Why see just one side of South Africa when you can see it all on one ultimate road trip?

This 21-day journey collects you from our volunteer project base in the Greater Kruger Area and takes you into the great African wilderness of Kruger National Park, over the dramatic Drakensberg mountains, to the sunny beaches of Durban, into the bohemian heart of the Wild Coast, under the jungle canopies of Tsitsikamma, and along the iconic Garden Route to cosmopolitan Cape Town. It is the journey of a lifetime for adventure seekers wanting to experience the very best of South Africa.
DAY 1-3: HOEDSPRUIT → KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

While this tour departs from Johannesburg with some of your fellow travelers, volunteers on our conservation or community programs in the Greater Kruger Area get to skip the stretch from city to bush and will be collected by the tour leader at our volunteer accommodation near Hoedspruit on the Sunday. Having spent time working hard and contributing to our projects, it's time for you to hit the road on your 3-week adventure to Cape Town. First up, you will spend two nights at Thornhill Safari Lodge where you will get to experience Big 5 game drives, bush walks, and authentic safari accommodation under the great African skies.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
Overnight: Hoedspruit
Route: Hoedspruit – Kruger National Park
Included Highlight: Big 5 safari / full day Kruger National Park safari / bush walk

DAY 3-5: HOEDSPRUIT → EZULWINI, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

After a relaxed breakfast, the tour heads through bushveld and the Mpumalanga highlands towards the Kingdom of eSwatini, a small landlocked country formerly known as Swaziland. The drive through Barberton Nature Reserve, Mountsland Nature Reserve, and Songimvelo Nature Reserve reveals spectacular natural wonders and unexpected wildlife encounters. You'll overnight at Lidwala Backpacker Lodge, a stylish eco-friendly oasis surrounded by trees and open skies. The next day will be spent immersed in the colorful culture of Swazi people and the evening will be yours to relax and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding area.

Meals: Breakfast
Overnight: Ezulwini
Route: Hoedspruit – Nelspruit – Ezulwini

DAY 5: EZULWINI → ROYAL NATAL NATIONAL PARK, DRAKENSBERG MOUNTAINS

You'll say goodbye to the Swazi kingdom once the sun has hit the sky and head off to one of the most magical places in South Africa – the Drakensberg Mountains. Translated to 'Dragon Mountains', the Drakensberg is an area of supreme natural beauty with green valleys, mountain rivers, soaring peaks, and rugged cliffs stretching for almost 700 miles. Amphitheatre Backpackers, situated on the lower escarpment of the Drakensberg, is a favorite amongst backpackers and will be your accommodation for one glorious night. A hike to Tugela Falls, the highest waterfall in Africa, is included, but the area is home to a wealth of hiking trails and activities that are bound to get your blood rushing if hiking isn't your thing. After a day of adventure, you will get to experience a real African braai, relax in the jacuzzi, hang out in the rec area or climbing cave, or mingle with other travelers in the hostel bar.

Meals: Dinner
Overnight: Drakensberg
Route: Ezulwini – Drakensberg
Included Highlight: Amphitheatre hike, African braai dinner
Optional Activities: Rock climbing / horse riding / mountain biking / fly-fishing
**DAY 7-8: ROYAL NATAL NATIONAL PARK → DURBAN**

After a bit of a sleep in, the tour leaves the mountains behind for the tropical coastline of Durban. You will pass through many small towns and get to see the landscape change from dusty mountains and quiet farmlands to buzzing city streets and sea sprayed shores. After checking into Happy Hippo Backpackers, which is located at the end of the Golden Mile, the popular beachfront in Durban, you are free to explore the city or kick back and relax at the hostel. And as the sun goes down, the spicy scent of local cuisine and buzz of nightlife will draw people out onto the streets. This is great excuse to head out and experience the evening energy of Durban's restaurants, bars, and nightclubs.

**Meals:** None  
**Overnight:** Durban  
**Route:** Drakensberg – Durban

**DAY 8-10: DURBAN → UMZUMBE**

The next morning, we head to Umzumbe, a quiet seaside town on the south coast. Our accommodation for the night is Mantis and Moon Backpackers, a yoga and surf camp surrounded by wild jungle and a beautiful blue flag beach. After spending the night sleeping in a tree house, you will prepare for a day of adrenalin infused adventure. Swing through one of the deepest gorges in the world on the optional tour to Oribi Gorge, or spend your day surfing, diving, or lazing on the beach. And when the day is over, a traditional African braai dinner awaits.

**Meals:** Dinner  
**Overnight:** Umzumbe  
**Route:** Durban – Umzumbe  
**Included Highlight:** African braai dinner  
**Optional Activities:** Oribi Gorge tour, gorge swing, scuba diving, and wild water rafting

**DAY 10-13: UMZUMBE → COFFEE BAY**

We bid farewell to sunny KwaZulu-Natal and head for the Wild Coast. It is widely agreed that this part of South Africa is not experienced in quite the same way as other parts of the country. Things move a little slower and it’s all about the good life. Our accommodation in this beach bum town is Coffee Shack Backpackers, one of the leading backpacker hostels for sustainable tourism on the East Coast. The next two days will entail being barefoot, surfing, relaxing, hiking to the Hole in the Wall, chilling in a hammock, visiting the local Xhosa village, and taking advantage of the free activities such as drum sessions, sunset drives, WiFi, and Xhosa lessons.

**Meals:** None  
**Overnight:** Coffee Bay  
**Route:** Umzumbe – Coffee Bay  
**Included Highlight:** Hole in the Wall hike
**DAY 13-16: COFFEE BAY → CHINTSA WEST**

We depart from Coffee Bay at 8am and head for the legendary Buccaneers Backpackers on the Chintsa Lagoon. Buccs (as it is affectionately known) is a backpacker village surrounded by lush greenery and is the perfect spot for catching the famous Wild Coast sunsets. But before the sun goes down there is so much to do in this quirky hostel village. Relax beside the pool, play a few games of volleyball, get a massage or do some yoga, go on a cultural tour, or head across the road for game watching, horse riding, surfing, or mountain biking. We are staying an extra day, so you have time to experience a few of these!

**Meals:** Breakfast on Sunday  
**Overnight:** Chintsa West  
**Route:** Coffee Bay – Chintsa West  
**Included Highlight:** Buccs Booze Cruise or volleyball  
**Optional Activities:** Stand up paddle boarding, yoga, beach horse rides, Big 5 safari, brewery tour, and more

**DAY 16-17: CHINTSA WEST → JEFFREY’S BAY**

We head off bright and early for Jeffrey’s Bay (or J-Bay), the surf mecca of South Africa. This little coastal town is the home of several high-profile surfing events and has a surf culture that is hard to resist. We will stay at Island Vibe Backpackers, a laidback hostel on the beach, so you will get an authentic experience of the easygoing surf culture of South Africa’s golden child. Spend the day shopping, taking surf lessons, or going on a dune safari.

**Meals:** Breakfast  
**Overnight:** Jeffrey’s Bay  
**Route:** Chintsa West – Jeffrey’s Bay  
**Optional Activities:** Surf lessons, horse riding on the beach, sandboarding, and stand up paddle boarding

**DAY 17-19: JEFFREY’S BAY → STORMS RIVER, TSITSIKAMMA NATIONAL PARK**

The famous Garden Route is the next stop on our journey. We trade in sand and ocean for waterfalls and jungle adventures. Tube ‘n’ Axe Backpackers in Storms River Village is our basecamp for the next two nights, so make yourself at home. Surrounded by mountains, deep gorges, and lush forests, this part of the world is a dreamland for outdoor adventure. We will visit the Bloukrans Bridge, the highest bungee jump in the world. But if you don't fancy jumping 216 meters off a bridge, you can opt for a ziplining, snorkeling, or mountain biking tour. We will tone it down the next day and head into the gorgeous Tsitsikamma National Park to hike along the Otter Trail (one of the most beautiful hikes in the world) to a waterfall that plunges into the Indian Ocean. Another great day ends with another great braai dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast and dinner  
**Overnight:** Storms  
**Route:** Jeffrey’s Bay – Storms River  
**Included Highlight:** Entrance to Tsitsikamma National Park, African braai dinner, Storms River tour and waterfall hike  
**Optional Activities:** Bungee jump, treetop canopy tour, snorkelling, mountain biking
Day 19-20: Storms River → Oudtshoorn

After being surrounded by the flourishing greenery of the Garden Route we make our way to a completely different part of South Africa - the Little Karoo - a semi-desert landscape famous for its tiny towns and wide-open spaces. Our accommodation for the night is Backpackers Paradise in Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world. From here you can choose to spend the day meeting the resident ostriches or head to the Cango Caves. However, as the backpackers is located in the center of town, so you can choose to wander around town or just hang out at the accommodation if you would rather take it easy.

Meals: None
Overnight: Oudtshoorn
Route: Storms River – Oudtshoorn
Included: Transfer to Cango Caves and Ostrich Farm
Optional Activities: Cango Caves tour

Day 20-21: Oudtshoorn → Ruiterbos, Mossel Bay

We depart Oudtshoorn after breakfast and drive through the desert of the Little Karoo in the direction of the Outeniqua Mountains. The name 'Outeniqua' is said to be derived from a Khoisan tribe who used to live on its rugged slopes. We drive over the Robertson Pass and head for Outeniqua Moon. This special little guest farm, where majestic stallions roam the fields, is one of our favorite places in South Africa and the chosen spot for our last night. We will spend the last day of our journey relaxing and interacting with the stallions who live on the farm. And as the sun sets over the Outeniqua Mountains, we will sit around the fireplace and enjoy a homecooked meal while chatting about our shared adventures.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
Overnight: Ruiterbos
Route: Oudtshoorn – Ruiterbos, Mossel Bay
Included Highlight: Horse experience

Day 21: Mossel Bay → Hermanus → Cape Town

The final day of our road trip will be full of beautiful landscapes. We drive along the Outeniqua and Swartberg Mountains and head for Hermanus. In season (May – December) you will be able to spot whales near the shore. A quick stop in Betty's Bay gives you a chance to see African penguins doing their thing before we head towards False Bay and onwards to the famed Mother City. Our trip ends at the foot of Table Mountain, at Ashanti Backpackers. This is the place to stay in Cape Town, so consider extending your stay and enjoying the cosmopolitan energy of this unique city.

Meals: Breakfast
Route: Mossel Bay – Hermanus – Betty's Bay – Cape Town
WHAT’S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE?
- Transport throughout the tour
- Private professional guide
- Dorm room accommodation with bedding (upgradable to en-suite)
- Entrance into National Parks
- One tree planted with Precious Tree Project per person to offset carbon emissions
- Safari in a private reserve in the Greater Kruger National Park area
- A full day in the Kruger National Park
- A bush walk in the Guernsey Private Nature Reserve
- Lobamba Village Tour/ Ezulwini Valley – eSwatini (lunch included)
- Tugela Falls hike to the second highest waterfall in the world (lunch included)
- Hole in the Wall Hike in the Transkei (lunch included)
- Storms River Mouth tour at Tsitsikamma National Park with a waterfall hike
- Horse interaction at Outeniqua Moon Percheron Stud & Guest Farm (fully catered)
- 3x Traditional African braais (barbecue)

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE?
- Meals (unless stipulated in the itinerary)
- Optional extra activities (see itinerary, or speak to us for the full list)
- Airport transfers
- Travel insurance
- International or domestic flights
- Room upgrades to private single rooms

Explorer departure dates for 2019:
7 Apr | 2 Jun | 7 Aug | 6 Oct | 1 Dec

Accommodation options are detailed below, including the price in South African Rand (ZAR). Please speak to our team about alternative currencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>ZAR price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorm room* (Standard Package)</td>
<td>31 950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twin Room Sharing (En-Suite)</td>
<td>36 950</td>
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</tbody>
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*Dormitory rooms have 4 – 6 beds with bedding included

FLIGHTS AND LOGISTICS:
If you opt to join this 21-day explorer tour after volunteering with African Impact in the Greater Kruger, you can choose to book your return flight home (or to your next destination) from Cape Town International Airport after the tour finishes. Alternatively, speak to us about arranging a domestic flight from Cape Town International Airport back to the Greater Kruger and you can catch your return flight home (or to your onward destination) from Johannesburg International Airport or Hoedspruit.

We are here to help you with everything, so simply drop our Destination Manager Nicole an email at nicole@africanimpact.com.