



a Mountain to call your own

9 DAYS IN EASTERN SOUTH AFRICA

JHB - Cradle of Humankind - Verlorenkloof – Timbavati - JHB
(JHB -Gauteng – Mpumalanga – JHB)

South Africa, what a wonderful country! This tour embraces the Original South African story from 500 years ago to the present day. Bokoni culture, hidden botanical gems and all wildlife are encountered first hand. Travelling along the quieter yet sought after tourist destinations. This tour is for the learned traveler who is passionate about Southern Africa, the land and the people. There is an option to extend by adding another 7 days on to explore the Southern tip of South Africa.

HIGHLIGHTS

Cradle of Humankind

Hand- picked exclusive accommodation

Experienced and well trained guides with the ability to offer in depth content at each destination

Northern and Southern Sectors flexibility

Optional extensions pre and post tour in Johannesburg and Cape Town

Several excursions on foot, offering a comfortable level of physical activity.

Smaller group size - 4 to 16 people

All transfers and transport can be arranged

Also suitable for self-drive (own transport).

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1 SUNDAY

Early morning arrival at OR Tambo International Airport. Transfer to Maropeng Boutique Hotel in the Cradle of Humankind. First outing to Maropeng Interpretation Centre - learn about the exciting recent discovery of Homo Naledi. Lunch at Maropeng followed by an afternoon visit to the Sterkfontein caves (entry into caves includes 137 step descent and ascent) where they have uncovered the oldest complete hominid fossil of Mrs Ples. Dinner at the hotel, get to know the other travelers in the group.

Night Maropeng Hotel - The Cradle of Humankind, World Heritage Site.



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DAY 2 MONDAY

Have a relaxed breakfast and then drive east to Mpumalanga; the name of this province literary means, 'where the sun comes out'. Your 3.5 hour drive takes you along the grassland habitat of the Highveld, after which a drop in altitude to the Middle Veld will bring you to a magical place called Verlorenkloof. Nestled at the base of the Eastern Escarpment, Verlorenkloof offers the naturalist a plethora of biomes to enjoy. A welcoming and introduction talk followed by an early dinner.

Night Verlorenkloof - Mountain Croft accommodation

Verlorenkloof - This 2000 Ha family owned farm and tourist hotspot has supported their local communities for 2 generations. The tasty home-style meals are prepared with the freshest ingredients grown sustainably on the farm. Organic Yoghurt and milk is also produced on the farm.

DAY 3 TUESDAY

Leisurely rise with locally brewed coffee (or tea) and rusks, a short drive and walk 1 km up the mountain to Bokoni site no 1 with farm owner and amateur archaeologist, Eric Johnson and a local archaeological guide. Return to the Lodge for a late brunch. Relax during the midday heat and in the afternoon enjoy some private time or try the various guided activities on offer at Verlorenkloof: horse riding, fly fish for trout or enjoy a botany walk up the kloof. Enjoy late afternoon Sundowners at Rock Pool. Dinner at Verlorenkloof Lodge.

Night Verlorenkloof - Mountain Croft accommodation

DAY 4 WEDNESDAY

Early rise for breakfast at Verlorenkloof Lodge. You then travel towards Lydenburg/Mashishing. En route you go to Kutwaneng, an impressive Bokoni shelter in the Steenkamsberg escarpment (approx 2 km walk). Lunch at Forest Creek Lodge or picnic at the Klipspruit site. Continue to Lydenburg where you meet up with local experts, first at Lydenburg Museum and thereafter at the impressive Boomplaats engravings.

Night Verlorenkloof - Mountain Croft accommodation

DAY 5 THURSDAY

Early rise with locally brewed coffee (or tea) and rusks, walk part of the Verlorenkloof foot path with botanist and birding guide, visiting Bokoni site no 2. Return for brunch at the Lodge.

Relax during the midday heat and enjoy some free time or choose from the optional activities.

Optional activities - Organic Dairy farm visit, bird-watching or hiking.

Enjoy late afternoon bush braai at your Croft.

Night Verlorenkloof - Mountain Croft accommodation



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DAY 6 FRIDAY

Delicious light breakfast at 07h00, complete with the by now well-known produce of the Farm. Head northwest via Lydenburg to picturesque Graskop for a pancake brunch and some cultural shopping. You continue to world renowned Blyde River Canyon to experience one of the most visited viewpoints in South Africa - the Three Rondavels (little round huts). Travel via Abel Erasmus pass, through the Strijdom tunnel with a sheer drop alongside the Olifants River towards the Big Game area of the Greater Kruger National Park. Some 20 km outside the bush town of Hoedspruit, you turn towards the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve. This private bush camp is in the middle of the Greater Kruger region offering wildlife encounters on your door step. In true African tradition you set off on a late afternoon game drive.

Night Timbavati - Bush Camp

DAY 7 SATURDAY

Morning and afternoon game drives or walks are on the cards. The bush camp is perfectly located close to a dry riverbed with commanding views over a waterhole. You may choose to relax in the camp and let the wildlife come to you.

Night Timbavati - Bush Camp

DAY 8 SUNDAY

Wake to the magical sounds of the African bushveld. Morning and afternoon game drives or walks. Only 6 people permitted per group for the walks due to the dangerous game in the area.

Night Timbavati - Bush Camp

DAY 9 MONDAY

Enjoy another delicious breakfast in the African bush. From here we transfer you back to Johannesburg Airport. Alternative arrangements can be made for transfers to KMIA.

Night End of Northern sector tour / or extension onto the Cape

