

BOOK BY AUG 30
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SOUTH AFRICA



SMALL GROUP
INCLUDES VICTORIA FALLS & CHOBE NATIONAL PARK
FEB 3-25, 2025 | 23 DAYS | 43 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: CATHY SEMLER

The stunning scenery and golden beaches of South Africa

Often described as “The World in One Country”, South Africa is blessed with a diversity of climate, geography, wildlife, and cultural heritage unmatched anywhere else. Each day, new and exciting vistas unfold before us: the rolling pasturelands of Mpumalanga, the lush greenery of the Garden Route, the bush with its endless varieties of game and bird life, miles of golden sand beaches, quaint country towns, modern thriving cities, and much more.

Over the past two decades, South Africa has undergone tremendous political and social changes, transitioning from a minority white rule and apartheid to a representative government. Today, the country lives in harmony with both nature and its people. We will have special opportunities to meet with and learn from different ethnic groups throughout our journey. As our previous departures to South Africa have filled extremely quickly, we urge you to enroll early.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE
LIMITED TO ONLY 20 MEMBERS



Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to South Africa on KLM Royal Dutch Airlines plus domestic flights within each country
- First class hotels and lodges as indicated or similar
- Extensive sightseeing throughout including all admissions plus more than five game drives
- Special opportunities to meet and share experiences with local South Africans during receptions and hosted meals
- 43 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 20 breakfasts, L - 11 lunches, D - 12 dinners)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Highlights

- Three nights in Cape Town, with tours of Good Hope, Table Mountain, and the surrounding wine districts
- Arid Little Karoo and Oudtshoorn, home of the ostrich
- Garden Route via Tsitsikamma Forest, Wilderness, Knysna, and Plettenberg Bay
- Homelands of the Zulu and the Kingdom of Swaziland with opportunities to see tribal activities
- Two nights in Kruger and three in Chobe National Park for the best game viewing and scenic drives in southern Africa
- Pretoria, the national capital, historic Soweto and bustling Johannesburg
- Victoria Falls, Africa’s most magnificent waterfall on the Zambesi River

Journey Leader

We are pleased to have **Cathy Semler** leading this exciting journey to South Africa. Cathy retired as a High School Principal after devoting 35 years to the teaching profession. She is a seasoned traveller who loves the opportunity to learn from new adventures. Her travels have taken her to Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, India, Costa Rica, Ireland, and various destinations throughout Europe.



She loves visiting iconic cities such as Paris, Amsterdam, and London, as well as hiking in the mountains and cruising to different countries. Cathy is looking forward to this next adventure with you.

FEB 3, Monday DEPART CANADA / AMSTERDAM

Tour members from across Canada gather to fly to Amsterdam before connecting to South Africa.

FEB 4, Tuesday AMSTERDAM / CAPE TOWN

After our late arrival in Cape Town, we will be transferred directly to our hotel in vibrant Bantry Bay on the slopes of Lion’s Head. **The President Hotel** (3 nights)

FEB 5, Wednesday CAPE TOWN

Our day begins with a cable car ride to the heights of Table Mountain (weather permitting). This unique landmark rises over 1,000 metres above the city and spreads horizontally across the skyline. Following a lunch at the waterfront, enjoy some leisure time exploring. BL

FEB 6, Thursday CAPE PENINSULA

Enjoy a guided walk through the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, a 528-hectare natural area set on the slopes of Table Mountain with over 10,000 different native flowers and plants. Following a lunch break, we will visit the

penguin colony at Boulders Beach. Delight in the magnificent scenery as we drive to Cape Point, on the tip of the Cape of Good Hope. Cap off the day with a delightful Welcome Dinner. BD

FEB 7, Friday

STELLENBOSCH / FRANSCHHOEK / MONTAGU

This morning we depart for the long established university town of Stellenbosch, with its oak-lined streets and stately mansions. The area was first settled in 1680, and many buildings here date from the late 18th century. Continue to Grand Provence Estate for a cellar tour, wine tasting and lunch. Explore Franschhoek, situated in a beautiful valley of its own, where we shall see the Huguenot Monument before we continue to Montagu.

Montagu Country Hotel (1 night) BL

FEB 8, Saturday

LITTLE KAROO / OUDTSHOORN

Our journey east follows the route of the early settlers over rolling farmlands and past spectacular scenery. Our travels will take us through Barrydale into the Little Karoo. Following lunch, we continue to De Krans Estate where we will enjoy a glass of port wine. We then head to our hotel in the historic town of Oudtshoorn, made wealthy by ostrich feather trading.

Survival Olive Estate (1 night) BL

FEB 9, Sunday

OUDTSHOORN / GARDEN ROUTE

This morning we shall explore the fascinating Cango Caves followed by a visit to an ostrich farm to learn more about these fascinating birds and to enjoy a lunch featuring its eggs and very lean meat. This afternoon we descend the Outeniqua Pass and drive through the Garden Route Lakes District to the resort centre of Knysna.

Protea Knysna Quays (2 nights) BL

FEB 10, Monday

GARDEN ROUTE

Enjoy a leisurely morning relaxing or exploring on your own (members can take a cruise on the Knysna Lagoon). Our afternoon is highlighted by a reception at Theodora Creche, hosted by the local community, followed by a visit to Birds of Eden. Enjoy a short nature walk on Robberg Nature Reserve followed by a glass of champagne. Later we will enjoy a delicious dinner at Drydock restaurant in Knysna waterfront. BD

FEB 11, Tuesday

PORT ELIZABETH / UMHLANGA

Departing early, we head east along the coast following the scenic route from Tsitsikamma to Port Elizabeth which is known for its sunshine and beautiful sandy beaches. From there, we fly to Durban, where we will overnight by the northern beaches.

Protea Hotel Umhlanga (1 night) BD

FEB 12, Wednesday

DURBAN / ZULULAND

Relax this morning with opportunities to stroll along the beach or join an optional early morning panoramic tour of Durban. Drive through Zululand to Lake St. Lucia, an area renowned for its exceptional birdlife, where we will embark on a cruise. Continue into the land of the Zulu and our delightful country inn. **Ghost Mountain Inn** (2 nights) BLD

FEB 13, Thursday

MKUZE GAME RESERVE

This morning we are taken on our first game drive, exploring the Mkuze Game Reserve in open 4x4 vehicles,



Aerial views of Cape Town



Adorable penguins in Boulders Beach



Breathtaking views of Blyde River Canyon

with opportunities to see a wide variety of game. This afternoon we can relax at our resort or join an optional excursion to explore the mountainous countryside of the traditional Zulu homelands, highlighted by a visit to a Zulu compound where we will be introduced to their unique lifestyle. This evening, weather permitting, we are treated to a BBQ dinner and a presentation of Zulu war dances.

BD

FEB 14, Friday

SWAZILAND

Our morning drive takes us to neighbouring Eswatini, an independent kingdom. We follow the Ezulwini Valley, known as the 'Place of Heaven,' to the capital, Mbabane. Lunch will be in the Ezulwini Valley. Along the way, we will visit the Swazi Market, Swazi Candle Factory, and a craft centre.

Piggs Peak Hotel (1 night) BL

FEB 15, Saturday

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy spectacular scenery as we drive over Piggs Peak and enter eastern Mpumalanga en route to Kruger National Park. Enjoy game viewing from our coach as we drive across the park. **Perry Bridge Hollow** (2 nights) BD

FEB 16, Sunday

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a full day game drive through the heart of Kruger National Park in open game-viewing vehicles. Keep an eye out for sightings of the "Big Five" which includes elephants, buffalos, rhinos, lions and leopards. This evening, relax in our delightful lodge. BD

FEB 17, Monday

BLYDE RIVER CANYON / NELSPRUIT

We will take a scenic driving tour from the plains of Kruger to the Highveld, following its crest for magnificent views of the Blyde River Canyon and God's Window. Enjoy the stunning scenery along the escarpment before we continue to our hotel. **Protea Nelspruit Hotel** (1 night). BD

FEB 18, Tuesday

PRETORIA / ROSEBANK

Today we travel to Pretoria crossing the rolling farmlands of the Highveld. Pretoria is the picturesque capital of South Africa. Explore this gracious city known for its broad avenues bordered by flowering trees and its impressive public buildings and monuments.

Fire & Ice Melrose Arch (2 nights) BL

FEB 19, Wednesday

JOHANNESBURG / SOWETO

Enjoy a morning drive through Johannesburg, a city created from the wealth of gold and diamonds, before a visit to the engaging Apartheid Museum. We enjoy a special lunch at *Chez Alina* before heading off to explore the township of Soweto, home of Bishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. BL

FEB 20, Thursday

SOWETO / VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

Our flight today brings us to Victoria Falls. Discovered by David Livingstone in 1855, the falls are this region's most spectacular natural sight. Enjoy a guided walk along the falls. Weather permitting, there will also be an optional helicopter ride. At 353 feet high and over a mile wide, they are the largest in Africa. Enjoy the sights of the main falls, Devil's Cataract and Danger Point.

Victoria Falls Hotel (1 night) BD

FEB 21, Friday

CHOBE, BOTSWANA

This morning we drive across the border and into the north of Botswana and the gateway to Chobe National Park. Home to superb game viewing, Chobe covers over 11,000 sq. kilometres and has a large variety of wildlife including large herds of buffalo and elephant plus hippos and lions. Enjoy free time to relax by the pool and appreciate a dinner under the stars accompanied by the unique sounds of Africa. **Chobe Game Lodge** (3 nights) BLD

FEB 22, Saturday

CHOBE

Enjoy a full day in the park with morning and afternoon excursions in open land rovers and by boat to view the game that frequent the fertile flood plains of the Zambesi. A highlight of our stay will be the visit by boat to the natural hippo pool, a short distance from the lodge. BLD

FEB 23, Sunday

CHOBE

We continue our exploration of Chobe's spectacular landscape with another day dedicated to discovering its rich wildlife and pristine ecosystems. BLD

FEB 24, Monday

KASANE / CANADA

Relax and enjoy the amenities of our beautiful resort or join an early morning game drive before checking out after breakfast. Later today we catch our return flights to Canada. B

FEB 25, Tuesday

CANADA

On arrival in Toronto, we catch our continuing flights to our homes across Canada.



**Book by August 30, 2024
and save \$200 per person**



CT Rating 3/5 - Moderately Challenging: While relatively easy, this journey features long flights, a number of walks over uneven ground (some with steps) and some hot humid days. Members should be physically active to fully enjoy this tour. Hotels are comfortable, roads are good and the food is excellent throughout the region.

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land only* (Join/Leave at hotel)	\$10,215
Toronto	\$12,995
Montreal / Ottawa	\$13,195
Halifax / St. John's / Moncton / Winnipeg	\$13,355
Regina / Saskatoon	\$13,455
Calgary / Edmonton	\$13,355
Vancouver / Victoria	\$13,455
Single Supplement	\$3,295

***Land only price excludes all flights and airport transfers.** Land only join at the Cape Town hotel/ leave at the Chobe Lodge. International and internal flights are only included if booking air-inclusive. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a group of 15 travellers plus one group escort and on rates, taxes and fees effective May 2024 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 15 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due on September 24, 2024

Deposit is \$800 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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