



## **SOUTH AFRICAN PATCHWORK**

**17 DAYS / 16 NIGHTS /43 MEALS**

### **ITINERARY**

#### **DAY 1 CAPE TOWN**

Upon arrival you will be met and transfer to your hotel. The other fellow traveler and your guide will join you tomorrow.

Accommodation: Premier Hotel Cape Manor or similar for 4 nights

#### **DAY 2 CAPE TOWN**

Breakfast. **Meeting with your guide in the hotel lobby at 12h30.** Orientation tour of Cape Town. With a distinct flavour of its own, influenced by the cultural melting pot of Indonesian, French, Dutch, British and German settlers who each indelibly stamped their mark upon the foundations of the city, Cape Town is one of the most beautiful metropolises in the world today. The inner city is an eclectic mix of architectural styles that combine the past with the present in a mishmash of high-rise office blocks, Edwardian and Victorian buildings and narrow, cobblestone streets that give rise to fine examples of Cape Dutch design. It is also home to a blend of corporate and independent businesses that lend it a striking aliveness. During the tour you will pass by the Castle of Good Hope - this pentagon-shaped fort is the oldest surviving building in South Africa, Cape Town's City Hall, built in 1905, overlooking the Grand Parade, and The Company's Garden - a large public park, originally Jan van Riebeeck's vegetable garden, which he grew to feed the original colony as early as 1652. The orientation tour of this beautiful city introduces you to a rich culture and history. Delight in Cape Town's city sights from Signal Hill. This prominent Cape Town landmark is named for its original use, the practice of flying signal flags to communicate with passing ships. Its peaks provide breathtaking views across Table Bay harbour, the City Bowl and the Atlantic Ocean and the 350-metre high hill is a favourite destination for sundowners. Signal Hill lies adjacent to Lions Head, forming the 'rump' of the lion and is also the location from which the historic Noon Gun is fired. The guns were once used in combat and as a time signal for ships anchored in the harbour. Today this age-old tradition continues as they are fired at midday every day except Sundays and

public holidays. By night Signal Hill becomes one of the most popular spots for romantic rendezvous as amorous couples make their way up the hill for sundowners and stunning views of the city at night. In summer this is also an excellent vantage spot from which to admire the floodlights that illuminate the steep embankments of Table Mountain. Dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)

### **DAY 3 CAPE TOWN**

Breakfast. Boat cruise from Hout Bay Harbour to Duiker Island. The island is a sanctuary for thousands of Cape Fur seals (actually sea lions originating from the Antarctic) as well as a variety of seabirds including gannets, cormorants and sea gulls. It is illegal to land on the island, but the trip takes you within arm's reach of the seals who seem to know they're the centre of attention and put up a fantastic performance, diving and twisting with amazing speed and agility (weather permitting). Drive along Cape Town's most scenic road: Chapman's Peak Drive. Hacked out of the face of the mountain between 1915 and 1922, Chapman's Peak connects Hout Bay with Noordhoek along one of the most dramatic marine routes in the world that hugs the coast of the Atlantic Seaboard for nine kilometres. Reopened to the public in 2003 after major safety works were completed, Chapman's Peak Drive climbs steadily from the harbour of Hout Bay, skirting 114 curves to follow the rocky coastline presenting some truly magnificent views of the sandy bays below. The combination of steep, almost thrilling rocky inclines, shimmering blue waters and expansive skies simply take the breath away. Visit the Cape of Good Hope Nature reserve: It is recognized globally for its extraordinary land formation, rich and diverse fauna and unique flora. The legendary Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope, were key beacons for the early explorers and are the source of many myths and legends. In 1488, Bartholomew Dias named the Peninsula the Cape of Storms. King John II of Portugal later gave it its actual name. The Cape of Good Hope is a scenic wonder, where soft white sandy beaches alternate with rugged stretches of rock and breathtaking cliffs. The mingling of the icy Atlantic Ocean with the warmer Indian Ocean results in a unique coastal environment and one of the most productive marine zones worldwide. Lunch. Visit the jackass penguins at Boulder's Beach. This small piece of the coastline has become a haven for these birds and is one of the few remaining places where they are still able to roost without threat from human interference. Here you will be able to view these birds up close whilst not interfering with their natural habitat. Discover Cape flora of every variety at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. Delve into the immense wealth of biodiversity as you explore the Fragrance Garden, Medicinal Garden and Water Wise Garden. Focal points at Kirstenbosch include the Peninsula Garden, containing many of the 2 500 plant species found on the Cape Peninsula, and the Protea Garden with numerous displays of the king protea, South Africa's national flower. The gardens were established in 1913 to promote, conserve and display the extraordinarily rich and diverse flora of southern Africa and today there are over 7 000 species in cultivation. Kirstenbosch is a World Heritage Site, covering 36 hectares set within a 528 hectare estate that contains protected mountainside supporting natural forest and fynbos along with a variety of animals and birds. Take your time to explore the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. The V&A Waterfront is situated on South Africa's oldest working harbour in the centre of Cape Town and offers over 450 retail outlets selling everything from high-end fashion and jewellery to food and crafts. It is one of Cape Town's most popular destinations, attracting in excess of 23 million visitors a year. Besides offering vibrant and chic indoor and outdoor shopping and restaurants there is the added bonus of watching fishing boats dock with fresh fish or see a container ship being towed into the harbour by a tug boat. Draw- bridges over the water open and close every so often to allow smaller sailing vessels access to the docks, while the Cape Wheel gives unsurpassed 360 degree views of the city, and the outdoor amphitheatre plays host to music, dance and theatrical performances throughout the year. There is also a variety of other activities on offer ranging from historical walking tours to air charters and kids clubs. Dinner at Balducci Restaurant. (B/L/D)

## DAY 4 CAPE TOWN

Wander through the oak-lined streets of Stellenbosch. Lying at the foot of the Simonsberg mountains and within the grandiose Cape Winelands, Stellenbosch is internationally renowned for its award-winning wines, fantastic restaurants, trendy culture and historic buildings. The town is the perfect place to explore on foot with its many side-walk cafes and buzzy student vibe, owing to the large and prestigious university that is an icon of Stellenbosch culture. Many leading wine estates are found here including Spier, Tokara and Delheim, as well as some of the country's best restaurants where dining can be an informal al fresco affair or something more elegant and black tie. Art lovers can explore the copious galleries while outdoor enthusiasts have plenty of nature activities available to them at Jonkershoek. Rickety Bridge Winery lies on the slopes of the Franschhoek mountains. The property overlooks the vineyards and the majestic Wemmershoek mountain range. The estate celebrated its 200th anniversary in 1997 and its winemaking history dates back to the 17th century, when the land was granted to the widow Paulina De Villiers. It is well known for its tradition of winemaking, the wine tasting will introduce you to 5 of the estates wines, and you will also be briefed on the methods of wine making. Lunch. Orientation tour of the French corner of the Cape. Franschhoek lies in one of the most beautiful wine valleys in the world, just 45 minutes from Cape Town and within half an hour's drive of the Stellenbosch, Paarl, Wellington and Somerset West wine routes. Originally known as the Valley of the Huguenots, a community of French Huguenots were granted land in this valley by the Dutch government of the Cape, after fleeing their homeland when Protestantism was outlawed in France in 1685. Today, many of the wine farms still bear their original French names and most of these farms have beautiful examples of Cape Dutch architecture. Dinner at Gold Restaurant. A vibrant and eclectic Pan-African experience. One night of opulent feasting with a unique bouquet of live entertainment. While you enjoy the vast variety of Cape Malay and African Cuisine dishes, you will be captivated by the live extravaganza taking place around you. (B/L/D)

## DAY 5 CAPE TOWN · OUDTSHOORN

Breakfast. Travel to Swellendam. familiarise yourself with the history and sights of Swellendam. This agricultural town lies midway between Cape Town and George. It is noted for its large number of provincial heritage sites and holds many fine examples of Cape Dutch architecture. The town is surrounded by the Langeberg Mountains, among the most beautiful in South Africa, and rests adjacent to the Breede River, the largest navigable river in the Western Cape. The colourful town is full of art, music and good food with a multitude of restaurants to choose from, dishing up everything from traditional South African fare to home baking. Travel to Mossel Bay. Trace the beginnings of the South African postal system at the Post Office Tree, located within the Diaz Museum Complex in Mossel Bay. History documents that early Portuguese explorers hung an old boot in this large milkwood tree in order to leave letters for others who came ashore. Thus a tradition was born, where sailors bound for the East left messages and packets for others making their way back to Portugal. The Post Office Tree is still operational to this day and letters can be posted in the boot-shaped post box at the foot of the tree. Why not give a loved one back home a treat and send them a letter from the oldest existing postal tree in southern Africa. The tree is over 500 years old and has been declared a heritage site. Lunch. Visit to the Safari Ostrich Show Farm just outside Oudtshoorn. Situated in the Klein Karoo, Oudtshoorn provides the perfect vegetation and climatic conditions for breeding and rearing ostriches. During your tour on this working farm you will see large flocks of ostriches, from chicks to young adults, to mature breeding birds. Begin in the breeding camp to uncover the rustic ostrich nests and get the opportunity to test the strength of the eggs by standing on them! If breeding season is in full swing, your tour will also include a fascinating investigation of the incubation process and hatchery. Newly born chicks are surprisingly soft and fluffy and kept in the incubators for a few days before being taken out into special 'nursery' camps. Try your hand at sitting on an ostrich and the more adventurous can even ride one. Your tour will also include a visit to Welgeluk, the ostrich palace that was built in 1910 at the height of the feather boom and is now a national

monument. End this informative and fun excursion watching an ostrich derby where the local jockeys display their ostrich riding skills. Dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)  
 Accommodation: Mooiplaas Guest House or similar

**DAY 6 OUDTSHOORN · KNYSNA**

Breakfast. Visit to the Cango Caves in Oudtshoorn, a top tourist destination in South Africa and one of the world's greatest natural wonders, sculpted by nature over millions of years. The Cango Caves are located within the Swartberg Mountain range and form part of the Cape Floral Kingdom World Heritage site. These amazing caves are a must-see for locals and visitors alike, carved into the mountains, holding hidden treasures and astounding sights. They are the biggest show cave system in Africa and the oldest tourist attraction in the country. There are three main caves, connected by a series of chambers and tunnels and here you will find a collection of the oldest stalagmite formations on the planet, some dating back as far as 4 500 million years ago. Only the first cave is open to visitors; the other two are kept closed to preserve the pure, crystalline beauty of the dripstone formations. As you descend into the first chamber you will feel the warm humid air and be amazed at its enormity. Van Zyl's Hall is 98m long and filled with illuminated stalagmites, stalactites and helictites. From there travel deeper into this ancient and mystical wonderland for more astoundingly beautiful subterranean sights. Discover Wilderness. Lying at the foothills of the Outeniqua Mountains in a region of incomparable beauty, Wilderness is an attractive holiday resort with vast stretches of beautiful beaches and numerous vantage points from which to watch the whales and dolphins. The long stretch of beach embraces the mouths of the Touw and Kaaimans Rivers, and is backed by northward cliffs over which the fringe of the forest reaches down to sea level. Lunch at the Cruise Café. The Cruise Café situated in the Featherbed Company in Knysna offers guests an enjoyable dining experience with spectacular views over the Knysna Lagoon. The bistro style restaurant is chic and modern with a relaxed atmosphere that complements its casual yet elegant waterside location. This award-winning restaurant combines great food with a comprehensive wine list and there is also a wine and food pairing option. Linger a little longer once lunch is over as you enjoy the deck with its superb lagoon views. Combine adventure and relaxation in Knysna. The picturesque town of Knysna along the Garden Route is surrounded by magnificent coastal forests and an extensive lagoon that boast the town's most famous landmark, the Knysna Heads. While the Heads provide a treacherous channel into the ocean, the lagoon itself is peaceful and ideal for boat cruises and water sports. The Featherbed Nature Reserve lies on the southern Head and the beautiful Garden Route National Park is only a short drive from the town. Other attractions in the area include the Knysna Elephant Park, a haven for relocated elephants and the rather noisy but highly entertaining Monkeyland. Dolphins can often be spotted offshore and Knysna's tree-lined streets bustle with sidewalk eateries, shops and markets. Don't miss the opportunity of trying out a few delicious fresh oysters for which the town is famed. Lagoon cruise to the Knysna Heads on the John Benn, a fully enclosed luxury ferry. Enjoy the sea air and the sound of the water lapping around you as you cruise out onto the large lagoon towards its mouth, the Knysna Heads. The Heads are two imposing rocky outcrops that appear to stand sentinel at the mouth of the lagoon, with waves crashing on one side and smooth, calm water on the other. The beautifully appointed ferry has magnificent yellowwood decks, sourced from the local Knysna forests, and you will be treated to stunning scenery and a unique experience during the 90-minute cruise. Warm clothing is advisable as being out on the lagoon can get chilly; however, inside the ferry itself the atmosphere and temperature is warm, cosy and hospitable. Dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)  
 Accommodation: Premier Hotel Knysna - The Moorings or similar

**DAY 7 KNYSNA · PORT ELIZABETH**

Breakfast. Tsitsikamma National Park is an area within the greater Garden Route National Park, on South Africa's southern coast. It covers 80 kilometres of pristine and dramatic coastline and is well known for its wonderful indigenous forests and numerous hiking trails. Approximately 30% of the park is covered in fynbos,

interspersed with forest vegetation, and boasts a spectacular variety of wild flowers including the famous Protea. Birdlife is prolific and includes the African black oyster catcher, cormorant and the Knysna loerie. Look out for wildlife including the Cape clawless otter, blue duiker and African wild cat. The park also stretches five kilometres out to sea, protecting a magnificent wonderland of inter-tidal sea life and reef fish. Common visitors are dolphins and porpoises and, at certain times of the year, the southern right whale. Lunch. Travel to Port Elizabeth. Orientation tour of Port Elizabeth. It is South Africa's second oldest city and also the commercial capital of the Eastern Cape. Known for its sunny weather and safe sandy beaches, Port Elizabeth is the perfect complement to the Garden Route, Settler Hinterland, Sunshine Coast and Cape. Located on the south eastern coast of South Africa, this major sea port and tourist destination is set along the beautiful shores of Algoa Bay. PE has many historical attractions, one the most interesting being the Donkin Heritage Trail, which allows visitors to follow in the footsteps of the 1820 Settlers on their journey of discovery and settlement. This 5km trail visits 47 historical sites and architectural delights in the Old Hill area of central PE. Innere at the hotel. (B/L/D)

Accommodation: The Kelway Hotel or similar

#### **DAY 8 PORT ELIZABETH · HLUHLUWE**

Breakfast. Flight Port Elizabeth – Durban. Meet and Greet at Durban airport. Discover Durban's "Golden Mile". This six kilometre long stretch of sandy beach starts roughly at South Beach and uShaka Marine World and ends at the Suncoast Casino and Entertainment World to the north. The Golden Mile is also a huge pleasure resort with dozens of swimming and splash pools, fountains and waterslides, curio markets and merry-go-rounds, uShaka Marine World, exotic restaurants, nightclubs and many hotels and apartment complexes directly at the beach. Swimming is good all year round due to the warm, subtropical climate, and the beaches are well monitored and protected by shark nets. An unusual feature at the Golden Mile is the Zulu Rikshas. The vehicles and their drivers are colourfully decorated. For a small fee, you can let yourself be pulled along the beach promenade. Lunch. Travel to Hluhluwe. Dinner at the lodge. (B/L/D)

Accommodation: Zulu Nyala Game Lodge or similar for 2 nights

#### **DAY 9 HLUHLUWE**

Breakfast. Cruise on the St Lucia Estuary. This Wetland Park is a Natural world Heritage site. The cruise is a treat for bird watcher's with over 500 species to be seen amongst the coastal dune forest and wetlands. With over 800 Hippo's and 1 500.00 crocodile's in the St Lucia lake system, you are sure to come face to face with these creatures. Experience traditional hospitality at the DumaZulu Cultural Village. This informative and authentic Zulu village is located in Hluhluwe, KwaZulu-Natal, offering visitors a peek into the lifestyle and culture of the Zulu nation. The village acts as a living museum of traditional Zulu customs, crafts and way of life where you can feel the beat of the Zulu drums and discovery the rich cultural significance of the tribe's famous beadwork, weaving and pottery that intricately integrate Zulu social values. The village is the largest in South Africa and not only affords guests the opportunity to learn about the rich history of tribal Africa but also serves as a means for the local community to continue practicing their rural ways of living as well as earning an income from selling their crafts. Enjoy stepping into the life of this colourful and friendly tribe and be awed by their fantastic and energetic dancing abilities. Your visit includes an African lunch. Search for wildlife on the hills of Hluhluwe with a 4x4 afternoon game drive. This magical reserve is the oldest in South Africa and reminds one of what Zululand must have been like many years ago when wild animals roamed freely and were plentiful. The incredibly scenic and diverse landscape is filled with a wide variety of wildlife and stretches over thousands of hectares of rolling hills and open savannah plains. The Big Five are found in abundance and the reserve is also world renowned for its efforts towards rhino conservation, having some of the largest populations of black and white rhino in the country. Your afternoon game drive will step up the pace as you go in search of predators such as lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and the rare African wild dog. As darkness falls

spotlights illuminate the way and rangers communicate via radio to ensure fresh kills are easily located. Dinner at the lodge. (B/L/D)

## DAY 10 HLUHLUWE · SWAZILAND

Breakfast. Admire the contrasting landscape at Lavumisa. Swaziland is a tiny, independent country locked between the provinces of Mpumalanga and Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa and Mozambique. The plains in the south-western part of Swaziland contrast sharply with the mountainous landscapes of the north and here you will discover lush sugarcane fields alternating with bush savannah dotted with Swazi kraals. Near the southern border post of Lavumisa, the Lubombo Mountains loom majestically in the near distance. This sweeping mountain range covers practically the entire eastern side of the country and forms the natural border between Swaziland and Mozambique. It is home to many game reserves and is also rich in birdlife. Enter a kaleidoscope of colour at the Manzini Market. The main tourist drawcard in the village of Manzini is its colourful and lively market, filled with community craft and a great variety of locally made, unusual and unique goods. This bohemian and eclectic space is typical of an African market, filled with a daily buzz of activity and colourful stalls selling everything from fruit and vegetables to traditional medicines, herbal cures to ailments, and a versatile mix of traditional and contemporary artefacts. Handicrafts from Swaziland and elsewhere in Africa are all on display with many of the stalls operated by women who manufacture their wares at their villages and make their way to the market to sell them. The market is closed on Sundays and public holidays. Lunch. Wax lyrical about the Swazi candlemakers at Malkerns. From its humble beginnings in an old cowshed the Swazi Candle Factory today exports beautiful candles throughout the world and holds the esteemed reputation of producing an amazing assortment of handcrafted wax wares. On any given weekday you will be able to view the approximately 200 craftspeople as they go about the process of moulding the pigmented wax into fascinating shapes and sizes, ranging from traditional shaped candles to African animal forms. Each candle is hand-finished, meaning that no two candles will ever look exactly the same. Swazi Candles is one of the most famous handicraft outlets in southern Africa and a favourite stop for visitors looking for gifts and souvenirs to take home. Admire glass-masters at work at the Ngwenya Glass Factory. This glass blowing factory forms the central hub of an arts and craft village in Swaziland where visitors can watch craftsmen at work as they shape and mould molten glass into a variety of gorgeous pieces. The factory makes use of approximately 500 kg of recycled glass a day that is crushed down and then melted in a furnace before the upcycle process begins and the hot glass lava is transformed into new and beautiful shapes. As part of Ngwenya's social upliftment programme, community members ranging from school children to adults are encouraged to collect discarded glass objects and bring them to the factory in return for payment. The village is also home to numerous other arts and crafts outlets, restaurants, cafes and a children's playground area, making for an ideal family outing. Dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)

Accommodation: Lugogo Sun or similar

## DAY 11 SWAZILAND · KRUGER

Breakfast. Traverse the mountains towards Piggs Peak. Tucked away in the north western corner of Swaziland, Piggs Peak is a region once made famous for its spectacular gold mining and now an important supplier of timber. The beautiful mountainous landscape has led to the area often being referred to as the 'Switzerland of Africa', filled with sparkling waterfalls, three of the highest peaks in the Kingdom of Swaziland, Bushmen paintings, nature reserves and picturesque indigenous bushland. The town itself is filled with colourful African art and craft shops while slightly further afield you will find the historic Bulembu village, Emlembe, the highest mountain in Swaziland and the Maguga Dam. Lunch. Marvel at the bounty of nature on an afternoon game drive in the Kruger National Park. **(Optional 4x4 game drive : \$ 115.00 CAD per person. Lunch to your own account.)** Your drive will take place in the southern sector of the park in your tour vehicle as you experience the exceptional diversity of the wildlife and vegetation of the Kruger. The southern region is richly stocked with

a wide variety of game as grazers flock to the area in search of sweet grass and predators follow hotly on their heels. Large herds of buffalo and zebra are often easily spotted while some of the special and rare sightings include the mountain reed buck, oribi, Lichtenstein's hartebeest and grey rhebok. Klipspringers grace the granite koppies and bake in the late afternoon sun. The massive park covers almost 20 000 square kilometres and is part of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve, South Africa's largest conservation area. Dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)

Accommodation: Pine Lake Inn or similar

## **DAY 12 KRUGER · KARONGWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE**

Breakfast. Meander down a seemingly endless river canyon with a visit to the Blyde River Canyon and Bourke's Luck Potholes. This awe-inspiring stretch of landscape is filled with some of the most beautifully scenic vistas in South Africa where one breathtaking view follows the next. The Bourke's Luck Potholes mark the beginning of the canyon and comprise intriguing geological formations at the confluence of the Blyde and Treur rivers. The canyon itself is one of the largest in the world, covered in lush sub-tropical vegetation with an average depth of 750 metres and 25 kilometres in length. It consists mostly of red sandstone and has some of the deepest precipitous cliffs of any canyon on the planet. Arrival in Karongwe Private Game reserve, in the heart of the Limpopo. It lies adjacent to the Greater Makalali Private Game Reserve just 40 minutes due east of the Kruger National Park. This is the land of combretum and acacia thornveld, a land where bushveld reigns supreme and the city skyline is a thing only of the imagination; where sightings of major mammals such as giraffe, wildebeest, rhino and zebra are regular, and night visits by aardvark, bush babies, genets and porcupines a reality. The night skies are dark, peppered by a myriad stars, the Milky Way, and the calls of nocturnal birds. This is the wild as portrayed in postcards. Karongwe Game reserve lies in the heart of the bushveld, given over to the conservation of what is left of South Africa's wild animals. Witness dramatic sunsets - a time in the bush where the wild begin to stir, where drama is doubtless brewing, and where sightings of game is guaranteed, whilst glorious views of the Drakensberg and Murchison Mountains litter the horizon with gentle undulations and create gorgeous backdrops to your experience. Within Karongwe are numerous nature reserves, lodges, safaris and trails. You can look forward to an encounter with over twenty different plains game species and the Big Five (buffalo, leopard, elephant, lion and rhino). Afternoon 4x4 game drive. Dinner at the camp. (B/L/D)

Accommodation: Chisomo Safari Camp or similar

## **DAY 13 KARONGWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE · JOHANNESBURG**

Morning 4x4 game drive. Breakfast. Lunch at Royal Hotel Pilgrims Rest Restaurant. The Royal Hotel Pilgrim's Rest offers a unique experience as it is set in the only village in South Africa with the status of National Monument. A goldfield in 1873, Pilgrim's Rest quickly became a cosmopolitan centre with the subsequent gold rush. Today, the village stands as a legacy to these pioneers of times bygone. The Hotel still echoes the ambience of the past. It consists of 10 buildings dating back to the latter part of the 19th century which have been restored and decorated in Victorian style. The restaurant, furnished in the same style, is informal and serves hearty old-fashioned meals. Step back in time at Pilgrim's Rest. This quaint little village is situated on the magnificent Panorama Route in Mpumalanga and stands as a tribute to the gold panning days of the late 1800s. The entire town is now a national monument with many historical and relatively untouched sites to visit. Walk through the streets that the famous dog Jock of the Bushveld used to call his own and visit pubs where gold nuggets were once used to pay for drinks and diggers, rogues and good time girls all congregated. Besides its many interesting museums, Pilgrim's Rest is also home to a vast assortment of antique shops selling a variety of collectables, arts, crafts and curios. Enjoy walking in the footsteps of the early gold prospectors as you relive the fascinating and occasionally dangerous days of pioneers, can-can girls, highway thieves and desperados hoping to make a quick fortune. Travel to Johannesburg. Dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)

Accommodation: Zulu Nyala Country Manor or similar for 2 nights

## **DAY 14 JOHANNESBURG**

Breakfast. Familiarise yourself with Afrikaans and African culture with a tour of Pretoria. The Jacaranda City, as Pretoria is fondly called, is the administrative and diplomatic centre of South Africa that once served as the headquarters for the old independent Transvaal Boere Republic. Here you will find some of the iconic landmarks that represent the old independent Transvaal as well as the new democratic South Africa. The Voortrekker Monument is a massive memorial ringed by ox wagons that commemorate the exodus of disillusioned Afrikaners from the Cape, Church Square houses Die Raadsaal, the former parliament buildings of the Boer Republic, and the Paul Kruger House was the home of the Transvaal Republic's president. The Union Buildings stand proud and tall, built in 1910 and now house the official seat of the South African government as well as a nine-metre statue of former president Nelson Mandela. Get a taste of vibrant and gritty street life with a tour of Soweto. This township is located to the south-west of Johannesburg and is the biggest in the city, made famous for its role in the struggle against apartheid. Its roots trace back to the early days of gold mining when many migrant workers arrived in Johannesburg at the turn of the 20th century. As the ruling National Party tightened its hold on apartheid and forced black people out of white areas the township grew and today Soweto still supports close to 4-million people. Highlights of South Africa's political history to be found in Soweto include the Hector Pieterse Museum and Memorial, honouring the student protests of 1976; Walter Sisulu Square, where the Freedom Charter was signed; Vilakazi Street whose former residents includes two Nobel Peace Prize winners; and the brightly coloured Soweto Towers. Buffet lunch at Sakhumzi Restaurant. Soak up the jovial atmosphere at this traditional African styled restaurant, nestled in the heart of Soweto in Orlando West's famous Vilakazi Street. The eatery was once an illegal bar or 'shebeen' during the apartheid era but is now a traditional local restaurant that specialises in African cuisine such as mogodu (tripe), mielie pap (corn flour) mutton stew, umleqwa (traditional-style steamed chicken) and much more. The area also has a rich historical background and Vilakazi Street is the only road in the world to have housed two Nobel laureates: Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. Get chatting with the locals as you socialise and enjoy your traditional South African lunch. Walk the path of racial segregation at the Apartheid Museum. This museum is dedicated to recounting the history of the rise and fall of apartheid in 20th century South Africa and focuses on the policy of racial segregation that was first enforced in the country in 1948, providing a very real image of what it was like to live in such a society. Repressive measures such as limiting the freedom of movement of non-whites and the Population Registration Act led to growing resistance from the disenfranchised and more punitive measures from the government, culminating in several states of emergency being declared in the 1980s before apartheid was ended in the 1990s. The museum is suffused with personal narratives and whispered conversations that show a glimpse of the characters of people that helped shape our country, while interactive multimedia displays recreate the experience of racial segregation. There are no guided tours on Mondays. Dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)

## **DAY 15 JOHANNESBURG • VICTORIA FALLS**

Breakfast. Transfer to Johannesburg airport for your flight to Victoria Falls. Meet and greet at Victoria Falls Airport. Our guide will be waiting for you in the arrival hall carrying a branded sign board before and transfer you to your hotel. This afternoon, soak up the beauty of Africa on a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. The immense, calm waters of the Zambezi River lend themselves to leisurely boat cruises amongst the peace and tranquillity of the surrounding wilderness. From your lodge you will be taken to the jetty and begin your sailing journey upstream from the Victoria Falls. As you peacefully drift along the river you can admire the splashes of colour that the setting sun paints in the sky as well as watch the wildlife that congregates along the river banks in the coolness of the evening. Your wondrous cruise is rounded off with aperitifs and snacks served on board the boat. Dinner at the hotel. (B/D)

Accommodation: AZambezi River Lodge or similar for 2 nights



## DAY 16 VICTORIA FALLS

Breakfast. Day at leisure. Lunch and dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)

### Optional :

#### Day trip to Chobe National Park

(sup. \$300.00 CAD per person)

Chobe National Park is one of the largest in Botswana, famed not only for the highest concentration of elephants found anywhere in Africa but also for having the densest population of game on the continent. This, together with its reputation of offering superb wildlife viewing all year round, makes it a highly popular travel destination. The park lies along the Chobe River and is comprised of four distinct ecosystem – the lush plains and forests of the Chobe river front attracting elephant and vast herds of buffalo; the rich grasslands and savannahs of the Savuti Marsh; the Linyanti Swamps, renowned for prowling predators and large herds of game; and the hot and dry hinterland of Nogatsaa and Tchinga, holding water well into the dry season and attracting a profusion of game between August and October. A high density of predators and the occurrence of many rare antelope species rounds off this spectacular game park. Day trip to Chobe. This tour departs daily to the Chobe National Park in Botswana. You will be transferred to the Kazungula border where you will meet your Botswana Guide. From here you will proceed straight to the River where you will spend the morning game viewing along the Chobe River. Tea, coffee & biscuits are provided. The morning cruise ends at around 12h30 and you are then taken to a hotel on the riverbank for lunch. After lunch, you will board safari vehicles for an afternoon game drive in the Chobe National Park where you will have the opportunity to enjoy an abundance of wildlife. After the game drive, you are taken back to the Kazungula Border where you will be met by the Zimbabwean Guide for your return transfer to Victoria Falls, arriving at approximately 18h30.

## DAY 17 VICTORIA FALLS · JOHANNESBURG

Breakfast. View one of the world's natural wonders on a visit to the Zimbabwe side of the Victoria Falls. This enormous sheet of falling water was first discovered by David Livingstone in 1855, although it had been known to the local people for much longer than that. It is shared by two countries, Zambia to the north and Zimbabwe to the south. Around two thirds of the falls are located on the Zimbabwe side and this country is also considered to have more classical views of the mains falls with footpaths leading you to breathtaking viewpoints such as Devils Cataract, Main Falls, Horseshoe Falls and the very popular Rainbow Falls. The sights from here are considered some of the best on the planet while the sheer force of the tumbling water is a sensory treat as water plunges and tumbles, sending sprays of mist up into the skies. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Johannesburg. (B)

## INCLUSIONS

Domestic flights Port Elizabeth – Durban & Johannesburg – Victoria Falls – Johannesburg Transfers • Airport taxes of \$450.00 • Meet and greet by our local representative • Excursions, meals and accommodation as per itinerary • English speaking local guide • taxes and fees • Group tour maximum 15 passengers

### Not included

International airfare • Optional excursions • beverages • Gratuities to hotel personnel, guides and drivers. Zimbabwe visa +/- \$75 USD \*\*

**\*\* If you participate to the Chobe Day Trip, you will pay the Zimbabwe visa twice (\$150USD). Payable at destination.**

Price per person (\$CAD) Double occupancy Départure date	land portion
<b>Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2018</b> <b>January 13, 2019</b> <b>February 3, 17, 2019</b> <b>March 3, 17, 2019</b> <b>April 7, 21, 2019</b> <b>May 5, 19, 2019</b> <b>July 7, 2019</b> <b>August 4, 2019</b> <b>Sept. 22, 2019</b> <b>Oct. 6, 2019</b>	<b>6949</b>
<b>Single Supplement Nov. 1, 2018 - Oct. 31, 2019</b>	<b>1149</b>
<b>November 3, 17, 2019</b> <b>December 1, 15, 2019</b>	<b>7309</b>
<b>Single Supplement Nov. 1 - Dec. 31, 2019</b>	<b>1159</b>
<b>minimum 2 passengers</b>	