

Footprints in Africa Tours & Safaris

Pre departure Information 2024

If you only do one thing before coming on tour with us – please make sure that it involves sitting down, putting your feet up and reading through this pre-departure information, it will change your experience!

10 MOST IMPORTANT TOURING TIPS:

1. Your Tour itinerary is a guide only, this is Africa, the distances we cover are huge, things change frequently, for a number of reasons. Every change that is made will be done in the best interest of the group in mind.
2. Respect your fellow travellers and get to know them. There will be a mix of different ages, nationalities and cultures and everyone has their own story – use this opportunity to get to know each other.
3. We specialise in **Small Group Tours (2-10 pax)** operating in either an air-conditioned **SUV/Mini Bus** with (trailer depending tour and size of group), using smaller vehicles does cut down travel time between destinations but also limits us on space. Each traveller is allowed to bring a day pack on board the vehicle. As for your larger luggage bag we recommend using a soft pack duffel bag or backpack. Suitcases are allowed; however, they are not always suitable for the conditions in Africa. (i.e. Sand or Dirt paths leading to the lodge or your room)
4. Tours by nature are not only about the destinations, they're about the journeys. Prepare yourself for **long hours in the vehicle** on the road getting from A to B. Bring along some board games, cards or books to entertain each other.
5. Don't ever compare Southern Africa to East Africa, they are two completely different destinations!
6. Our Tours are high value safari tours, they're not European coach tours – don't get confused between the two! Continue reading if you're not sure what that means.
7. Our Tours are Comfort small group tours, not your usual camping tours. Itineraries maybe customised to meet your groups needs before departure at time of booking if the Tour is private (your group only).
8. **We offer Budget and Comfort Tours.** The difference between the 2 are the accommodation types.

Budget	Tours	Upper	2	star	sometimes	with	share	bathroom	sometimes	not
Comfort	Tours	Upper	3	star		with	en-suite	bathroom		

Both our Budget & Comfort Tours guests travel together on the same vehicle, meals included are as per itinerary.
9. We offer one set rate throughout the year and our tours operate throughout all seasons, prepare to be hot and prepare to be cold, in fact, prepare yourself for any eventuality! During peak periods there is an additional charge per night that falls within the peak period. **See Terms & Conditions for that year's peak period dates.**
10. Switch off from the outside world. Occasionally we stay in remote locations and the idea is that you enjoy your natural surroundings away from cities.

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1. INTRODUCTION

We're confident that you have chosen one of the best tour operators in Southern Africa and being a small family operated tour company, we will go out of our way to prove it. Footprints in Africa Tours have been enjoyed by many people from all over the world since early 2000s. A great attitude, an open mind and being well-prepared ensures that your holiday adventure is a trip of a lifetime.

We will provide you with as much information about our tours as possible but please feel free to contact us directly info@footprintsinafrica.co.za if there is anything specific at all that you'd like more information on. For specific route information refer to your tour itinerary which you will find on our website on the individual tour page. www.footprintsinafrica.co.za - please be sure to read through your itinerary carefully before joining us on tour.

Please also ensure that you download/request your tour itinerary one week prior to your tour departure date so that you are guaranteed to have the most up to date version of the itinerary as we do frequently update our itineraries. Tour itineraries should be seen as a guide only and are subject to change.

Keep in mind that you are in Africa. Standards and services should not be compared with first world countries. You came here to get away from all that – to experience Africa as it really is. **The unexpected is included in your tour - free of charge!** Leave your computer, iPad and phone at home and enjoy the surroundings of nature and your fellow travellers.

We make every effort to ensure that this document is up to date, but it should be noted that sudden changes in the operational conditions might result in changes to this information. To the best of our knowledge all of the information is as accurate as possible, however it must be accepted that various details are subject to change according to local conditions of which you will be informed as soon as possible after Footprints in Africa Tours & Safaris have been informed thereof.

1.2. LOADSHEDDING IN SOUTH AFRICA

What is load shedding? **Load shedding** is a controlled process that responds to unplanned/planned power cuts in order **to protect the electricity power system from a total blackout.**

For more information, please visit <https://loadshedding.eskom.co.za/LoadShedding/Description>

PLEASE NOTE: Majority of Lodges/Hotels we use have introduced solar and/ or fuel generators for alternate power options during load shedding hours. Note this not applicable to all lodges/hotels and in urban areas there are noise restrictions late at night and generators will not operate during those hours usually from 10pm to 5am.

1.3. TRAVEL DURING COVID-19

Footprints in Africa Tours & Safaris has put the necessary measures in place to ensure that all health & safety protocols are being followed to reduce the risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus. To this extent, we have implemented a number of regulations that will be carried out during the course of your tour. While we are following all necessary guidelines, the responsibility of safety and hygiene remains with the clients.

- ✓ All clients will be responsible to ensure that they fully comply with the requirements of each of the countries that will be visited and entered for the duration of the tour.
- ✓ All documentation remains the responsibility of the client and Footprints will not be held accountable or responsible for any client not in possession of their own paperwork.
- ✓ Footprints will not be liable for any claims arising from a client being denied access into a country due to non-compliance with covid-19 regulations.
- ✓ Should a client contract the covid-19 virus while on tour, the cost of all additional expenses (including but not limited to testing, medical related expenses, hospitalisation, quarantine accommodation) will be for the client's own expense.
- ✓ No refunds will be granted for unused tour nights and services in the event a client contracts covid-19 while on tour.
- ✓ Any guest not adhering to protocols on tour may be expelled from the tour.
- ✓ It remains the responsibility of the client to ensure that adequate travel and medical insurance cover is purchased prior to arrival.

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1.4. WHAT ARE FOOTPRINTS TOURS AND SAFARIS?

A Footprints tour is a journey along a suggested route, which is aimed at the Budget conscious traveller. It is sometimes off the beaten track and many of the areas that we visit will have limited infrastructure that the "package holiday tourist" may require. The route and accommodation made use of on the route taken may also change from time to time due to unforeseen circumstances as conditions change on the road very quickly. Footprints will always do what is in the best interest of the tour in these instances.

A Footprint tour is different from your usual overland truck/coach liner. Instead of limiting the experience by providing transport in an air-conditioned mini Bus/SUV and accommodation only. Our Tours include a variety of activities from cultural, game drives and social interaction part of the itinerary with options to do additional activities unique to each destination visited. (i.e. extra game drives, scuba diving and adrenaline-based experiences)

All of our tours have a minimum of 2 and maximum of 10 guests. Providing more of a personal experience for the traveller. Our tours have flexible departure dates for private groups as well as our usual set departure dates and rates.

Our belief is that it's not about the arrival at a destination, but the total experience of the journey that is important. We travel together, eat together, learn from each other's cultures and form a strong, supportive team – so put all your electronics away, get off the internet, leave home behind you, and take advantage of your chance to meet new people. Although our guides are professionals, they are not "heroes" and won't pamper you. Our guides are passionate about Africa, enthusiastic and will always do their best to get you through any challenges with a smile. For a successful adventure, all we need is space under the stars and your willingness to join in and expect the unexpected! A typical day on tour starts when the sun comes up - we live by nature's timetable and use as many daylight hours as possible.

One of the few things we can guarantee about Africa is that not everything is going to run perfectly. Along the way there are sure to be a few unexpected surprises! These include road closures, border delays, mechanical failure (it happens, but not often), accommodation changes or having wild animals in the camp! Anything can happen, the main thing to remember is that whatever happens, we are experienced enough to handle the situation and make sure that you still have a fantastic adventure with Footprints in Africa!

Every single trip is different – and we like it that way!

1.5. WHO IS SUITED FOR A FOOTPRINTS IN AFRICA TOUR?

In the past, our groups tended to be very young as the majority of travellers to Africa were backpackers and student tours. As Southern Africa has become a progressively more mainstream destination and is far more accessible than it was years ago, our guests have also changed.

As our guests have changed over the past 20 years we have also. Our original tours were mainly camping tours through Southern Africa, but as camping is not for everyone, we have now introduced the Budget & Comfort options. We have done all that we can to keep our fantastic low prices on these tours so the accommodation is not luxury but you can expect comfortable 2 – 3-star twin / double accommodation.

In some places, we also make use of permanent safari tents which are considered "accommodation". We have selected accommodation that is in line with the areas we visit so there is a good variety. (i.e. Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary in Eswatini we make use of huts which have been equipped with the traveller in mind with your modern-day extras.)

The ages of our guests have also changed over the years and now we have anyone from 6 – 80 years of age. We have had a large range of nationalities on our tours and although there are often couples and groups of friends who have booked single travellers are welcome. Use this opportunity to slip out of your comfort zone and learn about the people on your tour with you - there are so few opportunities in life that we have to do this, take advantage of it!

1.6. BUDGET, COMFORT TOURS

The difference between our Budget and Comfort tours is the room type. **Comfort Tours** are in more upmarket rooms with en-suite bathrooms where possible while our **Budget Tours** are in more basic budget friendly rooms and sometimes with shared bathrooms. Note that not all lodge establishments have en-suite rooms and air-conditioning, for those that don't usually have ceiling fans. On all of our tours we have both Budget and Comfort guests travelling together.

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Other than the room type that you sleep in, everything else about these tours is exactly the same. Please note we recommend bringing along your own towel as these are not always provided.

1.7. MEALS ON TOUR

Breakfasts: All Breakfasts are included and are either prepared by your guide and or by the lodge.

Lunch: All lunches are excluded and for guests' own expense unless otherwise stated, lunch stops will depend on the day and available time for that day. On driving days lunches are enjoyed on route either at a restaurant (time permitting) but on occasions long driving days will be on the road (Takeaway options). Lunch stops will be made at shopping centres, fuel stations with supermarkets where you will have takeaway options available.

Dinners: Sometimes dinners are included on the tour and are prepared by either your guide or the lodge. Meals that are excluded are enjoyed at the lodge's restaurant, while on some occasions we head out to town to enjoy one of the local restaurants. *Where dinners are excluded and self-catering is available your guide will advise you that you can start a kitty for that night's dinner*, meaning your guide will collect kitty money for shopping for dinner supplies and prepare a meal for the group members that put money into the kitty. Usually preparing a traditional Braai (BBQ). Group will be expected to offer a helping hand.

See relevant itinerary for detailed meal plan.

Budgeting for meals: Past travellers have spent, on average, R 300 to R 700 (\$15-\$40) on meals for one day.

1.8. ACTIVITY PACKAGE (LOCAL PAYMENT)

While we do include a variety of activities on our tours – See each individual itinerary for which activities are included. Your local payment which is payable on departure to your guide in Local currency (ZAR – South African Rand) covers the activities that are included on the tour. You may request them to added to your final invoice.

1.9. OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES *(Do What You Can Afford To)*

We provide you with a great tour however there are always additional optional activities that you can do on route, with each itinerary you will find a selection of Optional Activities that can be booked on the tour you have chosen.

Please keep in mind that in the winter months, we lose 4-5 daylight hours, so it may happen that not all optional activities are available during these months. Also, if there are circumstances that mean we arrive later at camp than expected, an optional activity may not be available.

Unfortunately, not everyone can afford to do all of the activities on offer. We keep our tour price as low as possible without compromising the quality of the tour so that you have choices as to what you'd like to do. The optional experiences and activities are there to give you the opportunity to have some free time or experience extra activities. They enhance your holiday and give you an adrenaline rush when you need one! These are selected for their value for money, enjoyment factor and feedback from our guests, however, they are not endorsed by Footprints and carry no responsibility for the activities. It is completely up to the guest and their own discretion as to whether they'd like to participate in an optional activity or not.

Optional activities are not included in the price of the tour for a few reasons:

- ✓ Not everyone can afford to do them all
- ✓ Not everyone wants to do them all! (No point in throwing you out of a plane if you can't bear heights!)
- ✓ Optional Activities are not always available and are time, season and weather dependent

We leave the running and safety of these specialised activities to the people who do them best. We take you there and then let the professionals take care of you in pursuit of your thrills and spills! With optional activities offered in Game Reserves and/or National Parks there is an additional payment that is not always included in the fee and differs per reserve (Check with your guide). This is known as a conservation fee.

The below is an example of optional activities, see each individual tour itinerary. Download or Request a copy.

Country	Area	Supplier	Activity	Rate Guideline (PP)
Eswatini	Mlilwane	Big Game Parks	Horse Riding per hour	From R 375
Eswatini	Mlilwane	Big Game Parks	Mountain Biking per hour (Guided)	From R 210
Eswatini	Mlilwane	Big Game Parks	Mountain Biking per hour (Self-Guided)	From R 150

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Eswatini	Mlilwane	Big Game Parks	Guided Walks 2½ hours (Game or Birding)	From R 270
Eswatini	Hlane	Big Game Parks	Guided Walks 2 hours	From R 270
Eswatini	Hlane	Big Game Parks	Sunset game drive 2½ hours	From R 435
South Africa	Kruger Park	Kruger Adventures	Kruger Safari, Afternoon/Sunset	From R 1000 – 1650
South Africa	Kruger Park	Kruger Adventures	Kruger Safari, Morning	From R 1000 – 1650

Please keep in mind that the prices that we display for these optional activities can change from time to time as we do not control the pricing of the operators who run these activities. We do our best to ensure that we give you accurate figures so that you can Economy accordingly.

1.10. WHAT'S INCLUDED AND WHAT'S EXCLUDED

PRICE INCLUDES	PRICE EXCLUDES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection at Hotels in Pretoria and within 10 km radius of OR Tambo airport vicinity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meals not Mentioned in Itinerary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air-condition SUV or MINI Bus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Optional Activities (see last page)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driver Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items of a personal nature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities as per itinerary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visas, Travel insurance, Flights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meals as per itinerary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre and Post Accommodation/Tours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop off at Hotels in Pretoria and within 10 km radius of OR Tambo airport vicinity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tipping / gratuity for guides, waiters and porters

1.11. SOUTHERN AFRICA

Southern Africa (South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Eswatini, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique) has adapted to its visitors needs and most who are involved in the tourism industry put a lot of effort into ensuring that guests have an incredible all-round experience while visiting. You will find most of your home comforts here and be very surprised at how easy it is to find your way around, especially with English being widely spoken throughout all Southern African countries. The infrastructure is for the most part good and travelling in these areas is “comfortable”. Accommodation is of a high standard and service levels are excellent.

1.12. MEDICAL INSURANCE

Medical insurance is compulsory and you will be asked for your policy number before embarking on tour. Please make sure that your travel and medical insurance covers cancellation as well as being airlifted in case of a serious illness or injury as our tours often travel a long way from good hospital facilities. If credit card insurance is taken out, this often does not provide sufficient cover therefore a separate travel insurance policy is recommended.

1.13. OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS

Please settle any outstanding payments at least 30 days before your tour departs. We reserve the right to cancel a booking if payment is not received in full and you will not be allowed to depart on tour unless payment is received.

1.14. PRE AND POST DAY TOURS, ACCOMMODATION, TRANSFERS AND ONWARD TRAVEL

We are more than happy to assist with booking accommodation and transfers for you before and after your tour. The properties that we use are generally agreed at time of booking. Accommodation can be arranged near the OR Tambo airport (Johannesburg), Pretoria area and we offer this service to make life easier for you. If your transfer is not where they're supposed to be, please contact Footprints on our emergency contact number (+27 (0)83 302 1976) so that we can resolve this immediately – it does

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sometimes happen as communications are always difficult when arriving in a new country. Please don't let something like this affect the rest of your time on tour. Put it behind you and give the tour the opportunity to show you the best of Africa.

Please ensure that your onward travel arrangements are made before you depart on tour as it is difficult to make these arrangements while on tour. Please ask at time of booking about the options of onward travel with your tour and for names of low-cost airlines if you want to fly to your next destination.

Do not book your onward travel or flights on the day your tour is scheduled to end (unless the last day of the tour does not involve any travelling and ends after breakfast). We could be running late for a number of reasons. This also puts a lot of unnecessary pressure on your fellow travellers and guides, turning the last day of the tour into a rush. Footprints will not be held accountable if you have booked flights out on the last day of tour and you are not able to get to the airport on time. We will also not rush to get there as we can't jeopardize the safety and enjoyment of everyone else on the tour. Remember, expect the unexpected.

1.15. FLEXIBLE ITINERARIES

Although we intend to stick to the published itineraries it is critical to understand that the routing can and does change from time to time. Africa is unpredictable and many variables may require changes to the itinerary, this cannot be stressed enough. If we are forced to make a change to a tour, we will ensure that we still provide what we specified in our brochure. If we can no longer provide what is published in the brochure, we will provide a comparable experience of the same value.

1.16. YOUR PASSPORT

Your passport must have enough pages for all visas, at least 2 pages free for every country that you'll be visiting. Please ensure that you take your passport out from your hotel / backpackers safe the night before departure. We recommend that you also leave a copy at home or with some friends. Another good idea would be to take a photo of your passport, and the contents, and email it to yourself. Please note that South Africa insists on having 2 clear pages available when you enter the country. Keep this in mind if you are going to fly home from South Africa after completing a tour to multiple African countries.

Please ensure that your **passport is valid for at least six months** after your date of departure from Africa. You are personally responsible for ensuring that passports, visas, vaccination certificates and other travel documents are in order and for all costs relating thereto. Please note that it is not advisable to use more than one passport (to avoid visa payments) when travelling. When entering (for example) Mozambique, the immigration official needs to see the exit stamp for South Africa and it must be in the same passport in order to allow entry.

1.17. VISAS – VERY IMPORTANT!

As visa requirements vary considerably depending on your nationality, please contact the various embassies or visa service agencies to re-check visa requirements at least four weeks prior to departing for your tour. Please note that visas are the responsibility of the traveller and that Footprints in Africa will not be held responsible for clients being denied entry should they not be in the possession of the relevant visas.

All travellers must be in possession of a valid onward/return air ticket or proof of other means of transport enabling the traveller to leave the country in which your adventure tour terminates. Alternatively, you must have proof of sufficient funds (i.e. credit card) enabling you to purchase an air ticket to leave the country. Should the tour you are joining be re-entering a country, be sure to have a multiple entry visa that enables you to re-enter the country.

Visa regulations in Africa change from time to time. Please contact the embassies of the countries you plan to visit on your Footprints Tour. Arranging VISAS is not our specialty and due to this we do not always have the most updated information as these regulations change regularly.

2. PACKING FOR YOUR TOUR

Your luggage is limited to one backpack/suitcase and one day pack weighing no more than 20kg. As a general rule, if you cannot lift your own luggage, you've packed too much! Most people make the mistake of bringing too many clothes on tour, less is more in this instance.

Please keep in mind that this is a safari tour and space is limited in the vehicle and/or trailer. It is recommended that luggage should NOT include any wheel style suitcases. As the wheeled / trolley bags have a solid frame, they don't fit into spaces the same way a backpack or a duffel bag does.

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In addition, the possibility of mud, sand and stones as pathways are very likely, which will get into the little wheels on your wheelie bag and you'll end up carrying it from A to B. Another thing to consider is that a suitcase can be over packed, as you don't need to carry it.

A compact, flexible, soft shell (without a hard frame) duffel bag is perfect for travelling Africa. Laundry facilities are available at most lodges. A money belt is an excellent way to carry important documents.

Porters won't always be available at many of the places, and wheeled bags won't work in soft sand. Therefore, it is recommended to use a **Soft Backpack** or **small to medium sized Duffle bag**. Must be comfortable carrying it from the vehicle to the room and back. Please remember if you make use of Porters to please give them a small tip for their help. (R30-R50 per bag)

You should pack the following (this list is based on suggestions only):

Kit for all weather conditions including:

- ✓ 2/3 shorts/skirts
- ✓ 1 jacket/anorak
- ✓ Tracksuit/pullover
- ✓ 2 pairs of long pants/jeans
- ✓ 2 pairs of walking shoes/boots/trainers
- ✓ 1 pair of sandals
- ✓ 3 or 4 T-shirts/short sleeve shirts or sundresses
- ✓ 2/3 Long Sleeve Shirts
- ✓ Smart casual change of clothes
- ✓ Swimwear
- ✓ Underwear & socks
- ✓ Sun Hat – preferably that covers the back of your neck
- ✓ Raincoat
- ✓ Kikoi/sarong
- ✓ Beanie and gloves if you're travelling in Winter

Your clothing should be easy to wash and dry and should preferably not need ironing. Avoid synthetics, which can be very uncomfortable in hot weather. Many people underestimate how cold Africa can be – remember your jersey/jacket! There are also nights that are warm but recommended to still wear clothes that cover arms and legs from mosquitoes, or there are days that are warm but nights that are freezing so plan carefully. Take a set of casual but smart clothes for the occasional evening out in a restaurant or a night club. If you wear glasses or contact lenses it is advisable to bring a spare pair along.

Additional Items (suggested packing list only):

- ✓ Towel & facecloth
- ✓ Baby wipes/ wet wipes
- ✓ Personal toiletries
- ✓ Sleeping bag and pillow (if you are participating in a camping tour)
- ✓ Torch/Headlight & enough spare batteries
- ✓ Camera, spare batteries and memory cards
- ✓ Water bottle (environmentally friendlier, no need to keep buying small plastic water bottles)
- ✓ Penknife
- ✓ Insect and mosquito repellent
- ✓ Sun block & after sun lotion (factor 30 and higher is recommended)
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Watch
- ✓ Biodegradable laundry detergent
- ✓ Vaccination certificates
- ✓ Money

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- ✓ Small sewing kit
- ✓ Clothes line and pegs
- ✓ Small scrubbing brush
- ✓ Small basic First Aid kit (painkillers, band aids, after-sun lotion, eye drops, anti-diarrhoea tablets.)

2.1. DAY PACKS

Please check the itinerary for your specific tour as generally you will need to take along a smaller day pack for excursions. i.e. on our Botswana tour you will need a smaller bag, big enough to bring basic equipment (toiletries and clothes) for one or two nights – when we visit the Okavango Delta as we will be separated from the vehicle for a night or 2 and space is limited on the Mokoros (dugout canoes) and 4 x 4 game viewer vehicles.

3. LIFE ON TOUR

3.1. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MANAGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

It is very important to separate situations that you control from situations which Footprints controls. It is unreasonable to hold Footprints responsible for things beyond our control. Understanding this will help you get some perspective and to have realistic expectations. This is an adventure tour and we do our best to take you into remote areas of Southern Africa. We are attempting to remove ourselves from the world as you know it.

3.2. THE GUIDES

The majority of our tours have only one driver guide on, while on certain itineraries there will be an additional crew member. Both crew members have extensive experience in what they do, but only one may be tour leader (which will be advised at start of tour). Although our guides are equipped for the work they do, please remember they are human too. Tours place enormous demands on our guides due to the nature and duration of the tours. If you are unhappy or have any concerns, we ask that you have a quiet conversation with your guide to address these matters. Guides do this job because they love Africa and want to share it with our guests. We request that they are treated with respect as this is how they treat their guests. It should also be noted that guests should not hold guides responsible for things that are out of their control.

On occasion the tour guide/driver will need to make a decision with regards to health, safety, security and circumstances beyond their control. This may not always be a popular decision but as far as possible, your guide will take into account the wishes of the group as a whole, your understanding and patience at these times will be much appreciated.

In terms of the information that is provided on tour, some guests prefer more information, others prefer less, if you feel that you're not receiving enough information, or that you're receiving too much, please let the guides know so that they can do something about it. It is always easier to sort this out on tour than to complain about it afterwards. The Tour Leader has complete authority on tour and his/her decision is final however you are free to contact the Footprints office on the emergency contact number if you feel that you'd like to speak to the manager.

3.3. TIPPING

In general tipping in restaurants is expected, the average is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides. It is expected to tip porters and car guards. Ask your guides how much is appropriate in local currency.

Our crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty. We recommend US\$ 10-20 per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So, if you have 2-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 2 envelopes are used and each crew member's name written on one.

For larger groups the best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money and place what you feel is fair into each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserves a tip, please, do not tip them. Please remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

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3.4. THE GROUP

Travelling in a small group offers many advantages and allows you to share the experience with like-minded fun-seekers! It's also a more affordable and more secure way to explore an unfamiliar continent. Making friends with your fellow travellers will certainly help you make the most of your tour and an open mind may sometimes be necessary as we have a range of cultures and nationalities on our tours.

The guides are there to ensure that the tour runs smoothly and this includes the group dynamic. If you feel that someone is behaving in an unsociable way the right thing to do would be to mention this in a non-confrontational way to the individual. If you do not feel comfortable with this please speak to our crew. You are travelling in a vehicle together and the best way to avoid petty conflict is to follow the Guide's schedule with regards to keeping the vehicle and environment clean and tidy at all times, the fastest way to lose friends on tour is to leave your smelly hiking boots all over the place. In all honesty, it is very rare that we have passenger conflict on tour and we feel very lucky that the Footprints guests have always been like-minded and considerate people and we hear far more stories about people making friends for life (as well as meeting future husbands and wives) than we do about the very rare unsociable passenger problem.

3.5. AN AVERAGE DAY ON TOUR

The days usually start early and end late, although a lot of time is spent travelling, we do include a lot into every day. Expect some frustrations, you are in Africa and things don't work that well sometimes. Coming on tour with an open mind, flexible attitude and realistic expectations will ensure you have a great time.

An average day on tour begins with breakfast, morning activities followed by departure to the next destination if only 1 night is spent. There are some mornings that need a very early start to join activities or to reach our next destination, to photograph a spectacular African sunrise - it's all part of the adventure. Prepare yourself for the worst, especially in winter when days are shorter. We lose approximately 4-5 hours of daylight in winter so it may happen that some optional activities are not available then.

Travellers will often request that a guide stops during the day for a bathroom break, shopping stop or photo stop. This means that every couple of hours the guides will stop somewhere for the guests to do this. Often, they will choose a shopping mall or a fuel station to do this as these have a good selection of items for people to purchase and they also usually have the best ablution facilities. We usually take a lunch-break en route and depending on the distance to be covered, afternoons are often spent relaxing or exploring the lay of the land. Usually every few days, we will spend a couple of nights at one venue to break the travel routine.

4. MEALS ON TOUR

Included in your tour is all breakfasts, some lunches and dinners are included, see each tour itinerary for specific details. If you have any special requirements, please inform us at the time of your booking.

Budgeting for meals: Past travellers have spent, on average, R300 to R700 (\$15-\$40) on meals for one day.

4.1. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Please confirm to us in writing if you are a vegetarian or if you suffer from any allergies (i.e. nuts, milk, fish) (i.e. vegetarian), allergies (i.e. nuts, milk, fish). Where possible our guides do try to accommodate clients with intolerances (i.e. gluten, lactose), however we cannot guarantee the availability of specialty foods on-route and we therefore recommend you to bring these items with you or purchase them prior to departing on your tour. Likes and dislikes in food preferences cannot be Comfort; only allergies and life-threatening situations will be regarded.

4.2. BUDGET & COMFORT TOURS

We are able to cater for specific dietary requirements to a degree, however please keep in mind that you are travelling with a group and the guides generally prepare meals on the open fire and on two plate gas burners so it is not possible for them to prepare regular meals, gluten intolerant, lactose intolerant and vegetarian meals all at the same time. Where possible, our guides will accommodate clients who have indicated their dietary requirements prior to the tour departing.

If you are vegan, the guides will provide you with salads, vegetables, fruits, rice, beans, pasta, cereals and breads however their Budget and time does not allow them to shop for quinoa, seeds, nuts, tofu, soya milk and other protein substitutes. Please keep this in mind when going to the supermarket so that you can supplement these foods for yourself, it will be at your own expense, the guides will however store it for you in their fridge.

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When travelling through Africa, the guides are briefed to shop at supermarkets as far as possible, as shopping at street vendors could be a health risk to the guests as there is no indication as to where or how the vendors grow, harvest and transport their produce. Guides have to be responsible and ensure that their produce comes from reliable sources and this can generally only be done by shopping at the supermarkets. The prevalence of street vendors also means that there is thieving from local farms who support the local industry, and this in turn means that the farms become unsustainable, leaving the community in a worse off position.

Breakfast: As breakfast is served very early in the morning either prepared by your guide or by the lodge (if there is driving or activities to be done) it is a simple but filling breakfast: Tea and coffee, breads and spreads, cereals, yoghurts, fruits and on occasion, when there is time for a later breakfast, guides will serve a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, porridge, bacon or beans.

Lodge breakfasts are usually ordered from the menu or are buffet style.

Lunch: Lunch is for one's own expense unless otherwise stated on tour itinerary. Lunch stops will depend on the day/activity and available time for that day. On shorter driving days lunches are enjoyed at a restaurant that is usually at an activity site, on longer driving days lunch will be on the road (Takeaway options). Lunch stops will be made at shopping centres, fuel stations with bakery and/or convenience store where you will have takeaway options available.

Dinner: Some dinners are included on the tour and are prepared by either your guide or the lodge. Meals that are excluded are enjoyed at the lodge's restaurant, while on some occasions we head out to town to support one of the local restaurants.

Where dinners are excluded and self-catering is available your guide will advise you that you can start a kitty for that night's dinner, meaning your guide will collect kitty money for shopping for dinner supplies and prepare a meal for the group members that contributed to the kitty.

This is when the guides get time to prepare a delicious meal and they focus on a substantial protein, vegetable and carbohydrate dinner. We serve traditional campfire cuisine consisting of traditional braais (BBQ), potjie (stew), bobotie (curried mince), spaghetti, fish and chicken dishes.

See relevant itinerary for detailed meal plan.

Evenings: Most evenings are spent at camp getting to know the group and talking about Africa. Your tour itinerary will have details of where you will be each night. After or during dinner, guides will do briefings, please use this opportunity to discuss things with them.

5. TRAVELLING IN A SUV AND OR MINI BUS

Operating our tours in an air-conditioned SUV/Mini-Bus does provide a more comfortable ride as well as faster travel times between destinations than your bigger coach and overland truck tours.

Transportation on tour is a major component of all tours. These tours are road trips and incorporate long drives, bumpy roads and possible mechanical problems, also, digging your vehicle out of mud/soft sand is sometimes a considered a highlight. These setbacks are what you make of them so please be prepared.

We run a strict maintenance program and all of the vehicles are on a permanent rotation schedule. Unfortunately break-downs are not uncommon so if a problem occurs, please be patient as it can take time to resolve mechanical problems in Africa so make the best of the situation. We can guarantee you that your guides and our operations team will have any situation like this as their top priority and will do all in their power to ensure that you get back on the road as soon as possible.

5.1. DISTANCES AND ROAD CONDITIONS

All of our tours cover long distances on the roads of Africa as our passion is to show you the magnificent sights of this continent. This means that there will be many hours spent driving which cannot be rushed for many reasons.

You can expect average speeds of approximately 100 kph, however there are roads where we are forced to reduce to speeds of 30 kph due to bad road conditions or safety concerns. Please keep in mind that this is approximate only and could change drastically based on current road conditions as they do change frequently from day to day. The guides will always have your safety as their first concern.

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Distances between highlights are often on a bigger scale than those at home. Often there is absolutely nothing between focal points except vast open plains, mountain passes and farmland. Most tours average approximately 350 km per day however there can be stretches of up to 650km in a single day and that's a long way in a vehicle so be prepared.

We will be travelling along winding dirt roads and your safety is of paramount importance, please keep this in mind when you are tired, hot and irritable. Our drivers are highly skilled and spend a lot of hours on the roads in Southern Africa. Their days are long however they do rest their legs at least every two hours on driving days.

6. PARTICIPATION AND INTERACTION, WHAT'S EXPECTED OF YOU

Although we do most of the work, the nature of our tours is not that of a beach holiday. A little assistance from the group can make a real difference as it means that the guides have more time for you and more time to make the tour amazing so getting involved definitely enhances the tour experience. After all this is not just a holiday it's an adventure through Africa.

All Footprints Budget & Comfort tours are limited participation tours and what we would like your assistance with is:

- ✓ Assist with washing up duties
- ✓ Offer your help with the food preparation if time is pressing
- ✓ Loading and unloading the vehicle
- ✓ Loading and unloading your own bag
- ✓ Help keep the vehicle and cooler box clean (it is your home after all for the next days and weeks)
- ✓ Help setting up camp (when camping)
- ✓ Putting up and taking down your tent. The first time is a challenge, thereafter it's a breeze!

On camping tours, your tent, camping equipment and kitchen utensils are provided on your tour so please take care of our equipment, as anything broken or lost on tour cannot be easily replaced.

Our guides do prepare meals as per itinerary when not eating out. However, you are welcome to ask the guides if you are keen to share your culinary skills with the group. The more you get involved, the better the group experience and not doing your dishes is not a great way to make friends.

On our Budget and Comfort tours, loading and unloading your own bag is required, however our crew will offer assistance to ensure the safe storage of all baggage inside the vehicle/trailer.

6.1. COMMUNICATION

An enjoyable trip depends heavily on open and honest communication between yourself, the guides and your fellow passengers. Many problems have their root in a lack of communication, misjudgements and assumptions. Essentially, you have people from all over the world, taken out of their comfort zone, put in a vehicle in the middle of Africa, shaken around and then expected to all get along. Not easy, so it does require a positive attitude because essentially, you are all there for the same reason!

6.2. ON TOUR COMMUNICATION IS KEY

When on tour be sure to keep the communication channels open with your fellow passengers and the guides. This is the key to a successful trip. If you are unhappy, please discuss it because problems cannot be resolved if no one knows that there is a problem. Feel free to approach your guides at any time because the smallest problems can turn into big ones very quickly!

6.3. HOW OTHERS CAN REACH YOU

The easiest option to keep in touch with your loved ones at home is to buy a SIM card of the respective country you are travelling in. Usually, you can get sim cards rather easily in major cities and in some instances, vendors might even sell them at border posts (speak to your guide). Please keep in mind though that there might not be reception in a lot of the areas we travel through.

Wi-Fi is available at the majority of lodges, although speeds and connectivity are not the same as back home, especially when we are in the more rural areas.

Although you may not be able to contact the outside world while on tour, we track you constantly and are always able to find you. Feel free to provide your family with our contact details and should there be an emergency of any kind at home we will be able to contact you almost anywhere. Please bear in mind that in certain instances there may be a charge for this (in some areas there are not even radio facilities) should we have to physically send someone by boat, road or air to your campsite, the person we send

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will expect to be compensated. Please inform your families that although we can find you – it must be a real emergency - as we will not be sending one of our local contacts 500km over terrible roads to remind you to change your underwear regularly!

In an emergency your family can contact us on info@footprintsinafrica.co.za or by calling/whatsapp the emergency contact number is +27 (0)83 302 1976.

We advise that you should also contact family and friends before leaving and tell them that you are on an adventure tour and that you will probably be out of contact for that time. There are telephones in some places but do not count on these being all that reliable. E-mail facilities can be found in major towns, lodges and city centres, but it is often very slow and expensive.

7. USEFUL AND EXTRA INFORMATION

7.1. CLIMATE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Please ensure that you are familiar with the exact weather conditions to be expected on your particular tour and be prepared because the weather in Africa can be extreme. In the rainy season, prepare to get wet and in the dry season, prepare to get hot and/or cold. The weather is part of an African adventure.

The African sun is fierce, and we suggest a factor 50 sunscreen and that you wear a hat. From October until April you can experience extremely hot temperatures and during the winter months the nights can be extremely cold, even dropping down to below zero, but the days are generally warm to hot.

In Southern Africa, the short rains are from October to December, but the main rainy season begins in February and can last until April, Cape Town on the other hand experiences a cold winter with lots of rainfall from April to September.

In Central and East Africa, the rainy season is from December to around April while Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia experience low average rainfall, usually during the summer months from October to April.

Please note that this is only a general indication and the weather is not within our control and sometimes the rains start earlier or finish later, or don't come at all. Local conditions also prevail, for example if you're camping in the Okavango Delta or close to the seaside, conditions can be affected by the geography of the area so prepare for all seasons.

7.2. LAUNDRY

Most camps/lodges have hand-washing facilities and in most areas, there are laundry facilities. Please remember to bring some environmentally friendly washing-powder for your laundry. For a small fee you can often have your laundry washed by someone else. Ask your guide for assistance on route.

7.3. SECURITY

Majority of lodge rooms have a safe for passports, money, credit cards. Please use this facility as lost passports and money cause delays and may result in you having to leave the tour. When the safe is not large enough for all items, these valuables should be kept in your day pack and your day pack should be kept with you at all times.

The lodges that we use are generally safe but please be aware all the time as tourists are easy to spot targets in Africa, as well as in the rest of the world! Make copies of travel documents and keep separate from the originals. Also photograph all documents and serial numbers of your items and email a copy to yourself.

Your possessions are your responsibility at all times and Footprints will not take responsibility for damaged, lost or stolen personal items. It is advised that you take out comprehensive travel insurance if you are planning on bringing expensive items like digital cameras, ipads, ipods and laptops on tour. We strongly suggest that you leave computers at home.

Although all care and attention will be exercised, neither Footprints in Africa Tours, its agents, employees or operators will be liable for any damage or loss caused due to the storage of valuable items or money inside the vehicle.

7.4. PHOTOGRAPHY

Please ask the guide to stop if you would like to take photos at any time as everyone's photo requirements are different. Please stock up on memory cards and spare camera batteries before departure as these can be difficult to find on route and there are not always charging facilities available. If you are going on a tour to the Kruger National Park you may find that you take a lot of

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pictures trying to get that perfect shot. 16GB is minimum and if you are interested in photography we would highly recommend more.

Please take care of your photographic equipment in the dusty areas we pass through. At some camp sites power points to recharge batteries for video/digital cameras are available, but you will have to provide the necessary connections and adaptors.

Please refrain from taking pictures at border crossings, government buildings, and military installations and avoid photographing army, police or anywhere else if your guide advises against it. Please remember we are guests in the countries we visit and respect local customs and feelings. Certain tribes in Africa do not allow their picture taken so please ask your guides before photographing whether it is permissible or not.

You may also have to pay a nominal fee to take photos of some local people.

7.5. RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Footprints is committed to the principles of responsible environmental tourism and it would be appreciated if you would respect the customs, laws and environment of the countries and areas we visit. Please be 'green-minded' and dispose of rubbish in the appropriate manner.

8. YOUR MONEY

Money can make or break a tour so make sure you have enough and tailor your trip to fit your pocket. Africa is not cheap so spend wisely and note the prices of the optional activities in your tour itinerary when planning for your tour.

In Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, the majority of places will accept both local currencies, Rands and US Dollars. In South Africa though they prefer Rands only (local currency). The conversion rates for local currencies do however fluctuate quite regularly so if you plan on using local currencies in the countries you visit, please check the exchange rate before you depart on tour. An example of a website that you can use to check a currency against your own is www.xe.com.

8.1. CASH

If you are carrying US Dollars, always make sure that you have the newest notes when travelling, notes preferably printed after 2017 and if possible, request that your bank provides you with notes that are not torn or severely creased as you may find that the bills will not be accepted if they are not in a good condition. Request that your bank provides you with a range of bills so that you can use the smaller ones for tipping and the larger ones for settling bills if required. Carry your cash in a flat money belt on your body however always keep a small amount in a more easily accessible place so that you can access it easily if required.

8.2. CREDIT CARDS

Most of the major Southern African cities, lodges and restaurants do have credit card facilities available, however they may charge you a surcharge to use the facility. Visa and MasterCard are the two most widely accepted credit cards in Africa, while Diners and American Express may not always be accepted. Cards should have a chip and pin if you plan to use them to withdraw money from ATMs. Please be sure to advise your bank before you travel that you will be using your card in a different country as they may block access to your card if they do not know that you are travelling.

8.3. ATM / DEBIT CARDS

ATM cards are a good way to withdraw local currency on arrival in a new country. This may not always be possible but it is an option in most cases. Cards should have a chip and pin. The amount that you withdraw depends on how long you will be in the country for and what you plan to spend your money on while you're there.

8.4. STREET VENDORS

You may encounter black market traders on arrival in countries who will offer to exchange your US Dollars for a more favourable rate than the banks. Please don't be tempted to do this, it is not worth the risk or the hassle and it is not good practice to display your foreign currency.

8.5. DEPARTURE TAX

Various countries may require that you pay an Airport Departure Tax when departing on an international flight. Please note that all departure taxes must be paid in hard cash currency and US Dollars are normally the best currency to use for this. Departure taxes can vary from US\$10 - US\$60 depending on the departure point.

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9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

9.1. CARRYING MEDICATION ON TOUR

On each vehicle we have a cooler box which guests are welcome to use to keep their drinks cool throughout the day. If guests have medication that needs to be refrigerated, this is the best place for them to store the medication. It should be stored in a hard plastic, watertight container to ensure that it doesn't get wet or damaged as it will be in the box that may contain ice and water. There are instances when you will not be with the vehicle (for example camping Okavango Delta, Mozambique Dhow Safari) and during these times there may be limited facilities available for storing medication in a cool environment.

9.2. GENERAL SAFETY

The guide has authority on tour at all times and this includes decisions regarding the safety of our guests on tour. It is important that you inform us of any medical conditions or prescription drugs that you are taking such as diabetes or asthma etc. as we are sometimes 300km or more from the nearest medical assistance. This is especially important if your medication has to be kept at a certain temperature, we must know about this beforehand.

Please report to your tour leader immediately if you are feeling even slightly ill as they may need to make plans for you to get to medical assistance promptly. Many travellers can feel sick within the first two weeks of travelling and this is very common due to your body reacting to germs and bacteria it is unfamiliar with. Keep this in mind, but do not take it lightly, keep your guides up to date with how you're feeling.

AIDS is an enormous problem in Africa. HIV estimates range between 20% and 50% of the population and in some areas, it is even higher than this. Please be careful and practical, condoms are cheap and freely available.

9.3. FIRST AID

There is a First Aid Kit on the vehicle which is available in case of an emergency. The guides will not use the kit as a dispensary and we strongly recommend that you take a personal medical kit. All of our guides are qualified in First Aid.

Suggested contents of a personal First Aid Kit include:

- ✓ Lip balm
- ✓ Anti-histamine cream or tablets
- ✓ Sunscreen and after sun balm
- ✓ Pain killers
- ✓ Anti-diarrhoea remedy
- ✓ Moisturiser
- ✓ Dehydration salts
- ✓ Elastoplast's/band-aids
- ✓ Insect repellent
- ✓ Sterile dressings
- ✓ Antiseptic cream

Personal hygiene is very important on tour as you are travelling together in a vehicle in warm to hot climates. Please be considerate and attentive to your personal cleanliness. Being ill on tour is not fun and the enjoyment of the group as a whole depends largely on everyone being healthy. It is quite normal for some people in the group to have traveller's diarrhoea at some stage of the tour. This is generally not serious, usually being the reaction to the food, water and the anti-malarial tablets. If you suffer from this at any stage, please inform your guide immediately.

Please take extra care when washing dishes and cutlery, as this is the quickest way for the whole group to fall ill. Make sure that your plates are thoroughly cleaned and rinsed. We provide anti-bacterial washing up liquid so please use it liberally. We also supply an antibacterial soap for the washing of hands. Please ensure that you use it regularly, especially before meals. We use metal plates on tour as they are the most hygienic option.

9.4. MEDICAL INSURANCE

Please note that it is a condition of booking on any Footprints tour that you have adequate medical insurance. We require the details of your insurance policy for our records before you will be permitted to depart on tour so, please keep these with you at

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departure. The medical insurance is so important in the case of an emergency in a remote area (which is most areas we travel to) you will have to be airlifted. If you do not have medical insurance, you will need cash (which means thousands of USD) or you will not be helped during this critical period where every minute counts.

Please double check the small print of any 'free' credit-card insurance. Your insurance must cover you in the instance that you need to be airlifted to a hospital. As many public hospitals in Africa are below western standards you might have to be airlifted to South Africa for a simple problem. Many insurance policies do not cover adrenaline sports (i.e. bungee jumping and skydiving) – please check this before you book the activity.

Medical insurance is usually relatively inexpensive and we recommend that you buy a separate policy in your country of origin. If you purchase insurance in Africa, please note that it will not cover you to be returned to your own country in the event of an emergency, it will only return you to the country in which you purchased the policy.

9.5. WATER

One of the most common ailments on tour is dehydration. You should be drinking a minimum of 2 litres of water per day, and even more during the hot summer months. The tap water in the destinations we visit is not always fit for human consumption so your guides will advise you when not to drink the local water. You can buy bottled mineral water at most campsites, keep in mind that this can be expensive. Your guides will point out where drinking water can be purchased if you prefer bottled water. (i.e. local shops/supermarkets).

9.6. MALARIA

First things first we are not doctors, please consult with your doctor.

Malaria is a serious problem in Africa however it does not have to be a problem for you as long as you are vigilant about using your mosquito repellent and you take your malaria tablets. Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes and is more prevalent where there are high concentrations of people and water.

The main points to keep in mind about malaria:

- ✓ Prevent getting bitten by wearing clothes that cover your bare skin. Long shirts, socks, shoes and long pants after dark - most mosquito bites occur below the knee.
- ✓ Keep your mosquito net closed and be vigilant at sunset as this is when the mosquitoes are most prolific.
- ✓ Use an effective prophylactic and speak to your doctor about options for antimalarial tablets.
- ✓ Insect repellent is the single most important line of defence. Make sure you bring enough of an effective (preferably stick or lotion) repellent and that you use it liberally and frequently! You need to look for the active ingredient (DEET) on the bottle.

Malaria prophylactics do not prevent Malaria, but do treat it if you come down with the disease. They also prevent you from getting seriously ill. It is not true that Malaria cannot be cured.

9.7. VACCINATIONS

We recommend that you have the following vaccinations for Africa: Hepatitis A (Havrax), Cholera, Yellow Fever, Tetanus Booster Shot, Rabies. Please note this guide is for information only - you should consult your doctor or travel clinic for the latest requirements. If you have entered a Yellow Fever infected area, you will be required to have a vaccination before entering into other countries. If travelling further north of Vic Falls, then you will definitely require proof of a Yellow Fever vaccination. Travel Clinics provide vaccinations and Malaria tablets.

9.8. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

At Footprints we do not encourage binge drinking. We want you to enjoy yourselves and it is great to sit around the fire exchanging stories enjoying your favourite tipple, but the attitude of drinking from early morning until late at night makes for unpleasantness and you dehydrate even quicker when you are consuming alcohol. Most campsites have bar facilities, we simply ask that drinking is kept to a reasonable level for your enjoyment. We have a firm policy about drugs on tour. We do not tolerate them! Police regularly inspect our vehicles and we make numerous border crossings. If you are caught in possession of illegal substances, we cannot help you. You do not want to add a stay in a local jail to your on-tour experiences!

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9.9. LOCAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS

Passengers are required to obey all laws of the countries through which we pass. This particularly applies to the smuggling of contraband and possession of narcotic drugs and firearms. Any passenger found contravening such laws or putting other passengers at risk may be required to leave the tour immediately with no refund. Please remember that we are guests in each of the countries we visit and it is good manners to comply with their customs.

9.10. SECURITY

Travelling in any country has its potential dangers and in African countries you will find that it is no different. Due to massive levels of poverty, petty theft is rampant.

Basic rules apply:

- ✓ Do not bring unnecessary valuables along with you such as jewellery, expensive watches and electronic goods.
- ✓ Do not leave your personal possessions unattended
- ✓ Do not be reckless in your behaviour. Be careful
- ✓ Always walk together as a group, especially at night
- ✓ It is also suggested that you photocopy and photograph all your travel documents and belongings and store them separately to the originals. Security of the vehicle is part of the reality of tour life and you will be expected to assist when necessary.

Although all care and attention will be exercised, Footprints in Africa Tours nor its agents and employees can accept responsibility for anything left on the vehicle.

Travel insurance for personal belongings is also advisable, as you are not covered by Footprints for personal items such as clothes, cameras etc. You are responsible for your possessions at all times. It does happen from time-to-time airlines lose luggage and this can be very frustrating for all parties concerned as the airlines then need to chase down the tour to reach the traveller, the traveller never really knows when they're going to get their belongings and Footprints is expected to handle all of the ground operations for this. The process is immensely time consuming for everyone so please be assured that Footprints will do our absolute best to ensure that the airlines are able to get your lost luggage to you. Your guides and Footprints cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage or delay with luggage that has been lost or left behind by the airline.

9.11. WHEN GAME DRIVING

When you are on a game drive, no matter if it is our Footprints vehicle or an open 4x4 vehicle, please be as quiet as possible at all times and don't make sudden movements - this will ensure the biggest success on your game drive. Also, bring along some binoculars if you can. It's very important to keep in mind when you go on a game drive or walk that you are not in a zoo and no one can ever guarantee which animals we will see and how many animals we will see. All our Footprints guides and all our local partners know where to best spot animals and do have an extensive knowledge about where and when to see wildlife however there is simply no way anyone can ever guarantee to see animals.

10. COUNTRY INFORMATION

10.1. SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Africa, as it offers truly magnificent views and has an abundance of activities to enjoy. This Southern African country is rich with culture and traditions; with every citizen having a unique heritage, culture and story to tell. Here, guests will find themselves enchanted with a unique vibrancy and absorbed in the freedom of every citizen. The combination of the beauty of the landscape and friendly nature of the locals makes South Africa a truly inspiring and exciting country to explore. Since the 17th century and the arrival of its very first settlers, South Africa has been claimed, to be one of the most beautiful destinations in the world. Not only is the weather warm and mild throughout the year, but locals and visitors enjoying an endlessly beautiful scenery and diversity in landscapes.

Undoubtedly, South Africa's main attractions are its beautiful mountain and coastal views, however its cities also attract more than enough tourist attention. In 2010, South Africa hosted the FIFA Soccer World Cup, putting on an incredible show and proving themselves as one of the world's leaders in the hospitality industry. Guests were made to feel welcome and encouraged to participate in local celebrations and enjoy the sights of each region; a factor which surely contributed to the Mother City of South

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Africa, Cape Town, being voted by TripAdvisor to be the most desired tourist destination in the world. Among South Africa's other top attractions are Johannesburg (The City of Gold), Durban (a surfer's paradise), Port Elizabeth (the friendly city), the Garden Route and the Kruger National Park.

10.2. ESWATINI

From the moment you enter Eswatini, the landscape changes around you and there is no mistaking as to why the Swazi King fought so hard to gain independence of his pristine mountains, rainforest and valleys in this landlocked country. Originally inhabited by the hunter gatherer khoisan people, Eswatini became popular to the Bantu tribes of East Africa and the powerful Nguni (Xhosa, Zulu and Swazi) tribe occupied this area during the Bantu expansion (migration of tribes due to increased use of iron, agricultural development and the more prevalent use of ceramics).

Interestingly, in September 1968, Eswatini proclaimed its independence after being ruled by the United Kingdom as a British High Commission Territory for almost seventy years which meant that it was one of the last colonies to be ruled by Britain on the African mainland.

One of Eswatini's most popular and spectacular annual ceremonies is the Reed Dance, held in August or September each year. Thousands of young women congregate at the Queen Mother's village to provide tribute labour for the Queen Mother and to preserve their virginity. They arrive with bundles of reeds for the Queen and some of them bring their bush knives as a symbol of their virginity. The women dress in traditional clothing and perform dances for the royal family and other onlookers.

10.3. LESOTHO

Lesotho is a landlocked country that is surrounded by South Africa. Also known as the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Land of our Fathers, and the Kingdom in the Sky, this is a nation submersed in tradition and culture. It's famous for its beautiful mountain passes, small communities and wildlife. Due to its altitude, Lesotho remains cool throughout the year with snow covering many of its peaks and mountain passes. Undoubtedly, this nation is most popular with tourists wishing to lose themselves in the beauty and tranquillity of the outdoors.

The Kingdom of Lesotho has hardly been affected by the hands of man; in fact, it's probably the Southern African nation which lives closely to its traditional ways and values. The country's capital of Maseru is its largest city, providing jobs and a more modern lifestyle to a large portion of the 2.142 million (2020) people who call this country their own. 75% of the population who lives outside of the capital can be found in small communities, many of them still living in their traditional mud huts and can only be reached by foot or horseback.

Exploring Lesotho is an experience some of the world's most avid hikers dream of experiencing. Not only will you meet with truly beautiful sights, endless mountain ranges and come across historical villages and rock art, but as they'll have miles and miles to explore on their own, without a sign of human life or technology to turn their thoughts back to the "real world". Their mountain passes are also popular amongst ambitious and professional cyclists wishing to train.

10.4. BOTSWANA

Botswana is a southern African landlocked nation, surrounded by Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa and Namibia it is one of Africa's most popular inland tourist destinations. Despite being quite a large country, Botswana remains to be one of the world's smallest communities with just over two million people calling themselves citizens. Most of the locals can be found working in the nation's capital city, Gaborone, however many others work on game reserves and with the country's tourism industry.

Botswana's Okavango Delta is the world's largest inland delta and is alive with vibrant bird species and wildlife. In comparison to the vast Kalahari Desert, the delta is lush and green; a true magical world where life is simple and relaxation is unavoidable. Botswana is truly a unique country with a landscape and beauty unlike any other; from deserts to delta, bushveld to grasslands, savannas to salt pans, Botswana is a true joy to explore and offers a world of adventure to all tourists.

10.5. MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique is a true paradise with endless idyllic beaches and a vibrant relaxed atmosphere; not only the perfect getaway for a family and honeymooning couple, but a country rich in economic and commercial properties. Surrounded by Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South Africa, and with the Indian Ocean meeting its entire eastern border, Mozambique is the 34th largest country in the world.

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Mozambique was liberated from its colonizers, Portugal, in 1975 and became the People's Republic of Mozambique. Two years later however, it was submersed in a civil war which lasted until 1992, when it reached a democratic turning point. Today, Mozambique has a stable political climate and a growing economy, aided by its constantly budding tourism industry.

With its tropical climate, vibrant atmosphere, serene beaches and unique culture, Mozambique is a true paradise; the perfect getaway for anyone. Spend a day lounging on a pristine beach, go diving in its transparent waters, go fishing and explore the local food and craft markets. Team the atmosphere with fresh cocktails and a beautiful location and you'll be on the way to having the time of your life.

10.6. ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe is an incredibly beautiful, land-locked nation in the centre of Southern Africa. Despite its political and economic struggles, it remains a country of breath-taking beauty and lush landscapes. Famously bordering on the magnificent Victoria Falls and the stunning Zambezi River, this country is by no means short of attractions and activities. Zimbabwe, previously known as Rhodesia during its colonial days, has been the focus of many explorers during the last few centuries. It was Rhodes that orchestrated the building of the first railway line through the country which stretches across the entire African continent, and David Livingstone was the explorer to hear the thunderous sound and see the spray of the world's largest natural waterfall, the Victoria Falls; named after his sovereign Queen Victoria.

Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park and Matopos rock formations are amongst the country's most famous attractions. Just an hour outside of the town of Bulawayo, the Great Zimbabwe Ruins can be found. Zimbabwe received its independence in 1980 and has struggled to maintain a democratic state ever since. However, despite its unstable economy and the fragile political state, thousands of tourists make their way to the country every year.

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