



## TOPDECKER, meet Africa (TD)

(Previously called: Big Five 'n' Falls) TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. You want the animals. The landscapes. The culture. The food. And you want it all in one neat 8-day package. You've GOT it. Welcome to your insider guide to South Africa and Zimbabwe. Expect: spine-tingling safaris, eye-popping experiences, mouthwatering meals and wondrous waterfalls (looking at you, Victoria). This short (but oh-so-sweet) adventure's got your name all over it.

### 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



Android/iPhone  
app download  
info



This is a sector  
trip.

# Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

**PLEASE NOTE:** We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

### ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Afternoon and full-day 4x4 game drives in Kruger National Park
- + Bush walk in Kruger National Park
- + Half-day game drive in Matobo National Park
- + Wilderness walk in Matobo National Park
- + Tour of Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, including Victoria Falls

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Afternoon 4x4 game drive through Kruger National Park
- + Full-day 4x4 game drive through Kruger National Park
- + Morning bush walk in Kruger National Park
- + Half-day game drive through Matobo National Park
- + Wilderness walk in Matobo National Park
- + Tour of Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, including Victoria Falls

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Johannesburg  
South Africa

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Victoria Falls  
Zimbabwe

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- + South Africa -
- + Zimbabwe -

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA)

Yep. You've just landed in Africa. Welkom to Johannesburg! Say 'howzit?' to your fellow explorers. Then: we'll kick things off with our first group dinner. Ready for the best damn week of your life? Let's DO this.



### MEALS:

+ Dinner

## DAY 2 | JOHANNESBURG – KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Start practising your Hakuna Matata – we're up bright and early this morning to make our way to the world-famous Kruger National Park. Once we've hopped off the truck, there's a DELish lunch waiting for us amid the plains of the African bush. Then, it's ACTUALLY happening: our first taste of safari awaits on an included 4x4 game drive. Oh hey, Simba! Tonight, toast to a spine-tingling sunset and soak up all those nature vibes. You know those 'pinch yourself' moments people talk about? This is one of them.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Afternoon 4x4 game drive  
through Kruger National Park

## DAY 3 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Rise and shine, adventurers! Dig into breakfast and make sure your camera's charged – we've got a full day of 4X4 driving to get on board with. Comin' atcha with the stats: this place is home to 500 species of birds, 148 mammals and a sh\*t-ton of reptiles. Excitement levels: 11/10. Keep your eyes peeled as our eagle-eyed guide helps us spot the legendary Big Five. We're talking buffalo grazing on savannahs, rhinos frolicking in the mud, lions on their afternoon hunt and elephants getting their bubble bath on. Tonight, we'll tuck into a group din back at the camp. Convo starter: which Big Five animal would you wanna be, and why? No judgement here...



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Full-day 4x4 game drive  
through Kruger National Park

## DAY 4 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK – TSHIPISE

You wanted to delve deeper, right? That's why we've sorted a morning bush walk through Kruger with a fundi – aka a wilderness expert. Get ready to admire Mother Nature's mad skills. And then? Next stop: Tshipise. Think giant baobab trees and rustic vibes galore. Here the afternoon's yours to chill at the accom or quiz your Trip Leader on alllll the weird nature facts. Tonight = more snacking, stargazing and sweet AF moments. Lekker.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Morning bush walk in Kruger  
National Park

## DAY 5 | TSHIPISE – MATOBO NATIONAL PARK (ZIMBABWE)

Tums full after another group brekkie, this morning we're heading for Zimbabwe! Once known for its political violence and economic instability, this nation has rebuilt itself into a buzzing tourist destination filled with natural wonders and out-of-this-world landscapes. When we've got all the formalities over with at the border post, we'll make a beeline for Matobo National Park – where super-dramatic rock formations and even MORE incredible creatures await. Tonight, we'll crack open a cold one as the sun sets over the rolling savannahs. This is livin'.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 6 | MATOBO NATIONAL PARK

Slurp up your coffee and get ready for another epic game drive through Matobo National Park. It's time for the best game of 'I spy' you've ever had spotting black and white rhinos, zebras, wildebeest and giraffe. Then: check out the massive rock formations of the Matobo Hills. Seriously – it looks like a giant's been playing Jenga up here. And FYI, humans have been drawing graffiti on these rocks way before Banksy made it cool (since the Stone Age, in fact). This afternoon we'll delve deeper into the park with a guided trail walk, before swapping stories around the campfire. Hear that? It's the sound of the wild lulling you to sleep tonight. This is as authentic as it gets.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Half-day game drive through Matobo National Park
- + Wilderness walk in Matobo National Park

## DAY 7 | MATOBO NATIONAL PARK – VICTORIA FALLS

Play it cool: today we're ticking off one of the Seven Wonders of the World. That's right folks, we're headed to the magnificent Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park – aka home of Victoria Falls. A place where wilderness, adventure and culture are all tied up in one gobsmacking, crazy-beautiful parcel. After we make camp, we'll head out on an included tour of the park to see why the falls are called 'the smoke that thunders'. Later, opt for a cruise of the Zambezi River for all the sunset views, or dance to the beat of your own drum at a traditional Boma drumming show. And tonight? Gather round for one final group dinner. WHAT a trip it's been.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Tour of Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, including Victoria Falls



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Sunset Zambezi River cruise: from 55 USD
- + Boma dinner and drumming experience: from 76 USD

## DAY 8 | VICTORIA FALLS

So... that happened. A week's worth of UNbelievable African adventures = completed. It may be our last day but there's still time to get your adrenaline pumping with some epic optionals. We're talking whitewater rafting, gorge swimming, canoeing and zip-lining. Or go all out with a helicopter flight over the falls. Why the hell not?



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

- + Canoe trail in Victoria Falls:  
from 185 USD
- + Gorge swim in Victoria Falls:  
from 110 USD
- + Helicopter flight over Victoria  
Falls: from 334 USD
- + Whitewater rafting at Victoria  
Falls: from 140 USD
- + Zip-lining at Victoria Falls:  
from 50 USD
- + Village township tour in  
Victoria Falls: from 81 USD

## TIPPING

### NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

## TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

### TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

### ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

### CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

## BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

## MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



# PASSENGER SAFETY

## NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, 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 details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck 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.

## RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

## DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers 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. 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 could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn'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 again.

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 of 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 (trust us).

## **HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER**

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome holiday AND have a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- + Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your hotel towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- + Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- + Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets and book tours and activities run by local guides
- + Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- + Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

# **OTHER INFORMATION**

## **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.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit [www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance](http://www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance).

# 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 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.

**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.

## 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!)

Heading on our Namaste India trip? Your luggage is capped at 15kg, so maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

- + 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 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



**THAT'S IT!**