights, on the last day of holiday, should not depart before 1900. On the last day of the land only itinerary the tour will end in the late afternoon at the group hotel near Johannesburg Airport via one stop at the airport.

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

Meal Plan

13 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 10 dinners are included in the holiday price. On days where there is a variety of dining options it makes sense to give you the choice. In practice this means you will pay directly for a total of 3 dinners, 1 lunch and 1 breakfast. We recommend you budget £10 - 15 for each of these meals.

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.

The majority of the meals are included. Breakfast will be cereals and yoghurt, with coffee, tea, toast and the occasional cooked breakfast. Lunch will typically be picnic style and prepared by the guides - cold meats, cheese, salads, bread, rolls and fruit. Dinner will be 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. A few of the meals are prepared and cooked by your tour leader. It is good group etiquette to help with preparation and washing up on these days and this is usually done on rotation.

Accommodation

During this holiday the group will spend 13 nights on safari staying at small, intimate and often private lodges (including tented camps), with en suite facilities and some with swimming pools. You have 1 night at a hotel near the airport in Johannesburg.

An African Tented Lodge or Camp is a permanent set up, with safari style tents built on platforms above the ground. The have beds and all bed linen is provided, and usually en-suite facilities. Each tent usually also has its own little veranda.

Some of the meals are prepared by the guides and it is good group etiquette to help with preparation and washing up on these days and this is usually done on rotation - it's all part of the adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip runs smoothly.

All accommodation is subject to change at any time without prior notification.

Limited wifi is available on 2 or 3 nights, otherwise it is wifi free living!

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. A limited number of single rooms are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

SAFARI TRUCKS
Years of safari experience into the design of the trucks. The trucks are built to comply with the latest South African transport and safety regulations. Your comfort is catered for with individual seats (with safety belts), ample legroom and large vertical sliding windows for unobstructed viewing and photography.

There are roof hatches for excellent "open" views and an integral cab and passenger compartment so contact with the driver is easy. Each truck also has large packing compartments, a built in kitchen, freezer, drinking water tank, interior lights and a gas stove (to minimise use of wood and destruction of forest areas). There is also a pullout set of steps into the passenger compartment, making access for clients easier. There is usually a bank of plug sockets in the vehicles. These plugs are the South African 3 round pin or 2 round pin with a hexagonal base. We also use minibuses for some small group safaris. All of our vehicles are bought new and serviced by Mercedes and Toyota agents, thus ensuring trouble free touring with backup support in practically every town in Southern Africa.

Where road conditions allow we may also use minibuses. On 5% of tours we may use minibuses with 12 seats and air conditioning (with trailer for equipment and baggage). The safaris often have several long days of travel providing for a beautiful journey on the way to exciting and varied destinations.

Group Leader & Support Staff

Group leaders are the key to any successful safari. On this adventure safari, you will travel with two qualified and experienced, registered field guides (FGASA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, adds up to an informative and interesting small group holiday. Our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.

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 approximately £300 per person (or equivalent in euros/dollars) should be allowed for personal spending. This amount is sufficient to cover non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses, including tips to local staff. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs or undertake any additional activities or excursions, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). If you expect to buy considerable quantities of soft drinks or beer, you should make an allowance for this.

You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros. Small craft traders generally will accept €, £, US$ or local cash. It is important that you ensure that your notes are clean and undamaged, as many banks and exchange bureau will not accept dirty, damaged or torn notes. Please also avoid bringing US$100 notes, as there is a high incident of forged notes around and they may not be accepted. Old issue “small head” US$ notes are also not always accepted. There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at the airport (which we advise you to do) and your local leader will advise further places to change money en-route and at borders. Additionally, you will be able to get currency from bank ATMs in many of the towns that we will visit.

On day 1, on arrival at the hotel in Johannesburg you can book a half-day SOWETO tour for $75 per person, or an afternoon tour to Maropeng Cradle of Humankind and Sterkfontien Caves is also bookable for $100 per person (min 2 people). Please check that Sterkfontien Caves are open, as they can close due to high water levels. Both of these tours should be booked on arrival (before 12midday) with our local agent and are payable locally in cash.

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. We suggest that a tip of €2-5 (or £/$/R equivalent) per client per day for your tour leader is reasonable. When it comes to tipping the guides that we sometimes use for various activities (e.g. game walks) we suggest that a tip of €1-3 per client per ½ day activity, or the local currency equivalent, is acceptable. As in all cases with tipping, the final decision of the amount tipped is up to the individual. It is up to you to decide if you thought the service was poor, or exceptional, and the amount tipped should reflect that. The amounts quoted above are guidelines for you to get an idea of what to tip.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will travel in the gear compartment of the truck with the group, and there is a finite amount of space. Please keep the weight of your main luggage to 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.

Group Members

We sell this holiday in conjunction with our local operator in Southern Africa. This enables us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get the holiday up and running quickly. For this holiday the minimum age is 12 yrs, however it is unusual to have people under 16yrs.

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.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. You should be comfortable with walking 1 to 6 hours. Hill walking is the best way to get fit for this holiday, but running, cycling and swimming are also good.

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. From May to August the days are pleasant and sunny, and in the mountains (eSwatini & Drakensberg) it can be cool to cold! September to April is pleasant, warm to hot with the occasional thunder showers.

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.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

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

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family 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.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

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:

- Lightweight walking boots or shoes
- Sandals
- Socks
- Underwear
- Long lightweight trekking trousers
- Shorts
- Lightweight waterproof jacket & trousers
- T-shirts
- Casual shirts with sleeves
- Thermal base layer top
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Daypack 20-25 litres
- Dry bags to keep contents of day pack dry
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sunhat with wide brim
- Small towel/Travel towel
- Sunglasses
- 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
- Washbag and toiletries (biodegradable soap is preferred)

- Antibacterial handwash
- Insect repellent
  Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium),
- painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, re-hydration salts (Dioralite), anti-nausea tablets and antihistamine cream/tablets.

The following items are optional:

- Travel clothes
- Light cotton dress or sarong
- Walking poles
- Spare laces
- Swimwear
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Binoculars (highly recommended)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

Please be aware than in the Southern African the winter months, June-September, the nights can be cold with an average of between 0-5 degrees Celsius in some places, and the days can be warm between 20-30 Degrees Celsius. You may wish to take a hat and gloves during this period.

Bright bold colours and white are not suitable for game viewing or bush wear as they attract insects and the attention of animals. Please do not bring camouflage or military style clothes as they can cause problems with local authorities.

Please dress appropriately for border crossings, village and market visits – ie: no bare feet, no bare chests, no bikinis and no hats. A few restaurants are also not keen on T-shirts and jeans either.

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 in Johannesburg. Airport transfers are provided.

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 Johannesburg in the evening of the last day of the land only itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Smashing safari and walking holiday, visiting the famous Blyde River, Kruger and the Drakensberg. As well as smaller and more intimate conservancy rehabilitating wildlife, and walks in rural eSwatini. And the price is BRILLIANT! AIRPORT TRANSFERS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Please Note This document was downloaded on 19/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change