



Escape Travel Paddington - Julie

DAY 1:

Arrive in JOHANNESBURG and check-in to hotel.
The Michelangelo Hotel, Johannesburg

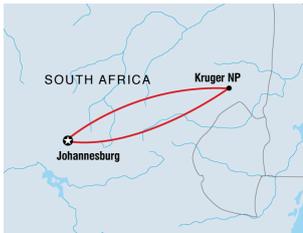
DAY 2:

Urban Adventures - Cycle Soweto

Step into the lives of the locals, find out what makes the city tick and get acquainted with the food and culture, all in the company of an expert local guide. See more than just the usual sights on an Urban Adventure

DAY 3:

THE KRUGER EXPERIENCE - LODGE (4 days)



JOHANNESBURG/GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Early morning on Day 1 (around 6am) we depart Johannesburg, the 'City of Gold' and head off on an adventure of a lifetime. A truly unique African experience unfolds as we enter the Greater Kruger National Park ecosystem arriving at our Lodge in time for lunch (570 km, approx. 8-9 hours travel time including stops along the way).

After some time to settle in, head off on a late afternoon/evening Big Five game drive in open 4x4 vehicles in a private game reserve. Sundowner drinks are enjoyed at one of the waterholes before continuing our game drive into the night.

After an exciting evening, return to the lodge to enjoy a traditional South African meal around a log fire.

Located in the greater Kruger, our accommodation is wonderfully intimate, with just 14 twin-share rooms. Rooms are constructed from local materials and are tastefully decorated and comfortably appointed. The lodge also offers a cosy bar, perfect for chatting with the other guests over a drink or two. There is also a crystal-clear swimming pool for a refreshing post-safari swim. However we think the quality which makes our lodge stand out from the rest is the friendliness and helpfulness of our team. They are committed to making your stay memorable!

Please note if our lodge is full you will be accommodated in a similar lodge in the same area and the accommodation may be in a tented lodge.

Responsible Travel Note:

You may here of the opportunity to see or interact with lion cubs within the Guernsey Private

Nature Reserve. We recommend that Intrepid travellers bypass this activity as it is contrary to Intrepid's Responsible Travel guideline stating that we 'actively discourage the participation of Intrepid groups in activities which exploit animals - wild or domestic.' Professional wildlife conservation organisations, including Born Free and the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA), advise that habituating lions to humans can shorten their life and may result in lion-human conflict issues. While there is some merit in the argument that the money that you pay for the activity goes towards lion research, we feel that the negative impacts on the lions' rehabilitation far outweigh this.

Included Activities

- Big 5 game drive

Accommodation: Thornhill Safari Lodge or similar (1 night)

DAY 4:

GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

One of the largest game reserves in Southern Africa, Kruger National Park is home to over 500 bird species, 100 species of reptile and 150 mammal species, including the Big Five and the endangered African wild dog.

An early rise, as we make our way to the Kruger.

Our wildlife experience begins as soon as we enter the park, heading into prime game viewing areas where we hope to catch a glimpse of some of the amazing animals found inside the park, including the Big Five.

Enjoy breakfast at one of the picnic spots before continuing through the park. Our entire day will be spent game viewing, bird watching and stopping off at the various waterholes en route.

We depart the park in the late afternoon and return to the lodge for an evening of relaxation.

Included Activities

Kruger game drives

Accommodation: Thornhill Safari Lodge or similar (1 night)

DAY 5:

GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

You spend today at your leisure, relaxing at the lodge or taking part in the various optional activities on offer.

Accommodation: Thornhill Safari Lodge or similar (1 night)

DAY 6:

JOHANNESBURG

Rise early and head out on a morning bush walk. Guided by a qualified nature guide, we learn about nature's finer details like bird, tree and spoor identification.

Transfer back to Johannesburg (600 km, approx. 9-10 hrs). There's plenty of time to stop and explore along the way. Take in amazing views at the viewpoint over the awesome Blyde River Canyon and view the Three Rondavels.

On arrival in Jo 'burg you can be dropped at the airport or any nominated Johannesburg or Pretoria hotel. No accommodation is provided for tonight, but we are able to book you additional accommodation in Johannesburg. Please ask at time of booking.

Included Activities

- Morning nature walk

DAY 7:

FLIGHT JOHANNESBURG to DURBAN on South African Airways Flight SA579 (Boeing 737-800 Winglets)
HAPPY HIPPO BACKPACKERS, DURBAN

DAY 8:

GARDEN ROUTE ADVENTURE (13 DAYS)



DURBAN

Sawubona! Welcome to South Africa.

Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 6pm on Day 1.

You can arrive at any time as there are no activities planned until this important meeting; please ask the hotel reception where it will take place. If your flight arrives too late, we recommend that you consider arriving a day early and book a night's accommodation prior to the trip so you are able to attend. If you are going to be late please inform the hotel reception. We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting so please ensure you have all details on hand to provide to your leader.

Durban is South Africa's second most populous city and a tourist magnet thanks to its wealth of golden, sandy beaches and glitzy nightlife. One of its main attractions is the Golden Mile, a stretch of fine sands bordered by frothy surf on one side and an attractive beachfront of shops, restaurants and cafes on the other.

Accommodation: Happy Hippo Backpackers Dormitory or similar (1 night)

DAYS 9-10

DRAKENSBERG

Leave Durban and travel inland towards the majestic Drakensberg mountain range (260 km, approx. 5-6 hrs).

The Drakensberg is the highest mountain range in Southern Africa (3482 m) and forms part of the border between South Africa and Lesotho. The range is referred to locally as the Barrier of Spears or the Dragon Mountains and is home to an amazing amount of flora and fauna.

We have a whole day to explore part of the mountain range on foot - you can take a short hike for an hour or so, or challenge yourself to an optional full day hike with a local guide.

Our accommodation here is in ensuite twin rooms at a unique Backpackers Lodge in Drakensberg. Enjoy a sun-downer from the thatched loft lounge room that has a big screen, HD television, book swap and internet cafe. Other property facilities include a pool, Jacuzzi, barbeque area, fire pit, Wi-Fi and upgrades available.

Included Activities

- Drakensburg - Short hike

Accommodation: Amphitheatre Backpackers or similar (2 nights)

DAYS 11-12

LESOTHO HIGHLANDS

Leaving the Drakensberg behind, head into the mountain kingdom of Lesotho (370 km, approx. 7-8 hrs). Nestled like a small island in the middle of South Africa, Lesotho is commonly known as the 'Kingdom in the Sky' with beautiful mountain ranges and endless hiking trails.

Generally the border crossing into Lesotho is quite smooth, but we may experience some delay depending on the time of year.

Drive past the Golden Gate Highlands National Park which is famous for its extraordinary sandstone rock formations. The park is also home to elands, zebras, mongooses and hundreds of bird species. Keep your eyes peeled as you may be able to spot some wildlife along the way.

Accommodation: Malealea Lodge Dormitory or similar (2 nights)

DAYS 13-14

WILD COAST/CINTSA

Head to the stunning Wild Coast of South Africa and the small town of Cintsa (550 km, approx. 10-12 hrs).

A charming little coastal town, Cintsa and its surrounding region are inhabited by the Xhosa people, whose lifestyle is deeply rooted in tribal traditions and customs. They're warm and friendly people and provide good insight into rural South African life.

Arrive in the late afternoon and have time to relax before an optional group dinner.

We spend the next 2 nights here so you will have plenty of time to explore the town, relax on the stunning beaches or pursue the many optional activities on offer including hiking, swimming, mountain biking and surfing.

Our campground has shared facilities, ATM, Wi-Fi access and upgrades possible.

Accommodation: Buccaneers Backpackers Camping or similar (2 nights)

DAY 15

ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK

Travel on to Addo Elephant National Park (310 km, 7-8 hrs).

A true success story in conservationism, Addo Elephant National Park was created in 1931 to protect the region's 11 remaining elephants. Today there are over 450 elephants in the park, as well as Cape buffalo, black rhinos, all kinds of antelopes and even the flightless dung beetle which is unique to the park.

On arrival at the park, take an afternoon game drive and try to spot some of the local residents from our truck.

While in Addo, stay at a campground that has basic shared facilities, Wi-Fi access and upgrades possible.

Included Activities

- Addo National Elephant Park - Game drive

Accommodation: Addo Rest Camp or similar (1 night)

DAYS 16-17

GARDEN ROUTE/TSITSIKAMMA NATIONAL PARK

Spend the next few days discovering the most spectacular stretch of the Garden Route. Our first stop is the Tsitsikamma National Park (250 km, approx. 4-5 hrs).

Protecting both land and sea, steep ancient forests meet the breakers of the Indian Ocean at Tsitsikamma National Park. It's a spectacular place for walking and wildlife viewing. The Cape clawless otter, dolphins, tortoises and southern right whales (in season) are all visitors here, along with baboons, monkeys and myriad birds.

While in Tsitsikamma, stay at a campground that has basic shared facilities, ATM, Wi-Fi access and upgrades possible

Accommodation: Storms River Mouth Rest Camp or similar (2 nights)

DAY 18

OUTDSHOORN

Head out across the arid Karoo region bound for Oudtshoorn (220 km, approx. 4-5 hrs). Stop off on the way at Knysna to stretch your legs and explore this quaint little hamlet.

The ostrich capital of the world, at the turn of the 20th century Oudtshoorn was full of 'feather barons' that grew rich off the popularity of ostrich feathers. Today there are literally thousands of ostriches in the area being farmed for their meat, leather, and on a smaller scale, their feathers and eggs. Take a short stroll around town and you'll discover all sorts of ostrich souvenirs. Our campsite has hot showers, flush toilets and upgrades possible.

Accommodation: Kleinplaas Resort Camping or similar (1 night)

DAY 19 SWELLENDAM WINE REGION

Get your blood pumping while exploring the Cango Caves and learn about their formation and history from our local guide.

Travel from Oudtshoorn to Swellendam (220km, approx. 4-5 hrs) on the scenic Route 62.

One of the oldest settlements in South Africa, Swellendam is located at the foot of the Langenberg Mountains. This picturesque town has something for everyone with plenty of great restaurants, adventure activities, wildlife and is the perfect base for exploring the local wine region.

We should arrive in Swellendam by early afternoon. Set up camp and have the remainder of the afternoon free for you to explore or relax around the camp. The camp has limited upgrades available and Wi-Fi access.

Included Activities

- Cango Caves

Accommodation: Kam'Bati River Resort Camping or similar (1 night)

DAY 20

CAPE TOWN

Travel on to Cape Town (300km, approx. 4-5 hrs).

On the way, we will head out on a wine tour to sample some of the local produce from this beautiful area.

With its stunning coastline, dominating mountain and modern cityscape, Cape Town is one of Africa's most appealing cities. With vineyards on its doorstep, adventure activities around every other corner and plenty of restaurants and cafes to while away the time, Cape Town is a very easy city to spend some extra time in.

On arrival you'll be dropped at our finishing point hotel in central Cape Town. No accommodation is provided for tonight, but we are able to book you additional accommodation in Cape Town. Please ask at time of booking.

Please don't book any international flights until after 6pm this evening.

Included Activities

- Swellendam Wine Tour

ACCOMMODATION: VICTORIA & ALFRED HOTEL, CAPE TOWN

DAY 21

Cage Diving with Great White Sharks from Cape Town

You may think you're a fear-defying thrill lover, but can you handle the ultimate heart-pounding experience? Find out in Cape Town by cage diving with great white sharks. This full-day shark-diving experience takes you out into the open ocean off the shore of Gansbaai and puts you within touching distance of one of the world's most feared predators.

DAY 22

Free time to enjoy the hotel or town.

DAY 23

Robben Island

For nearly 300 years, Robben Island was a place of isolation, where political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, were imprisoned and cut off from the rest of the world. It also served as a voluntary sanctuary for lepers. Despite this unsavory past, Robben Island is an important piece of South Africa's history, as well as a reminder of the difficult road to South African Democracy and the victory over apartheid.

DAY 24

FLIGHT CAPETOWN to JOHANNESBURG on South African Airways Flight SA336

DAY 25

FLIGHT JOHANNESBURG to SYDNEY on QANTAS Flight QF064 (Boeing 737-800 Winglets)