

The Kruger to Mozambique Volunteer Adventure

Project Overview

Have you got a spirit of adventure?

This is a big tour for a big place! After all, if you're going to visit Southern Africa you may as well do it properly. We've teamed up with one of the best organisation in Southern Africa (All Out Africa) to ensure that you get the best of all worlds on this trip - travel, animals, beaches and volunteering. Starting in the Kruger National Park where you'll spend nights out under the stars before enjoying game drives and guided bush walks. Before you've had a chance to catch your breath it's off to Swaziland where you'll participate in one of several on going community based projects. We save the best until last though, and round off the trip with a visit to Mozambique, the largely undiscovered gem on the south-east coast. Ride the waves that break off the coral reef and lap the tropical beaches before a quick ocean safari, a spot of horse riding and a beach party bring the curtain down on your trip.



There are no minimum numbers for this tour, it is guaranteed to run with a maximum of 12 participants.

Trip Highlights:

- Spotting the 'Big 5' in the Kruger National Park
- Making a difference working in community projects in the heart of Swaziland
- Snorkelling with Whale Sharks off the pristine coast of Mozambique
- Experiencing the best of Southern Africa - amazing animals, wonderful culture and community and stunning beaches

Day 1 (Monday) - Welcome to Swaziland!

You will need to arrive at Manzini International Airport (MTS), Swaziland. You will be met in the arrivals area by a member of staff holding an i-to-i sign. For the rest of the day you will have time to relax and enjoy the surroundings as well as meeting your tour leader and others on your trip.

Day 2 (Tuesday) - Swaziland

Today you'll spend the morning getting to know the staff you'll be travelling with and learn much more about what you'll be doing for the next four weeks! In the afternoon you'll be out on public transport to explore the local area. You'll visit various project sites and also get your first glimpse of Mbabane, the capital of Swaziland!

Days 3 to 6 (Wednesday to Saturday) - Experience Kruger!

Kruger National Park is probably Africa's most famous conservation area. Spanning nearly 20,000 square km it covers a vast array of habitats and holds a rich assortment of indigenous wildlife. It has an aura of ancient times and offers some of the best opportunities in the world to view Africa's big game.

You'll set off early Wednesday morning in your very own 14 seater mini bus with reclining seats and stereo to start your five day tour into the heart of Kruger Park. You'll enjoy 4 nights camping in the park and unlimited game drives exploring the vast wilderness with the expert guidance of one of our wildlife field guides. Previous groups have had great sightings of lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo, leopard and wild dog. You will have the opportunity to take guided walks through the bush in search of big game on foot as well as experience a night drive to look for nocturnal wildlife. All your meals are included and will be prepared by your guides.

Day 7 – (Sunday) - Ezulwini

Today you'll wake up in Kruger on your last day in the park. You'll pack up camp and enjoy one last game drive. Then you're off...heading for the Kingdom of Swaziland, its friendly people and breathtaking landscapes. You'll arrive at the same backpacker lodge as Day 1 in the Ezulwini Valley late afternoon to relax and prepare for your next challenge!

Day 8 to 20 (Monday to the next Saturday) - Make a difference!

The next twelve days you will be spent working with one of a number of small day care centers in the Ezulwini valley who are assisting orphans and vulnerable children. You'll be an extra pair of hands to help wherever its needed, whether painting and weeding or playing games and telling stories.

While volunteering in Swaziland cooking will be shared between participants on a rotational basis organised by the guide. Facilities are communal and simple, a weekly food shop is done to cater for three meals per day. Generally breakfast will be cereals and toast, lunch will be sandwiches plus salad and dinner will be a cooked meal. The guide will work to cater for different needs and preferences as much as possible, please consider that it may not be possible to keep everyone happy all the time and some compromise may be required. We ask you to be flexible and respectful about the food that has been prepared for you.



Days 21 to 26 (Sunday to Friday) - Head to Mozambique

Next stop Mozambique ...world famous for its idyllic tropical beaches on the Indian Ocean. Being an old Portuguese colony and coming out of a drawn out civil war it is now booming as a beach destination. Tofo Bay, which is the base for this part of the trip, is a laid-back beach village in southern Mozambique and (at the right time of year) offers some of the best opportunities in the world to swim in the wild with the world's biggest fish - the whale shark. With diverse coral reefs, fish and nesting turtles, Tofo is a marine paradise and is relatively close to the vibrant historic trading port of Inhambane.

You'll drive to a roadside bush lodge for your first night in Mozambique, you'll then drive the final stretch to Tofo beach arriving at your backpacker lodge around midday Monday, just in time to head down to the beach for a swim in the warm Indian Ocean

You will have a six day stay in Tofo to experience the laid-back beach lifestyle of Mozambique. You'll spend five nights staying in reed style dormitories set among coconut palms, and one of our guides will introduce you to beach and marine wildlife. You'll take an ocean safari to snorkel with the magnificent whale shark and if you have a scuba diving license will have the opportunity of exploring the coral reefs and possibly diving with huge manta rays! Also included in the trip is the opportunity to kayak across the blue waters to the small tropical islands of Inhambane Bay. On the small island you'll be met by members of the local community who will show you around and be your hosts for lunch with traditional Mozambican foods. You'll be able to relax as you sail back to the mainland in a dhow sailing boat.

There are plenty of optional extra activities including beach horse rides (roughly US\$50 for 1.5 hrs), quad biking (US\$90 for 4 hours approx.), ocean and mangrove kayaking (US\$15 per hour) and scuba diving (US\$75 per dive). A beach party or two is par for the course and some chill time on the sands is guaranteed. All your meals are included during this time.

Day 27 (Saturday) - Bid the beach farewell

Today you will be up early to leave behind the idyllic beaches of Mozambique and make your way back to spend the night in a backpacker lodge in Swaziland.

Day 28 (Sunday) - Rest and Relaxation

Today you will have a whole day Swaziland to relax, pack up and make preparations for your departure the following day.

Day 29 (Monday) - Say your goodbyes

You'll say goodbye to your new friends, pack up your souvenirs and leave the backpacker lodge for Manzini International Airport. The transfer to the airport is included in the fee you've paid.

Fast Facts

Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 4 weeks
- Project Costs: £1699.00 for 4 weeks
- Location of project: *Various locations throughout South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique. Volunteering based in Ezulwini, Swaziland*
- Arrival Airport: *Manzini (airport code MTS)*
- Activities: *12 days tour in South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique. 16 days volunteering providing general assistance to community centres in Ezulwini valley*
- Working Hours: *Flexible; usually full days on the tour and at the project*
- Getting to the project: *Dependent on location; 10-15 minutes minibus ride (budget approximately US\$10 per week)*
- Requirements: *Minimum age 17*

What's Included

- Accommodation: *Shared hostels and tents on tour; shared hostel at project*
- Food: *While volunteering in Swaziland self-catering – food provided. On tour in the Kruger National Park and Mozambique - food provided and prepared for you.*
- 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

- *Flights, Insurance, Visas, Local Transport*

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 to 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.

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.

The 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 Intercap. 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.