

14 DAY
BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA
with **Victoria Falls**



September 11 – 24, 2019

Package Includes Escorted, Private English Speaking Guide

- Flights Atlanta-New York-Cape Town, Johannesburg-New York-Atlanta
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- All intra-flights: Cape Town-Durban, Johannesburg-Victoria Falls & Victoria Falls-Johannesburg
- 12 nights accommodations
 - 4 nights Cape Town
 - 1 night Hluhluwe
 - 1 night Swaziland
 - 2 nights Hazyview
 - 2 nights Johannesburg
 - 2 nights Victoria Falls
- All transfers and hotel portorage
- 20 meals: 12 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners*
- Sightseeing in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Game drives in modern 10-seater safari vehicles
- English-speaking tour manager throughout
- All applicable entrance fees per itinerary
- Visa for entry into Zimbabwe. Visa not required for entry into Swaziland.
- Trip cancellation, interruption, baggage loss or delay, medical expenses

** Includes South African Family Home Hosted Dinner*

South Africa Special Feature Highlights

- A memorable experience in Cape Town
 - Castle of Good Hope
 - Grande Parade
 - Table Mountain
- Tour historic Robben Island, a World Heritage Site and view the former prison cell of Nelson Mandela*
- In the course of the Cape Peninsula tour, visit the Cape of Good Hope reserve and view the penguin colonies at Boulders Beach
- Game viewing cruise on the St Lucia Estuary, a uniquely diverse ecosystem
- Game drive through Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve
- A thrilling game drive on an open-vehicle through Kruger National Park
- In Soweto, the most metropolitan township, visit Nelson Mandela's former home
- Visit spectacular Victoria Falls, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Enjoy a sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi River

**The operation of the Robben Island ferry is dependent on weather and sea conditions. If the ferry is canceled, the visit to Robben Island will be replaced with a visit to the District Six Museum or a walking tour of the Bo-Kaap district of Cape Town*

Spectacularly Adventurous & Exciting Itinerary

Day 1 **Depart for South Africa** from Atlanta to Amsterdam and on to South Africa

Day 2 **Arrive in Cape Town**, transfer to Radisson Blu Hotel & Residence, a first-class hotel located nearby Long Street in Cape Town's central business district. Enjoy spectacular views of Table Mountain and spend time leisurely enjoying this magnificent seaside beautiful city. Overnight in Cape Town.

Day 3 Experience a full day **Cape Peninsula Tour**, with lunch along the way. We will enjoy a drive to Cape Point at the southwestern tip of the Cape Peninsula, as we pass steep mountains, secluded coves, and sweeping beaches en route. After a stop at the fishing village of Hout Bay, one of Cape Town's best-kept secrets, we will continue to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, comprising over 17,300 acres of indigenous flora and fauna, where you may see baboons by the roadside, rheboks, cape mountain zebras, bonteboks and the elusive eland. The native plant life, known as fynbos, forms one of only six floral kingdoms in the world. Following the coastline along False Bay, we will return to Cape Town after lunch by way of Simon's Town. Here, we will visit the penguin colonies at Boulders Beach, and continue with a scenic drive over Muizenberg Mountain. Lastly, we will visit the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, resting at the foot of Table Mountain, for a short walking tour of the beautiful gardens before arriving back at Cape Town. After a wondrously full day, we will enjoy our Welcome Dinner at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Please note that this day of explorations includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. We overnight in Cape Town.

Day 4 Sightseeing and educational tours of **Cape Town City and Robben Island*** following a leisurely breakfast. We will embark on a half day Cape Town city and Table Mountain tour. We will be driven to the city center, pass famous landmarks such as the Castle of Good Hope built in 1666 by the Dutch East India Company and City Hall, a splendid baroque building, and of course the Grand Parade. We will see St. George's Cathedral, the Anglican Diocese of Nobel Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Our route then takes us to Kloof Nek and the magnificent Table Mountain. Weather permitting, we will ascend to the top of the mountain via a cable car. At the summit, we will be mesmerized by all the wildflowers, the famous silver tree, and marvel at the birds-eye view of the city and its beaches. On a clear day, it is possible to see Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, on one side, and Cape Point on the other.

We will descend from the upper cableway station and proceed to the Milnerton Lighthouse, continue to Cape Town's famous V & A Waterfront for a time of leisure. Lunch is on your own. After lunch, we will take the ferry across the Bay to Robben Island, which has been declared a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site. The tour of historic Robben Island reveals the poignant struggles, hopes, and dreams of freedom made famous by Nelson Mandela's imprisonment here. This notorious prison, located on an island off the coast of Cape Town in Table Bay is where South Africa's political prisoners were kept during the colonial and apartheid years of the country. We will tour the island and the infamous prison before returning to Cape Town in the late afternoon for some well-deserved leisure time.

Tonight is very special in that our dinner will be an unforgettable experience as we learn directly about the local culture in a relaxed and comfortable environment in the home of a South Africa family who will host our home cooked three course dinner, with wine, typical to South Africa. We will have the opportunity to have fascinating conversations about the way of life in South Africa while also exchanging our views and experiences of our hosts.

**Please note: The operation of the Robben Island ferry is dependent on weather and sea conditions. If the ferry is canceled, the visit to Robben Island will be replaced with a visit to the District Six Museum*

Day 5 So much to see and do ... we will be spending another full day to leisurely explore **Cape Town on your own**. You have the options available for a Winelands Tour* which takes you along the country's principal wine route to the scenic towns of Paarl, Franschhoek, and Stellenbosch with tastings along the way. Or, if you are a true adventurer, you can opt for the thrilling excursion to "Shark Alley" to experience great white shark cage diving*. Please inquire about how to sign up for either of these options. This day includes breakfast only. This is our last full day and overnight in Cape Town.

**Please note: The Full Day Winelands Tour and Full Day Great White Shark Cage Diving operate simultaneously. You may opt to participate in only one of these tours.*

Day 6 This morning, after breakfast, we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Durban, the largest city in the *South African* province of KwaZulu-Natal. *Durban's*

metropolitan municipality ranks third among the most populous urban areas in *South Africa* after Johannesburg and Cape Town. It is also the second most important manufacturing hub in *South Africa* after Johannesburg.

Upon arrival in the early afternoon, we will be driven to St. Lucia where we will experience an exceptional **Game Viewing Cruise** on the St. Lucia [Estuary](#)

This tidal estuary is home to Nile crocodiles, hippopotami, sea turtles, and even sharks, making it a fascinating and uniquely diverse ecosystem.

The day will draw to an evening, delicious dinner at the Protea Hotel Umfolozi River hotel where we will stay overnight.

Day 7

What you have been waiting for ... our **first Game Drive (safari)** to the [Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve](#) following an early breakfast, which is situated in northern KwaZulu-Natal, and contains an immense diversity of fauna and flora and is particularly famous for its conservation of black and white rhinos.

Home to Africa's "Big Five," hopefully we will have an opportunity to see elephants, Cape buffalo, lions, and leopards, in addition to rhino during your morning game drive through the reserve. The park also boasts warthog, crocodile, and antelope.

Following the safari, we will continue on to the border of the Kingdom of Swaziland. This independent kingdom within the borders of South Africa is known for its lovely scenery and vibrant indigenous culture. Stop at a handicraft market in the afternoon before we arrive at the Protea Hotel Hazyview in the early evening for our overnight stay.

Day 8

An exciting day that includes **Swaziland Sightseeing** and a cultural experience with our Matsamo Village visit.

After breakfast, we will start our day with a visit to the Ngwenya glass factory, where we will watch talented glass blowers create a range of enchanting African animals, birds, and fish, as well as tableware, made from recycled glass that is collected by the children of Swaziland.

We will transfer to the South African border and visit the **Matsamo Cultural Village** where we will learn more about the Swazi traditions and customs. Here we will enjoy traditional dance and song performances with authentic African instruments as well as traditional Swazi cuisine.

We can wander through the village with its many traditional huts and interact with the locals. Later, continue to the Protea Hotel Hazyview where you will enjoy dinner and stay overnight. The hotel is situated in the lush Mpumalanga Lowveld, and is just twenty-five minutes from the famous Kruger National Park where we will be going the next day!

FYI: Swaziland, officially the Kingdom of Swaziland is a sovereign state in Southern Africa. It is neighbored by Mozambique to its northeast and by South Africa to its north, west and south. Swaziland is a landlocked country and is one of the smallest countries in Africa.

This day includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 9

Our second and even more adventurous and thrilling Open Vehicle **Game Drive (safari)**, in **Kruger National Park** is today! It is highly likely that we will see

the 'BIG 5' here. Our day begins at dawn with coffee, tea, and rusks, a South African dry biscuit.

Upon departure from the hotel, a pre-packed breakfast will be provided for you. Then, we are off to Kruger National Park for a thrilling full day open-vehicle game drive (safari). Larger than the state of Connecticut, the park offers some of the best game and wildlife viewing opportunities in the world, and early morning is an optimal time of day. This is when and where we have our best opportunity to see the lion, elephant, giraffe, or zebra in their natural habitat. After stopping at a rest camp for lunch on your own, we will continue our game drive. With any luck, we may see cheetah and leopard.

After the day's excitement, we can relax by the pool and enjoy dinner at the Protea Hotel Hazyview hotel. This day includes breakfast and dinner.

Day 10 Following breakfast, we will depart for the Mpumalanga Province, known as '**Paradise Country**,' driving the spectacular "Panorama Route." Stop to admire the views of amazing scenery along the 16-mile-long Blyde River Canyon, cut deep into red sandstone, and God's Window (weather permitting), a breathtaking, edenic vista at the edge of the escarpment overlooking Kruger National Park. Visit Bourke's Luck Potholes, a series of waterfalls and distinctive rock formations created by countless millennia of water erosion before proceeding this afternoon to Johannesburg where we will stay overnight at the first class Protea Hotel Fire & Ice Melrose Arch

Day 11 A half day **Soweto Tour** is on the agenda, following our early breakfast. We will experience a fascinating glimpse of the bustling neighborhood life of Soweto, *the most metropolitan township in the country*, setting trends in politics, fashion, music, dance, and language. We will drive by the former residence of **Bishop Desmond Tutu** and visit **Nelson Mandela's former home**, before proceeding to the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum, dedicated to one of the first casualties of the Soweto uprising of 1976. We will continue to the **Apartheid Museum**, where we will journey through the racial segregation experienced by millions of South Africans. This evening will end with an enjoyable **Farewell Dinner** with our Tour Manager.

Day 12 **The grand finale ... Victoria Falls* plus the bonus, Sundowner Cruise on the Zambezi River!** Following breakfast, we will head to the airport for our morning flight to the breathtaking, picturesque and thundering UNESCO World Heritage Site, Victoria Falls. To help give you a perspective, the Falls are a little over a mile wide and 351 feet high, making them one-and-a-half times as wide and twice as high as the Niagara Falls. Here, we will probably encounter herds of buffalo and elephant on their way to the Zambezi River. After we have settled into the first-class Victoria Falls Safari Lodge here in Zimbabwe, in the late afternoon, we will have a grandeur sundowner cruise on the broad sweep of the mighty Zambezi River.

Day 13 **Guided Tour of Victoria Falls**
This morning, enjoy a guided tour of the Victoria Falls, one of the "Seven Natural Wonders of the World". The **walking safari** takes you through the magnificent rain forest to view the Cataracts, Livingston's statue and a wide variety of birds

and plants. The rest of the day is yours to discover this beautiful area independently.

Day 14 Our wonderstruck African experience has come to a close as we prepare to depart South Africa. Following breakfast, we will say goodbye as we head to the airport to fly to Johannesburg and connect to our international departure flight back to New York and then back home to Atlanta.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Because we will be visiting Kruger National Park and Zimbabwe, you are encouraged to consult your health care provider regarding malaria prophylaxis.
- All passport holders should have four or more entirely blank (unstamped) visa pages in their passport when traveling to South Africa, Zimbabwe, and eSwatini (Swaziland).
- On dates including, but not limited to religious holidays and national celebrations, some monuments and sites may be closed. On these occasions, touring itineraries may be amended to reflect these closures. Occasionally, during holidays and certain periods, and/or due to unforeseen circumstances including weather conditions there may be last-minute changes, sometimes after arrival, affecting the sequence of the tour, locations visited and/or hotels. Therefore, we reserve the right to adjust the sequence and/or substitute any hotels with others of similar category. In such cases there will be no cost adjustment. National monuments and tourist sites regularly undergo renovations, which can obscure the monument's view. No tour will be canceled due to renovations, however we will decide based on the conditions whether to amend the itinerary. Our itinerary may contain suggestions for activities for your leisure time; these suggestions do not constitute an endorsement of any specific service provider and the decision to participate in any such activities should be made independently and with due consideration.

Trip Preparation ... What to Know Before You Go

The details are handled ... so you don't have to

Although we have taken care of most of the planning and preparation for you, there are still a few things you should know and some details you should take care of to ensure your comfort, safety and peace of mind. Please review the following information before your departure to ensure that any surprises along the way will only be pleasant ones.

Getting Ready To Go

Passports and Visas

It is your responsibility to have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of travel. Passport applications are available at most U.S. Post Offices. A Visa is required for entry into Zimbabwe. The cost of your required Visa is included in the total cost of the trip. You will be informed of the arrangements to secure your Visa. Please ensure that your passport has blank pages.

Pre-Planning, Proper Preparation and Packing

We suggest you do a little pre-planning to help make your South Africa trip go even smoother. Following are some things to take into consideration:

- Make a list of what you will need to take with you.
- Make sure your passport is in proper order.
- As appropriate, ensure you have enough, 2-week's worth, of prescription medications.
- If you have medications, include a list of them with the dosage and what it is for.
- If you use over-the-counter medications, consider having a small supply with you, i.e., headaches and/or anti-diarrhea pills.
- Make photocopies of your passport and any other personal ID and important travel documents, and pack them separately from your originals.
- Make sure you know how to set the alarm clock on your cell phone, or bring a small alarm clock with you for our early morning departures.
- Due to security reasons, we may run into restrictions on the size of bags you can carry inside of some places. Backpacks, or large purses may not be permitted. Please bring a small shoulder bag or purse to use in these situations.
- Avoid placing valuables such as cameras in any checked luggage.
- Airplane pressure can cause similar pressure in your body, most notably in ears, as well as liquid tubes and bottles. As a result of my personal experience, you may want to check with your physician for an appropriate medication for decongestion.
- It is suggested that you place liquid containers in Ziploc bags to catch any leaks.

Climate & Clothing

The best time to visit Kruger and most wildlife parks is from May to September. This is the Dry animals congregate around waterholes and rivers. This is, in fact, the low season for tourism. So wonderful because the wildlife viewing is excellent.

South Africa & Swaziland – Following are average high and low temperatures during the months when we will be travelling:

City	High	Low
Cape Town	66	48
Johannesburg	71	51
Durban	72	62
Victoria Falls	90	57

It is an ABSOLUTE MUST that you bring comfortable walking shoes, clothes you can layer, and a jacket. Sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses are also recommended. On game drives, please be advised to wear colors such as brown, khaki, and beige.

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Getting the Most from Your South African Trip

Book & Film Recommendations

You may want to read about our destinations - either in advance or while we are on that long flight to add context to your visit. Whether reading a traditional guide book, learning about the history, or simply enjoying a fictional novel set in the destination, a good book can add greatly to your experience. A good movie set in your destination helps set the mood before you travel. We asked our Tour Leaders to recommend books and films which past guests may have enjoyed. The following does not constitute an endorsement of any authors, books or films listed, it is merely a collection of guests' recommendations.

SOUTH AFRICA: Books

- *Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela (autobiography)
- *Trevor Noah – Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
- *Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
- *My Traitor's Heart: A South African Exile Returns to Face His Country* by Rian Malan
- *A History of South Africa* by Frank Welsh
- *Burger's Daughter* by Nadine Gordimer
- *The Cape Town Book* by Nechama Brodie
- *Country of My Skull* by Antjie Krog

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Movies

- *Liyana* Animated Documentary (2017)
- *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* (2013)
- *Sarafina* (1992)
- *Mandela and deKlerk* (1997)
- *Amandla! A Revolution in Four Part Harmony* (2002)
- *Catch a Fire* (2006)

MAP OVERVIEW

BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA

with **Victoria Falls Tour**

The map outlines the route and areas covered on the tour. The numbers in circles indicate how many nights in the area. This map corresponds with the *Pac Escorted, Private English Speaking Guide* and the more detailed pages in *Spectacularly Adventurous & Exciting Itinerary*. Also, please note that D are travel days between the continents.



Travel Protection

This protection is automatically included in your package. It is Travel Protection that helps provide coverage for Trip Cancellation, Interruption, Baggage Loss or Delay, Medical Expenses and more. A full summary of the plan details on coverages, benefits, limitations and exclusions, will be provided as requested. The protection *does not* apply to air travel from Atlanta to South Africa, and the return from South Africa to Atlanta.

Staying Healthy While Traveling

Following are several practical steps suggested to help assure you stay healthy while traveling and should help you prevent contracting an illness while on your trip.

- Watch what you eat. Try new foods in modest quantities, and you may want to avoid street foods, salad bars, raw vegetables and fruits, unless they have thick peels like bananas or grapefruit.
- *Stay hydrated.* Drink bottled water. Avoid consuming ice cubes made with tap water.
- If you have allergies to foods, medications or insect bites, or have any other unique medical issues, consider a medical alert bracelet and/or a physician's note detailing required treatment should you become ill.
- Wash your hands regularly and carry hand sanitizer.
- When appropriate, use sunscreen and insect repellent.
- You may also want to consider a small first-aid kit with band aids, antibiotic cream, pain killers, bug bite cream, digestive aids like antidiarrheal or anti-bloat medications, antacids, and cold medicine.

South Africa & Swaziland - While the majority of South Africa is malaria-free, visitors to Kruger National Park are encouraged to consult their health care providers regarding malaria prophylaxis. Malaria is endemic (found among particular people or in a certain area) to the Kruger National Park Area. Please consult your physician before traveling to South Africa.

Additionally, this tour visits areas of high elevations on the Panorama Route (5,870 feet) and in Swaziland (6,110 feet), and may cause temporary altitude discomfort for some travelers. Those affected should avoid over-exertion, drink extra water, and eat lightly.

Zimbabwe - Malaria is prevalent throughout Zimbabwe, except in Harare, due to the capital's high altitude. The CDC strongly recommends that malaria prophylaxis and preventative measures be taken when traveling outside of Harare.

No Smoking - Please be considerate of fellow travelers and refrain from smoking cigarettes or cigars in the vicinity of the group, including in outdoor areas where smoking may be permitted but may still affect other tour participants.

Hotel Accommodations



Radisson Blu Hotel & Residence - Cape Town, S. Africa

The hotel is set in Cape Town's central business district, nearby Long Street. Greenmarket Square is within a half mile walk, and the Company's Garden is within a mile walk. The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town International Convention Center and the Clock Tower.



Protea Hotel Umfolozi River - Richards Bay, S. Africa

You can enjoy the hotel pool and nearby hiking trails. The hotel is located a short distance away from the Hluhluwe Umfolozi Game Reserve and the Great St. Lucia Wetlands.



Mountain Inn - Mbabane, Swaziland

You can enjoy the hotel pool and fitness center while we are here. The hotel is within a twenty-minute ride of the Mbabane city center, Mantenga Nature Reserve, and Waterford Kamhlaba United World College.



Protea Hotel Hazyview - Hazyview, S. Africa

The rooms are decorated in African-style with dark woods and have standard amenities. They overlook the gardens which are visited by much birdlife. Here, you will also enjoy the scenic beauty, wildlife and so much more. The hotel is beautifully situated in Mpumalanga Lowveld, which is close to Kruger National Park



Protea Hotel Fire & Ice Melrose Arch – Johannesburg, S. Africa

The hotel is situated nearby the Melrose Arch Shopping Centre. The rooms are decorated with a contemporary black and white decor scheme and luxurious furnishings. The Johannesburg Zoo and the Apartheid Museum are in close proximity of the hotel.



Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Guest rooms are decorated with African fabrics and furnishings. Each has a ceiling fan and a balcony facing the sunset and looking out towards Zambezi National Park. The hotel is located about 2.5 miles from Victoria Falls.