

All information provided in this tour dossier is subject to change without prior notice, changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better quality experience. This would be where we are able to make improvements, sometimes last-minute decisions due to the nature of the tour/event. Overnight accommodation stops can change depending on road or weather conditions or any unforeseen circumstances. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the properties listed in this dossier, these are to be used as a guideline only. We recommend that you download the most up to date version of this tour dossier one week prior to your tour departure date.

Partaking in an adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometres and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time during these drives to talk to your fellow travellers, have a drink and take note of the world passing by your window. Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy while others could take up to an hour to cover 1 kilometre. There is just no telling what could happen with road, weather, traffic and other conditions that may exist that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road so take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average day could take anything from 5 to 14 hours, it all depends on the day... and that's only an "average"!

Please ensure that you have downloaded and read a copy of the PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION booklet as this document contains important information (e.g travel insurance, visas, your money, health etc) you need to know before you depart on tour.

<http://nomadtours.co.za/media/Pre-Departure-Information.pdf>

Activity Package

This is an optional payment that covers what we consider to be 'essential activities' on our tours. Ideally we would include all of these, but not everyone can afford this. This payment is 100% transparent and is listed below. The Activity Package must be pre-booked along with your tour booking. We cannot always guarantee availability of the activities if you only book on the morning of your tour departing.

Activity	Price
Cape Town cultural tour	R 580
Cheese and wine tasting	R 70
Cango Caves basic tour	R 140
	R 790

This itinerary has been written with the Activity Package items included. If you wish to participate in all the activities listed, you will need to purchase the Activity Package.

Maximum Number of Passengers

20

After hours emergency contact

Our reservations staff are available to receive emergency calls. We would like to request that you respect this emergency number and use it only in the event of emergencies. Please only contact this number if, for example, you have missed your incoming flight, you cannot find your airport transfer or you are running late for your tour departure.

If calling from outside South Africa: 0027 82 578 2199

If calling within South Africa: 082 578 2199

Arrival / Departure

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems. As the activities on your tour can be moved to any day during your tour, we also highly recommend that you book your flights to depart the day after the tour officially ends.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your travel agent or Nomad to make these bookings.

Your tour will be departing from the following location

07:00 am from Nomad Adventure Tours, 39 Castle Street, (Corner Castle & Burg Streets), Cape Town, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0) 82 578 2199, www.nomadtours.co.za

Please ensure you arrive at the departure point at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time.

Your tour will be ending at the following location

East London Airport

What's included

Accommodation, meals (Breakfast x 12 / Lunch x 9 / Dinner x 10) (unless otherwise specified, all meals are prepared and served at the Nomad truck), accommodation, guides and transport. Your marine park entry permit will also be included in this tour. We also include some of the highlights. These highlights are listed below in the day-by-day descriptions as "included highlights".

What's excluded

Items of a personal nature (snacks, alcohol, bottled water, soft drinks) / entrance fees (associated with optional activities / souvenirs / activity packages and optional activities, tips.

Insurance (Compulsory)

Please also note that for this tour you will require a diving insurance policy that permits multiple dives and dives to a depth of 30m (we recommend DAN divers insurance). Diving insurance can be purchased from the DAN website, www.diversalernetnetwork.org. Travel insurance can be purchased via the Nomad website. (World Nomads travel insurance is in no way affiliated with Nomad Tours). www.nomadtours.co.za/page/travel-insurance.

Countries Visited

South Africa

Diving notes

Water conditions in South Africa can vary day by day. Temperatures will range from 14-26 degrees celsius and we recommend a wetsuit of a minimum of 5mm for your comfort. Visibility ranges from 5-20m, with slightly better conditions in the winter months. Diving is conducted on semi-rigged ribs with launches taking place either straight from beaches or via river mouths. These launches involve breaking through the incoming waves and can get bumpy. All divers joining a Nomad Africa Dive Tour must hold an Advanced Open Water (or equivalent) certification as a minimum and be confident and comfortable in the water. If you are unsure whether your experience level is sufficient please contact us. All dives are conducted within no decompression limits to a maximum of 30m and are standard air dives. Nitrox is available to divers at some of our diving locations. This will be at the extra cost of the diver and will require the proof of a Nitrox certification. All divers must understand that Nomad Africa Dive Tours cannot guarantee any ocean sightings and there will be no financial reimbursement for dives where highlights are not seen. Please note in particular that the Sardine Run is not guaranteed and we can only work to the best of our knowledge with respect to time of year.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Cultural Cape Town – Stellenbosch

Set at the south-western corner of the African continent, Cape Town is scenically located at the foot of Table Mountain. This morning we spend our time experiencing some of the rich historical and cultural highlights of the city, those who have opted for the activity package will join a local tour operator for an insight into the life and history of the people living in the Cape. Enriched by our experiences we travel north to the winelands to enjoy a sampling of some fine Cape wines. Our final stop this afternoon is the historic town of Stellenbosch where we will have some time to explore the town on foot. We end this busy day with a dinner out after checking-in to our hotel this evening.

Accommodation	Le bac Estate http://lebac.co.za/
Facilities	Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Cape Town to Paarl
Activity Package	Cape Town Cultural Tour & Cheese and Wine Tasting
Included Highlight	Self-Guided Walk through Stellenbosch
Optional Activity	Lunch and Dinner

Day 2 - Route 62 – Oudtshoorn

Crossing the Hottentots-Holland Mountains this morning we set out for the Klein Karoo and our overnight stop in Oudtshoorn. We follow the scenic Route 62 today, stopping to experience one of the many farm stalls on the way. One of the more quirky highlights today is Ronnie's Sex Shop, not a sex shop at all, but a rather interesting country pub! On arrival in Oudtshoorn this afternoon we will visit an Ostrich Farm to learn about these fascinating birds.

Accommodation	Kleinplaas Holiday Resort http://www.kleinplaas.co.za OR De Oude Meul http://www.deoudemeul.co.za/
Facilities	Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Paarl to Oudtshoorn
Included Highlight	Ostrich Farm Visit

Day 3 - Heart of Garden Route

Our morning starts with a guided tour of the famous Cango Caves, we can only marvel at the astonishing formations that have formed in these impressive limestone caves. Returning above ground we make our way over the Outeniqua Mountains and descend to the beautiful Garden route coastline below. In the coming days we spend time hiking, relaxing at the beach and sampling the many optional activities available.

Accommodation	Dunes Lodge http://www.plettenbergbayinfo.co.za/accommodation/selfcatering/dunes.html OR Fairy Knowe http://www.rgfp.co.za/fairyknowe.co.za/
Facilities	Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Oudtshoorn to Garden Route
Activity Package	Cango Caves Basic Tour
Optional Activity	Dinner

Day 4 – Tsitsikamma

The Garden Route is a treasure trove of beautiful beaches, forest walks and an exciting menu of optional adventures. While our morning is set aside for some relaxation on the beaches of Plettenberg Bay, today offers a number of optional activities and your guide will assist you to get the most out of the day. This afternoon we have the opportunity to visit the hidden gem of Nature's Valley, this beautiful village offers us a chance to enjoy a hike or simply relax on the pristine beach in this little paradise. In order to make the most of this day, the truck will run a set schedule and you are free to join or leave at the places that interest you.

Accommodation	Tsitsikamma Village Inn http://www.tsitsikammavillageinn.co.za/ OR Tsitsikamma Cottages http://www.tsitsikammahotel.co.za OR Khoi San Village http://www.tsitsikamma.info/listing/tsitsikamma_khoisan_village
Facilities	Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Plettenberg Bay to Storms River Village

Included Highlight

Plettenberg Bay Beaches, Natures Valley Nature Walk

Optional Activity

Township Tour, Ocean Safaris, Sea Kayaking, Monkeyland, Birds of Eden and Bloukrans Bungee Jump

Day 5 - Tsitsikamma

Tsitsikamma National Park is one of South Africa's premier marine reserves and this morning we set out to explore the rugged coastline on foot. Our hike along the Waterfall Trail sees us cover the first section of the world renowned Otter Trail, this is not an easy hike and those who prefer a more leisurely option can make use of the boardwalks to the Storms River Mouth. For the adventurous the Waterfall Trail offers a spectacular winding path that follows the rocky coastline, an out and back trail we stop for a refreshing swim at the base of an icy Waterfall. For those who wish to get a birds-eye view of the magnificent forests an optional zip line tour through the canopy is offered this afternoon.

AccommodationTsitsikamma Village Inn <http://www.tsitsikammavillageinn.co.za/> OR Tsitsikamma Cottages <http://www.tsitsikammahotel.co.za> ORKhoi San Village http://www.tsitsikamma.info/listing/tsitsikamma_khoisan_village**Facilities**

Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom

*Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.***Included Highlight**

Tsitsikamma National Park entrance and hike with your Nomad guide

Optional Activity

Treetop canopy tours

Day 6 - Addo Elephant National Park

This morning we set out for the Eastern Cape and the Addo National Park. We make a stop this morning in the surfing mecca of Jeffrey's Bay, famous for its waves you have the opportunity to visit the small surfing museum, catch a quick wave or simply enjoy a cup of coffee overlooking these famous waves. This afternoon we will make our first visit to seek the elephants after which Addo is named.

AccommodationKudu Ridge Lodge <http://www.kuduridge.co.za>**Facilities**

Two per permanent tent with En-suite Bathroom

*Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.***Route**

Tsitsikamma National Park to Addo Elephant National Park

Included Highlight

Jeffrey's Bay and an afternoon game drive in Addo National Park (in the Nomad truck)

Optional Activity

Addo Night Drive

Day 7 - Addo Elephant Park to Port Elizabeth

With no large predators to endanger us, we make a relaxed start to the day. Our guide will lead us for a bush walk this morning as we enjoy the natural surrounds. This afternoon you will be transferred to Port Elizabeth, where we will have the afternoon to relax.

AccommodationGarden Court Kings Beach Hotel <https://www.tsogosun.com/garden-court-kings-beach>**Facilities**

Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom

*Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.***Included Highlight**

Morning Bush Walk

Route

Addo Elephant National Park to Port Elizabeth

Day 8 – Port Elizabeth to Coffee Bay

Please note that during the next few days we will be subject to weather and ocean conditions and may not be able to launch each day. To account for this risk we have created this lengthy stay in Coffee Bay in order to ensure you have the best possible chance. Please also note that Nomad cannot guarantee Sardine Run action at any time and are only able to book tours in the best possible window to the best of our ability.

This morning we will depart Port Elizabeth and fly to the town of East London, where you will meet your crew upon arrival at East London airport. Leaving the city of East London behind, we travel north along the Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape to the small town of Coffee Bay, our launch site for the famous Sardine Run. After settling into your hotel you will have the chance to explore this stunning area and visit the iconic "Hole In The Wall". This evening you will have a full briefing on the operating of the Sardine Run adventure over the next few days.

AccommodationOcean View Hotel, Coffee Bay www.oceanview.co.za**Facilities**

Two per room with shared bathroom

*Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.***Route**

East London to Coffee Bay

Included Highlight

Hole in the Wall and dive briefing

Day 9/10/11/12/13 – Sardine Run

The annual Great Sardine Run is a natural phenomenon that usually occurs during the months of June and July, when massive schools of sardines migrate from the colder waters around the Cape to the warmer waters of Kwa-Zulu Natal to give birth to their offspring. Once they've laid their eggs, they return to the Cape, closely followed by thousands of dolphins, birds, fish of prey, whales and sharks. The ocean awakes and the thrill is simply indescribable.

After an early breakfast, you will be transferred to Mapusi, the most spectacular, idyllic river mouth from where we launch our boat. On the banks of this river, divers get ready for the launch. The 4 x 4 drives the boat down into the river. Divers and the crew have to push the boat further until there is enough water under the keel and all rocks are cleared. Once it is safe, the skipper gets on the boat and starts the motors. When he has enough water under the keel, he calls all guests on. With speed the boat drives over the sandbank and into the waiting basin. Once all waves have passed, the skipper chooses the safest moment to launch out to sea.

The Garden Route & Sardine Run 2018: 14 Days | NACE Accommodated (North)



In the meantime our plane has taken off and done a good fly over in search of animal activity. The skipper and the pilot are in constant radio contact whereby the boat gets directed to the best action on hand. Sardine Run Action consists not only of silver fish but more so of activities such as whales, dolphins, sharks and gannets. Wherever there is something happening the boat will go.

The highly experienced and skillful crew will approach anything interesting with great care and only when it is safe will the divers be allowed to enter the water. More often than not this will be done on mask and snorkel. There is a constant off-the-boat and on-the-boat which requires stamina and certain fitness. Obviously it is always the client's choice if he wants to remain on the boat or jump into the water. To make a long day out at sea as pleasant as possible we offer sandwiches, fresh fruit, chocolates, cookies, fruit juice and water on the boat.

Each day we will launch (weather permitting) and spend a full day out at sea to give you the best chance of action. We return by early to late afternoon each day when you will get a chance to rest, relax, hike the area and charge those all important cameras. Each evening we have a sumptuous buffet and bar for tales of the day just past.

Accommodation: Ocean View Hotel, Coffee Bay www.oceanview.co.za
Facilities: Two per room with shared bathroom
Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Included Highlights: 6 full days of Sardine Run action (weather permitting)
Dive Centre: African Dive Adventures

THE SARDINE RUN BAIT BALL

The sharks and dolphins round up a large number of sardines and form what is known as a bait ball. Once the bait ball is formed, the sharks and dolphins swim through that ball until not one sardine is left. They are often joined by gannets, which dive from a dizzy height and use their wings to actually swim further down in pursuit of a sardine.

Then comes a Brydes Whale from the depth and like a Front End Loader scoops thousands of sardines into its gullet. As divers, we first approach the situation carefully and watch from the boat what is going on. Then we slide into the water and watch the incredible scene from a depth of approximately 5-7m. Such a Bait Ball can last from a few minutes, to half an hour, or even longer. When it is over it's back on the boat and off to the next group of sardines. This can go on for hours or even the whole day with a short lunch break in between.

Day 14 - Coffee Bay to East London

Today we will retrace our steps from Coffee Bay back to the town of East London, where your tour comes to an end upon arrival at the East London airport. Please ensure you book your flights for as late as possible in the afternoon.

Accommodation: Own arrangements (please ask Nomad for assistance if required)
Route: Coffee Bay to East London

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