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Tour: Amazing Africa
Destination: South Africa
Specialization: Geography, Geology, Animal Science, Ecology, Astronomy, History & Culture
Itinerary: 10-days / 9-nights in destination

Amazing Africa - Sample Itinerary				
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Travel to Johannesburg; transfer to Magaliesberg	Primate Center	Dinner	Orientation
2	Sterkfontein Caves / Cradle of Humankind	Mankind Master Class / Discussion	Dinner	
3	Travel to Hazyview		Cultural Shangaan Immersion / Dinner	
4	Quad Bike Trail - Geology Master Class	Elephant & Conservation Master Class	Travel to Blyde	Dinner
5	Kruger National Park / Wildlife & Conservation Master Class		Dinner	Quiz
6	Cultural Excursion Day - Community Service Volunteer Project		Dinner	Astronomy Workshop
7	Wildlife Breeding Centre	Reptile Orientation Master Class	Dinner	
8	Travel to Johannesburg via Panoramic Route / Bourkes Luck Potholes		Quiz	Dinner
9	Gold Reef City - Story of Gold	Apartheid Museum	Dinner	Discussion
10	African Flea Market	Transfer to Airport	Fly Home	



Specialists in STEM Student Travel

As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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 Registered office as above. VAT No. 784 3347 05

Get ready to explore science as you've never experienced! In this special Visions Tour, your students will delve into geography, geology, animal science, ecology, astronomy, navigation, history and cultural aspects that will enlighten, entertain and create an awareness of the behind the scenes world of science! Join us on this trip of a lifetime which is sure to enthrall your students and reinforce your quest for knowledge!

In this "adventure of a lifetime," Visions partners with a local South African family company dedicated to research, training and conservation to protect the beauty that is Africa. Our local host - Urshula, worked with her father and guided her first Adventure into Africa at the age of 17 years and has not looked back from this moment on. "We pride ourselves in our care and love for young people. Our expeditions are geared to make a real difference wherever we go, to leave a little bit of ourselves, and to help those less fortunate."

Day 1

Lunch & Dinner

Travel to Johannesburg, South Africa via air, arriving at the Oliver Tambo International Airport. Upon arrival, schools will sit back and relax while our transportation team sets course for the Magaliesberg area! We'll be heading for a quaint resort at the foot of the Magaliesberg Mountain range where we will set up camp before heading off to the Primate Sanctuary for a tour of this facility.

The Primate Sanctuary - Here we will discuss primates such as Squirrel monkey, Capuchin monkey, Spider monkey, Bush babies and many more. The Sanctuary is situated in one of the Kloofs of the Magaliesberg mountain range and provides freedom in a natural environment for orphaned and abused primates. www.monkeysanctuary.co.za

Later, we'll return to camp for an evening at the Campfire, a hearty dinner and then students and teachers will participate in a full tour briefing and orientation.

Orientation Master Class

- ✓ Introduction to South Africa / Provinces
- ✓ Safety tips on traveling and staying in the wild areas of South Africa
- ✓ The geography, geology, vegetation and wildlife prominent in South Africa
- ✓ The history of South Africa
- ✓ Retention Quiz

Lodging Note: Lodging as follows: 3-Nights Camping in 2-man Dome Tents / 4-Nights Dormitories / 2-Nights Guesthouse (All Accommodation on a sharing basis).



Day 2

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Good morning South Africa! We have an exciting day of History ahead of us! Get ready to go!

Cradle of Humankind; a World Heritage site in South Africa - The Cradle of Humankind was declared a World Heritage Site in 1999 because of the area's exceptional contribution to our understanding of humankind's history and development, over more than 3-million years. Altogether, there are 15 major fossil sites in the Cradle of Humankind, of which the Sterkfontein Caves is the most famous. The fossils "Mrs Ples" and "Little Foot" were both discovered here, as well as thousands more fossils of hominids, which are human ancestors, as well those of plants and animals. Our tour will include exploring the Sterkfontein caves where excavation is still taking place today.

We complete our day with lunch and a Tour of the Maropeng Exhibition Centre – learning and interacting with information about the beginning of the World, the Path to Humanity & Sustainability.
www.maropeng.co.za

The Geology of Mankind

- ✓ Discuss the controversy of how and where mankind began.
- ✓ Learn the history of Mrs Ples and her excavation process.
- ✓ Determine how animals, plants & hominids co-existed all those years ago

Day 3

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

It's a beautiful day and after breakfast, we will be heading to the Greater Kruger Park area!

Once we arrive in Hazyview, we will set up camp and freshen up for our evening Cultural Activity.



Shangaan Cultural Immersion – Dinner, Drumming & Dance - Designed and built by local Shangaan people, our venue for the evening forms a place of great pride and a way of preserving a rich heritage for us, and an example of South Africa's great cultural diversity. The evening Chief Israel Ngobeni and his family host the Evening Festival, where choirs, actors and dancers gather to tell the story of the Shangaan people.

www.shangana.co.za/ShanganaCulturalVillage.aspx

Shangaan Cultural Immersion Workshop

- ✓ Research, understand and explore history of the Shangaan people
- ✓ Where else in Africa do the Shangaan people reside?
- ✓ Discuss how the Shangaan Communities survive and keep their heritage strong
- ✓ Shangaan Diet – discussion of their eating habits

Later we'll return to our campsite where we will spend the rest of the evening in discussion about our time in South Africa thus far.

Day 4

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Good morning! After breakfast and breaking down camp - we have an exciting day of adventure planned as we make our way to the beginning of our Quad Bike Trail.

First, we'll participate in a basic orientation of this 4-Wheel ATV and then we'll divide into groups depending upon your experience. We explore the indigenous forests and Blue Gum plantations on our Quad Bikes before arriving back at camp. What a highlight!



After lunch we move onto our afternoon activity – the Elephant Interaction Program. Here we will spend time learning and interacting with these gentle beasts.

Elephant Interaction & Conservation

- ✓ We research these gentle giants and what threatens them in today's life
- ✓ Is the Ivory of an Elephant still in demand and why?
- ✓ Why a program like this helps the Elephants?
- ✓ What is South Africa doing to conserve and protect these gentle giants?



What a great day it has been! We make our way to a Resort at the foothills of the Blyde Canyon – this resort will be our base for the following 4-nights as we explore more of South Africa. On our arrival we are booked into Dormitories before enjoying a tasty dinner together as a group and discussing the day's activities.

Day 5

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Rise and shine! After a light continental breakfast, with the early morning sounds, we'll embark upon a once-in-a-lifetime-day....

Wildlife & Conservation in Kruger National Park Master Class

- ✓ Listen as your qualified Game Ranger explains about the major problems that exist in Africa between man and wildlife
- ✓ What does conservation mean in Africa?
- ✓ What important roles do we, as humans, play in conservation?



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- ✓ Learn about poaching
- ✓ Get an introduction to the BIG 5 – the Elephant, the Leopard, the Lion, the Rhinoceros, and the Buffalo www.places.co.za/html/famousbig5.html
- ✓ What are the SMALL 5 – the Elephant Shrew, the Red Billed Buffalo Weaver, the Ant Lion, the Leopard Tortoise, and the Rhino Beetle
- ✓ Take notes on the behavioral patterns of the different species we encounter
- ✓ Study and learn about the African food chain
- ✓ See Herbivores in action. Why do they behave the way they do?
- ✓ Discover the differences between Browsers and Grazers
- ✓ Track Carnivores and hopefully find them! Learn why they are so elusive
- ✓ See and understand the behaviors of Omnivores
- ✓ Understand the ecological impact when you remove some of the aspects in the food chain
- ✓ Retention Quiz



Day 6

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Good morning South Africa! Today we will rise with the sun, have breakfast and head to a Community Service Project where we will be involved with assisting Local communities in need. Today's focus is to give something back to the communities in which we have visited.

Cultural Excursion – Community Service Program

Our Guide Teams have been actively supporting this community service project for many years and our groups truly enjoy interacting with the Local Community. While here, we will embark upon a humanitarian project intended to improve the children's way of life in these communities. This may be painting or refurbishing a school or building vegetable gardens for the schools feeding programs. As volunteers, we will also bring and donate much needed supplies for the schools. After an exciting time of work, fun and games, we will say farewell to our new friends until next time.



The Local Community Master Class

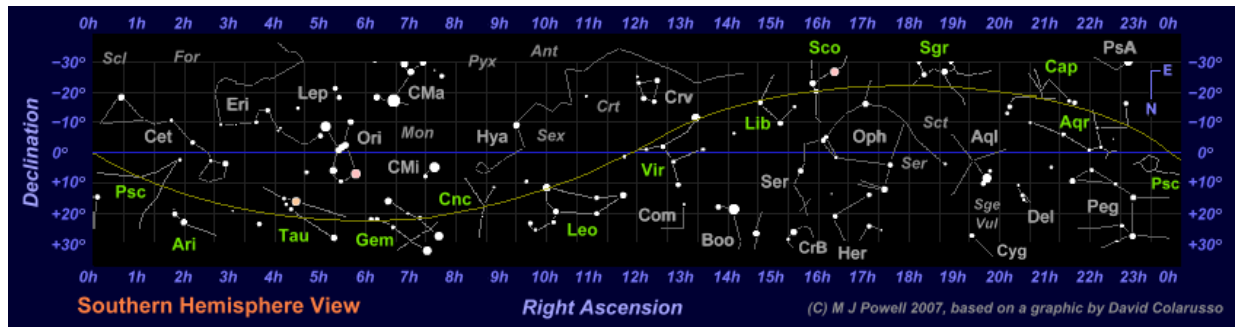
- ✓ Learn about the devastating effect HIV has on Africa
- ✓ Understand the programs that the African Governments have introduced to combat this scourge.

- ✓ Understand the cultural stigma still attached to this disease in Africa
- ✓ What impact can we make with regard to this disease in Africa?
- ✓ Find out more about the programs this organization is involved with and the way forward for South Africa, HIV and Communities affected.

After a rewarding day and being able to leave something meaningful behind for this program and the community, we return to camp for dinner and an evening under a blanket of stars and a magnificent 'Milky Way.' Once the darkness sets in and the sky fills with millions of stars, we will learn about Astronomy.

The Night Sky in the Southern Hemisphere Master Class

- ✓ Find, study and learn about the Constellations
- ✓ Where is the Southern Cross? How will the Southern Cross help you to find true South?
- ✓ Find, study and learn about the Milky Way
- ✓ Identify Orion's Belt, Scorpio and many other Southern constellations



Day 7

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Rise & Shine! We're in for another fun and exciting day as we experience a day full of Conservation.

Our visit stop includes a visit to a **Wildlife Rehabilitation Center** - The main aim of this program's efforts is to raise awareness regarding Africa's dying environment, not only in this country, but worldwide. Hopefully, when the world sees the Rehabilitation Center on their TV screens, or when they visit the venues, they too might recognize global issues and become aware that the wildlife of this world depend on humans to speak out on their behalf.

Conservation & Ecology Workshop

- ✓ Learn and understand what threatens Africa's wildlife
- ✓ Discuss the role humans play in how Africa's wildlife are being threatened
- ✓ Study what we can do to ensure animals do not end up on the Endangered Species list
- ✓ Learn how this program works, supports & protects the animals
- ✓ Analyze the list of endangered African species and what caused their demise
- ✓ Group discussion and wrap-up



We move onto our next Workshop at one of South Africa's largest **Reptile Centers**. Here we'll participate in a **Reptile Orientation Program** where we will come close to, touch and learn everything there is to know about this elusive species.

This will be our last evening in camp as we discuss our time in the Greater Kruger area, finalize our discussions on Conservation & Ecology, and determine where we can make a difference.

Day 8

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Good morning! After breakfast, we break down camp and head back to Johannesburg via the Panoramic Route as we visit some famous viewpoints on **Bourkes Luck Potholes**. This natural water feature marks the beginning of the Blyde River Canyon. Through countless eons the swirling whirlpools which occur as the Treur River plunges into the Blyde River caused waterborne sand and rock to grind huge, cylindrical potholes into the bedrock of the river. We'll stop off to learn about these formations and for some amazing photographic opportunities before continuing our journey to the City of Gold!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blyde_River_Canyon_Nature_Reserve

Geological Workshop

- ✓ Learn about the Panoramic Route and how it was formed and by who
- ✓ Discuss each scenic landmark and how they became part of the Panoramic Route - God's Window, Wonder View, the Pinnacle, Bourke's Luck Potholes and the Three Rondawels
- ✓ Learn about the geological history of each of these scenic landmarks
- ✓ Analyze how each of these landmarks are protected

We continue our travels back to Johannesburg with a heart full of memories and a mind full of all the wonderful things we have learned. On arrival in Johannesburg, we'll settle into our accommodation and go on to enjoy a scrumptious meal.

Day 9

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Rise and shine Johannesburg! Today will be another adventurous day of learning. Following breakfast, we'll make our way to Gold Reef City Theme Park.



Gold Reef City – Good Reef City is a theme park about the gold fields and their history. It includes an open-air museum with many historic buildings of a 19th century mining town. Visit a replica of an early Johannesburg gold mining village. Take a trip down the gold mine which was once the richest of all. See a gold bar being poured (if you can pick it up, you can take it home!). Visit the mint and enjoy the talent of the Mine gum-boot dancers! <http://www.goldreefcity.co.za>

Gold Mining Museum & Master Class

- ✓ Descend into the bowels of the earth with a slip cage where you will see and learn first-hand how gold is extracted from under the earth's surface
- ✓ Discover how gold gets mined and melted into the form we know
- ✓ Learn and understand the history of gold mining in South Africa
- ✓ Determine what effects mining has on the earth

This afternoon, we will learn about Apartheid.

Apartheid Museum & Master Class

- ✓ This "must-see" will open your student's eyes to the sadness of apartheid and the beauty of where South Africa is now
- ✓ How far has South Africa grown as the Rainbow Nation?
- ✓ What was "the apartheid era" and what did it mean to us?

www.apartheidmuseum.org

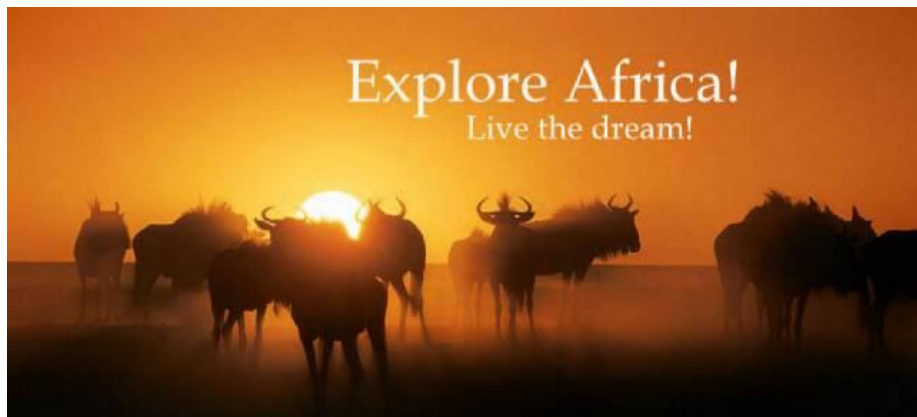


After absorbing and discussing this information, we will get some time to relax and enjoy the theme park rides of Gold Reef City! This evening we'll have dinner and get ready for tomorrow's return journey.

Day 10

Breakfast & Lunch

It's time to head home! Following breakfast and dependent upon our flight departures, we'll have the morning free then will start to say goodbye to Africa as we head off for our flight home; taking memories with us that will last forever as our new friends bid us "hamba kahle umgane" (go well friends).



AMAZING AFRICA

Minimum Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Round-trip flights with a scheduled carrier
9-nights' accommodation in Camp / Dormitory Setting with all meals as noted
Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers
Fully qualified guides

Listed Activities:

- Primate Center
- Cradle of Humankind
- Sterkfontein Caves
- Cultural Shangaan Dinner, Dance & Drumming
- Quad Biking Trail
- Elephant Interaction Program
- Full Day Game Drive Kruger National Park (in Bus)
- Full Day Community Service Program
- Visit Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- Reptile Orientation Course
- Panoramic Route view points
- Gold Reef City & Theme Park
- Apartheid Museum

Full Science Programming with Site Visits & Master Classes

- Orientation
- Geology of Mankind
- Shangaan Cultural Immersion Workshop
- Elephant Interaction and Conservation
- Wildlife/ Conservation Kruger National Park Master Class
- The Local Community Master Class
- The Night Sky in the Southern Hemisphere
- Conservation & Ecology
- Geological Workshop
- Gold Mining Museum & Master Class
- Apartheid Museum & Master Class

Local Representative Service

24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Beverages & Bottled Water during non-meal times (available for purchase)
Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Coach transfers to/from home airport
Other meals not specified
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Visa costs
Additional Sightseeing / Entertainment Options
Any gratuities – tour representatives, private guides

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Amazing Africa FAQs

Do we need Passports / Visas?

A passport is required for all international trips. Make two copies of your passport, leave one at home and carry one tucked away in your luggage. Visa requirements vary by country. All students must check local visa requirements before departure.

Will we need a Physical + Vaccinations?

Contact your family physician or your local clinic for the most up-to-date health information. Malaria is a big risk in Africa, so Malaria precautions are highly recommended. Participants can have rabies & anti-tetanus injections should they wish.

Medical and travel insurance?

All schools must arrive with medical & travel insurance. We have hospitals and medical clinics near all our projects and we can get normal medical care within a reasonable time. Medical rescue is available in most countries in Africa - please ensure your medical aid will cover that.

What kind of skills do our students need?

Activities that require instruction are led by professional guides. Guides join our groups with the expertise and equipment necessary to provide a high level of demanding, fun and safe instruction suitable for different levels of experience.

How much spending money should we bring?

How much do you shop? We recommend an average amount of 120 Sterling / 150 Euros / 200 USD a week to be more than sufficient unless you wish to participate in extra optional tours or excursions, then you may require more.

Who provides the training?

All training is provided by qualified staff, which includes: researchers, field guides, animal care specialists and animal trackers. Our ground staff have voluntarily met or exceeded over 300 standards including leader qualifications, first aid, emergency procedures, vehicle safety, etc.

How will my group keep in touch with their family?

Our Guides will have mobile phones on each tour for emergency purposes. There is also mobile coverage in most towns. UK students will be able to purchase SIM cards for their mobile phones, USA students will need to bring phones with international call capabilities if they wish to use cellular services. Facilities are available when in South Africa for Internet services, however, charges will apply if used. We encourage all students to call home only once a week, so you can concentrate on your African experience and bonding with your new friends. Of course, we will move heaven and earth to call your family in any sort of emergency; but no news is good news in our book.



What if families need to contact our school?

Our partner office in South Africa is reachable by phone 24 hours a day. All problems are handled immediately, and the family is always contacted directly.

Is transport provided?

All transport in-between projects is provided using local project vehicles or city liners. All Airport transfers are provided.

Are meals provided?

All meals at the projects are provided and thus are included in your program fees. We welcome all vegetarians and vegans as well as any other special dietary requirements. **NOTE: All schools will be required to assist in meal preparation and groups are split into teams for various tasks along the journey. Examples of teams include cook team, clean team, transport team, etc.**

What accommodation is provided?

The accommodation is based on camping in 2-man Dome tents when in campsites and in sharing accommodation when staying in Cabins and Chalets. All fees for bedding rental has been included in your package costs.

What active projects do our fees contribute to?

- Donations to WESSA (Wildlife Environment Society of South Africa)
- Donations to the Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Money received from schools are used for conservation and community efforts in Africa, which include:
 - o Building new recovery units for animals
 - o Improving the conditions of the projects
 - o Purchasing much needed yet expensive drugs for wildlife
 - o Electric fencing for re-introduction programs
 - o Radio collars for keeping track of animals
 - o Dart guns and drugs
 - o Purchasing of collars to monitor wildlife etc.
 - o Upliftment of rural classrooms

What should my students pack?

- Light raincoat
- T-shirt & sweater/jumper, shorts and long pants, Jeans, track/jogging suit
- Bathing suit & bath towel
- Comfortable Walking Shoes; sandals
- Toiletries, mosquito repellent & sun protection cream
- Hat/cap & sunglasses
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Binoculars & camera



- Diary
- Spending money for optional activities and purchases
- Malaria prophylaxis
- Music (CDs)
- A great attitude!

What should my schools bring?

If your school wants to bring any second-hand toys, clothing, shoes, books, etc to donate to the Community Service Program you are more than welcome to, but you are not required to do so.

Parental Questions

1) Camp site safety:

Q: Are the campsites you are staying at guarded?

A: Yes, all camps have 24-hrs Security to protect from animals and any uninvited guests.

Q: I understand you have tents that fit two to three students. How can you guarantee safety?

A: We have been leading trips in the region for 15 years, experience has taught us to form a “larger” with our tents with girls’ tents forming one half of the circle and boys tents the other half and our guides tents on the outside of the circle with a campfire going the entire night. With more than 3000 participants in their programs we have never had an incident in any of their camps.

Q: Are the tents protected from the insects, do they have mosquito nets? Are the tents waterproof?

A: All our tents are manufactured in Africa for African conditions; which means they are insect proof, they do not have mosquito nets but are themselves protection against mosquitoes. We teach the students how to handle the entire mosquito situation.

2) Water and food safety arrangements:

Q: How are the food and drinking water arrangements during the trip?

A: The areas we visit are frequented by millions of tourists each year, hence large commercial shopping facilities have invested millions in building facilities for the ever-increasing self-catering travelers. About 90% of all the fresh fruit and vegetables in these shops are imported from South Africa. We have standing accounts with these companies and pre-order all our food requirements to be supplied as we go along the journey. Bottled water is now freely available in 100% of all the places we visit.

Q: What water are you using for table ware and dishwashing?

A: All camps sites visited are provided with purified water from the local municipal water supply.

Q: With respect to the food, is all food that you provided cooked? In particular the vegetables?

A: All vegetables are cooked.

Q: What kind of fruit do you provide and is it washed with drinking water/mineral water? Can the fruit be peeled by the participants directly, so it can be safer?

A: Yes, if they wish to peel all their fruit they can do this or even wash it in mineral water.



Q: What kind of diet arrangements do you have and how many meals per day do you provide?

A: We have always prided ourselves in the meals we offer, they will have a cooked breakfast on most occasions when in a base camp, and when on route a nutritional “packed breakfast” will be made. In Africa our main meal is supper, so they end of the day with a well-balanced hot meal & hot chocolate.

3) Political safety:

Q: Could you please elaborate on any political instability or terrorist threats in the area?

A: Once again we have carefully selected the areas we visit because of their safety and we visit these areas on a regular basis to ensure the level of safety has improved and does not deteriorate.

4) Swimming pools:

Q: Are the swimming pools you may be using at the camping sites sufficiently chlorinated and treated, not to represent a health hazard?

A: Yes, they all use modern day chemicals to keep the water nice and bright blue with no germs.

5) Malaria:

Q: Do you recommend that student take anti-malaria medication before the trip?

A: We always recommend that clients take anti-malaria drugs, however the risk is lower during the winter months.

6) Johannesburg:

Q: What safety precautions do you make for Johannesburg?

A: We have been organizing trips in Johannesburg for the last 11 years and are aware of the dangers that exist in the city and plan their tours accordingly. We do not enter the City Center and only travel around and through the suburbs of Johannesburg. The accommodation we use is situated in one of the many suburbs of Johannesburg.

7) Weather and temperature:

Q: Can you tell us what exactly will be the night and day temperatures expected during the trip? Also, what is the forecast for the rain in the region?

A: In winter, not normally our rainfall season, temperatures are 70-80 degrees F in the daytime and can drop to 50 degrees F some nights. In the summer, the days are hot and humid, and the nights are cool. The rainfall is also most prominent in summer.

9) Insect repellents:

Q: What insect repellents shall we use? With the current flight luggage restrictions, are insect repellents something one can bring to SA or shall we buy it in SA?

A: As we have been dealing with these problems for centuries we suggest you purchase in South Africa where we have the most advanced selection of insect repellent including soaps, etc. that will ensure an insect-trouble free tour.



10) Emergency Management Procedures:

Q: Can you please describe your emergency procedures?

A: All our guides are well equipped to handle emergency situations. They carry local police emergency numbers and are also in contact with the South African offices 24 hours a day where possible.

