

NCJ – 20 DAY SOUTH AFRICAN EXPLORER

Activity Package

This is an optional payment that covers what we consider to be ‘essential activities’ on our tours. Ideally we would include all of these, but not everyone can afford this. This payment is 100% transparent and is listed below. The Activity Package can be pre-purchased prior to your arrival or through your guide on day 1 of your tour. **This dossier has been written with the inclusion of the Activity Package items.**

Activity	Price
Spier Wine tasting plus cheetah entrance	R60
Cango Caves basic tour	R70
Tsitsikamma National Park entrance	R120
Lesotho school visit	R50
Hluhluwe game drive	R700
St Lucia boat cruise	R200
Moholoholo rehabilitation centre	R120
	R1320

Countries Visited

South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland

Vehicle

Adventure Truck

Malaria

Prophylactics are required for the last leg of the tour.

Departure Point

8.00 am from, 1st Floor Leadership House, 40 Shortmarket Street, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town, South Africa.
Tel: +27 (0) 21 426 5445.

End Point

Garden Court O.R. Tambo International Airport, 2 Hulley Road, Isando Ext. 3, Kempton Park, Gauteng, South Africa.
Tel: +27 11 392 1062 www.southern.sun.com/garden-court/or-tambo-international-airport/pages/overview.aspx

What's included

Meals as indicated on the itinerary (unless otherwise specified, all meals are prepared and served at the Nomad truck), accommodation, registered guides and transport. We also include some of the highlights. These highlights are listed below in the day-by-day descriptions as “included highlights”.

What's excluded

All items of a personal nature, alcohol, snacks, souvenirs, tips and optional activities (see list for an indication of prices).

Health

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking.

We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disability that you may have.

Visas

Please note that these are your responsibility. Some nationalities require visas for Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa. See Pre Departure Booklet for more information.

Insurance

All clients require adequate Travel Insurance. Medical Insurance is not sufficient. Activity providers can refuse participation of activities, if the correct valid Travel Insurance is not provided. Travel insurance can be purchased via the Nomad website http://www.nomadtours.co.za/travel_insurance.html (Nomad World travel insurance is in no way affiliated with Nomad Tours)

Climate

The African sun is very strong. Please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. It can also get very cold during winter months on this route. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

Currency and Banking

South African Rand is the only currency to use on this route. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information on each country. Travellers Cheques can take a long time to change into cash and often incur unreasonable charges. Credit Cards cannot always be processed – especially in remote areas.

Vaccinations

No vaccinations are prescribed by law for the countries being visited on this tour. Please see the Pre Departure Information booklet for detailed information on vaccinations in Africa.

Onward Travel

Afterwards, this tour can be linked to the Okavango & Chobe Trail North tour, or the Discover Mozambique tour.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you.

Arrival

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any problems such as lost luggage, misplaced bags or any unforeseen problems such as airline strikes or delayed flight arrival.

Camping Departure



Please book your flight to depart the day after the tour officially ends. This is to account for any delays that we may experience due to unpredictable road conditions.

Note: All information is subject to change without prior notice. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only. On our longer tours it is possible that your crew, truck and fellow travellers will change due to our unique tour linking system. On this tour, camping and accommodated clients will be travelling together with a maximum number of participants of 18.

Did you receive your Pre Departure Information Booklet?

If not please contact us at nomad@nomadtours.co.za and we will e-mail you the document; alternatively visit us at our office (1st Floor, Leadership House, 40 Shortmarket St, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town) to collect one. You can also download from our website at www.nomadtours.co.za. After hours contact number: +27 (0) 82 578 2199.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Country	Area	Activity	Price Range
South Africa	Stellenbosch	Dinner at local restaurant	R150 to R300
South Africa	Oudtshoorn	Ostrich Farm Visit	R65 to R75
South Africa	Knysna	Lagoon Cruise	R250 to R300
South Africa	Knysna	Knysna Elephant Encounter	R200 to R220
South Africa	Knysna	Township Tour	R180 to R280
South Africa	Knysna	Birds of Eden	R130 to R150
South Africa	Knysna	Monkey Town	R130 to R150
South Africa	Knysna	Predator Rehab: Cheetah walk & wildcat experience	R600 to R650
South Africa	Knysna	Predator rehab: Wildcat experience	R160 to R170
South Africa	Knysna	4x4 Forest drive and lunch	R350 to R450
South Africa	Bloukrans Bridge	World Highest Bungee Jump	R720 to R780
South Africa	Tsitsikamma NP	Treetop / Canopy Tour	R500 to R550
South Africa	Tsitsikamma NP	Day hike – Tsitsikamma NP conservation fee	R50 to R120
South Africa	Addo NP	Night game drive with SANP	R250 to R350
South Africa	Cintsa	Boat rental	R70 to R100
South Africa	Cintsa	Quad bike	R110 to R350
South Africa	Cintsa	Abseiling	R140 to R160
Lesotho	Malealea	Overnight Pony Trekking (min. 2 clients)	R430 to R480
Lesotho	Malealea	Pitseng Day Hike +/- 5 hours	R75 to R100
South Africa	Drakensberg	Horse riding per hour	R85 to R100
South Africa	Drakensberg	Tugela Falls Hike - RNNP entrance	R30 to R50
South Africa	Durban	Dinner at local restaurant	R250 to R300
South Africa	iSimangaliso	Traditional Zulu Village Visit	R250 to R280
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Mountain Biking (per hour)	R110 to R150
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Guided Birding Walk	R150 to R200
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Horse Riding – per hour (1-3 hrs)	R120 to R150
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Sunset Drive (2.5 hours) Min 2 x clients	R220 to R250
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Full day 4x4 game drive	R450 to R650
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Dawn Game Walk 2 to 3 Hours	R340 to R400
South Africa	Kruger National Park	Night Game Drive with SANP	R180 to R210
South Africa	Johannesburg	Dinner at local restaurant	R150 to R300

Note

There are more optional activities being created every day – we have listed only the most popular. If there is something specific you would like to do then speak to your guide as they will be able to assist you.

Please note that due to the seasonal fluctuations of the Kruger National Park we cannot guarantee that we will stay at the places indicated in this itinerary – we will follow the game in order to give you the best viewing experience.

Day 1 Stellenbosch Wine Route

Leaving the mother city of Cape Town behind, we drive to Stellenbosch to the Spier Wine Estate where we visit the Cheetah Breeding Centre before some excellent wine tasting a little later in the day. On clear days the magnificent mountain scenery makes for a memorable first day. On arrival at our accommodation stop for the night, your guides will brief you on what to expect from the days ahead. *Optional activity: Dinner out*

Meals:	Lunch
Accommodation:	Two per room: Rivierbos Guest House: www.rivierbos.co.za
Facilities:	En suite, hot showers, Laundry & Internet (WiFi)
Route:	Cape Town to Stellenbosch: ± 45 km
Travel time:	±1 hour
Activity Package:	Wine tasting and entrance to Cheetah breeding project

Stellenbosch

Stellenbosch was founded in 1679 and is the second oldest European settlement in the Western Cape Province, after Cape Town. It was named after Simon van der Stel, the Governor of the Cape Colony at the time, and it means “(van der) Stel’s forest”. The early settlers to this fertile region were encouraged to plant oak trees and Stellenbosch’s oak lined streets led to the town being known as “Eikestad” (village of oaks). Stellenbosch is situated on the banks of the Eerste River (“First River”), so named as it was the first river van der Stel reached and followed when Jan van Riebeeck sent him from Cape Town on an expedition over the Cape Flats to explore the territory now known as Stellenbosch. The Dutch were skilled in hydraulic engineering and they devised a system of furrows to direct water from the Eerste River through the town along Van Riebeeck Street to Mill Street where a mill was erected.

Soon after the first settlers arrived, among them the French Huguenots, grapes were planted in the fertile valleys around Stellenbosch and soon it became the centre of the South African wine industry.

One of the first schools in South Africa opened in Stellenbosch in 1683, and in 1866 the Dutch Reformed Church opened a gymnasium which is known as the Stellenbosch Gymnasium. The Gymnasium, renamed in 1881 as Stellenbosch College, finally reached university status in 1918 and was renamed Stellenbosch University. More than 26 000 students attend Stellenbosch University today.

Day 2 Oudtshoorn

Today we travel along the famous Route 62 towards Oudtshoorn and, time permitting, stop at Ronnie’s Sex Shop, not a sex shop at all, but a rather interesting country pub... We take a guided tour of the Cango Caves, which are some of the most impressive limestone caverns and the different formations are quite astonishing. You will have the opportunity to visit an Ostrich farm later in the afternoon. Tonight we stay in Oudtshoorn. *Optional Activities: Ostrich Farm visit.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Kleinplaas Holiday Resort Campsite www.kleinplaas.co.za
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers.
Route:	Stellenbosch to Oudtshoorn. ±400 km
Travel time:	± 5-6 hours
Activity Package:	Cango Caves Standard Tour

Oudtshoorn – Ostrich Capital of the World

Oudtshoorn was known as the ostrich capital of the world. It was named after Baron Pieter von Rheede von Oudtshoorn, who died in 1773 on his way to the Cape to become Governor. The town was founded in 1847. The town is situated 300 m above sea level, with the Swartberg Mountain range to the north and Outeniqua range to the south. Arbeidsgenot, the home of Cornelius Jacob Langenhoven was built here. Langenhoven was the author of the old South African National anthem, “Die Stem” which still forms part of the new National Anthem.

Ostrich feathers were obligatory items of high fashion just before World War One. The great feather boom began around 1870. At its height there were more than 750 000 domesticated ostriches in the little Karoo area and feathers were being exported at the rate of about 450 000kg’s a year. Then came world war one and then austerity became a way of supporting the war effort. Many farmers went bankrupt in this time. In later years the industry revived with the demand for ostrich leather, biltong, eggs and feathers. At present there are about 90 000 ostriches in the Little Karoo.

Cango Caves

Common myth has it that the Caves were first explored by a local farmer named Jacobus van Zyl (after who the first chamber, van Zyl’s Hall, was named) – although research fails to reveal anybody by that name in the Cango area in the 1770’s. And besides – we now know that the Caves have been known to man since the Early Stone Age.

In the 19th century, entrance to the Caves cost 5 rix dollars – the modern equivalent of about R500.00 – but that even didn't deter some destructive tourists and many carted away parts of the delicate stalactites and stalagmites for souvenirs or engraved their names onto the walls. In response, the governor of the Cape Colony, Lord Charles Somerset, published the first Caves Regulation in 1820. The 1st law designed to protect an environmental resource in South Africa; it banned the collection of souvenirs, proved for fines for anyone caught damaging Caves formations and prescribed an entrance fee which had to be paid to the District Officer – who was made responsible for enforcing the rules.

Many of the most significant discoveries in the Caves were made by its first full-time guide, Johnnie van Wassenaar. – who served for 43 years: from 1891 until his retirement in 1934. He opened many side chambers and introduced thousands of people to Cango 1, which remains the only part of the Caves which the public may visit. Importantly, though, it is clear that the Caves were known to man long before Europeans first landed at the Cape: recent finds – of some tools left behind in ancient hearths in the Cave mouth – prove that humans have lived and sheltered here for at least 80 000 years.

Day 3 Knysna / Plettenberg Bay

Today we cross over the magnificent Outeniqua Mountains to Knysna. Look out for whales and dolphins as we pass through Mossel Bay. Your afternoon is free to explore Knysna, one of South Africa's most popular seaside towns. *Optional Activities: Knysna Elephant Park, Lagoon Cruise, Township Tour, Birds of Eden, 4x4 Forest drive with lunch, Predator Rehab, Monkey town.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Forever Resort Plettenberg Bay: www.foreverplettenberg.co.za
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, hot showers, swimming pool, kiosk, laundry
Route:	Oudtshoorn to Plettenberg Bay ±150 km
Travel time:	±2-3 hrs

Knysna

Today's highlight is the Knysna Lagoon, a perfect spot for water sports or simply relaxing and admiring the striking beauty of The Heads. The town of Knysna, voted South Africa's favourite holiday town, nestles in the lagoon basin. It is protected by The Heads - two towering sandstone cliffs flanking a deep channel through which the tides flow. There are spectacular views and a cosy restaurant at the Eastern Head, and the Western Head is a privately owned nature reserve – Featherbed Bay.

The Knysna Lagoon is one of the few places in the world that supports an oyster hatchery, and the town is well-known for its fresh oysters, as well as its beer, made locally at Mitchell's Brewery. Rich in history, Knysna's museums are well worth visiting:

the Millwood House Museum, and the Angling Museum in the Old Gaol. There are many other attractions, from the lush surrounding rainforests, the nearby Buffalo Valley Game, Featherbed Nature Reserve and Noetzie beach, to the wide selection of restaurants and craft markets. The forest, one of the largest areas of indigenous trees left in South Africa, is very dense and in some areas impenetrable. Knysna was originally founded by George Rex in the 19th century as a port for the timber trade. The forest was nearly decimated as a result of logging, but escaped devastation due to far-sighted conservation policies introduced in the 1880s. The herds of forest elephants that once roamed the forest have not been so lucky, they have all disappeared and one lone female is said to remain today. The beautiful and elusive Knysna Loeries can still be seen in the area, as well as a large variety of other birds and a few small antelope.

Day 4/5 Bloukrans and Tsitsikamma National Park

One of South Africa's best-kept secrets is the Tsitsikamma National Park. Boasting exceptional hiking trails and superb coastal scenery Tsitsikamma is a destination that many people will return to. The first few hours of the famous Otter Trail Hike are included in your Activity Package. For those needing an adrenaline boost the nearby Bloukraans Bridge is home to the world's highest bungee jump at 216m! *Optional Activities: Bungee jumping (highest in the world), treetop canopy tours, hiking.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Tube 'n Axe www.tubenaxe.co.za
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers, bar
Route:	Plettenberg Bay to Tsitsikamma. ±50 km
Travel time:	±1 hour
Activity Package:	Tsitsikamma National Park Entrance Fee

Tsitsikamma National Park

Tsitsikamma National Park stretches between the sea and the Tsitsikamma Mountains, along the Garden Route, one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. The Park, covering 80km along the coast between Nature's Valley and Storm's River mouth, encompasses a range of different ecosystems - indigenous forest, commercial plantation, Fynbos, and inter-tidal zones – and offers magnificent scenery and walks. It was the first Marine National Park to be proclaimed in Africa, and it is now the third most frequently visited of the 20 national parks in South Africa. The forest has more than 30 species of indigenous trees - there are several massive trees, the tallest of these is 36 meters high, and some are more than 1000 years old.

Day 6 Addo Elephant National Park

Continuing to the Eastern Cape, we enter Addo Elephant National Park, which is home to many of Africa's big game. Our truck gives us an elevated view on our game drive this afternoon, particularly for those photographic enthusiasts amongst us. *Optional activities: Night game drive with SANP*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Addo Elephant Park www.sanparks.org/parks/addo
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers, restaurant, shop, swimming pool
Route:	Tsitsikamma to Addo. ± 340 km
Travel time:	±4-5hrs
Included highlights:	Game Drive in Nomad Truck

Addo Elephant Park

In 1919 the administration of the Cape Province decided to cull the elephant population in the Addo region and hired a Professional hunter, Major Jan Pretorius, to destroy the entire herd that inhabited the area at the time. It took him a year to kill 120, before he was stopped due to public outcry. Only 16 traumatised Addo elephants remained, wounded, frightened and unable to coexist with humans. In 1931, when only 11 elephants were left alive in the area, it was proclaimed a national park. The elephants, however, were still hostile - destroying crops and attacking anyone who came near. Finally, in 1952, one of the farmers of the area suggested that a fence be erected around the park. This kept the Elephants secure and out of the surrounding farming area. Black rhino was reintroduced in 1961- the first in the Cape for a hundred years. Today the Park is sanctuary to over 450 elephants, Cape buffalo, a variety of antelope species, as well as the flightless dung beetle, found exclusively in this area.

Addo elephants are unique in that although they belong to the same species as the African Elephant, they are smaller with more rounded ears and the females generally have no tusks.

Day 7/8 Cintsa

After a morning game drive in Addo we depart the National Park and drive to Cintsa where you will have the chance to participate in the many optional activities on offer. *Optional Activities: boat rental, quad bike, abseiling*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight:	Camp: Areena Resort: www.areena.co.za
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, hot showers, swimming pool, bar, laundry
Route:	Addo to Cintsa. ± 300 km
Travel time:	± 5-6 hours
Included Highlights:	Morning Game drive in Addo in Nomad truck

Day 9/10 Lesotho - Malealea

Today we leave South Africa and enter the landlocked mountain kingdom of Lesotho. Lesotho is one of the highest countries in the world, with the entire country being over 1000m above sea level. The next day we get up early and those who opt to go on the optional Pony Trekking Excursion will ride into the remote hills of Lesotho accompanied by local guides. On your return the group will visit the local village and school. *Optional Activities: Pony Trekking Excursion, Hiking.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Malealea www.malealea.com
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, bar, basic shop
Route:	Cintsa to Lesotho (Malealea) ± 550 km
Travel time:	±8-9 hours plus border crossing
Activity Package:	Local school and village visit

Border posts:	South Africa: Maseru Bridge, Tel: +27 (0) 51 924 4300, Open: 24hrs Lesotho: Maseru Bridge, Tel: +266 22 313 796, Open: 24hrs
---------------	---

Lesotho

Landlocked in the centre of South Africa, the Kingdom of Lesotho is one of the few countries in Africa with natural boundaries created by tribal demands rather than those imposed by colonial decree. Lesotho, like Swaziland, is one of the three surviving monarchies of Africa, but unlike Swaziland, the king serves a mostly ceremonial function and the Prime Minister of Lesotho has executive authority.

There are few natural resources in this small country, and over population has decreased the agricultural potential, but the country has an overwhelming natural beauty and welcoming, friendly people. The high Maluti Mountains cover most of Lesotho, a rugged, wild range that inevitably create their own climate, which can lead to sudden temperature drops and thunderstorms.

The earliest known inhabitants were the Khoisan hunter-gatherers. Evidence of their occupation goes back at least 30 000 years, with cave paintings and other San artifacts found in numerous scattered sites all over Southern Africa, many concentrated in Lesotho. Their artistic talents have given us a glimpse of their way of life and their profound spiritual bond with the earth and animals. However, the San (known as Bushmen by colonial settlers and as Baroa by the Basotho tribes of Bantu origin) were persecuted from the moment they were seen by outsiders and long ago retreated to the Kalahari sands, their last refuge.

Day 11/12 South Africa - Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park

The Drakensberg Mountains are South Africa's highest and most beautiful. We explore the mountain paths and take in the breathtaking views offered in the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg (Royal Natal) National Park. On our second day we will be going on a guided hike to see some of the san rock paintings. *Optional Activities: Horse Riding, Hiking*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Drakensville Resort: www.drakensville.co.za
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, hot water, swimming pool, bar
Route:	Malealea Lodge to Royal Natal. ±550 km
Travel time:	±8-10 hrs plus a border crossing (Long Day)
Included Highlights:	Royal Natal National Park Entrance, Guided walk to bushman paintings

Border post:	Lesotho: Van Rooyenshek, Open: 06h00-22h00 South Africa: Van Rooyenshek, Tel: +27 (0) 51 583 1516, Open: 06h00-22h00
--------------	---

Royal Natal (Ukhahlamba) National Park

The Royal Natal (Ukhahlamba) National Park, meaning 'the Barrier of Spears', is a world heritage site with some of the most exceptional mountain scenery in Africa. The dramatic features include high altitude grasslands, pristine steep-sided river valleys and rocky gorges. The main feature is the world famous Amphitheatre, a rock wall approximately 5 km in length, and 500 m high. Above the amphitheatre is Mont-aux-Sources peak where the Orange River begins its long journey to the Atlantic Ocean, and Thukela river cascades down the face of the amphitheatre, forming one of the highest waterfalls in the world.

The most popular activity at Royal Natal is undoubtedly hiking. A comprehensive hiking guide is available for purchase at the Visitor Centre, at Thendele camp office and at the main entrance gate. The brochure shows a map of the park and the network of hiking paths which visit every part of the park from the gentle walk to Fairy Glen to the challenging hike up the Crack and down the Mudslide.

This spectacular natural site supports a diversity of plant and animal life, and also contains many caves and rock-shelters with the largest group of rock paintings in Africa south of the Sahara, made by the San people over a period of 4,000 years. These represent the spiritual life of the San people, who are believed to have survived here until 1878. A number of guided hikes are available to view the paintings. The area was initially 3 330 hectare in extent, but over time land has been added to obtain its present size of 8 094 hectares.

Day 13 Kwa-Zulu Natal Coast - Durban

It's all downhill as we leave the mountain scenery en route to the Kwazulu Natal Coast. The bustling city of Durban is South Africa's largest port and well know surfing destination. We stay in the central city this evening and maybe sample some Indian cuisine and enjoy this coastal city's vibrant nightlife. *Optional Activities: Lunch, Dinner and night out in the city.*

Meals:	Breakfast
Accommodation:	Two per room: Garden Court South Beach: www.southernsun.com/garden-court/south-beach
Facilities:	En-suite per room, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, laundry, internet
Route:	Royal Natal to Durban. ±350 km
Travel time:	±5-6 hrs

Durban

Durban is the metropolitan area comprising of Durban, Pinetown, Inanda and Umlazi, with close to two million people living here. The first European settlers were mostly survivors of shipwrecks. One of these survivors, Rodrigo Tristaa, survived a wreck in 1552 of the Portuguese galleon Saint John, and was the first to make his home here. Vasco Da Gama had applied the name Natal (nativity) to this stretch of coast (first seen on Christmas day 1497). The entrance to the bay was known as Rio de Natal (river of the nativity). The Zulu nation's formation provided wealth for a trade market in this area. The merchants set up a harbour where the base of

trade with Zulus could be formed. Durban was thus created by a population of 26 hard-living traders and ivory hunters. It was named on 23 June 1835, after the governor of the Cape, Sir Benjamin D'Urban.

Day 14 Isimangaliso (Greater St Lucia) Wetland Park

Soon after our arrival at iSimangaliso Wetland Park we board a boat for a sunset cruise on the lagoon for some bird and hippo viewing! This UNESCO recognised area is extremely varied and includes: lakes, beaches, coral reefs, wetlands, woodlands, coastal forests and grasslands together supporting an astounding diversity of animal, bird and marine life. *Optional Activities: Traditional Zulu Village visit.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Two per room: Shonalanga: www.shonalanga.net
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, hot showers, swimming pool, laundry
Route:	Durban to St. Lucia. ±280 km
Travel time:	±4-5 hrs
Activity Package:	St Lucia sunset boat cruise

Greater St Lucia Wetland Park

Recently renamed the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, this sub-tropical paradise covers about 240,000 hectares and is the largest estuarine system in Africa. The park includes the southernmost extension of coral reefs on the continent, and covers 220km of the East Coast from St Lucia to the Mozambique border.

iSimangaliso encompasses a huge range of natural systems, ranging from dune, swamp and coastal forests to rocky and sandy shores, coral reefs and submarine canyons, and a mosaic of mangroves, savanna grassland, thickets and woodlands. It is the largest protected wetland in southern Africa, with large numbers of nesting turtles on the beaches; as well as the migration of whales, dolphins and whale-sharks off-shore; and huge numbers of waterfowl including large breeding colonies of pelicans, storks, herons and terns. The Park's unique climate and position has resulted in exceptional biodiversity including some 521 bird species. This is a UNESCO World Heritage site and you can learn more at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/914>.

Day 15 Hluhluwe - Imfolozi Game Reserve – Swaziland - Mlilwane

This morning we drive to the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve for a game drive in open 4x4 vehicles. The park is the only state-run park in the province of KwaZulu-Natal where all the Big Five occur. Due to conservation efforts, the park now has the largest population of white rhino in the world. In the afternoon we cross the border in to Swaziland. *Optional Activities: Mountain Biking, Hiking, Horse Riding.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary www.biggameparks.org
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers.
Route:	St. Lucia to Mlilwane. ±280 km
Travel time:	±5-6 hrs (including a border crossing & game drive)
Activity Package:	Morning Game Drive in Hluhluwe/Imfolozi National Park (± 3 hours)

Border posts:	South Africa: Golela, Tel: +27 34 435 1070, Open: 07h00-20h00 Swaziland, Lavumisa, Tel: +267 304 6001
---------------	--

Hluhluwe - Imfolozi Game Reserve

Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve was established in 1895, the oldest game park in Africa. The Park covers about 96 000 hectares and contains a vast diversity of wildlife and vegetation. It is particularly famous for its conservation of black and white rhino – there are hundreds of endangered black rhino and the largest population of white rhino in the world.

The rest of the Big Five can also be seen here; buffalo, elephant, lion and leopard, as well as many other species including blue wildebeest, zebra, giraffe waterbuck, nyala, kudu, bushbuck, warthog, cheetah, hyena and jackal and thousands of impala. More than 300 species of birds have been recorded in the area, making it one of the prime birding destinations in South Africa.

Swaziland

Swaziland is the smallest country in the southern hemisphere, and is one of only three monarchies left in Africa. The kingdom has been independent from the Commonwealth since 1968, ruled by a King who is appointed in accordance with Swazi tradition. If he is absent, or unable to perform his duties for any reason, the Queen Mother acts on his behalf. In the 1980s this tiny country made international headlines when it was ruled by two queens in succession. Following the death of King Sobhuza II, the Queen regent Dzeliwe Shongwe ruled between 1982 and 1983, and months later Ntombi Twala became the country's second female Head of State since independence.

Swaziland is landlocked, bordered on all sides by South Africa except for roughly 100km of border with Mozambique in the east. Its natural resources are extremely well managed, and despite the country's size it lays claim to some of the best game reserves and national parks in southern Africa. Elephants, lions and rhinos have been reintroduced to the area after being they disappeared due to hunting. It is also well-known for its prolific birdlife.

Day 16 Swaziland – Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary is Swaziland's oldest and covers 4,560 hectares. As there are no large predators in this area and there are a number of self-guided hikes available. Hiking is an excellent way of interacting with the flora and fauna and comes highly recommended. In addition to the beautiful scenery we also have traditional Swazi dancing to look forward to after dinner. *Optional Activities: Mountain Biking, Hiking, Guided birding walks, Horse riding and Sunset Game Drive.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary www.biggameparks.org
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers.
Included highlight:	Traditional Swazi dancing after dinner

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

Mlilwane was the first wildlife sanctuary in Swaziland, started in the 1950's by a local farmer, Ted Reilly, who has subsequently been instrumental in the conservation of Swaziland's natural heritage for many years. It is a beautiful, secluded sanctuary situated in Swaziland's "Valley of Heaven", the Ezulwini Valley, in between Mbabane and Manzini. The Sanctuary covers 4 560 hectares and comprises of a southern and northern section. The southern section is predominately open grassland plains with middleveld vegetation, stretching up onto the striking Nyonyane Mountain with its exposed granite peak known as the "Rock of Execution". Nyonyane is of great historical significance - it is where ancient San communities once lived and the Swazi Royal family are buried there to this day. Behind these mountains, the spectacular Mantenga waterfall and beautiful Usushwana Valley form the divide, before stretching up to northern section, which includes one of the highest surrounding points at Lumphohlo. From the western boundary, the huge Usutu Forest provides a dramatic backdrop stretching into the distant hills.

Tourist activities are concentrated in the southern section, with only guided trails entering the pristine mountains of the north. Mlilwane means "Little Fire", derived from the numerous fires started by lightning strikes on the granite of Mlilwane Hill.

Day 17/18 South Africa - Kruger National Park

We return to South Africa and drive to the Kruger NP for two unforgettable days of game viewing. Kruger National Park is home to Africa's Big 5 as well as a multitude of other beautiful African animals, both small and large. Our truck gives us a height advantage over other vehicles, which means better photo opportunities. There will be a number of game drives to give us the best opportunity to see all the animals. *Optional Activities (subject to availability): Night Drive and Dawn Game Walk through SANP, Full day 4x4 game drive.*

Day 17

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: SANP camp www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, shop, mail box, restaurant, bar.
Route:	Mlilwane to Kruger. ±230 km
Travel time:	±5-6 hrs plus a border crossing
Included Highlights:	Afternoon Game Drive in Nomad Truck

Border posts:	Swaziland: Matsoma, Tel: +268 67 8145, Open: 07h00-20h00 South Africa: Jeppes Reef, Tel: +27 13 781 0382, Open: 07h00-20h00
---------------	--

Day 18

Meals:	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: SANP camp www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, shop, restaurant, bar.
Route:	Game driving through the park for the day. ±100km
Included Highlights:	Full day Game Drive in Nomad Truck

Kruger National Park

Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this national park of nearly 2 million hectares is unrivalled in the diversity of its wildlife and a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques and policies. Approximately 145 mammal species, a list of over 500 bird species, some of which are not to be found elsewhere in South Africa, and 336 tree species occur in the park.

When the first tourist cars visited the park in 1927, they made their own camps in thorn-bush enclosures and had to carry weapons to protect themselves from predators. During the Second World War the park was closed to the public, and reopened in 1946 under new management. Today it is one of the most famous safari destinations in the world with all the facilities that one would expect from a world class holiday destination, but it has retained the untamed, unspoilt environment where you can experience Africa just as you imagined it.

Day 19 Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

Leaving the World's most famous nature conservation area behind, we travel to Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation centre to meet some of the rescued animals before they are released back in to the wild. At our camp this evening we will be experiencing some typical South African cuisine while enjoying a traditional Song and Dance evening.

Meals:	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Timbavati Safari Lodge www.timbavatisafarilodge.com
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, bar, swimming pool
Route:	Kruger NP to Timbavati Area ±150km
Travel time:	± 2-3 hours
Activity Package:	Visit to Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
Included Highlights:	Traditional South African meal, song and dance

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

Moholoholo is nestled in a picturesque setting at the base of the Drakensberg escarpment in the Limpopo Province Lowveld of South Africa. Moholoholo has become a haven for the rehabilitation and care of abandoned, injured and poisoned wildlife. Wildlife is brought to the centre from all corners of South Africa, and once healthy enough are re-introduced into their natural environments. Those creatures that cannot be returned to the wild due to the nature and extent of their injuries, are cared for at the centre and are used to educate the many people who visit each year, both from across South Africa and abroad.

Another important function of the centre is breeding. Moholoholo have successfully bred and released into the wild the endangered Crowned Eagle, Serval and many others. The centre is a non-profit organization, relying completely on the support of the public.

Day 20 Panorama Route - Johannesburg

Today we travel along the Panorama Route, stopping for breathtaking views at Blyde River Canyon, God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes. The tour ends on arrival in Johannesburg, although most will enjoy an optional dinner on our last night together.
Optional Activities: Dinner Out.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation:	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad.
Route:	Timbavati to Johannesburg. ±600 km
Travel time:	±9-10 hrs (Long Day)
Included Highlights:	Panorama Route: God's Window, Blyde River Canyon & Bourkes Luck Potholes

Panorama Route

The Panorama route in Mpumalanga follows the edge of Blyde River Canyon, and includes some breathtaking views of the Three Rondavels, Bourke's Luck Potholes and the Pinnacle. Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in the world, and got its name in 1840 ('blyde' meaning 'joyful') from the Voortrekkers who passed through on their way to Lorenzo Marques (now Mozambique).

It is one of the most spectacular canyons in Africa and its cliffs rise between 600m-800m from the riverbed. Possibly the best view in the whole of the Blyde River Canyon is of the "Three Rondavels - three huge rock spirals rising out of the far wall of the canyon. Their tops appear to have a hut-like rounded roof. They are named after the Swazi Chief Maripi's wives - from the lowest to the highest, they are Magabolle, Mogoladikwe and Maserote.

Where the Blyde River and the Treur River meet, water erosion has formed one of the most remarkable geological phenomena in the country, known as 'Bourke's Luck Potholes'. Over thousands of years, surreal cylindrical rock sculptures created by whirling water have formed a series of dark pools which contrast artfully with the streaked white and yellow lichen covered rocks. Following the road and the Treur River south, there are further viewpoints; Wonder View, God's Window and the Pinnacle.

Johannesburg

Johannesburg is the largest and most populated city in South Africa, and the second largest city in Africa, after Cairo. Gold was discovered in the mineral-rich Witwatersrand in 1886 by an Australian prospector, George Harrison. This discovery started a major gold rush as fortune hunters came to the area from all over the world. A huge labour force of contract workers sprang up to work in the mines and within three years Johannesburg became the largest settlement in South Africa.

It is now the economic and financial core of the country, and although mining is no longer practiced within the city bounds, the headquarters of most of the mining companies can be found here.

Johannesburg is also known as the world's largest human-made forest, with over 10 million trees planted throughout the city.

Tour Ends

We will drop you off at Garden Court O.R. Tambo International Airport www.southernsun.com/garden-court/or-tambo-international-airport/pages/overview.aspx. We suggest you book accommodation here for this evening through your travel agent or Nomad Reservations. If you choose to stay elsewhere you will need to arrange a transfer. Garden Court O.R. Tambo International is about 10km drive from O.R. Tambo (Johannesburg) International Airport. If you are flying out the following evening we highly recommend the day tour of Johannesburg city and Soweto as an informative and enjoyable way to spend the day.

TIPPING ON TOUR

Southern Africa: In general tipping in restaurants is generally expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides.

Our guides do work hard, but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. We recommend USD1 (or about R5) per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 3-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 3 envelopes are used and each crew members name written on one. Place what you feel is fair in to each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

THE NOMAD AFRICAN TRUST www.nomadafricantrust.co.za

At Nomad we are passionate about the people, places and wildlife of Africa that make our tours so special. In order to give back we have set up the Nomad African Trust.

By the end of your tour you may have left-over local currency that you will not be able to change outside of its country of origin. Any assistance you could provide to the trust by donating this left over currency will be appreciated. Thank you for your help and please join our newsletter at the website above to receive regular updates on what we are doing to support our beneficiaries.



GREEN SEATS - TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY IN AFRICA

Nomad gives you the opportunity to offset your carbon foot print by purchasing a "Green Seat". If you would like to help Nomad making Africa Greener, simply choose the tick box on your booking form and we will take care of the rest. The Nomad African Trust will plant trees that are ecologically viable and that have very high carbon absorption.



Green Seats can be purchased at departure or on tour with your guide. For more information on our "Green Seats", please visit http://www.nomadtours.co.za/nomad_greenseats.html

THANK YOU FOR TRAVELLING WITH NOMAD

At the end of your tour you will be provided with feedback forms. These forms are confidential and should be given to your crew in a sealed envelope. If you are not sure of the confidentiality of the feedback form please feel free to email us as well on ops@nomadtours.co.za. Please make sure to also complete the feedback form as we use the answers on these forms to improve and maintain our service levels.

Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice, the accommodation listed in this dossier is our preferred supplier, but sometimes due to availability, we are unable to make use of the property listed in this dossier. If we cannot use the accommodation provider as listed we will substitute another property of similar standards.