

Walking the Drakensberg and the Wild Coast of South Africa

Trip Code: WDC

Version:



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Day walks in the famous Drakensberg Mountains, including the Tugela Gorge Trail
- 3 days walking along the remote and unspoilt Wild Coast of South Africa
- See San Bushman Rock Art and visit the Nelson Mandela Capture Site

- Walk in the Golden Gate National Park, up Brandwag Rock and into Echo Ravine

AT A GLANCE

- 7 day walks
- Join at Johannesburg, ends in Durban

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

This outstanding series of day walks in the Drakensberg and on the Wild Coast in South Africa is a true gem. Having sought out these splendid walks we have combined them with comfortable accommodation to ensure that this walking holiday ticks all the boxes for a delightful time away. Our first stop is the Golden Gate National Park where we have a sunset walk on Brandwag Rock and take the Echo Falls Trail. Moving on to the stunning and rightfully famous, Drakensberg Mountains, we walk in the Tugela Gorge, see the Amphitheatre, and the region surrounding Cathedral Peak with its carved sandstone buttresses. The landscapes are rugged, with natural pools and glowing rocks as the sun lights them up. Our holiday ends on the Wild Coast where we have 3 nights in a lodge and enjoy some day walks in this lesser known part of the country. The well named, Wild Coast has untouched white sandy beaches, cliffs and crashing waves - making the coastal path a stunner! Our journey ends in Durban after a fabulous walking holiday in this part of South Africa.

Is this holiday for you?

The essence of the holiday is to enjoy the walks and the wine, as well as the culture and food of South Africa. The trails that we follow are undulating or reasonably flat - except of course Table Mountain. They are well-marked and sometimes stony. Our accommodation has been handpicked to ensure comfort in small, well-appointed hotels and guesthouses. South Africa has a lovely Mediterranean climate and because of the time zone jet lag is not usually a problem flying from the UK.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Single timed airport transfers on arrival and departure
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All activities and excursions mentioned except where specified as optional
- National Park entrance fees

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

The group will meet at Johannesburg Airport.

A single timed transfer (5hrs) from the airport to the Drakensberg is included. You need to arrive into Johannesburg Airport at the latest time of 1130.

On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, we have a single timed transfer to Durban Airport for flights leaving in the early evening. Check out from the hotel is 10am, but you will be able to keep your luggage at the hotel and enjoy the beach and town before your flight.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Private arrival transfers are expensive due to the distances. A money saving tip might be to arrive the day before. Additional nights at an airport hotel are available. On the return, Durban Airport is not far from the hotel, so private transfers are available on request for different flight times.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals are included except for 5 lunches (including the lunch on day 1) and 1 dinner. The lunches can either be purchased in a picnic style from the accommodation or in a local cafe/restaurant. The dinner not included will be taken in a local restaurant.

Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as [Water-to-Go](#), which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader. Additionally there is a driver for the vehicle. When at the coast you will also have a local leader for the walks.

Spending Money

Approximately £250 per person (or equivalent in US dollars or Euros) should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks, non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses. Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and optional activities are additional so you may wish to budget for these.

You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros. There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at the airport and your local leader will advise the best places to change money en-route. Additionally, you will be able to get currency from bank ATMs in the towns that we will visit. Credit cards are useful and it is a good idea to carry one in case of emergency.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your leader and local team. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We recommend that you decide levels of tipping and give any tips as a group rather than from individual group members.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Please keep the weight of your main luggage to 20kg or less. You should bring a soft bag, as these are more suitable to pack in the vehicle. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

South Africa Indemnity Form

As a member of the South African Tourism Service Association, our ground agent in South Africa may require you to complete an indemnity form at the start of your holiday, which you will need your insurance details for. As a client of KE Adventure Travel, your rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Regulations (2018) are unaffected and KE Adventure Travel will remain liable for the actions of our suppliers.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Visa South Africa

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays. You must have 2 blank pages in your passport.

Rules on **travelling with children under 18 years** have been relaxed. Visa exempt children entering South Africa only need passports, and not birth certificates as previously required. This applies if the child is travelling with both parents, one parent or an adult who is not a biological parent, and school groups. There are some different requirements for unaccompanied children, and children who do not have UK passports or visa exempt passports. For full details please see the FCDO website.

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

Climate

South Africa has a generally sunny and pleasant climate, with regional differences due to the weather systems from the surrounding oceans and altitude above sea level. This area experiences most of its rainfall in the southern hemisphere summer, from October to March. From May through to August is drier, with long spells of mild, stable weather. However, cold fronts moving in from the south-west can bring rain and even snow-fall to the Drakensberg Mountains. Daytime temperatures range from around 10 - 20°C from April to September, to 20 - 30°C from October to March.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You should bring the following items:

- Walking boots
- Casual shoes / Sandals

- Socks & underwear
- Long lightweight trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof jacket & trousers
- T-shirts
- Casual shirts with sleeves
- Thermal base layer top
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Daypack 20-25 litres
- Dry bags to keep contents of day pack dry
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sunhat with wide brim
- Sunglasses
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries (biodegradable soap is preferred)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Insect repellent
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium),

painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, re-hydration salts (Dioralite), anti-nausea tablets and antihistamine cream/tablets.

The following items are optional:

- Travel clothes
- Binoculars
- Light cotton dress or sarong
- Shorts
- Spare laces
- Swimwear
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

Please be aware that in the Southern African winter months, June-September, the nights can be cold in some places. You may wish to take a hat and gloves, and an additional jacket during this period.

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining at Johannesburg Airport. The holiday ends at Durban Airport. Single timed airport transfers are provided.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Johannesburg Airport, and returning from Durban Airport.

Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the evening, arriving in the morning of the following day (Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Durban in the late afternoon of the last day of the itinerary, going via Johannesburg, and arriving in the UK the following morning.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

A unique KE itinerary combining a series of day walks in the splendid Drakensberg Mountains and the unspoilt and rural Wild Coast of South Africa.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change