

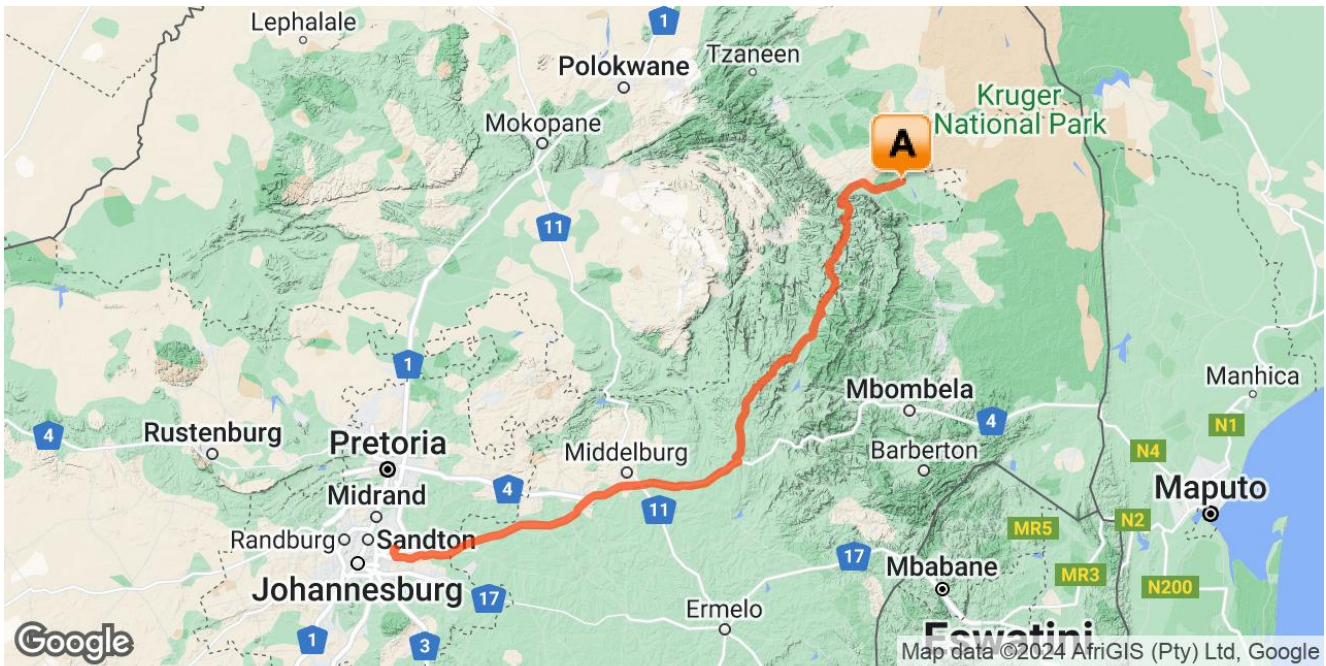
Group Tour (10 Persons)

| 08 August 2024 - 11 August 2024

Hoedspruit

Date of Issue: 25 May 2024

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4 Days / 3 Nights

Hoedspruit Wonders



Trip Summary

Dear Esteemed Guest,

Embark on a captivating journey through the picturesque town of Hoedspruit and its surrounding wonders with our exclusive Hoedspruit Wonders Itinerary. Nestled at the foothills of the majestic Drakensberg Mountains and surrounded by pristine wilderness, Hoedspruit offers a gateway to some of South Africa's most remarkable natural attractions.

Over the course of 3 days, you'll immerse yourself in the beauty and biodiversity of this enchanting region, from close encounters with majestic elephants to panoramic vistas of towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls. Led by experienced guides, you'll uncover the hidden gems and iconic landmarks that make Hoedspruit a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike.

Welcome to an adventure like no other, where every moment promises to inspire and delight.

With sincere regards and a passion for travel,

The Assured and Tailored Team

Date	Accommodation	Room Type and Basis
08 - 11 Aug	Aerotel (3 Nights) in Hoedspruit	B&B
11 Aug	End of Itinerary	B&B

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

| Price

R8950.00 Per Person

| Included

Return Transfers from OR Tambo International Airport

Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis

Blyde River Canyon Boat Cruise

Elephant Interaction

Panorama Mountain Tour

| Excluded

Flights

Gate Entry Fees

Conservation Levies

Airport Taxes or any additional Taxes

Travel Insurance

Visa Fees

Gratuities

Meals not mentioned in the Itinerary

Parking Fees

Shopping

Drinks

Any additional costs not set out as per Itinerary

Daily Information



Day 1, Thursday 08 August

Hoedspruit

Resting at the foot of the Klein Drakensberg, in the beautiful Limpopo Province, the town of Hoedspruit is surrounded by the largest privately-owned conservation area in the world. It is sandwiched between the world-famous Kruger National Park and the breathtaking Blyde River Canyon. Hoedspruit serves as a great base from which to explore the surrounding game reserves and natural attractions. This spectacular landscape features towering cliffs shadowing over enormous stretches of bushveld that give way to marula, acacia and mopane woodlands. Within this wilderness paradise, some of Africa's most captivating wildlife can be spotted. Visitors can enjoy a number of activities including: Big Five game drives, whitewater rafting, horse riding safaris, visiting the Khamai Reptile Park as well as the Daktari Wildlife Orphanage.

| Day Notes

Welcome to day one of your Hoedspruit Wonders adventure! Your journey begins with a warm welcome as your guides greet you at OR Tambo International Airport and transfers you to Aerotel Hotel in Hoedspruit, your gateway to the wonders of the African wilderness.

Upon arrival at your accommodation in Hoedspruit, take some time to settle in and unwind after your travels. If you're feeling inclined to explore beyond the confines of your cozy retreat, you'll be delighted to discover a myriad of dining options within the vicinity, all within walking distance.

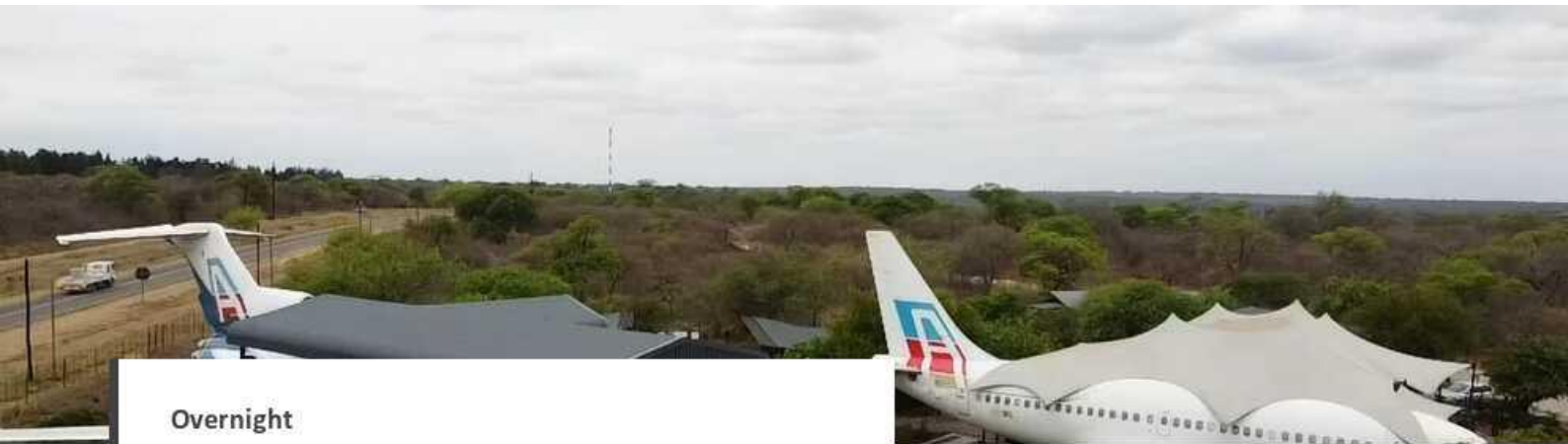
May your stay at Aerotel Hotel be a seamless continuation of your journey, offering comfort, tranquility, and rejuvenation as you prepare for the adventures that await.

| Included

- Transfer from OR Tambo International Airport

| Excluded

- All extras not mentioned
- Meals
- Drinks
- Items of a personal nature



Overnight Aerotel

Aerotel

Aviator Boutique Hotel

A 12 bed, Aviator Boutique Hotel situated in the heart of Limpopo, Hoedspruit

Want to experience a unique stay? Don't miss the thrill of staying a night or two in a Boeing 737-200. It's not every day that you can an overnight stay in an aircraft.

Nothing gets better than having a first class experience.

[View iBrochure >](#)

| Basis

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

Day 2, Friday 09 August

Hoedspruit

| Day Notes

Begin your day at the break of dawn as you venture into the realm of a truly remarkable family, immersing yourself in the natural habitat of one of Africa's most majestic creatures. This extraordinary experience commences early, before the elephants embark on their journey into the wild, foraging amidst the untamed bush. To ensure minimal disruption to their natural environment, encounters are limited to just one per day. We have committed ourselves to granting this herd ample time to thrive in its natural surroundings. To maintain the sanctity of their existence, we only accommodate a select number of guests during each encounter.

Elephant Interaction (Hoedspruit)

Tour Departs:

- Leave Aerotel Hotel at 05h30

Tour Notes:

- We only accept a limited number
- Minimum age: 6 years
- Guests are advised to wear comfortable clothing
- Important things to bring are sunglasses, sun hat and more importantly your camera
- No spectators allowed
- Pick-up and drop-off transfer times will be confirmed before your tour

Tour Times:

- 06h20

Duration:

- 1.5 Hours (Tour only, excluding transfer time)

After your enriching time with the elephants, venture to the charming tourism town of Hoedspruit. Immerse yourself in the local culture as you explore its vibrant streets, filled with bustling markets, artisanal shops, and delectable eateries offering authentic South African cuisine. In the afternoon, prepare for a leisurely cruise on the tranquil waters of the Blyde Dam, a picturesque reservoir nestled within the iconic Blyde River Canyon.

Blyde River Canyon Boat Cruise

Welcome to the magnificent Blyde River Canyon! Indulge in a scenic boat excursion along the serene waters of the Blyderivierspoort Dam, nestled within the awe-inspiring Blyde River Canyon. Here, unspoiled beauty flourishes, and there is no better way to experience it than from the comfort of our pontoon boat. Accompanied by our knowledgeable skipper, a true Hoedspruit local brimming with a deep understanding and passion for the canyon, you will embark on an unforgettable journey through this remarkable place. Join us for an experience that will leave an indelible mark on your memory.

Tour Departs:

- Leave Hoedspruit at 14h00 and arrive at Jetty 14h45
- Booking dependent on weather conditions

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 1
- Children of all ages welcome with adult supervision
- Depart from the Blyde River Dam jetty (140km from Graskop, 40km from Hoedspruit, and 120km from Hazyview)
- Things to bring: Camera, snacks, and drinks (no alcohol allowed on the boat)
- Regrettably, no spectators are allowed

Tour Starts:

- 15H00

| Expert Tips

What to remember:

- Breakfast is not included and should be supplied by your accommodation establishment or self-catered. A packed breakfast is always an excellent option.
- Sun hat, camera, comfortable walking shoes.
- Big smiles =)

| Included

- Breakfast
- Elephant Interaction with commentary from professional Elephant keepers
- Coffee and tea with biscuits at Elephant Interaction
- Expert Tour Guide
- Blyde Canyon Boat Cruise with professional skipper

| Excluded

- Safari Boutique Shop
- All extras not mentioned
- Snacks/drinks on the boat cruise
- Items of a personal nature

| Basis

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

| Activities



Elephant Moments Elephant Experience

Planned, 06:20: At Elephant Moments, they believe that connecting with elephants should be a unique and personal experience. Their mission is to allow guests to form a special bond with these gentle giants by coming into close contact with them in the most natural way possible. They offer a variety of interactive activities, such as walking with elephants, feeding them, and bathing with them. The experienced handlers will

guide guests throughout the entire experience so that they can make the most out of their time with these majestic creatures. The goal is to provide a safe and memorable experience to create lasting memories for all guests. They hope guests will gain a greater appreciation and respect for these beautiful animals by spending time with the elephants.



Blyde Canyon Safaris Boat Cruise

Planned, 15:00: Blyde Canyon Safaris offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the pristine beauty of South Africa's Blyde River Canyon. Together with the Moletele community, they offer scenic boat cruises on the Blyderivierspoort Dam in the Blyde River Canyon. It is a place of pure, untouched beauty and is best seen and experienced from the water on our comfortable boats. The boat cruises take visitors through the awe-inspiring canyon,

where they can view incredible rock formations, rare bird species and other wildlife. The expert guides will share the local culture, history and interesting facts about the area as visitors take in the magnificent sights. Blyde Canyon Safaris also provide refreshments on board and stop at different points to allow passengers to disembark and explore the area. Blyde Canyon Safaris pride itself in giving passengers an unforgettable experience and a chance to discover the wonders of this unique landscape.

Day 3 - 4, Saturday 10 to 11 August

Hoedspruit

Day Notes

On day three of your adventure through South Africa's magnificent landscapes, prepare for a full-day exploration of the renowned Panorama Mountain Route. Set out early to embark on a journey filled with breathtaking vistas and awe-inspiring natural wonders.

Panorama Mountain Tour:

The Panorama Route runs along the spectacular Blyde River Canyon in Mpumalanga and is arguably one of the most beautiful and popular destinations in South Africa. The Panorama Route is best known for its cultural heritage and its dramatic landscapes. It leads through the rocky mountain range of the northern Drakensberg.

From many well-positioned vantage points, one has a view of the 68-mile-long gorge, which starts at Bourke's Luck Potholes and ends at the Three Rondavels. The Potholes are very extraordinary rock formations that were shaped millions of years ago by erosion.

This breathtaking gorge, the third largest in the world, provides unforgettable memories that become indelibly etched upon any avid adventurer's soul. Its scenery is unsurpassed, its vegetation is both varied and lush and provides a home to a rich selection of bird and wildlife.

The Blyde River Canyon is the third deepest canyon in the world (after the Grand Canyon in the western U.S. and Namibia's Fish Eagle Canyon). It ranks one of the most spectacular sights in Africa.

This great escarpment is the kind of place where brochures and guidebooks run out of original adjectives to describe the fresh mountain scenery and magnificent panoramic views over cliffs rising 600m-800m from the riverbed. The entire canyon extends over 12.5 miles in length.

Blyde Canyon cuts through the Drakensberg Mountain Range, one of the seven major mountain systems in Africa. It is probably the most photographed, painted and admired area in the country.

The Panorama Route boasts many exciting attractions, waterfalls, lovely towns, and historical sites all well worth a visit. Hazyview and Pilgrim's Rest to mention a few, provide numerous scenic attractions as well as an insight as to how the settlers lived many years ago. On the Abel Erasmus Pass there is the opportunity to see one of the rarest birds in the world known as the Taita Falcon. The presence of these magnificent birds in South Africa was only discovered in the 1990s. It also affords many the opportunity to go gold panning just as the settlers did over a century ago (gold panning to be pre-booked). Other highlights include the exquisite waterfalls in Graskop and Sabie, The Echo Caves, that

speak of Africa's powerful tribes, trails left behind by the Voortrekkers in regions such as Lydenburg and Ohrigstad, ancient artistic footprints left by the indigenous peoples of Africa and the Gold Rush territory, Pilgrim's Rest, which was home to the early prospectors. A short description of some attractions on this 'must-see-to-any-visitor' Route with its unsurpassed scenery and surrounding terrains.

The Pinnacle

The Pinnacle Rock is a breath-taking sight – this freestanding quartzite buttress towers 30m above a lush indigenous woodland, close to the quaint forestry town of Graskop.

God's Window

God's Window is a vantage point set in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve that offers panoramic views over the lush Lowveld. On clear days, you can see as far as the Kruger National Park and Mozambique.

Lisbon Falls

The spectacular Lisbon Falls were named by the Portuguese settlers who came to this area in the late 1800s after gold was discovered at nearby Baberton and Pilgrim's Rest. This lush area offers unforgettable views and a vast array of birds.

Bourke's Luck Potholes

These large, cylindrical potholes have been created by the churning whirlpools that occur when the Treur River plunges into the Blyde River Canyon. They are named after Tom Bourke, a miner who correctly predicted that the area would yield large deposits of gold, but never struck it rich as the gold was discovered just south of his claim.

Blyde River Canyon

Blyde River Canyon is one of the largest canyons on the planet and the second largest in Africa. Renowned for its red sandstone cliffs and lush subtropical foliage this natural marvel stretches for 26km and is 762m deep on average.

Three Rondawels

The Three Rondawels, also known as the Three Sisters, are spectacular geological formations that stand 700m tall above the surrounding landscape. These eye-catching peaks are located along Mpumalanga's Panorama Route and are named after the rondawel, a traditional beehive-shaped hut.

Tour Departs:

- 08h00 from Aerotel Hotel
- Not a scheduled tour, only operated as a private tour

Tour Notes:

- Minimum guests: 1
- Children of all ages welcome, just bear in mind that the tour entails quite a fair amount of walking and driving Booking in advance essential

Tour Starts:

- 09h00
- Although recommended, alternative pickup times can be arranged to suit guests needs because of the Panorama Tour being operated only on a private basis
- Please be advised, should the pickup or drop off times be altered, guests might not have the time to spend a lot of time at each attraction or even miss out on some of the points of interest

Duration:

- 8-10 Hours

After a morning filled with natural wonders, refuel with a delicious lunch stop at Harry's Pancake before continuing on the tour, a beloved local eatery renowned for its mouthwatering array of sweet and savory pancake creations. Indulge in a delectable meal while soaking in the charming ambiance of this quaint establishment.

| Expert Tips

Please make sure you visit our:

- Museum
- Curio Shop
- Stoffel's Tuck Shop

| Included

- Breakfast
- Panorama Mountain Tour
- Services of a registered professional tourist guide
- All Transport
- Bottled water in the vehicle for guests' pleasure
- Sightseeing as specified
- Entrance fees at all Parks and Sites

| Excluded

- All extras not mentioned
- Items of a personal nature
- Meals and drinks

| Basis

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

| Activities

Assured & Tailored Panorama Mountain Tour

Day 4, Sunday 11 August

End of Itinerary

| Day Notes

On the final day of your journey through South Africa, it's time to bid farewell to the new friendships you've forged and the cherished memories you've created along the way. As you prepare to depart, take a moment to reflect on the experiences shared, the laughter exchanged, and the bonds formed amidst the beauty of this remarkable country.

Your guides will accompany you on the transfer back to OR Tambo International Airport, ensuring a smooth and comfortable journey as you return home.

As you depart, may the spirit of Hoedspruit stay with you, igniting a lifelong love for the wonders of nature and a deep appreciation for the extraordinary beauty that graces this remarkable corner of the world. Safe travels, and may your journey be filled with even more incredible experiences.

Farewell, and until we meet again.

| Included

- Breakfast
- Transfer to OR Tambo International Airport

| Excluded

- All extras not mentioned
- Meals and drinks
- Items of a personal nature

| Basis

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

Transport

Transfers

Date & Time	Route	Vehicle
08 Aug	Pick Up: OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]	Transfer
08 Aug	Drop Off: Aerotel	
11 Aug	Pick Up: Aerotel	Transfer
11 Aug	Drop Off: OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]	

Urgent Contacts

Contact Person	Email Address	Telephone
Assured and Tailored - Ashleigh Lynn Marr	info@assuredtours.co.za	+27 (0) 71 362 6307

Service Providers

Aerotel

Address

1406 Boulevard Rd
Zandspruit Commercial R527
Hoedspruit
1380

Contact Numbers

Telephone: +27-87-6556737
Front Desk: +27 87 655 6737

Elephant Moments Elephant Experience

Address

Contact Numbers

Telephone: +27 78 532 3645
Front Desk: +27 15 793 1261

Blyde Canyon Safaris Boat Cruise

Address

Contact Numbers

Telephone: +27 82 472 1828
Front Desk: +27 82 472 1828

Assured and Tailored

Having been established in the Hoedspruit region since 2006, the Assured & Tailored team has a strong track record of exceptional service that makes us the preferred travel partner for the majority of the private lodges in the Lowveld area.

The Assured & Tailored operational offices are based in the town of Hoedspruit, which means we are ideally located to provide these services in all areas, from Malelane south of the Kruger National Park, all the way up the northern reaches of Phalaborwa. Additionally, the business is owner run and managed, so travelers can be rest assured that they will enjoy focused service and personal interaction from start to finish.

Travel Information



Country

South Africa

One of the most culturally and geographically diverse places on earth, South Africa, fondly known by locals as the 'Rainbow Nation', boasts 11 official languages, and its inhabitants are influenced by a fascinating mix of cultures. Discover the gourmet restaurants, impressive art scene, vibrant nightlife, and beautiful beaches of Cape Town. Enjoy a local braai (barbecue) in the Soweto township, browse the bustling Indian markets in Durban, or sample some of the world's finest wines at the myriad wine estates dotting the Cape Winelands. Some historical attractions to explore include the Zululand battlefields of KwaZulu-Natal, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, and Robben Island, just off the coast of Cape Town. Above all else, its untamed wilderness is astonishing: wildlife roams freely across massive unfenced game reserves such as the world-famous Kruger National Park.

| Banking and Currency

Currency

The currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. There are R200, R100, R50, R20 and R10 notes. Coins come in R5, R2, R1, 50c, 20c, and 10c.

Banking

Banks are found in most towns and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays (Closed Sundays and Public Holidays). Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank & credit cards as well as travellers cheques. You can also obtain cash from automatic teller machines (ATMs). Several

international banks have branches in the main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside the country as they might block your purchases if they are not informed.

| **Travel, Transport and Getting Around**

Travelling around South Africa is relatively easy by air, road and rail.

Several airlines operate domestic routes with regular links between Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, George, Nelspruit and Port Elizabeth and relatively frequent flights to several smaller towns and cities too.

An extensive tarred road system makes travelling in South Africa by vehicle convenient and easy. You will find gravel roads in rural areas though. Please note that a valid international driver's licence is required. We drive on the left-hand side of the road. Most global car hire firms have branches in South Africa.

Another means of getting around South Africa are inter-city bus services. Metrobus buses are available for in-city transport. Metered taxis can be ordered and e-hailing services are available. There is the popular MyCityBus system in Cape Town and a hop-on-hop-off tourist bus in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The rail system includes the long-haul, inexpensive Shosholoza Meyl Metrorail trains with more luxurious options are available. There is also the Gautrain rapid transit railway system in Gauteng Province.

| **Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice**

Standards of hygiene in relation to food health and safety in South Africa, are generally high in hotels, restaurants, pubs and nightspots. Tap water in South Africa is safe to drink and cook with when taken from taps in urban areas. Not all tap water in rural areas is safe for consumption, so take precautions if necessary.

It is safe to eat fresh fruit, vegetables and salads and put ice in your drinks. South Africa's fish, meat and chicken are of excellent quality, so there is no need to limit yourself when enjoying the local cuisine.

Restaurants are subject to South Africa's food safety control legislation, which is implemented by local government. Regulations include certification and regular inspections by health inspectors to maintain hygienic standards.

Street food is not as common in South Africa as it is in other countries, although vendors selling traditional snacks and meals can be found in city centres and townships. Food safety in such instances cannot always be guaranteed.

| **Climate and Weather**

South African temperatures, which are measured in centigrade, average at highs of 28°C to average lows of 8°C in the summer months, while winter temperatures range from 1°C at night to around 18°C during the day. Average annual rainfall is on the low side at under 500mm a year, making the country somewhat dry. Much of the rain falls in the Western Cape in the winter, differing from the rest of the country, which experiences summer rainfall. On the plus side, the South African climate boasts more than its fair share of sunshine, recording an average of 8.5 hours a day.

| **Clothing and Dress Recommendations**

Summer

Bring cool, light and comfortable clothes because summer temperatures can get well into the 30 - 40 degree Celsius range in some areas. Also, bring an umbrella or raincoat during summer as this is when most of the country gets its rain, but don't forget a swimming costume (bathing suit).

Winter

The winters are generally mild, comparing favourably with European summers. But there are days when temperatures dive, especially in high-lying areas such as the Drakensberg, so be prepared with jerseys and jackets. Cape Town gets its rain during the winter season so it's advisable to bring rain gear along.

General

Always bring a hat, sunglasses and sunblock as the sun can be strong even in the winter months.

Walking shoes are a good idea all year-round, with warm socks in the winter.

If you are doing business in the country, business attire is generally called for in the corporate sector, but media, for example generally dress more casually.

For game viewing, a couple of neutral-toned items will be useful, but there's no need to go overboard. A good pair of walking shoes is also advisable.

For the evening, if you are dining at an upmarket restaurant or seeing a show, smart-casual attire is recommended.

| Internet Availability

Most accommodation offer Wifi in their business centres, rooms or restaurants. Internet cafes are found in most business areas and shopping malls. In addition, some South African restaurants offer WiFi access.

There are also outlets such as PostNet that offer internet, fax and postage facilities.

| Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets in the Republic of South Africa are Type M (SABS-1661). If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug it in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for all types.

Electrical sockets in South Africa usually supply electricity at 230 volts AC / 50 Hz frequency. If you're plugging in an appliance built for 230-volt electrical input, or an appliance compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need. A voltage converter will be necessary if your appliance isn't compatible with 230 volts.

Terms and Conditions

| Itinerary Terms and Conditions

Please see the Additional Documentation

Prices subject to change

Single supplements may apply

Subject to availability at the time of booking

| Assured and Tailored Terms and Conditions

Reservation Confirmation:

A 50% deposit is required to secure all reservations.

Full Payment is required 30days prior to arrival.

Cancellation Policy :

50% of reservation 8 weeks prior arrival

100% of reservation 4 weeks prior arrival.

75% of reservation 6 weeks prior arrival