



PROJECT DOSSIER

SOUTH AFRICA & MOZAMBIQUE

CAPE TOWN to HARARE
OR
HARARE to CAPE TOWN
28 DAYS
4000 kms (approx.)

South Africa, Lesotho,
Swaziland, Mozambique,
Zimbabwe



Itinerary Guideline

CAPE TOWN TO HARARE

- Day 1:** Depart a.m. Cape Town to Cape Agulhas, Africa's southern most point.
- Day 2:** To Oudtshoorn to visit the waterfalls of Rusten-en-Vrede.
- Day 3:** Visit Ostrich Farm and the option to tour the Cango Caves before driving to Wilderness.
- Day 4:** Wilderness to Tsitsikamma National Park. Walks in Nature Valley.
- Day 5:** In National Park - Drive from Nature Valley to Storms River with the opportunity to walk park trails.
- Day 6 & 7:** We drive into the Eastern Cape Province via Grahamstown, East London, then North to Queenstown en route to Lesotho.
- Day 8:** Into Lesotho to the Malealea Lodge, our base for hiking and pony trekking.
- Day 9 & 10:** Optional day treks on foot or pony with local guides (approx US\$50) in the foothills of the Thaba Putsoa range.
- Days 11 & 12:** We drive through the dramatic scenery of central Lesotho to Thaba Tseka and Mokhotlong and over the high Sani Pass into the Drakensbergs National Park.
- Day 13 to 15:** In the Drakensbergs, day hikes through the spectacular mountain terrain and river valleys.
- Day 16:** To the old Zulu War battle sites of Rorkes Drift and Blood River.
- Days 17 & 18:** Into the Kingdom of Swaziland via Pongola to Mbabane, the capital.
- Day 19:** We drive north via Piggs Peak, Barberton to Kruger National Park.

- Day 20:** In Kruger National Park, game viewing drives from our camp at Crocodile Bridge - also optional night game drive.
- Day 21:** We cross to Mozambique to Maputo, the capital, then north crossing the Limpopo river to Xai Xai.
- Day 22 & 23:** Following the Indian Ocean coastline to Inhambane and on to Pradu Tofo.
- Day 24:** To Maxixe and north to Vilanculos.
- Day 25 & 26:** At Vilanculos, where there is the option to catch "dhow" sail boats to the National Park islands of Parque Nacional De Bazaruto, or Magaruque.
- Otherwise, just enjoy the beaches and villages of the coastline.
- Day 27:** We drive north via Chimoio and en-route to Zimbabwe.
- Day 28:** Crossing into Zimbabwe through the Eastern Highlands via Mutare to Harare. Late afternoon arrival.

HARARE TO CAPETOWN

- Day 1:** Depart Harare through Eastern Highlands and into Mozambique.
- Day 2:** We head south to the Indian Ocean coastline and Vilanculos.
- Days 3 & 4:** At Vilanculos, where you have the options to catch "dhow" sail boats to the National Park islands of Parque Nacional De Bazaruto or Magaruque. Otherwise, just enjoy the beaches and villages of the coastline.
- Day 5:** South to Maxixe and onto Inhambne.
- Day 6 & 7:** Around Inhambane and to Praia du Tofo.
- Day 8:** South to Xai Xai
- Day 9:** Across the Limpopo River to Maputo, the capital and into South Africa to Kruger National Park.
- Day 10:** In Kruger National Park, game viewing drives from our camp at Crocodile Bridge - also optional night game drive.
- Day 11:** We drive south via Barberton and Pigg's Peak into the Kingdom of Swaziland to Mbabane the capital.
- Days 12 & 13:** In Mbabane then south via Pongola into Kwa Zulu Natal province of South Africa.
- Day 14:** Visit the Zulu War battle sites at Blood River and Rorkes Drift.
- Day 15 to 17:** Into the Drakensbergs National Park. Day hikes through the spectacular mountain terrain and river valleys.
- Days 18 & 19:** We cross the high Sani Pass into the highlands of Lesotho, via

Mokhotlang and Thaba Tseka to Malealea Lodge.

- Days 20 & 21:** From our lodge base, there are the options to trek on foot or by pony with local guides in the foothills of the Thaba Putsoa range.
- Days 22 to 24:** Driving south into the Eastern Cape Province via Queenstown to Storms River in the Tsitsikamma National Park.
- Days 25 & 26:** In Tsitsikamma National Park, with day walks on the trails around Storms River and Natures Valley. Onto Wilderness and Oudtshoorn.
- Day 27:** After visiting an Ostrich Farm, Rust-en-Vrede waterfall and the option of the Cango Caves we drive to Africa's most southern point, Cape Agulhas.
- Day 28:** We drive through the tip of the Western Cape to our journeys end in Cape Town, overshadowed by the spectacular Table Mountain. Late afternoon arrival.

PLEASE NOTE

The above is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and its highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, its activities and timings.

Highlights & Route

SOUTH AFRICA

From Cape Town, Africa's most attractive city, nestled below Table Mountain, we drive south to Cape Agulhas. This is Africa's most southern tip and the point at which the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet. To Oudtshoorn in the region of "Klien Karoo" - where we visit one of the Ostrich Farms. There is also an option to explore the Cango Caves, a network of carkite caverns extending into the Swartberg foothills. Nearby is the 74 metre high Rust-en-Vrede waterfall. We now rejoin the "Garden Route" travelling via the park regions of Wilderness and Knysna to Tsitsikamma National Park. The Park stretches some 80 kms and contains beautiful coastal forests, renowned for their excellent bird life. From Natures Valley and Storms River we can hike various trails - the best way to experience the Park. From here our route takes us east, but north of Port Elizabeth to East London, before heading up through the Ciskei and into the southern reaches of the Drakensbergs to Lesotho.

LESOTHO

A small mountainous country, landlocked by South Africa - its history and culture linked almost entirely to the Basotho tribal group of people. Our route brings us into the south, crossing the upper Orange River climbing into the highlands to our stop at Malealea. From here you have the option to hike or pony trek with local guides in the foothills of the Thaba Putsoa range - a truly wonderful wilderness area. We continue through the Central Range to Thaba Tseka and Mokhotlong where our route takes us over the high Sani Pass (2875 metres) into the Drakensberg National Park of Kwa Zulu Natal.

SOUTH AFRICA (Kwa Zulu Natal)

Three days are spent in the Drakensberg National Park where time is taken to hike the many trails that traverse southern Africa's greatest mountain range, containing many peaks in excess of 3000 metres. The region is noted for not only its great natural beauty, but also for wildlife and ancient cave paintings linked to the bushman. Leaving the Drakensbergs we travel north to the old Zulu War sites of Rorkes Drift and Blood River - where two of the most historical battles took place between the Zulu/British and Zulus/Voortrekkers (Boers).

SWAZILAND

We leave Kwa Zulu Natal to enter the small landlocked Kingdom of Swaziland, one of the smallest countries in Africa, with a population of less than a million. We take in the small capital of Mbabane with its colourful market, not only for vegetables and fruit, but for a wide range of local handicrafts. Leaving Mbabane, we travel north to Pigg's Peak before re-entering South Africa to Baberton and onto the Kruger National Park.

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Kruger is one of the largest preserved areas of wilderness in Africa, covering the area the equivalent of Israel. We merely touch just a small part of the park, from Crocodile Bridge in the south we will take game viewing drives up through the Sabie river valley - a region containing the widest range of animals, including White and Black Rhino, Lion, Giraffe, Impala, Wildebeest and Hunting dogs. There is also the option to take a "night" game drive which can often show a completely different abundance of nocturnal animals.

MOZAMBIQUE

We leave Kruger and immediately enter Mozambique - a country rebuilding itself

following long years of Civil War. Today, she opens her arms to travellers and our time will be spent travelling along the beautiful and untouched Indian Ocean coastline. From Maputo, the capital, our journey takes us north over the Limpopo River to Praia Xai Xai, our first beach stop. To Inhambane, once an important Portuguese trading post which still retains much of its colonial appearance. Adjacent and across the bay is Maxixe. Both are still important ports for the local fisherman and their dhows give an ancient feel to the daily scene. Praia do Tofo offers us another ideal beach stop before travelling north to Vilanculos (or Vilankulo) at the gateway to the Bazaruto Archipelago. We spend several days in this area to give you the option to visit the National Park islands of Bazaruto, Magaruque and Banguerra. The Archipelago boasts among its wildlife, 180 species of birds, endemic butterflies, Suni Antelope and freshwater crocodile. The protected reefs and beaches support an abundance of marine life. The islands can be accessed by dhows or motorboats, but you will need to return to the mainland each evening. Alternatively the coastline and villages near to Vilanculos are equally enjoyable. We travel north crossing the Save River to Chimoio as our journey heads west into Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWE

We enter Zimbabwe through the spectacular Eastern Highlands to Mutare, before completing our journey in Harare.

NATIONAL PARKS & SITES

Time spent in the following National Parks and sites are included in the project cost: Rusten-en-Verde Water Falls, Tsitsikamma (2 days), Drakensbergs (3 days), Rorkes Drift & Blood River (1 day), Kruger (1 day).

GROUP SIZE

21 max including Encounter staff. Local guides will be employed at certain places of interest where their knowledge is advantageous to our visit.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Whilst this project does not have any heavy physical demands, the day treks, especially in Lesotho and the Drakensbergs will require an above average level of fitness. Otherwise, conditions are normally what is expected during a continuous camping/nomadic lifestyle.

THE LOCAL PAYMENT (as in the brochure)

This is the payment made to the Project Leader at the point of departure. This payment must be made paid in US\$ dollars, either in cash notes or recognised Travellers Cheques. This payment completes the total inclusive price of the project. This amount will be utilised by the project Leader to cover a proportion but not all of the 'on the ground' running costs of this project. There are no hidden extra payments.

INCLUDED IN PROJECT COST

All transport, food, camping equipment & supplies, camping fees, entrance fees to the National Parks & sites as stated from the published starting date of project until Day 28 in Cape Town or Harare. There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

PROJECT COST DOES NOT COVER

Local Payment, flights to/from Harare/Capetown, transfers to/from airport & airport taxes, vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, occasional lunches in major centres (minimal cost), personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature. Some individual entry fees to museums/sights, not stated in National Parks and sites, and any individual options as follows:

Cape Agulhas Lighthouse US \$1

Cango Caves US \$2

Hikes/Pony Trekking in Lesotho US \$40-50

Dhow & Park Entry for island visits from Vilanculos, approx US \$25-30

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Standard Encounter truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit etc.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

A warm sleeping bag, a medium sized bag or backpack and a daypack. Personal clothing, strong footwear, water bottle, personal medicines & toiletries etc. No specialised clothing or equipment is necessary, apart from supportive walking boots for day treks. You probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information.

TRANSPORT

Encounter 4WD expedition truck throughout.

Optional: ponies in Lesotho & dhow sail or motor boats in Mozambique.

ACCOMMODATION

Camping throughout. Campground facilities in cities & main centres, otherwise open 'bush' camping with no facilities other than standard Encounter truck equipment. Your involvement is needed in camp set-up, domestic & day to day routines etc. (Accommodation the evening before day 1 of the projects departure and on the night of the 28 in Cape Town or Harare is not included).

INSURANCE

You must have personal Travel Insurance to cover Adventure Travel and it must cover all the aspects described on p60 of the brochure. Please bring a copy of your policy with you to the pre-departure meeting. If your policy does not cover this minimum level then Encounter will not accept responsibility for the consequences.

MEDICAL & VACCINATIONS

All vaccination requirements and medical recommendations are detailed in the pre-departure information pack at the time of booking.

MEALS, COOKING & FOOD

Camp cooked breakfast & evening meals, picnic lunches. Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, bread, cereals, cheese, preserves etc, supplemented by local & imported canned & dried goods in areas where no fresh supplies available. Group members involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. In larger towns where a day is spent in individual sightseeing or activities away from the truck, lunch will sometimes be at your own expense. The cost of these occasional lunches is minimal. (Evening meal on Day 28 in Cape Town or Harare not included).

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a passport that is valid for not less than 6 months after the end of the project, and which contains not less than 8 blank pages. Visa requirements and costs vary according to your nationality, and are subject to change. Encounter or your agent can advise you of all the up to date visa requirements applicable to you, and their costs. We can also help you in obtaining any visas you may require before departure.

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

You should budget approx US\$120 per week to cover personal day to day expenditure en route - drinks, snacks, occasional lunches in main centres, laundry, optional activities, individual museum entry fees & some souvenirs en route. You should budget an additional \$40 per day that you spend in Harare or Cape Town before and

after the project to cover hotel, meals & incidentals.

Ethnic crafts and similar souvenirs can be attractive and tempting in Africa. (Hardwood carvings, sculpture, bracelets & jewellery, baskets, weaving & ceramics). Other than the above, there are no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money in Africa.

ARRIVING AT START OF THE PROJECT

We recommend that you arrive in Harare or Cape Town a day before departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise and get over intercontinental flights.

Departures from Harare: There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Harare Hotel at 18.00hrs the evening before day 1 of the project. If you are arriving early, Harare is an interesting city: Museums, National Gallery - masks, carvings & African artefacts, Shona sculpture at Chapungu Kraal, nightlife & contemporary southern African music, Larvon Bird Gardens/Lion & Cheetah park 30 kms from city).

Departures from Cape Town: There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Cape Town hotel at 18.00 hrs the evening before Day 1 of the project. If you are arriving early, Cape Town is an interesting city in an outstanding setting: Museums, gardens & galleries, Table Mountain & Cable Way, Groot Constantia & wineries, False Bay & beaches, Cape Nature Reserve, theatre.

Reservations at our Harare and Cape Town hotels before departure may be made through Encounter, with payment by you directly to hotel on arrival. Even though serious delays en route are unlikely, we would prefer that you not have any firm commitments for a day or two after the scheduled project completion date in Harare or Cape Town.

LEAVING AT END OF PROJECT

Arrangements end on arrival at our Cape Town or Harare Hotel on the late afternoon/evening of Day 28. You should not make any homeward flight arrangements for this same day. Any flight connections could be made the following day if you are on a strict schedule.

COMBINATIONS & CONNECTING PROJECTS

The 'Roots of Southern Africa' can connect in Harare with the 'African Genesis' (Nairobi - Harare or v.v) which includes houseboats on Lake Kariba, foot safaris in Zambia's Luangwa Valley National Park & Malawi's Nyika Highlands Reserve, Lake Malawi & beaches, Dar es Salaam & the Indian Ocean & Lake Manyara National

Park in northern Tanzania. Or it can connect with 'The Southern Cross of Africa' which departs from Cape Town or Harare, taking in the western route via Victoria Falls, Botswana and Namibia. So you could connect these projects, and thus you may be travelling with people who are continuing on to one of these trips.

INTERESTING READING

South Africa Handbook-Footprint Handbooks
Lost World of the Kalahari-Laurens Van Der Post
Cry of the Kalahari -Mark & Delia Owen
Electronic Elephant: A Southern African Journey- Dan Jacobson

A full list of recommended reading & titles - novels, guidebooks, animal field guides, history and maps is given in our pre-departure information.

OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES

Local Payment	
Return flights.....	
Visas.....	
Vaccinations.....	
Insurance.....	
Personal spending money.....	
<i>Total</i> _____	

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