

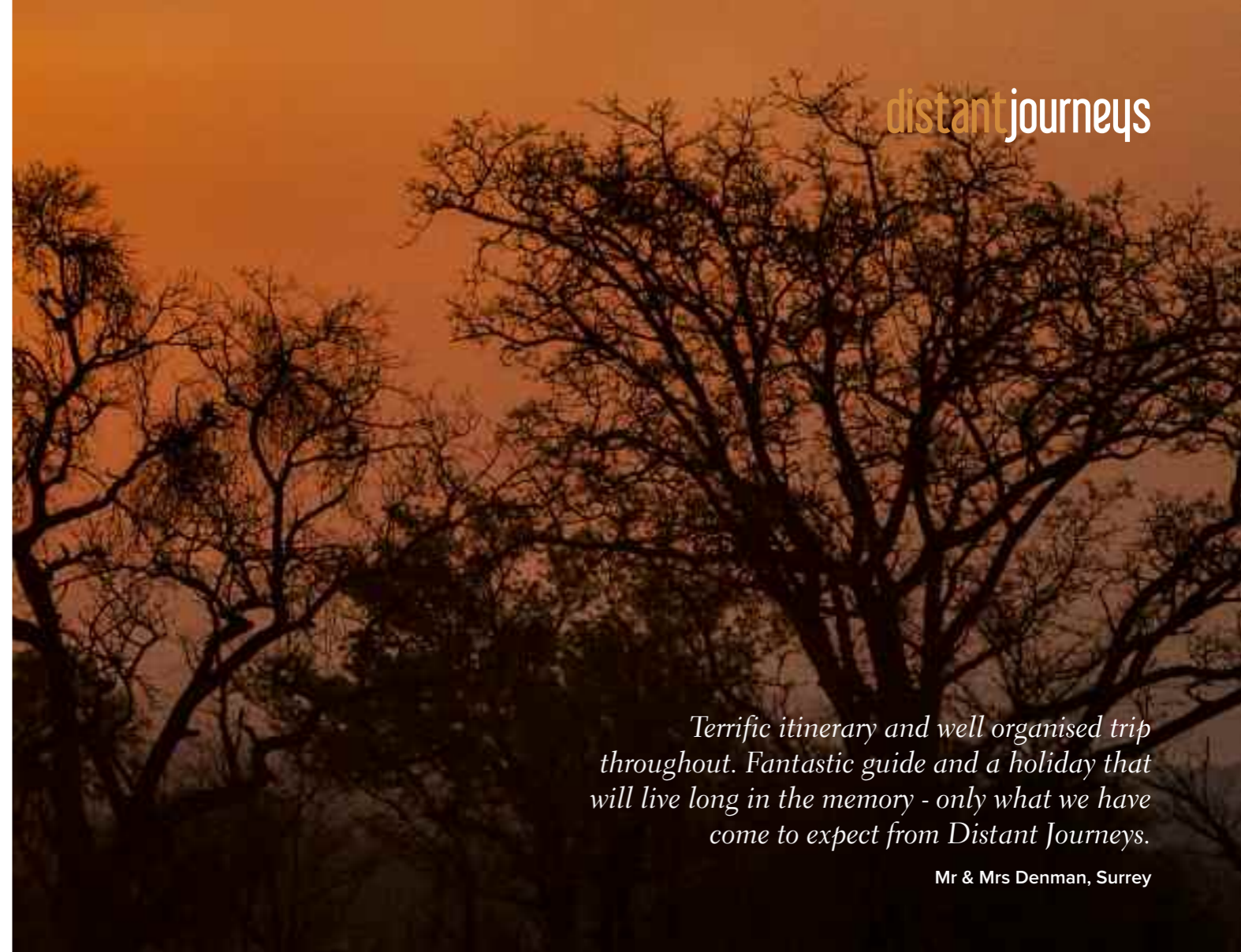
South Africa

2019 / 2020



distantjourneys

Leisurely and flexible guided touring



Terrific itinerary and well organised trip throughout. Fantastic guide and a holiday that will live long in the memory - only what we have come to expect from Distant Journeys.

Mr & Mrs Denman, Surrey

A Warm Welcome Awaits

Think soaring mountains, untouched savannas, golden beaches, incredible wetlands, lush forests and picturesque winelands. South Africa's beautiful landscapes are hard to beat. Add to this its captivating cities, fascinating history and an abundance of breath-taking wildlife, and you begin to understand why South Africa is one of the world's ultimate touring destinations.

Distant Journeys has carefully crafted your itinerary to ensure you're able to immerse yourself in all the incredible natural beauty South Africa has to offer, and so much more. We invite you to join us on a spectacular South African adventure.

Over 60 years creating incredible touring holidays
The directors at Distant Journeys have over 60 years combined experience designing escorted touring holidays all over the world. Using our extensive knowledge, we have created an exciting style of flexible touring holiday combining the delights and camaraderie of group travel, with the flexibility to allow for personal tastes.

Our tours operate at a leisurely pace, offer exceptional value for money without compromising on quality or inclusions and provide you with unrivalled flexibility, ensuring your holiday is perfect for you.

Our aim is simple – to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be.

Book With 100% Confidence

Our Price Promise
All Distant Journeys touring holidays come with our Price Promise*. This is our guarantee to give early bookers the best price, to never offer your holiday at a cheaper price or add surcharges once your holiday booking is confirmed, and to match the price of any identical holiday you may find.

Award-winning service
Our friendly travel professionals are experts in the places we visit and are happy to share their passion with you at any time. Exceptional customer service means not only is our Feefo satisfaction rating an outstanding 99%, Distant Journeys has also won Feefo's coveted 'Gold Trusted' rating.

Financially protected
Distant Journeys are fully bonded by ATOL, meaning you can book your holiday knowing your money is 100% safe.

* For more information on our Price Promise, please see our booking conditions on pages 36-39.



Richard Hanson, Simon Whittle & Andrew Laycock
Directors, Distant Journeys



Contents

The Distant Journeys Difference

Why Choose Distant Journeys?	6 - 7
Uncompromising Quality	8 - 9
Hand-Picked Hotels	10 - 11
Freedom & Flexibility	12 - 13
Once in a Lifetime Experiences	14 - 15

Our Leisurely & Flexible Tours

18-day Spectacular South Africa	16 - 27
3-day Victoria Falls Extension	28 - 29

Helpful Information

Hotel Directory	30 - 32
Our Airline Partners	33
Helpful Information	34 - 35
Booking Conditions	36 - 39

Call to book

Our award-winning team of travel experts is happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call us on 01695 577 961

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





Why Choose Distant Journeys?

1. **Exceptional value, uncompromising quality**
Our aim is to offer exceptional value for money without compromising on the quality of your holiday. You'll find included all you would expect from a touring holiday, along with a few special extras you might not expect such as hotel portorage and a welcome drink.
2. **Meticulously designed tours**
With over 60 years combined experience, our directors understand just what it takes to design the perfect touring holiday. Many months of planning go into every detail of the holiday, and each element is carefully chosen with our customers' enjoyment in mind.
3. **Personal knowledge and expert advice**
Distant Journeys has a team of professional travel specialists with personal knowledge of the countries we visit, our selected hotels and the fabulous experiences we offer.
4. **Leisurely paced itineraries**
Our holidays operate at a relaxed pace, as we aim to give you plenty of time to fully explore and savour each area as well as giving you some time to unwind.
5. **Hand-picked hotels**
You'll be delighted by your hotels, as Distant Journeys only select accommodation which meets the high standards of quality, service and location our guests have come to expect.
6. **Once in a lifetime experiences**
From luxurious rail journeys to exploring lesser known gems, our holidays feature many incredible experiences which will stay in your memory forever.
7. **Experienced Tour Managers & guides**
Our Tour Managers, Coach Captains and local guides are all greatly experienced in their field, and have the right balance of organisational skills and local knowledge, coupled with a warm, friendly personality.
8. **Personalise your travel arrangements**
Flying from regional UK airports at no extra cost, upgrading your flight and extending your holiday are just a few of the ways in which you can personalise your tour so it's perfect for you.
9. **Freedom to explore**
We know our customers rightly expect to have all the must-see excursions included, but we understand they also want to tailor their holiday to their own tastes. That's why each tour has several Freedom Days to allow you the flexibility and choice to decide how you wish to spend your time.
10. **Our Price Promise**
We want you to have the peace of mind you are paying the best price for your holiday, so Distant Journeys guarantees this through our Price Promise*.
 - ◆ We'll reward you for booking early. The earlier you book the better the offer you'll receive.
 - ◆ We never offer last minute discounts, so you can be confident you'll never see your holiday cheaper.
 - ◆ We will never add surcharges onto the cost of your holiday, once you have booked.
 - ◆ We're so confident our tours represent excellent value for money, should you find the same tour at a cheaper price not only will we match that price, we will also give you £200 off a future booking.
11. **Award-winning holidays**
Distant Journeys offer touring holidays to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and China, and we are delighted to have been awarded the 'Best Small Holiday Company to Australasia' in both 2016 and 2017 at the British Travel Awards.
12. **99% customer satisfaction**
We are so proud that our customers really love what we do. So much so, Distant Journeys has achieved an incredible 99% satisfaction rating with independent reviews provider Feefo.
13. **Gold standard service**
The exceptional service provided by Distant Journeys has led to us being awarded Feefo's 'Gold Trusted' rating.
14. **Financially protected**
All Distant Journeys holidays are fully bonded by the Civil Aviation Authority, ATOL number 10913, meaning you can book in the confidence your money is 100% safe.

* For more information on our Price Promise, please see our booking conditions on pages 36-39.

Uncompromising Quality with exceptional value

We are passionate about what we do, passionate about the countries we visit, the experiences we include, the service we offer and the value for money we deliver to our guests without compromising on the quality of the holiday experience.

With Distant Journeys, value does not mean cheap. Value for money means we will provide you with the opportunity to discover a destination in comfort and style, with so much flexibility and so many experiences included in the itinerary, and without it costing the earth.

So much included

From start to finish, each Distant Journeys holiday is meticulously planned. As you would expect from a touring holiday, we include return international flights from the UK on award-winning scheduled airlines, with all your on-board meals and drinks included. What you might not expect is being able to add on connecting flights from a choice of seven regional UK airports, without paying any extra.

All your touring holiday essentials are included; overseas transport in modern air-conditioned coaches, a porter service for your luggage, all pre-payable airport and resort taxes, and all the entrance fees to the many incredible places you will visit. What's more, throughout your holiday you'll be accompanied by a knowledgeable Tour Manager to help you make the most of your time in South Africa.

Comfort and convenience

Hotels are carefully selected to make the most of each location, and offer quality and comfort so you can unwind and relax when returning from a day's exploring. Daily breakfast is included, in addition to several lunches and dinners.

Unforgettable experiences

To make your holiday extra special, along with all the 'must-see' excursions already included, Distant Journeys includes a number of once in a lifetime experiences and visits to lesser known hidden gems. These are all included to create memories you will treasure forever.

Our Price Promise



Early booking offers

Our philosophy is simple - the earlier you book the better the offer the you will receive.

No last minute discounts

Distant Journeys never discount our holidays, so you can be confident you will never see your holiday at a lower price than the one you paid.

No surcharges

Irrespective of any additional costs incurred by Distant Journeys as a result of currency fluctuations, air fare increases or other costs associated with your holiday, surcharges will never be added once you have confirmed a booking.

Price match

We want you to have the peace of mind when booking a Distant Journeys holiday that you are receiving the best possible price. So, if you see the same holiday cheaper, not only will we match that price, we will also give you £200 off the price of a future holiday with Distant Journeys.

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our booking conditions on pages 36-39.



Hand-Picked Hotels perfectly located

Distant Journeys appreciate the hotels in which you stay are an integral part of your holiday enjoyment, which is why we take great care in hand-picking all the accommodation featured in our itineraries.

Location and quality are always paramount considerations, and we strive to provide the best of both.

Hotel ratings

Each property has been inspected whilst planning our holidays, and you can be confident the hotels featured in this brochure have been carefully selected for their location, quality, facilities and level of service.

We understand from many years of experience that accommodation ratings may vary from country to country. We therefore provide our own ratings, which are based on the expectations of guests from the UK, alongside the official hotel rating. Please review our hotel directory on pages 30-32 for more information regarding the hotels included in your South African adventure.

Location, location, location

Relax in the knowledge that every hotel has been carefully chosen to allow you to make the most of each destination you visit. In Cape Town for instance, you stay at the excellently located Southern Sun Waterfront, just minutes away from the vibrant Victoria & Alfred Waterfront.

Character and charm

Some hotels are more than just a place to rest and in many destinations we select hotels for their history, character and charm. When staying in Pretoria, you'll experience a great example of this, where you will spend a wonderful two nights at Irene Country Lodge – an oasis of tranquillity set in beautiful lakeside gardens, surrounded by the Camdeboo Forest, and a perfect spot to relax in the African sunshine.





Freedom & Flexibility

holidays styled just for you

Imagine being able to enjoy all the benefits of travelling with a group of like-minded people; the laughs, the camaraderie, the friendships, the hassle-free organisation - and at the same time being able to personalise your holiday so that it's perfect for you.

When it comes to having the freedom to tailor your touring holiday to suit your tastes and wishes, the flexibility provided by Distant Journeys cannot be beaten.

Choose your perfect safari experience

On a Distant Journeys tour, you can choose your perfect safari experience with the option to stay in a tree lodge within Ubizane Nature Reserve, or to enjoy the 'Durban Safari' from the comfort of one of the world's most luxurious trains, with Rovos Rail.

Freedom Days

For an escorted tour to be truly memorable, we believe you should have the freedom to customise your touring experiences to match your interests. That is why we ensure all Distant Journeys tours have a number of Freedom Days for you to spend as you please.

Sample South Africa's wonderful wines on a spectacular journey through the Cape Winelands, explore the fascinating World Heritage site of Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated, discover the Anglo-Zulu battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, or simply spend time with a good book by the pool – the choice is yours.

Travel to suit you

To get your journey off to the best possible start, Distant Journeys offers flights with South African Airways from London Heathrow. Should you prefer to fly from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Newcastle, Manchester or Leeds-Bradford, Distant Journeys will arrange this, at no extra cost. And if British Airways is your airline of choice, we will be happy to provide you with a price for flights from London Heathrow.

If you would like to treat yourself to a little more comfort on your flights, Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available on selected routes. Please see page 33 for more details.

Extend your holiday

Should you wish to extend your time in South Africa, we will be delighted to arrange your flights for you – it's all part of the Distant Journeys service. What's more, you have the chance to extend your holiday with a wonderful three night stay in Victoria Falls. At a little over an hour and a half from Johannesburg, this is the ideal opportunity to add on one of the planet's greatest natural wonders.





Once in a Lifetime Experiences which are truly unforgettable

Distant Journeys offers touring holidays to a selection of truly magical countries, featuring an incredible array of holiday experiences.

When you travel with Distant Journeys, you can be confident that not only will all the memorable must-see sights be included, but you will also enjoy several extra special experiences to make your holiday as memorable as it should be.

A new adventure every day

The reasons to discover South Africa are endless. Nevertheless, here is just a small selection of the highlights you may enjoy as Distant Journeys helps you to explore this spectacular country.

Explore captivating cities

Enjoy exploring the country's most captivating cities, from vibrant Johannesburg and Asian-influenced Durban; the impressive architecture of the capital, Pretoria; smaller towns including picturesque Stellenbosch and Knysna; to the incredible city of Cape Town with iconic Table Mountain as its backdrop.

Spectacular safaris

South Africa is one of the world's greatest safari destinations. The sheer number of elephants, lions, leopards, hyenas, rhinos, buffaloes, antelope and a myriad of other species will quickly overwhelm your camera.

Rovos Rail

Known as 'The most luxurious train in the world', Rovos Rail cannot fail to impress with its luxurious accommodation and excellent service. The rebuilt carriages contain spacious suites, finished with elegant décor and first class amenities. An enthusiastic team of chefs prepare excellent cuisine, served in the charming surroundings of the dining car, and a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included throughout your journey.





Your holiday includes

Flights with award-winning scheduled airlines

- ◆ Return economy class flights with South African Airways from London Heathrow
- ◆ Add connecting flights from Aberdeen, Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, Manchester or Newcastle at no extra cost
- ◆ Alternatively, fly direct with British Airways from London Heathrow. Supplement from £195 per person
- ◆ All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- ◆ UK Air Passenger Duty

Carefully selected hotels

- ◆ Superior hotels in great locations
- ◆ All hotel portage
- ◆ Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- ◆ Daily breakfast, worth £229 per person
- ◆ Four lunches
- ◆ Two dinners

Unforgettable experiences

- ◆ Sightseeing tours in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria
- ◆ Visit Cape Point and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- ◆ Tour along South Africa's world renowned Garden Route

Choosing Ubizane Nature Reserve

- ◆ Safari experience in Ubizane Wildlife Reserve
- ◆ Two safaris in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve
- ◆ Cruise the World Heritage iSimangaliso Wetland Park

Choosing Rovos Rail 'Durban Safari'

- ◆ Choice of a safari in Spionkop Game Reserve or tour of the Spionkop battlefields
- ◆ Safari experience in Nambiti Private Reserve
- ◆ All meals on board
- ◆ Selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, on board

On the ground

- ◆ Services of an experienced Tour Manager and driver
- ◆ All overseas transfers
- ◆ Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

100% confidence

- ◆ Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
- ◆ Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise, please see our booking conditions on pages 36-39.

Spectacular South Africa

18 days from only £3,295 per person

It's not surprising South Africa has become one of the world's most exciting and popular touring destinations. The country offers vibrant and colourful cities, stunning and diverse landscapes, interesting heritage, an unparalleled abundance of wildlife and a sunny climate. What's more, with no jet-lag, the holiday begins as soon as you land.

Our leisurely 18 day tour covers all the country's major attractions with a perfect blend of included sightseeing tours and Freedom Days to spend as you please. Furthermore, you have the flexibility to choose a traditional two night safari in Ubizane Nature Reserve, or join luxurious Rovos Rail for an all-inclusive Durban Safari.

With superb accommodation, all breakfasts and many other meals included, the Spectacular South Africa tour really does offer exceptional value for money.



(2) = Number of nights



Spectacular South Africa

Days 1 to 4: UK - Cape Town

Day 1: Depart UK

Your South African Airways flight departs London Heathrow for Cape Town via Johannesburg. Connecting UK regional flights are with British Airways to London Heathrow are available from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Newcastle, Manchester or Leeds Bradford at no extra cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

If you prefer, you can fly direct from London Heathrow to Cape Town with British Airways. Prices from £195pp.

Day 2: Cape Town, 5 nights

We land in magnificent Cape Town, where our waiting coach will take us to the Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel, ideally situated close to Cape Town's fashionable Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. The rest of our day is at leisure until the early evening, when we shall gather for drinks so we may all become acquainted for our forthcoming travels together. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Cape Town and Kirstenbosch

A tour of South Africa's Mother City takes us around Cape Town's most important buildings and monuments. Experience first-hand the vibrant cultures and history and enjoy the city's wonderful scenery. Weather conditions permitting, we shall take a cable car ride to enjoy spectacular views from the top of Table Mountain, followed by a walk through the colourful Malay Quarter of Bo Kaap. We drive through Green Market Square and District Six before continuing via Company Gardens and the Houses of Parliament, City Hall, the Castle of Good Hope and Slave Lodge. This afternoon we visit the superb Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. These gardens were founded in 1913 to preserve the country's unique flora, and they are world-renowned not only for their beauty and diversity, but also for their magnificent setting against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Cape Point

Today, we venture out of the city to explore the spectacular landscapes surrounding Cape Town. Our day begins with a scenic drive through the pretty seaside suburbs of Sea Point and Camps Bay. We continue via Hout Bay, a charming fishing harbour with magnificent mountain views, before driving along Chapman's Peak, one of the world's most breath-taking coastal drives. We reach the Good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans were once said to meet. We continue to Boulders Beach, home to a colony of endangered African Penguins. Visit to Simon's Town prior to our return to Cape Town later in the afternoon. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Spectacular South Africa

Days 5 to 12: Cape Town - Garden Route - Knysna - Durban

Day 5: Cape Town Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day, where we can choose to relax or explore as we please. Our Distant Journeys Tour Manager will be on hand to help with advice on things to do, where to eat, make any arrangements and book excursions for you to further explore the area. Perhaps take a journey to discover the winelands of the Western Cape. The tour will take us through the valleys and vineyards of the Cape Winelands and includes a cellar tour and wine-tasting in one of the region's fabulous wineries. The scenery as we drive across the Hellshoogte Pass to Stellenbosch is spectacular, and in Stellenbosch we will have plenty of time to discover the second oldest settlement in South Africa. We continue to Franschoek where the town's oak tree-lined streets and white-washed Cape Dutch-style buildings make this a delight for exploration on foot. Enjoy a stroll as well as a spot of lunch whilst watching the world go by. We return to the hotel later in the afternoon. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Western Cape winelands

A full day excursion including a cellar tour, wine tasting, quaint towns and stunning scenery.



Day 6: Cape Town Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day where you may choose to relax by the pool or possibly take an optional trip to Robben Island. Once reserved for high profile prisoners of the apartheid regime, today Robben Island is a monument recognising the iconic struggle of heroes such as Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu. The island was brought to the world's attention when Nelson Mandela was released from prison in the early 1990s after serving more than two decades for the crime of speaking out against the apartheid government. Today, Robben Island is a World Heritage Site – acting as a museum as well as a reminder of the price Nelson Mandela and so many others paid for the freedom of democracy. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: The Garden Route & Knysna, 3 nights

We say goodbye to Cape Town today, as we make a start on the first stage of our Garden Route tour. Our journey takes us over the breathtaking Du Toit's Kloof Pass as we climb 820 metres above sea level. We make our way to Worcester in the Hex River Valley and continue through Robertson and Bonnievale to Swellendam, a one-time rebel republic's capital. We continue eastward through undulating countryside and peaceful villages to Mossel Bay, where we visit the Post Office Tree - a place 16th and 17th century sailors left their letters for returning ships to carry to Europe. From Mossel Bay we continue to the pearl of the Garden Route, Knysna, and spend our next three nights at the Premier Resort The Moorings. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Featherbed cruise or guided forest walk

This morning, we have a choice of two included activities. Our first option is to join the John Benn cruise which sails to Knysna Heads and explores the beautiful scenery of Knysna Lagoon. Alternatively, we have the option to explore the fascinating history from KhoiSan to woodcutters, and gold hunters to eccentric naturalists, during a guided walking tour of local forests. Our afternoon has been left free to relax or take a stroll around Knysna's pretty waterfront. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Knysna Freedom Day

On our Freedom Day, we will have the opportunity to join an optional tour to the Cango Caves and Oudtshoorn, South Africa's ostrich capital. The day begins with a drive over the visually stunning Outeniqua Pass as we make our way to the beauty of the semi-arid Klein Karoo. Enjoy a tour of the Cango Caves, a vast series of magnificently colourful limestone caverns which to this day have only been partially explored. This is followed by a guided tour of an ostrich farm, tracing the ostrich from egg to adulthood. Finally, drive via the laid-back country town of Oudtshoorn, with its pretty Victorian buildings. Later in the day we return to Knysna. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Oudtshoorn & the Cango Caves

Featuring spectacular mountain landscapes, majestic caves and a tour of a working ostrich farm, this is a tour not to be missed.



Day 10: Durban, 3 nights

This morning, our journey continues along the Garden Route, via Plettenburg Bay, stopping en-route to enjoy some fantastic photographic opportunities. After lunch we continue to Port Elizabeth in time for our flight to Durban. Upon arrival we transfer to the Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel, ideally situated on Durban's esplanade. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 11: Durban

After breakfast, we enjoy a tour of Durban. Visits include Victoria Embankment and City Hall. We also explore the impressive Durban Botanical Gardens, founded in 1849 and home to a fine array of African, Asian and American trees and shrubs. Your afternoon is free to relax at the hotel or to further explore Durban. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Durban Freedom Day

A day at leisure to spend as you please. Why not take a full day optional excursion to explore the 19th century Anglo-Zulu battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift? Learn about the fascinating history of the battles that took place in January 1879 and then see the landscape on which the fighting occurred. Alternatively embark on an immersive day trip to the tiny country of Lesotho. Set off from Durban in a 4x4 vehicle in order to cross Africa's highest pass: the 9,435-foot-high (2,876 metres) Sani Pass, to enter this intriguing land-locked kingdom. Once inside, pay a visit to a Sotho village to experience how the locals live. **Breakfast included**



Spectacular South Africa

Days 13 to 15: Durban - Ubizane Nature Reserve - Pretoria

Day 13: Ubizane Nature Reserve, 2 nights

This morning we travel along South Africa's Elephant Coast en-route to Ubizane Nature Reserve, situated in the heart of Zululand. With a history spanning more than 50 years, Ubizane is one of the oldest reserves in the area, with a long-standing heritage. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch prior to checking into our individual lodges, proudly built on stilts and set under a canopy of a Fever Tree Forest. Later in the afternoon we take to our open jeeps for our first safari around the reserve. Ubizane is teeming with wildlife including giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, hyena and white rhino, as well as over 450 different bird species. After a thrilling afternoon we return to our lodge in time for dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 14: Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve Tour Highlight

This morning we take a short drive to the oldest proclaimed safari reserve in Africa: the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve. South Africa's third largest safari reserve is home to 'The Big Five', so keep a look out for elephant, lion, buffalo, rhinoceros and leopard. Following breakfast we return to our lodge where you are free to relax until the heat of the day subsides later in the afternoon. Perhaps read a book, watch for wildlife from the comfort of your own personal viewing deck or take a swim in the pool at the adjacent Safari Lodge. Later in the day we return to Hluhluwe in our four-wheel drive vehicles for another safari prior to dinner. This evening enjoy an African bush experience, eating dinner under the stars, next to a roaring fire in the lodge's boma. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 15: Pretoria, 2 nights

All good things must come to an end and, after breakfast this morning, we leave Ubizane as we make our way to St Lucia and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The St Lucia Estuary is one of South Africa's longest and was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1999. It is home to Nile Crocodiles, hippos and an abundance of birdlife. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for African Fish Eagles looking for an easy meal. After a thrilling cruise we drive to Richards Bay and board our flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival we make our way to Irene Country Lodge, where we stay for two nights. **Breakfast included**



As an alternative to the two-night stay in Ubizane Nature Reserve (days 13-15), you have the option to recapture the romance and atmosphere of a bygone era, by joining the luxurious Rovos Rail on an all-inclusive two night 'Durban Safari'. See pages 24-25 for full details of this alternative itinerary.





Durban Safari with Rovos Rail

Days 13 to 15: Rovos Rail Durban Safari - Pretoria



Dubbed ‘the most luxurious train in the world’, step aboard Rovos Rail to find lovingly restored, wood-panelled coaches with period Edwardian features, and enjoy fine cuisine in five-star luxury.

Rovos Rail Durban Safari

If choosing the Rovos Rail ‘Durban Safari’, days 13-15 will be as follows. Please note that your Tour Manager will not accompany you on the train. Instead you will be looked after by the Train Manager and their excellent crew.

Day 13: Rovos Rail, 2 nights

This morning, we make our way to Durban Rail Terminal in time for our magnificent overland rail journey. We depart Durban and travel through the stunningly scenic Valley of a Thousand Hills. Following a relaxed lunch, an afternoon excursion takes us to the fascinating Ardmore Ceramics Gallery. Ardmore Ceramics is a story about the Zulu people whose sense of rhythm, colour, dance and song, as well as the spirit of the African imagination, can be seen in the artwork produced in the gallery. Returning to the train, we make our way to Ladysmith, enjoying dinner with new-found friends along with some fine South African wines. Afterwards relax in the comfort of the Lounge Car with an after-dinner drink. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 14 – Spionkop & Nambiti Private Game Reserve

Following an early wake-up call and sumptuous breakfast you have a choice of excursions. The first option is to take an open-jeep safari in Spionkop Reserve, boasting a rich selection of wildlife including white rhinoceros, giraffe and antelope. Alternatively, you may wish to join the Spionkop battlefields tour. Britain marched into the South African war in the spring of 1899, confident that it “would all be over by Christmas!” The war lasted three years and was to become the costliest Britain had ever fought.

In the afternoon, having enjoyed lunch and time to relax, we arrive at Elandsplaagte, where we disembark for an afternoon safari experience in Nambiti Private Game Reserve. Nambiti has an incredible biodiversity including savannah, grasslands, thornveld and tall acacia trees. Enjoy your open-jeep 4WD safari in search of ‘The Big Five’. Nambiti is also home to over 40 other species of game including cheetah, giraffe, hippo, hyena, impala, eland and zebra. After freshening up and enjoying a pre-dinner drink in the Lounge Car it's time for dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 15 – Pretoria, 2 nights

Take it easy today as we continue our journey north. Enjoy the panoramas as we traverse the gold mining areas of Gauteng (literally translated as Place of Gold). Our arrival into the Rovos Rail Terminal in Capital Park is scheduled for late afternoon, and upon arrival our waiting coach will take us to re-join our fellow passengers at Irene Country Lodge, where we stay for two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Day layout



Night layout

Our accommodation on board Rovos Rail

The coaches have all been remodelled and refurbished to pristine condition. Our accommodation is in Pullman Suites; with 76 square feet of space. These private, air-conditioned sleepers feature a comfortable sofa, which converts into twin or double beds by night. Each suite enjoys an en-suite shower, wash basin, toilet and all modern amenities.



Dining

A team of enthusiastic chefs produce excellent cuisine, which is served with a selection of great South African wines in the charming Victorian atmosphere of the dining cars. Guests enjoy the added elegance of meals served on fine china, with crisp white linen and silver, and are encouraged to dress accordingly in the evenings.



Spectacular South Africa

Days 16 to 18: Pretoria - UK

Day 16: Pretoria

This morning enjoy a tour around the city of Pretoria. Included is the Union Building, Voortrekkers' Monument, Melrose House and Paul Kruger's House. Afterwards we return to our hotel where our afternoon is at leisure. Alternatively, there is the option of a visit to the Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Breeding Centre. Established in 1971, as the De Wildt Cheetah Research Centre, the centre has performed an important role in the preservation and protection of cheetahs. **Breakfast included**

Day 17: Depart Johannesburg

The day is yours to spend as you please prior to our departure to the airport later in the day. Perhaps use the opportunity to visit the region's liveliest township, Soweto, home to over 3.5 million people and steeped in history. This evening board our South African Airways flight bound for London Heathrow. Alternatively fly with British Airways. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 18: Arrive UK

In the morning we arrive into London Heathrow. Guests travelling to regional UK airports will change aircraft at London Heathrow. After 18 days, our Spectacular South African adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Extend your stay at Victoria Falls

Three nights for only £1,195 per person

Victoria Falls is the world's largest waterfall and a World Heritage site. The town of Victoria Falls is just over an hour and a half away from Johannesburg by air, so your Spectacular South Africa tour offers the perfect opportunity to add on one of the planet's great natural wonders.

Staying in the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, you will be able relax in luxurious surroundings, with easy access to the falls. For a detailed itinerary and prices please see pages 28-29.



Departure Dates & Prices

Ubizana Nature Reserve

2019 Departures

18 September 2019	£3,495 per person
16 October 2019	£3,495 per person
13 November 2019	£3,495 per person

2020 Departures

07 January 2020*	£3,595 per person
29 January 2020	£3,595 per person
11 March 2020	£3,595 per person
01 April 2020	£3,295 per person

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Supplements

Single occupancy supplement for Ubizane £795.
Single occupancy supplement for Rovos Rail £1,195.

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus with British Airways, and £3,750 per person for Business Class or Club World.

Victoria Falls extension

Extend your holiday to Victoria Falls from £1,195 per person.

Rovos Rail

2019 Departures

18 September 2019	£3,995 per person
16 October 2019	£3,995 per person
13 November 2019	£3,995 per person

2020 Departures

07 January 2020*	£4,095 per person
29 January 2020	£4,095 per person
11 March 2020	£4,095 per person
01 April 2020	£3,795 per person

Flight upgrades

South African Airways upgrade to Business Class from £3,295 per person.

British Airways, upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,195 per person, or Club World from £3,695 per person.

Important information

Prices are subject to the availability of flights in the lowest available booking class and may change, however the correct price will always be confirmed before you book.

* This tour operates in reverse, beginning in Pretoria and ending in Cape Town.

Full booking conditions are available on pages 36-39.

To book, call us on 01695 577 961

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry. **Email:** enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





Victoria Falls Extension

Three nights from only £1,195 per person

Described by the Kololo tribe living in the area in the 19th century as Mosi-oa-Tunya – ‘The Smoke that Thunders’ – Victoria Falls is a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty.

Our three night extension follows on from our Spectacular South Africa tour and provides an amazing opportunity to witness one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

Day 17: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe), 3 nights

A morning departure takes us to Johannesburg Airport in time for our flight to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Upon arrival, and having cleared customs we meet our local guide and transfer to the outstanding Victoria Falls Safari Lodge. This afternoon join your travelling companions for a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River, which is a relaxing experience where hopefully we may sight hippopotamus, crocodile, elephant and other wildlife species. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Victoria Falls

Victoria Falls are a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, bordering Zambia and Zimbabwe. Columns of spray can be seen up to 40 kilometres (25 miles) away as 546 million cubic metres of water per minute plummet over the edge (at the height of the rainy season). This morning we take you on a walking tour of the falls to discover its magnitude, grace and beauty. Stops will be made at the various vantage points, so we may take in the incredible views of the falls, the mighty Zambezi as well as neighbouring Zambia. In the afternoon we are free to enjoy a whole array of optional activities: fishing for tiger fish in the Zambezi, horseback safaris, or take in the ultimate view of the falls on board a scenic helicopter flight. This evening enjoy dinner at The Boma, which provides a unique cultural experience blending the sounds and sights of Africa with a wonderful meal. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 19: Victoria Falls Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Victoria Falls to spend as you please. We would highly recommend a visit to Chobe National Park in neighbouring Botswana – home to the highest concentration of elephants on the planet. Enjoy a boat cruise along the Chobe River, famous for its huge herds of elephant which can be viewed up-close and safely from the boat.

Afterwards enjoy an abundance of wildlife as you explore the Chobe riverfront by open jeep. Large herds of elephant, buffalo and plains game, along with their accompanying predators have made this their home. Return to Zimbabwe and the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge early evening. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Depart Victoria Falls and Johannesburg

Sadly we must leave Victoria Falls and Africa today. After nearly three thrilling weeks, we have travelled far and gathered memories to treasure. Mid-morning we make our way back to Victoria Falls Airport in time for our flight to Johannesburg. Our connecting flight to London Heathrow departs in the evening. **Breakfast, in-flight dinner and drinks included**

Day 21: Arrive UK

In the morning we arrive into London Heathrow. Guests travelling to regional UK airports will change aircraft at London Heathrow. After 21 days, our Spectacular South African adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

2019 & 2020 Departures

All dates **£1,195 per person**

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Supplements

Single occupancy supplement £195.

Deposits

When booking the Spectacular South Africa tour, your deposit will cover the Victoria Falls extension.

Important information

Prices are subject to the availability of flights in the lowest fare booking class and may change, however the correct price will always be confirmed before you book.

British Citizens will require a visa for entry into Zimbabwe. This can be easily arranged on arrival at Victoria Falls Airport. If you travel to neighbouring Botswana (Day 19), no visa is required for Botswana, but we do suggest purchasing a Kaza UniVisa, which allows multiple entry into Zimbabwe. For further information on visa requirements for Zimbabwe, along with other useful information on your holiday, please refer to our ‘Helpful Information’ guide on pages 34-35.

Full booking conditions are available on pages 36-39.



Victoria Falls Safari Lodge

Stay in the luxurious Victoria Falls Safari Lodge. Built to blend in perfectly with the surrounding bushland, the lodge has the appeal of a vast open-plan tree house, with elegant furnishings using soft earthy colourings to complement the landscapes.

The spectacular setting can be enjoyed by guests cooling off in a two-tiered swimming pool, or over one of their famous ‘sundowners’ served in the hotel’s Buffalo Bar – complete with a game-viewing platform overlooking the waterhole. Keep watch for elephants, buffalo, kudu, warthogs, hyena, crocodile, vultures and other species.

To book, call us on 01695 577 961

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry. **Email:** enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk



Hotel Directory



Cape Town Southern Sun Waterfront

Only a short walk from the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront with its fabulous shopping and world class restaurants, the Southern Sun Waterfront hotel is smart and comfortable. Not only does the hotel have a great location, but it also boasts excellent facilities including an outdoor pool, gym as well as a choice of eateries all showcasing South Africa's excellent local produce and world-class wines.

Local rating: ★★★★★
Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★



Knysna Premier Resort The Moorings

Found on the banks of Knysna Lagoon and surrounded by spectacular views of indigenous forest, Premier Resort The Moorings sits within enchanted woodland gardens and is the perfect spot to relax after a day exploring. Rooms are modern in décor and guests can enjoy culinary delights at the hotel's Salmon Restaurant, a cocktail at the poolside bar or sit and watch the boats in the hotel's marina.

Local rating: ★★★★★
Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★



Durban Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel

The Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel enjoys a prime position on Durban's Golden Mile; a sun-soaked stretch of beachfront overlooking the warm Indian Ocean. The hotel offers three outdoor pools, all with great views. Guests are spoilt for choice with a selection of bars and restaurants on site offering everything from steaks and fish to Japanese specialities and delicious Indian curries for which Durban is renowned.

Local rating: ★★★★★
Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★



Ubizane Nature Reserve Ubizane Tree Lodges

Ubizane is a stunning nature reserve covering some 1200 hectares of land and offering many wildlife viewing opportunities from the lodge. Combining traditional and authentic local style with every modern amenity and comfort, accommodation is in Tree Lodges, which sit on stilts in the tree tops. There is a lovely shaded swimming pool and a choice of restaurants; either the traditional Tree Lodge Restaurant, or in the Boma, or Bush sites.

Local rating: ★★★★★
Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★



Pretoria Irene Country Lodge

Located in the pretty village of Irene, a short drive outside of Pretoria, Irene Country Lodge is an oasis of tranquillity set in beautiful lakeside gardens surrounded by the Camdeboo Forest. The bedrooms are comfortably furnished with local mahogany for an authentic South African ambience, and the outdoor pool is a perfect spot to relax in the African sunshine.

Local rating: ★★★★★
Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★



Hotel Directory



Rovos Rail Pullman Suites

Guests will be accommodated in a Pullman Suite. These wood panelled sleeper coaches offer every modern convenience and comfort. Your spacious suite is configured as a comfortable sofa-seat during the day and converts to a double, or twin beds for the evening. Each suite features an en-suite bathroom with shower and complimentary bar fridge.

Local rating: ★★★★★
Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★



Victoria Falls Victoria Falls Safari Lodge

Located only 4km from majestic Victoria Falls, Victoria Falls Safari Lodge is surrounded by the African wilderness. Rooms are spacious and light with private balconies and the entire hotel offers spectacular views over African bushveld and the wildlife-rich waterhole. In the central area of the hotel you will find the hotel's main restaurant, the Buffalo Bar and a two-tiered swimming pool.

Local rating: ★★★★★
Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★



Our Airline Partners

Fly with award-winning scheduled airlines

Flights are with South African Airways in Economy Class, with UK regional connections available at no extra cost. Alternatively, you may choose to fly direct to Cape Town from London Heathrow with British Airways*.

Why not make your holiday even more memorable with a flight upgrade? With priority check-in, lounge access and spacious comfortable seats, it takes your flying experience to a new level of comfort and service. Let your holiday start here.

Economy Class

Stretch out and enjoy spacious and modern cabins on-board the new Airbus A330-300, fitted with newly designed seats which have a typical seat pitch of 31-32***. Watch on-demand in-flight entertainment of your choice, featuring the latest movies, TV shows and audio on a great 10.1" screen and enjoy a choice of dishes, served with excellent South African wines and a wide range of complimentary drinks.



Upgrade to Business Class from £3,295 return

Relax and enjoy a great night's sleep in seats that convert to a fully flat bed. In-flight seat configurations guarantee individual aisle access. Watch the latest movies via a personal 15" widescreen and enjoy restaurant quality dining, accompanied by award-winning South African wines.

- ◆ Travel on the Airbus A330-300 and enjoy your very own 'living space' ***
- ◆ Staggered 1-2-1 seat configuration offers increased privacy and direct aisle access.
- ◆ Personal 15" high-resolution touchscreen with on-demand entertainment
- ◆ Amenity kits
- ◆ Restaurant quality a la carte dining
- ◆ Award-winning South African wines
- ◆ Priority check-in and fast track security
- ◆ Access to arrivals and departures lounges in London and Johannesburg

World Traveller^ from £195 return

World Traveller, British Airways' economy class service is packed with comfort and benefits. Your seat is ergonomically designed and a whole world of entertainment awaits you with an on-demand service. Naturally, your experience includes complimentary drinks and a delicious assortment of meals designed by world renowned chefs.



Upgrade to World Traveller Plus^ from £1,195 return

World Traveller Plus is British Airways' long-haul premium economy service, a more comfortable, relaxing experience on longer routes. You'll enjoy a premium dining experience, with the main meal selected from the Club World menu, wider seats with more legroom and a personal amenity kit.

- ◆ Wider seat with greater recline, lumbar support, head rest and foot rest
- ◆ Small, intimate cabins with expert, attentive service
- ◆ Personal entertainment system with noise-reducing headphones
- ◆ Board ahead of economy passengers with priority boarding
- ◆ Amenity kit

Upgrade to Club World^ from £3,695 return

Club World offers superior levels of comfort and service. Enjoy your own space with a seat, which converts into a fully flat bed. Inspired by some of the world's top chefs, the Club World restaurant style dining combines irresistible local and international flavours to create a mouth-watering experience every time.

- ◆ Access to private lounges
- ◆ Dedicated check-in desks and priority boarding
- ◆ A comfortable chair that converts into a 183cm (6ft) fully flat bed
- ◆ An array of indulgent treats and healthy options from the Club Kitchen that you can help yourself to, throughout the flight
- ◆ Luxury bedding and amenity kit by The White Company

Important information Prices are subject to the availability of flights in the lowest available booking class and may change, however the correct price will always be confirmed before you book. * Supplement from £195 per person return applies. ** Seat pitch is dependent on the aircraft type. *** Johannesburg to London Heathrow only. ^ World Traveller, World Traveller Plus and Club World are for long haul services. Different cabins and benefits apply to UK regional connections.



Helpful Information

A quick information guide from Distant Journeys

Time zone: Cape Town, Johannesburg and Victoria Falls GMT +2hrs
Currency: South African Rand

Weather

Weather patterns around the world are becoming less predictable. However, as a general guide, in the Western Cape areas of Cape Town and the Garden Route, summers tend to be warm, cooled by ocean breezes, with rain falling occasionally. Durban and Ubizane, found in KwaZulu-Natal can have very hot summers and you should consider adequate protection, including sun-hats and high factor sunscreen. Johannesburg and Pretoria are situated at altitude on the highveld plateau and generally enjoy a hot climate with the occasional thunderstorm. Due to the altitude evenings can be a little cooler.

Clothing

Dress for our tours is generally relaxed and informal during the day, dressing to suit the weather conditions and the activity you are undertaking. It's likely there will be occasions when exploring you'll be walking on uneven surfaces, so we recommend sturdy and comfortable walking shoes. Wearing layers of clothing means it's much easier to deal with potentially varied weather conditions and it's always advisable to carry a waterproof. Any included evening dinners are also informal, with smart casual dress being the norm. We would also recommend taking good insect repellent, a high factor sun-screen lotion and a hat for protection from the sun. Whilst on safari in South

Africa, it is recommended to wear natural colours such as khaki, green or beige as bright colours can attract insects and cause diversions for the wildlife. For the safaris (which take place in the morning and evening in open vehicles) we recommend sun lotion and hats as well as warm clothing, as it can get very cold. If you have them, binoculars will provide a great opportunity for closer wildlife viewing. If travelling on Rovos Rail, evening attire is more formal – for gentlemen, a jacket and tie is a minimum requirement, while for ladies a cocktail /evening dress or suit is suggested.

Money

Major credit cards and cash machines are widely available throughout your tour and your Tour Manager will be on hand to help you find the best places to exchange your money. If travelling to Zimbabwe on our Victoria Falls extension, we recommend taking US dollars. A currency card also offers an easy way to buy currency and enjoy a great exchange rate. Distant Journeys recommends the 'Global Traveller' MasterCard, provided by Caxton FX. The MasterCard is simple to set up, easy to use, a convenient way to pay and is 'chip and PIN' secure. For more information please see distantjourneys.co.uk/currency-cards/ Local currency is always recommended for small purchases and tipping. Coins and small bills are ideal. When you change money, ask for some small bills and keep these separate from the larger ones, so that they're readily accessible.

We also recommend advising your bank of your travel plans in advance so you do not encounter potential problems when trying to withdraw cash.

Tipping

Tipping is common practice in most destinations and should ideally be paid in the local currency. In South Africa generally tipping is expected. For restaurants 10%-15% is the norm unless a service fee has been added to your bill. In these circumstances tipping is optional, but of course still well received if offered. Hotel porters would normally expect a tip of 10-20 Rand. If you wish to tip other hotel staff, similar amounts should be offered. Tipping for taxi drivers is not expected, however rounding up the final fare and leaving the driver with the change is appreciated. If the driver has gone out of his way to help maybe consider tipping up to around 10%. If you have received great service from your Tour Manager, guides or driver you may wish to tip them for their service. We are frequently asked for guidance on this and would suggest a minimum of £2 per person per touring day, dependent on your level of satisfaction.

Travel insurance

It is a condition of travel that you take out sufficient and appropriate travel insurance. We recommend you do this at the time of booking so that in the event of cancellation, providing it is covered by your policy, your deposit (less any applicable excess) is protected.

Entry requirements

The following information on entry requirements, passports and visas is for British citizens only. Holders of a British Subject passport, non-British citizens and holders of a passport endorsed in any way should check immigration requirements with the relevant embassy or consulate of the country to be visited, as should clients with dual nationality or renounced citizenship. If travelling with a child aged under 18, there are additional immigration rules that apply. Please call us for further details and refer to the Foreign Advice website as shown below.

Passports

A ten-year British passport is required for all holidays, valid for a minimum of 6 months after your return date to the UK. When travelling to South Africa you must allow two blank pages for immigration. If you are planning to join our Victoria Falls extension, we recommend four. If you are not currently in possession of a valid passport please make sure you leave plenty of time before your holiday to apply for this document. Our recommendation is that you should apply at least three months before your holiday.

Visas

Currently no visa is required to enter South Africa. If you are considering our Victoria Falls extension you will be required to obtain a visa for entry into Zimbabwe. This is usually arranged on arrival at Victoria Falls Airport. The cost is approximately US\$55 per person for a single entry. If you are considering taking a trip to neighbouring Botswana (for Chobe National Park), we recommend purchasing a Kaza UniVisa, which allows multiple entry into Zimbabwe, for 30 days. The cost is approximately US\$50. Payment for both visas is made on arrival at Victoria Falls Airport and we recommend you have the correct amount in US Dollars, as change is not always available. Currently a visa is not required for any customers entering Botswana. For more information on passport information and entry requirements please visit the Government Passport Office website www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports and the Foreign Office website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice It is important to note entry requirements may change and it is your responsibility to ensure you are in possession of all necessary travel, passport, visa, other entry requirements before departure. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation.

Health & vaccinations

Health facilities, hygiene and disease risk vary worldwide. In South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana, many of the main tourist areas we visit are malaria-free. However, some of the areas we visit may pose a low malaria risk. You should take health advice from your GP or local travel clinic about your specific needs as early as possible and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough (which may be a month or more prior to departure) to be fully effective by the date of travel. For more information on health and vaccinations please visit the Foreign Office website www.gov.uk/foreign-traveladvice and NHS Before you Travel website on <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthybody/before-you-travel/>

Medication and pre-existing conditions

If you have any pre-existing medical conditions or walking difficulties, you should inform us at the time of booking. It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you are carrying is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking or travelling. Always carry medicines in their original, labelled packaging and in your hand-luggage along with a copy of your prescription. Whilst we recommend only carrying enough for the duration of your time away, a small spare supply can be useful. Check that the expiry dates of your medicines will be valid for the duration of your visit abroad.

Baggage allowance

You're entitled to carry one suitcase per person with the total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 160cm (63 inches) and weight 20kg (44lbs). In some instances, this may be less than the airlines' permitted allowance. Luggage is restricted to accommodate for coach capacity, domestic flights and where applicable local health and safety laws. Personal and valuable items such as, cameras, medication, money / credit cards etc. should be carried in a travel bag or on your person. You must ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried.

Airline seats

With many airlines you can pre-book your seats prior to check in. Please note many airlines now charge for this service. Pre-selected seating can be changed at the Airlines discretion.

Domestic flights

All domestic flights within our tours are booked on a group basis. Your Tour Manager will fully assist with the check in process for these flights.

Smoking

Smoking, including electronic cigarettes, is not allowed at any time onboard our coaches or any flight. Within hotels, smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes may be restricted to designated areas. We'll endeavour to ensure there are frequent stops on any coach trip, however we can't guarantee smoking facilities will always be available. It is also worth noting some countries are beginning to ban the use of electronic cigarettes. We recommend you check for up-to-date information before you travel.

Freedom Days

During your tour, you can book onto a range of additional excursions. These tours are at an additional cost, subject to availability and seasonal operations, and may be subject to minimum/maximum numbers. Where possible we allow for these to be booked locally with your Tour Manager, however, in some instances pre-booking will be required. You will be advised in advance of your departure from the UK if any excursions require pre-booking. All Freedom Day experiences may be found on our website alongside the itineraries of each individual tour.

Travel documents

Your full travel documents which include electronic tickets, a final itinerary, luggage labels and holiday information booklet will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your departure.

Seat rotation on coaches

We offer a fair system of seat rotation to allow all passengers to experience a variety of views. Exceptions cannot be made to this policy.

ATOL protection

Our ATOL number is 10913. All the flight inclusive holidays in this brochure or on our website are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you book, you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. For more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

Further information

The information provided here is as a general guide only. For more detailed information please refer to our FAQ section on our website. We also recommend this Helpful Information guide is read alongside our full Booking Conditions before booking.

Booking Conditions

IMPORTANT: The following terms and conditions together with the general information contained in our tour brochure form the basis of your contract with Distant Journeys Limited. Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. By asking us to confirm your booking, we are entitled to believe that you have had the opportunity to read and have read these booking conditions and agree to them. Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to the tour arrangements shown in this brochure (including accommodation required both before and after your main holiday and activities and other services) which you book with us and pay for before departure from the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you.

All references in these booking conditions to “holiday”, “booking”, “tour” or “arrangements” mean such tour arrangements unless otherwise stated. Please be aware that your deposit is non-refundable.

In these booking conditions:

“Force Majeure” means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events are likely to include, but are not limited to (whether actual or threatened) war, terrorism, fire, flood or any other unusual weather conditions, loss of power, epidemics or pandemics, industrial disputes, slow-downs or other strike activities, riots or civil disturbances, acts of government, government agencies or other authorities, inability to obtain any necessary licence or consent through no fault of ours and any other event or circumstances beyond the control of us or any supplier of any part of your tour. “You”, “your” and “yourself” means each person who makes a booking with us for a tour and/or who is named on the booking (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later stage) and, where appropriate, all such persons. “We”, “us” and “our” means Distant Journeys Limited trading as Distant Journeys.

Bookings

- All bookings are made pursuant to these terms and conditions.
- It is a condition of booking that you are fit and able to take care of yourself for the duration of the tour. We welcome passengers with disabilities or special needs provided they are accompanied by a companion capable of providing all assistance required. If you have any medical condition or disability which may affect your tour or any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. We reserve the right to refuse to carry any person who we deem cannot fully care for themselves on tour without assistance or whenever we reasonably feel unable to accommodate the needs or restrictions of any particular passenger. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a passenger for walking, dining, pushing their wheelchair, getting on and off motor coaches or other transportation vehicles or other personal needs. Passengers who need such assistance must be accompanied by a companion who is capable of providing all assistance required. You must also notify us of any changes or deterioration in the disability or medical condition or development of any disability or medical condition after booking. We further reserve the right to cancel your booking and impose cancellation charges if we are not fully advised of any relevant disability or medical condition at the time the booking is made and/or promptly notified of any development, change or deterioration occurring after booking. On occasions, the decision to cancel can only be made at the time the person concerned joins the tour as it may only be apparent at this stage that their disability or medical condition cannot be accommodated. Any passenger affected by a disability or medical condition must ensure they have notified this to their travel insurers and that

their travel insurance will cover it. We may refuse to allow you on the tour or may have to terminate your participation in your tour if your mental or physical condition is such as to render you, in the reasonable opinion of any representative of ours or any carrier or other person in authority, incapable of caring for yourself or a hazard to yourself or other passengers. We will not be liable for any expenses arising from your being precluded from joining or completing the tour for any such reason and no refunds or compensation will be paid. Passengers with disabilities or walking difficulties may find access to certain attractions restricted, due to the number of stairs, distance or uneven ground. Please be aware Rovos Rail is unable to accommodate the use of wheelchairs on their trains.

- The operation of all tours is conditional on us securing the minimum number of bookings required to operate the tour and to ensure an enjoyable group atmosphere. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, we reserve the right to cancel or change a scheduled tour. Please also see clauses 20 and 21. We will endeavour to make any decision to cancel or significantly change a tour no less than 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date of the tour but in any event will notify you no less than 30 days prior to the departure date of the tour.
- If you are a single passenger, the applicable single supplement will be added to your invoice at the time of your booking.
- We will aim to accommodate single passengers in twin or double rooms, with single occupancy.
- If you have any special requests (including dietary requirements) you must notify us at the time of booking. Please note special requests cannot be guaranteed. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract by us. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier of any service(s) or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed by us in writing, all special requests are subject to availability. We cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as “standard” bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

Payment

- To secure any booking, you must pay the applicable deposit or full payment if booking 90 days or less before the start of the tour. The deposit is £1,000 per person if travelling in economy flight class, £1,950 per person if travelling in premium economy class or £3,750 per person if travelling in business flight class. Where fares are higher than our standard rates, an additional deposit may be required. The deposit or full payment, as applicable, must be received by us within 7 days of booking to ensure your place on the tour is held. Bookings will be automatically cancelled if the applicable deposit or full payment, as applicable, is not received by us within this 7 day period and we will have no further liability to you.
- Deposits are non-transferable and non-refundable except as expressly set out in these terms and conditions. We therefore recommend that you have adequate insurance to cover this.
- The balance of the tour price (after deduction of the applicable deposit) must be received by us no less than 90 days prior to the start of your tour. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we are entitled to believe that you wish to cancel your booking. In this case, we will be entitled to keep all deposits paid or due at that date. If we do not cancel straight away because you have promised to make payment, you must pay the cancellation charges shown in clause 24 depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled.

Your contract

- Subject to availability we will confirm your booking by issuing our confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the lead name on the booking (“Lead Name”). Please check this invoice carefully as soon as you receive it. Contact us immediately if any information on the confirmation or any other document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We cannot accept any liability if not notified of any inaccuracy in any document within 14 days of our sending it out (5 days for tickets). We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.
- A binding contract between you and us comes into existence when we dispatch our confirmation invoice for all bookings. We both agree that English law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us (“claim”) (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

What are your tour obligations?

- (a) You must follow the Tour Manager’s instructions at all times to ensure on tour safety. You acknowledge that failure to do so may result in restricted access to places of interest on tour, or if necessary for your own safety and/or that of other passengers, withdrawal from the tour. (b) If we, or our staff or suppliers are of the view you are negatively affecting your own health, safety or environment or that of other passengers, we can oblige you to withdraw from the tour immediately. We will not be liable to you for any loss, cost or damage resulting from your withdrawal. If you are withdrawn from the tour, you must make your own return travel arrangements at your own expense. (c) You must make your own enquiries regarding your tour, including being aware of any relevant government travel or safety warnings.

Tour price

- Prices shown in our brochures and on the website are believed correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to alter our advertised (brochure or website) tour prices, introduce supplements or correct pricing errors at any time before your booking is confirmed. We also reserve the right to correct any errors in any tour price and not be legally bound in the case of incorrect pricing and acknowledgement of such an error does not mean acceptance of it. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the revised applicable price at the time of booking. Once the tour price has been confirmed at the time of booking, clause 14 below will apply.

Price Promise

- Our Price Promise is designed to provide peace of mind; Early booking offers: Whilst we may offer promotional discounts and/or additional inclusions on some tours, these offers reduce in value closer to the departure date meaning the earlier you book the better offer you will receive. Last minute discounts: It is our policy never to sell any holiday cheaper than originally advertised. In the unlikely event we reduce the price of your holiday to below what you have already paid (after any discounts have been applied), we will contact you to refund the difference. No surcharges: We guarantee that no surcharge will be added to the basic price of your holiday once your booking has been confirmed, irrespective of any fluctuation in currency exchange rates, increases in international included economy air fares, or

increases in other costs associated with your holiday. In return for this guarantee and its risk to us, we shall not be able to make any refunds in the event of favourable exchange rate variations or other decreases in costs which would otherwise result in the reduction of the selling price. Price match: Price match applies to an identical holiday operated by another tour operator (excluding travel agents and arrangements made independently) at the same or a lower price within 7 days of booking with us. By ‘identical holiday’, we mean one which: Departs on the same day from the same airport, with the same flight number and carrier. Visits the same destination(s) for the same duration and offers the same number of included excursions/meals. One which features the same accommodation and board basis; and utilises the same services of a Tour Manager/Coach Captain. If this happens we will refund the difference between the cost of the holiday you have booked with us and the price of the identical holiday offered by the competitor. Plus, we will give you £200 per person towards a future booking. Our Price Promise applies once a booking is confirmed and a contract exists between us. It applies to tour prices only and does not include ad hoc or optional services such as airline upgrades, holiday additions, extended stays or regional connecting flights. Additionally, this price promise does not apply to optional services including, but not limited to; visa charges, excursions and amendment fees. The price promise excludes increases in airport and other taxes imposed by British or overseas governments, increases in Air Passenger Duty, or any increases by British or overseas governments relating to improved passenger security. For bookings made within the balance due date and prior to confirming your holiday we reserve the right to notify you of any price increases to your holiday as a result of any additional costs we may incur.

Tour features

- The features of the tour are set out in the tour brochure.
- We make no representations about the features of any tour other than those expressly set out in the tour brochure and these terms and conditions.

Brochure validity

- The tour brochure and these terms and conditions are valid for the departure dates as stated in the tour brochure, or additional departure dates we may introduce, unless otherwise expressly advised by us.

Variation or cancellation by us

- Subject to clauses 19, 20 and 21, we reserve the right to alter or change the accommodation, carriers, vehicles, vessels or any other service(s) which form part of any tour at any time for any reason and cancel or alter the itinerary and/or tour at any time without notice as we consider necessary for any reason whatsoever including road, weather or traffic conditions, non-performance of suppliers, industrial action, operational conditions and requirements, water level problems, excessive winds or Force Majeure. Errors in the details of advertised and/or confirmed tours and/or other details occasionally occur and we reserve the right to correct these whenever they occur.
- In the event of industrial action affecting air, rail, cruise or other tour related transportation we will make every effort to contact the lead name and advise of alternative arrangements (if any).
- Most changes made to a confirmed tour are minor. Occasionally, we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour and we must reserve the right to do so. A significant change is a change made before departure which, taking account of the information you give us at the time of booking or which we can reasonably be expected to know as a tour operator, we can reasonably expect to have a significant effect on your tour. If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as

- soon as possible. If there is time to do so before departure, you will be offered the following options: (a) (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements or (b) purchasing alternative arrangements from us, of a similar standard to those booked if available, with you paying a supplement if the alternative arrangements are more expensive than those originally booked or (c) cancelling or accepting the cancellation and receiving a full refund of all monies you have paid to us. Please note, the above options are not available where any change made is a minor one.
- If we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour, we will in addition to the options set out in clause 20 pay you reasonable compensation if and as appropriate subject to the following exceptions. Compensation will not be payable and no liability beyond offering the options set out in clause 20 can be accepted where (1) we are forced to make a change or cancel as a result of unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which we could not have avoided even with all due care or (2) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your tour has not been reached – see clause 3. No compensation will be payable and the options set out in clause 20 will not be available if we have to cancel as a result of your failure to comply with any requirement of these terms and conditions entitling us to cancel (such as paying on time). A change of flight time of less than 12 hours, airline (except as specified in clauses 49-52 “Flights”), type of aircraft (if advised) or destination airport will all be treated as minor changes.
 - Very rarely, we may be forced by Force Majeure to change or terminate your tour after departure but before the scheduled end of your time away. This is extremely unlikely but if this situation does occur, we will be unable to make any refunds (unless we obtain any refunds from our suppliers which we do not use to pay for alternative services), pay you any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result.

Amendment or cancellation by you

- If you wish to make any amendments to your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. It may not always be possible to make such amendments. Where we can, an amendment fee of £75 per person will be payable together with any costs incurred by ourselves and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers. A change of tour dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation charges will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the tour price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original tour was calculated has changed.
- You may cancel your booking by notice to us in writing and payment of the applicable cancellation fee as shown below. Cancellation notifications are not effective until received by us in writing (if received by us on a weekend day or public holiday the notification will be treated as having been received by us on the next working day). The following cancellation fees apply to each individual person who cancels and where shown as a percentage are based on the total cost of the arrangements which are being cancelled excluding any insurance premiums, amendment fee or previously incurred cancellation charges which are all non-refundable in the event of your cancellation:

CANCELLATION FEES

Period before your tour commences within which written notification of cancellation is received by us:

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
91 days and over	Loss of Deposit
90 days to 75 days	50% of holiday price
74 days to 60 days	60% of holiday price
59 days to 30 days	75% of holiday price
29 days or less	100% of holiday price

NB Transferring to another departure date is treated as a cancellation and the cancellation fees above will apply. Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these cancellation charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made directly to the insurance company concerned.

Our liability

- We will ensure that the tour arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these terms and conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury or your contracted tour arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a result of the failure of us, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted tour arrangements. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers).
- We will not be responsible for any injury, illness, death, loss (including loss of enjoyment or possessions), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any description whatsoever which results from any of the following:
 - the act(s) and/or omission(s) of the person(s) affected or any member(s) of their party or
 - the act(s) and/or omission(s) of a third party not contracted with the provision of your tour and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable or
 - Force Majeure.
- We cannot accept responsibility for any services which do not form part of our contract with you. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities which any hotel or other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised in our tour brochure as part of your tour and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract and any excursion or other services you purchase during your tour. Where any such excursion or services are purchased through or with our assistance, please note that we act only as booking agent. Your contract will be with the operator or provider of the excursion or services in question. We have no liability in relation to the same. In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any of our brochures or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you.
- The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract and the laws and regulations of the country in which your claim or complaint occurred will be used as the basis for deciding whether the tour arrangements in question had been properly provided. If the particular arrangements which gave rise to the claim or complaint complied with the then applicable local laws and regulations, the services will be treated as having been properly performed or provided. This will be the case even if the arrangements did not comply with the laws and regulations of the UK which would have applied had those arrangements been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim or complaint concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable tour participant to refuse to take the tour in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 25. We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and regulations, and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care.

More extraordinary holidays with Distant Journeys



distantjourneys

To book, call our travel experts on

01695 577 961

Mon - Fri 9.00 a.m - 5.30 p.m Sat 9.00 a.m - 5.00 p.m

Email enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

Visit www.distantjourneys.co.uk

8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY

