

THE BEST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

14 DAYS



- Each departure limited to 20 guests
- Luxury hotels or best accommodation in each location
- Three a la carte meals a day (table d'hôte, if unavailable), including beverages of your choice
- Professionally escorted
- All sightseeing (including entrance fees), game viewing and special events as indicated in the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfer by private car
- Gratuities included (also your tour manager's) except camp staff and guide/driver
- Porterage of 2 suitcases per passenger
- Airport departure taxes

Early Portuguese navigators were reputedly the first people known to have sailed around the Cape of Good Hope in the late 1600s. Your journey begins here – at the **Mt. Nelson Hotel** in the charming city of Cape Town, South Africa's oldest settlement. Drive into the wine country and stay at one of the most distinguished vineyards in Stellenbosch to attend a wine tasting.

At the Kruger National Park, you stay at the luxurious **MalaMala Lodge** and go on safari to see the “Big Five” jungle animals (lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino, and leopard). You board the renowned **Rovos Train** and travel in ultimate style and comfort, reminiscent of the golden age of railroads.

Upon your arrival at the Chobe National Park in Botswana, check into the world-class **Chobe Game Lodge** and join game drives to watch hippos and elephants as they come to the river in their native habitat. You have an excellent chance to see lions, cheetahs, giraffes, and zebras as well. Continue on to Zimbabwe where the powerful Zambezi River forms the world's largest sheet of falling water at Victoria Falls.

Day 1

USA – CAPE TOWN

Depart the States on your overnight flight to South Africa.

Day 2

CAPE TOWN

You are met upon your arrival in Cape Town and escorted to your hotel, the **Mt. Nelson**, to settle in. Located at the foot of Table Mountain, this magnificent pink structure is living proof that colonial elegance has not vanished; everything at this palm-ringed hotel is utterly proper. The attentiveness of the personnel, the richness of the décor, the charming piano lounge (where afternoon tea is served), the nine acres of lush gardens – this hotel is a marvelous combination of tradition and sophistication.

Relax in the bamboo furniture under the lazy ceiling fans on the sun porch before meeting your travel companions and tour manager for cocktails and dinner this evening at the hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 3

CAPE TOWN

This morning, you tour Cape Town. South African's oldest settlement, it is a



Cape Town

charming combination of European and African. Called the “mother city”, Cape Town is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is

dominated by the 3,300-foot high, flat-topped Table Mountain. The imposing peaks of Lion's Head and Devil's Peak, vineyards and beaches are all nearby.

You visit the Castle of Good Hope, which was built between 1666 and 1679 and is one of the oldest European structures in southern Africa. At the South African Museum, you see impressive exhibitions of indigenous cultures, which include some startlingly lifelike displays of Bushman communities.

Later, you drive south on the Peninsula between the Atlantic Ocean and False Bay, past traditional fishing settlements. Arriving at the Cape of Good Hope, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Indian Ocean, stand at the Nature Reserve overlooking the sea. You are mid-way between South America to the west and Australia to the east. (B,L,D)

Day 4

CAPE TOWN – STELLENBOSCH

A dominant feature of the Cape Town scene, Table Mountain is a massive block of sandstone overlooking the city and Table Bay. This morning, you take the cable car up to the 3,300-foot summit. The views from the top are phenomenal. You stop at the Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens on the eastern side of Table Mountain; one of the most beautiful in the world, it is devoted almost exclusively to indigenous plants.



Young Bantu woman

Today you travel eastward, through the countryside, with lovely mountains dotted by the reds and greens of the vineyards and the white of the homestead buildings. Outside Europe and the Middle East, the oldest vineyards in the world are found at the Cape. Several vineyards here have been producing wine for over 300 years. The majority are white wines, but there are some very good reds as well.

This evening you stay at one of these wine estates, in a spectacular setting in the Jonkershoek Valley, the **Lanzerac Manor and Winery**. This 300-year old country estate is one of the region's most distinguished Cape Dutch Manor Houses.



MalaMala Game Reserve

Lanzerac has been beautifully restored to its original charm. The luxurious rooms, tastefully and elegantly decorated, are the favored choice of discerning travelers. The **Governor's Hall** restaurant here serves absolutely superb entrees, and the desserts are positively astonishing. (B,L,D)

Day 5

STELLENBOSCH

Today, you visit the historic university town of Stellenbosch, the second to be settled at the Cape, and considered the heart of South Africa's wine region. Originally the farmers in this area produced wheat, but this crop would later be replaced by grapes. During your stroll around this well-preserved area, you visit a most interesting wine museum.

You also visit some other vineyards in the area before returning to Lanzerac Manor to relax in the cobbled courtyard beneath the cool graceful trees. Later, take a swim in the pool before your gourmet dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 6

STELLENBOSCH – MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

You depart this morning on your flight to Johannesburg with a short connecting flight to the MalaMala Game Reserve. You check into the **MalaMala Lodge**, a private property within the park offering luxurious bush facilities and unparalleled game viewing, including the "Big Five". Considered the *grande dame* of game reserves here, many find this to be one of the best safari lodges in the world. With a staff to guest ratio of 3 to 1, the service is sensational.

Public areas consist of lounges

lavishly furnished with rattan pieces under impressive thatch and beam ceilings. Your air-conditioned overnight accommodations are spacious, each with "his" and "hers" bathrooms, and a spectacular view; but despite the comfort offered, there is still a camp atmosphere. (B,L,D)

Day 7

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

This morning you are served breakfast at shaded tables overlooking tranquil views of the Sand River, where animals come to drink. Today's game viewing involves some of the finest rangers and trackers on the continent. The MalaMala Game Reserve is the largest tract of privately owned big game territory in South Africa - 50,000 acres. It affords you the opportunity to see plenty of game animals - lion, elephant, buffalo, white and black rhino, leopard, cheetah, wild dog, antelopes, birds, and reptiles.

Near the end of the 19th century, game populations diminished with the increasing numbers of hunting parties. Kruger National Park was established as a game reserve in 1898 from lands along the Mozambique border; adjacent unproductive private farmland was incorporated into the existing reserve and was used to create game farms and private nature reserves.

Take a dip in the pool before your dinner outside, around the log fire in a traditional *boma*, (a open-sided structure with a roof partially open to the sky) and share today's safari experience with your companions. (B,L,D)

Day 8 (Thursday)**KRUGER NATIONAL PARK – ROVOS
TRAIN FROM PRETORIA**

This morning, you travel to Pretoria to board the **Rovos Train**, the “Pride of Africa”, and begin a unique journey all of its own. Rovos Rail revisits the golden age of luxury train travel – seeing Southern Africa the way the very first tourists did in the Edwardian days. The coaches have been beautifully restored to their former glory with fine attention to detail, and are the last word in style and comfort. Use of traditional furnishings and period décor, combined with exquisite craftsmanship in fine wood paneling, creates an atmosphere of elegance and grandeur that far exceeds the original.

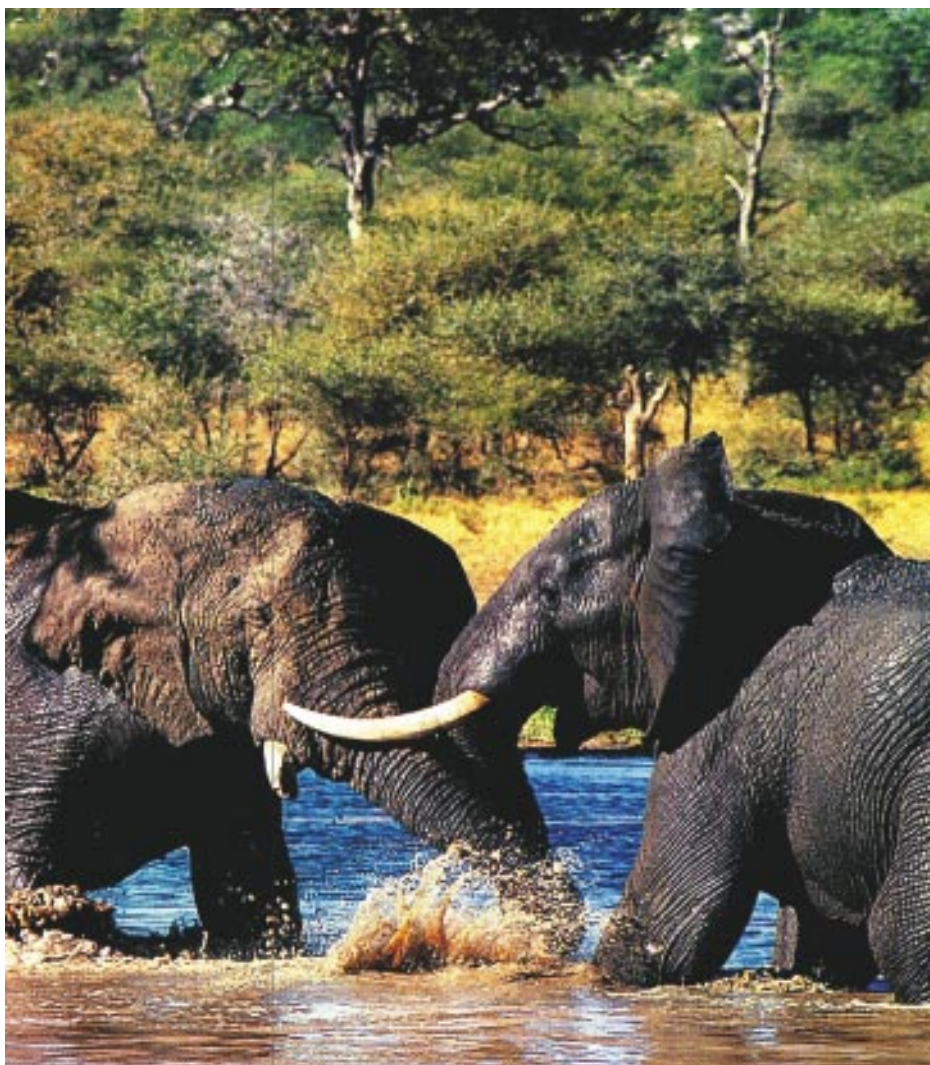
Each suite accommodates two people and also has a private lounge area. The en-suite bathrooms feature original fittings with the modern technology of hot showers. There are two exquisitely restored dining cars; your dinners are complemented with outstanding South African wines. (B,L,D)

Day 9 (Friday)**ROVOS TRAIN**

After your leisurely breakfast in the dining car, join your travel companions in the observation carriage at the rear of the train. Heading northward, you pass the platinum mines at Rustenburg and Impala and Warmbaths, so named for its hot mineral waters. You travel through the Transvaal, where gold was first mined in the 1870’s. Just after Soekmekaar, the train enters the tropics by traveling over the Tropic of Capricorn. At Bandelierskop, the train passes quite close to the edge of the escarpment, where the Highveld drops precipitously from 4,000 feet down to 2,000 feet. On the edge of the cliffs, Cuyad (“bread trees”) grow; these slow growing trees were genuine



The finest train in Southern Africa



Elephants - Chobe Game Reserve, Botswana

ACCOMMODATIONS**Cape Town –Mt. Nelson (2 nights), Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '99, Leading Hotels of the World**

Set in nine acres of lush gardens at the foot of Table Mountain in Cape Town, this listed 1890's building is the city's oldest and most distinguished hotel, offering a matchless combination of tradition and sophistication.

Stellenbosch - Lanzerac Manor and Winery (2) Small Luxury Hotels of the World '99

This exceptional inn is on the outskirts of the historical university town of Stellenbosch in the heart of the Cape wine country. A 300-year old country estate, it is one of the region's most distinguished Cape Dutch Manor Houses.

MalaMala Game Reserve – Mala Mala Lodge (2)**“Best Hotel in the World” – Travel & Leisure 1997, Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '99**

MalaMala game reserve is unquestionably the finest private Game Reserve in South Africa. It offers uncompromising high standards of service.

Pretoria to Victoria Falls – Rovos Train (2)

Rovos Rail operates two trains of twenty painstakingly restored coaches, half of which date back to the 1920s and 1930s. Accommodation on board the train is of the highest standard. The coaches have been lovingly restored to their former glory with fine attention to detail, and are the last word in comfort and style.

Chobe National Park – Chobe Game Lodge (2), Condé Nast Gold List '99

The only permanent lodge in the world-famous Chobe National Park, Botswana. Chobe Game Lodge offers every luxury and comfort for your sojourn into the wilds.

Victoria Falls – Victoria Falls Hotel (2)

Established in 1904, the historic Victoria Falls Hotel overlooks the Victoria Falls Bridge and the gorges below. With its Edwardian elegance, charm, and tranquil atmosphere, this luxury inn has earned international acclaim.



Victoria

arrives at the little station of Victoria Falls, first accessed by railway in 1904.

You make the short drive just across the border into Botswana. This is a country of largely roadless wilderness of savannahs, deserts, wetlands and salt pans. Almost uniformly flat, the semi-arid Kalahari Desert covers nearly 85% of the country. To ensure the country's natural assets are preserved, Botswana's government has embraced a policy of limiting tourism.

Your destination today is the Chobe National Park. On the banks of the Chobe River is the most renowned lodge in Botswana. The world-class **Chobe Game Lodge**, of Moorish design, looks like a Mediterranean villa with its stucco exterior, soaring arches, and cascades of bougainvillea. After check-in, guests descend a stairway into the spacious split-level lounge for orientation and refreshments. Beige sofas and cushioned benches built into adobe-style walls look out onto the sunny patio and pool area. Private accommodations with terra cotta floors, woven rugs, stucco, and patios face landscaped lawns that roll down to the river's edge. (B,L,D)

Day 11

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

This morning, breakfast is served on the terrace. The game drives in open vehicles with professional guides, begin right at the front door of your guestroom. The Chobe covers 4,300 square miles and has a greater variety of wildlife than anywhere else in Botswana. Hippos, elephants, and buffalo wallow on the banks of the river.

Later in the afternoon and early evening, you have the unique opportunity to observe the wildlife from another perspective - on the Sundowner river cruise. (B,L,D)

Day 12

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Today you have another opportunity to drive along the riverfront on safari. An estimated 73,000 elephants, in herds of up to 500, live in the park. You have an excellent chance of a spotting lion, cheetah, hippo, buffalo, giraffe, antelope,

jackal, warthog, hyena, crocodile, otter, or zebra.

This afternoon, you return to Zimbabwe and to Victoria Falls. You check into the elegant, Edwardian style **Victoria Falls Hotel**, overlooking the Victoria Falls Bridge and the gorges below. There is a tranquil atmosphere in the acres of private garden, and the opulent building is in the grandest of colonial styles with wide verandahs. A walk along the hotel's private pathway leads to the top of the gorge and provides a magnificent view of the bridge crossing into Zambia. (B,L,D)

Day 13

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK- VICTORIA FALLS

Called "*mosi oa tunya*", or "the smoke that thunders", by early inhabitants, you see the mighty Zambezi River as it flows, broad and placid, to the brink of a basalt tip several miles wide before taking a 330-foot plunge into the gorge below. The spray from the falls is bounced up as a permanent rain, nourishing the exotic vegetation forming a rain forest through which paths curl.

Later, during your short flight over the falls, you have a fabulous vista of the upstream river, its many streams, and the rapids downstream. If you want to shop, the Victoria Falls village and craft center is a 5-minute walk away.

Tonight, you and your travel companions are served a sumptuous barbecue dinner; and afterward, there is a fabulous display of traditional African dancing. (B,L,D)

Day 14

VICTORIA FALLS – USA

Your unforgettable journey comes to an end as you are escorted to the airport to board the flight back to the States. (B)

dinosaur food. The area here is heavily mineralized; stations have names like Mica, Corundum and Granite, named after the minerals mined here. This area is the only source of South Africa's emeralds. Crossing over the Soutansberg Mountains, you enter Baobab country – this cream of tartar tree only grows within the African tropics.

Traveling over the Beit Bridge station, you cross the Zimbabwean border. Named after the mysterious ruins of Great Zimbabwe, in the east of the country, the world Zimbabwe means "place of stones". These ruins are believed to date from around 800 AD

This afternoon, after lunch, the train stops for a few hours (time permitting) in Bulawayo, where you will have the opportunity to tour the Museum of Natural History before returning to the station to re-board the train. (B,L,D)

Day 10 (Saturday)

ROVOS TRAIN – VICTORIA FALLS – CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Shortly after breakfast this morning, the train climbs higher to 2,994 feet and



Victoria Falls Hotel

DATES

Depart-THU (from USA)	Return-WED
Feb 24	Mar 08
Oct 26	Nov 08
2001 Dates:	
Jan 04	Jan 17

COST PER PERSON

Land Portion (Double occupancy)	\$ 6,990
Single supplement	\$ 1,760
Domestic Airfare	\$ 890
International Airfare	\$ 1,560

All airfares are subject to availability and to change by the airlines. Cancellation penalties and surcharges may apply. Fares from other U.S. cities, as well as First and Business Class rates, are also available.

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE TELEPHONE TOLL FREE: 1-888-377-8023