



Spectacular South Africa

18 days from only £3,995 per person

It is 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 18-day tour showcases Spectacular South Africa at its best.

This 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 Bayala Private Game Reserve, or join luxurious Rovos Rail for an all-inclusive Durban Safari.

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



Your holiday includes

Flights with award-winning scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights
- Fly British Airways from London Heathrow, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City Airport
- Domestic flight 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 portage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £296 per person
- 5 lunches
- 2 dinners

Unforgettable experiences

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

When choosing Bayala Private Game Reserve

- Three safaris in Bayala Private Game Reserve
- All meals

When 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

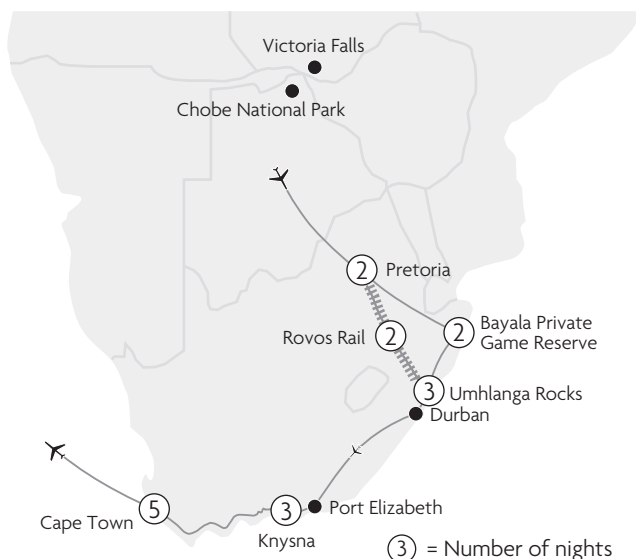
On the ground

- 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 covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 60-63.





Cape Town



African Penguins, Boulders Beach

Spectacular South Africa

Days 1 to 6: UK - Pretoria - Bayala Private Game Reserve - Umhlanga Rocks

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London Heathrow with British Airways. Connecting flights to London Heathrow from Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City are available at no extra cost.

In-flight meals and drinks included

Day 2: Pretoria, 2 nights

Breakfast will be served prior to landing in Johannesburg, where our coach will take us to the Irene Country Lodge, a lovely hotel set within wonderful grounds. The rest of our day is at leisure until the early evening, when we shall gather for drinks so we may all be better acquainted for our forthcoming travels together. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Pretoria

This morning, enjoy a tour around the city of Pretoria. Included is the Union Building, Voortrekker Monument and Melrose House. Our afternoon is at leisure to relax in the beautiful surroundings of our hotel. There is the option to visit 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. Or is you prefer, perhaps use the opportunity to visit the region's liveliest township, Soweto, home to over 3.5 million people and steeped in history. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Bayala Private Game Reserve, 2 nights

This morning we leave Pretoria as we make our way across country to the magnificent Bayala Private Game Reserve, situated in the heart of Zululand. Nestled within a 'Big Five' private conservancy of close to 30,000 hectares of unspoiled wilderness, Bayala provides the perfect venue for your safari experience. Later in the afternoon we take to our open jeeps for our first game drive around the reserve. Bayala 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 5: Bayala Private Game Reserve

This morning we wake early for another exciting game drive. Bayala is home to 'The Big Five', so keep a look out for elephant, lion, buffalo, rhinoceros and leopard, as well as the more usual game species. We return to our lodge in time for breakfast. Your day is free to relax until the heat of the day subsides later this afternoon. Perhaps read a book or take a swim in the pool enjoying the sights and sounds of the African bush. Later in the day we return to our jeeps for another game drive prior to dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Umhlanga Rocks, 3 nights

All good things must come to an end and sadly, after our final game drive and a hearty breakfast, we must leave Bayala as we make our way along South Africa's Elephant Coast where we head to the luxurious Beverly Hills Hotel, ideally situated overlooking the Indian Ocean, in the upmarket resort of Umhlanga Rocks. **Breakfast and lunch included**



As an alternative to the two-night stay in Bayala Private Game Reserve (days 4-6), 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 page 4 for full details of this alternative itinerary.



Spectacular South Africa

Days 4 to 6: Rovos Rail Durban Safari - Umhlanga Rocks



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

When choosing the Rovos Rail 'Durban Safari', days 4-6 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.

A choice of suites

Rovos Rail provides a choice of Pullman and Deluxe Suites, both offering every modern convenience and comfort with fittings and facilities that are of the highest standard. The suites accommodate one or two passengers with the option of double or twin beds. All have en-suite bathrooms with shower, toilet and basin.

Day 4: Rovos Rail, 2 nights

This morning, we make our way to Rovos Rail's dedicated terminal in Capital Park, in time for our magnificent overland rail journey to Durban in Kwa-Zulu Natal. Enjoy a relaxing lunch as we traverse the gold mining areas of Gauteng (literally translated as Place of Gold), and climb into the Drakensburg Mountains on our journey south. In the evening, relax in the comfort of the Lounge Car with a pre-dinner drink, and dine with newfound friends along with some fine South African wines. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 5: 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 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 6: Umhlanga Rocks, 3 nights

This morning, we have a relaxed breakfast before an 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, enjoy lunch on board as we travel through the stunningly scenic Valley of a Thousand Hills en-route to our final destination, Durban. All good things must come to an end as we bid farewell to the friendly crew of Rovos Rail and transfer to the luxurious Beverly Hills Hotel, ideally situated overlooking the Indian Ocean, in the upmarket resort of Umhlanga Rocks. **Breakfast and lunch PLUS selected on-board drinks included**



Knysna Lagoon

Spectacular South Africa

Days 7 to 10: Umhlanga Rocks - The Garden Route & Knysna - Featherbed Nature Reserve

Day 7: 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 this afternoon.

Breakfast included

Day 8: 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 battles occurred. Alternatively embark on an immersive day trip to the tiny country of Lesotho. As you near Lesotho, join 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 9: The Garden Route & Knysna, 3 nights

This morning, we make our way to Durban Airport in time for our flight to Port Elizabeth. We journey westward along the Garden Route via Plettenburg Bay, stopping en-route to enjoy some fantastic photographic opportunities. After lunch, we continue to Knysna, and spend our next three nights at the Protea Knysna Quays.

Breakfast included

Day 10: Featherbed Nature Reserve

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



Spectacular South Africa

Days 11 to 13: Knysna - The Garden Route & Cape Town - Kirstenbosch

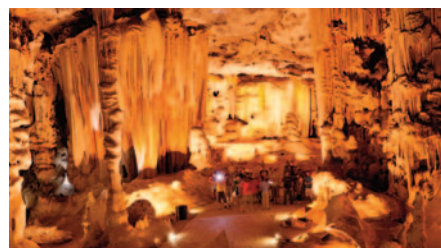
Day 11: Knysna Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day for you to spend as you please. Perhaps 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 coloured 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.



Day 12: The Garden Route & Cape Town, 5 nights

We say goodbye to Knysna today, as we make our way along the Garden Route. Our journey takes us westward 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 through Swellendam, a one-time rebel republic's capital, and on to magnificent Cape Town. We continue to the President Hotel, which will be our home for the next five nights. The hotel is ideally situated in Bantry Bay, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and just a short drive from Cape Town's fashionable Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Cape Town and Kirstenbosch

A tour of South Africa's Mother City takes us around Cape Town's most important buildings and monuments. Experience firsthand the vibrant cultures and history whilst taking in 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. We tour many of the city's highlights, including Greenmarket Square, the colourful Malay Quarter of Bo Kaap, Company Gardens and the Houses of Parliament, City Hall, the Castle of Good Hope and Slave Lodge. During the tour, there will be opportunities to explore on foot. This afternoon we visit the superb Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Founded in 1913 to preserve the country's unique flora, 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**



Cape Town



African Penguins, Boulders Beach

Spectacular South Africa

Days 14 to 16: Cape Point - Cape Town

Day 14: 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 Camps Bay and Bakoven. We continue to Hout Bay, a pretty fishing village. From here, we take a short cruise to Duiker Island, more commonly known as Seal Island due to its population of Cape Fur seals and other marine life. Next, it's 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 are fabled to 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 15: Cape Town Freedom Day

A 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. Upon arrival in Stellenbosch we will have plenty of time to discover the second oldest town in South Africa. The oak tree-lined streets and whitewashed 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 cross the scenic Helshoogte Pass and visit Franschhoek, the area settled by the French Huguenots in 1688, and 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 16: Cape Town Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day. You may wish 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. 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**



Spectacular South Africa

Days 17 to 18: Cape Town - UK

Day 17: Depart Cape Town

The day is yours to spend as you please prior to our departure to the airport later in the day. This evening we board our British Airways flight for our homebound journey to the UK. **Breakfast and in-flight dinner and drinks included**

Day 18: Arrive UK

We arrive into our chosen airport. Flights to London Heathrow are direct. For regional UK airports, flights will travel via Heathrow. After 18 days, our Spectacular South African adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extensions

from only £1,395 per person

Victoria Falls is just over an hour and a half away from Johannesburg by air, and Chobe National Park is a relatively short drive from Victoria Falls, so now is the perfect opportunity to add on one of the planet's great natural wonders and more incredible safari experiences.

Victoria Falls

Three nights from only £1,395 per person

Experience the majesty of Victoria Falls on our three-night holiday extension. Stay at Ilala Lodge, located just a short walk from Victoria Falls – so close that spray from the falls can be seen from the hotel grounds. Experience a walking tour of the falls, along with a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. Also included are return flights to Victoria Falls, all transfers, daily breakfast, one dinner and the services of a local guide.



Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park

Six nights from only £2,495 per person

Chobe National Park, Botswana is famous for its herds of elephants and teeming wildlife, making it the perfect addition to our Victoria Falls holiday extension. Following on from the delights of Victoria Falls, spend a further three nights at Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge, located on the banks of the Chobe River. In addition to the Victoria Falls inclusions, experience two sunset wildlife cruises, two spectacular safaris in Chobe National Park, daily breakfast, lunch and dinner and the services of a local guide.



Please see pages 46-49 of our South Africa brochure or website for more details on these holiday extensions.