

THE WONDERS OF SOUTH AFRICA GROUP TOUR

NOVEMBER 19-30 2019

ITINERARY PREPARED FOR NEWMARKET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



CONTACT:

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Day 1, 19 November 2019 Toronto/Addis Ababa

Today you will depart on your Ethiopian Airlines flight to Addis Ababa.

Day 2, 20 November 2019 Addis Ababa/Cape Town- Fly from Addis Ababa to Cape Town

On arrival in Addis Ababa you will connect with your flight to Cape Town.

Welcome to Cape Town, South Africa. After clearing customs and immigration, make your way to the arrival Hall where you will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hotel located around the Waterfront District that abounds with restaurants, malls and entertainment. You have the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Southern Sun Waterfront Cape Town

Day 3, 21 November 2019 Cape Town - City and Table Mountain Tour

This morning, after breakfast you are met by your guide for the scheduled city and mountain tour. Depart the hotel city for the Lower Cableway Station to board the revolving cable car (*Included in the cost*) for a 5-minute ride to the top of Table Mountain. 1036 meters above sea level, it affords bird's-eye views of both city and Peninsula as you walk its summit (weather permitting). Return to the city via the old Cape Malay Quarter, the Company Gardens the Castle, the oldest building in South Africa. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Enjoy a welcome dinner at the Africa Café:

Overnight: Southern Sun Waterfront Cape Town

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 4, 22 November 2019 Cape Town- Peninsula Tour

Full Day Cape Peninsula Tour with private guide

Hout Bay Harbour

Step into the working harbour of Hout Bay at the end of Cape Town's Atlantic seaboard for an authentic fishing village experience from the colourful fishing boats moored on the dock to the range of fish markets, restaurants, street markets and shops set overlooking the bay. Indulge in fresh seafood, fabulous views, adventure activities and shopping experiences – everything from jewellery and maritime artefacts to seashells and more. The beach stretches from here to Chapman's Peak in the east.

Cape of Good Hope

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 which warns ships they are approaching the feared "Cape of Storms"), stroll along the cliff paths or venture down the steep slopes to the stunning white-sand beaches below. The reserve is home to a variety of small wildlife and is a favoured picnicking, fishing (with a permit) and hiking destination with its rich plant biodiversity and inspiring landscapes.

Cape Point Funicular

The Flying Dutchman Funicular takes passengers uphill from the car park of the Cape Point Nature Reserve (a Natural World Heritage Site) to the old lighthouse sited at 249m overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The views from the lighthouse are spectacular and the air, coming off the Antarctic, is among the purest in the world. The funicular is believed to be the only commercial one of its kind in Africa and is named after a local legend of a ghost ship. The short three-minute trip passes through 585m of dense fynbos and over rocks to the upper lighthouse. The two cars can carry 40 passengers at a time and trips run continuously.

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Chapman's Peak (weather permitting)

Locals call this famous scenic drive that winds its way between Hout Bay and Noordhoek on Cape Town's stunning Atlantic Ocean coastline "Chappies". The toll route stretches nine kilometres along the coast taking over 100 curves in a road carved out by prisoners of war in the mid-1910s over a seven-year period. On the one side are towering cliffs and on the other a steep drop to the ocean. A favourite with visitors and locals alike for scenic hikes, cycles and drives, as well as picnicking.

Enjoy a Lunch at Seaforth Restaurant. (DRINKS AT OWN ACCOUNT)

Boulders Beach (Penguins)

The sheltered Simon's Town beach of Boulders Beach is the home of an endangered land-based colony of African penguins (over 2 000 of them), as well as a favourite swimming and beach destination for locals and international travellers, particularly children. One can walk between the three pristine and sheltered beaches on boardwalks, which also link to the penguin-viewing area offering fantastic sightings of these unique and endearing animals in their natural habitat.

Kirstenbosch Gardens

Explore the diverse beauty of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, which is set up against Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain looking onto the city. There are plenty of spaces to picnic among the rich and varied displays of southern Africa's plant life (more than 7 000 species are planted out) and a restaurant on site. It is the first botanical garden to be included within a natural World Heritage site. Paths are set out throughout the garden allowing visitors to easily wander past the natural displays.

Overnight: Southern Sun Waterfront Cape Town

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Day 5, 23 November 2019

Cape Town – Winelands Tour

After breakfast at the hotel, you are met by your guide and driver for the scheduled Full Day Winelands Tour.

Our day starts with a visit to Paarl where you will be struck by the beauty of the Valley, the pristine blue sky, the rolling vineyards and the Pearl of Paarl set high above the valley. Paarl made headlines when President Mandela was released from the Victor Verster prison, on the outskirts of the town, to freedom and the start of the new South Africa. We enjoy a wine tasting and cellar tour at one of the local estates. From Paarl, we will continue north-west to the beautiful village of Franschoek, near the Drakenstein Mountains founded in 1688 by French immigrants fleeing the Huguenot religious persecution in Europe.

A memorial in the town commemorates the arrival of these early settlers who helped develop the wines sought after by Napoleon, Bismarck and royalty such as Edward VII, the Prince of Wales. We will then head to Stellenbosch, the second oldest town in South Africa and the historic heart of the country's wine region. In 1679, Dutch East India Company governor Simon van der Stel recognized the fertility of this long valley on the banks of the Eerste River, as perfect for vineyards. The rest is history, which has been carefully cultivated in this town. A gracious blend of 18th-century Cape Dutch, Georgian and Victorian buildings is evident on Dorp Street, where massive oaks still shade original water furrows. Next, we will head to one of the well-known estates of the area for our final wine tasting. Return to Cape Town in the late afternoon for an evening at leisure. You can try one of the many restaurants located in the Waterfront District and within easy walking distance of the hotel.

Overnight: Southern Sun Waterfront Cape Town

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

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Day 6, 24 November 2019

Cape Town/Johannesburg- fly to Cape Town Johannesburg

After breakfast, you be transferred to Cape Town airport for your departure flight to Johannesburg. On arrival in Johannesburg you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Balalaika Hotel:

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7, 25 November 2019

Johannesburg- Guided Half Day Soweto & Apartheid Museum Tour

Soweto is an urban area of the city of Johannesburg, bordering the city's mining belt in the south. Its name, an English syllabic abbreviation for South Western Townships, refers to its origins as a Black township under South Africa's Apartheid government. The population has historically been overwhelmingly black and some of the watershed events in the struggle against Apartheid occurred in this township. On this tour we will discover Soweto and the surrounding area, driving past a hostel in Diepkloof, the well-known Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Orlando Power Station, Winnie & Nelson Mandela's Old house (Entrance fees not included), Desmond Tutu's House, the Hector Peterson Memorial (Entrance fees included), a quick stop at a well-known restaurant, a shebeen, the Regina Mundi Church, Maponya Shopping Mall, Kliptown, Walter Sisulu Freedom Square and Aldorado Park.

Afterwards we will head towards the Apartheid Museum. Once there you will have the opportunity to discover the history of the Apartheid era. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Soweto.

Overnight: Balalaika Hotel

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Day 8, 26 November 2019

Johannesburg/Hoedspruit/ Moditlo Private Game Reserve- fly from Johannesburg to Kruger National Park

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Johannesburg Airport for your flight to Hoedspruit in the Northern Kruger National Park. On arrival at Hoedspruit Airport a driver from Moditlo Private Game Reserve will meet, you transfer to the Camp and on arrival; you will check in and enjoy lunch. Moditlo Private Game Reserve located on the border of the Kruger National Park. You have some free time to explore the camp or relax at the pool prior to your first game drive. In the late afternoon, depart on your first game drive. In Land Rovers, you will set off into the bush on an exciting safari accompanied by a professional game ranger. At sunset, your rangers will stop off in the bush, where you will have a chance to soak up the amazing silence and watch the sun sink into the dusty horizon. Continue on with the game drive after dark, using a powerful spotlight to point out nocturnal wildlife. The chances are excellent that you will encounter lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, buffalo, cheetah and many other species of game in their natural habitat. The vehicles go off the road, when necessary, to afford you the best possible viewing. The safari continues on into the dark when spotlights are used to follow the game. As most of the predators are nocturnal, this is the best time for viewing especially as most hunting occurs at night.

Return to the camp where you will have a chance to freshen up prior to having dinner in the dining room.

Overnight: Moditlo River Lodge

Meals: Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Day 9, 27 November 2019 Moditlo Private Game Reserve

Enjoy a morning and afternoon full day of game drives accompanied by our skilled ranger and tracker as they do their best to find the animals of South Africa for you to admire. Expect a wakeup call at between 5:00am and 5:30am and gather for tea or coffee and rusks before heading out at first light. If you are lucky, the big cats will still be around after their night of hunting. This is Big 5 country (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Rhino and Buffalo) all of which are possible to see during a two-day safari. There are also many other species to be seen, large and small, as well as fascinating plants and colourful birds. Stop halfway through the morning game drive for hot drinks and rusks from the Land rover snack box and return at around 9am for breakfast.

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During the rest of the day, you are likely to see wildlife like nyala antelope and vervet monkeys around the lodges. At about 3.30pm everybody convenes for high tea, before departing with the same ranger/tracker team for the day's second African bush safari. Enjoy a sundowner drink along the way and get out of the vehicle to stretch your legs and watch the sun go down over the distant Drakensberg Mountains. As darkness descends it's time to return to the safety of the Land rover and let the tracker scan the landscape with a spotlight picking out the glinting eyes of nocturnal animals. Return to the lodge at around 7:00pm; where there is time to freshen up before dinner.

Overnight: Moditlo River Lodge

Meals: Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Day 10, 28 November 2019 Hoedspruit / Johannesburg-fly Kruger National Park to Johannesburg

Enjoy a final morning game drive followed by breakfast. Later you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Johannesburg. On arrival at the airport in Johannesburg our representative will meet you and assist you to your hotel located at the airport.

Overnight: City Lodge O.R Tambo Airport Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11, 29 November 2019 Johannesburg /home- fly Johannesburg to Addis Ababa then to Toronto

After breakfast, make your way back to O.R Tambo International Airport where you board your departure flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12, 30 November 2019 Arrival in Toronto

Welcome Home!

VICTORIA FALLS EXTENSION

Day 11, 29 November 2019 Johannesburg / Victoria Falls- Fly from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls

After breakfast, make your way back to O.R Tambo International Airport where you board your flight to Victoria Falls Zimbabwe. On arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel and the rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: Victoria Falls Safari Lodge

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12, 30 November 2019 Victoria Falls

After breakfast, you will be met for your guided tour of the Victoria Falls, known as Mosi-oa-Tunya "The Smoke That Thunders on your own. There is a magic about the Falls manifested in the towering column of spray when the river is high, the thunder of the falling water, the terrifying abyss and tranquil lagoons upstream in which hippo and deadly crocodiles lurk. The Victoria Falls is 1708 meters wide, making it the largest curtain of water in the world. It drops between 90m and 107m into the Zambezi Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic meters of water plummet over the edge every minute. Remarkably preserved in its natural state, Victoria Falls inspires visitors as much today as it did David Livingstone in the 1860's. Later this afternoon you will be collected for your Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi River, enjoy a cruise in the fading twilight hours, while sipping traditional cocktails and enjoying snacks. The total cruise time is approximately 3 hours. From the boats, sightings of elephant, giraffe and even rhino coming down to the river to drink are common. There are also abundant, hippos, crocodiles and birdlife. After the cruise, you will be transferred back to your hotel and the rest of the evening is at leisure.

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This evening enjoy a farewell - Boma Dinner Your last night in Africa to enjoy a farewell Boma Dinner. This is not just another ethnic restaurant but a rather unique cultural experience. Excellent cuisine, including a variety of game meats and traditional Zimbabwean dishes, is accompanied by entertainment throughout your meal from traditional dancers, the Sangoma (story teller) and a local witchdoctor who is available for fortune telling. A feast of nightly entertainment incorporates Shangaan dancers and singers and a local witchdoctor. Guests are welcomed with a traditional greeting in Shona and Ndebele, the local languages. They are invited to take part in a hand washing ceremony before sampling traditional beer and snacks, as a prelude to dinner. The highlight of the evening is the interactive drumming and dancing!

Overnight: Victoria Falls Safari Lodge & Dinner

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13, 01 December 2019 **Victoria Falls /Johannesburg- fly from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg**

After breakfast this morning, you will be transferred back to the airport for your return to Johannesburg, On arrival at the airport in Johannesburg you will make your way to your hotel located at the airport.

Overnight: City Lodge O.R Tambo Airport Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 14, 02 December 2019 **Johannesburg /home- fly Johannesburg to Addis Ababa then to Toronto**

After breakfast, make your way back to O.R Tambo International Airport where you board your departure flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 15, 03 December 2019 **Arrival in Toronto**

Welcome Home!

******END OF OUR SERVICES******

COST INCLUDES:

- Meals as per itinerary
- Accommodation and transfers as per itinerary
- All airfares and airfare taxes
- Tours as detailed on the itinerary
- Local English speaking driver on all transfers
- Local English speaking guide on all sightseeing excursions
- Entrance fees to sightseeing venues as stated in the itinerary above

COST EXCLUDES:

- All other accommodation
- All other meals
- All other transport
- All other sightseeing
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses such as tips for meals, gratuities for guides & drivers, all alcoholic and other beverages, telephone calls and laundry
- Any other services not specifically included

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Canadian Citizens do not require a visa to enter South Africa.
- All passports must be valid for at least 6 months after your return AND must have two blank pages side by side for South African immigration.
- A Visa is required for Zimbabwe and will be issued on arrival at Victoria Falls Airport at USD75.00 per person for single entry (cost subject to change)
- Anti-malaria protection required.
- Contact your local health clinic to determine if any other inoculations are required.
- Comprehensive travel insurance is highly recommended.

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