

# The Garden Route & Lesotho 13 days

# Information guidelines

All information provided in this document is subject to change without prior notice. Please ensure that you have received the latest version of this dossier as we are continually striving to improve the standards and quality of our tours and itineraries are subject to change. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, or any unforeseen circumstances. 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. There are a maximum of 20 participants travelling on this tour.

Partaking in an adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometers in a truck, and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time in the truck to talk to your fellow travellers, play card games, have a drink, walk around, take note of the world passing by your window and make the most of this unique opportunity to step out of your comfort zone.

Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy while others could take up to an hour to cover one kilometer. There is just no telling what could happen with road, weather, traffic and other conditions that may exist that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road so take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average day could take anything from 5 to 14 hours in the truck, it all depends on the day... and that's only an "average".

## Did you receive your Pre Departure Information Booklet?

If not, please contact us and we will e-mail it to you - alternatively you can also download the document from our website at www.CheapAfricaTours.com or www.GoedkopeAfrikaReizen.nl

# About this tour

# **Departure Point**

This tour departs at **7.00 am** from 40onBurg, 40 Burg Street, Cape Town, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0)21 426 4338, www.40onburg.co.za

Please ensure you arrive at the departure point at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time.

# **End Point**

Hotel: Garden Court South Beach, 73 OR Tambo Parade, South Beach, Durban, South Africa. Tel: + 27 (031) 337 5511, https://www.tsogosun.com/garden-court-south-beach

#### **Countries Visited**

South Africa, Lesotho

#### What's included

All meals which are prepared and served at the overland truck / accommodation / qualified crew / filtered water / transport in the overland truck / included highlights as per the itinerary / entrance fees to National Parks.

#### What's excluded

All items of a personal nature, alcohol, soft drinks, snacks, souvenirs, tips, entrance fees associated with optional activities and optional activities (see list for an indication of prices).

# **Vehicle**

Overland Truck

## 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.

## **Pre and Post Tour Accommodation**

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers. For more information, have a look on our website under "Hotels and Transfers"

# Arrival/ Departure

Please be sure to arrive at least 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will help avoid any unforeseen problems. We also highly recommend that you book your flights to depart at least one day after the tour officially ends.

# I Want More

This tour will give you a good taste of what Southern Africa has in store for you. However, you can extend your adventure by adding more tour options... you could continue onward to Johannesburg (7 more days) and from there you could join the 14 day Discover Mozambique tour...

## Insurance (Compulsory)

All clients require adequate Medical Insurance. Activity providers can refuse participation of activities, if the correct valid Medical Insurance is not provided.

# **Currency and Banking**

As your tour may pass through multiple countries, we have prepared information on the use of local and foreign currencies, ATMs and Credit Cards for each country. This information is available on our website under FAQ (frequently asked questions).

#### 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 disabilities that you may have.

#### **Vaccinations**

A Yellow Fever Certificate might be required for this tour depending on your nationality. Please see the Pre-Departure Information booklet for detailed information on vaccinations in Africa.

#### Visas

As visa requirements vary considerably from country to country and nationality to nationality, please contact the various embassies or a visa service agent in your home country to re-check your visa requirements at least 4 weeks prior to travelling. Please note that visas are the responsibility of the traveller and that ShapShap Travel and its partners will not be held responsible for guests being denied entry should they not be in the possession of the relevant visas.

All travellers must be in possession of a valid onward/return air ticket or proof of other means of transport enabling the traveller to leave the country in which your adventure tour passes or terminates. You should also have proof of sufficient funds (e.g. credit card) to see you through your time in the country. Should the adventure tour you are joining be re-entering a country, be sure to have a multiple entry visa that enables you to re-enter the country. In some cases visas are available on entry into a country and may be cheaper to do so, however for peace of mind and to speed up the border crossing process, ShapShap Travel will always advise you to get your visas prior to your trip if possible.

# **Accommodation providers**

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, however, en-suite facilities are not always guaranteed.

# **Detailed itinerary**

# Day 1 - The Cape Whale Coast Route

Made up of a collection of villages, farms, rivers, bays, coves and valleys, the Cape Whale Coast is a pristine stretch of the South African coastline which runs from the town of Rooiels for roughly 150km, to the east. We have a full day ahead of us which takes us from the bustling city centre of Cape Town via the vineyards and town of Stellenbosch to the town of Hermanus - not forgetting a stop at the largest breeding colony of the African Penguin, Stony Point Nature Reserve.

During the months of July to November you may be lucky enough to see the southern right whales that visit the bay in Hermanus.

**Accommodation** Windsor Hotel: <a href="https://windsorhotel.co.za/">https://windsorhotel.co.za/</a>

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

**Route** Cape Town to Hermanus

Meals Lunch, Dinner

**Included Highlight** Walk through the town of Stellenbosch, Stony Point Penguin Colony visit,

Chocolate & Wine tasting

# Day 2 - Route 62 - Oudtshoorn

Crossing the Hottentots-Holland Mountains this morning we set out for the Klein Karoo and our overnight stop in Oudtshoorn. We follow the scenic Route 62 today, stopping to experience one of the many farm stalls on the way. One of the more quirky highlights today is Ronnie's Shop... a rather interesting country pub. Our day ends with a guided tour of the famous Cango Caves, we can only marvel at the astonishing formations that have formed in these impressive limestone caves.

**Accommodation** Kleinplaas Holiday Resort: http://www.kleinplaas.co.za

OR Oude Meul Country Lodge: <a href="http://www.deoudemeul.co.za/">http://www.deoudemeul.co.za/</a>

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

**Route** Hermanus to Oudtshoorn **Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Stop at Ronnie's Shop, Cango Caves Basic Tour

# Day 3 - Heart of Garden Route

Our morning starts as we make our way over the Outeniqua Mountains and descend to the beautiful Garden route coastline below. Our first stop for the day is a visit to the George Museum, a quirky and interesting museum displaying the local timber trade of the area. In the coming days we spend time hiking, relaxing at the beach and sampling the many optional activities available.

**Accommodation** The Dunes Hotel: https://dunesresort.co.za/

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

MealsBreakfast, Lunch, DinnerIncluded HighlightGeorge Museum & GardensRouteOudtshoorn to Garden Route

# Day 4 – Tsitsikamma

The Garden Route is a treasure trove of beautiful beaches, forest walks and an exciting menu of optional adventures. While our morning is set aside for some relaxation on the beaches of Plettenberg Bay, today offers a number of optional activities and your guide will assist you to get the most out the day. This afternoon we have the opportunity to visit the hidden gem of Nature's Valley, this beautiful village offers us a chance to enjoy a hike or simply relax on the pristine beach in this little paradise. In order to make the most of this day, the truck will run a set schedule and you are free to join or leave at the places that interest you.

**Accommodated:** Tsitsikamma Cottages: <a href="http://www.tsitsikamma.net/">http://www.tsitsikamma.net/</a>

OR: Tsitsikamma Village Inn: <a href="https://www.tsitsikammavillageinn.co.za/">https://www.tsitsikammavillageinn.co.za/</a>

Camping: Tsitsikamma Cottages: <a href="http://www.tsitsikamma.net/">http://www.tsitsikamma.net/</a>

OR Tube 'n Axe: http://tubenaxe.co.za/

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

Route Wilderness to Tsitsikamma

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Natures Valley Nature Walk

**Optional Activity** Township Tour, Ocean Safaris, Sea Kayaking, Monkeyland,

Birds of Eden and Bloukrans Bungee Jump

# Day 5 - Tsitsikamma

Tsitsikamma National Park is one of South Africa's premier marine reserves and this morning we set out to explore the rugged coastline on foot. Our hike along the Waterfall Trail sees us cover the first section of the world renowned Otter Trail, this is not an easy hike and those who prefer a more leisurely option can make use of the boardwalks to the Storms River Mouth.

We return after our hike and you will have the opportunity to book the Woodcutters Journey in the afternoon – experiencing the uniqueness of the Tsitsikamma biome and learning about the history of the area and it's indigenous fauna & flora.

**Accommodation** Accommodated: Tsitsikamma Cottages: http://www.tsitsikamma.net/

OR\_Tsitsikamma Village Inn: <a href="https://www.tsitsikammavillageinn.co.za/">https://www.tsitsikammavillageinn.co.za/</a>

**Camping:** Tsitsikamma Cottages: <a href="http://www.tsitsikamma.net/">http://www.tsitsikamma.net/</a>

OR\_Tube 'n Axe: <a href="http://tubenaxe.co.za/">http://tubenaxe.co.za/</a>

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Tsitsikamma National Park entrance and hike with your guide

**Optional Activity** Treetop canopy tours, Woodcutters Journey

# Day 6 - Greater Addo Elephant National Park area

This morning we set out for the Eastern Cape and the Addo National Park. We make a stop this morning in the surfing mecca of Jeffrey's Bay, famous for its waves. You have the opportunity to visit the small surfing museum, catch a quick wave or simply enjoy a cup of coffee overlooking these famous waves. This afternoon we will make our first visit to seek the elephants after which Addo is named.

**Accommodation** Kudu Ridge Lodge: http://www.kuduridge.co.za

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per permanent tent with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

**Route** Tsitsikamma National Park to Addo Elephant National Park

**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Jeffrey's Bay and an afternoon game drive (safari) in Addo National Park

(in the overland truck)

# Day 7 – Greater Addo Elephant National Park area

This morning you will have the option to visit Port Elizabeth before returning to camp for lunch. In the afternoon we visit Addo, famed for the elephants after which the park was named. Recent expansion has seen Addo grow to become the third largest of South Africa's National Parks. The unique vegetation of Addo supports a wide variety of wildlife and we will spend the afternoon in search of the animals that call Addo home.

Accommodation Kudu Ridge Lodge: <a href="http://www.kuduridge.co.za">http://www.kuduridge.co.za</a>

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per permanent tent with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Included Highlight** Afternoon game drive in Addo NP (in the overland truck)

# Day 8 - Graaff Reinet

The historic town of Graaff-Reinet nestles in the heartland of the Great Karoo and offers a unique insight into the history of this arid region. It is also the fourth oldest town in the country. This evening you will join a sundowner excursion to the Valley of Desolation, this unique valley offers a panoramic view over the town and the wide open plains stretching out below.

Kindly note that during the winter months, this activity will become a Sunrise excursion to the valley of Desolation the following morning.

**Accommodation** Profcon Resort: <a href="http://www.profconresort.co.za/">http://www.profconresort.co.za/</a>

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

Route Addo to Graaff Reinet

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Valley of Desolation Sundowner Tour

#### Day 9 - Lesotho - Malealea

This morning we cut across the vast expanse of the Great Karoo, our destination is nestled in the heights of Lesotho. This autonomous mountain kingdom boasts the highest peaks in Southern Africa and is one of the highest countries in the world, the entire kingdom lies over 1000m above sea level. Having crossed the mighty Orange River, we enter the border of Lesotho and make the climb to our camp set high in the mountains.

**Accommodation** Malealea Lodge: http://www.malealea.com

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

**Route** Graaff Reinet to Lesotho **Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Border Post** South Africa: Van Rooyens Gate, Open: 06h00-22h00

Lesotho: Van Rooyens Gate, Open: 06h00-22h00

# Day 10 - Lesotho - Malealea

The clean air of the mountains accompanies us this morning as we explore the mountains on foot, our hike concludes with a village visit and the opportunity to gain insight into the community that calls these mountains home. The Basotho are famous for their traditional hats, blankets and their sturdy ponies.

Basotho ponies are renowned for their surefootedness in the mountains and you have the opportunity of an optional pony trek this afternoon to experience this first-hand. This activity is not for the inexperienced or fainthearted.

Accommodation Malealea Lodge http://www.malealea.com

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlights Morning Hike, Lesotho Village tour

**Optional Activity** Pony Trekking

# Day 11 - South Africa – uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park

We exit Lesotho and travel through the sandstone cliffs of Golden Gate. Our destination is the mountains of the Drakensberg. Running the length of the Kwazulu-Natal province, the Ukuhlamba Drakensberg Park is a UNESCO recognised world heritage site. Whether you go by the Zulu name uKhahlamba, meaning 'barrier of spears', or the Afrikaans name Drakensberge, meaning 'dragon mountains', these towering mountains are a hiker's paradise and worthy of exploration.

**Accommodation** Monks Cowl:

http://www.goodersonleisure.co.za/gooderson-monks-cowl-golf-resort

OR The Nest: <a href="https://www.thenest.co.za/">https://www.thenest.co.za/</a>

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

**Route** Lesotho to Drakensberg **Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Included Highlight** Oliviers Hoek Pass

**Border Post** Lesotho: Maseru Bridge, Tel: +27 51 924 4300, Open: 24hrs

South Africa: Maseru Bridge, Tel: +27 51 924 4300, Open: 24hrs

## Day 12 - UKhahlamba Drakensberg Park

We set out this morning for a lengthy hike. Along our way we will have the opportunity to view examples of San rock art with a local guide at Battle Cave. While we encourage everyone to make the most of the day in mountains, we may offer separate options depending on the activity level of the group. With a number of trails available we can ensure that we cater to every need, the most important aim is to ensure everyone enjoys this mountain paradise at their own pace.

**Accommodation** Monks Cowl:

http://www.goodersonleisure.co.za/gooderson-monks-cowl-golf-resort

OR The Nest: https://www.thenest.co.za/

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

**Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Hike with your guide in Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg Park

# Day 13 - Durban

It's all downhill as we leave the mountain scenery en route to the Kwazulu Natal Coast. On the  $5^{th}$  August 1962, police waved down a car on a lonely country road in KwaZulu-Natal. At the wheel was Nelson Mandela. He was arrested and spent 27 years in prison. Today you will have the opportunity to visit this historic capture site, marked by an impressive sculpture in honour of

"Madiba". We will also stop at the Howick Falls to listen to the power of the falls and take some photos at the view point. Then it's onto the bustling city of Durban is South Africa's largest port, where your tour will come to an end upon arrival.

**Accommodation** Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through us.

**Route** Drakensberg to Durban

**Meals** Breakfast

Included Highlight Visit to the Mandela Capture Site, Howick Falls

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 if possible. See below.

# More optional activities which can be booked on this tour

Country	Area	Activity	Rate Guideline
South Africa	Plettenberg Bay	Dolphin boat trip	R570 - R670
South Africa	Plettenberg Bay	Whale watching (seasonal)	R850 - R950
South Africa	Plettenberg Bay	Qolweni township tour or Robberg Walk	R300 - R500
South Africa	Plettenberg Bay	Entrance Fee	R260 - R300
South Africa	Tsitsikamma	Treetop / Canopy Tour / Woodcutters	R660 - R860
		Journey	
South Africa	Tsitsikamma	World Highest Bungee Jump	R1200 - R1300
South Africa	Tsitsikamma	Bridge Walking Tours	R150 - R250
South Africa	Addo National	Zipline	R320 - R420
	Park Area		
South Africa	Addo National	unset or Evening Game Drive excl	R530 - R630
	Park Area	Conservation fees	KJJU - KOJU
Lesotho	Malealea	Pony Trekking excursion (Waterfall Trek or	R350 - R580
		Bushman Painting (min 2 pax)	

Enjoy your African Adventure of a Lifetime!