

16 DAY EXPERIENCE SOUTH AFRICA

DESTINATIONS

—
VICTORIA FALLS
JOHANNESBURG



TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Kathmandu
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Welcome to Nepal. On arrival in Kathmandu, you'll be met at the airport by our representative and transferred to your hotel. After you settle in there will be a group briefing with your tour leader in the late afternoon. They'll discuss the trip details and co-ordinate any last minute arrangements. The evening is free to explore the streets of Kathmandu, whose mixture of ancient architecture and modern development, and rich artistic and cultural heritage, means it remains the legendary destination it has been for decades. Crowded markets and bazaars are the centre of Nepali life and the narrow streets are home to holy men, monks, bicycles, incense, goats and sacred cows. Your leader will usually organise an optional dinner at one of Kathmandu's fine Nepali restaurants.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities Kathmandu - Rickshaw Night Explorer Urban Adventure - USD68 Kathmandu - In Focus: Cook in Kathmandu Urban Adventure - USD93 Kathmandu - Kathmandu Living Urban Adventure - USD66

Meals Included There are no meals included on this day.

DAY 2

Destination	Kathmandu
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Whether permitting, take a Mount Everest scenic flight this morning. This amazing experience will take you over Sagarmartha National Park, through a crescendo of the highest peaks in the world, climaxing by getting up close to Mount Everest. Later in the morning you will explore Kathmandu on an organised sightseeing tour. You will visit Bodhnath Stupa, one of the biggest Buddhist shrines in the world, where you can observe Buddhist monks in prayer in the monasteries surrounding the stupa. You will also visit Pashupatinath, the most famous Hindu temple in the country, located on the banks of the holy Bagmati River. Here you will see Hindu holy men (sadhus) meditating, pilgrims bathing, and occasionally funeral pyres burning on the ghats. The rest of your afternoon in Kathmandu is free for further sightseeing and exploration. Perhaps head out into Durbar Square, in front of the old royal palace and home to numerous beautiful temples, and browse the stalls of merchant's wares.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Kathmandu - Everest Scenic Flight Kathmandu - Pashupatinath Temple Kathmandu - Bodhnath Stupa

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 3

Destination	Kathmandu ➔ Pkhara
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

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Today you will have an early departure from the hotel for your transfer to the domestic terminal at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport. From here you will fly to Pokhara, with a flight time of about 30 minutes. There are often spectacular views of the main Himalayan chain to the north on this flight. On arrival you will take a boat ride across the lake (Phewa Tal), which is the second largest in Nepal. Visit the Peace Pagoda, where spectacular views of the mountains await. You can see the Annapurnas from here, and the famous fishtail peak, Machhapuchhare, and back across to Pokhara. You will also visit the fascinating International Mountain Museum to learn some amazing tales of past climbing expeditions – some ending in triumph, some ending in tragedy.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Pokhara - Phewa Tal Lake boat trip Pokhara - Peace Pagoda Pokhara - International Mountain Museum

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 4

Destination	Pokhara
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Enjoy a free day for further exploration in the peaceful surroundings of Pokhara. Your leader can advise you of sightseeing opportunities. It is worth taking a boat for a row out on the lake, especially if the weather's fine. The lakeside area has great shopping opportunities and internet cafes. Pokhara has an interesting old area as well as an elaborate Hindu temple and a Buddhist monastery.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 5

Destination	Pokhara 🚗 Bandipur
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

In the morning you will drive to beautiful Bandipur (approximately 2 hours). You will fully explore this incredible settlement and take the many opportunities to immerse yourself in the culture of Nepal as it once was. Enjoy the spectacular views, the incredibly maintained architecture and nice walking trails. This traditional Nepalese settlement is a natural treasure and one of the country's true hidden gems.

Accommodation Guesthouse (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 6

Destination	Bandipur
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

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TOUR ITINERARY

Enjoy a day of free time to further explore Bandipur. The surrounding hills are ideal for hiking along trails that will take you through tribal villages, verdant forests, 'power places', and hilltop shrines that once doubled as fortresses. As you explore the area you may feel as though you're stepping back in time; though development increases, the aura of this place has been beautifully preserved. As tourism in Nepal developed along the main roads and airports, for over 30 years there simply was no road linking Bandipur to the main infrastructure, leaving it almost untouched by touristic influence. The village is saddled on a high ridge above Dumre, 700 metres beyond the Marsyangdi River Valley, making for an exceptional view of the Himalayan panorama.

Accommodation Guesthouse (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 7

Destination	Bandipur 🚗 Chitwan National Park
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

After breakfast you will be picked up and driven to Chitwan National Park (approximately 4 hours). After arriving and settling in, you will be introduced to the camp staff and resident naturalists who will discuss the program. There is some flexibility, and activities may vary depending on the time of the year, and on wildlife movements. A late-afternoon safari will take you through forests and across grasslands to observe the varied and exciting wildlife in the park. In the early evening the local Tharu dance troupe may perform a cultural program. You will then enjoy dinner and afterwards you will be free to relax in the bar and discuss the day's sightings or listen to the exotic sounds of the jungle at night.

Accommodation Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities Chitwan - Canoe safari, bird watching walk or jeep safari

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 8

Destination	Chitwan National Park
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Embark on an early-morning excursion. This could include either another safari to different parts of the park (in search of the great Indian rhino, deer, and exotic bird life) or joining one of the other activities available in the park. Tiger sightings are rare these days, but these magnificent animals do inhabit the park. After breakfast you will leave the lodge and go on a dugout canoe adventure on the Rapti River. This is an exciting trip with chances to view marsh muggers crocodiles and various birds that inhabit the riverbanks. A program will be organised for the rest of the day, and may include further excursions by jeep or a visit to one of the nearby villages.

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TOUR ITINERARY

Accommodation Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities Chitwan - Canoe safari, bird watching walk or jeep safari

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 9

Destination	Chitwan National Park ✈️ Kathmandu 🚗 Bhaktapur
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

If you are an avid wildlife lover, there is an optional early-morning birdwatching safari available today – a worthwhile addition to your trip. After breakfast fly to Kathmandu and drive to Bhaktapur - once the capital of Nepal and the Great Malla Kingdom during the 15th century. Its rich heritage, inspiring temples and artisanal history played a big part in Bhaktapur being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy an evening of exploration on your own, soak up the lovely atmosphere in one of the local cafes, or simply relax in your hotel.

Accommodation Guesthouse (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 10

Destination	Bhaktapur 🚗 Kathmandu
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Spend the day exploring Bhaktapur's famous temples, starting at Durbar Square, which is reputed to be the most beautiful piece of art in Nepal. Durbar Square is home to the majestic Lion Gate and Golden Gate. You will also visit the Pashupati Temple, a replica of the Bagmati River in Kathmandu. This will be an enlightening morning of discovery and enrichment, as you delve into all Bhaktapur has to offer. In the afternoon, drive to Kathmandu (approximately 2 hours). The evening will then be free, however the group leader will usually organise an optional evening meal at another of Kathmandu's great restaurants. This will be your final night with the members of your group who are not travelling onward to Bhutan.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Bhaktapur - Guided walk

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 11

Destination	Kathmandu
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today is free to check out some of the sights you missed at the beginning of the trip and do some more exploring. There are shopping experiences aplenty or if you're after a bit more structure, perhaps book an Urban Adventure day

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trip. Don't worry if you're feeling overwhelmed by choice in Kathmandu. Your tour leader can offer advice on how to make the most of your free day.

Optional Activities Kathmandu - In Focus: Handmade Kathmandu - USD93

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 12

Destination	Kathmandu ✈️ Paro 🚗 Thimphu
Meals included	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

This morning board the short flight to Bhutan. Ask to sit on the left hand side of the plane for the best views of the Himalayas. After arrival at Paro Airport and sailing through immigration and custom formalities, you will be greeted by your guide and driver and warmly welcomed to the enchanting Land of the Thunder Dragon. Drive for two hours alongside mountains, rivers, and fields of red rice to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital city. After lunch we may visit Nado Poizokhang Incense Factory, Bhutan's famous traditional incense maker and the colorful Gagyel Lhundrup Weaving Centre. Once everyone has arrived, we'll have a joining meeting and dinner before we wander and explore the fascinating streets of Thimphu, the world's only capital city without a traffic light!

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Thimphu - Gagyel Lhundrup Weaving Centre Thimphu - Nado Poizokhang Incense Factory

Meals Included Lunch Dinner

Special Information Please note the flight from Kathmandu to Paro will be unescorted.

Travel in Bhutan is strictly controlled and to do any independent travel outside of a group tour is extremely difficult and expensive to arrange. We provide a group visa for travellers on our tours in Bhutan, which stipulates that all travellers must arrive and depart on the same days that our tour program starts and finishes. For this reason we are generally not able to provide additional accommodation outside of our tour dates and advise all travellers to book flights in and out of Bhutan that correspond with the start and finish day of the tour. In the rare case that no flights are available and you need to arrive earlier or depart later we are only able to book additional accommodation for you in conjunction with a special individual visa which can add around AUD1000 to the cost of your tour, to be paid at the time of booking.

DAY 13

Destination	Thimphu
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Today begins with a pleasant rural walk that meanders gently up the valley through paddy fields, pristine woodlands and a Tibetan village. We'll walk along a trail to Pangri Zampa Gumpa. Spot Bhutanese chortens on the riverside route and pass through the villages of Choku and Begana. Cross a cantilevered bridge, and climb uphill for around an hour uphill to the monastery. Cheri Dorji Dhen was built in 1620 by Shabdrung, the first ruler of Bhutan, who also established the first order of monks here. At the bottom of the hill, a picnic lunch will be waiting for us along the riverside. Drive back to Thimphu for an afternoon of sightseeing. There is much to see! We will visit the National Memorial Chorten, a shrine built in the memory of the 3rd King, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. Many Thimphu residents consider this to be the heart and soul of Thimphu and gather here every day to pray and walk clockwise around the chorten. Afterwards, visit

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Drubthob Nunnery, and then the Choki Traditional Art School where students follow an eight-year program in traditional arts, such as drawing, painting, woodcarving, and sculpture. No tour of Thimphu is complete without a visit to the incredible National Textile Museum. Some shopping time if you wish is available at the National Handicrafts Emporium which offers high quality traditional goods, and a small family-run enterprise which manufactures paper and paper products using traditional methods.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Thimphu - National Memorial Chorten Thimphu - Village walk & picnic lunch Thimphu - Choki Traditional Art School Thimphu - Drubthob Nunnery Thimphu - National Textile Museum

Meals Included Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 14

Destination	Timphu 🗨️ Punakha
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Leave Thimphu this morning and drive to Punakha (approx. 4 hours) the ancient winter capital of Bhutan. En-route stop at Dochu-La pass (10,000ft/3,048m) for a breathtaking view the eastern Himalayas, including Bhutan's highest mountain, the majestic Gangkar Punsum (24,770ft/7,550m.) The road descends through varied and ever-changing forest, emerging into the highly cultivated Punakha valley. Take a short walk to visit Chimi Lhakhang, a fertility temple built in 1499 by lama Drukpa Kunley (charmingly known as "The Divine Madman.") On this site, The Divine Madman subdued the Demoness of the Dochu-La using his "magic thunderbolt of wisdom," (also known as "his phallus.") A wooden effigy of the Lama's "thunderbolt" is preserved in the Lhakhang. Traditionally, childless women have visited this temple to receive a wang (blessing) from the saint. Our trail leads across rice fields to the tiny settlement of Pana. There are few young monks at the temple, which is surrounded by a row of prayer wheels and some very beautiful slate carvings. In Punakha, we'll visit the impressive Punakha Dzong. With its three towers, and wonderful location at the confluence of two rivers, it is considered by many to be the most beautiful of Bhutan's 21 Dzongs.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Punakha Valley - Chimi Lhakhang Punakha - Punakha Dzong

Meals Included Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 15

Destination	Punakha
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

After breakfast, explore this small town with your leader on an orientation walk. Head down to the convergence of the Pho Chu and Mo Chu Rivers, two of the main rivers of Bhutan. There are lovely views of the majestic Punakha Dzong. This fine Dzong was constructed around 1639 and due to its location the Dzong has flooded several times in its history and also partially destroyed by fire in the 1980's. Be sure to keep an eye out for the cantilever bridge spanning the river. After lunch undertake a hike (approx. 1 hour) to visit the Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. Its an uphill climb but the views from the top make it worthwhile. As with many monasteries in Bhutan, our leader will need to hunt around for the caretaker with the keys to have a look inside.

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TOUR ITINERARY

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 16

Destination	Thimphu 🚗 Paro
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

This morning head back over the Dochu-La and continue to Thimphu approx. 4 hrs). This is a good chance to relax and refresh. The roads in Bhutan are narrow and whilst the distances are not great, due to the nature of the roads and the many valleys they pass through travelling can take some time. After lunch in Thimphu, continue by vehicle into the Paro Valley. Its a long day of driving. This evening experience home-cooked meals and a friendly atmosphere in a local home before staying overnight in our hotel.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Paro - Home cooked dinner & family visit

Meals Included Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 17

Destination	Paro 🚗 Tiger's Nest Monastery 🚗 Paro
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

After an early breakfast we drive up to the starting point and prepare for our hike to the legendary Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) - a magnificent monastery, clinging on a rock cliff 900 meters above the valley floor. The legend dating back to 747 AD has it that the Great Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhawa) flew here from northeast Bhutan on the back of a tigress to subdue the demons of Paro Valley. The guru then meditated in the holy cave that is the site of the Pelphug Lhakhang today. According to Tantric Buddhist mythology, the vanquished local deities became the protectors of the dharma and one of them, Singey Samdrup, is recognised today as the guardian deity of Taktsang. Guru Rinpoche is also believed to have concealed among the rocks of Taktsang various forms of Dharma treasures known as Ters, which were destined to be discovered later by Tertons (treasure discoverers) for the propagation of Dharma. Taktsang was severely damaged by fire on Sunday 19th April 1998. The king commanded its immediate restoration soon after the fire. The royal command dictated that the original aura, authenticity and architectural splendor must be preserved at all costs. This project has been widely seen as an act of devotion involving all sections of Bhutanese society and as homage to the nation's cultural heritage. It also proved to be an opportunity for Bhutan's traditional artists and craftsmen to hone the skills inherited from their forefathers down the ages. In order to facilitate the restoration work, a road was built to the base of the mountain facing the temple. We drive to the end of this road and begin our hike up the mountain for a closer view of the temple. After approximately an hour walking uphill, we reach a small teahouse that has a wonderful panoramic view of the temple. Its the ideal place to enjoy lunch. For those interested, it is possible to get a closer view by hiking another 45 minutes to an hour (each direction) to reach the small chorten directly across from the temple. Anyone not interested in hiking any further can relax at the teahouse and enjoy the view. It total it will about 5 to 6 hours to get back to the car including all stops if you choose to walk the full way.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Paro - Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Monastery hike Meals Included

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TOUR ITINERARY

Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Special Information Today's hike is quite challenging and good quality, comfortable shoes/sneakers are required. Please remember to drink lots of water and wear layers as it gets quite cold. Don't forget a sunhat. Remember you are at 3120 metres above sea level so take your time.

DAY 18

Destination	Paro 🚗 Tiger's Nest Monastery 🚗 Paro
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at your hotel before a departure transfer to Paro airport for your flight out of Bhutan.

Meals Included Breakfast

Special Information Due to group visa requirements, all travellers are required to leave Bhutan on the same day.

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TOUR ITINERARY

Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED	Small, personal group experience – no more than 12 people Experienced Tour Leader throughout Accommodation: Hotel (15 nights), Jungle resort (2 nights) 16 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners Transport: Private vehicle, Plane Everest scenic flight in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Chtwan, Thimphu, Punakha, Home cooked dinner & family visit in Paro
WHAT'S INCLUDED	Small, personal group experience – no more than 16 people Be accompanied by 3 crew members - Group Leader, Driver and a Camp Assistant who sets up camp and prepares meals so you can take extra time to relax at the end of your day. Accommodation: Hotel (3 night), chalet (1 night), Lodge (1 night), Permanent Tented Overland Camp (2 nights), Guesthouse (1 night), Camping with facilities (5 nights), Basic Camping with no facilities (2 nights) 15 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 11 dinners Transport: Overland vehicle, Boat, Mokoro, Bicycle, Open safari vehicle Kruger National Park, Masebe Nature Reserve, Victoria Falls, Okavango Delta, Khama Rhino Sanctuary
Fine Print	
HOTEL LIST	Hotel (15 nights), Jungle resort (2 nights)
EXCLUSIONS	Airfares Personal Expenses Travel Insurance Optional activities Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional

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TOUR ITINERARY

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a AUD \$200 deposit per person.

Pay a 2nd instalment of AUD \$930 per person within 28 days.

You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)

Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected

Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests

Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab

Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)

Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking

Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!

TOUR ITINERARY

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Travellers

This trip is designed for shared accommodation and doesn't involve a compulsory single supplement. Single travellers share with people of the same gender in accommodation ranging from twin to multishare. This only applies to accommodation during the tour - pre-trip and post-trip accommodation will be booked on a single room basis.

Single Supplement

A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra AUD \$510 subject to availability.

Triple Share

On Request

Children

Children must be 15 years old or over and share a room with parents at

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all times. Children are charged the same price as adults. Please note that if you're travelling to Botswana with a person under the age of 18 then you need to provide a certified copy of the child's full unabridged birth certificate in order to enter the country (the one listing the child's details and both parents' details. - the short birth certificate which only lists the child's details won't be accepted).

Additionally, if the child is travelling with only one parent, with neither biological parent, or is unaccompanied, then they must provide an affidavit of consent of the parent(s) that are not travelling, to prove that the trip is made with both parents' consent. Please contact your nearest Botswanan Embassy if you have further questions regarding this.

Tour Composition

This is a combination trip made up of two shorter trips. This means the composition of your group may change in Victoria Falls as some group members leave and new ones join you.

Ongoing Travel Plans

This trip finishes in Soweto on Day 16 after our cycle adventure. Please don't book any international flights until after 8 pm this evening.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

TOUR ITINERARY

OPTIONAL TOURS

Kruger National Park (Day 2) - Night game drive - ZAR440
Kruger National Park (Day 3) - Sunset 4x4 Game Drive (from price) - ZAR325
Victoria Falls - Entrance & Visit (Day 7) - USD35
Victoria Falls - Sunset Cruise (Day 7) - USD50
Victoria Falls - Helicopter flight (12 mins) (Day 8)- USD165
Victoria Falls - Flying fox (Day 8) - USD50
Victoria Falls - Gorge swing (Day 8) - USD103
Victoria Falls - Canoe trail (full day) (Day 8) - USD185
Victoria Falls - Village & township tour (Day 8) - USD61
Victoria Falls - Helicopter flight (25 mins) (Day 8) - USD299
Chobe National Park - Open Safari Vehicle Morning Game Drive (Day 10) - BWP410
Okavango Delta - Helicopter Scenic Flight (Day13) - From USD150 - USD450
Okavango Delta - Plane Scenic Flight (Day 13) - From USD75 - USD390
Johannesburg - Art Gallery (Day 16) - ZAR60
Johannesburg - Gold Reef City And Heritage Mine Tour (Day 16) - ZAR360
Johannesburg - Museum Africa (Day 16) - ZAR40
Johannesburg - Apartheid Museum (Day 16) - ZAR100

OPTIONAL TOURS

Kathmandu - Rickshaw Night Explorer Urban Adventure (Day 1) - USD68
Kathmandu - In Focus: Cook in Kathmandu Urban Adventure (Day 1) - USD93
Kathmandu - Kathmandu Living Urban Adventure (Day 1) - USD66
Kathmandu - In Focus: Handmade Kathmandu (Day 11) - USD93

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation

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Single Travellers

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Single Supplement

A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra AUD \$1035 subject to availability. Please note the single supplement excludes days 2 and 15 (overnight trains), day 6 (guesthouse) and day 14 (overnight boat) where you will be in shared accommodation. Day use rooms are also excluded.

Triple Share

On Request

Group composition

As this is a combination trip made up of two of our most popular itineraries, the composition of your group and your leader may change.

Children

Children must be 15 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

HOTEL LIST

Hotel (3 night), Chalet (1 night), Lodge (1 night), Permanent Tented Overland Camp (2 nights), Guesthouse (1 night), Camping with facilities (5 nights), Basic Camping with no facilities (2 nights). While camping, tents, sleeping mats and sleeping bags will be provided and set up for you by our crew.