

**SOUTHERN SKY
ADVENTURES**
IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS



KAROO QUEST:

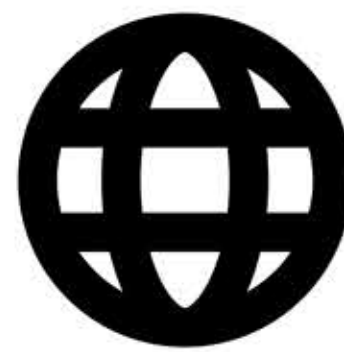
Unveiling the Secrets of South
Africa's Heartland



Student Adventure Trip



Adventure into the
vast Karoo



www.southernskyadventures.com



14 Days / 13
Nights



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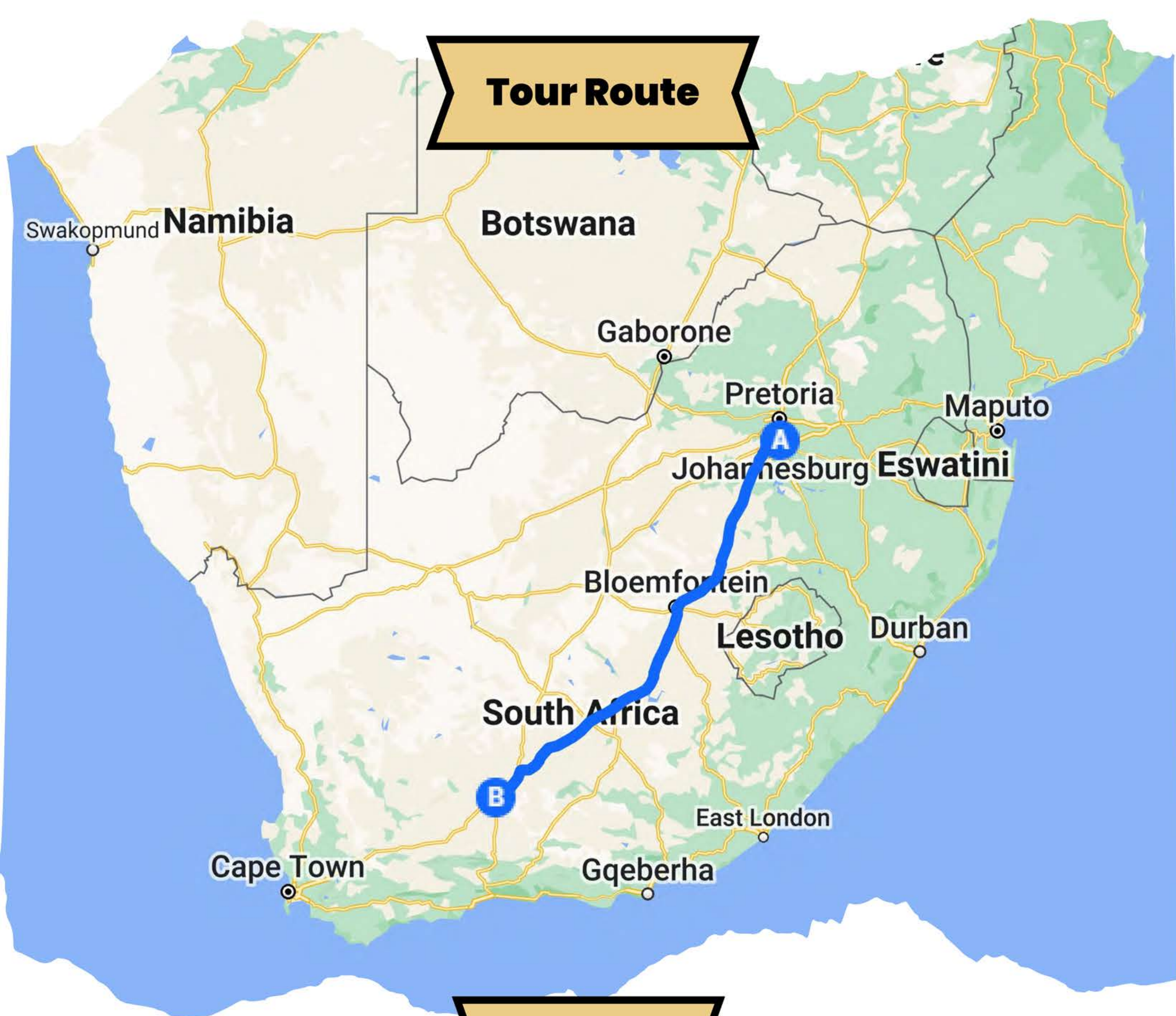
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WHY VISIT THE KAROO?



From adventurous outdoor activities, such as hiking and starlit safaris, to peaceful moments of reflection and rejuvenation, the Karoo caters to every traveller's desires. Whether you seek solitude, adventure, or an authentic encounter with the soul of South Africa. The Karoo is renowned for its clear skies and low light pollution, making it an ideal destination for stargazing. It is rich in ancient fossils, including those of dinosaurs and early mammals. Some of the world's most significant fossil discoveries have been made here. Despite its arid nature, the Karoo supports a surprising variety of plant and animal life, including unique species that have adapted to the harsh environment. Many Karoo towns and lodges offer farm-to-table dining experiences, allowing visitors to savor locally sourced and traditional South African cuisine. It is dotted with charming towns and villages that offer a glimpse into the region's history and culture. It also boasts a diverse range of landscapes, from vast open plains to rugged mountains, deep canyons, and dramatic rock formations. The Karoo promises to be an unforgettable destination that will leave you with cherished memories and a longing to return.

Tour Route



Day to Day

Day 1

The Arrival will be at O.R. Tambo International Airport. Students will be met by their driver and will embark on a one hour drive to Hayward's Game Lodge. Then it's time to unpack, settle in and relax.



Day 2

An adventurous day begins with a vehicle ride at 6:00 am, while it's still dark, to witness lively animal activity as the sun rises. Pause for a cup of hot coffee or tea and delicious treats, while listening to the birds' chorus at dawn. Back on the vehicle, you will again have the opportunity to see a variety of wildlife in their natural habitat. After the game drive, you will be able to enjoy a delightful brunch at the lodge.



Day to Day

Day 3

Today will be much like the previous, as you will climb back onto the game drive vehicle, your heart pounding with excitement for the afternoon adventure. After a brief stop to witness the majestic sun setting on the horizon, you will get back on the vehicle, watching active animals before returning to the lodge for the evening activity and meal.



Day 5



This will be your first horseback riding lesson. Today, you will meet the horses and begin with the basics of horse handling. The main focus is to work towards grooming the horse and building a bond of trust with it. This program is designed to transform your state of mind into one of self-awareness.

Day 7

Today, you will have the chance to experience a delightful blend of authentic Karoo meals, warm hospitality, encounters with desert wildlife, and exceptional fishing opportunities.

There are also thrilling activities awaiting you on the Orange River. The canoeing adventure takes you through the last 27 km of the Gariep River, featuring mild rapids and serene pools before it flows into Vander Kloof Dam.



Day 4

The next 10 days will be in the Northern Karoo, upon arrival and settling in, you will embark on an exciting sunset drive, keeping an eye out for hippos and buffalo. After dinner you will have the opportunity to join a fascinating night drive, where you'll get a chance to encounter the "Shy-5".



Day 6

Today you will visit two kindergarten schools in the local rural community of Hanover and get involved with the Community Service Project.

These projects provide a unique experience for students to grow and engage in an unfamiliar setting.



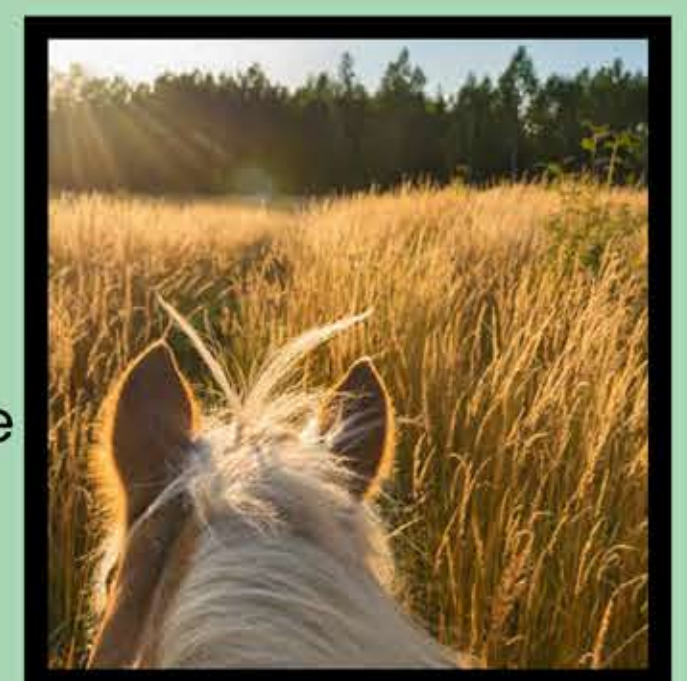
Day 8



Today the adventure continues on the Orange river. You will embark on the final 15 km row to the Doornkloof Nature Reserve. After 2 full days of fishing and rowing, you will return to the Karoo Guest House.

Day 9

Today you will enjoy a second opportunity with your horse. At the end of the theoretical training you will have an opportunity to apply these new skills in a practical way, by riding your horse in a small arena.



Day to Day

Day 10

Today you will have the privilege and opportunity to uplift and help the local communities as they continue with the community service project.



Day 12

Today will be your last day participating in the community service projects. Make this last one count and be sure to leave an impact.



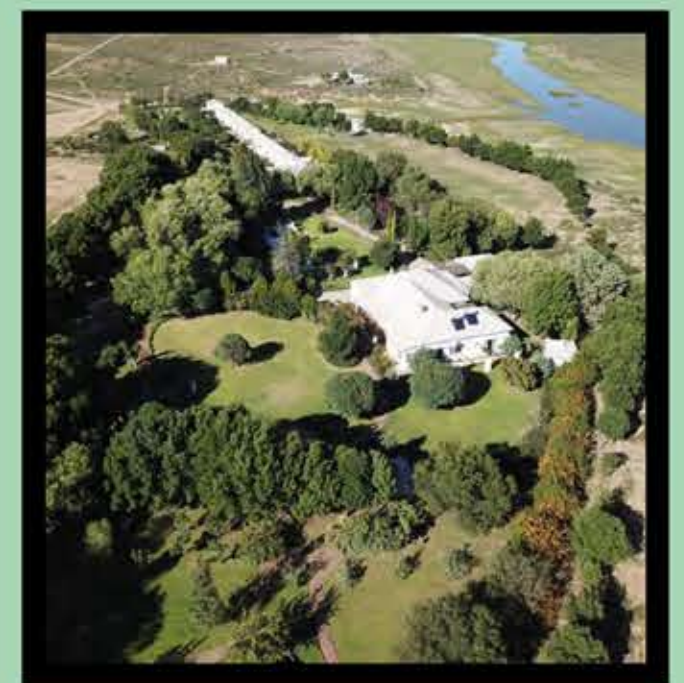
Day 11

You will start your day with an early morning wake-up call, preparing for an exciting morning birding drive. As you venture through the magnificent landscape, you will have the opportunity to capture stunning wildlife pictures and gather valuable data. Upon returning to the lodge at 10 am, you will have breakfast. Afterwards, a captivating Khoi etching walk awaits – a 10km drive and a 1 km walk through nature's wonders. This journey offers an excellent opportunity to capture more pictures of insects, butterflies, birds, and animals, all of which can be uploaded later in the evening at the lodge.



Day 13+14

The most thrilling day lies ahead of you – one night of surviving in the wild. You will light a campfire and enjoy a Karoo lamb "braai" (barbecue) under the pitch-black African skies, which offer phenomenal stargazing with no city lights in sight. The following morning, after breakfast, you will depart for OR-Tambo International Airport to catch your flight back home.



THE SHY-5... Who & what are they?

South Africa's renowned Big 5, including elephants, buffaloes, rhinos, lions, and leopards, are easily recognizable and observed. In contrast, the Shy 5, a lesser-known ensemble consisting of the Black-footed cat, aardvark, Cape porcupine, aardwolf, and bat-eared fox, captivate with their elusive tendencies. These adept creatures swiftly retreat to protective burrows at the slightest sign of danger, offering rare yet rewarding viewing experiences. While they are nocturnal, these intriguing beings inhabit various corners of southern Africa, with the Karoo and Kalahari Deserts providing optimal chances to encounter all five during a single game drive. Among them, the aardvark stands out as a resilient solitary digger, adept at demolishing termite mounds, while the porcupine's sharp quills serve as defense mechanisms. The aardwolf's termite diet and unique deterrent tactics defy its hyena-like appearance, and the bat-eared fox's exceptional hearing aids in its insect-hunting endeavors. Although less famous, the Shy 5's captivating behaviors and habitats offer a hidden gem for those seeking a profound connection with Africa's wildlife.

Aardvark

Their snout is used for sniffing out insects, their primary source of food. They are excellent diggers, using their sharp claws to excavate burrows that serve as shelter and protection from predators.



Aardwolf

They look like small hyenas, but unlike hyenas they eat only termites. They also puff out their manes and emit intimidating roars to deter potential threats.



Black-footed cat

This is one of the smallest wild cat species. They are carnivorous predators and have a diet that consists mainly of small mammals, particularly rodents and small birds. They are solitary animals and are highly territorial. Female black-footed cats give birth to litters of one to four kittens after a gestation period of about 63 to 68 days.



Bat-eared fox

Their ears are highly sensitive and play a crucial role in locating insects. They are generally social animals, living in family groups. Their kidneys are also highly efficient at conserving water, and are adapted for arid environments.



Cape Porcupine

Their quills are their most recognizable feature and can be raised as a defense mechanism when they feel threatened. They are solitary animals with a herbivorous diet, consisting mainly of plant material.



TERMS

Included

- Accommodation as per schedule
- Meals as indicated
- Game Park Fees
- Activities as indicated
- Services of guide with vehicle, fuel & taxes

Excluded

- Visas
- Meals not indicated
- Activities not Indicated
- Drinks, Gratuities, Personal Spending
- International flights

Terms & conditions subject to change

...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS...

*All itineraries can be adjusted/customised to suit your specific needs

ABOUT Us

Southern Sky Adventures

For almost two decades Southern Sky Adventures has introduced discerning travellers to the sheer magnificence of AFRICA. A land of warm welcomes, breath-taking sunsets, pristine wilderness areas and diversity as colourful as the local artwork.

Our tailormade- and expertly-guided safaris showcase Africa's finest hidden gems, the elusive BIG 5, wild remote locations and a natural space to unplug from the stress of modern-day living. We pride ourselves on the delivery of exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime and truly memorable travel experiences for not only families, honeymooners and friends but also business travellers, school- & university groups and adventure seekers. Although passionate about travel, we care deeply for the preservation of these untouched wild areas, the inhabiting wildlife and the surrounding communities.

Sit back, relax and allow our team of destination specialists to design and deliver your dream vacation!



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