

JWP 01

**12 - 22 FEBRUARY 2023
10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS**

Blue sky
SOCIETY TRUST
JOURNEYS WITH PURPOSE

JOURNEYS WITH PURPOSE TURTLES & TUSKS



FLY IN: KING SHAKA AIRPORT, DURBAN BY SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2023 BEFORE 11H00



FLY OUT: KING SHAKA AIRPORT, DURBAN FROM 13H00 ON WEDNESDAY THE 22 FEBRUARY 2023.



GROUP SIZE: 6 - 9 LADIES. (MINIMUM BOOKING OF 6)



R106 000PP + R20 000 FUNDRAISING - R126 000 PP SHARING OCCUPANCY

R119 000PP + R20 000 FUNDRAISING - R139 000 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY

DEPOSIT: 25% DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED TO BOOK YOUR SEAT!

Sea & Sand

Journeys With Purpose is offering YOU an opportunity to expand your life experiences with an expedition that will be unrivaled by anything you have ever done! Become one of the Eco-Travelers tribes, make a difference, and make your own day!

Summary

South Africa. The one place on Earth where you're guaranteed to fall in love with raw, magnetic natural beauty. It is an intoxicating mix of sights and sounds, wildlife, and natural splendour that enthalls, captivates, and will literally take your breath away.

Breathe In the sounds of the warm Tropical waves, as they dance in an unending rhythm along the shores. Feel the aroma of azure waters glistening in the morning sun, hidden treasures of the ocean encapsulated in bursts of colour, swaying to and fro as the gentle currents conduct the unheard orchestra beneath. Taste the sumptuous delight of walking barefoot on white sands so pristine that they squeak beneath your feet. Open your eyes and hear the call of nature beckoning you...urging you to use your every sense in a unique and exhilarating way. Africa is not a place, she is emotion, fluid, brave and beautiful with endless unveilings of mystical magic and gifts.

Stay at some of South Africa's most undiscovered Wilderness beach lodges nestled in iSimangaliso Wetland Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Set on the shores of glistening white beaches, blazing corals, and freshwater lakes in KwaZulu-Natal. Go Barefoot at Thonga Beach Lodge, treading carefully so as not to disturb the hidden nurseries of the yet unhatched, Leatherback and Loggerhead Turtles. Start each morning in the glow of the sunrise, on guided activities designed to nurture a deep sense of curiosity and wonder. Feel the warmth of the day subside sipping on cocktails, lying in a hammock with the sounds of the waves lapping the shores.

Thereafter, we venture inland to Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park (HIP) to see untamed Africa from a new perspective. We will spend our days on game drives or game walks, giving you the chance to stumble upon the Big Five (lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, and Cape buffalo) and many other species in their untouched habitat. Our fundraising eco-adventure wraps up in HIP where we will be the support team to a group of experts who will be collaring elephants there.

Not only will you be making lifelong friendships with other travellers who are just as passionate about making a difference in nature as you, on this exceptional once-in-a-lifetime African experience; you'll be contributing towards conservation. Relax, absorb, experience, and breathe in this journey as all logistical details are taken care of for you.

Frequency: Bespoke once-off expedition

Fitness Rating: Moderate to Fit

Tour Features: Wildlife Conservation, English-spoken, Fundraising for Wildlife Conservation Groups , Women only

Beneficiary: Turtle research, Elephant Collaring with African Wildlife Vets (AWV) , The Bateleurs

Accommodation: A mixture of tents /bungalows /rooms. Accommodation is SHARING unless single occupancy is arranged.

Min: 6 eco-adventurers (**We need a min of 6 ladies to run this trip)

Max: 9 eco-adventurers

Highlights

Some of the extraordinary experiences you can look forward to as part of this group of solo eco-travellers include:

11 days / 10 nights in South Africa

Stay at South Africa's most pristine wilderness beaches lodge on the azure shores of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site), situated deep in this wilderness of white beaches, blazing corals and freshwater lakes in KwaZulu-Natal.

Walk barefoot on finely crushed white beach sand and slide into our warm turquoise Indian Ocean waters

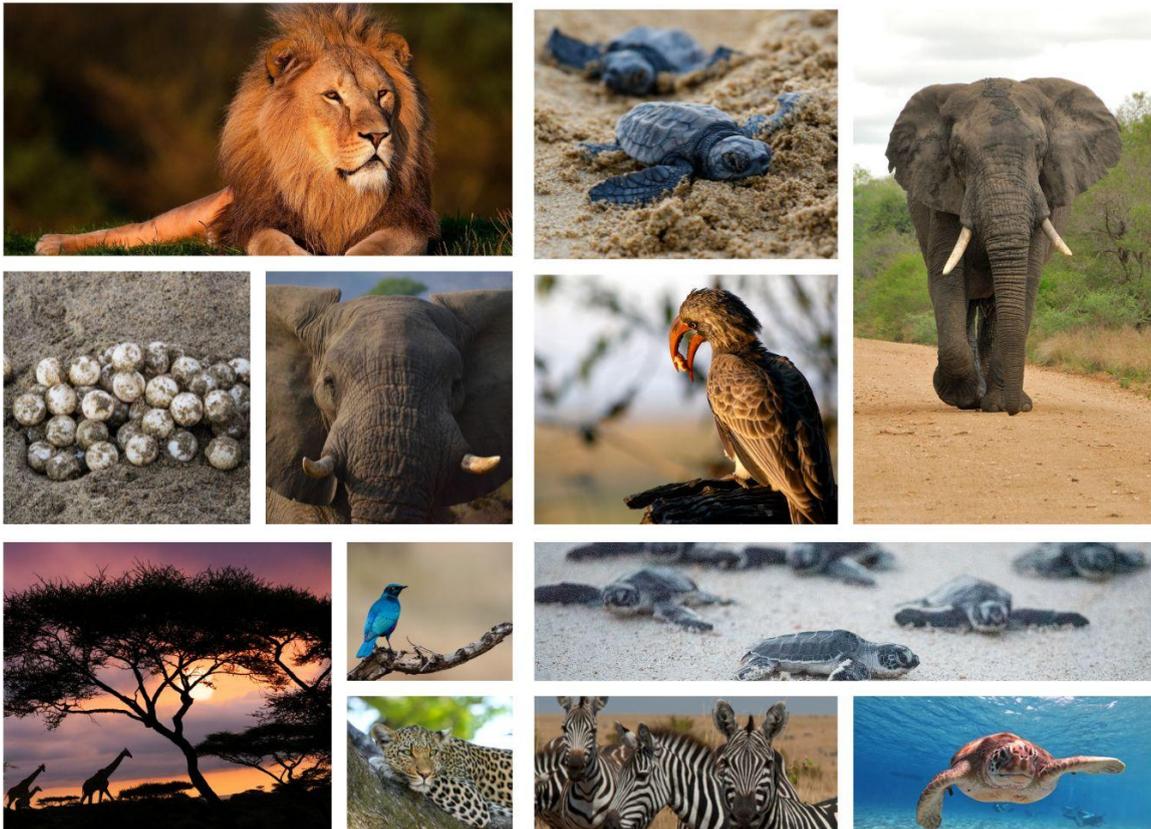
Working and meeting with Turtle researchers, and at night time we will search for Baby sea turtles hatching from their nest en masse and then rush to the sea all together to increase their chances of surviving waiting predators

Morning and afternoon game drives in South Africa's oldest park, looking for Big 5 and other wildlife

Making lifelong friendships with other travellers from around the world who are just as passionate about making a difference in Africa as you are

Enjoying an exceptionally organised once-in-a-lifetime African experience where all logistical details are taken care of for you.

Raising funds for African Wildlife Vets (AWV), The Bateleurs & Turtle Research.



DAY	DATE	ACCOMMODATON	ACTIVITES	COMMENTS
1	12-Feb-23	Mseni Beach Lodge or similar	Meet at King Shaka Airport by 11am Transfer to Sodwana Bay Type: Room/Chalet (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: Dinner & Breakfast	BSE
2	13-Feb-23	Utshwayelo Lodge	Transfer to Kosi Bay Type: Room (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: All	BSE / Thonga Trails
3	14-Feb-23	TBC	Activities: Walks / Turtles with Andy Coetzee & Community activity (TBC) Type: Rustic Room/Tent (Single/sharing occupancy) *With Shared Ablutions* Meals: All	Thonga Trails
4	15-Feb-23	Thonga Beach Lodge	Activities: Walks / Turtles with Andy Coetzee Transfer to Thonga Beach Lodge Type: Room (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: All	Isibindi Lodges
5	16-Feb-23	Thonga Beach Lodge	Activities - Ocean Experience /Turtles Type: Room (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: All	Isibindi Lodges
6	17-Feb-23	Thonga Beach Lodge	Activities - Kayaking/Snorkelling /Turtles Type: Room (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: All	Isibindi Lodges
7	18-Feb-23	Rhino Ridge	Transfer to RR via Sodwana Activities: 1 x Game Drive Type: Room (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: All	Isibindi Lodges
8	19-Feb-23	Rhino Ridge	Activities: Game Drive x 2 Type: Room (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: All	Isibindi Lodges
9	20-Feb-23	Rhino Ridge	Activities: Conservation work / and/or Game Drives Type: Room (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: All	Isibindi Lodges
10	21-Feb-23	Rhino Ridge	Activities: Conservation work / and/or Game Drives Type: Room (Single/sharing occupancy) Meals: All	Isibindi Lodges
11	22-Feb-23	JHB	Road Transfer to King Shaka Airport Domestic flight To JHB (Own)	Isibindi Lodges

**Please note this Itinerary and Price may change slightly but the expedition host will keep you posted and updated if anything does happen. Terms and conditions apply due to availability. Please note that some activities are weather dependent, and we will do our best to accommodate them in our itinerary.*

Itinerary / Rout'ish

DAY ONE – ARRIVAL DAY DURBAN

SUNDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2023

Airport pick-up. Welcome to South Africa! Your adventure begins when you are greeted at King Shaka Airport in Durban, by Carla Geysler. Please make sure you arrive *BEFORE 11 am in Durban*.

(I would encourage heading straight to Durban from JHB or perhaps spend the 11 February 2023 there. I can assist with extra accommodation in Durban or Umhlanga). Please chat to me about options. We will then be shuttled to Sodwana bay which will take about 4 hours, and where we will be dropped off at our first night at Mseni Beach Lodge which is situated in the heart of Sodwana Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, – the place of happiness, where laughter and joy resounds!

Accommodation: Mseni Beach Lodge or similar

Type: Room (Single/ Sharing occupancy)

Meals : Dinner & Breakfast

Website: www.mseni.co.za

DAY TWO - SODWANA TO KOZI BAY

MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2023

After breakfast at Mseni Lodge we'll transfer the group to Kosi Bay. Lunch will be provided on arrival, and in the afternoon, we'll do an excursion to the estuary for snorkeling. We'll enjoy sundowners while overlooking the unique lake system, after which you head back to the lodge, and our Michelin chef Damien will prepare a delicious meal for you. We meet Andy Coetzee from Thonga Trails, who guide us for the next few nights and days. Utshwayelo, Kosi Mouth Lodge & Camp is situated at Kosi Bay Mouth. It is the closest lodge to the sea. Utshwayelo Kosi Mouth Lodge & Camp takes its name from the 800-year-old fish kraals celebrating the traditions and culture of the Thonga people. It is a community partnership project of skills sharing and a life of purpose.

The lodge provides an income to the community through rental, job opportunities, and involvement and assistance with projects. Local reeds, grass mats, and other handmade articles are used for building materials. Rooms are ensuite and either twin sharing or single (single supplement applies).

Accommodation: Utshwayelo Lodge

Type: Room (Single/ Sharing occupancy)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Website: <https://kosibay.info>

DAY THREE – KOZI BAY TO BHANGA NEK

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2023

We will start the day with a beautiful walk along the shores of the lake system. After about a 2-hour walk, you'll proceed by boat while exploring the different lakes and the lovely 'narrows' that connect them. The boat will drop you off at your accommodation in Bhangha Nek. Our rustic accommodation for the night will either be at a Tented Camp right by the beach or at another camp by the edge of the lake. One can relax into the afternoon. At night you will do a turtle walk with Andy. This is also an opportunity for the group to get more insight into the turtle research going on in the area so we will meet with local PHD student Amanda Robbins and some of the turtle nest monitors. Snack packs will be provided for the walk & boat. Once we arrive at Bhangha Nek our chef will have lunch prepared.

Please note that the Rooms here **won't** be ensuite and either twin sharing or single (single supplement applies). Accommodation is rustic and shared ablutions, but the chef will blow you away with his catering.

Accommodation: TBC

Type: Rustic Tented camp with shared ablutions (Single/ Sharing occupancy)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY FOUR/FIVE/SIX – BHANGA NEK TO MABIBI

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2023 TO FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2023

After breakfast at Bhanga Nek we'll get started with a walk along the beach, where you'll explore the country's most pristine stretch of coastline, completely undeveloped and untouched. At Black Rock, you'll meet Damien for an informal lunch on the beach. From here, we will transfer you to Thonga Beach Lodge, this will be our home for three nights, and we will get to explore the beaches and oceans.

The lodge will provide all meals here, and we can do an ocean safari experience and at night, we can do more walks along the beach looking for the hatchlings, and Andy will be your guide for the next two days. Thonga Beach Lodge is situated in the protected world heritage site Isimangaliso Park. Twelve luxurious thatched rooms (a few with private pools) are discreetly nestled into the dune forest overlooking Mabibi beach. With no development 100 miles up or 60 miles down the beach, this beach and marine wilderness sanctuary are unrivaled.

Thonga Beach Lodge is proud to have played a role in Maputaland's world-renowned turtle success story. Leatherback and Loggerhead turtles have laid their eggs on this ancient shoreline for thousands of years. Thonga Beach Lodge and the Isibindi Foundation continue to play a role in protecting this breeding ground.

Activities: Involve Kayaking, Snorkelling, an Ocean Experience, and Turtle Trekking with Andy Coetzee.
**All activities are weather dependent and will be arranged accordingly

Accommodation: Thonga Beach Lodge

Type: Eco-friendly elegant forest and ocean rooms (Single/ Sharing occupancy)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Website: <https://www.thongabeachlodge.co.za/>

DAY SEVEN/EIGHT/NINE/TEN – MABIBI TO HLUHLUWE IMFOLOZI

SATURDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2023 TO TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2023

Today we move inland after our time on the warm Indian ocean. Our 4x4 Transfer will drop you off at Libro Lodge, to be road transferred to Rhino Ridge, approximately a 3 to 4-hour drive. This will be our home for the next four nights and days.

This glass-wrapped lodge rests on a ridge overlooking Africa's oldest proclaimed game reserve, capturing the suspension between Earth and sky. Down below, a waterhole, frequented by a diversity of wildlife, pulls your eye away from the extraordinary views, forcing you to slow down and connect with the Earth.

Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge is proud to be associated with the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park (HIP) and its historical success story of rhino conservation in Southern Africa. They are the first luxury safari lodge to be established within this world-renowned Big 5 game reserve, which we will explore on various game drives and walks. We are honoured to call the "home of the rhino" our home too.

Activities: There are few things more iconic to Africa than setting out at dawn in an open game viewing vehicle and watching the crimson sun creep over the horizon as a herd of majestic elephant ambles across the dusty road in front of you. These are the experiences, and unique wildlife encounters that we take utmost pleasure in providing for our guests on our safari drives in the spectacular Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve, a vast haven for protected species such as rhino, elephant, leopard, and wild dog.

Conservation Project: One of the mornings will be flagged for working closely with the conservationists and wildlife vets from HIP and African Wildlife Vets. Ideally, we would be actively involved in the collaring of 3 Elephants or similar conservation work.

PLEASE NOTE: Nothing is guaranteed, and the elephant's safety is ALWAYS a priority. We will do everything in our power to ensure we are included in this highly skilled operation.

Accommodation: Rhino Ridge Lodge

Type: Luxury Bush villas (Single/ Sharing occupancy)

Meals: Full board

Website: <https://www.rhinoridge.co.za>

DAY ELEVEN – HLUHLUWE IMFOLOZI - DURBAN - JOHANNESBURG DEPARTURE

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Early breakfast, we catch our road transfer back to Durban King Shaka Airport where you can catch a domestic flight up to Johannesburg. Menzies Meet and Greet are available to assist you to International Departures if you require. Your return flights home can be booked in the early evening – from 19h00 onwards.

You are among friends when you are with us. Together, we are in a safe space, and you have the freedom to be yourself and to explore. Whether you have never left your home country or are a seasoned solo traveller, this trip will offer you adventure, friends, and breathless beauty.

**Please note this Itinerary and Price may change slightly but the expedition host will keep you posted and updated if anything does happen. Terms and conditions apply due to availability. Please note that some activities are weather dependent, and we will do our best to accommodate them in our itinerary.*

What Is Included?

- Expedition leader and native South African – Carla Geysler
- All accommodation - Basic single or sharing accommodation
- All meals & water as shown in the itinerary
- National Park fees, taxes & levies, where applicable
- **US\$1100 /R20 000 pp** fundraising for our chosen beneficiaries: Turtle Research, The Bateleurs & African Wildlife vets elephant collaring and research project (This is INCLUDED in your rate)
- All activities detailed in the itinerary
- Road transfers from King Shaka to Sodwana and HIP to King Shaka Airport
- Transportation to and from and in between lodges

What Is Excluded?

- Any International flights & any necessary transfers to get to the start/finish of any trip
- Domestic flights from Johannesburg to Durban (King Shaka airport) return
- Gratuities (We recommend US\$5 -10 per guide or activity per person)
- Any visas & border costs for South Africa
- Alcoholic drinks & extra snacks
- Any personal expenses or souvenirs
- SPA treatments at any Lodge (can be arranged on request)
- Comprehensive travel and flight insurance (*Compulsory*)
- Any additional nights' accommodation desired (pre/ post trip)
- Any extra activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- PLEASE note we will adhere to any COVID 19 rules and regulations if needed

#JWP Expeditions Are Not For Everyone!

If you are an enthusiastic adventurer who is passionate about conservation and takes life as it comes, then this is for you! #JWP brings together like-minded people from around the world on trips that focus on visiting and raising funds for wildlife initiatives along the route. These adventures are organised and led by Carla Geysler, the founder of the Blue Sky Society Trust (BSST) and Blue Sky Expeditions who has, to date, led many successful trips into Africa.

Carla handpicks the right expedition members, always looking for well-rounded individuals of various skills and interests. If you are an enthusiastic adventurer passionate about conservation and taking life as it comes, then our next #JWP expedition could be for you.

Remote and Memorable!

These expeditions often involve driving long distances over bumpy dusty roads, staying in remote areas, and at times being without mobile phone service for days, and of course, loads of giving back through hands-on charity and conservation work.

Are You Up For The Challenge?

This is a LIMITED entry journey, meaning only a few people experience this unforgettable never-to-be-repeated experience. The minimum enrolment for this trip is 6 people. If minimum enrolment is not met 90 days prior to departure date, the trip may be canceled in which case full payment excluding the deposit will be refunded. (Minus the US\$1000 non-refundable deposit).

Safety

Safety is always a priority. We have a satellite phone, SATIB Insurance 24-hour medivac and assistance on call, and access to doctors 24/7.

Payment and Booking

DEPOSIT: A 25% deposit is required to be paid within 24 hours to reserve/book your spot on the expedition.

FULL PAYMENT DEADLINE: The remaining balance should be paid 90 days prior to departure. If you are booking within 90 days of departure, then full payment is required at the time of booking. (**By 1 NOVEMBER 2022**). OR Full payment upfront (100%)

Cancellation and Refund Policy

30 days (one month) or less: Cancellation by you up to 30 days prior to departure results in no refund. (100% Cancellation fee applies i.e. no refund)

30 – 90 days (one to three months): 70% cancellation fee applies. 30% will be refunded.

90 – 150 days (three to five months): 30% cancellation fee applies. 70% will be refunded.

150 days or more: Cancellation by you up to 150 days prior to departure will result in full reimbursement MINUS a non-refundable deposit of US1000pp.

Blue Sky Expeditions is not responsible for cancellations due to medical or family emergencies.

A cancellation request must be received in writing by email from the participant. Verbal notice will not serve as a valid cancellation.

Should you choose to withdraw from the program, kindly note that the deposit is non-refundable.

If the trip is cancelled due to inadequate enrolment, Blue Sky Expeditions is not responsible for reimbursement of non-refundable airline tickets. While we do our absolute best to fill each trip, we highly recommend that you buy refundable airline tickets.

Flight Information

Unless you are purchasing airline insurance, it is a good idea to wait until departure is confirmed to buy plane tickets.

Please ARRIVE at King Shaka Airport in Durban by **12 FEBRUARY 2023** (BEFORE 11 am)

Please book your DEPARTURE from King Shaka Airport in Durban in Johannesburg for the **22 FEBRUARY 2023** from 12h00 (To catch your international Evening flight)

Travelling before or after the program is totally fine - just let Blue Sky Expeditions know your plans.

General Comments

Please note the itinerary and prices may change slightly but we will keep you posted as to any amendments or changes. This is Africa (TIA).

We will send you emails detailing the documentation and correspondence we require from you. An Expedition Indemnity will be sent and needs to be read, understood, signed, and returned to confirm your place.

MEALS: Most meals will be eaten together at the places we stay. Food restrictions and allergies can be accommodated, just please let us know beforehand.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS: Pricing is based upon a double occupancy sharing. Unless a specific person has been identified, you will usually be assigned a roommate. Each person will have their own bed. Please confirm if you would like single occupancy.

MEDICAL: Make sure you have sufficient supplies of any prescription medicine. In fact, it might be wise to bring a small personal first aid kit, including any patent medicines you prefer. You are responsible for taking all necessary health precautions before and during your trip. It is the client's responsibility to ensure they seek professional medical advice before travelling and to take all necessary health precautions and preventative measures.

Vaccinations: Be an informed traveller! Ultimately, it is up to you to consult a physician. We are here to help but cannot legally provide medical advice.

International Travel Insurance

Here at Blue Sky Expeditions, we do our best to ensure that every program is a success. However, in the event of something unexpected, we want you to be fully protected. We REQUIRE that you purchase international travel insurance.

Entry and Visa Information

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months from the date of entry and that you have at least two blank pages in your passport (the back page does not count).

Money and Tipping

The colourful currency in South Africa is the Rand. Credit cards are mostly but also bring some cash. Reliable ATM's in banks are available in cities. You may also bring cash to exchange at banks and exchange offices.

TIPPING: There will some situations where you may feel the need to tip but as always it is up to your discretion.

Suggested gratuities:

\$10 - 30 per person per day (USD)

Waiter/Host - \$5 per couple (USD)

General Staff - \$10-\$15 per person (USD)

Agreement & Indemnity

****PLEASE CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING TO READ AND SIGN OUR INDEMNITY.**

Each person must have signed this before departure

Expedition Agreement – <https://www.blueskysociety.org/expedition-agreement-form/>

Indemnity Form – <https://www.blueskysociety.org/indemnity-online-form/>

