

South Africa Trip Detail

You are in for a trip of a lifetime! I've designed this trip to build excitement and wonder each day. Lindani is a secluded offering where you'll have ample opportunity to adjust to an entirely different time zone and possibly see your first giraffe, zebra, and impala. Each day of the trip should be better than the preceding day. Going on safari is the goal of most people who visit South Africa, and this trip concludes with five full days of safari drives. Thakadu River Camp is outstanding, with astonishingly good food served every meal. You may think it can't get better, but it does.

I first went to Africa in 1977, and way back then, I decided it was the most incredible place on Earth. Your trip will be my 8th to this fantastic land. It is a privilege to share a place I hold dearly.

May 2

Your flight must arrive in Jo'burg by this evening. Our team will meet you at the airport and take you by shuttle to our hotel,

May 3

After a leisurely breakfast, we'll depart for Lindani Private Game Reserve at 8:30 for the 3.5-hour drive. There are a couple of pit stops along the way. Almost immediately upon entering Lindani, we hope to spot impala. A warthog may dart in front of our vehicle with its tail held straight up. After lunch, you can lounge by the pool, go for a hike, or whatever other leisurely activity suits you.

May 4

This morning, Solly (our guide/driver) will pick us up at 6:00 for a safari of Lindani. We will surely see giraffe, common zebra, warthog, impala, and kudu. We may also spot a common eland, the largest antelope species. Other less common antelope we hope to spot include tsessebe and red hartebeest.

After lunch back at Motseng, you'll have a short break before we board a safari vehicle again with Solly. He'll share stories of the South African bush, including many about the local plants. The safari day will conclude with your first sundowner. As we slowly return to Moteseng, nocturnal animal sightings, including aardvark, honey badger, spotted genet, and civet, are possible. We'll also stop under a tree where super-cute bush baby are often spotted.

May 5

Paul will greet us at Motseng at 6 this morning for a three-hour bird walk. (We won't be on our feet for three hours, but drive to the best birding spots.) One highlight will be birding the stunning grounds of Lindani's owners. We'll gently stroll the grounds, seeing birds with names, most of which will be foreign.

After breakfast, the next four hours are again at your leisure. In the early evening, Solly will drive us to Makgethelo, a beautiful picnic area and a fantastic way to end our four days at Lindani.

May 6

Our shuttle picks us up at 8:00 at Lindani for the journey back to Johannesburg and our 12:45 flight to Cape Town, arriving at 2:45. The views from the plane, as we approach one of the world's most beautiful

cities, are jaw-dropping. We'll get a shuttle to Sea Point, an affluent Cape Town suburb, where we'll spend the next six nights. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

May 7

We'll taxi to Table Mountain National Park after breakfast. The stunning views of Cape Town, some 3,000 below us, are incredible. You'll immediately understand why every guidebook puts Table Mountain as the top spot to visit in the Western Cape. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

May 8: For those interested, Steve will depart Olaf's at around 9:00 for a short drive to Strandfontein, a wastewater treatment plant home to hundreds of Greater Flamingos. Many other birds frequent the area. Others may choose to take a stroll along the stunning waterway.

This evening, we'll dine on the edge of a vineyard at Jonkersuis, where you'll have a chance to savor Cape Malay cuisine, some of the tastiest bites you'll ever enjoy. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

May 9

At around 8, a driver will pick us up at Olaf's. Today, we'll venture to wine country! We're getting VIP treatment, with breakfast, lunch, and dinner matched with specifically chosen wine pairings. Even non-drinkers will love this trip, as the town of Franschoek is yet more stunning scenery not to be missed.

Overnight Sundown Manor or similar

May 10

Today is an all-day visit to Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Our first stop will be Bo Kaap, a charming and brilliantly colored Muslim community. We'll then go to Boulder's Beach, where hundreds of African Penguins will delight you with their antics. After a lovely oceanside lunch, we'll head to Cape Point National Park and the Cape of Good Hope. The vegetation here is unique and puzzling in its form. At Cape Point, we'll hop on the funicular to ride to the top of the point for jaw-dropping views. You can also have your photo taken at Cape of Good Hope, the southwesternmost point of the African continent. For those of you frustrated by a lack of exercise, a gorgeous hike from Cape Hope to Cape Point meanders along the coast. A slight uphill climb at the end of the walk will undoubtedly raise your heartbeat a bit.

We have an excellent chance at spotting Ostrich and one of the world's most beautiful antelopes, the Blesbok. Mountain zebra also occur here but challenge even the keenest observer. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

May 11

We'll depart early back to Cape Town International Airport. A private shuttle will take us to Welgouvonden Game Reserve and Tshwene Lodge, our home for the next four nights. It's about a 3.5-hour drive without stops. We'll take advantage of the modern service stations to take a brief break.

We'll depart for our first game drives in a "Big 5" reserve in the late afternoon. We'll search the bush for African elephants and a long list of other African game animals.

Overnight Tshwene Lodge

May 12

Before sunrise, we'll grab a cup of coffee or tea and some biscuits. The chilly morning air also means animals are far more active. The routine will become familiar: Awaken early, go on safari, return for breakfast, nap, eat lunch, go on safari, return for dinner, go to bed. It will seem that all we're doing is eat, sleep, safari, and you'll love every minute of it.

May 13

After an early hour to bed, you'll awaken around 4:45 today, drink coffee or tea, eat some rusks (think biscotti), and head out on safari. We'll generally be on safari for three hours, then head back for a hearty breakfast. And I do mean hearty!

Sometimes, at Welgovonden, you'll finish breakfast at 10:30, only to enjoy a gourmet lunch at 1:00. You'll then have several hours to relax before another safari departure around 3:30. During the break, we'll bird the grounds around Tshwene. With our group having the lodge reserved, there won't be others to distract and chase birds away.

3:30, we'll enjoy high tea and hors-d'oeuvres before returning to the bush. Depending on the sightings, we'll be out in the afternoon for three or four hours. Thankfully, we'll stop at the midway point for a drink and some light snacks. Yay, more food! Drinks include a wide array of spirits, red and white wine, and a variety of soft drinks. All are part of the fee we paid. You will never feel like a lack of caloric intake is an issue.

Overnight Tshwene Lodge

May 14

You'll be into the routine now. We'll awaken early for another game drive after returning around 10 for breakfast. One delight of going on safari is the mystery each drive holds. Will we see a lion pride stalking prey? Will a leopard have an impala up a tree content with eating on a carcass without any competition? What birds might delight as we tour the reserve? Lilc-breasted Roller and Little Bee-eater will delight with their brilliant colors.

Overnight Tshwene Lodge

May 15

Today is our last full day of safari at Welgovoden. At this point, you're keen on picking up game sightings we haven't previously enjoyed.

Overnight Tshwene Lodge

May 16

Our guide for the past four days will take us to the western airstrip at Welgovonden for a brief flight back to Johannesburg. This afternoon, we'll catch a commercial flight to Hoedspruit for the short drive to Elephant Plains Lodge within the Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve. **Overnight Elephant Plains**

May 17

You know the routine from our time at Tshwene, but Sabi Sands has a worldwide reputation as one of the best spots for seeing game worldwide. We're very likely to see leopards very close this morning.

Overnight Elephant Plains

May 18

Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve borders the massive Kruger National Park, twice the size of Yellowstone National Park. This immense landscape allows animals to move freely, searching for the best grass or leaves, depending on the time of year. Today will be your last full day of safari. By this point of the trip, you'll have seen multiple lions, elephants, leopards, buffalo, cheetahs, white rhinos, zebra, warthog, giraffes, and over 20 antelope species.

Overnight Elephant Plains

May 19

You can do one last game drive this morning. Trip-goers are joyous this morning with all they've taken in over the previous two weeks.

After breakfast, we'll board our shuttle for the 3.5-hour drive back to Johannesburg. Flights to the United States leave in the late evening, and we'll be back in plenty of time for you to make your flight home.

May 20

Your flight should arrive home today!