# **14-Night Essential South Africa Tour**

# 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

Join us for a safari of the senses! Gardens that are a feast for the eyes; gourmet, local food and exquisite wines to make your taste buds water; and top it off, a wildlife safari!

Shoot the Big-5 with your camera!

### **Highlights:**

During your 10-nights in the "fairest" Cape, we will take you to some of the finest garden and wine estates in the world as well as some smaller private estates in Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Franschhoek – an area that boasts some of the world's best wines and cuisine. While in Cape Town, you'll enjoy ocean views from the top of Table Mountain, a gourmet tour through the Mother City, a scenic Cape Point drive and a visit to the penguin sanctuary at Boulders. A tour of the southern Cape coast will, during season, afford some whale watching. After bidding farewell to the Fair Cape, a flight up to the eastern Kruger National Park brings you to your Big-5 bush safari. This region has spectacular landscapes and hosts one of the 7 wonders of Africa and the second largest canyon in Africa, the Blyde River Canyon. Your tour will end with your relaxing, yet exciting safari in the bush, before jetting back home.

**Tour Price:** \$3,750 per person, sharing.

Add \$750 as a single supplement (double room for single occupancy) International Flights not included. (For flight deals, please contact Denise Best)

### Included in the cost of the tour:

- All accommodation in 4-star boutique hotels and lodges on a bed and breakfast basis
- All land transport and domestic flights within South Africa
- Entries to all historical sites, gardens and prescribed excursions as listed in the itinerary
- Lunch on 13 days, three of which are gourmet lunches
- Gourmet Dinner on 6 evenings
- Tips for guides and restaurants included

#### Optional Extended Visit to Botswana and/or Victoria Falls

Please enquire on additional pricing should you wish to extend your safari to visit Victoria Falls (2-nights) or visit both Botswana and Victoria Falls (3-nights in Botswana, 2-nights at Victoria Falls)

This is an intimate and personalized tour, limited to a maximum of **12** guests only (minimum of 6 guests). If you're keen on joining us on this exciting trip, please contact Denise Best for availability and a booking form. Your deposit and completed booking form will secure your place on the tour.



## ESSENTIAL SOUTH AFRICA TOUR - Itinerary



Flight departure from the US to Johannesburg, South Africa

#### DAY 1

Arrive into Johannesburg International Airport. Overnight at your airport hotel.

#### DAY 2 to 5, CAPE TOWN

An early flight departure from Johannesburg to Cape Town, with four days in Cape Town.

During your stay in Cape Town, you will visit the following sights:

- A private guided tour on foot of Cape Town city center, focused on the culture and sampling the amazing foods that define this rainbow nation.
- A full day peninsula tour through Hout Bay, Cape Point, and Boulders Penguin Sanctuary, punctuated with lunch at a famous harbor restaurant.
- Guided tour of Cape Town's viewpoints of Signal Hill and Lions Head, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Kirstenbosch, and Table Mountain by cable car. For the more adventurous and active guest, you have an option to do a hike to the top of Table Mountain, and descend by cable car.
- There is also an option to visit Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated, which can be arranged separately from this itinerary.

#### DAY 6 and 7, FRANSCHHOEK

We say farewell to Cape Town to make our way to the village of Franschhoek, established by the French Huguenots in the 1680's and renowned for its amazing wines and gourmet food. A relaxing lunch on the slopes of the mountain at La Petite Ferme and a private visit to the gardens and winery of Boekenhoutskloof (famous for its Chocolate Block wine) will bring you to the end of your first day in the wine country.

Your second day in the wine region starts with a visit to the gardens of Babylonstoren. These gardens are based on the original Dutch founding gardens planted in Cape Town in the 1650's. Your garden visit will be followed by a wine and chocolate pairing at Spice Route Winery in Paarl. A gourmet dinner this evening, so eat lightly at lunch.

#### DAY 8 and 9, SOMERSET WEST

An easy drive from Franschhoek to Hermanus, where, during season, the whale crier will alert you to the Southern Right Wales bringing their young into the bay right in front of your eyes. After lunch you'll have time to explore the local market and late afternoon, we'll make our way back over the mountains to Somerset West, where you'll overnight for two nights.

Your day in Somerset West includes a visit to Vergelegen Wine Estate, one of the oldest wine estates in the country, for a wine and garden tour and a picnic of note under the 300-year old camphor trees. The afternoon will include an olive tasting at one of the neighboring farms.

#### DAY 10 and 11, HAZYVIEW

An early flight from Cape Town to Nelspruit brings you to the Panorama route, west of the Kruger National Park, where we'll explore some of the local sights and waterfalls of the region.

Your second day in this region you will visit the spectacular Blyde River Canyon and Bourke's Luck Potholes.

#### DAY 12 to 14, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Today we'll arrive at your luxury lodge on the banks of the Crocodile River and the Kruger National Park, home to the Big-5 (Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard and Rhinocerous). Daily safaris and a night drive in the Kruger Park affords you the opportunity of shooting — with your camera only! — the abundance of wild animals that roam the park. Enjoy gourmet meals and sundowners on the deck while watching the game pass by you.

#### **DAY 15**

"Best Tours" will say farewell to you after your flight to Johannesburg International Airport for your evening international flight connection to the US.