

# SOUTH AFRICA

*Cape Town - Entabeni Safari Conservancy - Johannesburg - Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe*

*14 Days / 13 Nights*

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019– Monday, March 25, 2019**



## Overview

Accommodation	Destination	Arr.	Dep.	Nights	Room Type
<u>Commodore Hotel</u>	Cape Town	Mar 13	Mar 17	4	Standard Room
<u>Entabeni Lakeside Lodge</u>	Entabeni Safari Conservancy	Mar 17	Mar 20	3	Standard Room
<u>The Michelangelo Hotel</u>	Johannesburg	Mar 20	Mar 22	2	Standard Room

## Included

Accommodations as per the itinerary; Meals as per the itinerary; Ground transfers as per the itinerary; Scheduled Tours and Activities as per the itinerary; National Park Fees, Gate Entry and Usage Fees (unless otherwise noted in the itinerary)

## Excluded

Any services not mentioned above; Any items of personal expense, i.e. drinks, telephone calls, laundry etc.; Gratuities for rangers/guides/drivers; Visa fees where applicable, Victoria Falls River or Parks Entry Fee if applicable, Botswana Tourism/Conservation Levy if applicable

## Flights

Flights for March 2019 have not yet been released by the airline. (TBD)

# LAND PORTION ONLY PRICING

## Day 1: Traveling (Tue, March 12)

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Depart

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## Day 2: Wednesday, March 13 Commodore Hotel, Cape Town

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Resting at the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean, sandwiched between the slopes of the iconic Table Mountain and the glistening sapphire waters of Table Bay, the exceptionally scenic city of Cape Town is in a class of its own. Some cities boast rich culture, vibrant nightlife, a cosmopolitan atmosphere and extraordinary architecture, while others boast breathtaking landscapes and extraordinary natural wonders. Cape Town is lucky enough to be blessed with all of these attractions and so much more. With its bustling harbour, world-class beaches, top-notch vineyards, and its mountainous surroundings brimming with diverse flora and fauna, Cape Town consistently captivates the hearts of all who visit.

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## Day Itinerary

Upon arrival in Johannesburg, you will clear customs and board your short two hour connection flight to Cape Town. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel, where you can settle in, relax and enjoy some time at leisure. Later this evening you will depart for dinner at Gold Restaurant (or similar)

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### *Gold Restaurant*

GOLD Restaurant is a vibrant, eclectic Pan-African experience in the heart of Cape Town. It offers a night of opulent feasting with a unique bouquet of live entertainment in a mystical African setting of trees and tents in an inner city courtyard steeped in ancient history and GOLD.

A typical evening at GOLD Restaurant starts off with the drumbeat of the djembe drum. An interactive drum circle offers you the opportunity to join in and learn how to play the djembe. Soon you will be pounding your drum to the rhythms and sounds of Africa. After pounding the skins of the drums, you can soothe your hands in a traditional hand washing ceremony as you are led into the ancient courtyards.



## Overnight: Commodore Hotel [View iBrochure](#)

Overlooking the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront with views of Table Mountain, Robben Island, the Harbour and the Atlantic Ocean is the Commodore, Legacy's flagship hotel in Cape Town. Stylish living, quality service and a tranquil setting have ensured that our guests return year after year, be it as businessmen or tourists excited to experience all that is the Mother City.



## Included

Accommodation and Dinner

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## Day 3: Thursday, March 14

### Commodore Hotel, Cape Town

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#### Day Itinerary

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by your guide for a full day Cape Peninsula Tour. Begin by traveling along the Atlantic Seaboard past Clifton to Hout Bay and experience a cruise past the seals on Seal Island. Continue over Chapman's Peak to the Cape Point Nature Reserve. Enjoy lunch at the Black Marlin Restaurant (or similar) before paying a visit to the penguins on Boulders Beach and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

Afterward, you will be returned to the hotel with the remainder of this evening at leisure.

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#### *Full Day Cape Peninsula Tour*

Depart the hotel and flank the colder Atlantic Ocean en route to Hout Bay. Once a fishing community, now one of the most popular residential areas, the harbor still has a charm of days gone by. A chance to join the M.V "Circe" for a half hour cruise to "Seal Island" or for the not so adventurous, the fish market "Mariners Wharf" is a must.

The tour now continues over the famous Chapman's Peak drive – if open, with a 200 meter drop on one side and a 200 meter rise on the other, as we make our way south, following the Atlantic Ocean until we reach Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope.

Said to be the romantic meeting place of the two mighty oceans, the Atlantic and the Indian, Sir Francis Drake the Explorer once called it "the fairest Cape that we saw in the whole circumference of the Globe". And rightly so, it must be the highlight of any visit to the Mother City, if not South Africa.

We pass the naval base of Simonstown as we continue along the Indian Ocean, en route to see the Jackass penguin colony which has become well established at Boulders Beach near Simonstown.

Our last stop of the day is at the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, home of some 3 500 species of Southern African fauna and flora. We return to the hotel in the late afternoon, having seen some of the best the Cape has to offer.



#### *Black Marlin*

The Black Marlin is nestled unobtrusively on one of the most scenic coastlines in the Cape, en-route to Cape Point. During "whale season" patrons often enjoy their meal whilst watching whales in False Bay. It is the perfect setting for an idyllic luncheon or evening experience.

The Black Marlin offers an extensive menu with the main emphasis on seafood, complimented by other choices of fine contemporary cuisine. House specialities include Cape Rock lobster, Seafood platters, oysters and mussels.

Through the many years of providing top quality fresh seafood and impeccable service to the locals and foreign tourists, this restaurant has become world-famous.



### Included

Accommodation, Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 4: Friday, March 15 Commodore Hotel, Cape Town

### Day Itinerary

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by your guide for a full day tour exploring the Cape wine region. Your journey will take you through breath-taking scenery and the historic towns of Franschhoek, Stellenbosch and Paarl. During the course of the day you will enjoy a wine tasting at two of the areas celebrated wine estates as well as a full cellar tour to gain better knowledge of the wine making process. Lunch is included at Neethlingshof Wine Estate (or similar).

Afterward, you will be returned to the hotel with the remainder of this evening at leisure.

### *Franschhoek*

Idyllically situated in the Cape Winelands, this peaceful country retreat is one of the oldest towns in South Africa. The once sleepy little village was named Franschhoek, meaning “French Corner” as it was founded by French Huguenots who fled Europe and were seeking a secluded hide-out. They found it in the fertile valley of Franschhoek and this heritage is showcased at the fascinating Huguenot Memorial Museum. The Cape Dutch architecture in much of the village remains remarkably well preserved as restrictions have been placed on the extent of renovations and new construction in order to preserve the spirit of the original settlers. The town’s proximity to Cape Town allows for pleasant day trips during which visitors can explore the area’s many world-class wine estates and impressive range of excellent restaurants or simply browse the quaint, upmarket boutiques strewn along the town’s lovely tree-lined avenues.



### *Stellenbosch*

A blend of historical architecture, student life, epicurean delights and oak-lined avenues, Stellenbosch is a picturesque university town surrounded by mountains and vineyards. A walking tour of the town centre allows visitors to take in its beautifully preserved Cape Dutch and Victorian architecture, as well as the many enticing art galleries, craft shops, clothing boutiques and gift stores, while foodies may prefer indulging in mouth-watering cuisine and fine wines at one of the chic restaurants or buzzing bistros. Stellenbosch is also the ideal base from which to explore the renowned local wine route, boasting a high proportion of the country's leading wine estates.

### *Paarl*

Paarl was named after the huge granite dome of rock, which overlooks the town founded in 1690. The famous 11km long Main Street features the Strooidak Church, Die Oude Pastorie Museum and the Patriot Building. The beautiful homestead of Labories in Main Street was bought by KWV. The KWV cellar complex is the largest in the world, covering an area of 22 hectares. The magnificent Cathedral Cellar, with its barrel-vaulted roof and large carved red wine vats is spectacular and depicts the history of the Cape's wine industry.

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### **Included**

Accommodation, Breakfast, Lunch

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## **Day 5: Saturday, March 16**

### **Commodore Hotel, Cape Town**

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### **Day Itinerary**

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by your guide for a half day tour of the city of Cape Town including Table Mountain (weather permitting), The Company Gardens, Greenmarket Square and the Bo-Kaap. After the tour, you will return to the V&A Waterfront for free time for lunch (own account) before boarding the ferry to Robben Island (weather permitting). The island became infamous during South Africa's years under Apartheid rule. The government banished dissidents and political prisoners to the island, the most famous one being former president, Nelson Mandela. Afterward, enjoy dinner at the Africa Café (or similar) on this evening.

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### *Table Mountain*

Without a doubt it is Table Mountain that makes Cape Town the unique city it is. Rising up over 1000m above sea level, it is the icon that makes Cape Town instantly recognizable. It is a symbol, a playground, a spiritual retreat and a

big draw card for tourists. So intertwined with the identity of Cape Town is Table Mountain that a visit to the city isn't complete without having walked or taken the cable car to the top.



### *Company Gardens*

The Company Gardens is a treed haven in the middle of the city and is surrounded by museums and fascinating buildings - St Georges Cathedral, the Salve Museum, The National Art Gallery and the Jewish Museum to mention a few.

### *Greenmarket Square*

In the heart of Cape Town's business district, you'll find Greenmarket Square. The square has quite a reputation, it has been a slave market, a fruit and vegetable market and, during the 1950s, a humble parking lot. These days it's just the place to look for clothing, glassware, hand-painted fabrics, footwear, music, sunglasses and curios from all over Cape Town and Africa.

### *Bo Kaap*

The colourful suburb of Bo Kaap was exclusively for coloured Muslims during the Colonial and Apartheid times and today, this group still makes up the majority of residents. The quaint cobbled streets, the museum, the authentic purveyors of Cape cuisine and Cape Town's oldest spice emporium are all worth a visit.



### *V&A Waterfront*

Situated between Robben Island and Table Mountain in the heart of Cape Town's working harbour, the V&A Waterfront has become South Africa's most visited destination. Set against a backdrop of magnificent sea and mountain views, exciting shopping and entertainment venues are intermingled with imaginative office locations, world-class hotels and luxury apartments. The Waterfront is the heart of the tourist industry in Cape Town.

### *Robben Island*

An icon of struggle, freedom and hope made famous by Nelson Mandela's imprisonment here.



### *Africa Cafe*

Enjoy authentic African food and culture with dishes from Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya and other African nations. Singing and drumming in themed rooms, warm African hospitality, an outside balcony and a buzzing atmosphere draws both locals and tourists.

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### **Included**

Accommodation, Breakfast, Dinner

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**Day 6-9: Sunday, March 17 to Wednesday, March 20**

**Entabeni Lakeside Lodge, Entabeni Safari Conservancy**

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Entabeni Safari Conservancy – “The Place of the Mountain”, is situated in the World Heritage “Waterberg Biosphere” of the Waterberg Region of the Limpopo Province, less than a three hour drive north of Johannesburg. This malaria-free Reserve boasts six different Lodges set in 22000ha of wilderness.

The Upper Escarpment offers majestic, craggy rock formations and wide-open grass plains. This is separated from the Lower Escarpment by 600m cliffs. The Lower Escarpment is approximately three degrees warmer than the Upper Escarpment and comprises of sandveld vegetation and a series of wetlands. For easy access both the Upper and Lower Escarpments have their own entrance and care should be taken to ensure that you arrive at the correct Entrance Gate.

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## Day Itinerary

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred back to the airport to board the return flight to Johannesburg. On arrival, you will be met by your guide for the road transfer to the Entabeni. The guide will leave you here. The reserve accommodates virtually every mammal of southern Africa. The park is home to healthy populations of lion, leopard, black and white rhino, elephant and buffalo - Africa's "Big Five".

Enjoy the next three nights on safari on a full board basis.

Your twice daily safaris take place at dawn and dusk, when the bush is at its most active and chances of spotting game the best. Your experienced ranger and tracker team will help you make the most of your time on safari through their extensive knowledge of the park. Safaris are conducted in open 4x4 vehicles which allow you a truly thrilling safari experience. During the heat of the day you can relax and soak up the sounds of the bush.

## Overnight: Entabeni Lakeside Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Lakeside Lodge is situated along the shores of Lake Entabeni and offers exceptional views of the lake and Entabeni Mountain. The 1.7km Lake Entabeni lies between soaring bluffs and peaks, a wonderful place for bird watching and viewing a rich variety of wildlife. Enjoy sundowners on your own private deck with the alwayschanging colours of the Entabeni Mountain reflecting in the lake.



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## Included

Accommodation, All Meals, Game Drives (AM & PM)

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## Day 9: Wednesday, March 20

The Michelangelo Hotel, Johannesburg

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Johannesburg is one of Africa's biggest and most vibrant cities. It is the economic capital of Africa and the gateway to Southern Africa. Although not as famous as other South African destinations, there is plenty to do in Johannesburg and nearby Pretoria. The old city is a multi-cultural mixture of traditional medicine shops, Chinese restaurants, taxi ranks and ultra modern skyscrapers. There are excellent museums, art galleries and organised tours of historical and political interest. The shopping is Southern Africa's best and the many restaurants cater for all tastes. The nearby township of Soweto is Johannesburg's most popular tourist attraction.

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### Day Itinerary

Awake early for a final morning safari before returning to the lodge for breakfast. After breakfast, you will be met by your guide for the road transfer to Johannesburg including a visit to Constitution Hill. Afterward, you will be delivered to your hotel with the remainder of this day at leisure.

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### *Constitution Hill*

Home to the South African Constitutional Court – the country's highest judicial body – and the Old Fort Prison Complex, Constitution Hill encapsulates an amazing amount of history in a relatively small area. Guided tours are offered of the court building, as well as the various facets of the penitentiary complex: the Women's Gaol, the Old Fort – reserved for white prisoners – and the spine-chilling 'Number Four', where prisoners of colour were imprisoned during the apartheid years, including prominent freedom fighters such as Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi.



### Overnight: The Michelangelo Hotel [View iBrochure](#)

Johannesburg's upscale Sandton neighborhood is the city's business center where many major international companies house their headquarters. Its heart is Nelson Mandela Square with its large, six-meter sculpture of the country's first democratically elected president. The Michelangelo, a retreat in the square's bustle, overlooks this leafy enclave. The Renaissance-style hotel is venerated for its easy access to the neighborhood's shopping, dining and entertainment, many located in the adjacent square. Guests can take advantage of a fitness center with personal

trainers, a sauna and heated indoor pool. The spa is acclaimed, especially for its grass-covered sundeck. Expert but unobtrusive service has long made the hotel a leading choice for travelers.




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## Included

Accommodation, Breakfast

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## Day 10: Thursday, March 21

### The Michelangelo Hotel, Johannesburg

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#### Day Itinerary

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by your guide for a full day Journey to Freedom Tour beginning at the Hector Pieterse Museum before visiting Mandela House. The next stop is the Regina Mundi Church, site of so many of the underground meetings of the then banned political parties. Lunch is included at Chez Alina Restaurant (or similar) before visiting the legendary Apartheid Museum. This is an interactive voyage of discovery, one which takes you from the dark days of 'whites only' privilege, through to Nelson Mandela's historic release.

Afterward, you will be returned to the hotel with the remainder of this evening at leisure.

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#### *Hector Pieterse Museum*

On 16 June 1976 in the Johannesburg township of Soweto, what began as a peaceful march in the name of educational reforms turned to chaos when police troops responded to the demonstrating students with a barrage of live bullets and teargas. One of the most tragic casualties of this debacle was 13-year-old Hector Pieterse, who was killed when he was caught in the cross fire. The Hector Museum, located close to the site of his death, was built to commemorate his untimely passing and the events that ultimately caused it.

#### *Regina Mundi Church*

Regina Mundi Church, built in 1961 is located in Rockville, Soweto, South Africa. As the largest Roman Catholic Church in the country, the enormous interior can accommodate up to 5000 people. Regina Mundi is well renowned for its pivotal role during in the anti-apartheid struggle when the church provided a refuge to activists. It also served as the site of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings from 1995 to 1998, the church is now a major historic attraction.

### *Apartheid Museum*

The Apartheid Museum opened in 2001 and is acknowledged as the pre-eminent museum in the world dealing with 20th century South Africa, at the heart of which is the apartheid story.

The Apartheid Museum, the first of its kind, illustrates the rise and fall of apartheid.

An architectural consortium, comprising several leading architectural firms, conceptualised the design of the building on a seven-hectare stand. The museum is a superb example of design, space and landscape offering the international community a unique South African experience.

The exhibits have been assembled and organised by a multi-disciplinary team of curators, film-makers, historians and designers. They include provocative film footage, photographs, text panels and artefacts illustrating the events and human stories that are part of the epic saga, known as apartheid.

A series of 22 individual exhibition areas takes the visitor through a dramatic emotional journey that tells a story of a state-sanctioned system based on racial discrimination and the struggle of the majority to overthrow this tyranny.

For anyone wanting to understand and experience what apartheid South Africa was really like, a visit to the Apartheid Museum is fundamental.



### *Chez Alina*

Chez Alina Restaurant is situated in the heart of Soweto, showcasing the original four-roomed house of the famous suburb. Chez Alina is a family home and Restaurant, it offers a delicious three course typical African cuisine buffet meal in an authentic setting and offers excellent service.

Chez Alina is the place to be to experience the real "taste" of Soweto and interact with the local people.

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### **Included**

Accommodation, Breakfast, Lunch

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### **Day 11: Friday, March 22**

**The Kingdom Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

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Resting on the southern banks of the Zambezi River at the western end of the eponymous falls, this popular tourist town is compact enough to walk around and makes an ideal base for travellers exploring the seventh wonder of the world, the unfathomably vast Victoria Falls. About two thirds of the falls can be viewed from the Zimbabwean side and, while the falls are undoubtedly the star attraction, the area provides both adventure seekers and sightseers with plenty of opportunities to warrant a longer stay. Popular activities include scenic flights over the falls in helicopters or micro lights, bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge, white-water rafting (seasonal), and day trips to Chobe National Park. The town itself offers some excellent accommodation and restaurant options as well as an eclectic variety of African curios and authentic art sold by friendly Zimbabwean locals who are wonderfully welcoming and eager to help you enjoy your stay.

### Day Itinerary

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by your guide for the transfer to the airport to board the flight to Zimbabwe. On arrival at Victoria Falls Airport, you will clear customs and obtain your visa at the port of entry, then you will be met by your local guide for the transfer to the hotel. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure until you are met by your guide for a sundowner cruise on the Zambezi River. Afterward, you will be returned to the hotel with the remainder of this evening at leisure.

#### *Wild Horizons Sundowner Cruise*

The Zambezi River cruise is a superb way to relax and enjoy the beauty of the River. You may have the opportunity to see a variety of game; including hippo, crocodile and elephant in their home environment, as well as enjoy the many different bird species.

The Sunset cruise is very popular and includes finger snacks, beer, wine, local spirits and soft drinks. There are great photo opportunities against often-spectacular African sunsets. Flocks of birds skim the waterline as the sun sets behind the African skyline.

Departures: Daily



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## Overnight: The Kingdom Hotel [View iBrochure](#)

Quatermains, The Rapid Pool, The Wild Thing and The Pit sound like titles of movies or books not quite suitable for all ages. They are in fact the names of the four bars in African Sun's closest hotel to the Victoria Falls, The Kingdom at Victoria Falls. This is a fun-filled resort hotel aimed unashamedly at the tourist who wants to take in the majesty and excitement of one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

Complete with its own food court offering a wide choice of relaxing or quick meals, suiting all ages, The Kingdom at Victoria Falls also offers three swimming pools and a toddlers pool, a children's play area and, for the ladies, planning a "night on the town" or a visit to the resort's spa and beauty parlour.

The architecture draws on the ancient Kingdom of Munhumutapa, with great domes, pillars, and bridges over the many water features, The Kingdom's fun-filled atmosphere gives guests a unique blend of African tradition and Western leisure.



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## Included

Accommodation, Breakfast

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## Day 12: Saturday, March 23

### The Kingdom Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

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## Day Itinerary

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by your guide for a Tour of the Falls. The Victoria Falls constitutes one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world. The local people call it "Mosi-oa-Tunya" the smoke that thunders. After the tour, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Later this evening, you will be transferred to The Boma Restaurant for dinner.

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## *Wild Horizons Tour of the Falls Zimbabwe*

The Victoria Falls – Now In Its 150 Millionth Fantastic Year - Reaches Its Zenith In About May each year. It's a truly awe-inspiring experience – the sight, the sound, the smell; the humbling feeling that here indeed is Nature's Supreme Masterpiece. No photograph can begin to depict the reality...and nothing prepares you for your first sight.

This tour is conducted in the morning and afternoon. En route, clients may be taken past the 'Big Tree' where they may stop and take photos. Clients will be accompanied through the Rainforest by one of our qualified Guides who will give a brief history of the Falls themselves as well as detailing the flora, fauna, bird & wildlife and other points of

interest. Guides are also happy to assist clients with photographs whilst visiting this most spectacular of waterfalls. Raincoats are



### *The Boma Restaurant*

The Boma – Dinner & Drum Show is a “must do” Victoria Falls dining and entertainment experience, specializing in traditional African food, drumming and dancing. The food is cooked and served in the style and quantity of a lavish feast, including irresistible desserts.

On arrival, you are dressed in a chitenge (traditional sarong) and welcomed into a vibrant atmosphere in which the tantalizing aromas of local dishes and game meat on the braai (barbecue) fill the restaurant, which is partially open to the star-filled African sky.

Your meal begins with a mouth-watering platter of starters whilst the buffet includes soup from the campfire, a range of salads, game meat cooked on a braai (barbecue), followed by desserts. Vegetarian options are also available, as well as local dishes such as peanut butter spinach

You can also look forward to outstanding performances by traditional singers and dancers, and enjoy an energizing interactive drumming show. A face painter, storyteller, hair braider and fortune teller also form part of this festive evening.




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### **Included**

Accommodation, Breakfast, Dinner

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## **Day 13: Sunday, March 24**

### **Departure**

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#### **Day Itinerary**

Enjoy breakfast and a final leisurely morning in Africa before you are returned to the airport to begin your journey home.

#### **Included**

**Breakfast**

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## Day 14: Traveling (Mon, March 25)

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Arrive Home

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*\*Please note that all availability and pricing is subject to change until time of booking by which a credit card must be given to solidify all reservations and lock in all pricing.*

### LAND PORTION ONLY PRICING

Double Occupancy Traveler	USD	\$3768.00 per person*
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Single Supplement	USD	+\$1260.00*
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### AIRFARE

**Airfare quotes are inclusive of  
all fuel, taxes, fees and airline  
surcharges**

USD

TBD/Not Yet

## Travel Information



While wildlife safaris are reason enough to visit this exquisite country, South Africa offers even more to see and do. For one, the city of Cape Town is a jewel that is well worth visiting. Set against the iconic Table Mountain, C.T. offers lots to explore, including the V&A Waterfront, Chapman’s Peak, Boulders Penguin Colony and several beautiful beaches — just to give you an idea. Not to mention the delicious food and fabulous shopping, which can all be enjoyed at a favorable exchange rate.

One of the biggest attractions in the Western Cape is the towns of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschoek . Boasting some of the best wine tours in the world, they offer picturesque vineyards, fantastic art galleries and gourmet food.

Furthermore, South Africans are some of the most upbeat, welcoming and humorous people you’ll ever encounter. You will be exposed to different cultures, languages and traditions that will certainly enhance your experience.

With so much diversity, South Africa has something for everyone to enjoy!

### *Entry Requirements*

As for all international travel, the visitor to South Africa is required to be in possession of a valid passport. U.S. citizens (US passport holders) traveling to the Republic of South Africa for 90 days or less for tourism or business purposes do not need visas. U.S. green card holders (non-US passport holders) require visas to visit South Africa. Nationals of other countries must check the list of visa exempt countries to see if they need to apply for visas.

Please note that all foreigners who wish to visit South Africa must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after his/her intended return date. The passport must have a minimum of four blank (unstamped) visa pages in the passport to enter the country. It is preferred these are facing pages. Your international carrier can deny boarding if you do not have the blank (unstamped) visa pages. Travellers should make sure there are sufficient pages for visas and immigration stamps to enter into South Africa and other countries to be visited. These blank pages cannot be endorsement or amendment pages.

As a general precaution, all travellers are advised to carry a photocopy of the photo/bio information page of their passport and keep it in a location separate from their passport.

### *Banking and Currency*

#### Currency

South Africa's currency is the Rand, which offers visitors great value for their money. The rand comes in a range of coins (R1 = 100 cents) and note denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100. With the exchange rate in your favor, you'll find South Africa offers great value.

It is advisable to exchange US Dollars into Rands upon arrival for tips and small purchases where credit cards are not normally used.

Exchanging large denominations of US Dollars at game lodges can be challenging so come prepared.

### **Banking**

Banks are found in most towns, and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays (Closed Sundays and Public Holidays). Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank & credit cards as well as travellers cheques. You can also obtain cash from automatic teller machines (ATMs). Several international banks have branches in the main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they are not informed.

### *Travel, Transport and Getting Around*

Travelling around South Africa is relatively easy by air, road and rail.

Principal air routes are serviced by SAA and British Airways, operated by Comair. There are 2 low-cost carriers on main routes, namely Kulula.com and Mango.

Facilitating travel around South Africa are 10 airports managed by the Airports Company South Africa (Acsa). In addition, there are some 90 regional airports, including the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport in Nelspruit and the Skukuza Airport, offering access to the Kruger National Park.

An extensive tarred road system makes travelling in South Africa by vehicle convenient and easy. You will find gravel roads in rural areas though. Note:

Another means of getting around South Africa are luxury inter-city bus services such as Greyhound and Trans-Lux. Metrobus buses are available for in-city transport. Metered taxis must be ordered by telephone. There is a hop-on-hop-off bus in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Our rail system includes the long-haul, inexpensive Shosholoza Meyl Metrorail trains. More luxurious options are the Blue Train, Premier Classe and the steam train Rovos Rail. There is also the new Gautrain rapid transit railway system in Gauteng Province which links Johannesburg, Pretoria, Ekurhuleni and OR Tambo International Airport.

### *Health and Medical Information*

Many of the main tourist areas are malaria-free, so you need not worry at all. However, the Kruger National Park, the Lowveld of Mpumalanga and Limpopo, and the northern part of KwaZulu-Natal do pose a malaria risk in the summer months.

Many local people and some travelers do not take anti-malaria prophylaxis, but most health professionals recommend that you do. All guests must consult their own medical doctor or health authorities regarding the use of anti-malarial tablets prior to departure.

Whether you take oral prophylaxis or not, always use mosquito repellent, wear long pants, closed shoes, light long-sleeved shirts at night, and sleep under a mosquito net in endemic areas (the anopheles mosquito, which carries

malaria, operates almost exclusively after dark). Mosquito repellent containing “deet” is best. It is advisable to avoid malarial areas if you are pregnant.

### *Safety Notices*

If you have lost your passport or wallet, please contact the local police department and file a report. Once you have done this, contact one of South Africa’s U.S. Embassies or Consulates (located in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban).

#### Contact Information:

Cape Town Consulate General

Telephone : (021) 702 - 7300

Email: americanscapetown@state.gov

Durban Consulate General

Telephone: (031) 305 – 7600

Email: consularurban@state.gov

Johannesburg Consulate General

Telephone: (011) 290 - 3000

Email: consularjohannesburg@state.gov

Alternately, you can obtain information online at <http://www.embassy-worldwide.com/embassy/american-embassy-in-pretoria-south-africa/>.

### *Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice*

Standards of hygiene in relation to food health and safety in South Africa, are generally high in hotels, restaurants, pubs and nightspots. Tap water in South Africa is safe to drink and cook with when taken from taps in urban areas. Not all tap water in rural areas is safe for consumption, so take precautions if necessary.

It is safe to eat fresh fruit, vegetables and salads, and put ice in your drinks. South Africa's fish, meat and chicken are of excellent quality, so there is no need to limit yourself when enjoying the local cuisine.

Restaurants are subject to South Africa's food safety control legislation, which is implemented by local government. Regulations include certification and regular inspections by health inspectors to ensure hygienic standards are maintained.

Street food is not as common in South Africa as it is in other countries, although vendors selling traditional snacks and meals can be found in city centres and townships. Food safety in such instances cannot always be guaranteed.

### *Climate and Weather*

In the Western Cape, the average rainfall is highest in the winter months, while in other provinces, the average rainfall is highest during the summer. Overall South Africa enjoys a temperate and pleasant climate, with lovely warm sunny days most of the year. KwaZulu-Natal has a sub tropical climate with high humidity in Summer. The Southern Gauteng region has hot summers with occasional thundershowers and frosty winters, while the Eastern part of this region (known as the Lowveld) enjoys mild winters. The Cape interior and the Free State have similar weather conditions to the Southern Gauteng region. The Western Cape region has a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cold, wet winters.

Spring: September – October

**Summer: November - February**

**Autumn: March – April**

**Winter: May – August**

### *Clothing and Dress Recommendations*

#### **Summer**

Bring clothes that are cool, light and comfortable because summer temperatures can get well into the 30 - 40 degree Celsius range in some areas. Also bring an umbrella or raincoat during summer as this is when most of the country gets its rain, but don't forget a swimming costume (bathing suit).

#### **Winter**

The winters are generally mild, comparing favourably with European summers. But there are days when temperatures dive, especially in high-lying areas such as the Drakensberg, so be prepared with jerseys and jackets. Cape Town gets its rain during the winter season so it's advisable to bring rain gear along.

#### **General**

Always bring a hat, sunglasses and sunblock as the sun can be strong even in the winter months.

Walking shoes are a good idea all year-round, with warm socks in the winter.

If you are doing business in the country, business attire (suit and tie) is generally called for in the corporate sector, but media for example generally dress more casually.

For game viewing, a couple of neutral-toned items will be useful, but there's no need to go overboard. A good pair of walking shoes is also advisable.

For the evening, if you are dining at an upmarket restaurant or seeing a show, smart-casual attire is recommended.

### *Electricity and Plug Standards*

The South African electricity supply is 220/230 volts AC 50 HZ. With a few exceptions (in deep rural areas) electricity is available almost everywhere. However, you will need to purchase or bring adapters for the outlets. You can purchase the adapters in many US stores, online, or from a store while in South Africa. Adapters are usually available on loan at major hotels in South Africa. Three to five star hotels usually have 110 volt outlets for electric shavers in bathrooms and often provide hair dryers and irons. An NW 4 plug with two prongs, 0.19 inches in diameter is required for compatibility.

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A nation of spectacular natural beauty, friendly people and rich culture, Zimbabwe's status as one of Africa's leading safari destinations was dampened for years by its political instability. But now that the country is transcending its strife and returning to a state of equilibrium, it is once again emerging as a vacation highlight of the continent. Victoria Falls – known to locals as 'The Smoke That Thunders' – is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the sheer power of this massive body of water plunging into the Zambezi Gorge is awe-inspiring and unforgettable. Lake Kariba, with its game-rich shores and islands, is an idyllic safari spot featuring mind-blowing sunsets; Hwange National Park is known for its huge herds of elephants; and a kayak trip down the Zambezi through the Mana Pools National Park will appeal to the intrepid traveller, providing close encounters with crocodiles, hippos and a host of other wildlife.

### *Banking and Currency*

#### **Currency**

Zimbabwe uses US\$ as well as its own unit of currency, the Zimbabwe Bond Dollar. It is advised to carry small denominations of change with you, however it is best to pay for as much as possible outside of the country. US\$ work best and are widely accepted in supermarkets, and for curios, accommodation, activities and gratuities. South African Rand and Euros are only accepted in some places in Victoria Falls. Do not plan on being able to use cash machines in Zimbabwe to draw money. Before leaving home please exchange all the money that you will need for your trip, plus extra, into US\$. Most of this should be in 1, 5, 10 and 20 denominations because change is not always available. In an emergency you can try Barclays Bank, Stanbic Bank or Standard Chartered Bank as they will infrequently accept foreign debit cards for withdrawing cash.

#### **Banking**

Banks in Zimbabwe are open for business Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08h00 to 15h00, on Wednesdays from 08h00 to 13h00 and Saturdays from 08h00 to 11h30. They are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Only VISA and MasterCard are accepted in Zimbabwe, however it should be noted that very limited facilities will have credit card machines, and the connection is not always reliable so it is advisable to carry cash as back up.

### *Travel, Transport and Getting Around*

Taxis are safe and reliable, and can be booked through your hotel front desk. Taxis in cities travel within a 40km radius of the city. Always take a taxi at night.

Major airlines fly into Victoria Falls, Harare and Bulawayo. Charter flights are available to most attractions and camps.

Zimbabwe has a good road infrastructure, by African standards, although potholed. Between major towns, there are frequent road blocks. Traffic drives on the left side of the road.

If you are driving yourself around Zimbabwe, be sure to check on fuel availability in advance. If you are covering long distances within the country, ensure you carry extra fuel in 5 or 10lt metal containers in case of emergency. Fuel is generally available, but supply can fluctuate. Fuel is only available for cash.

### *Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice*

Zimbabwe's native cuisine is based on sadza, a cooked porridge made from ground maize which is normally be accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare sadza if requested, and it is almost always available in small restaurants in the towns.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas typically serve a variety international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is usually excellent.

If you are driving yourself around and plan to cook, then get most of your supplies in main towns. There are a number of South African shopping chains operating in Zimbabwe which will generally have all that you will need.

Water in the main towns is usually purified.. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it. However, if you are in Zimbabwe for just a short period of time, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water available in towns and from all camps, lodges and hotels.

### *Climate and Weather*

In Zimbabwe, the rains come principally in December, January, February and March; the further north you are, the earlier the precipitation arrives and the later it leaves. Zimbabwe's higher eastern areas usually receive more rainfall than the lower-lying western ones.

By April and May most of the rain is gone, leaving a verdant setting, which is starting to dry out. Especially in more southerly and higher locations, the night-time temperatures start to drop.

The nights in June, July and August become much cooler, so don't forget to bring some warmer clothes, in case you want to spend an evening outside; the days are still clear and warm. For Zimbabwe, this is the start of the 'peak season'— days are often cloudless and game sightings continually increase.

Into September and October the temperatures rise once again: Zimbabwe's lower-lying rift valley – Mana Pools – can get very hot in October. During this time, you'll see some fantastic game, as the Zimbabwe's wildlife concentrates around the limited water sources.

November is unpredictable; it can be hot and dry, it can also see the season's first rainfalls – and in this respect it's a very interesting month, as on successive days, you can see both weather patterns.

### *Clothing and Dress Recommendations*

When in Zimbabwe the cardinal rule is to wear casual, comfortable clothes during the day as temperatures can get very hot. It is advisable to wear light loose fitting clothing, such as cotton or linen, as they are cool and easy to wash. Warmer clothes are advised for the evenings and rainwear for the wet season.

A brimmed hat and sunglasses are a good idea year round. Long sleeved shirts and long trousers will also guard against the scorching sun rays. It is recommended you wear light shoes, especially if your itinerary entails a lot of walking.

For safaris, please remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Earth colour clothes, such as browns, greens and tans are advisable.

### *Electricity and Plug Standards*

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. Both square and round plugs are used.

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