

SOUTHERN SKY ADVENTURES

IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS



NATAL ESCAPE:

Discover the Wonders of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa



Student Adventure Trip



Unbelievable
Scenery



www.southernskyadventures.com



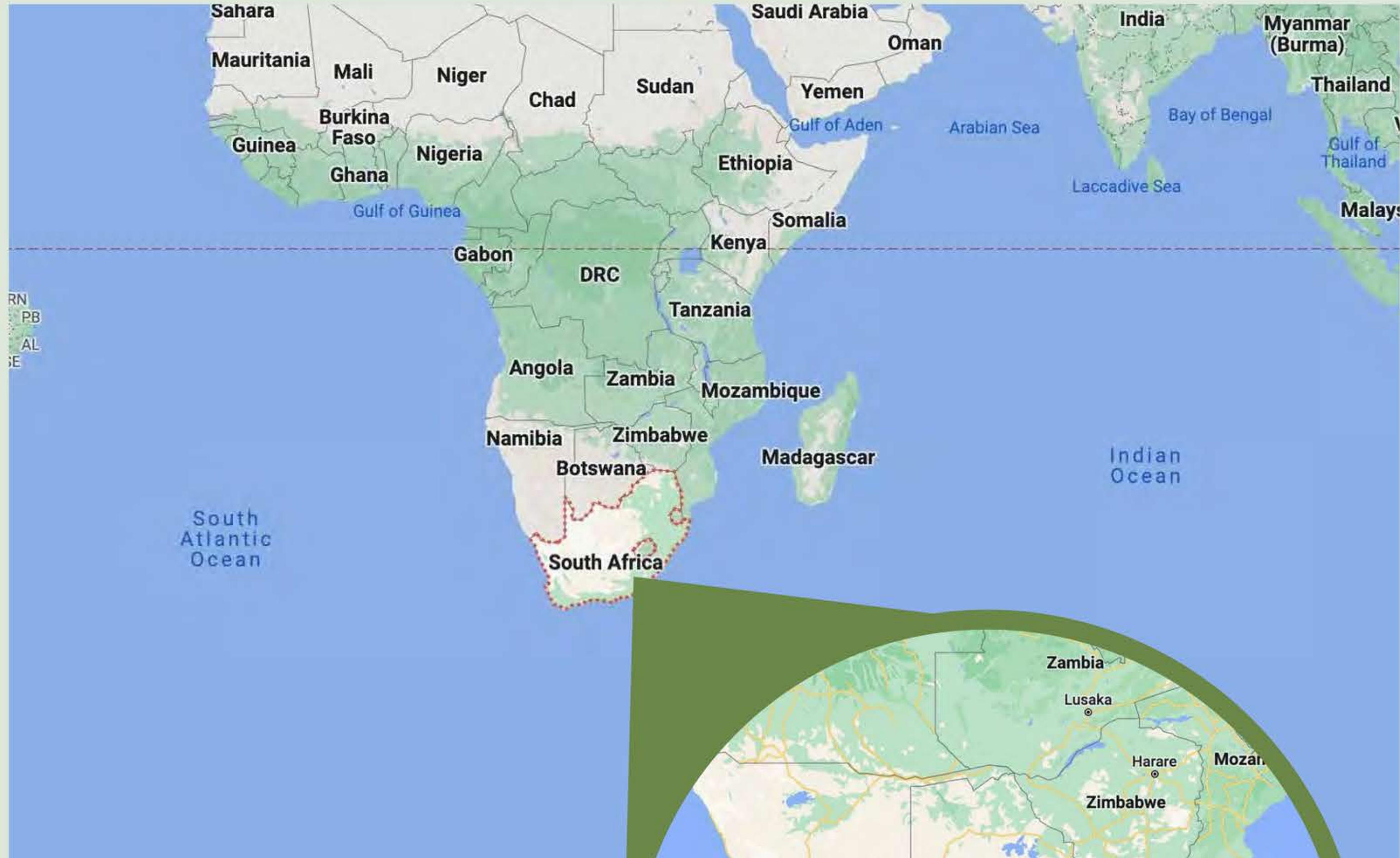
17 Days / 16
Nights



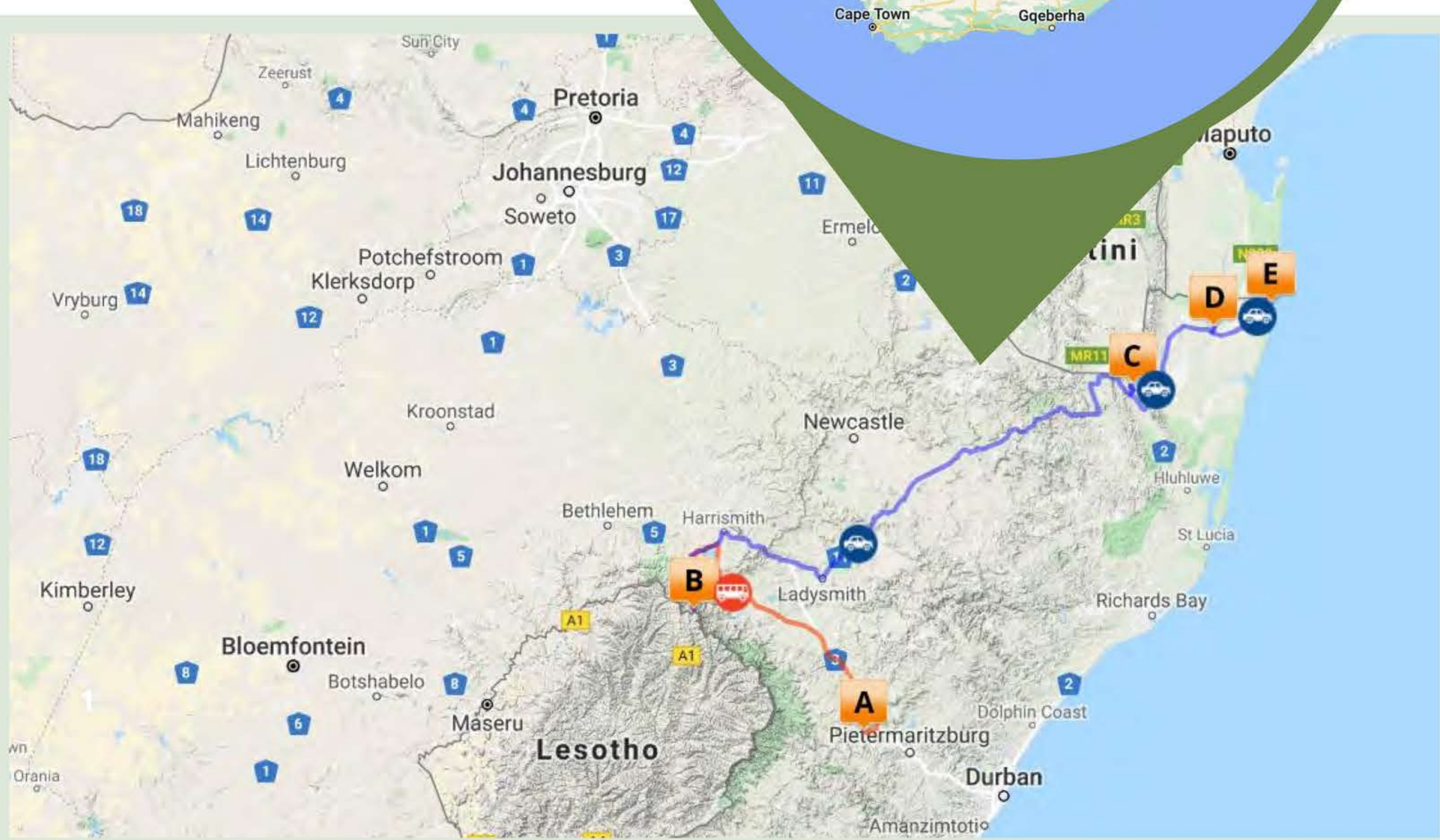
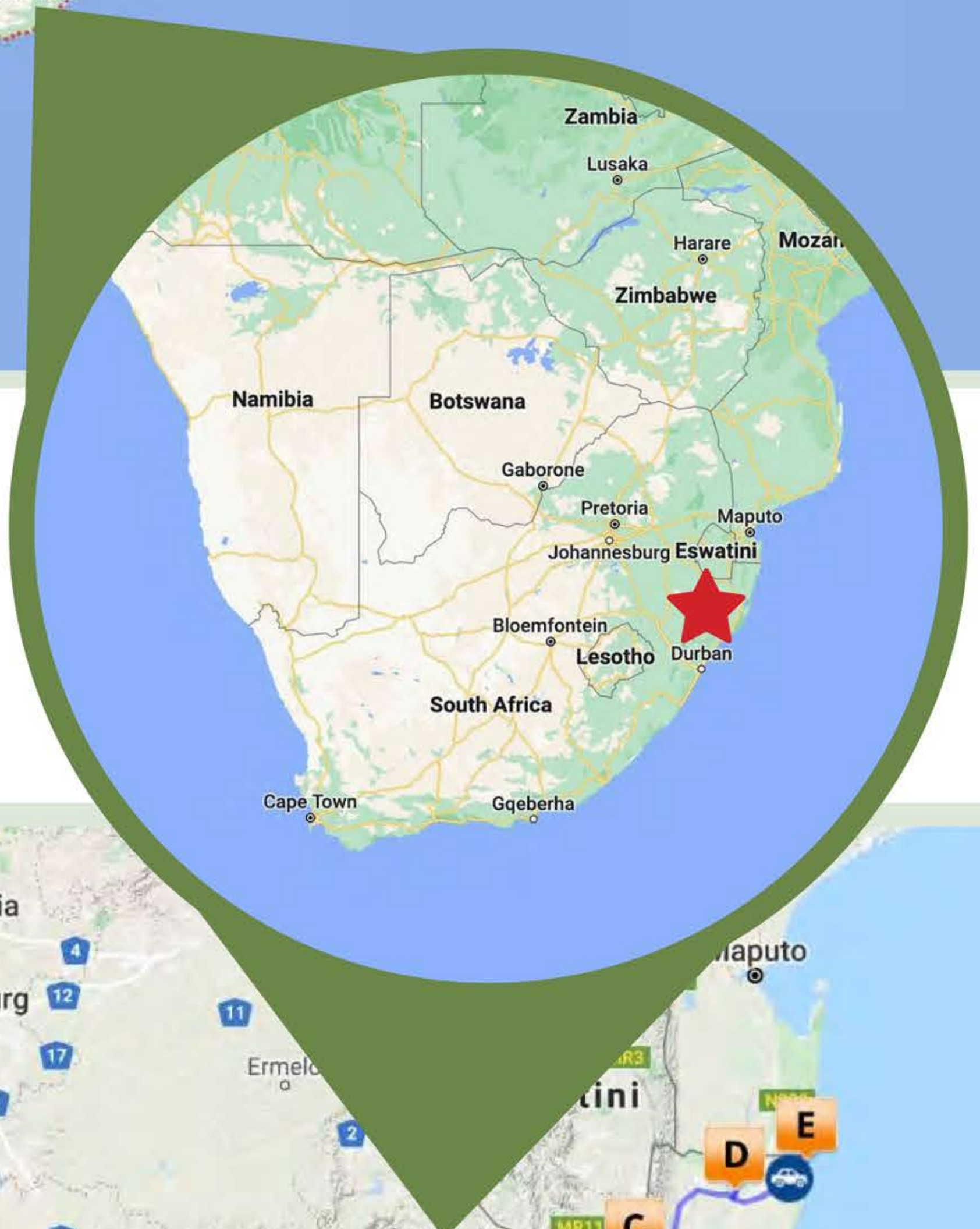
+1 (770) 324-0068



info@southernskyadventures.com
schools@ssa.email

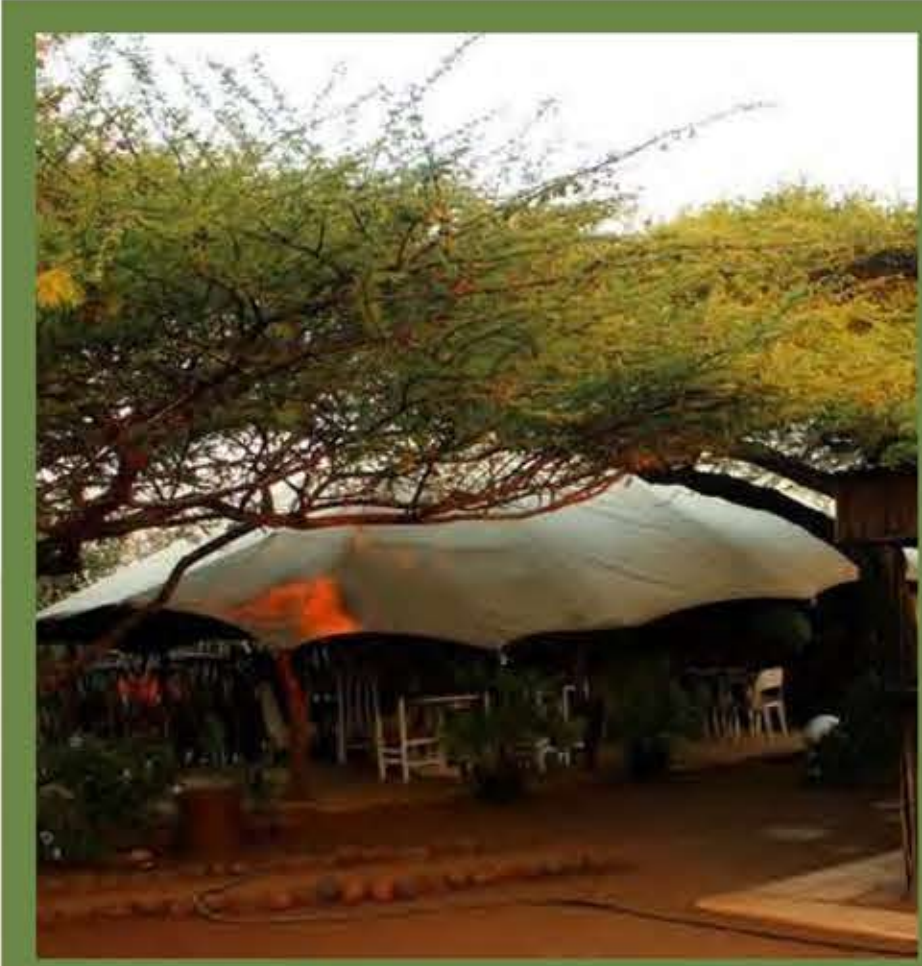


Tour Route



Accommodation

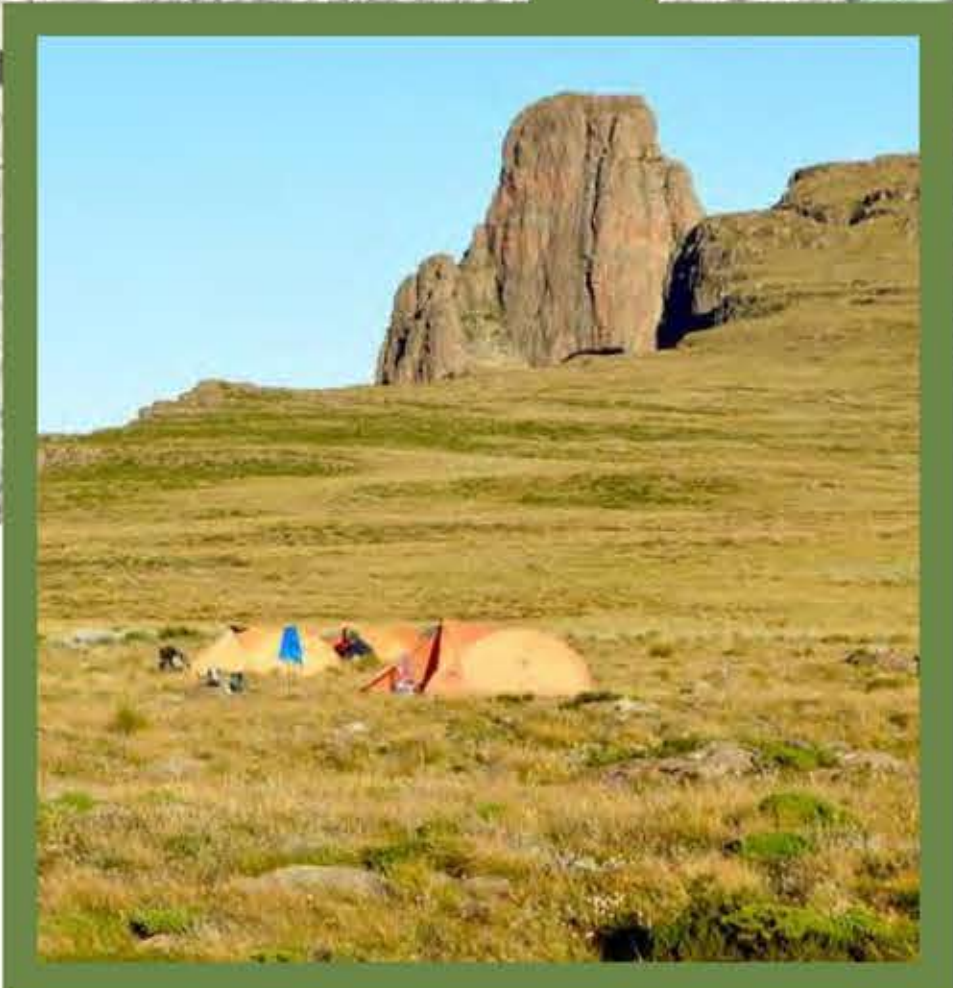
White Elephant Research Camp



Royal Thonga Safari Lodge



Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp



Drakensberg Amphitheatre



Old Kilgobbin Cottages

Day to Day

Day 1

You will arrive at King Shaka International Airport. After passing through customs and collecting your baggage, you will be greeted by your driver. Your transfer to Old Kilgobbin Cottages in the Midlands Meander will take approximately two hours, bringing you to your destination in the late afternoon. Upon arrival, you will have ample time to unpack, settle in, and relax before dinner, which will be served in the barn. You can allow yourself to get comfortable as the Old Kilgobbin Cottages will be your home for the next few days.



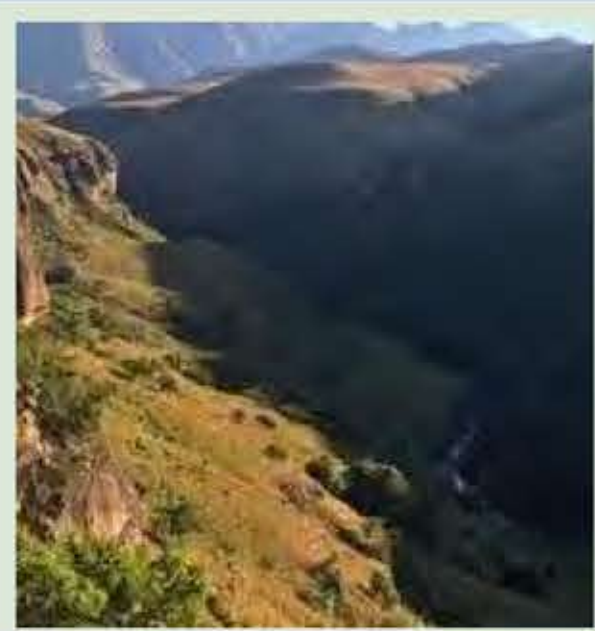
Day 3

After breakfast, you will gather at the main arena for a series of morning activities with the horses. After tea, there will be activities such as moving horses, an obstacle course, and a Horse Box Demo. After lunch, the afternoon activities will commence, featuring a Liberty Demonstration, a Chain Equine Facilitated Learning Exercise (EFL) and the Safe House EFL Exercise. The day will be busy and productive, allowing for some free time after the afternoon activities. Dinner will be served in the barn, followed by a movie and a relaxed evening.



Day 5

The path descends from Stable Cave, following Hospitaalspruit into the remote Little Drakensberg. You will travel along the Mhlawazini River for about five kilometers before entering Didima Special Conservation area, famous for its caves with stunning Bushman paintings. Passing through a picturesque forest with cascades, pools, and waterfalls, our route leads us to Poachers Cave, which boasts a breathtaking view. You will prepare lunch and dinner, and settle in for another sleep out under the stars.



Day 2



After breakfast, you will go on a walk through the Kilgobbin Forest, passing by the Boma at the top of the hill and making your way to the horses' habitat, a designated nature reserve and heritage site. A mid-morning snack will be provided near the horses, followed by an introduction to safety, herd dynamics, awareness, and trust. You will have 30 minutes to interact with the horses without halters, allowing the horses to choose whether to engage or not. Horseplay sessions offer an opportunity to explore enriching relationships not only with horses but also with people. Afterwards, you will find a spot for solitude and mindfulness to reflect. Lunch will be enjoyed back at the cottage. In the afternoon, you will create a Vision Board, showcasing the connection between people, horses, and the environment. There will be free time before supper, which will be served at Il Postino.

Day 4

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Royal Natal National Park for an exciting 4-day hike. Upon arrival, there will be a Meet & Greet with Gustav and the Itchyfeet South Africa team, followed by an introduction to hiking and the collection of hiking gear. Day 1 of the hike will take place in the Royal Natal National Park, starting from Monks Cowl in the Central Drakensberg. The route includes notable landmarks such as Crystal Falls, the Sphinx, Breakfast Stream, and various High Drakensberg features. The path leads to Stable Cave in the Culfargie Area of the Central Drakensberg, where you will prepare both lunch and dinner. After dinner, you will get ready for a sleep out under the beautiful night sky.



Day to Day

Day 6



The path ascends, drawing closer to the majestic High Drakensberg and Cathedral Peak. After crossing the rushing Didima River, an exhilarating steep climb awaits us up Phillip's Folley, revealing awe-inspiring views of Windsor Castle,

Little Saddle, Ndumeni Dome, Thuthumi Pass, Castle Buttress, and Cleft Peak. Upon reaching the summit of Phillip's Folley, the path merges with an old Natal Parks Board/Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife service road. It eventually joins Mikes Pass, a once thrilling 4x4 drive named after its designer, Mike de Villiers, now closed to public vehicles. Atop the pass and Arendsig Car Park, panoramic vistas unfold, showcasing the entire Cathedral Range to the north. You will prepare lunch and dinner, and accommodation for the night will be another adventurous sleep out at The Old Staff Accommodation, an abandoned ruin.

Day 8

After a triumphant 4-day hike in the breathtaking Royal Natal National Park, the adventure carries on. Today, you will journey to Pongola Game Reserve, where the afternoon will be dedicated to unpacking and settling into this new environment. As the sun sets, a thrilling orientation and program discussion awaits, fuelling your excitement for the upcoming days.

Accommodation will be at base camp, named "Fly camp", which will provide a comfortable mattress for a well-deserved rest after the recent challenging hike. Embrace the luxury after roughing it in the wilderness!



Day 7

You will embark on an exhilarating day of descent down Mikes Pass, conquering the summit of the Little Berg. Along the way, you'll encounter the Cabalala Hut, a favored shelter for hikers, climbers, and adventurers seeking the thrill of the outdoors. Approximately halfway down, the path veers off to the abseil site, adding an extra element of excitement. After completing the abseil, the path rejoins the pass, leading you to the grand finale at the Education Centre in Cathedral Peak. You will prepare lunch and dinner, adding to the spirit of self-sufficiency and adventure. Your accommodation for the night will be a daring sleep out, immersing yourself in the wilderness.



Day 9

You will fuel up with a cold breakfast before diving into a day of adventure. Group A will explore the local ecology through an educational bushwalk, uncovering the geological influences on soil, climate, and vegetation.



Meanwhile, Group B will engage in practical telemetry monitoring, tracking a study animal in the reserve and collecting valuable data. After a cooked brunch, Group A will delve into camera traps and leopard monitoring, analyzing data to identify individual leopards. Group B will contribute to conservation efforts by combating the invasive prickly pear and soil erosion. You will enjoy a satisfying lunch break before swapping activities in the afternoon. After dinner, Group A will embark on a thrilling Night Drive to observe nocturnal wildlife, while Group B will enjoy the campfire's warmth. Get ready for an evening of exciting encounters and captivating discoveries in the untamed wilderness.



Day to Day

Day 10



Today you get ready for another action-packed day. Group A will go on an educational bushwalk, unraveling biodiversity and ecosystems. Group B will do a thrilling game count, learning about population census methods.

After a mid-morning break and cooked breakfast, both groups will enjoy a Lake Boat Cruise, observing elephants and lots of other wildlife. You will have lunch at the lodge and swap activities for the afternoon. Group A will relax by the campfire, while Group B goes on a Night Drive. Brace yourself for adventure, education, and unforgettable wildlife encounters!

Day 12

Wake up early and hike back to base camp for a warm breakfast. Depart for the Village Introduction and Community Service Project after midday. Enjoy a traditional lunch and engage in meaningful projects that promote mutual benefit, cultural exchange, and skill development. Reflect on the day's accomplishments over a traditional dinner and stay at a homestay for an authentic experience.



Day 14

You will enjoy a well-deserved rest in the morning, followed by a traditional breakfast. After a visit to a traditional healer, you will head to Royal Thonga Safari Lodge for an immersive experience in the wilderness. Embrace the serenity and beauty of the lodge during your stay.



Day 11

You start your next adventurous day with a satisfying breakfast before immersing yourself in a variety of thrilling group activities. You will explore wildlife survival strategies during an educational game drive,



where you will witness the remarkable techniques that birds and animals employ to thrive in their environment. You will engage in a comprehensive Bush Skills program, gaining hands-on experience in tracking, bush veld ecology, mammal and bird identification, tree and plant knowledge, and anti-poaching skills. After enjoying a cooked brunch, you'll participate in a conservation service project, which contributes to ongoing efforts such as eradicating invasive species and controlling soil erosion. Alternatively, join the Camera Traps & Leopard Monitoring activity to learn about camera trap technology and analyze valuable wildlife data. After a delicious lunch at the lodge, you'll embark on a hike to a sleep out and camp activity spot. You will spend a night under the stars in temporary shelters, tending a campfire, and keeping a night watch. You will delight in a memorable dinner, gaze at the night skies, and marvel at the constellations visible in the southern hemisphere. You'll have a sleep out in the untamed wilderness.

Day 13

In the morning, you will indulge in a peaceful morning of rest and savor a delicious traditional breakfast to energize for the day ahead. Following breakfast and a satisfying traditional lunch, the community service projects will kick off in full swing, with engaging activities planned for the morning and afternoon. As the sun sets, take a moment to reflect on the meaningful work accomplished and the connections made during the day, while relishing a specially prepared dinner. You will rest in a comfortable homestay accommodation for the night, which offers authentic local living.



Day to Day

Day 15

You will check out of your accommodation and embark on an exciting journey to Kosi Bay, settling in and enjoying a delicious lunch with free time. The scenic transfer to Kosi Bay Mouth Camp offers breath-taking landscapes during the approximately 3-hour drive. In the afternoon, you will experience an expertly guided hike, led by a knowledgeable local guide, exploring hidden treasures and stunning views of the estuary, beach, fish traps, and lakes. After a satisfying dinner, you will relax and recharge for the next day's adventures at Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp, a comfortable and tranquil accommodation.



Day 17

As the sun rises on your final morning, you will savor a well-deserved sleep-in, waking up to a tantalizing cooked breakfast before embarking on our journey to the airport. We hope that this adventure has ignited a flame within you, infusing your spirit with a newfound zest for life. May the rhythms of Africa echo in your heart, weaving tales of all the memories that you have made and will endure a lifetime. May this vast land forever hold a special place that you can escape to, and perhaps one day, a place you will proudly call home.



Day 16

You will indulge in a leisurely morning, followed by a delicious cooked breakfast, before embarking on an exhilarating Three Lakes Boat Cruise Tour at Kosi Bay. This tour is a definite highlight, starting at Lake 3 and navigating through interconnected lakes via picturesque channels. Over the 3-hour cruise, you will witness the renowned Tonga Fish Traps, encounter diverse bird species, and may even spot hippos. Snorkeling in the crystal-clear waters of one of the channels is an unforgettable experience, providing glimpses of Pel's Fishing Owl, Palm Nut Vulture, flamingos, and various Kingfisher species. After a satisfying lunch, you will partake in two afternoon activities: the Fish Trap Activity, where you will learn about traditional woven traps and palisade fish kraals, and snorkeling in the living reef within the estuary. The evening will be filled with a memorable dinner, followed by a Wrap Up Reflection & Feedback Session, ensuring a restful night's sleep at Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp, their accommodation for the night. The evening will be



filled with a memorable dinner, followed by a wrap-up reflection & feedback session, after which you will enjoy a restful night's sleep at Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Camp, accommodation for the night.



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!



Southern Sky
Adventures



www.southernskyadventures.com



@southernsky
adventures

