

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
Hluhluwe game drive	R 760
St Lucia boat cruise	R 440
4x4 Game drive in Kruger National Park	R 800
	R2 000

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 Belvedere Estate corner George and Belvedere road, Glen Austin Midrand, Tel: 083 7415240 –

www.belvedereestate.co.za

Your tour will be ending at the following location

East London Airport

Countries Visited

South Africa

What's included

Meals (Breakfast x 12 / Lunch x 9 / Dinner x 12) (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, tips) / entrance fees (associated with optional activities / souvenirs / activity packages and optional activities).

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.diversalertnetwork.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.

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 – Greater Kruger National Park

Leaving the city of Johannesburg behind us we make our way east through the coalfields of Mpumalanga. Our journey today follows in the footsteps of the old trade-routes to the Lowveld and the Kruger National Park. This afternoon there will be an opportunity to join an optional Sundowner Drive, booking is essential and your guide can assist on departure this morning.

Accommodation	Nkambeni Reserve http://www.nkambeni.com
Facilities	Two per Permanent Tent with En-suite Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Johannesburg to Nkambeni Reserve
Optional Activity	Sundowner Drive (Subject to Availability)

Day 2 - Kruger National Park

Rising early this morning we enter the Kruger National Park to enjoy a full-day of game viewing. The abundance of wildlife presents us with opportunities for excellent sightings and the Kruger is also home to the famed members of Africa's Big-5. Truly the flagship of the South African national parks, Kruger is home to an impressive number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals. Our activity package offers the added excitement of experiencing the park from an open-sided 4x4 vehicle. This evening there is a second opportunity for the optional Sundowner Drive.

Accommodation	Nkambeni Reserve http://www.nkambeni.com or Timbavati Safari Lodge http://www.timbavatisafarilodge.com
Facilities	Two per Permanent tent with En-suite Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Kruger National Park
Activity Package	Kruger National Park 4x4 game drive
Included Activity	Game drive in Nomad truck

Day 3 - Kruger National Park

While those who elect to do the optional morning walk will have an earlier start, we set out a little later today and travel the short distance to the Panorama Route. Strung along the escarpment that divides the central plateau and low-lying bushveld of the Kruger, the sights of the Panorama route offer us a day of scenic delights. We will visit the highlights of Bourke's Luck Potholes, the Three Rondavels and God's Window before returning to camp in the late afternoon.

Accommodation	Nkambeni Reserve http://www.nkambeni.com or Timbavati Safari Lodge http://www.timbavatisafarilodge.com
Facilities	Two per Permanent tent with En-suite Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Included Highlight	Panorama Route - Bourke's Luck Potholes, Blyde River Canyon, God's Window
Optional Activity	Morning Bush Walk (Subject to Availability)

Day 4 - Swaziland to Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

We start the day early with some traditional coffee and rusks before setting off through Kruger on our way to Swaziland. Our truck offers an excellent platform for game viewing as we make our way south. We exit the southern end of the park and travel the short distance to Swaziland border, our route this afternoon winds through the mountains and forests of this landlocked kingdom. Our destination for today is the Ezulwini Valley just south of the capital Mbabane.

Accommodation	Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary http://www.mbuluzigamereserve.co.sz or Mbuluzi Game Lodge http://www.biggameparks.org/mlilwane/
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	Kruger to Mlilwane
Included Activity	Game Drive in Kruger National Park (in your Nomad Truck)
Border Post	South Africa: Jeppes Reef, Tel: + 27(0)13 781 0382, Open: 07h00-20h00 Swaziland: Matsamo, Tel: +268 323 2137, Open: 07h00-20h00

Day 5 - Isimangaliso, Greater St Lucia

Situated in the Ezulwini Valley, which translates to “valley of heaven”, the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary is Swaziland’s oldest reserve and covers 4,560 hectares. As the reserve has no large predators we will enjoy a morning hiking amongst the game that roams the plains. Should you prefer there are a range of optional activities offered by the reserve and you could enjoy a game drive, mountain biking or a visit to the Chief’s traditional village. This afternoon we continue south into the reaches of Zululand, once the realm of the mighty King Shaka who united the Zulu clans. This evening we are treated to a cultural experience where we will learn more of the Zulu traditions and language.

Accommodation	Shonalanga http://www.shonalanga.net
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	Mlilwane to St. Lucia
Included Highlight	Nature Walk in Mlilwane, Zulu Cultural Evening
Optional Activity	Mountain Biking, Swazi Cultural Excursion or Morning Game Drive – all in Mlilwane
Border Post	South Africa: Golela Border Post, Tel: +27(0)34 435 1070 Open: 07h00-22h00 Swaziland: Lavumisa Town Board, Tel: +268 20 790 93, Open: 07h00-22h00

Day 6 - Hluhluwe – Imfolozi Game Reserve

We set out early this morning for a game drive in the nearby Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve, one of the last strongholds of the endangered Rhinoceros. The reserve has played a critical role in the preservation of these endangered animals, both Black and White Rhinoceros occur in the park and many populations owe their ongoing existence to animals that have been raised here. While Rhinoceros are the most famous of the parks inhabitants, the park also provides a home to many other species, including the Big-5 that we all hope to see. Returning to our lodging for a siesta, we freshen up for an afternoon boat cruise on St Lucia estuary.

Accommodation	Shonalanga http://www.shonalanga.net
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>
Activity Package	Game Drive in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi National Park, St. Lucia Boat Cruise

Day 7 - Durban

Durban has long been the favourite holiday destination for South Africans, the golden mile with its warm seas and safe swimming beaches attracts visitors throughout the year. Although your tour ends upon arrival in Durban, this afternoon we have time to spend on the beaches of the golden mile.

Accommodation	Garden Court South Beach Hotel https://www.tsogosun.com/garden-court-south-beach
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	St. Lucia to Durban
Optional Activity	Dinner

Day 8 – Durban 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 be transferred to King Shaka International Airport and board our flight for East London, where we will meet our crew upon arrival in the city. 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.

Accommodation	Ocean View Hotel, Coffee Bay www.oceanview.co.za
Facilities	Two per room with shared bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Durban (via 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.

KRUGER, SWAZILAND & SARDINE RUN 2018: 14 Days | NAJSE (Accommodated)



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

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.