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## South Africa Extravaganza 2011: Three Countries!!

### Day 1 Arrive **Johannesburg**

Met and transfer to the **City Lodge** in Sandton. ([www.citylodge.co.za](http://www.citylodge.co.za)). Time to relax and freshen up, then this afternoon do an orientation tour of this pulsing, cosmopolitan city, including a visit to the incredible new Constitutional Court complex, built on top of (and using the materials of) a former Apartheid-era prison!

Day 2 Depart Johannesburg and head north-west into the real African bushveld of the Limpopo Province. To the **Mopane Bush Lodge**, about 50km west of the border town of **Mussina**. ([www.mopanebushlodge.co.za](http://www.mopanebushlodge.co.za)). Afternoon at leisure - some wonderful hikes on the property (the lodge is situated within the Mapesu Nature Reserve and Game Ranch). Dinner at the lodge - in the boma under the stars. Meals included : breakfast, dinner.

Day 3 **Mopane Bush Lodge**. Full day visit to the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site and National Park. Includes a guided tour of Mapungubwe Hill (site of the first African Kingdom based on gold mining, which reached its climax in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, predating Great Zimbabwe); and a game drive in the park - South Africa's newest, with spectacular views of the "great grey green greasy Limpopo River", dramatic scenery and massive sandstone cliffs. Elephants and other wildlife are in attendance! A picnic lunch en route - and return to the lodge mid-afternoon, with time to relax before dinner. Meals included : breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Day 4 After breakfast, travel south east, via the Soutpansberg Mountains and the Modjadekloof valley (home of the legendary "Rain Queen" or Modjadje) to the town of **Tzaneen**, set high amongst the tea and avocado estates of the Magoebaskloof Mountains. Overnight at the **Magoebaskloof Hotel** ([www.magoebaskloof.co.za](http://www.magoebaskloof.co.za)). Afternoon walk - waterfalls, mountains, indigenous forests, and perhaps the chance to see the rare Samango Monkey! Dinner in the hotel's excellent restaurant. Meals included : breakfast, dinner.

Day 5 We travel to the most northerly entrance to the **Kruger National Park**, the Pafuri gate. Visit the famed Crook's Corner, meeting-place of 3 countries - South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Game and bird-viewing drive along the

Luvuvhu River - magnificent tropical riverine forest terrain. Slow drive south to the northernmost restcamp, **Punda Maria**. ([www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org)) Late afternoon drive in the environs of the camp. A traditional South African "braaivleis" (barbecue) dinner under the stars. Meals included : breakfast, dinner.

Day 6 **Kruger National Park**. A slow drive south through classic savanna terrain, game-viewing en route, to the **Olifants Rest Camp**, overlooking the Olifants River. Accommodation in comfortable, air-conditioned, en suite bungalows. Time to relax before heading out again on a late afternoon / evening game drive in search of Africa's "Big Five". Return to camp for a braai dinner. Meals : breakfast, dinner.

Day 7 A slow drive, game-viewing en route, to the **Satara Rest Camp**. Time to relax before heading out again on a late afternoon / evening game drive. Meals included : breakfast, braai dinner.

Day 8 **Kruger National Park**. Travel south to the **Lower Sabie Rest Camp**. Time to relax at the view-sites overlooking the Sabie River, looking out for game coming to slake their thirsts. An afternoon game drive in the vicinity of the camp.

Meals included : breakfast, braai dinner.

Day 9 Time for another country! After an early breakfast, we travel south through the park, game viewing en route, to the Crocodile Bridge Gate. Then we continue east via the Ressano Garcia border post into Mozambique, tropical paradise of Southern Africa. On arrival in the capital, **Maputo**, check in at the **Cardoso Hotel**, overlooking Maputo Bay. ([www.hotelcardoso.co.mz](http://www.hotelcardoso.co.mz)). Time to relax around the pool or take a stroll through the vibrant streets, with their strongly Latin feel. Dinner tonight at one of the restaurants on the Costa da Sol sea-front.

Meals included : breakfast.

Day 10 **Maputo**. After a leisurely breakfast, it's time to enjoy a largely walking tour through the central city area. Maputo is a fascinating city, almost schizophrenic, with a mix of colonial, socialist, African and modern architecture and culture. Highlights of the tour include visits to the Natural History Museum, the *Cathedral of Nossa Senhora da Conceicao*, *Jardim Tunduru* (botanical gardens), the Iron House (designed by Eiffel of the Tower fame!), the stunning Railway Station, the lively *Mercado Municipal* (municipal fresh produce market) and the old Portuguese fort. Return to the hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure.

Meals: breakfast.

Day 11 **Maputo**. Island-hopping day! We take a boat to two islands at the entrance to Maputo Bay – a mere 1 hour boat ride from the city's harbor.

**Portuguese Island** - a tiny, uninhabited haven, this protected reserve is home to countless birds, exotic marine life and wide, unspoiled beaches. Hidden lagoons and mangrove trees all add to the magic of this beautiful place. **Inhaca Island** - a small, inhabited island, it has a wealth of breathtaking beaches and it offers some of the best scuba diving and big-game fishing in the world. The island also features large areas of unspoiled evergreen forest and bush land. Return to Maputo in the late afternoon. Meals included : breakfast, lunch.

Day 12 Today we travel via the villages of Boane and Namaacha to the border post with Swaziland (that's country number 3!), one of the smallest countries in Africa, and one of only three monarchies on the continent. Via the lowveld sugar estates and the Hlane Royal National Park to the beautiful Ezulwini Valley, just south of the capital, **Mbabane**, for a visit to *Baobab Batik*, *Rosecraft Weaving* and the *Swazi Candle Factory* for a sample of the country's wares. On to **Mantenga Lodge** for overnight. ([www.mantengalodge.com](http://www.mantengalodge.com)). Meals : breakfast, dinner.

Day 13 After a visit to the Ngwenya Glass Factory and craft village, we depart Swaziland and travel north to the town of Hazyview, then up the Drakensberg escarpment to the town of **Graskop**.

**Graskop Hotel**. ([www.graskophotel.co.za](http://www.graskophotel.co.za)) Meals included : breakfast.

Day 14 **Graskop**. A full day exploring the beautiful "Panorama Route" area of the Mpumalanga province – including the Blyde River Canyon, the Bourke's Luck Potholes, one or two of the waterfalls in the area, and the restored 19<sup>th</sup> century gold-mining village of Pilgrim's Rest.

Meals included : breakfast.

Day 15 Travel via the Long Tom Mountain Pass, the trout-fishing resorts of Dullstroom and Belfast, and the Highveld maize and cattle-farming region to **Johannesburg**. To the **City Lodge** in Sandton.

([www.citylodge.co.za](http://www.citylodge.co.za))

Meals included : breakfast.

Day 16 **Depart**

Transfer to Johannesburg International Airport for return flight.

**Prices: \$4390 per person, single room supplement \$750**

**INCLUDES** Accommodation, meals, activities and entrance fees as per itinerary; transport in an air-conditioned vehicle; fuel; the services of a SATOUR-accredited driver-guide throughout.

**EXCLUDES** International flights; meals not listed; all drinks; optional extras; items of a personal nature; gratuities and portorage; personal Travel and Medical Insurance.

Extension to Victoria Falls: Please inquire!