



I C AFRICA
SAFARIS & TOURS

Tour code: **SAess11**
 Guaranteed departures **from 4 travellers**
 Small group safari maximum: **12 travellers**
 Travel through: **South Africa & Swaziland**
 Safari length: **11 days**

2017

SOUTH AFRICA – “ESSENTIAL”



DEPARTS:

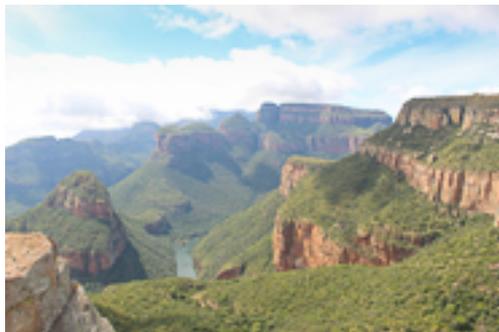
JOHANNESBURG on Monday at 06:30am

ENDS:

JOHANNESBURG on Friday @ ±18:00pm

Highlights

- * Mpumalanga - Panorama Route sight seeing
- * Private Game Reserve – game drives
- * Swaziland – mountain walks, cultural adventure
- * KwaZulu Natal – walk, game drive and museums
- * Drakensberg Mountains – mountain walk



SAFARI GRADE: AUSTERE

The highlights of northern South Africa, with a visit to a beautiful reserve in the Kingdom of Swaziland. This classic circuit offers a variety of experiences. The lodges are beautiful, comfortable & make for a great adventure safari. The lodge on a big 5 private reserve adjoining Kruger National Park is an absolute highlight and the location of the chalets in the Drakensberg is one of the most beautiful walking areas in South Africa.

Overnight The accommodation throughout this classic journey is of 3 to 4 star style and are chosen not only for their service and comfort level but also for their wonderful locations and experiences available. All rooms have private en suite facilities. The lodge in Swaziland has individual chalets with open sides (insect nets provided).

Meals 11 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 9 dinners are included. All of which are provided by the lodges at which we are staying. Due to travel arrangements or game viewing activities, some of the included lunches will be picnic lunches. Where meals are not included there will be an opportunity to buy a meal en route or at the restaurant in the evening.

Transport for the majority of this safari you travel in a Safari truck with 12 seats; or (on 30% of tours) Mercedes Sprinter bus with 12 forward facing seats and air conditioning. The game drives in Hluhluwe will be in the tour vehicle, with large sliding windows and for the game drives in the Kruger private reserve and Swaziland we use open sided 4WD vehicles with local guides.

Non participation This is an adventure tour, and as such please expect to get involved. Where there are porters, they'll help you, otherwise you'll need to carry your own bag. Included meals are all lodge provided. If you have a particular interest, please let your safari leader know, and he/she will endeavor to make your journey more rewarding. Your holiday time is exclusively yours to enjoy your safari and get the most from your travel experience.

AUSTERE JOURNEY ITINERARY

Day 1 - 2 **KRUGER PRIVATE GAME RESERVE** [tented lodge Bx1, Lx2, Dx2] (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

Our safari gets underway early in the morning as we head northeast towards the Greater Kruger National Park and our tented lodge on a private game reserve. Our camp is on the banks of the Greater Letaba River. Our days are spent either on foot where we get to explore the reserve on game walks or on open 4wd game drives that get us closer to the wildlife. Excellent opportunities for spotting elephant, buffalo and giraffe. An afternoon watching the animals come down to drink at the river will leave you with lasting memories and excellent photos.

Day 1: Breakfast is not included

Day 1: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 1: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Day 2: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 2: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 2: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Includes: 2x game drives and 2 x game walks
Overnight: [Mtomeni Lodge](#) - twin bed chalet en suite. There is no electricity, the camp operates on solar power
 WiFi not available
Distance/time: 530kms, ± 7 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing, breakfast & lunch

Day 3 **MPUMALANGA** [lodge BLD]

The panorama route runs south along the escarpment, an area of beautiful indigenous forests, plantations, waterfalls and canyons which offer spectacular views. We visit the potholes created by the confluence of two rivers of Bourke's Luck potholes and enjoy the views from Gods Window and over the second largest canyon in Africa the Blyde River Canyon as well as short walks to explore some of the forests and waterfalls.

Day 3: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 3: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 3: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Includes: Entrance fees to Blyde River Canyon, Bourkes Luck Potholes, Mac Mac Falls & Gods Window
Overnight: [Gecko Lodge](#) – Twin en-suite rooms. Restaurant & pool
 WiFi not available

Distance/time: 280kms, ± 4 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing, breakfast & lunch and any game drives

Day 4 - 5 **SWAZILAND** [lodge BLD]

The kingdom of Swaziland is nestled in the lowveld, surrounded by South Africa and Mozambique. Protected by mountains in the east and northern parts it also has lush subtropical landscapes. Its cultural heritage is still evident in its ceremonies and traditional markets.

Cross the border in the northern part and head south to our private game reserve where we will spend the next two days. Exciting open vehicles game drives in search of rhino, buffalo and elephant, and excellent opportunities for game walks and bird watching. Our luxurious open fronted stone cottages comfort us as we fall asleep to the sounds of the African bush.

Day 4: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 4: Lunch will be a picnic lunch provided by the tour leaders

Day 4: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Day 5: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 5: Lunch will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Day 5: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Includes: 2 x game walks and game drives

Overnight: [Stone Camp Mkaya Game Reserve](#) - mountain chalets en-suite facilities



WiFi not available, no electricity

Distance/time: 400kms, ± 6½ hours, excluding border formalities & stops for sightseeing etc

Day 6 - 8 **ZULULAND** [tented lodge B x3, L x1, D x3]

Our journey continues south as we leave Swaziland behind and enter South Africa. We head into the heart of Zululand to our lodge situated near Hluhluwe Game Reserve. Our days in Zululand will be filled with a full day game drive in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve in search of the big 5 an interesting cultural visit to a local Zulu village where we learn some of the history and culture of these proud people. A game walk gets us closer to the small game and our local guides knowledge of tracks and signs will keep us enthralled.

Day 6: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 6: Lunch will be an own expense meal

Day 6: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Day 7: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 7: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 7: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Day 8: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 8: Lunch will be an own expense meal

Day 8: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Includes: Entrance fees to Isimangaliso Lake St Lucia & Hluhluwe Game Reserve, cultural village visit

Overnight: [Falaza Lodge](#) - twin tented room en suite. Swimming pool, bar & restaurant



Free WiFi in office & pool area

Distance/time: 250kms, ± 4 hours, excluding border formalities, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch and game drives in Hluhluwe Game Reserve

Optional Activities Boat cruise, kayaking

Day 9 **ZULULAND BATTLEFIELDS** [lodge BLD]

We head east through the rolling hills of Zululand, towards the small town of Dundee and our next historical stop, the battlefields where the British, Zulus and the Boer commandos clashed. We visit the Talana museum, and the battlefields of Islandwana and Roukes drift before we settle into our lodge. Our guides will entertain you with fascinating stories of war and survival at our dinner tonight.

Day 9: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 9: Lunch will be a picnic lunch provided by the tour leaders

Day 9: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Includes: Visit to Roukes Drift, and Islandwana battlefields, entrance to Tulana Museum

Overnight: [Rorke's Drift Lodge](#) - twin share chalet with en-suite facilities. Swimming pool, bar, restaurant, telephone.



Free WiFi in reception

Distance/time: 350kms, ± 4.5 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch

Day 10 - 11 **DRAKENSBERG MOUNTAINS** [lodge B - -]

The world heritage site of the Drakensberg or "dragon mountains" rises up 3000m above the coastal plains forming the escarpment. A beautiful barrier of deep valleys, mountain streams and craggy peaks. We head towards the Cathedral Peak area where we spend two days on walks through the foothills, admiring the fauna and flora found in this area.

Day 10: Breakfast will be provided by the lodge

Day 10: Lunch will be own expense

Day 10: Dinner will be own expense

Day 11: Breakfast will be provided by the lodge

Day 11: Lunch will be own expense

Day 11: Dinner will be own expense

Includes: Entrance fees to sentinel peak mountain walk.

Overnight: [KZNWildlife Didima](#) – twin en-suite chalet. Restaurant & bar



WiFi not available

Distance/time: 290 kms, ± 4 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch

Day 12 **JOHANNESBURG – TOUR ENDS** [- B - -]

We take a short walk in the morning enjoying the fresh mountain air before we make our way back to Johannesburg. Relaxed and ready to rejoin life.

Day 12: Breakfast will be provided by the lodge

Day 12: Lunch will be own expense

Day 12: N/A

Includes: N/A

Overnight: N/A

Distance/time: 360kms, ± 5 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch

Please note: we do a free drop off at Johannesburg airport on day 12 at 17:00pm so you can book your flight out for the last day of tour.

Please note: The distance and travel times quoted above are an estimate only, and subject to local road conditions and photo stops!

Please note: That the accommodation specified above and in the itinerary, is a guide only and is subject to availability. Alternatives will be of a similar standard, and accommodation changes will be made without notice.

2017 PRICES AND DEPARTURE DATES:

Priced From: (depending on number of travellers)

(valid Jan 2017 – Dec 2017)

Code : SAess11 US\$ 3,380 pps

Single supplement: US\$ 1,490 pp

2017 DEPARTURE DATES

Departs	Ends
JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNBUSRG
Monday at	Friday at
06:30am	18:00pm
13-Feb-17	24-Feb-17
10-Apr-17	21-Apr-17
08-May-17	19-May-17
17-Jul-17	28-Jul-17
21-Aug-17	01-Sep-17
11-Sep-17	22-Sep-17



16-Oct-17	27-Oct-17
30-Oct-17	10-Nov-17
20-Nov-17	01-Dec-17

* **Bold dates** are guaranteed departures; all other dates are guaranteed from 4 clients.

DETAILED TOUR INFORMATION:

Why travel with I C AFRICA SAFARIS

We understand that there are several options available to you when choosing your African safari. We also know that you want to make the most informed decision about your safari, what you get, what's included and what you see and experience. So these are just a few of the ICA qualities and facts:

- **Small groups** – by travelling with a maximum of 12 people, you are able to witness Africa and have first-hand contact with this amazing continent and its people without being a negative influence. This has been a key factor in our continued success. Our trips appeal to a wide demographic of traveller. Our clients range in age from 25 to 65+ with the average being 45. The range of travellers gives a variety of perspectives which adds to the experience of each safari.
- **2 Safari tour guides** – group leaders are the key to any safari. On a ICA safari you will travel with 2 qualified and registered field guides (Field Guides Association of SA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, means interesting trips with maximum knowledge and information. Our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and her wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.
- **Guaranteed departures** – departure dates on each itinerary shown as bold are guaranteed departure dates. All other departures operate with a minimum of 4 clients.
- **All inclusive price** – when we travel ourselves, we always feel that if we're in a country we should find and see the best it has to offer. So when planning the ICA routes we ensure that each trip provides the best inclusions and experiences. For example, if you go to Botswana – you have to visit the national parks in an open 4WD – it is the essence of the Botswana wilderness. When booking on an ICA Safari there are no hidden costs. All of the entrance fees are included, and a wide range of activities, and most meals. We have included many highlights in our tours, so that you will see and experience the highlights without having to pay extra when you get there. So when you decide on which safari company to book with, look carefully at what you're actually getting. You may only visit a place once, make sure you get the most out of it.
- **Safety** – our fleet of vehicles are custom built to ensure comfortable and safe touring. Each is constructed, by an authorised passenger vehicle builder, to the latest safety requirements, with a safety shell, and every seat has a lap belt. This gives you peace of mind when travelling with ICA on the often demanding African roads.
- **Experience** - we have more than 25 years' experience planning tours throughout Southern Africa. As such, our itineraries and routes have been perfected over many years ensuring that your tour will run smoothly. We visit the highlights of Southern Africa, but ensure that you do not follow the well-trodden tourist track. All of us at ICA have extensive travel experience in Africa, and throughout the world. Being adventure travellers ourselves, we know how to plan trips that give you a broad experience of the countries that you will visit.
- **Based in Africa** - probably the most important part of a ICA safari is that we are an African company with offices in South Africa. We live in Africa, we travel in Africa and it is our passion for this amazing continent that makes ICA your best travel option.

Local Payment

- A local payment is not required on this safari.

Recommended reading

Before you travel you might want to read any of the following books. While not specific to the ICA tour you will join, they do provide some background understanding of the countries you will be visiting.

- The Covenant by James A. Mitchener (The best and worst of two continents carve an empire out of the vast wilderness that is to become South Africa.)
- When The Lion Feeds by Smith Wilbur (Fictional story set in Natal, South Africa in the 1870's)
- Jock of the Bushveld by J Percy FitzPatrick (Story of a trader and his dog set in 1880 around Pilgrim's Rest and Kruger area)
- The Steps of the Sun by Joanna Trollope (Love story set during the Boer War)
- Newman's Birds of Southern Africa by Kenneth Newman
- Sasol Birds of Southern Africa by Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey, and W.R. Tarboton
- The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, and Primates by Richard D. Estes and Daniel Otte
- Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa (Field Guides) by Braam Van Wyk, Keith Coates Palgrav, and Piet Van Wyk

Shopping

- Craft shopping for carvings, candles, batiks, wirework, paintings and clothing, in Swaziland and Zululand is some of the best in Southern Africa.

Food

- The majority of meals on this safari are provided by the lodges.

Difficulty

- Anyone who is generally active and in good health should enjoy this trip.
- Full itinerary with a couple of long driving days. The road conditions through the wilderness areas are very poor and our progress can at times be slow and dusty. Remember to hold on at all times and enjoy the ride!

Things you should know

- Includes park entrances
- You will need a valid passport and visas for entry into Swaziland and re-entering South Africa. Consult the tour dossier for a more detailed list of visa requirements and consult with your travel agent or ICA. Swazi visa is free of charge and obtained at the border.
- Luggage, please pack to a limit of 12kgs in a soft sports tog bag. Bring a daypack for walks. You do not need to bring a towel as the accommodation establishments will provide towels.
- We recommend that you bring South African Rand for personal expenses on this trip. Travellers cheques can be changed in most large towns. Major credit cards can also be used for optional activities and restaurant bills. See the ICA tour dossier for approximate costs of drinks and meals etc.

Common questions about this trip

1. **Can I buy camera memory cards?** Memory cards and other photographic accessories will be available several times on tour. A camera with a zoom lens from wide angle to telephoto, 35-300mm, is advisable to capture both scenic and wildlife shots. Each vehicle is fitted with a 12/220V inverter – this can be used while the vehicle is running (but will drain the vehicle battery if left plugged in), so this should only be relied on for limited charging of camera batteries and we recommend you bring a 2nd battery. Remember you can also charge your camera at all the accommodation.
2. **Is it safe?** South Africa, like any many countries, has it's problems but your guide knows the country intimately and will endeavour to show you the best parts while looking after you. Be aware, but not paranoid, and you will have a great trip!
3. **Do I need malaria tablets?** Mpumalanga, Swaziland and Zululand is a limited risk malaria area but prophylactics are recommended.
4. **What do I need to bring?** All details are covered in our general tour briefing (available from www.icafrica.co.za
5. on home page) but the basics are: - comfortable clothes for warm days and cool evenings, walking shoes, a raincoat, hat and sunglasses, swimsuit, a small pair of binoculars also comes in very handy and most importantly - a sense of adventure!