PRINCIPIA LIFELONG LEARNING
Engage. Travel. Learn.

Duration
14 days

Activity Level
Active Travel

Journey Type
Land
Rail

Journey to Southern Africa

September 1-15, 2027

Luxury Safaris, Rovos Rail & Cape Town | Starting from $11,545/pp

Are you ready for an exceptional adventure? Join us in Africa and experience the raw beauty, outstanding wildlife and unparalleled wonders of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswanna. Begin in vibrant Cape Town and trace a route to Robben Island, thundering Victoria Falls and fascinating towns with powerful history lessons. Traverse untamed landscapes on a bespoke train journey aboard Rovos Rail. Best of all? With expert guides leading the way, you will witness exotic animals roaming the lands of Africa's most incredible safari destinations. From majestic elephants to powerful lions, frolicking zebras to stocky rhinos, don't miss this unique opportunity to travel into the heart of Mother Nature and experience her splendors!

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Journey to Southern Africa

~ Luxury Safaris, Rovos Rail & Cape Town

Air Program: 14 days/13 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program: 13 days/12 nights

Breakfasts: 12 | Lunches: 9 | Dinners: 7

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

– This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

– 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 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 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 | In Transit

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

Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel

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. 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.

Day 3 | Cape Town | Cape Point

Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel

B | L

Cape Peninsula. Explore the highlights of the beautiful Cape Peninsula, including Cape Point Nature Reserve. Drive along the coast, taking in the pretty panoramas, crashing waves and rocky coastlines along Marine Drive. Pass by the unique mountain landscape featuring Table Mountain and the Twelve Apostles, which are 12 towering buttresses on the sea-facing side of the mountain. Upon arrival at Cape Point Nature Reserve, you can take a funicular to the top for spectacular 360-degree views or walk up the stairs if you wish. At the top, snap some photos at the white lighthouse and see the Cape of Good Hope in the distance. Travel down to the Cape of Good Hope, famous in maritime history for being the southernmost point in Africa. You may see bold baboons playing around the roadsides during your journey! On your return to Cape Town, visit Boulders Beach to watch adorable African penguins. Stroll on the boardwalks that run through the penguins' protected area and observe daily life among the 3,000 birds that live here.

Dig into lunch at a restaurant on the Cape Peninsula.

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.

Day 4 | Robben Island | Cape Town

Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel

B

Robben Island and Cape Town. At the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, the gateway to Robben Island, 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. Return to the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, a bustling working harbor, before discovering the wonders and highlights of South Africa's Mother City.

At the V&A Waterfront, enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many restaurants.

Continue your excursion with a drive by 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. Then, stop by Greenmarket Square, an outdoor market where local vendors sell handmade jewelry, crafts and more.

The evening is free to enjoy on your own.

Day 5 | Hoedspruit | Skukuza | Kruger National Park

Leopard Sands, Kruger Park

B | L | D

Following breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport for your flight to Skukuza. Upon arrival, transfer to Leopard Sands, Kruger Park, which is adjacent to iconic Kruger National Park.

Enjoy lunch on arrival, followed by a church service.

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.

Day 6 | Kruger National Park

Leopard Sands, Kruger Park

B | L | D

Each morning on safari starts with a wake-up call from your ranger at dawn. Meet on the deck for coffee and rusks before climbing into your safari vehicle. Rusks, a hard, sweet-like bread, are a typical breakfast snack here in South Africa and can be made with raisins, buttermilk, coconut and other tasty ingredients.

Sunrise Safari. It may seem quiet as the sun starts its journey across the sky, but there is plenty of animal activity to be noted. Many animals 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. You may see lions out on the prowl or stretching out for a nap in the tall grasses, zebras grazing with their young frolicking nearby and elephants ambling through the tree line.

Return to the lodge for a hearty breakfast.

Free Time: Spend the rest of the morning at your leisure. Visit the spa for a massage, take a swim in the pool or relax with a book on your sunny deck.

Enjoy lunch at the lodge.

After lunch, attend a lecture by Dr. Peter Dry.

Sunset Safari. Gain a different perspective as you see diurnal animals settling down for the evening and nocturnal animals beginning theirs. Other species include the brown hyena, aardwolf and striped hyena. As the sun sets, stop for refreshments.

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

Day 7 | Kruger National Park

Leopard Sands, Kruger Park

B | L | D

Kruger at Dawn. Every safari holds the potential for a surprise, and 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 on the reserve and knows the thickets where giraffes nibble at the treetops, the open veld where zebra like to graze and the waters where hippos submerge with just their noses, eyes and ears poking out.

Tuck into a delicious breakfast back at the lodge.

Free Time: The morning is at leisure. Gather for conversation, lounge by the pool or enjoy a spa treatment.

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.

Return to the lodge for dinner and an optional church service.

Day 8 | Mpumalunga Airport | Soweto | Johannesburg

54 on Bath

B | L

After breakfast, transfer to Mpumalunga International Airport for your flight to Johannesburg. Transfer to Soweto and enjoy a boxed lunch on the way.

Soweto. Visit the townships of Soweto. Gain insights from Dr. Peter Dry as you see the home of Nelson Mandela and visit the Hector Pieterson Memorial Museum. 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.

Check in to 54 on Bath in Johannesburg's Rosebank neighborhood.

Day 9 | Pretoria | Rovos Rail | Zimbabwe

Rovos Rail

B | L | D

This morning, depart for the train station in Pretoria to board Rovos Rail, one of the world's most luxurious trains, and embark on your journey to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

As the train heads north to Zimbabwe, settle into your suite, and enjoy the ambience of a train journey recapturing the Golden Age of Travel.

A gong calls you to lunch in the Dining Car. Enjoy a delicious meal as the train passes through Bela-Bela, the hot springs resort once known as Warmbaths, and Modimolle, a town once known as Nylstroom. Modimolle sits in the verdant bushveld, which owes its greenery to the Nyl (Nile) River.

Admire the passing countryside from the Observation Car, and enjoy a classic afternoon tea. Before the dinner gong sounds, return to your cabin to change for dinner.

Tonight, travel to Musina (formerly Messina) to cross the border into the Zimbabwean town of Beitbridge.

Day 10 | Zimbabwe

Rovos Rail

B | L | D

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. There are books and magazines, as well as board games, in the Lounge and Observation cars.

Today's rail adventure includes lunch, afternoon tea in the Observation Car and a sumptuous dinner.

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

Day 11 | Hwange National Park

Rovos Rail

B | L | D

Start another beautiful morning with a hearty breakfast and continue your journey as the train departs Mpopoma.

Gather for lunch as the 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 enjoy 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. Some animals that you may see today include elephants, giraffes, lions, wildebeests, sable antelopes, buffalo, spotted hyenas, aardvarks, elands, oryx and pangolins.

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

Day 12 | Victoria Falls

The Victoria Falls Hotel

B

Travel to Victoria Falls, disembark the train and 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.

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!

This afternoon, gather for a Principia church service.

Dinner is at leisure tonight.

Day 13 | Chobe National Park, Botswana

The Victoria Falls Hotel

B | L | D

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 is also 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 | Johannesburg | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, transfer to Victoria Falls Airport and fly to O.R. Tambo International Airport Johannesburg, where the Land Program ends. Connect to your return flight to your gateway city.

Day 15 | In Transit

Arrive in your gateway city.

What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- Visit 3 countries during this program.
- 3 nights in Cape Town, South Africa, at the Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel
- 3 nights near Kruger National Park at Leopard Sands, Kruger Park
- 1 night in Johannesburg at 54 on Bath
- 3 nights aboard the Rovos Rail
- 2 nights in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, at The Victoria Falls Hotel
- Academic insight from a Principia Lifelong Learning trip scholar
- Principia Lifelong Learning host
- Optional Christian Science church services
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 7 dinners.
- Welcome Reception and Farewell Dinner with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals.

On-site Features

- All transfers in the Land Program: flights, train and deluxe motor coaches with baggage handling.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of Cape Town and Soweto excursion guides and drivers.

FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Mount Nelson Hotel Cape Town

This historic, colonial-style hotel in central Cape Town is ideally located near the Company's Garden, museums and restaurants. Readers of Travel+Leisure magazine have named it one of the "World's Best City Hotels in Africa." Afternoon tea in the lounge is a Cape Town institution. The Planet Restaurant provides a fine-dining experience, and the Planet Bar provides a chic setting for afternoon refreshments. There are two outdoor pools, Librisa Spa and a gym. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

Tripadvisor

Rovos Rail

Journey through Africa aboard one of the most luxurious trains in the world, Rovos Rail's "Pride of Africa." You'll experience remarkable service and comfort in refurbished Edwardian-décor coaches appointed with the finest amenities, such as linen, silver and crystal. International chefs prepare fresh cuisine featuring locally sourced ingredients. Retire to your wood-paneled suite featuring large picture windows and en-suite bathroom facilities.

Victoria Falls Hotel

The Victoria Falls Hotel has a spectacular location beside Victoria Falls. Built in 1904 to house railway workers, “The Grand Old Lady of the Falls” features ambience, world-class service and tropical gardens. At Stanley’s Terrace and Jungle Junction eateries, both overlooking Victoria Falls Bridge, guests can feel the mist. Gather alfresco for refreshments poolside or dine in the grand Livingstone Room. Onsite amenities include a gift shop, fitness room, pool and spa. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

Tripadvisor

54 on Bath

This stylish hotel is set in the leafy Johannesburg suburb of Rosebank, just steps from fashionable restaurants and shops. Fine dining at the Level Four Restaurant offers world-class continental specialties with contemporary influences. Guests have complimentary access to a fitness center and a sparkling outdoor pool. Hotel connectivity features complimentary Wi-Fi, a 24-hour business center and complimentary use of the hotel’s iPads.

Tripadvisor

Leopard Sands

Nestled next to the Sabie River by world-famous Kruger National Park, deluxe Leopard Sands is the perfect base for your safari. Experience warm hospitality, savor delicious South African cuisine, and best of all, marvel at seeing African wildlife in the wild! When you're not out on exhilarating game drives, relax with a drink in the lounge or a swim in the pool. You can also enjoy a dip in your own plunge pool on your private balcony of your intimate, thatched-roof cottage. Your accommodations, tastefully decorated and comfortably appointed, are the perfect oasis after a day of game viewing.

Tripadvisor

Pricing

$500 Full Payment Discount expires April 4, 2027
$250 Special Savings expires November 24, 2026

Category/Deck	Base Price	Special Savings*	Full Payment Discount*	Special Price
A-Deluxe Suite	$12,745	**-$250**	**-$500**	$11,995
B-Pullman Suite	$11,545	**-$250**	**-$500**	$10,795

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; US government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. To view Program Terms and Conditions, close this window and scroll to the bottom of the page.

** Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.

Victoria Falls
Hwange National Park
Chobe
National Park
ZIMBABWE
BOTSWANA
Skukuza
Pretoria
Soweto
Kruger
National Park
Johannesburg
Atlantic Ocean
SOUTH AFRICA
Indian Ocean
Robben Island
Cape Town
Cape Peninsula