

FUNSEEKERS SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP TOUR



OCTOBER 13-26, 2024
Private custom tour
Escorted by Shelley Pfeifer



ITINERARY DAY BY DAY:

Day 1: 14 October, 2024

Arrival in Cape Town

Welcome to Cape Town, South Africa. On arrival you will be picked up and transferred to your hotel. The Commodore Hotel is a great 4* property located in the heart of the Waterfront District that abounds with restaurants, malls and entertainment.

Overnight: The Commodore Hotel (Standard Room)

Day 2: 15 October, 2024

Cape Town - City and Table Mountain Tour

This morning, after breakfast you are met by a guide for a city tour and Table Mountain tour. Depart the hotel city for the Lower Cableway Station to board the revolving cable car for a 5-minute ride to the top of Table Mountain. 1036 meters above sea level, it affords bird's-eye views of both city and Peninsula as you walk its summit (weather permitting). Return to the city via the old Cape Malay Quarter, for a walk through the Company Gardens, the fresh produce gardens for ships and locals from the mid-17th Century and today, home to the SA Museum, Cultural History Museum, Houses of Parliament, National Gallery and St George's Cathedral. Stroll through the city to Greenmarket Square to browse African mementos at its bustling market stalls. Drive to the Castle, the oldest building in South Africa with its collection of Old Cape paintings and take in the Grand Parade where Nelson Mandela addressed the nation on his release in 1990.

Our drive to the city center takes us past famous landmarks such as the Castle of Good Hope built in 1666 by the Dutch East India Company and City Hall, a baroque building and the Grand Parade. As we follow the city's main thoroughfare, Adderley Street, we will see St. George's Cathedral, the Anglican Diocese of Nobel Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu. We will pass the Company Gardens and the Malay Quarter [also known as the Bo-Kaap] which means "Above Cape" because of its location up against the slopes of Table Mountain. In the early 18th century, thousands of slaves from Java, Ceylon and other Far Eastern regions were brought to Cape Town. In the early 18th century; thousands of slaves from Java, Ceylon and other Far Eastern regions were brought to Cape Town.



After slavery was abolished, their descendants, known as the Cape Malay's, settled here. Our route then leads us to Kloof Nek and the magnificent Table Mountain. We'll ascend to the top [weather permitting] by the revolving cable car. Here, we'll see wild flowers and the famous silver tree, and marvel at a birds-eye view of the city and its beaches.

On a clear day it is even possible to see Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned on one side and Cape Point on the other. Descend from the Upper Cableway station to your awaiting vehicle and then proceed around Table Bay to the Milnerton area (time permitting). From here we can see Table Mountain from the same perspective as the early settlers did when they sailed into Table Bay. The tour terminates at your hotel or the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront.

Robben Island tour. Optional (extra cost)

This intriguing excursion begins at the Clock Tower, also known as the Nelson Mandela Gateway, in the V&A Waterfront, where you need to gather at least a half an hour before the ferry is scheduled to depart for Robben Island. The Island was a training and defence station in World War 2, and has also served as a place of banishment, isolation and imprisonment, which became world famous as the prison where Nelson Mandela was held for 18 years.



Today it is a World Heritage Site and museum which acts as a focal point of South African heritage.

It runs educational programmes for schools and facilitates tourism development - a poignant reminder of the price paid for freedom. As your ferry arrives at the Island, you are joined by a local guide, someone who spent time there during the Apartheid years and is thus able to give a personal and often moving account of the experience. You will also see the cell where Nelson Mandela spent a large part of his life. After a most interesting time of gleaning 'behind the scenes' history, the ferry takes you back to the V&A Waterfront. Please remember to have your tickets with you to gain access. Please ensure you report at least 45 minutes prior to boarding time with your ID/passports as a boarding form needs to be completed prior to boarding the ferry. Return to the hotel.

Please note: Please note that passports are required.

Welcome Dinner

This evening you are met by your local guide and driver for your Gold Restaurant Interactive drumming and dinner experience (DRINKS FOR OWN ACCOUNT). Gold Restaurant is often referred to as a taste safari and that's exactly what it is. This vibrant restaurant promises an evening of wining and dining in scintillating African style. The dinner begins with the drumbeat of the djembe drum and an interactive drum circle, and you will then be lead into a courtyard where you will ceremoniously wash your hands before the feast begins. This 14-course set menu is authentically Cape Malay and African cuisine, while you are entertained by live performances near your table. Gold restaurant inspires and immerses you into the spirit of Africa while you savor delicious cuisine. You will be returned to your hotel afterwards for the rest of the evening to be spent at leisure

Overnight: The Commodore Hotel

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 3: 16 October, 2024

Cape Town- Peninsula Tour

After breakfast at the hotel and you are met by your guide and driver for the Full Day Peninsula Tour. Depart from your hotel and travel via Green Point and Sea Point to Maidens Cove and then on to Hout Bay where there is a short stop. After we continue on our journey via Chapman's Peak to Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. You will visit Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope by way of funicular (*optional & for own account*) or on foot. The views from this point are spectacular.



After stop for lunch at a local Restaurant and afterwards we proceed to Boulders Beach to visit the Jackass Penguin Colony. return journey is via Simonstown, Fish Hoek and Muizenberg and on to the world famous Kirstenbosch Gardens – one of the world's greatest botanical gardens with over 5000 plant species in the gardens and hot houses. Visitors have plenty to do and see here, including a large gift shop, restaurants, and walks in and around the garden.

Continue to the hotel where your tour ends.

Overnight: The Commodore Hotel

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Day 4: 17 October, 2024
Cape Town – Winelands Tour

After breakfast at the hotel and you are met by your guide and driver for the Full Day Winelands Tour. Our day starts with a visit to Paarl where you will be struck by the beauty of the Valley, the pristine blue sky, the rolling vineyards and the Pearl of Paarl set high above the valley. Paarl made headlines when President Mandela was released from the Victor Verster prison, on the outskirts of the town, to freedom and the start of the new South Africa. We enjoy a wine tasting and cellar tour at one of the local estates. From Paarl, we will continue north-west to the beautiful village of Franschoek, near the Drakenstein Mountains founded in 1688 by French immigrants fleeing the Huguenot religious persecution in Europe. A memorial in the town commemorates the arrival of these early settlers who helped develop the wines sought after by Napoleon, Bismarck and royalty such as Edward VII, the Prince of Wales.



After enjoy lunch at local restaurant. (drinks at own account).

After, we will head to Stellenbosch, the second oldest town in South Africa and the historic heart of the country's wine region. In 1679, Dutch East India Company governor Simon van der Stel recognized the fertility of this long valley on the banks of the Eerste River, as perfect for vineyards. The rest is history, which has been carefully cultivated in this town. A gracious blend of 18th-century Cape Dutch, Georgian and Victorian buildings is evident on Dorp Street, where massive oaks still shade original water furrows. Next, we head to one of the well-known estates of the area for our final wine tasting. Return to Cape Town in the late afternoon for an evening at leisure. You can try one of the many restaurants located in the Waterfront District and within easy walking distance of the hotel.

Overnight: The Commodore Hotel

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Day 5: 18 October, 2024
Cape Town /Hoedspruit

After breakfast check out of the hotel and you will be transferred Cape Town Airport for your flight to Hoedspruit in the Northern Kruger National Park. On arrival at Hoedspruit Airport a driver from Shiduli Private Game Reserve will meet you and transfer you to the Camp and after you will check in and enjoy lunch. Shiduli is a private game Reserve located Against the backdrop of the grandiose Drakensberg Mountain Range. You have some free time to explore the camp or relax at the pool prior to your first game drive. In the late afternoon, depart on your first game drive. In Land Rovers, you will set off into the bush on an exciting safari accompanied by a professional game ranger. At sunset, your rangers will stop off in the bush, where you will have a chance to soak up the amazing silence and watch the sun sink into the dusty horizon. Continue on with the game drive after dark, using a powerful spotlight to point out nocturnal wildlife.



The chances are excellent that you will encounter lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, buffalo, cheetah and many other species of game in their natural habitat. The vehicles go off the road, when necessary, to afford you the best possible viewing. The safari continues on into the dark when spotlights are used to follow the game. As most of the predators are nocturnal, this is the best time for viewing especially as most hunting occurs at night. Return to the camp where you will have a chance to freshen up prior to having dinner in the dining room.

Overnight: Shiduli Game Lodge

Meals: Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Day 6: 19 October, 2024

Shiduli Private Game Reserve on Safari

Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives in the Shiduli Reserve accompanied by our skilled ranger and tracker as they do their best to find the animals of South Africa for you to admire. Expect a wakeup call at between 5:00am and 5:30am and gather for tea or coffee and rusks before heading out at first light. If you are lucky, the big cats will still be around after their night of hunting. This is Big 5 country (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Rhino and Buffalo) all of which are possible to see during a two-day safari in the Modi Game Reserve. There are also many other species to be seen, large and small, as well as fascinating plants and colorful birds. halfway through the morning game drive for hot drinks and rusks from the Land rover snack box and return for breakfast. During the rest of the day, you are likely to see wildlife like nyala antelope and vervet monkeys around the lodges.



In the evening, everybody convenes for high tea, before departing with the same ranger/tracker team for the day's second African bush safari. Enjoy a sundowner drink along the way and get out of the vehicle to stretch your legs and watch the sun go down over the distant Drakensberg Mountains. As darkness descends it's time to return to the safety of the Land rover and let the tracker scan the Landscape with a spotlight picking out the glinting eyes of nocturnal animals. Return to the lodge in the evening; where there is time to freshen up before dinner.

Overnight: Shiduli Game Lodge

Meals: Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Day 7: 20 October, 2024

Shiduli Private Game Reserve

Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives in the Shiduli Reserve.

Overnight: Shiduli Game Lodge

Meals: Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Day 8: 21 October, 2024

Game Reserve on Safari via the Panorama Route tour to Hazyview

Enjoy a final morning game drive followed by breakfast. After, check out of the Camp Once collected from your hotel embark on a day of exploring the mountainous escarpment of Mpumalanga that provides stunning views of the Lowveld. This wonderful tour includes sights such as God's Window with its spectacular views across the Lowveld, Bourke's Luck Potholes with its extraordinary rock formations, the Blyde River Canyon which is one of the deepest canyons in the World and the famous Three Rondavels. Enjoy a lunch stop in Graskop before visiting one of Sabie's waterfalls, either Lone Creek Falls or Bridal Veil Falls before heading back to your hotel through the town of Sabie.

Overnight: Hippo Hollow Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 9: 22 October, 2024

Mpumalanga /Victoria Falls

Enjoy breakfast, and you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Victoria Falls. On arrival at the airport our representative will meet you and assist you to your hotel located at the airport. After clearing customs and immigration you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Canadian passport holders are required to have a visa to enter Zimbabwe and the current fee is US \$75 per person (Payment has to be made in cash and this amount is subject to change).

Boma dinner

This evening you will be transferred to enjoy the spectacular Boma Dinner. This is not just another ethnic restaurant but a rather unique cultural experience. Excellent cuisine, including a variety of game meats and traditional Zimbabwean dishes, is accompanied by entertainment throughout your meal from traditional dancers, the Sangoma (story teller) and a local witchdoctor who is available for fortune telling. A feast of nightly entertainment incorporates Shangaan dancers and singers and a local witchdoctor.

Guests are welcomed with a traditional greeting in Shona and Ndebele, the local languages. They are invited to take part in a hand washing ceremony before sampling traditional beer and snacks, as a prelude to dinner. The highlight of the evening is the interactive drumming and dancing! After Dinner you will be transferred back to your hotel.

Overnight: Ilala Lodge

Meals: Breakfast & Boma Dinner

Day 10: 23 October 2024

Victoria Falls

After breakfast, you will be picked up for a guided tour of the Victoria Falls, known as Mosi-oa-Tunya "The Smoke That Thunders on your own. There is a magic about the Falls manifested in the towering column of spray when the river is high, the thunder of the falling water, the terrifying abyss and tranquil lagoons upstream in which hippo and deadly crocodiles lurk.

The Victoria Falls is 1708 meters wide, making it the largest curtain of water in the world. It drops between 90m and 107m into the Zambezi Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic metres of water plummet over the edge every minute. Remarkably preserved in its natural state, Victoria Falls inspires visitors as much today as it did David Livingstone in the 1860's. You will return to your hotel and the rest of the day is at leisure.



Later this afternoon you will be collected for your Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi River on the **Zambezi Explorer**, enjoy a cruise in the fading twilight hours, while sipping traditional cocktails and enjoying snacks. The Zambezi River is the 4th largest in Africa after the Nile, Zaire and Niger respectively. Its source is in North Western Zambia and flows approximately 2800km to its mouth in Mozambique into the warm Indian Ocean. It is a wide, attractive River dotted with islands and sandbanks and the stretch of River preceding the Falls is bordered on the Zimbabwean side by the Zambezi National Park.



After the Cruise you will be transferred back to your hotel.

Overnight: Ilala Lodge

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11: 24 October 2024

Victoria Falls – Chobe

After breakfast, you will be transferred by road to Botswana, 95 kms from Victoria Falls, a landlocked country with its unspoiled wildernesses and promise of adventure. Botswana is undoubtedly the home of the authentic safari, where the wildlife offers an unforgettable African experience. It is well known for its exclusive offerings of high calibre safari lodges that seamlessly blend luxury surroundings with a landscape of distinctive contrasts. Many of the regions within Botswana are considered iconic. It's no secret that Botswana is blessed with some of Africa's best reserves. The Chobe National Park has been dubbed, the 'Land of Giants' because it has the largest single concentration of elephants on the African continent. The magic of the Okavango Delta is famous for being the world's largest inland delta. Some parts are only



accessible by air; hence this area promises a pristine and remote African experience. The Moremi Game Reserve is a bird-watchers paradise and the stark, dramatic landscapes of the Kalahari Desert and the iconic Makgadikgadi Salt Pans promise an experience unlike any other.

Chobe Game Lodge is within the game-rich Chobe National Park and overlooks the Chobe River and Caprivi floodplains, it is the location of safari dreams. It is also the only permanent safari lodge in the park. You are spoilt for choice when it comes to game viewing in this wild part of Africa and the prized Big Five take center stage. The lodge features a large swimming pool, library, gym and beauty salon as well as the stylish Thwene cigar bar, with a billiards table. Meals are served on the restaurant terrace and after dinner, you can head to the stargazing deck.



This afternoon enjoy your game drive in the Chobe Game Lodge.

Overnight: Chobe Game Lodge

Meals: Lunch & Dinner

Day 12: 25 October 2024

Chobe National Park

This morning, disembark for a game drive in Chobe National Park, home of one of the densest populations of wildlife on the African continent. Encounter elephants, leopards, lions, gazelle and buffalo. Late this afternoon, venture out on a tender boat for close-up views of the wild animals gathering along the river. This evening, be our guest ashore at a delicious Boma dinner, where you will savor the distinct flavors of Africa. Afterwards, your guide will show you the African sky showing you magnificent planets and stars (*weather permitting*).

Overnight: Chobe Game Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 13: 26 October 2024

Kasane/Johannesburg/Home

This morning check out of the hotel after breakfast you will be transfer to the Kasane Airport for your departure flight to Johannesburg, on arrival you will connect with your flight home.

Overnight: Enroute

Meals: Breakfast

******END OF OUR SERVICES******

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Canadian Citizens do not require a visa to enter South Africa & Botswana
- All passports must be valid for at least 6 months after your return AND must have two blank pages side by side for South African immigration.

- A Visa is required for Zimbabwe and will be issued on arrival at a cost of USD75.00 per person for single entry (cost subject to change)
- Anti-malaria protection required.
- Contact your local health clinic to determine if any other inoculations are required.
- Comprehensive travel insurance is highly recommended.

Included in the tour cost:

- 4 nights at The Commodore Hotel in a Standard Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis
- Entrance Fees to Table Mountain (weather permitting)
- Entrance Fees to Cape Town City
- Welcome dinner at Gold Restaurant in Cape Town
- Entrance Fees to Chapman's Peak (weather permitting)
- Entrance Fees to Cape Of Good Hope
- Entrance Fees to Cape Point Funicular
- Lunch at Seaforth Restaurant
- Entrance Fees to Boulders Beach (Penguins)
- Entrance Fees to Kirstenbosch Gardens
- Entrance Fees to Full Day Winelands
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- 3 nights at Shiduli Lodge on a Fully Inclusive basis
- Entrance Fees to Conservation Fee
- 1 night at Hippo Hollow Hotel in a Standard Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis
- Entrance fees to sightseeing venues as stated in the itinerary above
- Porterage at airports and hotels (1 x standard piece of luggage per person)
- 2 nights at Ilala Lodge in a Standard Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis
- Guided Tour of the Falls
- Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi Explorer on the Signature deck
- Boma Dinner in Victoria Falls
- 2 nights at Chobe Game Lodge
- Local English-speaking driver on all transfers
- Local English-speaking driver/guide on all sightseeing excursions

Not included in the tour cost:

- **International & domestic airfare and related fees**
- Zimbabwe visa and visa fee
- Meals not mentioned above & all beverages (soft drinks, bottled water & alcohol) are not included.
- Gratuities to guides and drivers.
- Personal expenses like laundry, telephone calls, etc.
- Insurance
- Any item not listed under included

PRICE:(land only):10,450.00 per person Extended! Book & deposit by October 25th & save 250.00!
Single supplement is 2995.00 (4 available)

Plus 100.00+gst per person non-refundable booking fee

Non-refundable deposit: 750.00 per person at time of booking. A 2nd deposit of 500.00pp will be due January 2024. There will also be flights to purchase (domestic and international) later in 2023 or early 2024 (we will try to book as early as we can to get best pricing).