



11 Days

South Africa

Kosi Bay Expedition

Kayaking, hiking, game drives: with so many ways to explore this beautiful area and everything that it has to offer, you will be spoiled for choice. This 11-day adventure covers a large expanse of this coastal region and offers opportunities to see crocodiles, hippos, and whales in their exotic natural habitat.

Kosi Bay, as a part of iSimangaliso Wetland UNESCO site, is an incredibly diverse landscape which we will witness for ourselves as we journey through it. The exciting activities on this trip will provide you with an education in the protection of wildlife and the environment, bush survival skills, but, most importantly, it will provide you with memories to last a lifetime.



Recommended expedition itinerary

Day
1-2

Arrive Durban

Fly from the UK to King Shaka International Airport, Durban. Here we will be met by our local STC Expedition Leader and transferred to our tented accommodation in Kosi Bay. We then have a welcome briefing and experience our first traditional meal.

Day
3

Kayaking in Kosi Bay

Teamwork makes the dream work as we climb into our double kayaks for some early morning exploring of the lake systems and the estuary of iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Being this close to the surface of the lake should allow us to see the lively submarine world beneath our kayaks. We will paddle from Kosi Bay Mouth to our base camp on the western shores of the 3rd lake, or the reverse route pending on wind direction and tides on the day.

Day
4

Hike to Bhanga Neck

We stretch our legs today on a 12-15km hike from base camp, around the 3rd lake to Bhanga Neck. This is the largest lake in the four lakes system and during the course of our hike we will have to cross rivers, wade through lakes and navigate through the coastal forests. This forest is home to monkeys and over 250 species of birds, so hopefully we should be lucky enough to spot some wildlife during our trek.

Day
5

Kayak and Hike between the lakes and sea

Combining our experiences from the past few days we will kayak and hike different parts of today's route. It is a circular route starting and finishing at Bhanga neck, following the eastern shoreline of the 3rd lake, an area that lies between the lake and the sea. We will cover a distance of approximately 11-13 km in total. Throughout our time here we will have explored a large portion of this coastal region and we will have observed how the clear water in the estuary gradually changes to the black hippo waters found at the fourth lake.





Day
6

Coastal Hike

With stunning views across the Indian Ocean, this coastal and beach hike from Bhanga Neck to Kosi Mouth is a real highlight of the trip. This is no ordinary walk, as we will have a good chance of spotting dolphins, humpback whales and other marine species along the shore of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Whilst here, we will do a beach clean as part of STC Expeditions global Environmental Clean Up project. Having finished the hike, we are transported from marine sanctuary to the wide open savannah and our African safari camp in Hluhluwe.

ENVIRONMENT
CLEAN UP

Day
7

Full day game drive

Today we will enjoy a full day game drive in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve. This incredibly large park, measuring 96,000 ha, is the perfect home for many safari animals and is one of the oldest reserves in Africa. We have the chance to observe the famous African Big 5 at a close distance; a truly breath-taking experience. The day's activities will also conclude with a visit to the Centenary Centre where we will witness animals on their way to their new homes, as well as exploring their museum and crafts market.

Day
8

St Lucia Estuary Boat trip, Wildlife Centres

After filling up on a hearty breakfast we transfer to St Lucia where we will take a two hour boat trip on the St Lucia Estuary. St Lucia is close to the southern-most point of iSimangaliso Wetland Park and contains the highest vegetated dunes in the world. The particular draw of this area, however, is the chance to see some of the immense hippos that occupy the estuary. This will be followed by a visit to a crocodile centre and, in the afternoon, we will visit a cheetah sanctuary before heading back to camp.

Day
9

Elephant conservation & Zulu village visit

A visit to an elephant conservation centre is on the cards for this morning. We will have an educational talk about the plight of elephants and the various conservation strategies that help conserve not only the gentle giants but the ecosystems which they inhabit. We hope to get a close up experience with animals that live in the wild. Afterwards, we visit a Zulu village and have the privilege of participating in aspects of daily life in the community.

Day
10-11

Depart Durban

Further information

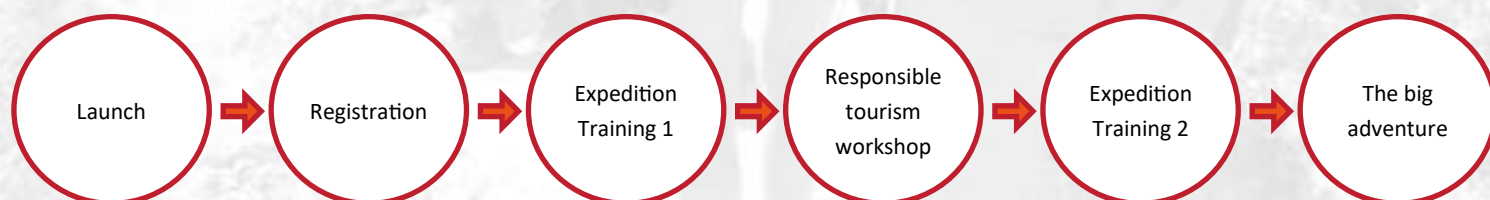
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local expedition leader
- Parent and student expedition launch evening
- Comprehensive pre-expedition training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your expedition timeline



Physical expedition rating:



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase in your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

Culture shock rating:



Expect to find local life broadly familiar to that in the UK, however aspects of the trip are likely to be in remoter areas where differences are more profound. Whilst English may not be the native language, you can expect it to be widely spoken. There may be some cultural differences and although western pallets should be well catered for there will be the opportunity to try new dishes.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening with opportunity for questions.



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