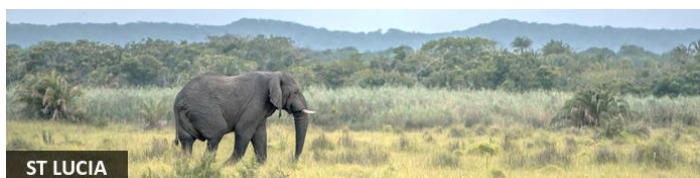




Sodwana & Mozambique 12 Day Self Drive



Sodwana & Mozambique 12 Day Self Drive 2027

St Lucia - Sodwana Bay - Kosi Bay - Ponta Mamoli

12 Days / 11 Nights

2 - 4 Persons



Introduction

Day	Start	End	Activity	Accommodation	Type	B	L	D
1	Durban	St Lucia	Pick up rental vehicle at airport; drive to St Lucia; Afternoon St Lucia Boat Cruise	St Lucia Eco Lodge	Ocean View BB	x	x	x
2	St Lucia	Sodwana Bay	Drive to Sodwana Bay	Mseni Beach Lodge	Forest Cottages BB	0	x	x
3	Sodwana Bay	Sodwana Bay	2 Mile Dive with Amoray Dive incl tank & weights	Mseni Beach Lodge	Forest Cottages BB	0	x	x
4	Sodwana Bay	Sodwana Bay	5 Mile Reef Dive with Amoray Dive incl tank & weights	Mseni Beach Lodge	Forest Cottages BB	0	x	x
5	Sodwana Bay	Sodwana Bay	Ocean Safari with Amoray Dive	Mseni Beach Lodge	Forest Cottages BB	0	x	x
6	Sodwana Bay	Kosi Bay	Drive to Kosi Bay; afternoon at leisure	Kosi Forest Lodge	Forest Room FB	0	0	0
7	Kosi Bay	Kosi Bay	Kosi Forest activities	Kosi Forest Lodge	Forest Room FB	0	0	0
8	Kosi Bay	Kosi Bay	Kosi Forest activities	Kosi Forest Lodge	Forest Room FB	0	0	0
9	Kosi Bay	Ponta du Ouro	Border crossing into Mozambique	White Pearl Resorts	Pool Suite FB	0	0	0
10	Ponta du Ouro	Ponta du Ouro	Reef Dive	White Pearl Resorts	Pool Suite FB	0	0	0
11	Ponta du Ouro	Ponta du Ouro	Referral Dive	White Pearl Resorts	Pool Suite FB	0	0	0
12	Ponta du Ouro	Nelspruit	Drive to Nelspruit (KMIA); drop off rental vehicle	TOUR ENDS	x	0	x	x

Key

O: Meal from accommodation provider

X: Client own expense meal

Included Transport in a Toyota Hilux Twin Cab 4x4 or similar; Driver/guide; Meals and Accommodation as indicated Group airport transfers Afternoon St Lucia Boat Cruise 2 Mile Dive with Amoray Dive incl tank & weights 5 Mile Reef Dive with Amoray Dive incl tank & weights Ocean Safari with Amoray Dive Kosi Forest activities Reef Dive - Ponta du Ouro Referral Dive - Ponta du Ouro	Excluded All services except those listed above. Fuel, Toll Fees, Flights, Airport taxes, Visas, Porterage, Tips and gratuities, Anything of personal nature
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Day 1: The St.Lucia EcoLodge, St Lucia

St Lucia

Encircled by the iSimangaliso Wetlands Park, St Lucia is South Africa's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. St Lucia lies on the magnificent St Lucia Estuary which is one of the largest in Africa stretching over 85 kilometres. It features abundant wildlife, pristine natural beauty, and offers a wide range of wonderful activities. This haven of tranquillity offers excellent mountain biking, hiking, bird watching and deep-sea fishing. Visitors can also look forward to thrilling night drive safaris, hippo and crocodile cruises, and many comfortable accommodation options.

Day Itinerary

Pick up at rental vehicle at the airport; drive to St Lucia; Afternoon St Lucia Boat Cruise

Overnight: The St.Lucia EcoLodge

The St.Lucia EcoLodge is nestled between the St. Lucia Estuary, the Indian Ocean, and iSimangaliso Wetland Park, making it an ideal point from which to explore South Africa's first World Heritage Site. The region has an all-around summer, making it comfortable throughout the year. The lodge offers 29 fully air-conditioned units, each with large bedrooms, full bathroom, lounge, fully kitted kitchenette, TV and veranda or balcony. Guests can enjoy a delicious breakfast every morning at the on-site bistro overlooking the lush indigenous garden. Additional amenities and services include a swimming pool, barbeque facilities, and free Wi-Fi.

Activities

Heritage Tours and Safaris Hippo & Croc Boat Tour

Heritage Tours and Safaris Hippo & Croc Boat Tour

Heritage Tours and Safaris Hippo & Croc Boat Tour is a 2-hour boat safari on the St Lucia Estuary, within iSimangaliso Wetlands Park, a World Heritage Site. This cruise offers scenic views and the opportunity to witness wildlife, namely hippos, crocodiles and birds. In addition, guests can also disembark and go for a guided walk in the bush and spot local wildlife including buffalo, zebra, and antelope.

Basis

Bed and breakfast

Day 2: Mseni Beach Lodge, Sodwana Bay

Sodwana Bay

Located on Kwa-Zulu Natal's coast within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Sodwana Bay is known primarily as a top diving destination. The Southern Coral Reef is the only tropical dive site in South Africa and one of the few places in the world where dive sites are reached by weaving a path through breaking waves. Divers can enjoy warm water; deserted beaches; exciting coral reefs; and a great diversity of seascapes, marine life and spectacular night dives. In summer, loggerhead and leatherback turtles can be seen nesting on the beaches, and dolphins, manta rays, whales, and black, blue and striped marlin are prevalent here. Other popular activities include boating, angling, fishing, whale watching, snorkelling and canoeing. For those who prefer staying on land, there is still plenty on offer in the form of nature walking, and bird watching, while the more adventurous can try microliting.

Day Itinerary

Drive to Sodwana Bay

Overnight: Mseni Beach Lodge

Mseni Beach Lodge is located in the heart of Sodwana Bay, within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, offering a serene retreat with direct access to a secluded beach. The lodge features comfortable beach cottages and a beach house, all equipped with private bathrooms. Some accommodations also include a minibar and a well-equipped kitchen. Guests can enjoy a variety of dining options at the on-site restaurant and bar, which overlook the ocean. Nearby attractions include the stunning Sodwana Bay, perfect for diving and snorkelling. For leisure, the lodge offers a swimming pool, hiking trails, and various water activities, ensuring a relaxing and enjoyable stay.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

Breakfast

Day 3: Mseni Beach Lodge, Sodwana Bay

Day Itinerary

2 Mile Dive with Amoray Dive incl tank & weights

Activities

Amoray Diving

Amoray Diving

Amoray Diving is situated in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park in beautiful Sodwana Bay, giving divers the best possible experience in this pristine UNESCO World Heritage Site. The reefs at Sodwana Bay are named by the distance they are from the Jesser Point launch site. The major reefs are split up into Quarter Mile, 2 Mile Reef, 5 Mile Reef, 7 Mile Reef and 9 Mile Reef, each reef having a dive site. The biodiversity in the area is phenomenal, from big to small. Seasonal visitors include humpback whales and Manta Rays, with dolphins, turtles and whale sharks appearing year-round. Some smaller treasures on offer include paperfish, pipefish, seahorses, nudibranchs, frogfish and many others. The experienced Divemasters are always on hand to ensure the diving is a fantastic experience. Additional amenities and services include a dive school with various PADI courses and accommodation.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

Breakfast

Day 4: Mseni Beach Lodge, Sodwana Bay

Day Itinerary

5 Mile Reef Dive with Amoray Dive incl tank & weights

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

Breakfast

Day 5: Mseni Beach Lodge, Sodwana Bay

Day Itinerary

Ocean Safari with Amoray Dive

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

Breakfast

Day 6: Kosi Forest Lodge, Kosi Bay

Kosi Bay

Situated just north of Durban along South Africa's scenic coast, Kosi Bay lies only two kilometres from the Mozambique border. It encompasses a pristine system of four lakes that form part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and eventually drain via a sandy estuary into the Indian Ocean. Beachgoers can enjoy a calm, quiet beach and a river mouth with exceptionally clear water, home to an abundance of fish species. Other faunas in the area include duikers, hippopotamuses, crocodiles, bull sharks, loggerheads, and leatherback sea turtles – which lay their eggs on the beach – and diverse birdlife. An interesting fact about Kosi Bay is that it is home to the Kosi Palm, which has the largest leaf of any plant in the floral kingdom.

Day Itinerary

Drive to Kosi Bay; afternoon at leisure

Overnight: Kosi Forest Lodge

Kosi Forest Lodge is an intimate lodge situated under a canopy of magnificent trees within a tranquil sand forest alongside the Kosi Lakes System, an unspoilt wilderness area that is part of the iSimangaliso World Heritage Park. This 20-bed lodge offers comfortable accommodation in wooden, canvas & thatch cabins, great home cooking and caters for a host of estuarine, beach and wilderness activities. Glamping at its best. A lovely sweeping pool overlooks Lake Shengeza where one can relax on the viewing deck in the shade of Umdoni trees while watching hippos & flamingos in the lake.

Daily guided canoe trips and walks through ancient Raphia Palm Forests are offered at no additional cost. Additional activities are a boat trip exploring this unique system of lakes and channels where one can see hippo, crocodile, rare birds like the Pels Fishing Owl and Palm Nut Vulture, included in this day trip is a picnic on the unspoilt shores of Bhanga Nek beach. Discover one of South Africa's best ecotourist destinations.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 - 8: Kosi Forest Lodge, Kosi Bay**Day Itinerary**

Kosi Forest activities

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: White Pearl Resorts Ponta Mamoli, Ponta Mamoli**Ponta Mamoli**

Situated along Mozambique's spectacular southern coast, Ponta Mamoli is a popular beach resort resting in a sheltered bay. Africa's eastern coastline is brimming with gorgeous beaches both on the mainland and on the Indian Ocean islands. It is the perfect destination to unwind and dust off after a safari, soak up the African sun or simply relax. Ponta Mamoli in Mozambique is also a great spot for swimming with dolphins and is a top location for diving and snorkelling. Nature-lovers should make sure to visit the enthralling Maputo Special Reserve to the west.

Day Itinerary

Border crossing into Mozambique

Overnight: White Pearl Resorts Ponta Mamoli

White Pearl known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean offers discerning guests a unique, beach-chic, luxury experience. We are passionate about service, going beyond the expected and continually striving for excellence. For pure exclusivity and direct access to the beach, our prime Beach Pool Suites are the perfect option. Higher up in the dunes guests will find our stunning Pool Suites cascading down a backdrop of bush scenery, offering panoramic ocean views. To ensure our guests enjoy the ultimate White Pearl experience, we offer a fully inclusive rate which includes an exceptional butler service. The layout of all suites consists of a living area, personal bar, stylish bedroom with a king-size bed and luxurious en-suite bathroom. All suites are equipped with air-conditioning and unlimited wifi.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10: White Pearl Resorts Ponta Mamoli, Ponta Mamoli

Day Itinerary

Reef Dive

Activities

PINNACLE REEF DIVING

PINNACLE REEF DIVING

White Pearl Resorts offers unique diving experiences at one of the world's top pinnacle reefs. A variety of dive spots offer something for everyone, from exhilarating shark sightings to multitudes of fish and vibrant corals. A professional, safe and world class interpretive diving experience. REEF DIVE: Explore our exceptional and classified diving reefs. Includes full dive gear

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11: White Pearl Resorts Ponta Mamoli, Ponta Mamoli

Day Itinerary

Referral Dive

Activities

REFERRAL DIVE

REFERRAL DIVE: Divers who have done part of their training elsewhere already, can complete it here with us. Referral paperwork will be required on site for completion of training. Includes full dive gear.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12: End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

Drive to Nelspruit (KMIA), drop off rental vehicle

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

Breakfast

Travel Information



One of the most culturally and geographically diverse places on earth, South Africa, fondly known by locals as the 'Rainbow Nation', boasts 11 official languages, and its inhabitants are influenced by a fascinating mix of cultures. Discover the gourmet restaurants, impressive art scene, vibrant nightlife, and beautiful beaches of Cape Town. Enjoy a local braai (barbecue) in the Soweto township, browse the bustling Indian markets in Durban, or sample some of the world's finest wines at the myriad wine estates dotting the Cape Winelands. Some historical attractions to explore include the Zululand battlefields of KwaZulu-Natal, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, and Robben Island, just off the coast of Cape Town. Above all else, its untamed wilderness is astonishing: wildlife roams freely across massive, unfenced game reserves such as the world-famous Kruger National Park.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Local currency: South African Rand

Symbol: R

ISO code: ZAR

Subunit: Cent (1/100 of a Rand)

Banknotes: R10, R20, R50, R100, R200

Coins: 10c, 20c, 50c, R1, R2, R5

Banking

Card Transactions: Widely accepted

ATMs: Yes

Mastercard: Yes

Visa: Yes

American Express: Yes, limited.

Diner's club: Yes, limited.

Banking Hours:

Weekdays: 09:00 – 15:30

Weekend: Saturdays: 08:30 – 11:00

Public Holidays: Closed

Foreign exchange services: Yes, available at major banks, airports, and authorised bureaux de change

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Air:

Main airlines: South African Airways

International Airports: O.R. Tambo International Airport (JNB, Johannesburg), Cape Town International Airport (CPT, Cape Town), King Shaka International Airport (DUR, Durban), Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (MQP, Nelspruit/near Kruger National Park), Port Elizabeth International Airport (PLZ, Port Elizabeth), East London Airport (ELS, East London, limited international flights), Lanseria International Airport (HLA, Johannesburg)

Domestic Airports: Numerous across the country

Road:

Driving on the: Left

Tar roads: Yes, well-maintained in most areas

Gravel roads: Yes, especially in rural areas

Valid International Driver's License needed: Yes

Car hire available: Yes

Taxis: Yes

E-hailing services: Yes

Bus:

Inter-city bus services: Yes

Local city bus networks: Yes, in most large cities

Rail:

Railway system: Yes, in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg as well as long distance luxury options like the Blue Train

Subway System: No

Water:

Ferries: Limited, mainly in coastal cities

Water taxis: No

Leisure cruises: Yes, especially from Cape Town and Durban

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Food and water safety:

Can you drink the tap water: Yes, in most urban areas

Fresh fruit and veg: Yes

Ice: Yes

Meat: Yes

Street food: Yes, widely popular and generally safe

Local cuisine:

South African cuisine is diverse and flavourful, featuring dishes like biltong (dried, seasoned meat), bobotie (spiced minced meat baked with an egg-based topping), and boerewors (farmers' sausage). The culinary scene includes a strong tradition of barbecuing, known locally as "braai."

Drinks:

Notable local drinks include Rooibos tea, craft beers, and South African wines.

Tipping: Customarily 10-15% in restaurants and for services.

Climate and Weather

Annual rainfall: Varies widely, Cape Town (winter rainfall, 515 mm), Johannesburg (summer rainfall, 713 mm)

Average temperature: Varies, Cape Town 17°C, Johannesburg 15.5°C

Summer:

Average highs: 28°C (Cape Town), 26°C (Johannesburg)

Average lows: 16°C (Cape Town), 15°C (Johannesburg)

Winter:

Average highs: 18°C (Cape Town), 17°C (Johannesburg)

Average lows: 8°C (Cape Town), 4°C (Johannesburg)

Best time to visit:

The best time to visit South Africa is from May to September for wildlife viewing, as animals are more concentrated around water sources. For beach holidays, mid-December to March is ideal, especially in Cape Town.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Spring and Summer

Cool, light, breathable and comfortable: Yes

Lightweight warm clothes: No

Winter and Autumn

Jerseys, cardigans, sweaters, jackets: Recommended

Heavyweight clothing and boots: Yes

General

Umbrella and raincoat: Yes, during the rainy seasons

Warm gloves, hat and scarf: In winter, particularly in high-altitude areas

Swimming costume (bathing suit): Yes

Hat, sunglasses, and sunblock: Essential

Walking shoes: Yes

Casual: Yes

Smart-casual attire: Yes

Internet Availability

Internet cafes: Yes, mainly in urban areas

Accommodation options: Yes, with good connectivity

Restaurants: Yes, in major cities

Cafes: Yes

Shopping malls: Yes

Public parks: Yes, in major cities

Libraries: Yes

Electricity and Plug Standards

Plug Type: M, N

Voltage (V): 230 V

Frequency (Hz): 50 Hz

*A travel plug adapter and voltage converter might be necessary depending on your appliances.



Situated on the east coast of Africa, this tropical paradise is blessed with 2500 kilometres of spectacular coastline. With its idyllic beaches fringed with palm trees and lapped by crystal-clear waters brimming with a dazzling array of marine life, this enchanting African nation is an ideal adventure holiday destination, with an abundance of activities on offer such as snorkelling, sunset cruises, horse-riding, dolphin tours and world-renowned scuba diving. Mozambique's two major centres, Maputo and Inhambane, offer an exotic kaleidoscope of art, music and delicious local food as well as a lively nightlife scene. Spend your days immersing yourself in the fascinating local culture, marvelling at the impressive colonial architecture and interacting with the fabulously friendly local inhabitants. Those seeking a more remote getaway can head for the isolated beaches of Bengueria Island; the historic Portuguese and Muslim architecture of Mozambique Island; or the outstanding wildlife of Gorongosa National Park. However, you choose to spend your time in this exceptionally scenic destination you are likely to leave with a heavy heart and a burning desire to return time and time again.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Local currency: Mozambican Metical

Symbol: MT

ISO code: MZN

Subunit: Centavo (1/100 of a Metical)

Banknotes: 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 meticaís

Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10 meticaís

Banking

Card Transactions: Widely accepted in major cities

ATMs: Yes

Mastercard: Yes

Visa: Yes

American Express: No

Diner's club: No

Banking Hours: Weekdays: 07:30 – 15:30, Weekends: Closed, Public Holidays: Closed

Foreign exchange services: Yes

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Air:

Main airlines: LAM Mozambique Airlines

International Airports: Maputo International Airport

Domestic Airports: Beira Airport, Nampula Airport

Road:

Driving on the: Left

Tar roads: Yes, mainly in urban areas

Gravel roads: Yes, common in rural areas

Valid International Driver's License needed: Yes

Car hire available: Yes

Taxis: Yes

E-hailing services: Yes, in major cities

Bus:

Inter-city bus services: Yes

Local city bus networks: Yes

Rail:

Railway system: Yes, limited service

Subway System: No

Water:

Ferries: Yes, to the Bazaruto Archipelago

Water taxis: No

Leisure cruises: Yes

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Food and water safety:

Can you drink the tap water: No

Fresh fruit and veg: Yes, if washed

Ice: No

Meat: Yes, if cooked thoroughly

Street food: Yes, from reputable vendors

Local cuisine:

Mozambican cuisine is a delicious blend of African, Portuguese, and Arab influences. Seafood is a staple, especially prawns, served with piri-iri sauce. Coconut, lime, and spices enrich dishes like Matapa, a stew made with cassava leaves and nuts. Corn porridge (Xima) is a common side.

Drinks: Notable local drinks include Laurentina and 2M beers, and Tipo Tinto rum.

Tipping: 10% is customary in restaurants.

Climate and Weather

Annual rainfall: Varies greatly, from 500 mm in the south to 900 mm in the north

Average temperature: 28°C

Summer:

Average highs: 31°C

Average lows: 24°C

Winter:

Average highs: 25°C

Average lows: 18°C

Best time to visit:

The best time to visit Mozambique is from May to November during the dry season when temperatures are cooler and there is less humidity, making it ideal for wildlife viewing and beach holidays.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations**Spring and Summer**

Cool, light, breathable and comfortable: Yes

Lightweight warm clothes: No

Winter and Autumn

Jerseys, cardigans, sweaters, jackets: Recommended

Heavyweight clothing and boots: No

General

Umbrella and raincoat: Yes, during the rainy season

Warm gloves, hat and scarf: No

Swimming costume (bathing suit): Yes

Hat, sunglasses, and sunblock: Yes

Walking shoes: Yes

Casual: Yes

Smart-casual attire: Yes

Internet Availability

Internet cafes: Yes

Accommodation options: Yes, in major cities and tourist areas

Restaurants: Yes, in major cities

Cafes: Yes, in major cities

Shopping malls: Yes, in major cities

Public parks: No

Libraries: Yes, in major cities

Electricity and Plug Standards

Plug Type: C, F, M

Voltage (V): 220 V

Frequency (Hz): 50 Hz

*Travel plug adapter and voltage converter might be necessary depending on your appliances.
