



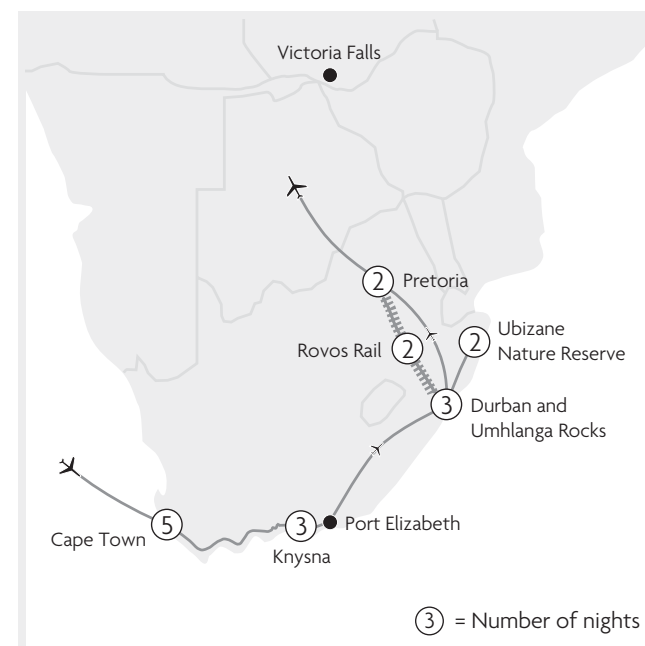
Spectacular South Africa

18 days from only £3,495 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 their 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.



Your holiday includes

Flights with award-winning scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle or Glasgow
- Alternatively, fly direct with British Airways from London Heathrow. Supplement from £195 per person
- All domestic flights within South Africa
- All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- UK Air Passenger Duty

Carefully selected hotels

- First class and deluxe hotels in great locations
- All hotel portorage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £267 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

If choosing Ubizane Nature Reserve

- Safari experience in Ubizane Wildlife Reserve
- Two safaris in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Reserve
- Cruise the World Heritage iSimangaliso Wetland Park
- All meals

If choosing Rovos Rail 'Durban Safari'

- Choice of a safari in Spioenkop Game Reserve or tour of the Spioenkop 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 204-207.



Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens



African Penguin, Boulders Beach



Cape Town

Spectacular South Africa

Days 1 to 8: UK - Cape Town - Garden Route - Knysna

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Emirates, at no extra cost. Choose from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle or Glasgow.

In-flight meals and drinks included

Alternative airline – British Airways

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

Day 2: Cape Town, 5 nights

All flights with Emirates travel via Dubai. 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' currents meet. We continue to Boulders Beach, home to a colony of the endangered African Penguin. Enjoy a visit to Simon's Town prior to our return to Cape Town later in the afternoon. **Breakfast and lunch included**

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 Helshoogte Pass to Stellenbosch is spectacular, and upon arrival we will have plenty of time to discover the second oldest settlement in South Africa. 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 also have time to visit Franschhoek before returning 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 including 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 begin our Garden Route tour. Our journey takes us 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 Knysna and our next three nights will be spent at the Protea Knysna Quays. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Featherbed Nature Reserve

This morning, we have included an excursion to The Featherbed Nature Reserve, a unique 150 hectare private nature reserve, which encompasses the whole of the Western Head of Knysna, and is one of South Africa's Natural Heritage Sites. We cruise across Knysna Lagoon before spending time enjoying the spectacular coastal scenery during a gentle stroll through the reserve. The reserve is home to many native flowers and trees, as well as the endangered Blue Duiker (the smallest known antelope species in Africa), Cape Mountain Tortoises, Blue Cranes (South Africa's national bird) and rare Black African Oyster Catchers. Your afternoon is free to relax or stroll around Knysna's pretty waterfront. **Breakfast included**



Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve



Sani Pass



Spectacular South Africa

Days 9 to 16: Knysna - Umhlanga Rocks - Ubizane Nature Reserve - Pretoria

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: Umhlanga Rocks, 3 nights

This morning, our journey continues along the Garden Route, via Plettenberg 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 luxurious Beverly Hills Hotel, ideally situated overlooking the Indian Ocean, in the upmarket resort of Umhlanga Rocks. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 11: Umhlanga Rocks

After breakfast, we enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of nearby 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. With a prime beachfront location and unobstructed sea views, relaxing by the hotel's huge pool is a wonderful way to unwind in the afternoon. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Umhlanga Rocks Freedom Day

A day at leisure to spend as you please on South Africa's beautiful Dolphin Coast. 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 witness the landscape on which the fighting occurred. Alternatively embark on an immersive day trip to the tiny country of Lesotho. Depart 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**

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, 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. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 15: Pretoria, 2 nights

All good things must come to an end and, after breakfast, 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 Durban 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 98-99 for full details of this alternative itinerary.

Day 16: Pretoria

Our morning is at leisure. 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. In the afternoon, enjoy a tour around the city of Pretoria. Included is the Union Building, Voortrekkers Monument, Melrose House and Paul Kruger's House. **Breakfast included**



Spectacular South Africa

Days 13 to 16: 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 described on this page. 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 – Spioenkop & 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 Spioenkop Reserve, boasting a rich selection of wildlife including white rhinoceros, giraffe and antelope. Alternatively, you may wish to join the Spioenkop 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 Elandslaagte, 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 the Irene Country Lodge, where we stay for two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 16: Pretoria

Our morning is at leisure. 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. In the afternoon, enjoy a tour around the city of Pretoria. Included is the Union Building, Voortrekkers Monument, Melrose House and Paul Kruger’s House. **Breakfast included**



Our accommodation on board Rovos Rail

The coaches have all been remodelled and refurbished to pristine condition. Our accommodation is in private, air-conditioned Pullman Suites featuring a twin or a double bed, en-suite shower, wash basin, toilet and all modern amenities.



Dining

A team of skilled 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.





Union Buildings, Pretoria



Victoria Falls

Spectacular South Africa

Days 17 to 18: Pretoria - UK

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 we board our Emirates flight bound for Dubai. Alternatively fly with British Airways. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 18: Arrive UK

We arrive into our chosen airport. After 18 fabulous days, our Spectacular South African adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

If you would like to explore somewhere new on your way home from South Africa, a stopover or a Special Stay is a perfect way to make your journey more relaxing and to experience a wonderful new city.



Dubai - Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf

Two nights from £345 per person

Located within easy reach of Dubai Mall, the Marriott Al Jaddaf is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel. With an outdoor swimming pool, deluxe spa and a choice of seven restaurants it's a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.

Your stopover includes return airport transfers, two nights accommodation and daily breakfast.

Please see pages 190-193 for more details on homebound stopovers.

Indulge in a Special Stay



Ritz Carlton, Al Wadi Desert

Two nights from £895 per person

Treat yourself to a Special Stay on your homebound journey at the luxurious Ritz Carlton, Al Wadi Desert near Dubai, offering an oasis of peace, surrounded by desert and a private nature reserve.

Guests will spend two nights in a wonderful Al Rimal Pool Villa, with half-board accommodation and airport transfers included.

Please see pages 194-195 for more information on Special Stays.

Victoria Falls Extension

Three nights from £1,195 per person



The 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 to relax in luxurious surroundings, with easy access to the falls.

For a detailed itinerary and prices please see pages 102-103.

Departure Dates & Prices

Including Ubizane Nature Reserve

2020 Departures

16 September 2020 **£3,495** per person
11 November 2020 **£3,495** per person

2021 Departures

27 January 2021 **£3,595** per person
10 March 2021 **£3,595** per person
31 March 2021 **£3,595** per person

Prices

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

Supplements

Single occupancy supplement for Ubizane £1,045.
Single occupancy supplement for Rovos Rail £1,445.

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.

Including Rovos Rail

2020 Departures

16 September 2020 **£4,095** per person
11 November 2020 **£4,095** per person

2021 Departures

27 January 2021 **£4,195** per person
10 March 2021 **£4,195** per person
31 March 2021 **£4,195** per person

Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Business Class from £3,995 per person.

British Airways, upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,395 per person, or Club World from £3,795 per person.

Travel times

For information on daily travel timings, please refer to the relevant itinerary on our website.

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.

Full booking conditions are available on pages 204-207.

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

