

Tour code:
Guaranteed departures
Small group safari maximum:
Travel through:
Safari length:

JJa14
12 travellers
South Africa & Swaziland
14 days

2017

WALKING SOUTH AFRICA



DEPARTS:

JOHANNESBURG on Sunday at 06:30am

ENDS:

JOHANNESBURG on Saturday at +/-17:00pm

Highlights

- * Mpumalanga - Panorama Route sight seeing
- * Kruger National Park – private lodge game drives and bush walk
- * Swaziland – mountain walks, cultural adventure
- * KwaZulu Natal – walk, game drive and museums
- * Drakensberg Mountains – mountain walks
- * 8 walks of varying grades – Mac Mac, Blyde River Canyon, Big 5, Swaziland, Isimangaliso, Zululand, Drakensberg, The Amphitheatre



SAFARI GRADE: ACCOMMODATED

A walking focused safari exploring a variety of scenic and cultural destinations within South Africa, including a visit to the beautiful Kingdom of Swaziland. This is an active holiday and the day walks range from leisurely to challenging, and provide a unique adventure for those interested in a walking holiday. Highlights include visits to the old mining town of Pilgrims Rest, the iSimangaliso World Heritage Site at St. Lucia, the Dundee battlefields and the majesty of the Drakensberg.

Overnight 13 nights on safari we stay at small, intimate and often private lodges (including tented camps), with en suite facilities.

Meals 13 breakfasts, 14 lunches and 9 dinners are included. Of which 5 breakfasts & 3 dinners are provided by the lodges. The remaining included meals are provided by the crew, prepared at the vehicle and eaten around the boma or campfire.

Transport we use custom-built trucks with 12 forward facing seats. These vehicles are comfortable for cruising with large sliding windows and front hatches giving everyone a good view; or (on 30% of tours) Mercedes Sprinter minibuses with 12 seats and air conditioning (with a trailer for equipment and gear).

Limited participation An essential part of your safari is some participation. From carrying your own bag to your room and day packs and water bottles on hikes, to packing the truck in the morning – it's all part of your adventure. Where the tour leaders provide meals we ask that clients help (on rotation) with the washing up. When everyone puts in a little effort the trip will run smoothly and efficiently ensuring it is enjoyable for all involved

Day 1

MPUMALANGA [chalet –LD]
(B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

ACCOMMODATED ITINERARY

After the tour briefing at 06:30am, we depart Johannesburg and head east towards Mpumalanga. During the afternoon we visit the gold mining town of Pilgrims Rest, and the viewpoint over God's Window. Stretch our legs on a short walk from Mac Mac Pools and then make our way to our chalets on the edge of the escarpment.

Day 1: Breakfast is not included

Day 1: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 1: Dinner will be provided by the lodge

- Includes:** Entrance to Gods Window, Mac Mac Falls
- Overnight:** [Graskop Mogodi Lodge](#) - twin bed chalet en suite. Swimming pool, bar, restaurant, telephone. 
WiFi not available
- Walk grade:** **Leisurely** – Mac Mac Walk – short easy walk to stretch your legs. 2-3km, less than one hour. On a foot path with very limited altitude change. 
- Distance/time:** 400kms, ± 6 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing, breakfast & lunch



Day 2 – 3 **KRUGER PRIVATE GAME RESERVE** [lodge BLD]

Blyde River canyon is our first long morning walk as we walk from the rim of the escarpment down into the canyon with views over the Three Sisters and the river below.

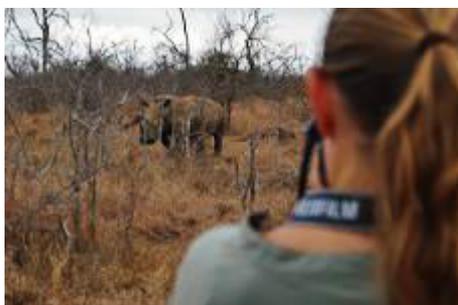
After lunch we make our way to a private game reserve in the Lowveld, and enjoy an afternoon game drive leading into a night drive with a spot light. Tonight our tented lodge is an opportunity to experience the wilds of big game country around a campfire. A highlight of our tour is the early morning game walk with a local ranger. Quietly we venture into the bush, learning the tracks and other signs of the wildlife we hope to track on foot.

Day 2-3: Breakfast provide by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 2-3: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 2-3: Dinner provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

- Includes:** Entrance fees to Blyde River Canyon, private game reserve, game walks x 2, game drives x 2 
- Overnight:** Balule Conservancy – twin meru tents with en suite facilities. Meals will be prepared by the tour leaders and eaten around the camp fire in the boma. WiFi not available
- Walk grade:** **Moderate** – Blyde River Canyon – 3.5hr walk on good paths with some rocky sections. 
- Distance/time:** **Leisurely** - Big 5 game walk early morning 3–4 hr bush walk with ranger. 
140kms, ± 2 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing, breakfast & lunch



Day 4 **KRUGER NATIONAL PARK** [safari tent BLD]

This is Big game country, where we spend the day in search of the elusive leopard, the majestic lion and the mighty elephant. We game drive south through the reserve as your professional guides will impart their extensive knowledge of ecology, fauna and flora during our time in the bush.

Day 4: Breakfast provide by the tour leaders with the help of the group
 Day 4: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
 Day 4: Dinner provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes: Entrance fees to Kruger National Park, afternoon and morning game drives in tour vehicle.
Overnight: [Kruger National Park Tents](#) - we stay in national parks board tents with en-suite facilities. Swimming pool, restaurant, and telephone. WiFi not available
Walk grade: **Leisurely** - Big 5 game walk - early morning 3 – 4 hr bush walk with ranger to spot game.
Distance/time: 240kms, ± 3.5 hours + 3x 3 hour game drives



Day 5 – 6 KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND [chalets BLD]

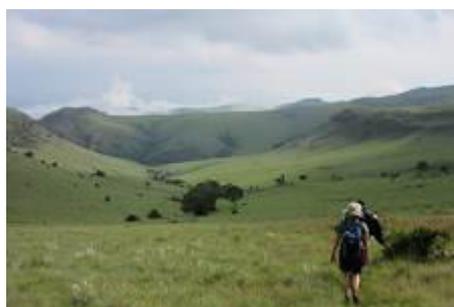
We enter the Kingdom of Swaziland and travel through a lush fruit farming area before heading into the mountains. We spend 2 nights on the outskirts of Malalotja Nature Reserve with a full day to walk through this seldom explored mountainous reserve. The Swazi people have a rich cultural heritage and we will visit the craft and medicine markets on day 7 as we pass through the capital, Mbabane.

Day 5: Breakfast provide by the tour leaders with the help of the group
 Day 5: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
 Day 5: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Day 6: Breakfast will be provided by the lodge
 Day 6: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
 Day 6: Dinner will be a set meal provided by the lodge

Includes: Entrance fees to Malalotja Nature Reserve
Overnight: [Hawane](#) - mountain chalets en-suite facilities
 WiFi not available

Walk grade: **Challenging** – 4 - 6hr walk through undulating hills of Malalotja Game Reserve to a beautiful waterfall. Uneven paths and this walk has sections of steep gradients.
Distance/time: 200kms, ± 3 hours, excluding 2-3 hour morning drive out of Kruger, shopping stop in Malelane, Jeppes Reef border formalities & stops for sightseeing etc



Day 7 – 8 ISIMANGOLISO WETLAND PARK [lodge Bx2 Lx2 Dx1]

We cross back into South Africa and head into the Zululand heartland. We will spend a morning in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve where rhino conservation has been a priority. In the late afternoon we will visit False Bay for a glorious 2-3 hour walk through the forest and alongside the estuary spotting birds and learning about the importance of this wetland. Isimangaliso is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park's uniqueness lies in its remarkable combination of estuarine lakes, subtropical coastline, forests and wildlife.

Day 7: Breakfast will be provided by the lodge
 Day 7: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
 Day 7: Dinner provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 8: Breakfast provide by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 8: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 8: Dinner will be an own expense meal at a local restaurant

- Includes:** Entrance fees to Isimangaliso Lake St Lucia & Hluhluwe Game Reserve
- Overnight:** [Shonalanga Lodge](#) - twin bedrooms en suite. Swimming pool, bar, restaurant, telephone.
Free WiFi in office & pool area
- Distance/time:** 380kms, ± 5.5 hours, excluding border formalities, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch
- Walk grade:** **Leisurely** – 2-3hr gentle walk through sand forests and along the estuary shoreline
- Optional Activities** Boat cruise



Day 9 - 10 **ZULULAND** [lodge BL-]

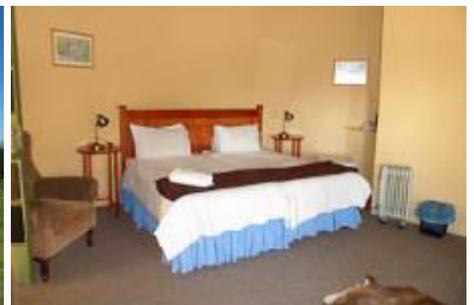
We leave the coastline and make our way through the scenic hills and valleys of Zululand to the small town of Dundee. Here battles were fought between the Zulus, British and the Boer troops - war cries still resound in the hills. We spend time at the informative Tulana museum before we settle into our lodge and have some free time in the afternoon.

The following morning we explore the Islandlwana battlefield before we embark on an exciting 4-5hour hike tracing the steps of the two British fugitives through the undulating hills of Zululand to the Buffalo River. Later in the day we visit Rourke's Drift before returning to the lodge.

Day 9: Breakfast provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 9: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 9: Dinner will be an own expense meal at a local restaurant

Day 10: Breakfast provided by the lodge
Day 10: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 10: Dinner will be an own expense meal at a local restaurant

- Includes:** Visit to Rourke's Drift, and Islandlwana battlefields, entrance to Talana Museum
- Overnight:** [Battlefields Country Lodge](#) - twin share chalet with en-suite facilities. Swimming pool, bar, restaurant, telephone.
Free WiFi in reception
- Walk grade:** **Challenging** – 4-5hr Fugitives Drift trail through Zululand on uneven paths. It has strenuous sections with some steep gradients. Complete hike is dependent on the Buffalo River water level crossing.
- Distance/time:** 310kms, ± 4.5 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch



Day 11 – 12 **DRAKENSBERG** [chalets BLD]

Witness the grandeur of the Drakensberg Mountains or uKhahlamba "Barrier of Spears". We overnight at the base of the "berg" (alt. 1,600m) and spend a full day walking the mountain trails before taking an invigorating dip in the clear mountain streams of the Royal Natal National Park. The crisp mountain air is refreshing and our lodge is a fantastic place to relax and enjoy the splendour of the mountain views.

Day 11: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 11: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 11: Dinner provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 12: Breakfast provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 12: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 12: Dinner provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

- Includes:** Entrance fees to Royal Natal National Park
- Overnight:** [Royal Natal National Park Thendele](#) variety of chalets with twin or double bedrooms and en-suite facilities. WiFi not available
- Walk grade:** **Moderate** – 5.5hr walk up the Tugela gorge on good paths with some rocky sections, boulder hopping.
- Distance/time:** 180kms ± 2½ hours, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch



Day 13 **DRAKENSBERG** [chalets BL-]

We start the day with an early breakfast and make our way to Witsieshoek at the foot of the magnificent Sentinel Peak. At the end of a rough gravel road we start our trek, including a short chain ladder section, to the top of the Drakensberg Amphitheatre and the beautiful Tugela Falls (alt. 3,000m), offering unparalleled views down into KwaZulu-Natal. After our walk we make our way to the lodge perched high in the mountains (alt. 2,300m) overlooking the Mont-Aux-Sources mountain range.

Day 13: Breakfast provide by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 13: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 13: Dinner will be an own expense meal

- Includes:** Entrance fees to sentinel peak mountain walk.
- Overnight:** [Witsieshoek](#), Bungalows – twin rooms with en-suite facilities. At 2220m above sea level, Witsieshoek is the highest lodge in the Northern Drakensberg WiFi available
- Walk grade:** **Challenging** – 5-6 hrs walk on uneven paths to the top of the Amphitheatre with a short section of chain ladders.
- Distance/time:** 120kms, ± 2 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch



Day 14 **JOHANNESBURG - TOUR ENDS** [- BL-]

A leisurely start to the day, with the chance to spot the endangered bearded vulture soaring overhead, before we make our way back to Johannesburg. Tour ends at +/-17:00.

Day 14: Breakfast will be provided by the lodge
Day 14: Lunch provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group
Day 14: NA

- Includes:** N/A
- Overnight:** N/A
- Distance/time:** 360kms, ± 5 hours, excluding stops for sightseeing & lunch

Please note: we do a free drop off at Johannesburg airport on day 14 at 17:00pm so you can book your flight out for the last day of tour.



Please note: The distance and travel times quoted above are an estimate only, and subject to local road conditions and photo stops!

Please note: That the accommodation specified above and in the itinerary, is a guide only and is subject to availability. Alternatives will be of a similar standard, and accommodation changes will be made without notice.

Special Interest:

This safari has a walking focus. We include 8 day treks with your Sunway leader to explore different scenic areas of beautiful South Africa. You will need to carry your day pack and a bottle of water.

Sustainable Tourism:

Several times a year we operate a trip for underprivileged children from SOS Children’s Village to visit Pilanesberg Game reserve, introducing the children to the wildlife, the importance and of conservation and helping broaden their horizons. Should you wish to help in this project, please contact our office.

Please see detailed walk grading further down in the document.

2017 PRICES AND DEPARTURE DATES:

PRICE: (valid Jan 2017 – Dec 2017)

€ 1 690 pps

Single supplement: € 580 pp (If you are travelling on your own, we will “room” you with another same gender client. You do not pay extra when booking as a single person. If however you request a single room, then you'll pay the single supplement.)

2017 DEPARTURE DATES

JJa14	
Departs	Ends
JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNESBURG
Sunday at	Saturday at
06:30 am	17:00 pm
01-Jan-17	14-Jan-17
08-Jan-17	21-Jan-17
29-Jan-17	11-Feb-17 German
12-Feb-17	25-Feb-17
19-Feb-17	04-Mar-17
19-Mar-17	01-Apr-17
09-Apr-17	22-Apr-17 German
14-May-17	27-May-17
11-Jun-17	24-Jun-17 German
18-Jun-17	01-Jul-17
02-Jul-17	15-Jul-17
16-Jul-17	29-Jul-17
23-Jul-17	05-Aug-17
06-Aug-17	19-Aug-17
13-Aug-17	26-Aug-17 German
27-Aug-17	09-Sep-17
03-Sep-17	16-Sep-17
17-Sep-17	30-Sep-17
08-Oct-17	21-Oct-17
22-Oct-17	04-Nov-17 German
05-Nov-17	18-Nov-17
26-Nov-17	09-Dec-17
17-Dec-17	30-Dec-17



* **Bold dates** are guaranteed departures, all other dates guaranteed from 4 clients.
 * **German:** These tours are lead by a German speaking translator / tour leader.

DETAILED TOUR INFORMATION:

In a nutshell

- A comprehensive introduction to the northern part of South Africa – game viewing and scenery!
- Exciting trip with culture, wildlife, adventure, walking, mountains and beaches.
- Kruger NP, Swaziland, Zululand and Drakensberg.

Why travel with us

We understand that there are several options available to you when choosing your African safari. We also know that you want to make the most informed decision about your safari, what you get, what's included and what you see and experience. So these are just a few of our qualities and facts:

- **Small groups** – by travelling with a maximum of 12 people, you are able to witness Africa and have first-hand contact with this amazing continent and its people without being a negative influence. This has been a key factor in our continued success. Our trips appeal to a wide demographic of traveller. Our clients range in age from 25 to 65+ with the average being 45. The range of travellers gives a variety of perspectives which adds to the experience of each safari.
- **2 Tour Guides** – group leaders are the key to any safari. On this safari you will travel with 2 qualified and registered field guides (Field Guides Association of SA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, means interesting trips with maximum knowledge and information. Our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and her wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.
- **Guaranteed departures** – departure dates on each itinerary shown as bold are guaranteed departure dates. All other departures operate with a minimum of 4 clients.
- **All inclusive price** – when we travel ourselves, we always feel that if we're in a country we should find and see the best it has to offer. So when planning our routes we ensure that each trip provides the best inclusions and experiences. For example, if you go to Botswana – you have to visit the national parks in an open 4WD – it is the essence of the Botswana wilderness. If you tour Zambia, then you must visit South Luangwa NP and do a game walk with a local scout. When booking on our safaris there are no hidden costs. All of the entrance fees are included, and a wide range of activities, and most meals. We have included many highlights in our tours, so that you will see and experience the highlights without having to pay extra when you get there. So when you decide on which safari company to book with, look carefully at what you're actually getting. You may only visit a place once, make sure you get the most out of it.
- **Safety** – our fleet of vehicles are custom built to ensure comfortable and safe touring. Each is constructed, by an authorised passenger vehicle builder, to the latest safety requirements, with a safety shell, and every seat has a lap belt. This gives you peace of mind when travelling with us on the often demanding African roads.
- **Responsible travel** - Our commitment to sustainable & responsible tourism is reflected in our low impact travel style where all we take is photographs and all we leave is our footprints. Being an African company we have the grassroots contacts to make a real difference in the lives of the people whose lands we visit. 
On each itinerary in the brochure you'll find this symbol which highlights just one of the sustainable travel initiatives that we support
- **Solo Travellers** – going it alone won't make your holiday more expensive; our reservations staff will match you up with another same-gender traveller to keep your holiday affordable. If however you request a single room or tent these are available, with a price supplement
- **Experience** - we have more than 22 years' experience planning tours throughout Southern Africa. As such, our itineraries and routes have been perfected over many years ensuring that your tour will run smoothly. We visit the highlights of Southern Africa, but ensure that you do not follow the well-trodden tourist track. All of us have extensive travel experience in Africa, and throughout the world. Being adventure travellers ourselves, we know how to plan trips that give you a broad experience of the countries that you will visit.
- **Based in Africa** - probably the most important part of our safaris is that we are an African company with offices in South Africa and Botswana. We live in Africa, we travel in Africa and it is our passion for this amazing continent that makes us your best travel option.

The Walking Grade



- **Leisurely** – 1 – 3hrs. Walks for reasonably fit people with at least a little country walking experience. May include unsurfaced rural paths. A pleasant morning or afternoon walk. Relatively flat without much change in altitude (<200m).



- **Moderate** – 3 – 5hrs. Walks for reasonably fit people with at least a little country walking experience. May include some steep paths unsurfaced paths, open country and may be at a brisk pace. Moderate altitude change (200-400m).



- **Challenging** - 4 – 6hrs. Walks for people with a good level of fitness. May include steep unsurfaced paths, open country, and may be at a brisk pace. People in doubt about their fitness should contact the organiser or tour leader in advance to assess difficulty. Significant altitude change (>400m) and/or walking above altitudes above 2,500m above sea level.

There are 8 amazing walks on this tour and they range from easy to challenging. We walk on mountain paths so light hiking boots are sufficient (ankle protection is required). All walks are weather dependent especially in the Drakensberg.

Local Payment

- There is no local payment required on this safari.

Recommended reading

Before you travel you might want to read any of the following books. While not specific to this tour you will join, they do provide some background understanding of the countries you will be visiting.

- Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela (Autobiography - Nelson Mandela is one of the great moral and political leaders of our time.)
- Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton (Is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom. A classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.)
- The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay (Story of one young man's search for the love that binds friends, the passion that binds lovers, and the realization that it takes only one to change the world.)
- The Covenant by James A. Mitchener (The best and worst of two continents carve an empire out of the vast wilderness that is to become South Africa.)
- My Traitor's Heart by Rian Malan (Malan, former South African crime reporter, searches for the truth behind apartheid.)
- When The Lion Feeds by Smith Wilbur (Fictional story set in Natal, South Africa in the 1870's)
- Jock of the Bushveld by J Percy FitzPatrick (Story of a trader and his dog set in 1880 around Pilgrim's Rest and Kruger area)
- The Steps of the Sun by Joanna Trollope (Love story set during the Boer War)
- Newman's Birds of Southern Africa by Kenneth Newman
- Sasol Birds of Southern Africa by Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey, and W.R. Tarboton
- The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, and Primates by Richard D. Estes and Daniel Otte
- Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa (Field Guides) by Braam Van Wyk, Keith Coates Palgrav, and Piet Van Wyk

Shopping

- Craft shopping for carvings, candles, batiks, wirework, paintings and clothing, in Swaziland and Zululand is some of the best in Southern Africa.

Food

- We pride ourselves on giving very good healthy meals to our clients and will provide three meals per day, except where shown in the itinerary, where we try out local restaurants.
- The tour leaders do the shopping and meal planning for each group. He/she will always try to obtain fresh produce wherever possible. A rough idea of what these will consist of is: Breakfast - cereals or coffee and toast or the occasional fried breakfast, Lunch - cheese, cold meats, salads on bread or rolls, Dinner - braais (local barbecue), potjies (stews), stir fries etc. We use regular plates, cups and cutlery. All cooking and eating utensils will also be provided.
- We do cater for special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian or allergies.)
- We will supply fruit squash served with breakfast and tea or coffee served with breakfast and dinner. All other beverages will be for your own expense. We will not supply bottled drinking water although it is available at many shops on tour.

Difficulty

- Anyone who is generally active and in good health should enjoy this trip. A combination of basic accommodation makes for a comfortable tour.
- Full itinerary with a couple of long driving days but also plenty of outdoors activity.
- Everyone is asked to help out with the running of camp on tour. In other words if everyone spends a little time setting up camp, preparing meals and cleaning up then the tour will run smoothly and everyone will have a good time. Participation is the name of the game.

Things you should know

- Includes park entrances

- You will need a valid passport and visas for entry into Swaziland and re-entering South Africa. Swazi visa is free of charge and obtained at the border.
- Luggage, please pack to a limit of 12kgs in a soft sports tog bag. Bring a daypack for walks. You will need to bring your own towel.
- We recommend that you bring South African Rand for personal expenses on this trip. Travellers cheques can be changed in most large towns. Major credit cards can also be used for optional activities and restaurant bills.

Common questions about this trip

1. **Can I buy camera memory cards?** Memory cards and other photographic accessories will be available several times on tour. A camera with a zoom lens from wide angle to telephoto, 35-300mm, is advisable to capture both scenic and wildlife shots. Each vehicle is fitted with a 12/24V cigarette lighter – this should not be relied on for charging camera batteries and we recommend you bring a 2nd battery. Remember you can also charge your camera on those nights we use accommodation (SA 220V)
2. **Is it safe?** South Africa, like any many countries, has it's problems but your guide knows the country intimately and will endeavour to show you the best parts while looking after you. Be aware, but not paranoid, and you will have a great trip!
3. **Do I need malaria tablets?** Mpumalanga, Swaziland and Zululand is a limited risk malaria area but prophylactics are recommended.
4. **What do I need to bring?** All details are covered in our general tour briefing but the basics are: - comfortable clothes for warm days and cool evenings, walking shoes, a raincoat, hat and sunglasses, swimsuit, a small pair of binoculars also comes in very handy and most importantly - a sense of adventure!