

TOGETHER WE TRAVEL!



solo connections





DISCOVER SOUTHERN AFRICA
22 Days
Fully Escorted
7 – 28 August 2024

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cape Town & Signal Hill
- Boulders Beach & Penguin Colony
- Groot Constantia
- Dumazulu Cultural Village
- Hluhluwe National Park
- Kruger National Park and the Big 5
- Victoria Falls
- Zambezi River Dinner Cruise
- Chobe National Park
- Soweto

INCLUDES:

- Economy class airfares including taxes* - *departing Brisbane/Melbourne/Perth or Sydney*[^]
- **Private single rooms** in quality accommodation
- **Meals** as per itinerary 19 Breakfasts/ 6 Lunches/ 16 Dinners
- **Sightseeing** tours and transfers as per itinerary
- **Tour Host** – travels with group from/to Brisbane
- Local English speaking Tour Director and Driver

EXCLUDES:

- Tipping & Gratuities: **Please allow approx. AUD\$200 for local guides & drivers**
- Tipping for meals or any other services other than listed above
- Travel Insurance
- Any meals, tours, flights, excursions or transfers other than mentioned above or in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature i.e. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Visas (for non-Australian passport holders)

From \$16,957* per person

Terms and Conditions apply. Tour requires minimum number of passengers in order to depart. Economy class airfare with Emirates. *Taxes included to the value of \$250. ^Sydney departures incur \$200 surcharge. Tour host departs from Brisbane. Solo Connections reserves the right to amend all hotels, airlines, restaurants and tours for an equal substitute at any time. Beverages, additional meals, hotel mini bars, laundry, phone calls, any items of personal nature not included. Tours subject to availability. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 996



Wednesday, 07 August – Thursday 08 August 2024
Brisbane – Cape Town via Dubai

D

Today we will meet our tour host and fellow travellers at Brisbane International Airport for our flights to Cape Town.

On arrival Thursday at Cape Town International Airport we will be met by our tour director who will accompany us to the awaiting vehicle to take us to our hotel. Our rooms may not be available upon arrival so we will leave our bags and take a walk. Voted as the best place in the world to visit by the prestigious New York Times, Cape Town is one of the most popular destinations in South Africa. This vibrant multicultural city is a healthy mix of city and suburban living, vibey day and night spots, outdoor recreational activities and relaxation.

There will be time to relax before we join together for our **Welcome Dinner** at the hotel restaurant.

Hotel – Premier Hotel Cape Town or similar (4 Nights)

Friday, 09 August 2024
Cape Town

B-D

After breakfast we will commence a **Half Day City tour**. We explore South Africa's exciting "Mother City" with a guided tour of the historical and cultural sights of Cape Town. Step into the rich history of the city whilst passing places of interest such as the impressive Castle of Good Hope and Cape Town City Hall. We will tour the cosmopolitan centre of the city passing through the colourful Malay quarter, known as the Bo-Kaap, and visiting the Company Gardens.

****Due to annual maintenance being carried around this time we may not be able to visit Table Mountain during our tour and if this is the case we will instead be taken to Signal Hill, known for the Noon Gun that is operated there by the South African Navy and South African Astronomical Observatory. This information will be updated closer to travel when the reopen dates are confirmed.**

Returning to the hotel this afternoon, we'll have time to freshen up before we venture to the **V & A Waterfront** for dinner in a local restaurant.

Saturday, 10 August 2024
Cape Town

B

Enjoy breakfast this morning before we depart on a full days outing which will be comprised of a **Cape Point Tour and Groot Constantia Tour**.

We begin with the **Chapmans Peak Drive** on the Atlantic Coast between Hout Bay and Noordhoek in the Cape Peninsula. This is one of the most spectacular marine drives in the world. Chapmans Peak Drive is affectionately known as Chappies and is a must for anyone who is passionate about the majestic scenery of Cape Town.

Continuing on we find ourselves at 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 warn ships they are approaching the feared "Cape of Storms").



Apart from offering visitors an exciting and novel method of travel, taking the Flying Dutchman funicular saves visitors an uphill walk from the car park to see the old lighthouse and enjoy the panoramic views. The Flying Dutchman Funicular, also known as the Cape Point Funicular, is a funicular railway located at Cape Point.

Next up is a visit to **Boulders Beach**, the home of an endangered land-based colony of African penguins, is also a favourite beach and swimming destination for locals and visitors. Be sure to have your cameras at the ready to capture these cute little guys!

We make a stop for lunch, (own expense), before commencing the **Groot Constantia Tour**.

Groot Constantia is a significant component of the World Wine Heritage and a top-tier international tourism destination that captures the rich and diverse past of South Africa to offer residents and visitors alike a distinctive cultural, social, and historical experience. It is an iconic illustration of how South African history and legacy are being preserved in the wine business, providing topnotch, high-quality wines, sensory interactions, and unique experiences. We can enjoy five selected wines along with their paired chocolates. There will also be time to visit the Groot Constantia Museum whilst we are here.

We return to the hotel late this afternoon where we can have the evening at leisure. Some may prefer to have an early night in or perhaps dine in the hotel restaurant. Whichever you choose, your tour host will be on hand.

Sunday, 11 August 2024
Cape Town

B-D

Today is a full day at leisure. After breakfast take some time to relax or shop for souvenirs along the waterfront. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone would like company or needs assistance.

Tonight we will enjoy vibrant, eclectic Pan-African experience at **GOLD Restaurant**. It offers a night of opulent feasting with a unique bouquet of live entertainment in a mystical African setting of trees and tents in an inner city courtyard steeped in ancient history and GOLD.

Monday, 12 August 2024
Cape Town - Durban

B

Following breakfast today, we pack our bags, check out and board the coach bound for the Cape Town Airport in time for our flight to Durban.

Upon arrival in Durban, we collect our luggage and meet our coach driver who will transfer us to our overnight accommodation.

We'll check in and have time to relax. This evening is at leisure and your host will be on hand to assist.

Hotel – Protea Hotel Durban Umhlanga or similar (1 night)



Tuesday, 13 August 2024
Durban - Hluhluwe

B-L-D

This morning we will meet for breakfast before we check out, board the coach and are taken to a traditional village to enjoy a **cultural show at Dumazulu**.

Dumazulu ('Thundering Zulu') Lodge is located alongside a traditional village in the Hluhluwe area of Zululand. A visit to the village allows rich insights into the traditional ways of the Zulu nation. We can expect to get the blood racing with a traditional dancing show accompanied by tribal drumbeats.

Enjoy a taste of traditional Zulu beer and learn about a variety of indigenous skills. These range from spear and shield making to basket weaving, beadwork, pot making and more.

We will make our way to our lodge to check in and once we've had a chance to freshen up we will meet for dinner.

Hotel – Anew Hotel Hluhluwe & Safaris or similar (2 Nights)

Wednesday, 14 August 2024
Hluhluwe

B-D

After breakfast this morning is at leisure. Take the time to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities.

This afternoon we venture out on a **3 hour game drive** in an open 4 x 4 game vehicle.

The Hluhluwe region is famous for its abundance of wildlife, in particular the white rhino. Game drives are done with a trained driver and experienced guide. Hluhluwe is the oldest game reserve in the country and internationally renowned for its campaign to save the white rhino from extinction. The 96-000ha reserve is home to the Big 5 and a multitude of other species including a vast array of bird species. The diverse eco-systems surrounding the reserve contribute to this abundance of wildlife; eco-systems include the St. Lucia Wetlands, Kosi Bay and bushveld. A spectacular destination and the game drive allows guests to gain insight into the eco-systems and get up close to the diversity of wildlife that live here.

Freshen up upon your return before we meet and enjoy dinner at the lodge this evening.

Thursday, 15 August 2024
Hluhluwe - Eswatini

B-D

This morning after breakfast we journey into **Eswatini**.

Upon arrival, and after check in at our hotel, we will have the afternoon of leisure. You may like to take a swim in the pool or just relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities.

Tonight we will meet for dinner together.

Hotel – Happy Valley Hotel Ezulwini or similar (1 night)



Friday, 16 August 2024
Eswatini – Kruger National Park

B-D

Today after breakfast we travel into the Kruger region to our accommodation.

Located in the Greater Kruger Conservancy, right at the Paul Kruger Gate and on the banks of the iconic Sabie River this lodge-style hotel, famed for its soaring wooden walkways and treetop ambiance, uniquely offers classic Big 5 safaris in the Kruger National Park of which we will get to enjoy.

Upon arrival there will be time to freshen up before we join together for dinner.

Hotel – Kruger Gate Hotel or similar (3 nights)

Saturday, 17 August 2024
Kruger National Park

B-L-D

Enjoy breakfast this morning before we have a full day out in the Kruger region, including lunch.

We drive through South Africa's **Kruger National Park**, world-renowned for the impressive number of species it hosts as well as the diversity of landscapes within its nearly 2 million hectares and its heritage offerings from San rock art to archaeological sites.

The Kruger National Park was founded in 1898 by Paul Kruger to protect the region's unique fauna and flora. It encompasses an area of almost 2 million hectares and shares borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The ideal season to observe the game is during South Africa's winter months (May to September), as the climate is moderate and the landscape dry and bleak. When the first rains fall in November the natural bush, fauna and flora flourish. During summer most of the young animals are born.

The Kruger National Park is widely renowned for its astonishing variety in Wildlife. Besides the "Big 5" (elephant, rhinoceros, lion, leopard and buffalo) visitors may also encounter giraffes, zebras, and a variety of antelope, warthogs and multiple bird species.

Tonight we will meet for dinner at the hotel.

Sunday, 18 August 2024
Kruger National Park

B-L-D

Today we will enjoy another full day safari adventure in our open vehicles within the Kruger National Park.

In the evening we will meet for dinner at the hotel



Monday, 19 August 2024
Kruger National Park – Victoria Falls

B-D

Following breakfast this morning we check out and are transferred to the Kruger Airport in time for our flight to Victoria Falls.

Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel we can check in and have some time at leisure.

This evening indulge in both a cultural and culinary experience at the boma dinner. Enjoy a range of traditional Zimbabwean dishes complemented by a delicious barbeque buffet. A traditional story teller adds that extra element of intrigue and drama to the evening

Hotel – Elephant Hills Resort or similar (3 nights)

Tuesday, 20 August 2024
Victoria Falls

B-D

We enjoy breakfast this morning before taking a **Guided Tour of the Falls.**

The tour takes us to the best view points of this iconic waterfall, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, allowing you to soak up the powerful and enigmatic atmosphere of **Victoria Falls**. Walk through the permanent, beautifully misty rain forest which flanks the Falls, stopping to marvel at the principal sites as it cascades to the depths below the Main Falls, Horseshoe Falls, Rainbow Falls, the Boiling Pot, Cataract Island and Livingstone Island. We'll stand and watch, feel and listen to the spray and thunderous noise, as millions of litres of water tumble over the Falls into a series of narrow gorges below.

There is time to relax in the afternoon before we embark on a **Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi River** followed by a delicious three-course Jetty Dinner.

Wednesday, 21 August 2024
Victoria Falls

B

Following breakfast we will be taken to an authentic **rural village** approximately 20 kilometers from Victoria Falls town and are given the opportunity to watch local villagers going about their daily tasks.

The tour enables us to experience rural life first hand by visiting homes, watching the fields being tended and possibly getting the chance to help in some of the day-to-day chores.

Returning to the hotel, we have the evening at leisure. Your tour will be on hand for anyone that would like company.



Thursday, 22 August 2024
Victoria Falls – Chobe National Park

B-D

This morning we check out after breakfast and are transferred to **Chobe National Park** in Botswana.

Botswana is undoubtedly the home of the authentic safari, where the wildlife offers an unforgettable African experience. It is well known for its exclusive offerings of high calibre safari lodges that seamlessly blend luxury surroundings with a landscape of distinctive contrasts. Many of the regions within Botswana are considered iconic. It's no secret that Botswana is blessed with some of Africa's best reserves.

The Chobe National Park has been dubbed, the 'Land of Giants' because it has the largest single concentration of elephants on the African continent. The magic of the Okavango Delta is famous for being the world's largest inland delta.

Upon arrival we will check into our accommodation. Enjoy some time to settle in before we come together for dinner.

Hotel – Cresta Mowana Safari Resort and Spa or similar (3 Nights)

Friday, 23 & Saturday, 24 August 2024
Chobe National Park

B-L-D

For the next two days we will be spoilt for choice in terms of activities as game drives in the nearby Chobe National Park, tiger-fishing, tennis, swimming and rounds of golf on the well-loved course are all on offer.

Bird-watching is an extremely popular option here particularly on the Mokoro Canoe Trail down the Chobe River.

Come together each evening for dinner whilst chatting about the adventures from the day.

Sunday, 25 August 2024
Chobe National Park - Johannesburg

B-D

Enjoy breakfast this morning before checking out and being transferred to Victoria Falls Airport for our flight to Johannesburg.

Upon arrival we will be transferred to the hotel where we can check and freshen up before coming together for dinner.

Hotel –Garden Court OR Tambo Airport Hotel or similar (2 nights)



Monday, 26 August 2024
Johannesburg

B-L-D

Following breakfast we will board the coach and be taken for a full day tour to **Soweto**, with some time at leisure at Sandton Square.

The Soweto uprising, as it has come to be known, saw 20 children shot by police during what started out as a peaceful protest. One of the pivotal moments in the anti-Apartheid struggle, 12-year-old Hector has come to symbolise those that stood against the tyrannical regime. Today, the 16th of June is celebrated in South Africa as National Youth Day in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the protest. The site where Hector was shot is not far from the memorial and close to the Hector Peterson Museum.

Mandela House in Orlando West Soweto is a national monument dedicated to offering insights into the life of Nelson Mandela and the families that he lived with from 1946 through to the 1990s. Managed by the Soweto Heritage Trust the house has been fully renovated and hosts a visitor centre as well as excellent multi-media and audio-visual displays outlining the history of the Mandela family. A meaningful experience; visitors are exposed to Mandela's personal life on this visit.

Upon our return to the hotel, freshen up and meet for our **Farewell Dinner**.

Tuesday, 27 August - Wednesday, 28 August 2028
Johannesburg – Brisbane via Dubai

B

After breakfast and checking out we will be transferred to Johannesburg Airport in time for our flight.