

## 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 this tour, camping and accommodated clients will be travelling together with a maximum number of participants of 20. On our longer tours it is possible that your crew, truck and fellow travellers will change due to our unique tour linking system.

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".

In this tour dossier you see an indication of a distance to be covered on a particular day. Please don't assume that your travel time will be equal to that which you can travel in your car on the autobahn... no, it will be much, much slower. We will stop for shopping, bathroom breaks, photo stops, activities and a whole lot more. If you are looking to only experience specific destinations and are not interested in the journey, perhaps adventure touring is not for you.

As circumstances change in the destinations that we visit, our tour dossiers do change from time to time as we constantly improve our offering based on feedback about these changes that we receive from our guests and guides on tour. Please ensure that you download this dossier again within a week of your tour departing to ensure that you have all of the correct information regarding the tour.

### **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](http://www.CheapAfricaTours.com) or [www.GoedkopeAfrikaReizen.nl](http://www.GoedkopeAfrikaReizen.nl)

# About this tour

## Departure Point

This tour departs at **07:00 am** from Belvedere Estate corner George and Belvedere road, Glen Austin Midrand, Tel: 083 741 5240 – [www.belvedereestate.co.za](http://www.belvedereestate.co.za)

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

## End Point

Late afternoon at Belvedere Estate corner George and Belvedere road, Glen Austin Midrand, Tel: 083 741 5240 – [www.belvedereestate.co.za](http://www.belvedereestate.co.za)

## Countries Visited

South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique

## What's included

Meals as indicated on the itinerary (unless otherwise specified, all meals are prepared and served at the Overland 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, soft drinks, snacks, souvenirs, tips, activity package 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... such as our 20 day South African Explorer (South) from Johannesburg to Cape Town. You are welcome to contact us via email to discuss more options.

## **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.

## Malaria

Malaria prophylactics are required throughout this route.

## 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.

## 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 best option is to pre-book and pay for the whole Activity Package when you book your tour. You can also book and pay for these activities while on tour, but it will be subject to availability and you will have to carry all that cash around with you.

Activity	Price
Bazaruto Island day excursion	R 1 200
4x4 Game drive (safari) in the Kruger National Park	R 950
Hlane game drive	R 400
	R 2 550

**This itinerary has been written with the Activity Package items included. If you wish to participate in all the activities listed, you will need to purchase the Activity Package**

## Detailed itinerary

### Day 1 – Johannesburg to Kruger National Park

Leaving the city of Johannesburg behind us we make our way east through the coalfields of Mpumalanga. Our journey today follows in the footsteps of the old trade-routes to the Lowveld and the Kruger National Park. This afternoon there will be an opportunity to join an optional sundowner drive. Booking is essential and your guide can assist on departure this morning.

Accommodation	Nkambeni Reserve or similar. <a href="http://www.nkambeni.com">http://www.nkambeni.com</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Permanent tent with en-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with Shared ablutions Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Route	Johannesburg to Kruger National Park
Optional Activity	Sundowner Drive (Subject to Availability)

### Day 2 - Kruger National Park

Rising early this morning we enter the Kruger National Park to enjoy a full-day of game (wildlife) viewing. The abundance of wildlife presents us with opportunities for excellent sightings, while the

Kruger is also home to the famed members of Africa's Big-5. Our activity package offers the added excitement of experiencing the park from an open-sided 4x4 vehicle. This evening there is a second opportunity for the optional Sundowner Drive.

Accommodation	Nkambeni Reserve or similar. <a href="http://www.nkambeni.com">http://www.nkambeni.com</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Permanent tent with en-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with Shared ablutions Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Included Highlight	Kruger Park Full-Day Game Drive in overland truck (Clients not doing the Activity Package)
Optional Activity	Sundowner Drive (Subject to Availability)

### **Day 3 – Panorama Route**

While those who elect to do the optional morning walk will have an earlier start, we set out a little later today and travel the short distance to the Panorama Route. Strung along the escarpment that divides the central plateau and low-lying bushveld of the Kruger, the sights of the Panorama Route offer us a day of scenic delights. We will visit the highlights of Bourke's Luck Potholes, the Three Rondavels and God's Window before returning to camp in the late afternoon.

Accommodation	Nkambeni Reserve or similar. <a href="http://www.nkambeni.com">http://www.nkambeni.com</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Permanent tent with en-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with Shared ablutions Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Included Highlight	Panorama Route – Bourke's Luck Potholes, Three Rondavels and God's Window
Optional Activity	Morning Bush Walk (Subject to Availability)

### **Day 4 – Maputo, Mozambique**

With the beaches of the Indian Ocean beckoning we enter Mozambique and make our first stop in Maputo, the capital city offers a vibrant and eclectic mix of cultures. After checking in at our hotel, we explore the city sights on a walking tour with our guide. Maputo offers interesting and varied architecture and no visit to the city would be complete without a browse through a market. Tonight we eat out and get a chance to experience the night-life of this intriguing city.

Accommodation	Southern Sun Maputo or similar: <a href="http://www.tsogosunhotels.com/hotels/maputo/">http://www.tsogosunhotels.com/hotels/maputo/</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Route	Kruger National Park to Maputo
Included Highlight	Explore Maputo on Foot (self-guided walk)
Border Post	Mozambique: Lebombo, Tel: +258 2155 0010, Open: 06h00-18h00 South Africa: Komatipoort, Tel: +27 (013) 793-7201, Open: 06h00-18h00

### **Day 5 - Inhambane – Barra Beach**

Setting out for the Inhambane District we travel the northern road along the coast. While it is a long day on the road there is much to see as we pass the many villages and plantations of coconuts, cashews and sugar cane. Our journey will bring us to the palm lined beaches for two days of relaxation and ocean fun. Tonight we are welcomed with a traditional Mozambique dinner.

Accommodation Bay View Lodge or similar. <http://www.bayviewlodgemoz.com>  
Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom  
Camping: Two per room with shared ablutions (Group House)  
Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.  
Route Maputo to Inhambane  
Included Highlight Traditional Mozambique dinner

### **Day 6 - Inhambane**

With two days of beach time we have an opportunity to relax and enjoy the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, the more adventurous can sign up for a variety of optional activities. While the beaches at Barra are safe for swimming, the reefs on this stretch of coast offer excellent opportunities for diving or snorkelling.

Accommodation Bay View Lodge or similar. <http://www.bayviewlodgemoz.com>  
Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom  
Camping: Two per room with shared ablutions (Group House)  
Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.  
Optional Activities Ocean Safaris, Quad Biking, Scuba Diving, Snorkelling and more

### **Day 7 - Inhambane**

Today we make the short drive to Tofo to spend the day enjoying yet another of Mozambique's iconic beach destination. With safe swimming, a charming market and a number of popular beach bars, Tofo is perfect for a day's outing. A second day not only ensures that you have the opportunity to make the most of the activities on offer; it also allows us some flexibility to adapt to the weather.

Accommodation Bay View Lodge or similar. <http://www.bayviewlodgemoz.com>  
Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom  
Camping: Two per room with shared ablutions (Group House)  
Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.  
Included Highlight Visit to Tofo  
Optional Activity Ocean Safaris, Quad Biking, Scuba Diving, Snorkelling and more

### **Day 8 - Vilanculos**

This morning we make a stop in Inhambane where you will have the opportunity to explore the market and the historic streets of this former slave trading port. For those who enjoy a good adventure, your guide will arrange one of the famous Dhow ferries to sail you across the bay. These sturdy old boats have plied the East Coast of Africa for centuries and the trip across the bay

is a truly local experience. Should you prefer, you may remain with the truck for the water taxi to Maxixe on the far side of the bay. Reunited with our truck we travel north to our next stop at Vilanculos.

Accommodation	Golden Sands Apartments or similar. <a href="http://www.solresortsonline.com">http://www.solresortsonline.com</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: (Group House) Shared ablutions Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Route	Inhambane to Vilanculos
Included Highlight	Explore Inhambane on foot (self-guided walk), Water Taxi (traditional dhow) to Maxixe (Not Compulsory)

### **Day 9 - Bazaruto Excursion**

We board a traditional dhow this morning and set sail to the islands of the Bazaruto Archipelago, one of the largest Marine reserves in Southern Africa. We spend the day exploring the islands, snorkelling and enjoying the beaches of this island paradise. Be sure to keep your sunblock handy as today is filled with sun, sea, sand and exploration. We return in the afternoon and enjoy a well-earned night of rest.

Accommodation	Golden Sands Apartments or similar. <a href="http://www.solresortsonline.com">http://www.solresortsonline.com</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom
Camping:	(Group House) Shared ablutions Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Activity Package	Bazaruto Island day excursion (full day)

### **Day 10 - Xai Xai District**

Well rested we set course for the Xai-Xai district, arriving in the late afternoon we have time for a walk on the beach or a sundowner to bid farewell to the Indian Ocean and the pristine beaches of Mozambique.

Accommodation	Sunset Beach Lodge or similar. <a href="http://www.sunsetbeachlodge.com/">http://www.sunsetbeachlodge.com/</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: Shared ablutions Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Route	Bazaruto to Xai Xai District

### **Day 11 – Hlane Game Reserve, Swaziland**

We set out early this morning as we journey via Maputo and cross the border into Swaziland.

Accommodation	Hlane game reserve or similar. <a href="http://www.biggameparks.org/hlane">http://www.biggameparks.org/hlane</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions.
Route	Xai Xai to Swaziland
Border Post	Mozambique: Namaacha, Tel: not available, Open: 07h00-20h00 Swaziland: Lomahasha, Tel: +268 323 6026, Open: 07h00-20h00

## Day 12 - Swaziland

Our stay in Swaziland presents us with an opportunity to enjoy a morning game drive in Hlane Game Reserve, which is included for those guests who have purchased the activity package. After our game drive (safari), we depart Hlane and head to another great reserve of Swaziland, Mliwane.

Accommodation	Mliwane Wildlife Sanctuary or similar. <a href="http://biggameparks.org/properties/mlilwane-wildlife-sanctuary-2">http://biggameparks.org/properties/mlilwane-wildlife-sanctuary-2</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per hut with en-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Route	Hlane Game Reserve to Mliwane Wildlife Sanctuary
Activity Package	Rhino Game Drive in Hlane Game Reserve

## Day 13 – Swaziland

An interwoven network of 9 trails traverse Mliwane and this morning you will have the opportunity to explore the trails with your guide. After enjoying lunch back at camp, we spend our afternoon on a 2-hour guided walk through the Esajeni community, allowing us a glimpse of life on a day-to-day basis. This interactive experience could involve grinding maize, carrying water, building a wall or washing clothes in the stream.

Accommodation	Mliwane Wildlife Sanctuary or similar. <a href="http://biggameparks.org/properties/mlilwane-wildlife-sanctuary-2">http://biggameparks.org/properties/mlilwane-wildlife-sanctuary-2</a>
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per hut with en-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Included Highlight	Morning walk with overland guide Esajeni Cultural Tour

## Day 14 - Johannesburg

Our final road trip takes us back to Johannesburg as we reflect on the wildlife and beaches that have filled our days. We arrive at Belvedere Estate in the late afternoon and all travellers are invited to join us for a traditional meal tonight. This can be booked with your guide on the day before arrival. Many great tales are shared and tonight is for celebrating the many wonders of African travel.

Accommodation	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through us.
Route	Mliwane to Johannesburg
Optional Activity	Traditional meal at Belvedere Estate

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 next page.

## More optional activities which can be booked on this tour

Country	Area	Activity	Guideline
Swaziland	Mlilwane NP	Rhino Game Drive (Min 2 x Clients)	R220 - R280
South Africa	Greater Kruger	Morning Bush Walk excl Conservations fees	R830 - R950
South Africa	Greater Kruger	Evening Game Drive excl Conservation fees	R605 - R800
South Africa	Johannesburg	Dinner at local restaurant	R100 - R250
Mozambique	Barra	Ocean safari & snorkeling (Min 6 guests)	R500 - R600
Mozambique	Barra	Snorkeling	R250 - R350
Swaziland	Hlane Royal NP	Sunrise /sunset game drive	R310 - R400

## More about this tour

### MEALS ON TOUR

**Breakfast:** As breakfast is served very early in the morning (if there is driving or activities to be done) it is a simple but filling breakfast: Tea and coffee, breads and spreads, cereals, yoghurts, fruits and on occasion, when there is time for a later breakfast, guides will serve a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, porridge, bacon or beans.

**Lunch:** Lunch is generally served at a picnic spot next to the road en route to a destination. As the guides only have approximately 45 minutes to get everyone off the truck, prepare lunch and then get everyone back on the truck again, lunches consist of sandwiches and salads (rice salad, pasta salad, tuna salad and green salad) which are quick and easy to prepare but which are quite filling. Guides have meal plans which they should stick to, to ensure that there is variety on a day to day basis.

**Dinner:** This is when the guides get time to prepare a delicious meal and they focus on a substantial protein, vegetable and carbohydrate dinner. We serve traditional cuisine consisting of braais (BBQ), potjie (stew), bobotie (mince), spaghetti and fish and chicken dishes. All meals (on both accommodated and camping tours) that are included as per the dossier are prepared at the full service adventure truck. This is a unique adventure in itself where you get to dine under the stars with your new found friends and experience the real sights and sounds of Africa!

### TIPPING ON TOUR

**Southern Africa:** In general tipping in restaurants is 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. It is expected to tip porters and car-guards etc. Ask your guides how much is appropriate in local currency.

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 USD1-2 (or about R10-R20) 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

member's name written on one. Place what you feel is fair into 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.

## Countries visited

### **South Africa**

South Africa is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Africa, as it offers truly magnificent views and has an abundance of activities to enjoy. This Southern African country is rich with culture and traditions; with every citizen having a unique heritage, culture and story to tell. Here, guests will find themselves enchanted with a unique vibrancy and absorbed in the freedom of every citizen. The combination of the beauty of the landscape and friendly nature of the locals makes South Africa a truly inspiring and exciting country to explore.

Since the 17th century and the arrival of its very first settlers, South Africa has been claimed, to be one of the most beautiful destinations in the world. Not only is the weather warm and mild throughout the year, but locals and visitors enjoying an endlessly beautiful scenery and diversity in landscapes. Undoubtedly, South Africa's main attractions are its beautiful mountain and coastal views, however its cities also attract more than enough tourist attention.

In 2010, South Africa hosted the FIFA Soccer World Cup, putting on an incredible show and proving themselves as one of the world's leaders in the hospitality industry. Guests were made to feel welcome and encouraged to participate in local celebrations and enjoy the sights of each region; a factor which surely contributed to the Mother City of South Africa, Cape Town, being voted by TripAdvisor to be the most desired tourist destination in the world.

Among South Africa's other top attractions is Johannesburg (The City of Gold), Durban (a surfer's paradise), Port Elizabeth (the friendly city), the Garden Route and the Kruger National Park. A trip through this stunning country will show you just how far it's come since the days of Apartheid and will showcase the diversity, vibrancy and freedom which makes South Africa a pleasure to visit today.

### **Swaziland**

From the moment you enter the Swazi Kingdom, the landscape changes around you and there is no mistaking as to why the Swazi King fought so hard to gain independence of his pristine mountains, rainforest and valleys in this landlocked country. Originally inhabited by the hunter gatherer khoisan people, Swaziland became popular to the Bantu tribes of East Africa and the powerful Nguni (Xhosa, Zulu and Swazi) tribe occupied this area during the Bantu expansion (migration of tribes due to increased use of iron, agricultural development and the more prevalent use of ceramics).

Interestingly, in September 1968, Swaziland proclaimed its independence after being ruled by the United Kingdom as a British High Commission Territory for almost seventy years which meant that it was one of the last colonies to be ruled by Britain on the African mainland.

On our tours, the majority of our time is spent in the magnificent Big Five Game Parks, Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (South African Explorer) and Hlane Royal National Park (Discover Mozambique).

Mlilwane is situated in the North West of the country in the Ezulwini Valley (otherwise known as the Valley of Heaven). It is Swaziland's most popular reserve as it was a pioneer conservation area and due to this, ensured the survival of many endemic species to the area. We spend our time in the Southern end of the park where you will see Nyonyane Mountain, an exposed granite peak, known as "execution rock". Pay close attention to your guide when he tells you about this area – the tales of witchcraft make for excellent bedtime stories... if you're not afraid of the dark.

Hlane also has an interesting story of its own. Before it was opened to the public, it was a hunting ground for royalty. It is now Swaziland's biggest and most diverse and abundant National Park and if you want to see a rhino – this is where you'll have one of the best chances to do so!

One of Swaziland's most popular and spectacular annual ceremonies is the Reed Dance, held in August or September each year. Thousands of young woman congregate at the Queen Mother's village to provide tribute labour for the Queen Mother and to preserve their virginity. They arrive with bundles of reeds for the Queen and some of them bring their bush knives as a symbol of their virginity. The woman dress in traditional clothing and perform dances for the royal family and other onlookers.

## **Mozambique**

Mozambique is a true paradise with endless idyllic beaches and a vibrant relaxed atmosphere; not only the perfect getaway for a family and honeymooning couple, but a country rich in economic and commercial properties. Surrounded by Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South Africa, and with the Indian Ocean meeting its entire eastern border, Mozambique is the 34th largest country in the world.

With its tropical climate, vibrant atmosphere, serene beaches and unique culture, Mozambique is a true paradise; the perfect getaway for anyone. Spend a day lounging on a pristine beach, go diving in its transparent waters, go fishing and explore the local food and craft markets. Mozambique has nine national parks, making it easy and convenient for tourists to observe its wildlife and diverse landscapes.

Mozambique is famous for putting on a good show for its guests at night time; with its unique blend of music and being the creator of the Marimba instrument, there will be no shortages of festive atmospheres throughout the year. Team the atmosphere with fresh cocktails and a beautiful location and you'll be on the way to having the time of your life.

We will show you the beautiful attractions of Mozambique, as well as taking you to its beautiful islands such as Bazaruto. This tropical nation with a truly unique Portuguese and African blend of cultures will treat you a holiday that you'll never forget.

**Enjoy your adventure of a lifetime!**