





SOUTH AFRICAN EXPLORER

17 Days

Fully Escorted

5 – 21 August 2023

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cape Town & Signal Hill
- Boulders Beach
- Garden Route
- Meerkat Tour & Safari Ostrich Farm
- Featherbed Nature Reserve
- Zululand
- Ubizane Wildlife Reserve
- Kruger National Park and the Big 5
- Bourke's Luck Potholes

INCLUDES:

- Economy class airfares including taxes*
- **Private single rooms** in quality accommodation
- **Meals** as per itinerary [14 Breakfasts/ 4 Lunches/ 13 Dinners]
- **Sightseeing** tours and transfers as per itinerary
- **Tour Host** – travels with group from/to Brisbane
- Local English speaking Tour Director and Driver

EXCLUDES:

- Tipping & Gratuities: **Please allow approx. \$200 for local guides & drivers**
- Victoria Falls Extension Package
- Travel Insurance
- Any meals, tours, flights, excursions or transfers other than mentioned above or in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature i.e. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Visas (for non-Australian passport holders)

From \$10,796* per person

Terms and Conditions apply. Tour requires minimum number of passengers in order to depart. Economy class airfare with Singapore Airlines.

*Taxes included to the value of \$250.00. Tour host departs from Brisbane. Solo Connections reserves the right to amend all hotels, airlines, restaurants and tours for an equal substitute at any time. Beverages, additional meals, hotel mini bars, laundry, phone calls, any items of personal nature not included. Tours subject to availability. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 996



Saturday, 05 August – Sunday 06 August 2023
Brisbane – Cape Town via Singapore & Johannesburg

D

Today we will meet our tour host and fellow travellers at Brisbane International Airport for our flights to Cape Town.

On arrival Sunday morning at Cape Town International Airport we will be met by our tour director who will accompany us to the awaiting vehicle to take us to our hotel. Our rooms may not be available upon arrival so we will leave our bags and take a walk.

There will be plenty of time to relax before we join together for our **Welcome Dinner** at the hotel restaurant.

Hotel – Premier Hotel Cape Town or similar (3 Nights)

Monday, 07 August 2023
Cape Town

B-D

After breakfast we will commence a **Half Day City tour**.

Today we explore South Africa's exciting "Mother City" with a guided tour of the historical and cultural sights of Cape Town. Step into the rich history of the city whilst passing places of interest such as the impressive Castle of Good Hope and Cape Town City Hall. We will tour the cosmopolitan centre of the city passing through the colourful Malay quarter, known as the Bo-Kaap, and visiting the Company Gardens.

****Due to annual maintenance being carried out we may be unable to visit Table Mountain during our tour and if this is the case we will instead be taken to Signal Hill, known for the Noon Gun that is operated there by the South African Navy and South African Astronomical Observatory.**

We make a stop for lunch, (own expense), before commencing a half day **Cape Point Tour**. The famous **Cape of Good Hope** nature reserve, a World Heritage site, is set at the end of Cape Town's south peninsula. Take a trip via funicular to the lighthouse at 286 metres above sea level (built to warn ships they are approaching the feared "Cape of Storms"). Visiting **Boulders Beach**, the home of an endangered land-based colony of African penguins, is also a favourite beach and swimming destination for locals and visitors.

Returning to the hotel, we'll have time to freshen up before venture to the **V & A Waterfront** for dinner in a local restaurant.

Tuesday, 08 August 2023
Cape Town

B-D

Today is a full day at leisure. After breakfast take some time to relax or shop for souvenirs along the waterfront. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone would like company or needs assistance.

Tonight we will enjoy vibrant, eclectic Pan-African experience at **GOLD Restaurant**. It offers a night of opulent feasting with a unique bouquet of live entertainment in a mystical African setting of trees and tents in an inner city courtyard steeped in ancient history and GOLD.



Wednesday, 09 August 2023
Cape Town - Oudtshoorn

B-D

After an early breakfast, we depart Cape Town and begin our 430km journey along the **Garden Route** to **Oudtshoorn**.

Sit back, relax and enjoy the stunning scenery through one of South Africa's most popular holiday destinations. We will have a stop for lunch (*cost not included*) and time to stretch our legs.

Upon arrival at the hotel, we will have time to freshen up before we go out and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Hotel – Queens Hotel or similar (1 night)

Thursday, 10 August 2023
Oudtshoorn - Knysna

B-D

This morning we will depart very early and take with us a packed breakfast as we are spending the morning viewing **Meerkats** with an **Adventure Tour**!

As the African sun rises the Meerkats come out of their burrows, soak up the first rays and then start their days of foraging and frolicking. The Meerkats are never fed or handled by humans and guests will be given a cup of coffee and a chair to sit and observe these curious creatures.

Later, before we depart Oudtshoorn, we will visit the **Safari Ostrich Farm** - home to the quirky ostrich, including the Kenyan Red and Zimbabwe Blue species. A guided tour of the farm allows us to view the birds, watch chicks hatching in season or footage out of season, and to stand on ostrich eggs.

Then we drive to the quaint town of Knysna where we will check into our hotel and then be taken out for dinner at a local restaurant on the Knysna Waterfront.

Hotel – Graywood Hotel or similar (2 nights)

Friday, 11 August 2023
Knysna

B-L

After breakfast we will have some time at leisure before we take the ferry to the famous **Featherbed Nature Reserve**.

There is abundance of plant, bird and small wildlife, including the rare Blue duiker, and a variety of marine life from dolphins to seals and in season, whales. Once ashore, the 2.2 km trail winds its way through Milkwood Forests up to steep sandstone cliffs overlooking the wild Atlantic Ocean. On completion of the trail we will head to the restaurant set on the edge of the lagoon for a buffet lunch.

We return late afternoon and have the evening at leisure. Our tour host will be on hand for assistance.



Saturday, 12 August 2023
Kynsna – Durban via Port Elizabeth

B-D

After breakfast we check out and travel to Port Elizabeth for our afternoon flight to Durban.

We arrive in **Port Elizabeth** and enjoy lunch (own expense) before we depart on our flight to Durban. Port Elizabeth or PE is known as the Friendly City and the Windy City and hopefully we will get a chance to experience the former and not the latter. Port Elizabeth was established to accommodate British settlers who were bought out on a government sponsored programme to provide a buffer between the warring Cape Dutch and the Xhosa.

Upon arrival at King Shaka International Airport we will be met and transferred to our hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure. Early evening we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant on the Durban Esplanade.

Hotel – Garden Court Marine Parade or similar (1 night)

Sunday, 13 August 2023
Durban - Hluhluwe

B-L-D

This morning we will meet for breakfast before we are taken to a traditional village to enjoy a **cultural show at Dumazulu**. Dumazulu ('Thundering Zulu') Lodge is located alongside a traditional village in the Hluhluwe area of Zululand. A visit to the village allows rich insights into the traditional ways of the Zulu nation. We can expect to get the blood racing with a traditional dancing show accompanied by tribal drumbeats. Enjoy a taste of traditional Zulu beer and learn about a variety of indigenous skills. These range from spear and shield making to basket weaving, beadwork, pot making and more.

We then make our way to our lodge to check in and then enjoy dinner.

Hotel – Anew Hotel Hluhluwe & Safaris or similar (2 Nights)

Monday, 14 August 2023
Hluhluwe

B-D

After breakfast we venture out on a **3 hour game drive** in an open 4 x 4 game vehicle.

The Hluhluwe region is famous for its abundance of wildlife, in particular the white rhino. Game drives are done with a trained driver and experienced guide. Hluhluwe is the oldest game reserve in the country and internationally renowned for its campaign to save the white rhino from extinction. The 96-000ha reserve is home to the Big 5 and a multitude of other species including a vast array of bird species. The diverse eco-systems surrounding the reserve contribute to this abundance of wildlife; eco-systems include the St. Lucia Wetlands, Kosi Bay and bushveld. A spectacular destination and the game drive allows guests to gain insight into the eco-systems and get up close to the diversity of wildlife that live here.

The afternoon is at leisure and we will meet and enjoy dinner at the lodge this evening.



Tuesday, 15 August 2023
Hluhluwe - Swaziland

B-D

This morning after breakfast we journey into **Swaziland**.

Upon arrival and after check in at our hotel we will enjoy an afternoon of leisure. You may like to enjoy a swim in the pool or just relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities.

Tonight we will enjoy dinner together.

Hotel – Happy Valley Hotel Ezulwini or similar (1 night)

Wednesday, 16 August 2023
Swaziland – Kruger National Park

B-D

Today after breakfast we travel into the Kruger region to our accommodation.

Located in the Greater Kruger Conservancy, right at the Paul Kruger Gate and on the banks of the iconic Sabie River this lodge-style hotel, famed for its soaring wooden walkways and treetop ambiance, uniquely offers classic Big 5 safaris in the Kruger National Park of which we will get to enjoy.

Upon arrival there will be time to freshen up before we join together for dinner.

Hotel – Kruger Gate Hotel or similar (3 nights)

Thursday, 17 August 2023
Kruger National Park

B-L-D

Enjoy breakfast this morning before we have a full day out in the Kruger region, including lunch.

We drive through South Africa's **Kruger National Park**, world-renowned for the impressive number of species it hosts as well as the diversity of landscapes within its nearly 2 million hectares and its heritage offerings from San rock art to archaeological sites.

The Kruger National Park was founded in 1898 by Paul Kruger to protect the region's unique fauna and flora. It encompasses an area of almost 2 million hectares and shares borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The ideal season to observe the game is during South Africa's winter months (May to September), as the climate is moderate and the landscape dry and bleak. When the first rains fall in November the natural bush, fauna and flora flourish. During summer most of the young animals are born.

The Kruger National Park is widely renowned for its astonishing variety in Wildlife. Besides the "Big 5" (elephant, rhinoceros, lion, leopard and buffalo) visitors may also encounter giraffes, zebras, and a variety of antelope, warthogs and multiple bird species.

Tonight we will meet for dinner at the hotel.



Friday, 18 August 2023
Kruger National Park

B-L-D

Today we will enjoy another full day safari adventure in our open vehicles within the Kruger National Park.
In the evening we will meet for dinner at the hotel

Saturday, 19 August 2023
Kruger Region - Johannesburg

B-D

Today we depart the Kruger region after breakfast and drive the scenic **Panorama Route** making a stop at **Bourkes Luck Potholes**.

Bourke's Luck Potholes were named after the gold digger, Tom Burke, who predicted that gold would be found in the area but never realised the rewards of his prediction. This natural water feature with its cylindrical rock sculptures amid eddies of white, yellow and dark brown water is a popular destination in the region. The massive potholes were formed by waterborne sand and rock grinding together propelled by the force of the Treur river water as it enters the Blyde River. It is a 700m walk from the Visitor's Centre to Bourke's Luck Potholes and it is worth lingering awhile at the centre to learn about the natural and socio-historical features of the region.

Arriving into **Johannesburg**, we are taken to our hotel where we'll freshen up before meeting for our **Farewell Dinner**.

Hotel – Garden Court Sandton City or similar (1 night)

Sunday, 20 August – Monday 21 August 2023
Johannesburg – Brisbane via Singapore

B

After breakfast and checking out this morning it is time to farewell this amazing country. We will be transferred to Johannesburg Airport in time for our flight and return home with incredible memories.



EXTENSION – VICTORIA FALLS & JOHANNESBURG

ADDITIONAL \$2,986.00 PER PERSON**

****Extension price doesn't include change fees imposed by Singapore Airlines for changes of return international flight dates and subject to availability.**

20 – 25 AUGUST 2023

Economy Class Flights from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls
Return Airport Transfers in Victoria Falls
3 nights accommodation at Elephant Hills Resort with Breakfast
Sunset Cruise including Dinner
Guided Falls Tour & Boma Dinner
Chobe Day Trip with Cruise & Lunch
1 night accommodation at Garden Court or Tambo Airport with Breakfast

**Sunday, 20 August 2023
Johannesburg – Victoria Falls**

B-D

This morning after breakfast you will be transferred to Johannesburg Airport for your flight to Victoria Falls.

Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

There is time to relax before embarking on a Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi River followed by a delicious three-course Jetty Dinner.

Hotel – Elephant Hills Resort or similar (3 nights)



Monday, 21 August 2023
Victoria Falls

B -D

Enjoy breakfast this morning before taking Guided Tour of the Falls.

The tour take you to the best view points of this iconic waterfall, one of the seven wonders of the world, allowing you to soak up the powerful and enigmatic atmosphere of Victoria Falls.

This evening indulge in both a cultural and culinary experience at the boma dinner. Enjoy a range of traditional Zimbabwean dishes complemented by a delicious barbeque buffet. A traditional story teller adds that extra element of intrigue and drama to the evening.

Tuesday, 22 August 2023
Victoria Falls

B -L

Today, after breakfast, an exciting day trip is ahead as you travel over the border into Botswana for a chance to explore one of Africa's greatest wildlife destinations, the Chobe National Park.

The day is spent cruising down the life-giving Chobe River on the look-out for the diverse range of animals that make their way down to the river to drink as well as passing by river inhabitants – the crocodiles and hippo. A fantastic destination for all wildlife lovers, photographers and birders, this experience continues with a fabulous lunch at a lodge on the river's edge before heading back into the national park in safari vehicles for even more game viewing and finally the transfer back to your lodge

Wednesday, 23 August 2023
Victoria Falls - Johannesburg

B

Enjoy breakfast this morning before checking out and being transferred to Victoria Falls Airport for your flight to Johannesburg.

Upon arrival you will be transferred via the hotel's shuttle to your accommodation for the night.

Hotel – Garden Court OR Tambo Airport Hotel or similar (1 night)

Thursday, 24 August - Friday, 25 August 2023
Johannesburg – Brisbane via Singapore

B

After breakfast and checking out you will be transferred to Johannesburg Airport in time for your flight.