



## EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

### South Africa, eSwatini & Lesotho

- *Safari, beautiful landscapes & special cultural experiences*

South Africa offers you everything your heart desires and then a little more. With its magnificent nature, impressive wildlife, cultural diversity and charming cities, the country has so many facets that it fully lives up to the term "*a world in one country*".



Evergreen Escape has tailormade a 12-day combined culture and safari trip, which gives you the opportunity to experience Africa's most impressive game reserve with the world's largest concentration of wild animals, the most unique natural scenarios, as well as visits to local tribes in both *South Africa, eSwatini* and *Lesotho*. In short, a journey that gives you a good introduction to what southern Africa has to offer:

***Pretoria – Johannesburg  
Zulu-tribe, Shangaan-tribe, Swazi-tribe & Basotho-tribe  
Krüger National Park – Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve – iSimangaliso Wetland Park***

A true treat of a journey which is named:

***South Africa, eSwatini & Lesotho***  
- *Safari, beautiful landscapes & special cultural experiences*

The experiences almost line up on this journey, which takes you through South Africa and the 2 small kingdoms of eSwatini and Lesotho. You will be accompanied by a Danish Tour Leader, a local tour guide and an experienced driver who will do everything in our power to ensure that you have an unforgettable journey. The journey takes place in modern and comfortable vehicles with air conditioning. When you are on a game drive, you drive in open 4-wheel drive vehicles, so you can enjoy the wildlife from the first row.

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The journey starts in the north-eastern part of South Africa. Here we come out and experience the most beautiful nature route in South Africa – *the Panorama Route*, where we see the spectacular *Blyde River Canyon*, a 25-kilometer-long gorge that cuts through the landscape.

Wildlife can be experienced up close in *Kruger National Park*, in the world's oldest nature reserve *Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve* and in Africa's largest wetland *iSimangaliso Wetland Park*.

We will experience one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the world when we lace up our boots and go hiking around the *Drakensberg*.

We will tour South Africa's administrative capital, *Pretoria*, where we will take a few steps back in time and learn more about the country's history.

We visit South Africa's largest city, *Johannesburg*, which in many ways encapsulates the very soul of South Africa. Here we visit the most famous of all townships, *Soweto*; experience the only street in the world that has housed 2 recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize; and visiting the *Apartheid Museum*.

But no journey to the African continent is complete before we have visited the local tribes, far away from classic tourism. Therefore, we must visit both the *Shangaan* and *Zulu tribes*, where we can gain an insight into the daily life of the local population. We get an experience out of the ordinary when we visit a medicine man and get a unique introduction to traditional religion.

We also travel to the 2 small kingdoms of eSwatini and Lesotho, where we experience the distinctive cultures and traditions of the 2 countries up close.



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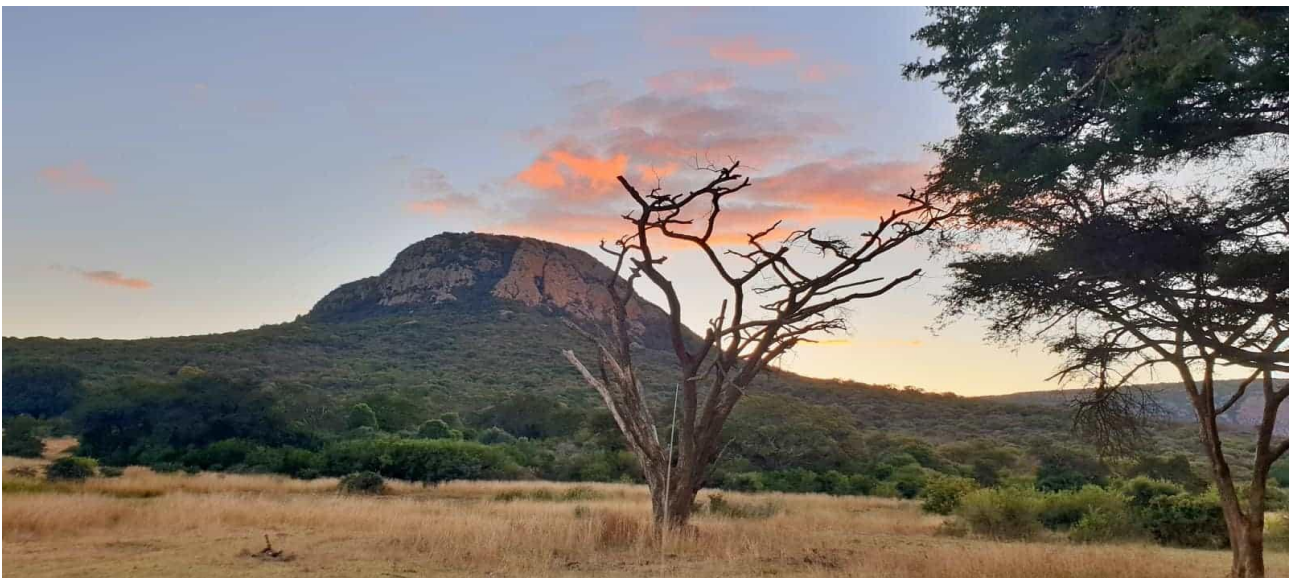
# EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

**Itinerary for South Africa, eSwatini & Lesotho**  
- *Safari, beautiful landscapes & special cultural experiences*

**January - December 2023**

**Day 1: Arrival to Johannesburg – Soutpansberg**  
(Distance: Approximately 425 kilometre)

When you have made it through passport control at the airport, your Danish Tour Leader, local guide and driver will be ready to welcome you. We continue today's journey by driving towards the spectacular *Soutpansberg mountain range* in the northern *Limpopo province*, which is known as the gateway to the three neighbouring countries – *Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana*.



Arriving at our lodge, the afternoon is free to relax after a long journey. We spend the night at the 4-star hotel *Shiluvvari Lakeside Lodge*, which is situated on 30 hectares of natural vegetation. We may be lucky to see waterbuck and kudu, which regularly visit the area.



**Accommodation: Shiluvvari Lakeside Lodge** ([www.shiluvvari.com](http://www.shiluvvari.com))

**Meals: Dinner**

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### Day 2: Soutspansberg – village visit – Hoedspruit

(Distance: Approximately 250 kilometre)

After a good night's sleep, it's time for a special experience when we get to see how people live and live in this area. Because no journey to the African continent is complete until we have met the local population on their terms - an authentic encounter far removed from classic tourism. Then we spend the day in the village of *Mphambo*, inhabited by people from the *Shangaan-Tsonga* tribe.

The black South African population is divided into 4 major ethnic groups: *Nguni* (Zulu, Xhosa, Ndelebe and Swazi), *Sotho*, *Venda*, and *Shangaan-Tsonga*.

The Tsonga people are made up of several different groups, including the Shangaan people. The formation of the 2 peoples is, like so many other tribes from southern Africa, influenced by the infamous and successful Zulu king *Shaka*. His uncle *Dingiswayo*, who was the leader of a small chiefdom, was killed by a group of enemies. In his efforts to avenge the killing, Shaka appointed the Zulu warrior *Shoshangane* as his general. With him at the head, Shaka wanted to conquer and defeat the surrounding chiefdoms, e.g., in Mozambique, where the Tsonga people resided. When Shoshangane arrived in the area he was struck by the beauty and fertility of the land, as well as the humility and kindness of the people. He therefore decided to settle down and create his own tribe – the tribe that we today known as the Shangaan tribe. Today, the tribe is found in Mozambique, south-eastern Zimbabwe, and north-eastern South Africa.



In the village of *Mphambo* we will experience the same friendliness and hospitality that has always characterized the tribe. The men typically look after the cattle, while the women look after the cultivation of the land. When we arrive, we will meet the local chief who will introduce us to the village and its residents. While we are offered various local dishes, we get a unique insight into the everyday life of the villagers, where they tell us about their culture, customs, history, their daily life, and relationship with their ancestors.

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We will meet the local medicine man, who will give us a more detailed introduction to how they use plants and herbs to prevent and cure various diseases. We will also experience their traditional dance and music – it is a genre of music that is characterized by an extremely fast tempo and specially created for a dance style with a focus on footwork. If you are up for it, you may be asked to join the dance.



After a memorable day it is time to say goodbye to the village and drive to our lodge for the next 2 nights. We spend the night at the 4-star hotel *Kubu Safari Lodge*, located in a large private nature reserve just outside the *Kruger National Park*. While enjoying a *sundowner* and absorbing the day's impressions, we may be lucky enough to see giraffes or antelopes parading by



**Accommodation: Kubu Safari Lodge**

**Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner**

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## Day 3: Krüger National Park

Today we have to get up early and have a full day's game drive in South Africa's largest national park, which has an area of almost 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Krüger National Park was established in 1926 and opened its gates to the first 3 guests in 1927. In Day, the park boasts one of the world's largest concentrations of animal species - more than 140 different mammal species, more than 100 different reptile species and more than 500 bird species. The landscape in the park is very varied and there are many permanent rivers and waterholes, which is why many of the species have their densest populations here - 90,000 impalas; 27,000 buffaloes; 18,000 zebras; 12,000 elephants; 9,000 rhinos; 5,000 giraffes; 3,000 hippos; 1,600 lions and 1,000 leopards.

So, on today's game drive there is a great chance that we can experience *The Big Five* - the rhinoceros, the lion, the leopard, the elephant, and the buffalo. The term dates back to the 1800s, when big game was hunted on foot. The hunters judged that these five animals were the most difficult and dangerous to kill. So even though the term originates from a bygone era, nothing has changed in that it is still an achievement and requires a lot of luck to spot these five animals.



But regardless of which animals we experience on today's game drive, it is always a huge experience. To sit and watch the gazelles elegantly leap through the grass. Or the giraffes, who stretch just that little bit further to be able to eat the leaves from the characteristic acacia trees. Or the large herds of zebras, where each and every one of their patterns is as unique as human fingerprints. Or the cheetah, which with its slim and athletic body is the world's fastest mammal.

We drive around in an open 4-wheel drive to better enjoy and observe the wildlife.

**Accommodation: Kubu Safari Lodge**

**Meals: Breakfast and dinner**

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### Day 4: Hazyview – Panorama Route – eSwatini

(Distance: Approximately 377 kilometre)

After a good night's sleep, it's time for a day dedicated to nature experiences. We are going out on South Africa's most beautiful nature route - *the Panorama route* - in the north-eastern part of the country. The most fascinating area of the route is the spectacular *Blyde River Canyon*. The 25-kilometer-long and 1.4-kilometer-deep gorge is the second largest canyon in Africa and is one of nature's great wonders on the continent.



In the area we find *God's window*. When you look through the "window" you will understand why it bears this name – with magnificent views of canyons, rock formations and waterfalls, this is truly an area of breath-taking scenic splendour.

*The Three Rondavelles* are three unbelievably beautiful and eye-catching rock formations that look similar to the round huts we find in many local villages around Africa.

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We will also experience the geologically very breath-taking Bourke's Luck Potholes, which are cylindrical rock sculptures formed by water erosion over thousands of years.



The somewhat peculiar name comes from the local geologist and gold digger Tom Bourke, whose luck it was to find gold in the area in the 1880s.



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After we have explored the natural surroundings, it is time to cross the border and continue the journey to the small kingdom of *Swaziland*, or as it is rightly called today, *eSwatini*. The name change happened in April 2018, when the king wanted to rename the country after its ethnic population *Swazi* - eSwatini means "*Land of the Swazis*" - but also because, according to the king, many people confused the country with

"Switzerland".



The country of 17,364 km<sup>2</sup> and with a population of 1.16 million inhabitants, is the 7th smallest country in Africa (and the smallest in southern Africa). It borders Mozambique to the east and is otherwise surrounded by South Africa and was formed in 1745 by *King Ngwane III*. After the *Boer War 1899-1902*, the country became a British protectorate, and only achieved its independence on 6 September 1968, when the monarchy was reintroduced.

The country is led today by *King Mswati III*, who rules the country together with his mother *Queen Ntombi Tfwala* - or in colloquial speech *Ndlovukati*, which literally means "*female elephant*". While the king is the administrative head, she is the religious and national head of state.

The country is known for its practice of polygamy. The king's first 2 wives are chosen by the state, and after that he can choose himself. Today he has 15 wives and 23 children. However, there is still a long way to go before his father *Sobhuza II*, who was the longest-reigning king in the world with his 82 years in power, and who managed to be married to at least 70 women and have 210 children.

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Most of the inhabitants live and work in agriculture, the majority of whom are subsistence farmers. Sugar production is the country's main source of income, and the country's largest sugar company, *The Royal eSwatini Sugar Corporation*, which controls two-thirds of the sugar industry, produces the raw materials used in soft drinks for the American giant *Coca Cola*.

The country is incredibly scenic with mountains, savanna and rainforest, and despite being heavily dependent on South Africa, it has managed to preserve its distinctive culture with many colourful celebrations, dances, and rituals. We will experience the country's proud traditions and culture up close when we go out to visit a local village in the afternoon and learn more about the local lifestyle.



We spend the night in the *Milwane Wildlife Sanctuary*, which is located in the "Ezulwini Valley" (*Valley of Heaven*). Our camp is fenced and is located in the southern corner of the area, where there is a view of zebras, impalas, warthogs and nyala antelopes. We live in traditional grass-domed huts, so we can feel like "Swazi" for a night.



**Accommodation: Milwane Wildlife Sanctuary Rest Camp**

<https://biggameparks.org/properties/milwane-wildlife-sanctuary-2>

**Meals: Breakfast and dinner**

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### Day 5: eSwatini – Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve – Saint Lucia

(Distance: Approximately 328 kilometre)

After a delicious breakfast, we go to one of the lively markets where we can find homemade and handmade souvenirs. You can e.g., find *Black Mamba Chili Sauce*, which is made from local ingredients without the use of additives, and where you help support the local farmers with your purchase. You can also find the famous candles *Swazi Candles*. They are made from a special hard wax to create the colourful designs. The hard wax veneer forms the outer shell of the candle, which does not melt when the candle burns. Therefore, you can clearly see the design when the light is on. The outer shell can actually still be used after the original wick and wax have disappeared, and can therefore be reused with e.g., a tealight inside.



After our market visit, it's time to cross the border into South Africa and drive to Africa's oldest nature reserve, *Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve*. The reserve was previously used as *Zulu King Shaka's* private hunting grounds, but was established as a national park in 1895. The park has enjoyed great international recognition for their great work to protect and conserve rhinoceros. The effort has contributed to the fact that the reserve today has the largest number of white rhinos in the world.



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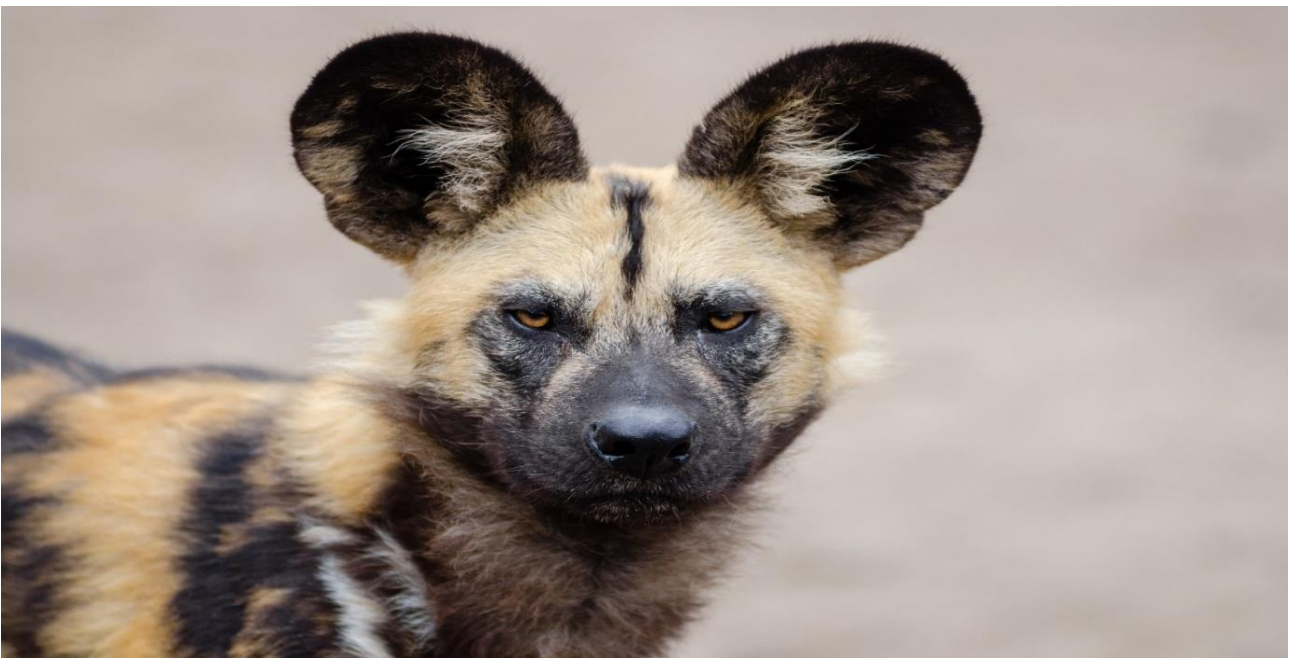
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The park is 960 km<sup>2</sup> and is, among other things, home to *The Big Five*, hyenas, cheetahs and the beautiful nyala antelope. We drive around in open 4-wheel drive vehicles to better enjoy and observe the wildlife.



In 1981, an attempt was made to reintroduce the endangered and South Africa's rarest predator - *the African wild dog* - into the park. 22 dogs were used, all bred in zoos. The goal was for them to mate with the dogs that were already in the area. However, that was easier said than done, because most of them emigrated from the park. Therefore, over a number of years, further experiments were carried out in the hope that the stock could be increased. It is estimated that there are around 400 wild African dogs left in South Africa. One of the primary reasons for the low population is that farmers considered them pests and therefore killed them to protect their own cattle.



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In the afternoon we drive to the town of *Santa Lucia* and get ready for a 2-hour boat cruise at *iSimangaliso Wetland Park*. It came, as the first area in South Africa, on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1999, and is the largest wetland in Africa with its 3,280 km<sup>2</sup>. The name *iSimangaliso* means "a miracle" or "something wonderful" in the local Zulu language, and you may understand the meaning of the word when you see the natural beauty that surrounds us. We see a rich bird life, Nile crocodiles and hippos up close.



We sail around until the sunset marks that it is time for us to find land again and drive to our lodge for the night. We spend the night at the 3-star *Elephant Lake Hotel*, located on the shores of the Saint Lucia estuary, which is sometimes visited by hippos at dusk.



**Accommodation: Elephant Lake Lodge** (<https://www.elephantlakehotel.com/>)

**Meals: Breakfast**

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### Day 6: Saint Lucia – Eshowe, Zululand

(Distance: Approximately 149 kilometre)

After breakfast, there is an opportunity to go on a small city tour of Saint Lucia before we continue today's journey. We are in the heart of *Zululand*, which today forms the north-eastern province of Kwazulu-Natal. The area is mainly inhabited by *the Zulus*, who are the largest tribe in South Africa, numbering a mere 11 million people. Zulu actually means "sky" and thus the Zulus are the "people of the sky". Their heyday began in 1816 with the appointment of *Shaka* as their king.



With tactical ingenuity, political giftedness and military prowess, Shaka managed to create a well-organized and centralized state. His military success was due, among other things, to that he invented a shorter spear with a broad blade ("*iklwa*"). These could be used in close combat and reused several times, unlike the traditional long spears, which were only used when they could be thrown to fight the enemies from a long distance.

Politically, he managed to integrate defeated tribes into the Zulu tribe with full rights, so that promotions in the army and in the state, apparatus were based on ability and not family affiliation. Culturally, he managed to do away with the power of the witch doctors, so that they became subject to his state.

By 1825, Shaka had conquered an empire so large that it covered 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> (the size of Jutland). In 1828, Shaka was assassinated by his half-brother *Dingane*, who subsequently took the throne and executed many of Shaka's followers to secure his own position.

In 1835, thousands of Boers (Dutch) left the British city of *Cape Town* on the south coast to head north. When they encountered the Zulus in their hunt for land, fighting broke out and in early 1838 it led to a massacre of a number of Boers, including their leader. The Boers appointed *Andries Pretorius* as their new leader, and with him at their head they attacked the Zulus, suffering a crushing defeat at *the Battle of Blood River* on 16 December 1838, when at least 15,000 Zulus were killed. King Dingane was subsequently killed by his half-brother *Mpande*, who had teamed up with the Boers to remove Dingane. He ruled over the Zulus until 1872, when he died of old age. His son *Cetshwayo* took over the throne and with him at the head succeeded in beating back the Boers.

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But in 1878 a new problem arose when the British leader of South Africa, *Sir Henry Bartle Frere*, demanded that Cetshwayo disband his army and meet a number of other demands. This resulted in *the Zulu War of 1879*. Initially, the British army suffered a huge defeat on 22 January 1879 at the Battle of *Isandlwana*, where the Zulu army killed more than 1000 British soldiers in a single day. It was the worst defeat the British army had ever suffered and showed how well organized the Zulu tactical system was. However, the British defeat did not lead to a retreat but to a redirection of the war effort, where they began to win victories that culminated in the capture of the Zulu capital *Ulundi* and the subsequent dissolution of the Zulu state.

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The Zulus are known to be a very proud people with a rich culture that they have managed to maintain. Today we are going to experience it up close when we visit a village in *Eshowe*, the oldest town in Zululand.

We will first go on a tour of the village, where we will, among other things, visit a school and get a feel for how teaching is done in this part of the world.



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Next, we are going to have an experience out of the ordinary when we are going to visit a medicine man or traditional healer and get a unique introduction to the traditional religion linked to the Zulu people. Although the majority are Christians, traditional religion still plays a huge role.

Traditional healers are practitioners of traditional African medicine. They perform various social and political roles in society, including divination, curing physical, emotional and spiritual ailments, managing birth and death rituals, finding lost cattle, protecting warriors, countering witchcraft and telling the history, cosmology and myths of their tradition.

There are two main types of traditional healers within the Zulu tribe: *Sangoma* (who are appointed by the ancestors) and *Inyanga* (who work primarily with herbs and other forms of medicine). These healers are effective South African shamans who are highly respected in a society where illness is believed to be caused by witchcraft; contact with impurities (of which dirt, darkness and heat are symbols. If they nevertheless become impure, the darkness can be dispelled by various purification methods. In this way, the blame can be placed impersonally), or through neglect of the ancestors.



The harmony between the living and the dead is essential for a trouble-free life, and therefore respect must be shown to the ancestors through rituals and animal sacrifices. The sangomas can get advice and guidance from the ancestors for their patients by e.g. to go into a trance, throw bones or let the spirits of the ancestors speak through them. That way they can find out what the patient's problem is and what can cure it. In contrast to e.g. Denmark, where you describe what is wrong and then the doctor then makes the diagnosis.

It is estimated that 84% of the population in South Africa consult a Sangoma at least 3 times each year. It is estimated that there are at least 200,000 Sangomas in the country.

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After a rare insight into a world where faith, superstition and culture go hand in hand as a treatment method, it's time to say goodbye to our Sangoma and head to our hotel for the night. We spend the night at the charming 3-star hotel *The George*, which has functioned as a hotel since 1906, and where the walls can tell many exciting stories and anecdotes.



**Accommodation:** The George Hotel Eshowe (<https://www.thegeorge.co.za/>)

**Meals:** Breakfast and dinner

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## Day 7: Eshowe – Drakensberg

(Distance: Approximately 265 kilometre)

After breakfast, we will go out to visit *Fort Nongqayi*, which was built by the British to house the local police officers (Nongqayi means in the local language "*light is shed on the matter*"). Construction began in 1883, but the British colonial power ran out of money along the way, so the fort only has 3 of the planned 4 corner towers. Today the fort is an interesting museum dealing with the moving history between the British and the Zulus.



After the visit, we continue our journey to the *Nelson Mandela Capture Site Memorial*. Mandela, the now deceased former president of South Africa, achieved international recognition for his efforts to establish racial, social and political equality in a South Africa ravaged by the damaging effects of the apartheid regime.

The Nelson Mandela Capture Site is a cultural and historical exhibition located at the site where Mandela was arrested for his anti-apartheid activism in August 1962. Mandela travelled in disguise as a driver on the road between Durban and Johannesburg. The police had been chasing him for 17 months, and when he passed along this stretch of road, they managed to catch and arrest him on 5 August 1962. It also marked one of the most significant moments in the history of the apartheid era and the future of South Africa.

From the time of his imprisonment, Mandela made great strides in raising the awareness of South Africans and the world to the inequalities and unfair treatment of the black population.

The monument honouring Mandela and his efforts was created by *Marco Cianfanelli* and *Jeremy Rose* and represents the multifaceted influences and character of a single man who had a huge impact on a country's identity. The monument consists of 50 steel columns that are between 6 and 9.5 meters high and cover a width of almost 30 meters. These have been laser cut to form an image of the former president when viewed at the right angle. The pillars are lined up so that at a certain angle they create what appears to be a two-dimensional image of Mandela. The effect can be seen at a distance of 30 meters. The monument is at the end of a winding path that represents the long walk to freedom that he took towards his goal of political equality.

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After the visit, we continue our journey through the country to one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the world – *the Drakensberg*. The mountain range covers an area of 2,500 km<sup>2</sup> and the highest point *Thabana Ntlenyana* (located in Lesotho) reaches a whopping 3,482 meters into the air. In the year 2000, the area was added to UNESCO's world heritage list, i.e., because of ancient cave paintings made by *the San people* that testified to their way of life and beliefs. We go on a hike and enjoy the beautiful scenery.



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We spend the night at the idyllic *Ardmore Guest Farm*, located in the beautiful *Champagne Valley* in the central Drakensberg region. From the farm, the view is dominated by the 3 highest mountain peaks in South Africa. Our hosts, *James and Leanne*, will do their best to make our stay unforgettable. Our rooms are equipped with a spa bath and a fireplace.



**Accommodation:** Ardmore Guest Farm (<https://ardmore.co.za/>)

**Meals:** Breakfast and dinner

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# EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

## Day 8: Drakensberg – Lesotho

(Distance: Approximately 438 kilometre)

After breakfast, we drive through the impressive mountain landscape of *the Royal Natal National Park* on our way to the *Kingdom of Lesotho*. In the spectacular landscape, *the Amphitheatre* is one of the biggest attractions.

The amphitheatre is approximately 5 km long and is considered one of the most impressive rock faces on earth. From the top of the Amphitheatre, the world's second highest waterfall, *Tugela Falls*, drops an impressive 948 meters to the bottom.



*Mount-Aux-Sources* is the highest point in the northern Drakensberg with its 3,254 meters above sea level. From here, South Africa's longest river, the *Orange River*, begins its journey west through the whole of South Africa, where it eventually ends up in the Atlantic Ocean.

We cross the border to the small, beautiful kingdom of Lesotho, which is the highest country in the world. The lowest point in the country is approx. 1,450 meters above sea level and as much as 80% of the country lies above 1,800 meters above sea level, which is why the country is also called the "*Kingdom of the Sky*". The country, with a population of 2.1 million inhabitants and a total area of 30,355 km<sup>2</sup> (the size of Belgium), is completely surrounded by South Africa.

People have lived in Lesotho for over 50,000 years. The first inhabitants were hunters and gatherers from the San people. From the 15th century, several *Bantu-speaking* tribes immigrated, e.g., *Sesotho-speaking* people who today make up the country's population. Lesotho can actually be translated as "*the land of the Sotho-speaking people*".

Today's Lesotho emerged as a unified state under *King Moshoeshoe* in 1822, who was a unifying leader for the *Basotho*. In the 19th century, there were many wars between the different African tribes, while the Boers settled in Moshoeshoe's kingdom. The Basotho retreated to the mountains to better defend themselves against the militarily superior Boers, while King Moshoeshoe sought support from the British. 13 December 1843 *Basotholand* was recognized as a British protectorate.

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## EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Basotholand was administered separately and thus avoided becoming part of the Union of South Africa when it was established in 1910. The British established a degree of self-government through a national council and a paramount chief. On 4 October 1966, the country gained full independence from the British and at the same time changed its name to Lesotho.



Lesotho, like Denmark, is a constitutional monarchy where the king has a symbolic role. Executive power rests with the government, headed by a prime minister. Parliament consists of a national assembly, which is democratically elected, and a senate. The Senate consists of 22 chiefs, whose membership is hereditary, and of which half are appointed by the king, who acts on the advice of the prime minister.

Economically, the country is very dependent on South Africa, and their local currency is pegged to the South African rand. Many Sotho work in South Africa especially in their mining industry. Water is Lesotho's only significant natural resource, and the country is almost self-sufficient in hydroelectricity. They export water and electricity to South Africa, and also export diamonds, wool, and mohair. As a curiosity, it can be mentioned that the country is the largest exporter of clothing to the United States from Africa south of the Sahara.



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We spend the night in the remote village of *Malealea*, tucked away in the *Makhomalong Valley* at the foot of the majestic *Maloti Mountains* in southwestern Lesotho. Surrounded by a landscape of rolling hillsides, tall aloe vera plants and the reddish brown glow that shines over the mountains from the sun, this very rural village is the ideal place to enjoy nature and silence.

We live in small round cabins at *Malealea Lodge*, from where we can hear birdsong and the sound of bells from the grazing sheep.



**Accommodation: Malealea Lodge** (<https://malealea.com/>)

**Meals: Breakfast and dinner**

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# EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

## Day 9: Lesotho

After a wonderful night's sleep in the fresh mountain air, it's time to get out and experience how the local people live and live. We are going on a trip around one of the small villages, where we will be introduced to everyday life. We will see the local well from which water is drawn, we will see how the local women brew beer, we will visit their homes and we will visit a school. We will experience poverty, but at the same time a population full of hope, resilience, dreams and laughter.



The rest of the afternoon is at your disposal, where you can relax and enjoy the surroundings, or do one of the following activities (at your own expense):

*Pony riding:* A ride on horseback is both exciting and peaceful. Together with a local guide, you will ride around the breath-taking nature. The ponies are gentle and trained, in which you can have complete confidence.

*Session with a Sangoma (medicine man):* You have the opportunity to have your very own private session with a Sangoma. If your journey has filled you with questions that you cannot find the answers to, or if you yearn to know if you are following the right path in life, or if you have dreamed something for which you want an interpretation, the Sangoma may be able to provide you some valuable answers. Together with a translator, you will represent the Sangoma in his hut. The translator will introduce you and the ritual will begin. With prayer and bone-throwing, he tells you what he sees. You have the opportunity to ask questions. Come prepared and curious.

*San Cave Paintings:* The cave paintings are relics of the first human civilization in the country and are awe-inspiring to behold. The caves are located in the mountains and are a bit demanding in terms of hiking but viewing some of the oldest art in the world is worth the effort. T

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In the evening, when the sun begins to slip behind the Maloti mountains and the light blue-sky melts into pink, a local choir and band will perform for us. Music is as important a part of life for the Basotho as air is, and they want to share it with us. Their songs are emotional and inspired by life in the kingdom of the clouds.



**Accommodation: Malealea Lodge** (<https://malealea.com/>)

**Meals: Breakfast and dinner**

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## EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

### Day 10: Lesotho – Pretoria

(Distance: Approximately 549 kilometre)

After a wonderful breakfast, it is time to say goodbye to Lesotho and cross the border north to South Africa. The destination for today's journey is South Africa's administrative capital, *Pretoria*. The city is also known as

"*Jacaranda City*", when the streets are lined purple from the many beautiful trees in September to November.



The first two Jacaranda trees were planted in 1888 by local gardener *JD Cilliers* in his own garden. Impressively, the 2 trees still stand to this day at *Sunnyside Primary School*. In the late 1800s, flower and tree producer *James Clark* imported Jacaranda trees from Australia and began growing them on a large scale. In November 1906 he donated 200 small trees to the *Pretoria City Council*, which they planted in what is now *Bosman Street*. It is estimated that today there are more than 70,000 Jacaranda trees spread across Pretoria.

The town was originally founded in 1855 by the *Voortrekkers* and named after one of their leaders – *Andries Pretorius*. In 1860 the city became the capital of the *Transvaal* and in 1910 of the whole of South Africa. The functions of government in South Africa are geographically threefold – the Parliament (legislative) is located in Cape Town, the Supreme Court (judicial) is located in Bloemfontein and the state administration (executive) is located in Pretoria.

In the year 2000, the administrative unit was changed so that it now covers a larger area. The new capital area was named *Tshwane* to distance itself from the name Pretoria's relation to the colonial era and the apartheid regime. However, the name Pretoria itself is still used for the old city centre.

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The guided sightseeing tour around the city takes us back in history. We must, among other things, experience *the Voortrekker Monument, the Union Buildings and the Krüger House*.



*The Voortrekker Monument* is a 40 meter high fortress that pays tribute to the group of Dutch settlers who founded Pretoria. In 1835, thousands of Boers left the British city of Cape Town on the south coast to head north. It was the start of what we know today as *The Great Trek*. The travellers were called *voortrekkers* or pioneers. They ended up settling on the piece of land that became known as the *Transvaal*, and then declared it independent from British rule. Inside the Voortrekker Monument we can see the history of the pioneers depicted on the 27 wall panels. Also take a closer look at the large tapestry depicting other scenes from The Great Trek. It took nine women eight years to complete the rug, which has more than 3.3 million stitches.

If we go downstairs, we can visit the *Cenotaph Hall*, where the pioneers who died during The Great Trek are commemorated by an empty grave. Once a year – on December 16 – the sun shines through an opening in the monument's domed roof to commemorate the *Battle of Blood River on December 16, 1838*, where the Boers killed at least 15,000 Zulus. The sun shines on the words "*Ons vir jou, Suid-Afrika*", which directly translates to "*We for you, South Africa*". The architect *Gerald Moerdijk* planned this, as the sunbeam symbolizes God's blessing on the life and work of the Voortrekkers.

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*The Union Buildings* form the official seat of the South African Government and also house the offices of the President of South Africa. The crescent-shaped building, built of light sandstone, is located on top of a hill, from which there is a magnificent view of the entire city. The 285-meter-long building was completed in 1913, and the building's two wings were to symbolize the country's two population groups, the English and the Boers.

There was apparently no space for the black part of the population in the symbolism of the government building.



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*Krüger House* was the last residence of the President of the Republic of South Africa – *Paul Krüger*. He was internationally known for his fight for freedom from the British during *the Second Boer War 1899 - 1902*.

The beautiful Victorian house was interestingly built with cement mixed with milk instead of water, as the cement of the time was considered to be of poor quality. Paul Krüger's home was one of the first in the city to use electricity and he had one of the first telephones installed in Pretoria in 1891. The unpretentious home has been renovated to reflect the time when he and his second wife, *Gezina Krüger*, lived here.



We have 2 nights at the 4-star *Court Classique Suite Hotel*.



**Accommodation:** Court Classique Suite Hotel (<https://courtclassique.co.za/>)

**Meals:** Breakfast

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# EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

## Day 11: Pretoria – Johannesburg

(Distance: Approximately 62 kilometre)

After breakfast we drive to *Johannesburg*. Without exaggeration, Johannesburg can be said to be the city of contrasts. "*Joburg*", as it is often referred to, is South Africa's largest city with a population of approx. 6.3 million people.

The town was founded in 1886 when gold prospector *George Harrison* accidentally found a gold vein. The news of the gold find spread like wildfire, and within a short time the primitive carts and tents of the gold diggers were replaced by more modern metal constructions and buildings. The gold rush attracted gold diggers from all over the world and was a contributing factor to the Boer War of 1899-1902, where the Boers and the British fought for control of the area and thus over the gold.

After the end of the war came another wave of immigrants. Up to 60,000 Chinese workers were imported to restart mining operations. Mining also attracted more affluent European migrants, whose investments ensured that the gold could be dug deeper into the ground, while black South Africans were recruited to extract the gold.

In 1904, the first forced relocations of blacks began, which was the beginning of the city's and the country's largest and most notorious township – *Soweto*.

Johannesburg's geography reflects a hundred years of racially driven division that culminated in the apartheid system in South Africa from 1948-1994. The result is a city of unusual contrasts: giant glass and steel skyscrapers - large townships; internationally recognized universities – widespread illiteracy; glittering opulence – desperate poverty. Johannesburg represents - for better or worse - the soul of South Africa.



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We are going to visit the famous and infamous township Soweto (Southwest Township) and get a little insight into the daily life here. It is estimated that there are approx. 2 million people in the urban area, which is about 65 km<sup>2</sup> in size.



Originally the area was only intended as a temporary residence for the miners, but in 1923, as part of the white government's infamous *Urban Areas Act*, it was transformed into a ghetto for the black population of Johannesburg. Soweto ended up becoming the largest black town in South Africa, but until 1976 the inhabitants could only have the status of "temporary residents" without legal rights.



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On 16 June 1976, several students began protesting in the streets of Soweto in response to the decision to make *Afrikaans* the official language of all schools. It is estimated that 20,000 students participated in the protests. They were met with fierce brutality by the police, and many were shot and killed, including 13-year-old *Hector Pieterse*. He was carried by a fellow student and his sister in the iconic photo taken by photographer

*Sam Nzima*.

The image became an icon of the struggle against apartheid, a photo that defined an entire generation. The number of people killed in the uprising is officially 176, but it is believed that up to 700 students lost their lives that day. June 16 is now officially "*Youth Day*", and the entire month of June is dedicated to the youth of South Africa.



Since 1994, the district has undergone significant changes, where, among other things, a large part of the thousands of tin sheds has been replaced by real homes. There are also better areas in Day with schools, university, sports clubs, and hospitals.

On our tour around Soweto, we will visit Nelson Mandela's house. Already as a young law student, Mandela became involved in the freedom struggle against the white apartheid rule. He soon became one of the leading figures in the African National Congress (ANC), and from 1947 and 14 years later he and his wife Winnie lived at the address Vilakazi Street, House 8115 in Soweto. When he left the house in 1961, it was in a hurry, running for his life. He revisited the house in 1990, after spending 27 years as a prison inmate, and said on that occasion that this place had always been the centre of his world. In Day, it is the best-known address in South AfriApprox. The house has become a museum that tells the story of the Mandela family in sound, pictures, and film. Vilakazi Street is also the only street in the world that has housed 2 recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Archbishop Desmond Tutu lived in the same street.

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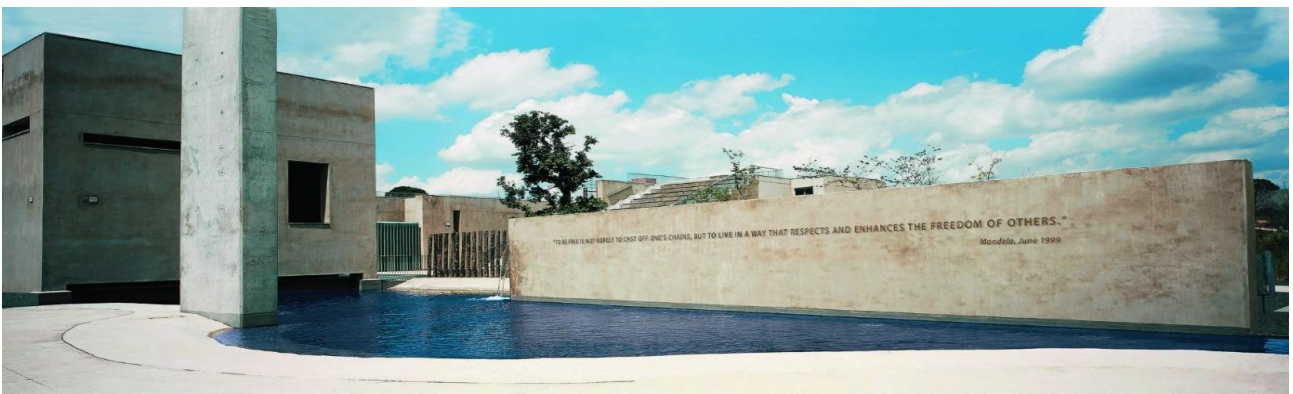
# EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS



After lunch, we finish the day's sightseeing with a visit to the Apartheid Museum. Founded in 2001, the museum is recognized as the leading museum in the world dealing with the history of South Africa from the 20th century.

In 1948, the white elected National Party government implemented the apartheid policy that made 20 million people second-class citizens and condemned them to a life of servitude, humiliation, and exploitation. The election of Nelson Mandela as president in 1994 simultaneously marked the end of apartheid and became a high point in the saga of a country's resistance, courage, and strength.

The apartheid museum, which is the first of its kind, illustrates the "greatness" and fall of the apartheid system. The museum is a beacon of hope, showing the outside world how South Africa has come to terms with an oppressive past, and is working towards a future that all South Africans can call their own.



**Accommodation: Court Classique Suite Hotel** (<https://courtclassique.co.za/>)

**Meals: Breakfast**

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# EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

## Day 12: Departure from Johannesburg

Enjoy the last morning atmosphere in Johannesburg. Take a little walk in the area or buy the last souvenirs before we get ready to go to OR Tambo International Airport to start our journey home to Denmark. Tired, but filled with lots of lovely holiday memories, new friendships and, of course,

unique spot shots.



**Meals: Breakfast**

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## EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

### Overview of the itinerary

- *Safari, beautiful landscapes & special cultural experiences*

Day	Duration	Accommodation	Meals
1 - 2	1 night	Shiluvuri Lakeside Lodge, South Africa	Day 1 Dinner
2 - 4	2 nights	Kubu Safari Lodge, South Africa	Day 2 Breakfast, lunch & dinner Day 3 Breakfast & dinner
4 - 5	1 night	Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary Rest Camp, eSwatini	Day 4 Breakfast & dinner
5 - 6	1 night	Elephant Lake Hotel, South Africa	Day 5 Breakfast
6 - 7	1 night	The George Hotel, South Africa	Day 6 Breakfast & dinner
7 - 8	1 night	Ardmore Guest House, South Africa	Day 7 Breakfast & dinner
8 - 10	2 nights	Malealea Lodge, Lesotho	Day 8 Breakfast & dinner Day 9 Breakfast & dinner
10 - 12	2 nights	Court Classique Suite Hotel, South Africa	Day 10 Breakfast Day 11 Breakfast Day 12 Breakfast



## EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

### Overview of the travel route

South Africa, eSwatini & Lesotho  
- *Safari, beautiful landscapes & special cultural experiences*





# EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

## Practical information

### - *Safari, beautiful landscapes & special cultural experiences*

#### **Travel budget**

Most meals on our trip are already included. For drinks and additional lunches or dinners, calculate around DKK 150-200 per person.

#### **Tips**

It is customary to tip guides, waiters, and other service personnel. They receive a very small, fixed salary, and are therefore very dependent on the tips they receive when they deliver a good effort. Evergreen Escape Expeditions recognizes this custom, but also knows that Danes generally have a hard time tipping, as we are not used to it. That is why we have included tips for guides and drivers in the journey.

It is often a large item on a travel budget. Guests of Evergreen Escape Expeditions avoid this post and the considerations associated with it. Gratuities for both local guides and general guides, drivers and helpers are included in the price for the journey.

What remains are the small items such as tips for house cleaners and porters. Most often, their salary is based on tips. We cannot change this. Therefore, it is always a good idea to show your appreciation in the form of a small amount, both to the dragon who takes the suitcase from the room to the lobby, and to the house cleaner in charge of the room.

Likewise, Evergreen Escape Expeditions recommends that you round up - or add 10% - when paying at a restaurant. The same rule applies here as in hotels: the salary is based on the guests tipping.

#### **Passport**

Passport must be valid for six months beyond the date of entry and have 2 blank pages for entry and exit stamps.

It is always a good idea to have an extra copy of the passport's information page with you. It is kept in a different place than the passport itself.

We advise all travellers to check with the consulates of the 3 countries about possible changes regarding entry requirements, as these can change at short notice.

#### **Visa**

A visa is not required for EU citizens to South Africa, eSwatini or Lesotho.

#### **Vehicles**

We use air-conditioned vehicles.

From 8 to 14 people, we travel with a 17-person *Crafter* or a *Mercedes Sprinter*. These vehicles are very agile, flexible and reliable.

For more than 14 people, we travel with a 24-person bus.

When we are on a game drive in Krüger National Park and Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve, we drive in open terrain 4-wheel drive vehicles.



# EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

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## **Luggage**

Please bring a soft bag or rucksack rather than a suitcase, as they are often easier to pack in the car.

## **Packing List**

### *Documents:*

- Your passport & a copy of the passport (keep it separate from the original)
- Your flight confirmation
- Vaccination certificate & copy
- Contact details and insurance card for your international health insurance
- Cash in Euro or USD
- Credit card, preferably Visa
- Last travel documents with the contact details of the contact person on site

### *Clothing:*

- Sturdy shoes
- Sandals
- Warm fleece or wool sweater for chilly mornings and evenings
- Light summer clothes
- Long-sleeved shirt/blouse and long cotton trousers
- Light rain/wind jacket
- Headgear
- Swimwear, bath towel and bath shoes

### *Equipment:*

- Small backpack
- Money belt or chest bag for storing money and valuables
- Sunglasses
- Flashlight + extra batteries
- Headlamp
- Camera and possibly telephoto lens for animal photos
- Memory card
- Binoculars
- Power adapter
- Travel alarm clock
- Travel hair dryer if needed
- Neck pillow for travel and long journeys

### *Health/First Aid Kit:*

- Sunscreen for skin and lips
- Mosquito spray (mosquito spray can also be bought on arrival - e.g., Nobite or Medisoft)
- First aid kit (with plasters and disinfectant)
- Important personal medicine
- Small provisions, e.g., biscuit
- A roll of toilet paper

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