ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Sebatana Game Reserve

COUNTRY(IES)	South Africa
TOUR TYPE	Small Group
TRANSPORT	Minibus, Land Cruisers
GROUP SIZE	Min: 2 | Max: 10
DURATION	8 days
STARTS	Johannesburg, South Africa
ENDS	Johannesburg, South Africa
MEALS	Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 7, Dinners - 7

TOUR ROUTE MAP **8 Days**



ROUTE: **Johannesburg** (Start) → **Sebatana Private Reserve** → **Wilderness** → **Kaingo Game Reserve** → **Sebatana Private Reserve** → **Kaingo Game Reserve** → **Johannesburg South** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Sebatana Private Game Reserve, Wildlife Talk, 4 Included Game Drives in open vehicles, Traditional African Champagne Brunch, Guided Bush Walk, Johannesburg City Tour and Apartheid Museum visit.

Itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive in Johannesburg. Transfer to Sebatana Game Reserve

Meet the Sebatana representative at O.R. Tambo International Airport and transfer to the private game reserve for the start of the seven-night stay. Accommodation is provided at one of the three named properties, Rhino Lodge, Elephant Lodge or Lion Lodge. No safari or wildlife activity is specified for this arrival collection, so the description remains focused on the airport reception, overland transfer and arrival at the reserve.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrival at O.R. Tambo International Airport**
  A representative from Sebatana Private Game Reserve meets you on arrival at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg.

- **Transfer: Johannesburg to Sebatana Private Game Reserve**
  A transfer from the airport takes you to Sebatana Private Game Reserve, your base for the next seven nights. The city thins into bushveld as you head north.
- **Settle into Sebatana Private Game Reserve**
  One of the reserve's three lodges, Rhino, Elephant or Lion, each with its own outlook over the surrounding wilderness, is settled into on arrival. The rest of the day is left to adjust to the quiet.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sebatana Game Reserve	Lunch,Dinner

DAY 2 Wildlife Talk and Afternoon Game Drive

Following a leisurely breakfast, the morning begins with an inaugural game drive in open-top Land Cruisers. Your destination is a secluded spot deep within the bush, where expert guides will conduct an introductory wildlife briefing. This session covers the diverse species of mammals, birds, and flora you are likely to encounter over the coming week. Additionally, your guide will share insights into the local history and the unique topography surrounding Rhino Lodge. After lunch, the exploration continues as you depart for a second safari. Accompanied by a skilled local tracker, you will traverse the landscape in search of a wide array of wildlife, creating a series of truly memorable moments. To conclude the day, you will be invited to the dining area for another exceptional culinary experience.

ACTIVITIES

- **First Game Drive with Wildlife Briefing**
  Open-top Land Cruisers carry you to a secluded spot in the bush, where your guides talk through the mammals, birds and plants that inhabit the reserve, along with its history and topography.
- **Afternoon Safari Drive with a Local Tracker**
  After lunch you set out again with a skilled local tracker reading the ground ahead of the vehicle. The afternoon covers new country in pursuit of whatever the reserve is holding.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sebatana Game Reserve	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 3 Free day at Sebatana. Optional Big Five and Night Safari

Spend the day at leisure at Sebatana or choose from separately available safari experiences. An optional excursion to Welgevonden offers opportunities to look for the Big Five and other wildlife in a large private reserve, while an optional night safari departs from Rhino Lodge after dark. The evening drive may include a stop at Flintstone Cave for a three-course dinner by the fire, but all wildlife encounters remain dependent on natural conditions.

ACTIVITIES

- **Day at Leisure at Sebatana Private Game Reserve**
  Today is left entirely free. Unwind at the lodge, take in the surroundings at your own pace and let the rhythm of the bush do the rest.
- **Optional Big Five Safari at Welgevonden Private Game Reserve**
  A day in Welgevonden Private Game Reserve in the Waterberg region can be added as an optional extra. More than fifty mammal species live here, including the Big Five.
- **Optional Evening Safari by Spotlight**
  An optional spotlight safari begins at dusk from an open Land Cruiser. The beam picks up the shine of eyes in the dark, with leopard, caracal, bush baby, porcupine and antbear active once the heat drops.
- **Bush Brunch with Champagne at Kudu Rock**
  The morning drive concludes at Kudu Rock with a champagne brunch served above a wide view over the bush. Take your time before returning to the lodge for the middle of the day.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sebatana Game Reserve	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 4 Nature Walk and optional Tribal Evening

Following breakfast, we begin our guided wilderness trail. As we walk, your experienced guide will detail the unique characteristics of the Waterberg Mountains, focusing on the impressive fauna found south of the equator and the distinctive natural environment. You will gain fascinating insights into animal breeding and feeding grounds, providing a deeper understanding of the complex behaviours of the local antelope. In the evening, you have the optional of joining a private dinner hosted by our chef, offering a meaningful look into traditional African culture and lifestyle. This experience provides both historical context and a contemporary awareness of indigenous customs. You will have the opportunity to sample traditional food and beverages while learning about the enduring values and traditions that define the local community. The indigenous culture is often expressed through the vibrant mediums of song and dance. Tonight, local children and young adults will perform traditional dances that they have proudly preserved. These performers are part of a heritage foundation dedicated to protecting and celebrating local traditions, ensuring that this rich cultural legacy continues to flourish.

ACTIVITIES

- **Wilderness Walk in the Waterberg Mountains**
  A guide who knows the Waterberg well leads you out after breakfast on a wilderness trail. Expect detail on the range itself, on breeding and feeding grounds, and on the antelope that shape this landscape.
- **Optional African Dinner Experience**
  A private dinner hosted by the chef, built around traditional dishes and drinks, is available as an optional extra. It comes with an honest account of the customs and values that bind the local community together.
- **Experience a Traditional Song and Dance Performance**
  Children and young adults from a local heritage foundation perform the dances and songs they have kept alive. Music and movement carry much of the culture here, and the evening belongs to them.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sebatana Game Reserve	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 5 Free day. Optional Echoes of the past, hope for tomorrow tour

Spend the day at leisure at Sebatana, with several optional activities available separately. A three-hour Kaingo photo safari may include wildlife tracking and, when conditions allow, time on the Mokolo River. The optional heritage-focused excursion includes Sheep Rock Shelter, Pride Rock and their archaeological and rock-art features, followed by a guided visit to The Fold. Wildlife sightings, river access and classroom observations remain dependent on conditions and timing.

ACTIVITIES

- **Optional Kaingo Photo Safari**
  Three optional hours at Kaingo with guides working to put you in front of the Big Five. When water levels and weather allow, part of the time is spent on the Mokolo River among hippo and crocodile.
- **Explore Sheep Rock Shelter and Pride Rock**
  San rock paintings, stone tools and beads are on display at Sheep Rock Shelter, including the fat-tailed sheep symbolising healing and prosperity. Nearby Pride Rock spans every stage of the Stone Age.
- **Explore The Fold Children's Home and School**
  A half-hour drive from Sebatana brings you to The Fold, a children's home and school run by New Road Missions. Meet the staff, walk the campus and hear how family-style homes support the children who live there.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sebatana Game Reserve	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 6 Game Drive, Champagne Bush Brunch and Christinas Wallow

The early morning hours offer the finest opportunity for close-range wildlife encounters. During this time, antelope traverse vast expanses in search of optimal grazing while remaining vigilant against predators such as leopards, hyenas, and caracals. We conduct these excursions in open Land Cruisers to provide unobstructed views and superior photographic possibilities. As the morning progresses, the safari concludes at Kudu Rock for a traditional and indulgent African Champagne Brunch. This lavish meal is served against the backdrop of a magnificent vista overlooking the expansive African bush. Following brunch, we return to the lodge, allowing you time to relax and contemplate the morning's sightings. In the afternoon, our guides will lead another exploration of the reserve. This outing includes a visit to one of our specialised hides; to minimise our impact on the environment, the final approach to the hide is made on foot. Depending on the season and weather conditions, this often results in remarkably close encounters with the local wildlife. The day concludes with a return to the lodge for another exceptional culinary experience.

ACTIVITIES

- **Early Morning Safari Drive at Sebatana**
  Animals are closest to the vehicle in the first hours after dawn. Antelope graze widely while watching for leopard, hyena and caracal, and the open Land Cruiser puts nothing between you and the view.
- **Champagne Bush Brunch at Kudu Rock**
  The morning drive concludes at Kudu Rock with a champagne brunch served above a wide view over the bush. Take your time before returning to the lodge for the middle of the day.
- **Visit to Afternoon Safari and Photographic Hide**
  The afternoon is spent in one of the reserve's purpose-built hides, reached on foot to keep disturbance to a minimum. The approach on foot often brings wildlife remarkably close.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sebatana Game Reserve	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 7 Optional Kaingo Big 5 safari. Included afternoon safari to Sunset Rock

You are invited to join an optional excursion through a wilderness of exceptional scenic beauty. This African Eden is situated within the malaria-free Waterberg region, neighbouring Sebatana. The reserve is a protected area with a critical biodiversity 1 classification and serves as a core component of the UNESCO-declared Waterberg Biosphere. These dedicated preservation efforts ensure that this breathtaking landscape remains intact for future generations. Spanning more than 16,000 hectares of bushveld savannah, rivers, valleys, and majestic mountain terrains, the reserve represents a piece of Africa in its most pristine form. It offers unique wildlife encounters, conservation initiatives, and research activities alongside an abundance of natural landmarks. With the mighty Mokolo River weaving through the heart of the landscape, the area is home to over 60 mammal species and more than 250 bird species, including the Big Five. This extraordinary ecological diversity provides a nature experience rooted in a "conservation first" philosophy, where all tourism proceeds are reinvested into positive environmental efforts. Sebatana is proud to provide our guests with exclusive and unique access to this remarkable territory. During the journey, we will make a scenic stop along the banks of the Mokolo River, where guides will serve refreshments and allow time for photography against the magical backdrop of the flowing water. In the mid-afternoon, the adventure continues with another spectacular included safari culminating at Sunset Rock. Frequently described by former guests as an absolute highlight of the entire tour, this location offers the perfect vantage point to enjoy a glass of chilled champagne as the sun descends behind the Waterberg Mountains in a vibrant cascade of red and orange hues. Amidst this grandiose landscape, you may find that time seems to stand still. Following the sunset, we return to the lodge where the talented chefs will have another culinary feast prepared for your arrival.

ACTIVITIES

- **Optional Kaingo Big Five Safari**
  A day in the neighbouring reserve, 16,000 hectares of bushveld, river and mountain within the UNESCO-declared Waterberg Biosphere, can be taken as an optional extra. Over 60 mammal species and 250 birds live here, including the Big Five.

- **Refreshment Break by the Mokolo River**

  The guides pull up on the banks of the Mokolo River and set out refreshments. There is time to photograph the water and the surrounding bush before the journey continues.

- **Safari to Sunset Rock in the Afternoon**

  The mid-afternoon drive ends at Sunset Rock with chilled champagne in hand. The sun drops behind the Waterberg Mountains in red and orange; past guests call it the highlight of the week.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sebatana Game Reserve	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 8 Transfer to Johannesburg Airport for departure. With brief Johannesburg tour

After enjoying a traditional English breakfast and perhaps a final swim in the dipping pool, the time arrives for one of the most difficult moments of the journey: bidding a fond farewell to Sebatana before setting off for a brief city tour and a poignant visit to the Apartheid Museum. Most of the remaining time is spent travelling between the named places, with the surroundings changing along the way.

ACTIVITIES

- **Transfer: Sebatana to Johannesburg Airport**

  After a traditional English breakfast and a last swim in the dipping pool, you bid farewell to Sebatana and travel back south towards Johannesburg.

- **Discover Johannesburg on a City Tour**

  A brief city tour of Johannesburg breaks the journey to the airport. It is a quick look at the urban landscape before your flight home.

- **Explore the Apartheid Museum**

  The Apartheid Museum fills your last hours in South Africa, tracing the rise and fall of the system through film, photography and personal testimony. It brings the trip to a sobering close.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
N/A	Breakfast

INCLUDED

- 7 nights accommodation at one of Sebatana's 5-star lodges (Rhino, Elephant or Lion Lodge)
- 4 included game drivers in open vehicles
- Full Board (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
- Wildlife Talk
- Traditional African Champagne Brunch
- Champage & Sunset at Leopard Rock
- Guided Bush Walk
- Johannesburg City Tour & Apartheid Museum Visit

EXCLUDED

- International Flights (available on request)
- Visa fees if required
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tipping
- Optional Activities
- Any other items not mentioned above

Tour Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements , full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Single Room Supplement

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

Locally Bookable Options

Min numbers: 1

Whilst at Sebatana Game Lodge, a number of locally bookable options are availalbe, these can be arranged directly with the property during your stay. Pricing is given in Euros and rates are correct at the time of publication (6th May 2026).

Optional Tours:

Kaingo Echoes and hope full day (Big 5) – 165 EUR

Night Safari – 75 EUR

Tribal Evening – 65 EUR

Kaingo or Welgevonden half day (Big 5) – 135 EUR

Package pricing with all 4 optional tours (Kaingo Echoes and Hope, Night Safari, Tribal Evening and Kaingo or Welgevonden at 379 EUR.

Bar prices/Drinks packages:

Coffee and tea all day station and a selection of juices are served for breakfast is free of charge. Our tap water is tested daily and of highest quality. Unless otherwise advised you can easily drink this. Several of both the included and optional tours have drinks included. Any further purchases from the bar and winelist will be charged to the room. Drinks packages are available and can be ordered onsite for 225 euro + 15 percent vat and includes, bottled water, sodas, beer, drinks, wine etc. Non-alcoholic and child packages are available as well.

Important Notes

1 Accommodation

Your package includes a 7 night stay at Sebatana Private Game Reserve in the Malaria Free, Waterburg region of South Africa. During your stay, you will be accommodated in one of three lodges - Elephant, Rhino or Lion Lodge, all offering similar accommodation, within the Sebatana Private Reserve.

At Sebatana Private Game Reserve, guests enjoy a sophisticated blend of five-star luxury and authentic African charm across three premier locations: Elephant, Rhino, or Lion Lodge. Each sanctuary features elegantly designed rooms equipped with air conditioning, plush bedding, and private balconies that offer stunning vistas of the surrounding wilderness or river. The facilities are designed for ultimate relaxation, including sparkling outdoor pools and jacuzzis, sun decks for afternoon lounging, and traditional bomas where culinary feasts are served under the stars. Whether you are relaxing in a deep-soaking bathtub or sharing stories in the communal lounge areas, the reserve provides a comfortable and upscale base for your safari adventure.

Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. All couples will be given a private double room. Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

2 Group Size / Tour Leaders / Guides

Group size & makeup:

We are dedicated to providing an intimate safari experience, ensuring every guest has ample opportunity to engage with their guide and connect with fellow travellers. For all game drives within the Sebatana Game Reserve, we strictly limit the group size to a maximum of 10 passengers per vehicle to guarantee an unobstructed viewing experience. Please note that for airport transfers, vehicle capacity may increase to accommodate the number of passengers scheduled on specific flight arrivals and departures.

Tour leaders:

Every safari activity is led by a fully qualified safari guide, ensuring that your encounters with the African wilderness are both safe and deeply informative. Whether you are navigating the reserve on a game drive or exploring the terrain on foot, our expert guides provide essential insights into the complex ecosystems and wildlife behaviours of Sebatana. Their presence ensures that you never miss a detail, from the smallest bird calls to the tracks of the most elusive predators, making every moment in the bush truly unforgettable.

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3 Transport

Airport transfers are conducted using spacious minivans or comfortable coaches, with the specific vehicle selected based on the size of the travelling group.

For the safari experience, game drives are operated in open vehicles with a strict limit of 10 passengers per vehicle to ensure optimal viewing for everyone. To maintain a sense of exclusivity, our guides coordinate to follow distinct routes across the reserve, providing each group with their own unique perspective of the African wilderness.

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4 Dates & Prices

We operate regular depatures on this tour package throughout the year, please see the Dates and Prices tab for more details.

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5 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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6 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

7 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

8 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

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9 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

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10 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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11 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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12 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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13 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with

vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

South Africa: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Namibia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Botswana: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted or travelled through an infected area.
Zimbabwe: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Zambia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Malawi: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Tanzania: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Kenya: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Uganda: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Sudan: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area. A certificate may also be required for those departing Sudan.
Morocco: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.
Tunisia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.

The above information can change at short notice. For up to date health information & vaccination requirements we recommend that you contact your medical practitioner or a travel clinic.

Malaria: Vaccinations are not available against Malaria, which is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can be very serious and sometimes fatal. You should avoid mosquito bites by covering up bare skin with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers and applying insect repellents to exposed skin. When necessary, sleep under a mosquito net. Mosquitoes are most active during and after sunset. You should consult with your GP/medical practitioner/travel clinic about the most appropriate malaria prophylactic medication to take for the regions you are visiting.

Yellow Fever: This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes that bite during the day. A Yellow Fever Certificate of vacinnation is often required as a condition of entry depending on which country you are arriving from, or that you have travelled or transitted through recently (including connecting flights with stopovers of over 12 hours). You can view this US CDC information about where the virus is present and follow the links to further information detailing

which countries need you to have a Yellow Fever vaccination as part of their entry requirements. Please ensure you have this certificate organised in advance and with you and to hand during the trip.

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disabilities that you may have.
If you are travelling on an Overland tour or your trip includes wildlife safaris then please bear in mind that you may be travelling on bumpy roads and/or rough ground for several hours at a time. This can be very uncomfortable or painful if you have a bad back, and make such conditions worse. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Health Declaration: As many of our Africa tours travel through very remote regions, where medical facilities are limited, we are asking all of our travellers 65 years and over who are joining one of our Africa Overland Adventures to complete the attached medical questionnaire. The information provided to Encounters Travel and our local operational partners will be held to the strictest confidence and will be used only to the extent to provide necessary emergency medical care and/or evaluate physical health and fitness for travel.

We will request this from you approximately 30 days before your trip starts, so that your GP can sign your form based on your current health conditions. Please don't submit this several months in advance, as it is important for us to know you are fit for travel just before the trip departs.

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14 Passports and Visas

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities. Encounters Travel will not be held responsible if travellers are denied entry because they are not in possession of the relevant visas. We therefore recommend you re-check requirements with the relevant embassy/consulate around 4 weeks before travel.

You should also be in possession of a valid onward or return flight ticket, or proof of other means of transport enabling you to leave the country that your tour passes through or finishes in. In addition you should carry proof of sufficient funds to cover you during your time in the country (eg. credit card).

Should your tour be re-entering a country, please ensure that you have a multiple entry visa that allows this. Some countries have a visa on arrival service which can be more convenient and cheaper. However, for peace of mind and to speed up the border crossing process, Encounters Travel advises that you to get your visas prior to your trip if possible.

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15 Tipping

In general tipping in restaurants is expected and 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 etc. Ask your guides how much is appropriate in local currency. The recommended amount for Serengeti and Masai Mara guides is around USD5-7 per client per day.

Our guides do work hard but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. 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. The best way to

arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. On Small Group & Shoestring tours we recommend around USD 3-5 per person per day per guide as a fair tip. On longer Overland tours we recommend USD1-2 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. 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 deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

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16 International Flights and Airport Transfers

International Flights: We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people living in different places and with varying travel plans, except on some Escorted Tours and package promotions, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

The vast majority of our tours are designed such that you can arrive and depart at any time on the first and last days of the set tour itinerary, with your arrival and departure airport transfers included in the tour price. However, on our **Overland tours,** you should not arrange your onward international flights or other travel for the day the tour is due to end (unless the final day does not involve any travelling and finishes after breakfast). Similarly, many of our Overland tours depart their first port of call on the first morning, and you will therefore need to plan for any flights to arrive at least one day beforehand.

Airport Transfers:

Arrival and departure airport transfers are included on most of our Small Group, Shoestring (excluding the 5 & 6-day Garden Route tours where Airport Transfers are not included, however a pickup from a Central Cape Town location is included on day 1 of the tour) and Tailor-made tours but available as extra options on all our African Overland tours, as long as you have accommodation booked with us on that day. If you add extra accommodation before and/or after the tour that you do not book with us, then you will also need to arrange your own airport transfers.

On our **Sebatana Package**, airport transfers for arrival and departure are included, however these transfers operate on a schedule, so a short wait may be required after landing before the transfer departs to the accommodation. To coincide with the transfer departures, your arrival flight should land in Johannesburg before 11am on day 1 and depart after 6pm on day 8. If your flights arrive/depart outside of these times, we would recommend adding an additional night to your trip.

Departure Taxes: 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.

Flight inclusive packages: We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight

times and airline details before tickets are issued.
Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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17 What to take

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCES: Most international airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 23kg per person of luggage to go in the hold of the plane. Domestic flights often have smaller allowances around 15kg. As airline rules vary we recommend that you take no more than 20kg of luggage if your tour just includes international flights, and no more than 15kg if there are any domestic flights included in your itinerary. Please ask us for details if you are unsure about luggage allowances on your tour. Any excess baggage fees will be your responsibility to cover. Most airlines allow between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage so we suggest that you take no more than 5kg unless you have confirmed that your airline(s) will allow more than this.

OVERLAND AND SAFARI TOURS: Please keep in mind that these are adventure tours in an adventure vehicle (truck or 4x4) and luggage should not include any solid Samsonite style suitcases. On our accommodated overland tours most of our trucks have lockers for the luggage (locker sizes: 37,5 cm high, 32 cm wide, 80 cm deep). Only a soft bag will fit in these lockers. A suitcase is far more difficult to store and make secure in our vehicle and this is part of the reason we ask for a backpack or tote bag to be used as your luggage. The other reason is that you need to walk from the truck to the accommodation and often over sand or uneven terrain. Your luggage on our Overland tours is limited to ONE backpack and ONE daypack weighing no more than 20kg. As a general rule, if you cannot lift your own luggage - you've got too much stuff! Most people make the mistake of bringing too many clothes. A quick reminder - **suitcases are not suitable on our overland tours** – especially huge Samsonite-style cases! **Small** wheeled cases are OK for safari tours.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST: 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

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 that jersey/jacket! There are also nights that are warm but you must still wear clothes that cover arms and legs from mosquitoes. Take a set of casual but smart clothes for the occasional evening out in a restaurant or club. If you wear glasses (or contacts) it is also advisable to bring a spare pair.

While on wildlife safaris it is important to wear dull coloured clothing - olive, mushroom, brown, khaki, stone are ideal.
You should avoid white (stands out too much), black or blue (attracts tsetse flies), and camouflage (illegal in many countries for civilians)

Additional Items: • Towel & facecloth • Baby wipes/ Wet Wipes • Personal toiletries • Sleeping bag • Torch & enough spare batteries • Camera & spare batteries and memory cards • Water bottle. (A 2-litre Coke bottle works well...) • Penknife • Insect and Mosquito repellent • Suntan lotion, sun block & after sun lotion • Sunglasses • Watch • Biodegradable laundry detergent • Passport (plus a copy of your passport & visas) • Extra passport photos • Vaccination certificate • Money • Travel plug • Neck pillow • Small sewing kit • Plastic bags • Clothes line and pegs • Small scrubbing brush • a small padlock for your luggage locker in the truck • Small basic First Aid kit (painkillers, band aids, after-sun lotion, eye drops, anti-diarrhoea tablets etc.)

DAY PACKS: Please check the itinerary for your specific tour if you will need a little daypack. For example on our Cape Town to Vic Falls overland tour you will need a smaller bag, big enough to bring basic equipment (toiletries and clothes) for 2 nights. The daypack is for your Okavango Delta Excursion, where you cannot bring your entire luggage.
