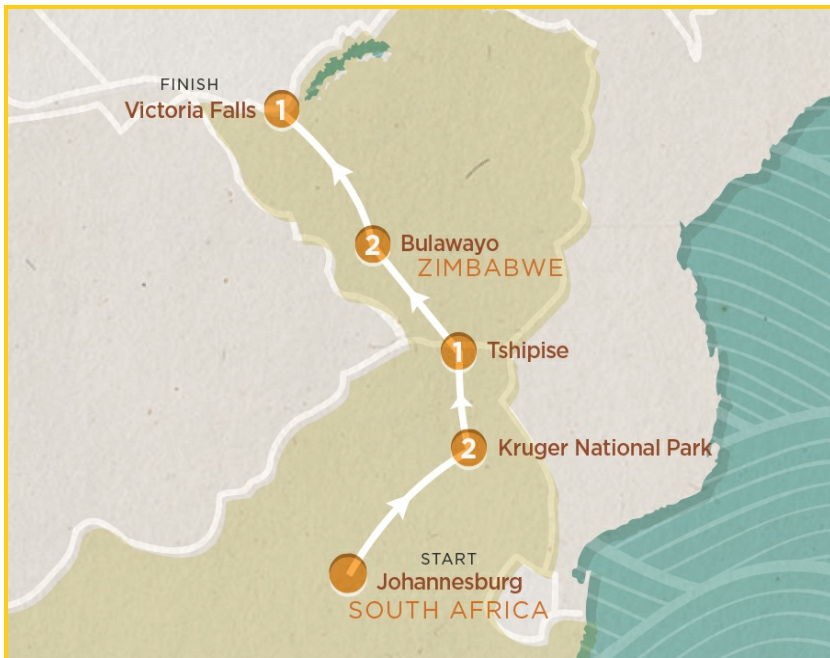


# Topdeck

## BIG FIVE 'N' FALLS



TRIP CODE:  
ZOBFJV-0

## TOPDECKER, meet Non-Commissionable

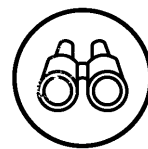
We could explain the name, but that would be patronising.

All jokes aside? This is one wild, wild week. Test your critter knowledge on the game drive trail in Kruger. Be at one with nature in Matobo National Park. Fuel your inner daredevil with some tummy-flipping activities at Victoria Falls. If you've always wanted to do the safari thing, this short (but oh-so-sweet) adventure's got your name on it.

### WORTH NOTING...

We strongly advise bringing a soft bag or backpack rather than a hard suitcase. Luggage is stored in lockers on your overland truck which are 66cm x 45cm x 25cm and take no more than 20kg. You will require a padlock to keep your locker secure. You may also bring a small day bag.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Download app



Meals

A sleeping bag is required for those booking the camping option.

Visas are not included. Many countries in Africa require you to purchase visas before you travel; please ensure you have checked before you travel and obtained all of the necessary documents.

Please ensure you have obtained any required vaccinations and medications in advance of travel. Many African countries require you to have a yellow fever certificate on entry.

# 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.

### INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Afternoon 4x4 game drive through Kruger National Park
- Full day 4x4 game drive through Kruger National Park
- Morning bush walk through Kruger National Park
- Half day game drive and wilderness walk in Matobo National Park
- Tour of Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park

# YOUR ITINERARY



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

Welcome to Africa! Meet your fellow Topdeckers in Joburg and start practising your best rendition of 'Hakuna Mata' as we make our way to the world-famous Kruger National Park. Get excited - we've got an incredible seven days ahead! We'll kick the trip off in true safari-style with an included 4X4 game drive this afternoon. Oh hey, Simba! Tonight, toast to an amazing sunset before we gather around the campfire and soak up all those nature vibes. Phew! What an epic start to the trip.



### MEALS:

- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Afternoon 4x4 game drive through Kruger National Park

## DAY 2 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Rise and shine adventurers! Dig into breakfast and make sure your camera is charged - we've got a full day of 4X4 driving to get on board with. This place is home to 500 species of birds, 148 species of mammals, a variety of reptiles and (of course) the 'Big Five'. Excitement levels: 11/10! With our eagle-eyed guide at the wheel, you're sure to spot more than a few animals doing their thing. We're talking buffalo grazing on savannahs, rhinos frolicking in the mud, lions on their afternoon hunt and elephants getting their bubble-bath on. GoPros at the ready! Tick off as many of the 'Big Five' as you can before tucking in to a delicious feast back at the camp. You can thank us later.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Full day 4x4 game drive through Kruger National Park

## DAY 3 | KRUGER NATIONAL PARK TO TSHIPSIE

Leave the lie-ins for another day - there's a morning bush walk through Kruger with your name on it. Learn all about nature's finer deets with an expert guide before hitting the road. Next stop: Tshipise. Nestled amongst the beautiful baobab dotted-countryside near the Limpopo River, our accommodation is the perfect place to relax and unwind after a busy few days of exploring. The afternoon is yours to soak in the resort's warm mineral pool, verse your Topdeck BFF's at a game of putt-putt or simply soak up all the relaxed-African vibes. Tonight, we'll spend an evening under the stars. Bliss.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Morning bush walk through Kruger National Park

## DAY 4 | TSHIPISE TO BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

Catcha' Tshipise - we're headed for Zimbabwe! A country once known for its political violence and economic instability, this nation has rebuilt itself into a buzzing tourist destination filled with natural wonders and fascinating landscapes. When we've got all the formalities over with at the border post, we'll make a beeline for Matobo National Park - known for its unique UNESCO World Heritage listed giant whalebacks and castellated kopjes (that's giant, granite landforms to you and me). Tonight, we'll crack open a cold one as the sun sets over the rolling savannahs. This is livin', Barry!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

## DAY 5 | BULAWAYO

Down your coffee and get ready for another epic game drive through Matobo National Park. This park is home to a large variety of animals, including black and white rhinos, zebras, wildebeest and giraffe. Play 'I, spy' with the wildlife before checking out the unique rock formations of the Matobo Hills. These massive rock formations have been associated with human dwelling since the Stone Ages – and they loved a spot of rock painting in their spare time. This afternoon we'll have the chance to explore further with a guided trail walk before we swap pics from the day around the campfire. Here that? The sounds of the wild will lull you to sleep tonight.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Half day game drive and wilderness walk in Matobo National Park

## DAY 6 | BULAWAYO TO VICTORIA FALLS

Ever seen one of the Seven Wonders of the World? Well today, you can check one off your bucket-list! That's right folks, we're headed to the magnificent Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (aka home to Victoria Falls). A place where wilderness, adventure and culture unite around one stunning spectacle – this place is pretty dam impressive (pun intended). After we make camp, we'll head out on an included tour of the national park and see why the falls are often referred to as "Mosi-oa-Tunya" or the Smoke that Thunders. Later, you'll have the option of cruising the Zambezi River for all those sunset views or why not get your culture fix at a Boma dinner and drumming experience? Either way: we know you're going to be blown away by this place.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Tour of Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Sunset Zambezi River cruise: from 55 USD
- Boma Dinner and Drumming experience: from 76 USD

## DAY 7 | VICTORIA FALLS

Quick! Swap those socials - we're out of here after breakfast. It may be our last day but there's still plenty of time to get your adrenaline pumping with some epic optionals. We're talking white water rafting, gorge swimming, canoeing, a flying fox experience or why not go all out with a helicopter flight over the falls? Oh yeah! Make sure you pick up a souvenir or two at the village before you go. Who's up for round two?



### 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
- White water rafting at Victoria Falls: from 140 USD
- Flying Fox at Victoria Falls: from 50 USD
- Village township tour in Victoria Falls: from 81 USD
- We strongly advise bringing a soft bag or backpack rather than a hard suitcase. Luggage is stored in lockers on your overland truck which are 66cm x 45cm x 25cm and take no more than 20kg. You will require a padlock to keep your locker secure. You may also
- A sleeping bag is required for those booking the camping option.
- Visas are not included. Many countries in Africa require you to purchase visas before you travel; please ensure you have checked before you travel and obtained all of the necessary documents.
- Please ensure you have obtained any required vaccinations and medications in advance of travel. Many African countries require you to have a yellow fever certificate on entry.

## MEALS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'Included Essentials' section of this document.

While on the road, you will be provided with three meals a day (unless otherwise stated). African Overland trips are participation based, which means you will be expected to do your bit for the team by helping with cooking and cleaning up duties. In some places, we will be able to go out for a meal.

If you have any dietary requirements, we'll make every effort to cater to your needs – as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book. You can also make a note of dietary requirements in the Topdeck app when you check-in.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Although we'll do everything in our power to cater to your needs, we cannot guarantee this will be possible in every restaurant we visit. We also cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

# 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>

# RESPECT ON THE ROAD

## RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

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

## 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 adventure AND 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 room 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!

# 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.)

- 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
- Padlock
- Reusable water bottle
- Sleeping bag (for all camping and Sun & Safari passengers)



**THAT'S IT!**