

Journey to Southern Africa



Itinerary

Air Program – 15 days/ 14 nights
(includes 2 air nights)

Land Program – 13 days/ 12 nights

Breakfasts – 12

Lunches – 9

Dinners – 7

Receptions – 1

B I L I R I D in the header of each day denotes
included breakfasts, lunches and dinner

A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

This **ACTIVE program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a **demanding daily schedule of physical activities**. The itinerary may feature **full days of ongoing activities**, including long game drives on rough roads. Excursions on this program require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches, boats and/or trains
- walking through train corridors whether the train is in motion or stopped
- climbing in and out of safari vehicles

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1

Depart gateway city

Depending on the air carrier and flight route selected, it may take one or two days to reach Cape Town. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: CPT.

Day 2

Cape Town, South Africa

R

Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town

If you are arriving at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg before flying onward to Cape Town, you must collect your baggage and proceed through immigration and customs before rechecking your bags and boarding your flight to Cape Town.

Arrive at Cape Town Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the arrivals hall, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you.

Transfer to the Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

The Mount Nelson is a Cape Town landmark located across the street from the Company's Garden. Built in 1652 by The Dutch East India Company, the garden provided fruit and vegetables for the Dutch ships that stopped here on their way to Asia. Today, it is a beautiful park lined with museums and historic buildings.

This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception.

Head out for dinner on your own this evening. In Cape Town, you will find a host of delicious and diverse food options. Your Travel Director will be available to offer suggestions.

Day 3

Cape Town

B | L

Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town

Cape Peninsula. Explore the Cape Peninsula and Cape Point Nature Reserve today. Delight in the pretty panoramas along Marine Drive, and pass the unique mountain landscape featuring Table Mountain and the Twelve Apostles. Admire the coastal scenery on the way to Cape Point, where you can take a funicular to the top for a spectacular view. On your return to Cape Town, visit Boulders Beach to see the African penguin colony. Stroll on the boardwalks that run through the penguins' protected area and observe daily life among the 3,000 birds that live here.

Stop at a restaurant on the Cape Peninsula for lunch.

Enrichment: South African History. Discover the events that have shaped modern South Africa: Dutch and British colonization, the introduction of Indonesian slaves, the plight of indigenous peoples and the discovery of rich lodes of minerals, gemstones and precious metals. Learn more about brutal apartheid rule, which oppressed the country's nonwhite citizens for most of the 20th century, and how democracy finally prevailed.

Enjoy another free evening in Cape Town.

Day 4

Cape Town

B

Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town

Robben Island. Head to the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, gateway to Robben Island. There, board a ferry, weather permitting, for a short ride to the island, home to the jail that held South Africa's most famous prisoner, Nelson Mandela. This is a very special experience to hear firsthand the poignant story of a former Robben Island prisoner, your guide through the prison buildings and grounds. After the tour, you will have an opportunity to ask your guide questions about his personal experiences. You'll also see the lime quarry where the prisoners worked and the village.

Free Time: At the V&A Waterfront, enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many restaurants. Browse through the shops, listen to the street musicians and admire the view of the harbor with Table Mountain in the distance.

Cape Town. Continue to discover the wonders and highlights of South Africa's Mother City. Begin your excursion with a drive past the Castle of Good Hope, the 17th-century star fort built to defend the Dutch trading settlement from English attack. See the Company's Garden district surrounded by the city's numerous world-class museums. If weather permits, take a cable car to the top of Table Mountain for spectacular views of the city and the Atlantic Ocean.

Afterward, stop by Greenmarket Square in the heart of the city. Built toward the end of the 17th century, the square originally was the site of a fruit and vegetable market where produce from the Company's Gardens and area farms was sold to provision the many ships that stopped in Cape Town. Later, slave markets were held in the square. In the mid-20th century, the square became a parking lot. By the 1980s, the market you see today was developing. It also was the site of protests against apartheid. In the early 2000s, the cobblestone square was turned into a pedestrian-only zone. Today, you can browse through the rows of stalls selling art, traditional handicrafts and jewelry from around Africa while being entertained by buskers and other street entertainers.

Dinner is at your leisure tonight.

Day 5

Skukuza | Kruger National Park

B I L I D

Leopard Sands, Kruger Park

Following breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport for your flight to Skukuza, your gateway to Kruger National Park. Upon arrival at Skukuza Airport, transfer to Leopard Sands, Kruger Park and check in.

Have lunch upon arrival at Leopard Sands.

After lunch, attend a church service at the lodge.

Introduction to Kruger National Park. This afternoon, get the lay of the African bushveld during your first game drive in Kruger National Park, home to myriad species of mammals, including the Big Five: lion, elephant, leopard, Cape buffalo and rhinoceros. Get to know your ranger, who will accompany you on each game drive. During your game drive, stop for refreshments and stretch your legs before resuming the hunt!

Return to the lodge for dinner and catch up on the day's adventures.

Day 6

Kruger National Park

B I L I D

Leopard Sands, Kruger Park

Each morning on safari starts with a wakeup call from your ranger at dawn.

Sunrise Safari. It may seem quiet as the sun starts its journey across the sky, but there is plenty of animal activity. Many of them are just waking up and preparing to search for breakfast! Others are winding down after a night on the prowl and looking for a place to sleep during the day. See how many of the Big Five you can spot this morning.

Return to the lodge for a hearty breakfast.

Free Time: Spend the rest of the morning and early afternoon at your leisure. Take a swim in the pool or relax with a book on your sunny deck. Enjoy lunch on your own at the lodge's restaurant.

Lecture: Join Dr. Peter Dry for a lecture.

Sunset Safari. Gain a different perspective as you see diurnal animals settling down for the evening and nocturnal animals beginning theirs. As the sun sets, stop for refreshments before continuing your drive.

Being on safari builds one's appetite! Return to the lodge and dig into a sumptuous dinner.

Day 7

Kruger National Park**B I L I D****Leopard Sands, Kruger Park**

Kruger at Dawn. Each game drive is a unique experience forged by the time of day, the weather and the locale. Your ranger is an expert in finding animals in the park. They know the thickets where giraffes nibble at the treetops, the open veld where zebra like to graze and much more.

Tuck into a delicious breakfast back at the lodge.

Free Time: Spend the rest of the morning at your leisure. Gather for conversation or lounge by the pool.

Trygive Community Center. Depart for Trygive Community Center and Organic Farm, enjoying a boxed lunch en route. Trygive is a partner of the Simunye Project US, a volunteer service program in which Principia School students have participated for more than 10 years. Through their partnership with Trygive, students have supported efforts to create sustainable change in underserved communities, including work with a permaculture garden that helps provide nutritious meals for more than 200 children each day. During your visit, tour the center, learn about its mission, meet the children and staff, and lend a hand with ongoing projects.

Enjoy dinner and an optional church service at the lodge.

Day 8

Mpumalunga | Johannesburg | Soweto**B I L****54 on Bath**

After breakfast, transfer to Kruger Mpumalunga International Airport for your flight to Johannesburg.

Upon arrival, depart for Soweto, the South Western Townships outside of Johannesburg, and enjoy a boxed lunch en route to Soweto.

Soweto. In Soweto, gain insights from Dr. Peter Dry as you tour the former home of Nelson Mandela, the political prisoner-turned-president. Continue to the Hector Pieterse Memorial Museum, named after 12-year-old Hector Pieterse, who was shot and killed by police during an anti-apartheid protest on June 16, 1976. The museum is dedicated to all the young South Africans killed in the Soweto Uprising, the series of youth-led protests against apartheid. The afternoon concludes at Tshepang, an after-school program for nearly 300 orphaned and vulnerable children. Tshepang provides daily meals, child welfare services, academic support, and a safe, nurturing environment after school. Founded by Susan Rammekwa, an award-winning leader in child welfare, the program has become a source of hope and stability for the children it serves. Learn about Tshepang's mission and the lasting impact it continues to have on both the local community and the many Principia students who have served there through the years. Enjoy meeting the children or helping with a hands-on project.

Continue to the Rosebank neighborhood in Johannesburg and check in to 54 on Bath.

Your Travel Director can help you choose a local restaurant for a delicious dinner.

Day 9

Pretoria | Zimbabwe**B I L I D****Rovos Rail**

This morning, check out of your hotel and drive to Pretoria to board Rovos Rail, one of the world's most luxurious trains.

Embark on your journey to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Settle into your suite and enjoy the ambience of a train journey recapturing the Golden Age of Travel.

Gather for an enticing lunch in the dining car.

Admire the passing countryside from the Observation Car and pass through the towns of Bela-Bela, also known as Warmbaths for the hot springs in the area, and Nylstroom, so named because Dutch settlers believed it was the source of the Nile River.

Later, enjoy a classic afternoon tea.

Before the dinner gong sounds, return to your cabin to change for dinner. Meals aboard Rovos Rail always are a treat!

Day 10

Zimbabwe**B I L I D****Rovos Rail**

Gather with your fellow adventurers for breakfast and journey through the small towns of Rutenga and Somabhula on your way to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city. Take in the scenes of daily life as you continue through the city.

Later, you may wish to visit the Lounge and Observation cars, where there are books and magazines, as well as board games.

Today's rail adventure includes lunch, afternoon tea in the Observation Car and a sumptuous dinner to bring the day to a memorable close.

This evening, the train reaches Mpopoma, where it stops overnight.

Day 11

Zimbabwe**B I L I D****Rovos Rail**

Start another beautiful morning with a hearty breakfast. Your train travels along 71 miles (114 kilometers) of straight railway track, one of the longest stretches of straight track in the world, and the eastern edge of Hwange National Park.

Hwange National Park. Disembark the train this afternoon at Kennedy Siding, and go for a game drive at The Hide, a private concession in Hwange National Park. This park, Zimbabwe's largest park and home to more than 100 mammal and 400 bird species, is known for its natural beauty. Visit one of the most popular watering holes to see some of the local residents!

Enjoy dinner on the train. Tonight, the train remains at Thompsons Junction.

Day 12

Victoria Falls

B

The Victoria Falls Hotel

Travel to Victoria Falls and disembark the train.

Victoria Falls. Until the 19th century, the Zambezi River's great cascade was called Mosi-oa-Tunya, or "the smoke that thunders," by the region's Kololo tribe. "Discovered" on November 16, 1855, by Dr. David Livingstone and renamed for England's queen, Victoria Falls is the planet's largest curtain of water — spanning more than a mile — as it crashes some 328 feet into the raging Batoka Gorge below. Twice the height of Niagara Falls, mighty Victoria Falls casts a veil of spray that can be seen up to 50 miles away!

Check in to The Victoria Falls Hotel

Free Time: Enjoy some time at leisure to get settled into your guest room and have lunch on your own.

Gather with your fellow travelers for a church service.

Dinner is at leisure tonight.

Day 13

Chobe National Park, Botswana | Victoria Falls

B I L I D

The Victoria Falls Hotel

Get an early start today and enjoy breakfast before heading out to explore Chobe National Park in nearby Botswana with your safari guide.

Chobe National Park. As the sun rises, watch the park spring to life. You never know what the day will bring. You may see a herd of buffalo lumbering to the water for a drink or beautiful sable antelope grazing on the floodplains. You may come across lions sprawled out and content after the hunt or see a leopard draped over a branch high in a tree. You will be amazed by the number of elephants who make their home here! You are likely to see several herds of elephants wandering the plains or stopping by the river for a drink or a bath. With a large bird population of more than 450 species, Chobe also is a spectacular destination for birdwatchers. If conditions permit, take a safari cruise on the Chobe River for game viewing from a perspective you just can't get on land. The Chobe River gives life to the many animals, birds and reptiles that call the park home. Watch elephants frolicking in the water, hippos swimming and birds swooping down to catch a fish. Enjoy lunch during your excursion.

Tonight, gather at the hotel for a festive Farewell Dinner, a sumptuous meal seasoned with tales of your wild animal sightings and other adventures.

Day 14

Victoria Falls | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, bid farewell to Victoria Falls.

All passengers will be transferred to Victoria Falls Airport for the included flight to O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg for your return flights home.

Your Travel Director will provide the details.

Important Information for Land Program Passengers: If you are booking your own international flights on this program, please note that your return itinerary should begin from Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport (JNB). Please contact your Travel Coordinator or see the Transfer Window details on your Reservation Confirmation for information about when your return flight should depart.

Day 15

In Transit

Arrive in your gateway city.