



The Best Tours
We'll take you there...

SOUTH AFRICA

15-Night Essential South Africa Tour

10TH NOVEMBER – 25TH NOVEMBER 2025

Shoot the Big-5 with your camera! Join us for a safari of the senses by kicking off the trip with a wildlife safari; driving the unique landscape of the Panorama Route and Blyde River Canyon (the world's third largest canyon); then south to the tip of Africa and the stunning "mother city" of the world, Cape Town; finally, Franschhoek, the wine and gourmet capital of the world with food and exquisite wines to make your taste buds water!

Highlights:

Having had a good night's sleep after your international flight, your tour begins with a quick flight north for 7 nights in the Kruger National Park for your Big-5 bush safari and the Lowveld. This region has spectacular landscapes and hosts one of the 7 wonders of Africa and the third largest canyon in the world, the Blyde River Canyon. A flight south to the "fairest" Cape brings you to Cape Town and surrounds for 7 nights. You'll visit some of the finest garden and wine estates in the world as well as some smaller private estates in Cape Town, Franschhoek and Hermanus— 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 scenic Cape Point drive and a visit to the penguin sanctuary at Boulders. Your visit to Hermanus could well offer some whale sightings in the harbor, before jetting back home.

Tour Price:

\$6,500 per person, sharing.

\$7,500 single person in a double room.

International Flights not included. (For flight information, please contact Denise Best)

Included in the cost of the tour:

- *All accommodation in 4-star boutique hotels (bed & breakfast basis) and lodges (fully inclusive basis)*
- *All land transport and domestic flights within South Africa*
- *Entries to all historical sites, gardens and prescribed excursions as listed in the itinerary*
- *6 Lunches; 4 Wine Tastings, 2 Dinners*
- *Tips for meals and tastings listed in the itinerary, included*

Optional 3-night Rovos Rail journey from Cape Town to Pretoria

Please enquire about additional pricing should you wish to extend your trip with this rail journey

This is an intimate and personalized tour, limited to a maximum of 12 guests only (minimum of 8 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.

MasterCard, Visa, Venmo and PayPal accepted

A 3% discount offered for Check and ACH payments




Sunday, 9th November 2025

Flight departure from the US to Johannesburg, South Africa


DAY 1 Monday 10th November 2025

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

 City Lodge, OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg (1 night B&B) **B**

DAY 2 to 5, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

An early flight departure from Johannesburg to Skukuza in the Kruger National Park, for your four-day Big-5 safari. A once in a lifetime opportunity to have a 2-night stay at an exclusive lodge combined with 2-nights in luxury explorer style tents for an immersive experience on a guided walking safari. (See notes below)

 Rhino Post Lodge and Plains Camp (2 nights at each camp, fully inclusive) **FI**

DAY 6 to 8, THE LOWVELD

After your early morning game viewing and brunch, you'll make your way out of the Kruger National Park to your hotel on the edge of the escarpment and the Panorama route, west of the Kruger National Park. Over the next two days, we'll explore some of the local waterfalls of the region, visit "God's Window", the spectacular Blyde River Canyon and Bourke's Luck Potholes, as well as have an opportunity to interact with elephants.

 Angel's View, Graskop (3 nights B&B) **B,E,L**

DAY 9 to 12, CAPE TOWN

A two hour flight brings you to the tip of Africa and Cape Town for the next four days, where you'll get to visit Cape Point, where the two oceans (Indian and Atlantic) meet, Table Mountain, the penguin retreat at Boulders, Kirstenbosch Botanical gardens and an opportunity to visit the Victoria and Albert Waterfront for some good shopping and dining.

One day is spent in Somerset West to experience a picnic of note - under the 300-year old camphor trees at Vergelegen Wine Estate, one of the oldest and most beautiful wine estates in the country. The afternoon will include an olive tasting at one of the neighboring wine estates. **B, D(x2), E, L, T**

 Cape Town Hollow Hotel (4 nights B&B)



DAY 13 to 15, FRANSCHHOEK AND THE WINE REGION

Saying farewell to Cape Town, a drive over the Hottentots Holland Mountains brings you into the heart of the winelands for a relaxed lunch at the base of the mountains overlooking Franschhoek. You'll have 2 days to explore the quaint towns of Franschhoek and Stellenbosch, a unique wine and chocolate pairing, as well as a couple of selected wine tastings.

B, L, T

 Plumwood Inn Boutique Hotel (3 nights B&B)

DAY 16, Tuesday 25th November 2025

Today is the day you fly back to the USA from Cape Town – but – not before an easy drive over the mountains from Franschhoek to Hermanus, where, during early spring, (when you're there), 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 Cape Town International Airport and your return flight to the US. Access to an executive lounge has been arranged for you to relax and freshen up for your flight.

B, L, T

Flight departure is from Cape Town to the USA


OPTIONAL EXTRA

3-Night, luxury train Excursion from Cape Town to Pretoria on Rovos Rail. Experience the glamour and excitement of the golden age of rail travel by traversing across the country in beautiful wood-paneled sleeper coaches that have all the modern conveniences and fittings. You'll meander through South Africa, from south to north, visiting the historic Victorian town of Matjiesfontein, nestled in the Karoo, originally a refreshment post for travelers on their journey to or from Cape Town to Johannesburg's gold reefs. Another stop on the way is at Kimberley, visiting the Diamond Mine Museum and the "Big Hole", the world's largest man-made excavation where most of the world's diamonds came from at the time.

DAY 16, Tuesday 25th November 2025

Should you decide to add this excursion to your tour, "Best Tours" will transfer you from Franschhoek to Cape Town to board your train and upon arrival in Pretoria 3 days later, will meet you and transport you directly to Johannesburg OR Tambo International Airport for your evening international flight to the US.

Should you wish to overnight in Johannesburg and fly out a day later, this too can be arranged to include an activity the day after disembarking your train.

 Rovos Rail (3 nights fully inclusive)



FLIGHT NOTES:

- Flights for this tour will be from the USA to **Johannesburg**, returning from **Cape Town** to the USA.
- Should you add 3-nights on Rovos Rail from Cape Town to Pretoria, your flights will be from the USA to **Johannesburg**, return.

WALKING SAFARI

The walking safari is a unique opportunity to get as close to nature as possible, with a highly experienced guide, trained to keep you and the animals safe.

Plains Camp only has 4 luxury explorer style tents, so a maximum of 8 guests at any visit, thus exclusive! The average walk takes anywhere between 3 – 5 hours and can range between 3 – 6 miles. The pace and distance is set according to the fitness of the group and the sightings along the way, and spring is when many species give birth so this is the best time to view baby animals. It's also flowering season for trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

Walking safaris awaken your seemingly “neglected senses into a kind of instinctive alertness. Now, more than ever, every movement, sound, smell and touch becomes heightened. Not in a twitchy, scared or adrenaline soaked way. It's more a feeling of belonging, that you are a part of this wilderness.. The feeling you get as you begin to walk is like an inherent sense of awareness.”

*Quoted by **Sean Messham**, a previous guide in the Kruger National Park and Sabi Sand Game Reserve*

Legend : **B** = Breakfast; **D** = Dinner; **E** – Entry to Sights; **L** = Lunch; **T** = Tastings