



JOHANNESBURG, DRAKENSBERG, DURBAN, ST LUCIA, SWAZILAND AND KRUGER PARK

12 Days

Day 1 ARRIVE JOHANNESBURG

A warm welcome on arrival at Johannesburg (OR Tambo) International Airport, and private transfer to the hotel.

Johannesburg, located in Gauteng (South Africa's richest province) is also known as the City of Gold, or Egoli because of its beginnings as a gold-mining town. It is known fondly to locals by the shortened 'Joburg', or now more popularly as 'Jozi'. An emotionally challenging, but continually uplifting and inspiring city, make time for Johannesburg and you will be greatly rewarded.

An Authentic Suggestion: we recommend a visit to vibrant Soweto this afternoon, visiting famous Vilakazi Street with the Mandela House, Regina Mundi Church, Hector Peterson Memorial etc. Also visit the Apartheid Museum, which recounts the colourful history of South Africa.

Enjoy dinner this evening at leisure.

Day 2 JOHANNESBURG - DRAKENSBERG

After breakfast, depart southwards for the majestic Drakensberg Mountains, a national heritage site.

After checking in, enjoy lunch and spend the afternoon at one of the Vulture Hides in Giants Castle.

The renowned Giants Castle Vulture Hide or Lammergeyer Vulture Hide is situated in the Giants Castle Nature Reserve, Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park. The vulture hide is open to watch and photograph the endangered species of bearded vultures and other endangered bird species.

Head back to the hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure.

Day 3 IN THE DRAKENSBERG

After a leisurely breakfast, head out to meet up with a local guide for a tour of the magnificent Rock Art in this area of the Drakensberg.

Explore the hundreds of painted rock overhangs or shelters, with literally thousands of individual paintings in them. This amazing treasure trove of art was left behind by the Bushmen who inhabited the Drakensberg for at least 10 000 years.

site



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After lunch at a local restaurant, head out for Wine tasting in the Drakensberg mountains.

Authentic Touch: take a 4x4 drive up the legendary Sani Pass into Lesotho, one of the most spectacular and rugged mountain passes in South Africa, offering spectacular views. Enjoy tasting exceptional wines created from grapes steeped in summer thunderstorms by day and cool mountain air by night.

Head back to the hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure.

Day 4 DRAKENSBERG - DURBAN

After breakfast, check out and continue on the journey to Durban, the famous beach city on the East coast.

On arrival at the hotel, check in, relax and explore the surroundings and especially the beachfront.

Day 5 DURBAN – ST LUCIA

After breakfast, continue on the exciting journey up the East Coast, to St Lucia.

On arrival at the hotel, check in, relax, and freshen up.

In the afternoon, enjoy a visit to the Veyane Village.

Experience Contemporary Zulu Village life. The tour of Veyane Village takes you into the heart of a real working Zulu community where old-age traditions meet contemporary society. See Zulu bead workers and weavers at work and try your hand at these traditional arts and crafts. Be spellbound by the magic of Zulu storytelling as well as be entertained by talented traditional dancers and musicians.

Head back to the hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure.

Day 6 ST LUCIA: swimming with Dolphins and photographing rhinos

After breakfast today, guests will the delights of the Oceans and the Bushveld in one day, swimming with dolphins and photographing rhinos.

There are very few places in world or in South Africa where you can swim with dolphins in the morning and photograph rhinos in the afternoon. One such amazing spot is the spectacular iSimangaliso Wetland Park, which conserves the most naturally diverse area in the country.

In the late afternoon, guests head back to the hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure.

Day 7 ST LUCIA - SWAZILAND

After breakfast, continue on the drive northwards, into the Kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland).

This remote mountain kingdom boasts many opportunities for an intrepid traveller – wildlife, adrenaline-boosting activities, a lively and colourful local culture, with celebrations and ceremonies still common practice, as well as superb walking trails, and stunning mountain scenery.

Check in at the hotel and freshen up.

An Authentic Touch: enjoy an afternoon learning traditional basket weaving. *Swaziland is renowned for taking basket weaving into an art form, and there are many projects promoting local crafts.*

Head back to the hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure.

Day 8 SWAZILAND – PANORAMA ROUTE

After breakfast, the leisurely journey continues, through Swaziland and on to Hazyview.

The Panorama Route is a scenic road in South Africa connecting several cultural and natural points of interest. The route, steeped in the history of South Africa, is in Mpumalanga province, centred around the Blyde River Canyon, the world's third largest canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, Gods Window and Pilgrims Rest.

Spend the rest of the day relaxing at the poolside of the hotel.

Day 9 ON THE PANORAMA ROUTE

After breakfast, depart with a local guide for a full day on the Panorama Route.

A qualified tour guide will take you to magnificent sites with breath taking views, including the Three Rondavels, Gods Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes and the greater Sabie area.

The Blyde River Canyon is the most spectacular stretch of the Panorama Route and is the third largest canyon in the world (after the Grand Canyon in the U.S. and Namibia's Fish Eagle Canyon). The Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve runs along the Canyon's winding path, which at every turn offers more and more impressive views over sheer edges dropping up to 2,600 feet (800metres) into the riverbed.

Along the route you will find God's Window which is a small part of a 250km long fortification of sheer cliffs and offers awesome views of the Lowveld. With its magnificent views, rock formations, canyons and waterfalls, God's Window is truly an area of breath taking scenic grandeur and is so named for its beauty and the fact that it appears as if one can see 'forever'!

Bourke's Luck Potholes are impressive rock formations that were shaped millions of years ago by erosion. They are one of South Africa's most unusual geological phenomena. Over thousands of years, surreal cylindrical rock sculptures created by whirling water have formed a series of dark pools which contrast artfully with the streaked white and yellow lichen covered rocks. The Potholes are named after a miner, Tom Bourke, who struck it lucky at a mine he opened nearby.

Pilgrims Rest is the romantic gold-rush town along the Panorama Route. It is frozen in time and the entire village is an historical monument that has been preserved in the architectural style of the South African Gold Rush years between 1880 and 1915. You can try your hand at gold panning at the national museum!

The 'Three Rondavels (also called the 'Three Sisters'), are three huge spirals of dolomite rock rising out of the far wall of the Blyde River Canyon and have been likened to rockets about to take off. From the 'Three Rondavels you can see the widespread Swadini Dam in the far distance, which marks the end of the Blyde River Reserve.

Head back to the hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure.

Day 10 PANORAMA ROUTE – KRUGER PARK

After breakfast, continue the journey into the world-renowned Kruger National Park

Drive into the Park, and onwards to Skukuza Camp or similar (Skukuza is one of the larger camps with many amenities, but there are many smaller options if preferred).

Settle into the chalet, or visit the camp restaurant for lunch, followed by a game drive in your own vehicle, through the many roads in the Park.

Return to the camp as the sun sets, and enjoy an independent dinner in the restaurant.

Day 11 IN THE KRUGER PARK

This morning, wake up early and drive out of the Camp into the Reserve, where if you are lucky you could see the predators returning from their nightly hunt.

Either return to the camp for breakfast, and continue your drive to another camp for breakfast, and to explore the vast network of roads to view the many animals and birds in their natural environment.

Optional: open vehicle game drive with professional ranger.

Return to the camp in the late afternoon, with independent lunch and dinner today.

Day 12 KRUGER PARK – JOHANNESBURG - DEPART

After breakfast this morning, check out of the Kruger Park

Drive southwards back to Johannesburg, arriving at OR Tambo International Airport in the late afternoon.

Check in for the homeward flight.