

# Topdeck

## SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE



TRIP CODE:  
Z0AAJC-1

## TOPDECKER, meet Africa

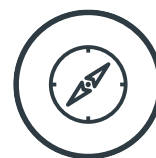
Is this trip for me? UNTAMED. MIND-BLOWING. ENRICHING

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...

This trip has a camping option, so you can experience a once-in-a-lifetime rustic African adventure - just don't forget to pack a sleeping bag, if that's your vibe.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Android/iPhone  
app download  
info



This is a principal  
package.

# 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 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
- + Guided tour of Cango Caves
- + 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
- + Guided tour of Cango Caves
- + 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 -
- + Lesotho -

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | JOHANNESBURG TO KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

Touch down in Joburg, meet the group and don't forget to pinch yourself – you're in Africa baby! Stock up on snacks and plug in the AUX cord, we're kick-starting the adventure 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 two wild weeks.



### MEALS:

- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Afternoon 4x4 game drive in Kruger National Park

## DAY 2 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

You wanted free time to delve deeper – so here it is. You've got 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 buffalos 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 3 | 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 4 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK TO 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 Eswatini. 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 5 | 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 390 ZAR
- + Mlilwane guided walk: from  
225 ZAR
- + Visit the Esitjeni village chief:  
from prices available locally

## DAY 6 | MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY TO ST LUCIA, SOUTH AFRICA

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 7 | ST LUCIA TO 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: from prices  
available locally
- + Bay cruise: from prices  
available locally



## DAY 8 | 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 to 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 to Valley of 1000 Hills:  
from prices available locally

+ Visit Juma Masjid Mosque:  
from prices available locally

## DAY 9 | DURBAN TO 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 10 | 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, reward yourself with a refreshing dip in the accommodation pool and cold beverage from the bar. You earned it.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Lunch

+ Dinner



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

+ Amphitheatre day hike: from  
590 ZAR

## DAY 11 | DRAKENSBERG TO 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 zzz's and message the 'rents – you'll be too busy later.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 12 | 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 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 gang.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

- + Sangoma appointment: from 70 ZAR
- + Guided hike in Malealea: from 80 ZAR
- + Non-guided hike in Malealea: from prices available locally
- + Pony trekking in Malealea: from 330 ZAR
- + Mountain biking in Malealea: from 300 ZAR
- + Village tour in Malealea: from 50 ZAR

## DAY 13 | MALEALEA TO MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa, we meet again. No prizes for guessing what we'll see at Mountain Zebra National Park today. Earn your stripes as we jump aboard an included 4X4 afternoon game drive – bet you haven't seen a sunset like this before. After setting up camp, get stuck into dinner with the gang 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 prices available locally

## DAY 14 | MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK TO 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 15 | ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK TO STORMS RIVER

Squeeze one more jumbo-sized game drive in this morning, before we roll out 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's plenty of hiking trails to explore as well. After dinner tonight, get the gang together and settle into a booth at Marilyn's 60's Diner. The cocktails are just as quirky as the décor.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Morning 4X4 game drive in Addo Elephant National Park: from prices available locally
- + Kayaking Storms River: from 650 ZAR
- + Storms River hiking trails and suspension bridge: from prices available locally

## DAY 16 | STORMS RIVER TO 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 one last included dinner together – better get planning, that reunion trip next year won't book itself.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Guided tour of Cango Caves

## DAY 17 | OUDTSHOORN TO HERMANUS

Relaxed and revitalized, we'll head to Hermanus, a town that's famous for its whale and dolphin sightings. But first, we'll make a pitstop at Cape Agulhas – Africa's southernmost tip. Snap THAT pic before we put our pallets 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 18 | HERMANUS TO 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 beach-front bars in between – this place has got it going on. Psssst we can organise some extra nights for you, just call us. What. an. unforgettable. trip.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Dyer Island Marine Safari  
Cruise: from 1840 ZAR
- + Shark cage diving: from 2880  
ZAR

## 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.

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[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!**