

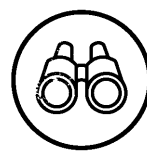
TOPDECKER, meet Non-Commissionable

From the warm tropical waters of Durban to awesome Cape Town, this journey through South Africa's Drakensberg region and along the picturesque Garden Route coast covers some of the country's absolute must-sees. Along the way, you'll visit the highest pub in Africa at Lesotho's Sani Pass, wander the ancient paths of the Battlefields and Royal Natal National Park, and check out the beautiful Tsitsikamma Forest. Sound good? Then strap on your backpack and get amongst it!

WORTH NOTING...

Please note, a sleeping bag is REQUIRED if the camping option is selected.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



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.

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Travel along the Sani Pass
- Visit Battlefields
- Visit the Royal Natal National Park
- See the Drakensberg Mountains
- Visit Addo Elephant National Park
- Visit Cango Caves
- Visit Cape Agulhas

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER



DRIVER

DAY 1 | DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA TO UNDERBERG AREA

Meet your safari buddies, then spin your compass inland as we hit the road to the Underberg Area. Be sure to catch plenty of zzz's – tomorrow's gonna be a big day.



MEALS:

- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 2 | UNDERBERG AREA

Hop in a 4x4 and prepare to see some jaw-dropping views! Today we've got a date with the EPIC Sani Pass. Wowee.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Travel along the Sani Pass



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Hiking

DAY 3 | UNDERBERG AREA TO BATTLEFIELDS TO DRAKENSBURG, LESOTHO

Today we'll soak up some history at the Battlefields, a site that commemorates lives lost in British, Zulu and Boer clashes.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Battlefields

DAY 4 | DRAKENSBURG

Next up: the Royal Natal National Park. Here, you can take the option to follow the Tugela Falls hike trail up the Drakensberg Mountains and check out our awesome surroundings from way up high. Did you know? Tugela Falls is Africa's highest waterfall. True story.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Royal Natal National Park
- See the Drakensberg Mountains



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided Tugela Falls hike

DAY 5 | DRAKENSBURG TO MALEALEA

On day five we'll roll into the village of Malealea in the mountain kingdom of Lesotho.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 6 | MALEALEA

Yes! You've got a free day to explore this beautiful mountainous country. Here, there's a smörgåsbord of optionals on offer. Take your pick from mountain biking, a guided hike or a spot of pony trekking. Giddy up!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Pony trekking
- Guided hike
- Mountain biking

DAY 7 | MALEALEA TO MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

See ya later, highlands. Today we're crossing back into South Africa! We'll wriggle our way past stunning, diverse countryside before arriving at Mountain Zebra National Park. What animals can you find here? We'll give you one guess.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 8 | MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK TO PORT ELIZABETH

Want more national park action in your life? We got you. Today we're off to Addo Elephant National Park for a serious animal spotting session. Keep your eyes peeled for the Big Seven (plus some bonus dung beetles)!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Addo Elephant National Park

DAY 9 | PORT ELIZABETH TO STORMS RIVER

Time to say hello to a trip highlight: the Tsitsikamma Forest. This place is unreal! Optionals? We're glad you asked. Get involved in an optional bridge walk or take a giant leap for Topdecker kind with a bungee jump.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bungee jump
- Bridge walk

DAY 10 | STORMS RIVER TO OUDTSHOORN

Onwards to Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world (legit). This region is also home to the Cango Caves, Africa's largest show cave system. We'll explore them on an included tour. If you fancy it, you can pay an optional visit to the cheetahs at Cango Wildlife Ranch, too!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Cango Caves



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Cango Wildlife Ranch

DAY 11 | OUDTSHOORN TO HERMANUS

Today we'll jump back in our vehicle and head south to the coastal town of Hermanus – but not before making a stop at Cape Agulhas, which marks Africa's southernmost tip.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Cape Agulhas



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Hermanus whale watching cruise

DAY 12 | HERMANUS TO CAPE TOWN

Want to round off your trip in style? Well, there's optional shark cage diving on offer this morning... just sayin'! We'll say farewell in Cape Town this afternoon. From the Waterfront to the Table Mountain cable car, this city has plenty to keep you occupied if you fancy sticking around.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Shark cage diving

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!