



England seamer James Anderson returns to the Test squad (Getty Images)

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England name Test squad for the tour of South Africa

England National Cricket Selectors have named a 17-strong squad for the four-match Test series against South Africa starting at SuperSport Park, Centurion on Boxing Day, 26 December 2019.

England Test squad

Joe Root (Yorkshire) captain

James Anderson (Lancashire)

Jofra Archer (Sussex)

Jonathan Bairstow (Yorkshire)

Stuart Broad (Nottinghamshire)

Rory Burns (Surrey)

Jos Buttler (Lancashire)

Zak Crawley (Kent)

Sam Curran (Surrey)

Joe Denly (Kent)

Jack Leach (Somerset)

Matthew Parkinson (Lancashire)

Ollie Pope (Surrey)

Dominic Sibley (Warwickshire)

Ben Stokes (Durham) vice-captain

Chris Woakes (Warwickshire)

Mark Wood (Durham)

Three players, James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow and Mark Wood, all return to the Test set-up.

Lancashire seamer Anderson, who sustained a right calf tear during the first

Ashes Test at Edgbaston in August, is currently involved in a dedicated fast-bowling camp in Cape Town along with Durham's Wood.

Quick bowler Wood is recovering from a left knee injury and side strain sustained during the ICC World Cup Final in July. He last played Test cricket in February, where he was named player of the match in England's last victory away from home against the West Indies in St Lucia taking six wickets in the match.

Yorkshire batsman Bairstow, currently working on his batting at the camp in Cape Town, returns to the squad having missed out on selection in the recent two-Test series in New Zealand.

Lancashire seamer, Saqib Mahmood, misses out on selection having been part of the Test tour of New Zealand.

Commenting on the selection of the squad, National Selector Ed Smith, said:

"With James Anderson and Mark Wood returning to the squad, Saqib Mahmood is the unfortunate player to miss out.

"It is not predicted that Mark (Wood) will be available for selection for the earliest matches. However, he will travel with the team and continue his rehab work with the medical staff on tour. There is no exact date given for his return, but the medical team is working towards him becoming fully available for selection during the tour.

"With that in mind, and given the extended period that James and Mark have had on the sidelines due to injury, it was sensible to have a 17-man squad.

"Moeen Ali, who asked to take a break from Test cricket last summer, remains unavailable for Test selection.

"Jonny Bairstow returns to the England squad after missing out on the New Zealand tour. Jonny, Mark and James are already in South Africa on a training camp ahead of the Test tour."

The four-match Test series forms part of the ICC World Test Championship

and will be the first time in the competition that England have played away from home. Joe Root's team will be looking to close in on India and Australia, who are currently leading the standings. The top two teams at the end of the two-year cycle will compete in the ICC World Test Championship Final in England in June 2021.

Ends

England Test tour of South Africa 2019-20

Tuesday 17-18 December: Two-day warm-up match - South Africa Invitational XI v England – Willowmoore Park, Benoni

Friday 20-22 December: Three-day first-class match – South Africa 'A' v England – Willowmoore Park, Benoni

Thursday 26-30 December: 1st Test – South Africa v England – SuperSport Park, Centurion

Friday 3-7 January: 2nd Test – South Africa v England – Newlands, Cape Town

Thursday 16-20 January: 3rd Test – South Africa v England – St George's Park, Port Elizabeth

Friday 24- 28 January: 4th Test – South Africa v England – Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg

ICC World Test Championship 2019-21 Current Standings: Correct as at December 7 2019

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Tied	Points Contested	Points
1	India	7	7	0	0	0	360	360
2	Australia	7	4	1	2	0	240	176

3	New Zealand	2	1	0	1	0	120	60
4	Sri Lanka	2	1	0	1	0	120	60
5	England	5	2	1	2	0	120	56
6	West Indies	2	0	0	2	0	120	0
7	Bangladesh	2	0	0	2	0	120	0
8	Pakistan	2	0	0	2	0	120	0
9	South Africa	3	0	0	3	0	120	0

Distribution of points in ICC World Test Championship:

Matches in series	Points for a win	Points for a tie	Points for a draw	Points for a defeat
2	60	30	20	0
3	40	20	13	0
4	30	15	10	0
5	24	12	8	0

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