

# South Africa

## Geography, Conservation and SCUBA

12 Days

An exciting adventure through the stunning South African province of KwaZulu-Natal with an important focus on conservation and protection. Situated on the East Coast of South Africa, this area boasts some of the greatest diversity of wildlife, ecology, geology and scenery in Africa.

Here you will find the UNESCO World heritage site of the epic Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Mountains. We will witness the unbelievable number of species found in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the coastal plains of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Experience a thrilling journey through the game reserves and close-up animal encounters.



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

# Your Recommended Educational Journey

<b>Days 1 - 2</b>	<b>Depart UK, Arrive in Durban, South Africa</b> Fly from the UK to King Shaka International Airport, Durban, where we are met on arrival by our local STC Expedition Leader. We transfer to our accommodation nearby the airport and freshen up. We then have a welcome briefing and set off for our first traditional meal.	LD
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Durban Botanical Gardens</b> This morning we will visit the beautiful Durban Botanical Gardens, renowned as the oldest surviving botanic garden. Established in 1849 it is home to many indigenous and exotic plants that deserve our protection. After fully exploring the gardens, and restoring ourselves with some lunch, we will drive to Albizia Environmental Camp. Albizia Camp is an educational and conservational estate, formed by a collaboration of the local properties agreeing to drop their fences to promote and produce a greater conservation effort. This land is called Ukuwela which means 'to cross over' in Zulu. Ukuwela is a natural jewel; with a flowing river, striking fever tree forests, open grasslands, and mixed woodlands, it is one of the most beautiful and diverse wilderness areas in the region. It can support all shapes and sizes of plant and animal species, including leopards, zebras, wildebeests, hippos, and crocodiles.	BLD
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Environmental Awareness Program, Albizia Camp</b> Today signals the start of our Environmental Awareness Program which will cover the many facets of conservation and wildlife management of game and game reserves within Africa. Our day begins with a walk in this impressive environment, where we will learn basic bush skills and key species identification. The focus today will be on the rehabilitation of the land as it is transformed from farming to conservation land. Ending the day with some reptiles and creepy crawlies! An interesting and exciting talk covering the various species of scorpions, spiders and snakes found in South Africa.	BLD
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Richards Bay Minerals, Eucalyptus Plantations and Paper mills</b> Today's activities will focus on human impacts on the current environment. We will visit South Africa's largest mineral sands producing facility where we learn about the consequences of strip mining, but, perhaps more importantly, the rehabilitation process that is being undertaken here to restore the previously-mined coastal sand dunes. Afterwards, we visit one of the paper mills and the massive Eucalyptus plantations that feed these mills. We debate the benefits and risks of commercial plantations over conservation of these aromatic plants.	BLD
<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Pineapple farm and Elephant Interaction</b> Pineapple farm and Elephant Interaction	BLD
<b>Days 7 - 8</b>	<b>Discover SCUBA, Sodwana Bay</b> Together we will take the plunge into the underwater world with the Discover Scuba Diving experience and be awed by the hidden ecosystem that lies beneath the ocean waves. The Discover Scuba Diving program is spread over a two day period, giving us time to learn the necessary skills and adapt to our new equipment. The experience will consist of a confined water dive in a pool, a short lecture, and an open water dive in the ocean. The final dive offers you the breath-taking opportunity to dive into the magnificent watery depths, gliding amongst shoals of fish and looking at the world from a new angle.	BLD



**Day 9**

**St Lucia**

BLD

St Lucia is close to the southern-most point of iSimangaliso Wetland Park and contains the highest vegetated dunes in the world, an extensive and diverse wetland system, as well as coastal grasslands. A two hour boat cruise on the Estuary in the afternoon provides us with an opportunity to see hippos, crocodiles, reedbuck and many fascinating grassland, forest and sea birds species. We return to Albizia camp this evening.

**Day 10**

**Game Drive**

BLD

Our final day of activities is certainly one to be remembered. We will have a full day drive through the Hluhluwe –iMfolozi game reserve, the largest in KwaZulu-Natal. This should give us plenty of time to spot some of the famous “Big Five” (lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and buffalo) who stalk the verdant savannah. Situated in the heart of Zululand, it is also the oldest game reserve in Africa and is where Zulu kings, such as Dingiswayo and Shaka, hunted and put in place the first conservation laws. The viewing hides overlook waterholes and will enable us to see animals at an unbelievably close range.

**Days 11 - 12**

**Depart Durban**

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After breakfast we complete the last leg of our journey as we head to King Shaka International Airport for our return flight back to the UK.



## Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for school staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination

## What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations or Covid tests
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance



## A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. While we are far from perfect, we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.



This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit:

<https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>

Trees for Life

## Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 2



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

## Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



## Travel Safety & Other Pre-Travel Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to this educational journey. Topics covered will include:

### Responsible Tourism workshop

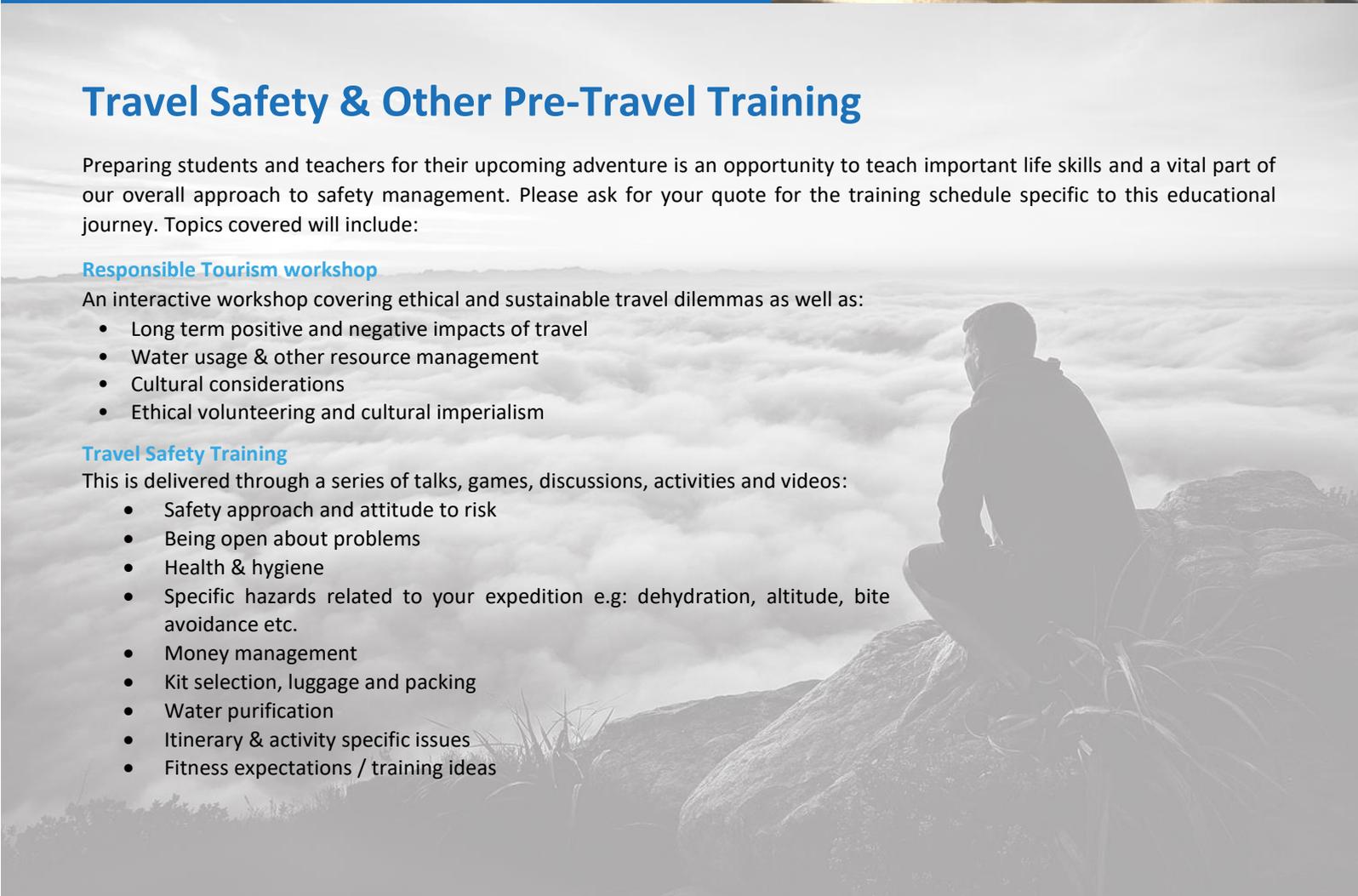
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

### Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





# A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey

## 1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your adventure itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

## 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your trip approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

## 3 Arrange a trip launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with comprehensive information covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.



Our school trips and educational tours are all about maximising the learning opportunities of travel. It's all here, the humble school tour has just come of age.



Adventures, holidays and cultural journeys for teachers looking to 'Escape the Classroom' and discover more about our amazing world, its people and places.



*"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."*

**Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick**

## Contact Us:

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