



TOPDECKER, meet Africa (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Forget the mainstream checklist, this trip is its own Big Five – BIG on wildlife, BIG on the outdoors, BIG on culture, BIG on views and BIG on having a sick time. Oh, and the wine here is pretty bloody good too. On this one, adventure is seriously an understatement.

WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Download app



Meals

Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?

The countdown's on...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- Afternoon and two full-day 4x4 game drives in Kruger National Park
- Morning bush walk through Kruger National Park
- See Blyde River Canyon
- Esitjeni village walk
- Estuary cruise in St Lucia
- Royal Natal National Park hike
- Sunset 4x4 game drive in Addo Elephant National Park
- Tour of Cango Caves with local guide
- Visit Cape Agulhus
- Wine tasting in Hermanus

MORE INCLUSIONS

- Afternoon 4x4 game drive in Kruger National Park
- Full-day 4x4 game drive in Kruger National Park
- Morning bush walk through Kruger National Park
- Photo stop at Blyde River Canyon viewpoint
- Esitjeni village walk
- Estuary cruise in St Lucia
- Royal Natal National Park hike
- Sunset 4x4 game drive in Addo Elephant National Park
- Tour of Cango Caves with local guide
- Wine tasting experience
- Visit Cape Agulhus

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Johannesburg
South Africa

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Cape Town
South Africa

TRIP CURRENCIES

- South Africa - ZAR
- Eswatini - SZL
- Lesotho - LSL

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA)

Touch down in Joburg, meet your fellow explorers and don't forget to pinch yourself – you're in Africa baby! First up: a group dinner to kick off the adventure. Convo starter: which Big Five animal would you wanna be, and why? No judgement here...



MEALS:

- Dinner

DAY 2 | JOHANNESBURG – KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Stock up on snacks and plug in the AUX cord, we're kick-starting the trip with an overland journey to Kruger National Park. Looking for the real South Africa? This is it. Before the day's done, we'll get our first taste of the great outdoors on a game drive. Hold up – is that an elephant? This is going to be a wild couple of weeks.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Afternoon 4x4 game drive in Kruger National Park

DAY 3 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

You wanted to delve deeper – so here's two full days to soak up Kruger's rolling grasslands and broad horizons. This place is home to 500 species of birds, 148 species of mammals, a variety of reptiles and the Big Five (obvs), so get ready for buffaloes grazing, rhinos frolicking, lions hunting and elephants bathing. You packed your binoculars, right? Sing the 'Circle of Life' all the way back to camp before we swap safari stories over the campfire. This is livin'.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Full-day 4x4 game drive in Kruger National Park

DAY 4 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Dig into breakfast, then it's back to the 4x4s for our second day of game driving. With our eagle-eyed safari guide at the wheel, you're sure to spot more than a few animals doing their thing. Ready for another hundred 'pinch me' moments? We thought so. Tick off as many of the Big Five as you can before we head back to camp. Tonight, tuck into dinner with your trip mates under a star-studded sky. It really doesn't get better than this.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Full-day 4x4 game drive in Kruger National Park

DAY 5 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK – MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (ESWATINI)

We'll get one last chance to lap up all the Lion King vibes on an included bush walk through Kruger before rolling into the kingdom of Swaziland. Taking the scenic route doesn't get much better than our drive today. Cue: epic panoramic views. We'll stop in at Blyde River Canyon for a jaw-dropping photo op. Then: it's onto Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary we go. Flanked by the dramatic backdrop of mountains and stretches of forests, Mlilwane is what eco-dreams are made of.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Morning bush walk through Kruger National Park
- Photo stop at Blyde River Canyon viewpoint

DAY 6 | MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Get a taste of traditional Swazi culture on an included Esitjeni village walk today. Wander around the perfectly crafted beehive huts, get to know the locals and receive an insight into day-to-day life in the community. Even opt to meet the village chief, if you want. Later, jump on board a sunset game drive for some I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E views over the mountain ranges or play 'I spy' on a sunset guided walk. SD cards full and tummies rumbling, tonight's included dinner with the gang is gonna be filled with wildlife-spotting bragging rights. Bring it on.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Esitjeni village walk



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Mlilwane sunset game drive: from 435 ZAR
- Mlilwane sunset guided walk: from 270 ZAR
- Visit the Esitjeni village chief: from 240 ZAR

DAY 7 | MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY – ST LUCIA (SOUTH AFRICA)

After another group brekkie, the adventuring continues as we make tracks towards the coastal town of St Lucia. Spend the drive getting pumped with your trip mates 'cos this afternoon we've got an included estuary cruise on the cards. Cue: frolicking hippos and lazy crocodiles hanging out on sandy river banks. Fun fact: the name hippopotamus comes from the Ancient Greek word 'river horse'. True story. Filter out your best snaps from today, fuel up at dinner and get some rest – we'll be shipping out early tomorrow.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Estuary cruise in St Lucia

DAY 8 | ST LUCIA – DURBAN

Next up: Durban. Located on the KwaZulu-Natal coast, South Africa's third largest city is buzzing with activities to sink your teeth into. And the best part? You've got plenty of free time to do just that. So go get it! Hire a surfboard and hit the beaches along the Golden Mile. With over 300 days of sunshine every year it's the perfect place to work on your tan, go for a swim or learn to shaka like a pro. There's even a cruise around the bay for even more wildlife spotting, if you want it. Tonight, get the gang together and head to Beach Bums for (you guessed it) beachside cocktails and delish food. Bliss.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Surfboard hire: prices available locally
- Bay cruise: from 250 ZAR

DAY 9 | DURBAN

Didn't get to everything yesterday? DW, you've got another full day to do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-for thing in Durban. Need some suggestions? Get on an optional tour of the Valley of 1000 Hills for epic views and an insight into the lives of the Zulu people. Or visit the largest mosque in the Southern Hemisphere on a guided tour of Juma Masjid. Epic doesn't even cut it. And then there's always more surfing, sunbaking, shopping or sampling the local foodie delights on offer too – trust us, you won't be short on things to get up to. Tonight, dinner is on you but we hear the burgers at Surf Riders Café are pretty droolworthy.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Tour of Valley of 1000 Hills: prices available locally
- Visit Juma Masjid Mosque: prices available locally

DAY 10 | DURBAN – DRAKENSBERG

Sling your stuff in the truck, we're off to Drakensberg after breakfast. A mountain range that extends over 600 miles across South Africa, the Drakensberg is a truly awe-inspiring sight. Just like a 50c mixed bag, this place is filled with exactly what you want and need. Think: abundant wildlife, gorgeous flora and stunning scenery. Strap on those Nikes and treat your peepers to some amazing sights as we hike through the Royal Natal National Park. After an afternoon of exploring, we'll bed down for the night surrounded by mountains and waterfalls in the heart of the African wilderness.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Royal Natal National Park hike

DAY 11 | DRAKENSBERG

Make sure you get your fill at breakfast because today = exploring. Need some suggestions? Say hi to the Amphitheatre on an optional day hike. A five kilometre-long cliff face that looms dramatically over the national park – this one's worth the sweat marks and burning calves. Trust us. Or ask your Trip Leader about the array of hikes in the area – Tugela Falls (the second-highest waterfall in the world) is just begging to be climbed. Later, kick back at your digs with a cold bevvie. You earned it.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Amphitheatre day hike: from 880 ZAR

DAY 12 | DRAKENSBERG – MALEALEA (LESOTHO)

Wave goodbye to Drakensberg – we're rolling into the remote mountainous region of Lesotho. Once a hub for traders transporting goods through the treacherous mountain passes, Lesotho is THE place for all things outdoor activities. Use the drive hours to catch up on some zzzs and message the 'rents – you'll be too busy later.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 13 | MALEALEA

Today is your day, 100% your way. Suggestions? Soak up all the nature vibes on a guided hike with a local expert. Hit the trails on a pony trekking or mountain biking experience. Discover a local way of life on a tour of Malealea village, then have all your questions answered at a Sangoma spiritual healing appointment. Or just head out and do your own thing. It's your trip, after all. Whatever you choose, just be back in time for tonight's included dinner with the fam.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Sangoma traditional healing appointment: from 70 ZAR
- Guided hike in Malealea: from 100 ZAR
- Non-guided hike in Malealea: prices available locally
- Pony trekking in Malealea: from 420 ZAR
- Mountain biking in Malealea: from 350 ZAR
- Village tour in Malealea: from 75 ZAR

DAY 14 | MALEALEA – MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK (SOUTH AFRICA)

South Africa, we meet again. No prizes for guessing what we'll see at Mountain Zebra National Park when we roll in later today. Earn your stripes and jump aboard an optional 4x4 game drive – bet you haven't seen a sunset like this before. After setting up camp, get stuck into dinner with your trip mates surrounded by the tranquility of the African wilderness. Bliss.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Sunset 4x4 game drive in Mountain Zebra National Park: from 370 ZAR

DAY 15 | MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK – ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK

From one African local to another – don't say we don't spoil you. Home to over 350 elephants brought back from the brink of extinction, today we'll have the chance to meet Dumbo and his friends on an included 4x4 sunset game drive through the park. Want more? There's a nighttime experience on offer too. Grab your headtorch and get out there – this is a once-in-a-lifetime moment. Trust us.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Sunset 4x4 game drive in Addo Elephant National Park



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Nighttime 4x4 game drive in Addo Elephant National Park: from 445 ZAR

DAY 16 | ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK – STORMS RIVER – TSITSIKAMMA NATIONAL PARK REGION

Say one jumbo-sized goodbye to the elephants: today we're rolling on to Storms River. Ready to get your adrenalin pumping? Not only does Storms River have a sick AF name, but it's also got a bunch of awesome optional activities to get around. Check out the suspension bridge hanging just seven metres from the churning waters below, or paddle your way down the river in a kayak. Prefer to keep your feet on solid ground? There are plenty of hiking trails to explore as well. Settle into Marilyn's 60's Diner for dinner tonight – where the cocktails are just as quirky as the décor – before we bunk down a short drive from the village.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Kayaking Storms River: from 1030 ZAR
- Storms River hiking trails and suspension bridge: prices available locally

DAY 17 | TSITSIKAMMA NATIONAL PARK REGION – OUDTSHOORN

Wakey wakey! Time to kick it to Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world (no joke). On the way, we'll hit up the Cango Caves with a local guide. This place is Africa's largest show cave system, so you know it's gonna be impressive. Tonight, we'll tuck into our last included dinner together – time to share your best ostrich facts. We'll start: they've got three stomachs. Top that.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Tour of Cango Caves with local guide

DAY 18 | OUDTSHOORN – HERMANUS

This morning we're heading to Hermanus, a town that's famous for its whale and dolphin sightings. But first, we'll make a pit stop at Cape Agulhas – Africa's southernmost tip. Soak up the dramatic cliffside vibes before we put our palates to the test along the infamous R320 winery route. Hope you left room in your suitcase for a commemorative bottle (or two). We'll unload the truck in the beachside town of Hermanus tonight. Take in all the rugged coastal views from the Hermanus Coastal Path, then head to Bientang's Caves for de-licious seafood and whale watching!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Wine tasting experience
- Visit Cape Agulhus

DAY 19 | HERMANUS – CAPE TOWN

Quick maths: this is our last day together. So, don't F-about – make every second count! Head out to spot the Marine Big Five on a cruise to Dyer Island. Or if you want something a little more thrilling – a Great White Shark cage dive should do it (just don't pee in your wetsuit). After, we'll wrap things up in Cape Town. Sticking around? We don't blame you! From catching sunrise up Table Mountain to watching the penguins play at Seaforth Beach, and all the awesome coffee shops, street art and beachfront bars in between – this place has got it going on. What. an. unforgettable. trip.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Dyer Island marine safari cruise: from 2120 ZAR
- Shark cage diving: from 3305 ZAR

OTHER INFORMATION

TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en>



YOUR SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, remember to avoid walking alone – particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking – and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana – even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip immediately. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER: if you are found in possession of drugs, not only do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations

- Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home too – so they're sure to know some tried- and- tested ways to beat the blues
- Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (fact!)

TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely>

INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

Head to our FAQ for more info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0>

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: <https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact>

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements:

<https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions>

PLEASE NOTE: some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it (as long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- 4 shirts/T-shirts
- 2 sweaters/jumpers
- Smart casual evening wear
- 1 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket
- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



THAT'S IT!