



South Africa, Lesotho & Eswatini Private Adventure

KwaZulu-Natal Culture & Epic Kruger Safari

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivalled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

This adventure gives you access to hidden gems in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal, the Kingdom of Lesotho, and the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland).

REASON 2

Experience unforgettable wildlife encounters, deep cultural immersion, plus excellent hiking in the spectacular Drakensburg range.

REASON 3

Consistent with our 55-year history on the continent our local team provides insightful context and authentic interactions in each of the three kingdoms.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Great mix of game drives, hiking, cultural touring, and optional zip lining and caving adventures.



LODGING

From historical hotels to countryside inns, this trip includes some of the best accommodations in the Three Kingdoms.



CLIMATE

Expect temperatures in the various regions between 70-80°F during the day and 50-60°F in the evenings.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

Please review your personalized itinerary carefully, as activities, lodging, and meals may vary from the online sample itinerary. Custom programs are designed for a personalized experience, and adjustments may be made due to availability, logistics, seasonal changes, or other factors. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.



South Africa, Lesotho & Eswatini Private Adventure

KwaZulu-Natal Culture & Epic Kruger Safari

Discover the majesty of three African kingdoms: South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal and its Zulu people, the mountainous Kingdom of Lesotho, and the hikers paradise Eswatini (formerly Swaziland). Relish unparalleled wildlife experiences on safari walks, game drives, and sunset cruises. Hike up to the Amphitheatre in the UNESCO-protected Drakensberg region. Learn about apartheid in Durban and KwaZulu-Natal, and venture into the spectacular landscapes of Eswatini. From the thrills of spotting elephants in the wilds of Kruger National Park to spectacular views from the highest pub in Africa, this once-in-a-lifetime active adventure guarantees unforgettable experiences!

12 Days

Start: Johannesburg, South Africa

End: Johannesburg, South Africa

Departing: June, September

Activities: Safari & Wildlife, Multi-Adventure, Family Adventure

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels

Group Size: 6-12 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

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“Great experience every time with some of the most knowledgeable guides in their fields. We always come home with wonderful memories of the people we meet and things we see.”

- Bob J.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Arrive in Johannesburg

Welcome to Africa! Upon arrival at OR Tambo International Airport, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel. Depending on your flight's arrival time, you may get an afternoon tour of Soweto. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner with the group.

MEALS: Lunch | Dinner

DAY 02

Take a Nature Hike en Route to Northern Drakensberg

After breakfast, transfer to Northern Drakensberg, in KwaZulu-Natal province. En route, stop for lunch at a historical property dating back to the years preceding the First Boer War. After lunch, take an informative guided hike and learn about the rich history of the area, as well as the indigenous cultures of the Zulu and Sotho communities. This is a great bird-watching and game-viewing opportunity, as there are loads of interesting fauna and flora on certain routes. Then continue to the majestic Northern Drakensberg region, your home for two nights.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-hour private transfer

DAY 03

Hike to the Amphitheatre in Royal Natal National Park

A scenic morning drive takes you to the start of today's hike in stunning Royal Natal National Park. The initial leg is the most strenuous (but doable for all fitness levels), then levels out onto an easy contour path. Two ladders span the last 100 feet of the cliff; alternatively, you can ascend via the gully. The reward: standing atop the famous Amphitheatre — on the roof of South Africa! After exploring the summit, ascend Beacon Buttress for the return trip via the gully or ladders and the easy path downhill.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6-8 hours/9 miles hiking, 1,800' elevation gain

DAY 04

Head to Southern Drakensberg

Depart after breakfast for another scenic drive, this time to Underberg, in the Southern Drakensberg. On the way, stop for lunch and visit the internationally renowned Ardmore Ceramic Studio, founded in 1985 by Zimbabwean-born ceramic artist Fee Halsted. Originally established in the Drakensberg foothills, today the bustling studio and gallery sits in the picturesque Caversham Valley in South Africa's Natal Midlands. Here you meet the local artists, some of whose work has been commissioned by the likes of Hermes and Queen Elizabeth II.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-hour private transfer



Tour the Kingdom of Lesotho

Relish a full-day tour of Lesotho, a high-altitude, landlocked kingdom crisscrossed by a network of rivers and mountain ranges, making for breathtaking scenery. Begin today with a 4x4 drive up the Sani Pass (9,436'), atop which you enjoy lunch at the highest pub in Africa — the Sani Mountain Lodge — with incredible views over KwaZulu-Natal. After lunch, continue to Skeering, a living village of Basotho, a Bantu ethnic group that has inhabited this region since the fifth century, where your experienced mountain guide discusses Lesotho and its people.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Full day cultural touring



Discover Durban

Drive through the scenic Natal Midlands this morning bound for Durban. Upon arrival, stroll up historical Florida Road and stop for lunch of a local specialty, "bunny chow" — street food that harks back to the Indian indentured laborers from the 19th century. Along the Durban promenade, bordering the warm Indian Ocean, take a leisurely cycle along the beachfront to iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium, which you ascend by funicular for incredible views. Stop at the Kwa Muhle Museum for insight into Durban's history of apartheid before enjoying dinner on your own.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour private transfer

ACTIVITY: 1 hour/2 miles cycling



Enter the Kingdom of the Zulu

Head to northern KwaZulu-Natal, the Kingdom of the Zulu, where you'll enjoy an immersive lunch in a Lebombo Mountains community and a cultural walk with remarkable views. Your visit will include time with a sangoma, a traditional Zulu healer and respected elder skilled in a variety of areas including divination, medicinal herbs, and interpreting dreams. Have a reading done by the sangoma if you wish (readings to be paid directly).

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3.5-hours private transfer

ACTIVITY: Traditional lunch, 1-2 hours walking



DAY 08

Hike Ghost Mountain & Spot Wildlife in Mkuze Game Reserve

Set out at dawn to hike the eastern side of sacred Ghost Mountain (Tshaneni). Take in expansive views over the battleground where Zulu clans clashed in 1884. Return to the inn for breakfast, then drive to Mkuze Game Reserve and seek out resident wildlife including elephant, giraffe, white rhino, and beautiful birdlife. The group will be split in two for alternating ranger-led Fig Forest walks—special-permission walks arranged exclusively for your group. For groups larger than four: while one group walks, the other will look for wildlife from the hide and game drive.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour cruise, game drive in 4x4 vehicle

ACTIVITY: 3 hours/3-4 miles hiking, 2 hours walking

DAY 09

Lake Jozini & the Kingdom of Eswatini

Rise and shine for a morning cruise on Lake Jozini, for a chance to spot elephant, rhino, hippo, crocodile, and birds. Continue on to the landlocked Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland), rife with beautiful mountain scenery, game reserves, lush valleys, misty mountains, ancient rock formations, and plunging waterfalls. In the lower reaches of the country are unexpected expanses of sugar-cane farms and typical African bush. Explore Gobholo Cave, possibly the largest granite cave in the world. Headlamps, helmets, and overalls will be provided to make your exploration safe and enjoyable. Expect belly crawls, crouches, and rock scrambles throughout your caving adventure. Unwind at a nearby hot springs for a soak and a casual dinner.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour private transfer

ACTIVITY: 2-hour wildlife cruise, 45-minute easy walk to caves, 2-hour caving experience



Sibebe Rock & Safari in Kruger National Park

Gear up for a morning hike to the impressive Sibebe Rock, a 3-billion year old geologic wonder. Expect incredibly beautiful vistas, waterfalls, and cave paintings. Orchids and wildflowers usually carpet the grasslands and for birders, catching a glimpse of rare blue swallows is a highlight. Drive to a private concession within the southern part of Kruger National Park, an enormous wilderness area. The topography, vegetation, and game vary dramatically from south to north in the park. The park's southern part sees the most rainfall and denser animal numbers. Set out for an afternoon game drive. Your guide will seek out the impressive Big Five - leopard, lion, rhino, elephant, and buffalo - plus antelope and other exciting game, as well as an incredible 420 species of bird.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-hour private transfer

ACTIVITY: Morning hike, afternoon game drive



Spot the Big Five in Kruger National Park

Another full-day safari in Kruger. Expert guides and trackers share their knowledge of these animals with you on today's safari adventure, which comprises morning and afternoon game drives. Hear the whooping of hyenas, the reverberating roar of a lion, the loud grunting of hippos, the majestic trumpeting of elephants, or the peaceful call of the fish eagle...this is African wildlife at its finest!

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Two game drives



Bid Farewell to Kruger and South Africa

After a final morning game drive and breakfast, say farewell to the bush and drive to Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport for your outbound flight home. Enjoy your wonderful memories of this MT Sobek safari!

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

TRANSPORTATION: 5.5-hour private transfer

ACTIVITY: Game drive



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

African Rock Hotel

A lovely boutique hotel with just 11 rooms awaits you in a quiet suburb close to Johannesburg International Airport. Stylish interiors include amenities such as air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, and satellite TV. Guests receive a complimentary 15-minute shoulder massage to unwind after long flights, and a swimming pool and spa offer further relaxation. The Blue Hippo Restaurant features African fusion cuisine with indoor and patio seating, or room service.

Cavern Resort & Spa

Named after the infamous Cannibal Cavern, this family-run resort is nestled in the foothills of the Northern Drakensberg, a place of captivating beauty, and surrounded by lush indigenous forests and clear streams. Once a humble rustic homestead, today the Cavern is a lovely resort with rooms set amidst manicured gardens and a spa offering myriad soothing treatments.

Montusi Mountain Lodge

Get the full Northern Drakensberg experience at Montusi Mountain Lodge, dedicated to the conservation of the area and its wildlife. Montusi boasts the privilege of space, with 16 suites set in open gardens, each with spectacular views of the famous Amphitheatre escarpment and surrounding mountains. Local, award-winning cuisine is served in the intimate restaurant.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Premier Resort Sani Pass

This stunning resort in the Southern Drakensberg, nestled at the foot of Sani Pass, offers guests incredibly scenic accommodation. Contemporary, spacious rooms provide breathtaking mountain views, as does the restaurant, which serves a breakfast buffet, a midday "terrace menu," and themed dinners. Family-friendly activities including hiking, biking, 4x4 excursions, and pony rides for kids.

Moorcraft Manor Boutique Country Hotel

Nestled at the foot of Africa's highest mountain range, Moorcraft Manor comprises 12 delightful rooms. Each room has a private verandah, stunning views of the grasslands and Drakensberg Mountains, and access to the lush surrounding gardens. Rooms include luxury bedding, Wi-Fi, DSTV, and complimentary sherry. The restaurant features locally sourced ingredients on a seasonal menu and a selection of South African wines for pairing.

Protea Hotel Umhlanga

With spectacular views overlooking the KwaZulu-Natal coast, Protea Hotel uMhlanga is a modern property just a few minutes away from the beach. Its 260 guest rooms have air-conditioning, minibar, complimentary Wi-Fi and stylish furnishings. Most have partial sea views. When you are not out exploring, there is a plunge pool and fitness center to entice you, and an onsite restaurant serving delicious fare.

Ghost Mountain Inn

At the foot of legendary Ghost Mountain lies this country-style inn. This welcoming, four-star family hotel and spa is central to many Zululand and coastal reserves. Shrouded in mystery and folklore, the historical mountain stands sentry over the hotel's open-plan central areas. Light, airy guest spaces maximize the scenic environs, and rooms have furnished patios from which to experience the rhythm of Africa.

Summerfield Botanical Garden & Exclusive Resort

Nestled within the idyllic garden enclave of the Summerfield Botanical Garden, the eponymous resort is a luxurious boutique hotel with an environment that captures the proud traditions and gentle charm of the Kingdom of Swaziland. Creatively designed and artistically decorated accommodations boast garden or mountain vistas, the restaurant offers elegant fine dining and informal alfresco meals, and the hospitality is world-class.

Lukimbi Safari Lodge

At Lukimbi, you feel part of nature from the moment you arrive. Situated along the Lwakahle River in a private concession in southern Kruger, the slightly elevated lodge makes the most of the panoramas. Rich colors and textures evoke the local culture and energy, and its 16 well-appointed suites — reached via walkways — have private decks with river outlooks.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: June, September

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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