

# Kruger to Cape Town: Wildlife and community work in South Africa

## Project Overview

### Do you love seeing wild and fascinating creatures in their natural habitat?

On this spectacular trip you will have the chance to view amazing wildlife at Kruger National Park. You will go on game drives, a nature walk and a river cruise in order to maximize your viewing opportunities. You will also spend time learning about the vast variety of plant and animal species in the area. From the African bush you will go straight to Cape Town where you will have the chance to see more creatures at play: young, boisterous children. You will make new friends while making a difference by volunteering at a nursery school for disadvantaged children near Cape Town. There are no minimum numbers for this tour, it is guaranteed to run.



### Trip Highlights:

- Spotting lions, elephants, rhinos, hippos and anything else you care to mention in the Kruger National Park
- Working with a community project in Cape Town making your mark on South Africa
- Spending time getting to know the Cape Town region

### Your first week

#### Day 1 (Thursday) Welcome to South Africa!

Arrive into Oliver Tambo Airport (airport code JNB) - Johannesburg and you will be met by an i-to-i representative at the American Express Counter at International Arrivals. You will be transferred to your overnight accommodation at Pretoria Backpackers and participate in a cultural orientation. Your orientation will take place at 5pm followed by a traditional South African meal. Please be sure to book your flight to arrive no later than 4pm on the arrival day to ensure that you don't miss orientation! Dinner is included.

If you aren't able to arrange a flight to get you into Johannesburg before 4pm then we'd recommend you fly in a day early. We can arrange an early airport pick-up for you including one night's accommodation. Please call us for more information.

#### Day 2 – (Friday) Private Wildlife Reserve

You will depart from Pretoria and head for the Greater Kruger Park area, arriving at a private safari lodge in time for lunch. In the late afternoon/evening you will go on your first game drive in an open 4x4 vehicle in the hopes of spotting the Big Five i.e. elephant, rhinoceros, lion, leopard and buffalo. You will enjoy drinks at sundown at one of the waterholes the animals frequent before continuing the game drive into the night. After an exciting evening, you will return to camp to enjoy a traditional South African meal around the campfire. Dinner is included.

#### Day 3 – (Saturday) Kruger National Park

The animals get up early and so will you. At sunrise you will board the open 4x4 vehicle and head for the world renowned Kruger National Park. The game drive takes you along some of the best routes in the park. Relax and enjoy the sweeping landscapes, varied ecosystems and abundant wildlife. The entire day is spent viewing game and birds and stopping off at the various waterholes where the wildlife tends to congregate. After an awesome day on the game drive, you will return to the lodge around 4pm and enjoy a traditional dinner. You also have the option of going on a sunset game drive in Kruger for an additional fee. Breakfast and dinner are included.

#### **Day 4 – (Sunday) Your last day in the park**

You will have another early start as you jump in the 4x4 and set off on a morning game drive inside Kruger Park. You will enjoy breakfast at one of the campsites in the park. Later this afternoon you will set off on an amazing sun set cruise on the Blyde River inside the Blyde Nature Reserve. After a fantastic day you will enjoy a mellow dinner around the camp fire. Breakfast and dinner are included.

#### **Day 5 – (Monday) Pretoria**

You will begin your day with coffee and rusks (South African biscuits) before venturing out on an early morning nature walk. Guided by qualified rangers, you will learn how to identify birds, trees and vegetations. You will enjoy brunch at the lodge before travelling along the Drakensberg Escarpment to view the spectacular Three Rondawels (famous natural landmark) overlooking the Blyde River Canyon. You will continue en-route to Pretoria, arriving in the late afternoon. You will spend the night at Pretoria backpackers resting up for your journey to Cape Town in the morning. Breakfast and dinner are included.

#### **Day 6 – (Tuesday) To the bright lights!**

Arrive in Cape Town after a short flight (included in the price you pay) and settle into your accommodation for the next few days in our volunteer house in Fish Hoek. Once you get settled you will meet the i-to-i Cape Town team and get briefed on the work you will be doing in Cape Town. You have the afternoon free to go grocery shopping and explore your surroundings. Breakfast is included.

#### **Day 7 to 9 – (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) Meet the kids!**

You will spend the next few days working with disadvantaged children at a nursery school. You will be taking care of around 22 children between the ages of two and five. You will assist the small staff with a variety of activities including feeding, reading to, singing with and teaching new songs to the children. You may also be asked to keep a watchful eye on the little ones while they sleep.

#### **Day 10 to 11- (Saturday, Sunday) Rest and relaxation**

You may spend the weekend doing whatever you please. The i-to-i team can help you organize trips including shark cage diving, table mountain visit, wine tours of if you prefer, a lazy day with a book is just as enjoyable!

#### **Day 12 to 14 – (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Lend a hand**

Back at the project you will continue your role as a nursery school teacher's assistant extraordinaire.

#### **Your Last Day 15 – (Thursday) Depart Cape Town**

Having said goodbye to all your new friends you'll transfer back to the airport on this day. The return transfer from Fish Hoek to Cape Town International is not covered within your project fee but our regular transfer company will be able to sort the journey back for you, the costs will be around \$40 / R250.

#### **Fast Facts**

#### **Project Information**

- Project Duration: Min 2 weeks
- Project Costs: £1099.00 for 2 weeks
- Location of project: *Various in South Africa*
- Arrival Airport: *Johannesburg (JNB)*
- Activities: *Safari game drives to see the Big Five animals, bush walks and working with disadvantaged children*
- Working Hours: *Various as per itinerary*
- Getting to the project: *Various as per itinerary*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 18*

#### **What's Included**

- Accommodation: *Various; shared room in hostel, tented camp and volunteer house*
- Food: *Some meals are included; on occasion you will need to purchase your own food (budget approximately \$US50 per week)*
- Airport Pickup: *Included on arrival date. Ask us for details if you're arriving early!*
- Training: *In-country orientation*
- Support: *Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support*

### What's not included

- *International flights, Insurance, Visas, Return Airport transfer, Local Transport, Food*

## Country Guide - South Africa

### A little bit of history...

A journey into South Africa's history is to haul through periods of racial tension, oppression and hope. Its multicultural mix originates from the earliest settlers, the San (also known as Bushmen) and Khoi-Khoi tribes, followed by Bantu-speaking groups, and through the swarm of European traders. The Dutch were among the first European settlers and arrived in the 17th century, establishing their presence through their own dialect, Afrikaans, and religion in the form of the Dutch Reformed Church. By the end of the 18th century, the British began to push their presence forward into the country's towns. It was a period of flared tensions with Zulu chief Shaka renouncing war on neighbouring tribes. Meanwhile, the Boers (Dutch Afrikaner farmers) and the British became locked in conflict; the Anglo-Boer War lasted from 1899 to 1902, ending with the British taking control of the Boer republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State (OFS) and consequently ruling the country.



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By 1910, the Union of South Africa was created and gave political power to whites, while blacks set up political parties in protest, the African National Congress (ANC) the best known. It ushered in the beginnings of apartheid, which became widely ingrained after the Afrikaner National Party came to power in 1948. Violence against protests from blacks was enforced and the black population were evicted to so-called Homelands. In the 1960s, leaders of the ANC were imprisoned, notably Nelson Mandela, and the country became isolated having left the Commonwealth and declaring its republic status. After a long period of racial divide and conflict, in 1989 FW de Klerk came to power with the aim to rid the country of apartheid and instil democracy. The following year, Mandela was released from prison and in 1994 became president after the ANC won the country's first non-racial general elections; the country also returned to the Commonwealth. The country's democratic stance has steered it toward a more harmonious future, though economic inequalities between whites and blacks exist, but as the most developed economy on the continent it is in a good position to reconcile with its past.

### Best time to go...

Naturally, South Africa's seasons are the reverse of the northern hemisphere with summer heat burning from November to March and cooler winter temperatures from June to August. Temperature wise, spring (September to October) and autumn (April to May) provide a happy medium. Certain must-do activities are restricted to specific times of year: safari is best from June to September and the whale watching season is June to December. The busiest time, hence the most expensive, is during the summer months, while the major school holidays are during December and Easter.

### Getting around...

Given the distances involved, flying is the most convenient way to travel between the main destinations, while land transportation can efficiently pick up the rest of the mileage for exploration in and around. There are an assortment of domestic carriers to choose from that fly the main routes, with most running from Johannesburg or Cape Town; these include South African Airways, Nationwide Airlines, Kulula and 1Time. Booking early is advisable to secure discounted rates.

There country also boasts a comprehensive bus network that covers the main cities; the road trip from Johannesburg to Cape Town is around 20 hours (compared to a 2 hour in a plane). The main bus companies are Translux, Greyhound and Intercape. Baz Bus is aimed at the backpacker crowd and provides a hop-on, hop-off service and also travels to remote areas. It's a good way to discover the picturesque patch of coastline that is the Garden Route, which it services en route from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth.

Train travel can work out longer than by bus, with the trip from Johannesburg to Cape Town edging toward almost 30 hours. If you're after a little luxury, try the Blue Train or the Rovos Rail for a taste of stylish travel.

Car rental is an attractive option thanks to the good road conditions, great scenery and the flexibility driving allows. The big car rental companies like Avis and Budget have outlets and it's essential to be fully insured and have a valid driver's licence. It's also a convenient way to get around cities as public transport can be unsafe.