



16 Days

# South Africa & Swaziland

## A Volunteering "Safari" (Journey)

Journey from Zululand, to Swaziland to Kruger to experience a profound variety of wildlife and exciting adventures. These unique areas provide a stunning backdrop for this expedition, including an environment program, game drives, elephant interaction and a sustainable project in a Swaziland community.

Journeying through numerous national parks and game reserves, there are plenty of opportunities to marvel at the beautiful locations and the 'roar-inspiring' animals close-up. Not only is this an ideal location to witness these sights, but also to learn how to interact with them sustainably and protect them for future generations.



# Recommended expedition itinerary

Day  
1-2

## Arrive in Durban

Fly from the UK to King Shaka International Airport, Durban. Here we will be met by our local STC Expedition Leader and transfer to Hluhluwe. Checking in to Albizia Camp, we then have a welcome briefing and experience our first traditional meal.

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Day  
3

## Albizia Environmental Awareness Program

Albizia Environmental Camp is located on a Wildlife Conservancy, home to various game species such as giraffe, zebra and wildebeest. Our environmental awareness program begins with a guided nature walk where our guide will cover basic bush skills and key species identification. After lunch we carry out a field animal dissection. This is very much dependent on the current game levels and whether or not population control is needed at the time. Afterwards, we will listen to a special snake, spider and scorpion talk where the fang structures and venom types will be explained. The program will give us an insight into conservation and wildlife management of game and game reserves within Africa.

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Day  
4

## Elephant Interaction

Today is a fantastic opportunity to see elephants close up and get a chance to feed them! Rambo and his family will greet us as we enter the Zululand Rhino Reserve; a place to experience the sheer size and gentleness of elephants first hand. We will also visit Ilala Weavers market where there is the chance to buy souvenirs and gifts to take back home. In the afternoon we will continue with the previous day's work on the environmental awareness program.

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Day  
5

## Sodwana Bay

Dive right in to today's excitement at the stunning Sodwana Bay: one of the globe's top five dive sites. Here we will take a boat ride out to the reef and look at coastal ecology as well as undertaking a beach clean-up to protect this amazing ecosystem.

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Day  
6

## St Lucia

St Lucia is situated within the UNESCO World Heritage site of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The region contains the highest vegetated dunes in the world and diverse wetland systems, which are home to numerous waterfowl, forest and sea birds. A two hour boat cruise through this beautiful World Heritage Site gives us the opportunity to see hippos, crocodiles and the many other bird, mammal and plant species that live here.





Day  
7-10

## Swaziland Project

The next four days are set aside as specific project working days in a rural school or local community. The exact nature of our project will depend on what the community needs at the time of our visit. Previous groups have helped to build school infrastructure, created waste management systems in the village, or laid water pipes and drainage ditches. These days spent helping the villages and the people of rural Swaziland will undoubtedly be the highlight of our time here.

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Day  
11

## Hlane Royal National Park in eSwatini (Swaziland)

With so much to see and do here, the final choice of the day's activities has been left up to us. We can welcome the day with a sunrise game drive, explore the terrain with guided mountain biking, or feel the ground beneath our feet on guided bush walks. In this area there is a good chance of coming across white rhinos, elephants, antelopes, giraffes, zebras and wildebeest.

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Day  
12-13

## Kruger National Park

We leave Swaziland behind us and head into the famous Kruger National Park; one of Africa's largest game reserves. Its high density of wild animals includes not only the famous Big 5, but hundreds of other mammals, as well as diverse bird species such as vultures, eagles and storks. Mountains, bush plains and tropical forests make up this unique and dramatic landscape. We take the scenic route with an afternoon game drive through the Kruger National Park to our accommodation in the Kruger National Park Area.

Waking up to another beautiful day in this world famous game reserve and we will use the full day for a guided game drive. We will search for the variety of wildlife that makes this one of the best safari destinations in Africa on a full day safari!

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Day  
14

## Panorama route

Our exciting trip concludes with a scenic drive along the Panorama Route, stopping to visit to some of the jaw-dropping sites along the way. A particular highlight is the famous Lowveld view of the Blyde River cutting its way through the valleys below, unbelievably spectacular. Tonight we overnigh in the Graskop/Sabie area and have a final team meal.

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Day  
15/16

## Depart Johannesburg

After breakfast we complete the last leg of our journey as we head to Tambo International Airport for our return flight back to the UK, landing on day 16.

# Further information

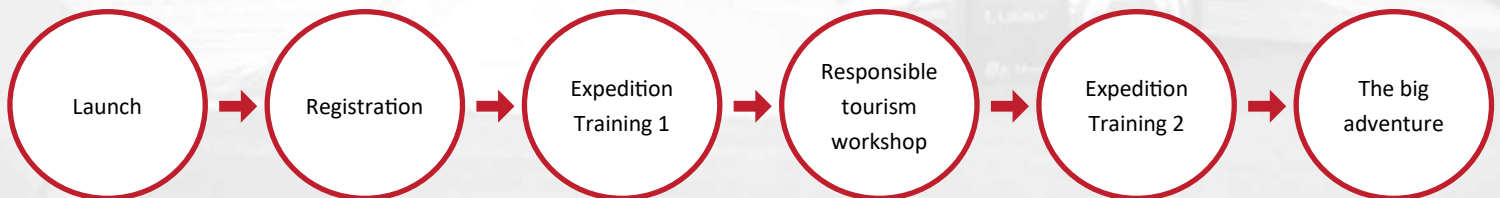
## Look what's included!

- 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:

● ● ○ ○ ○ 2/5

Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year

## Culture shock rating:

● ● ● ● ○ 4/5

Students joining trips at this level will find the comforts of home are more of a rarity – or viewed another way, a welcome luxury. English is unlikely to be widely spoken and the food will be quite different to home, perhaps for extended sections of the trip. You should observe local customs so not to cause offence. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty and accommodation in some locations is likely to be basic. Whilst a challenge, destinations and trips at cultural level 4 are also a fantastic opportunity to see a very different part of the world.



# 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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