



Spectacular South Africa

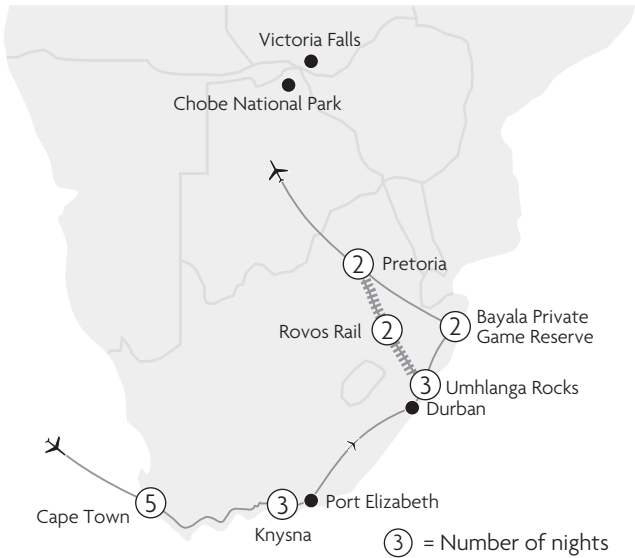
18 days from only £3,995 per person

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 portorage
 - Applicable hotel taxes

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

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

- 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



Mossel Bay Lighthouse

Spectacular South Africa

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

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: Cape Town, 5 nights

We land in magnificent Cape Town, where our waiting coach will take us to the President Hotel, ideally situated in Bantry Bay, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and just a short drive from Cape Town's fashionable Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. **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 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**

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 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 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. 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 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 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 6: 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**

Day 7: The Garden Route & Knysna, 3 nights

Today, we say goodbye to Cape Town, 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 where 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 at the Protea Hotel Knysna Quays. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: 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 included**



Knysna Lagoon



Spectacular South Africa

Days 9 to 15: Knysna - Umhlanga Rocks - Bayala Private Reserve - Pretoria

Day 9: 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 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, 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 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 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 13: Bayala Private Game Reserve, 2 nights

This morning we travel along South Africa's Elephant Coast 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. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch prior to check-in. Later in the afternoon we take to our open jeeps for our first game drive. 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 14: 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 a whole host of other game species. We return to our lodge in time for breakfast. Our 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 15: Pretoria, 2 nights

All good things must come to an end and sadly, after a hearty breakfast, we must leave Bayala as we make our way across country to South Africa's Jacaranda City, Pretoria. Upon arrival we make our way to the beautiful Irene Country Lodge, situated just a 15-minute drive from the city centre, for our final two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**



As an alternative to the two-night stay in Bayala Private Game 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 22-23 for full details of this alternative itinerary.



Spectacular South Africa

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

When 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.

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 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 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 a sumptuous breakfast we 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, we 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, 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 our 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. On return to the train, enjoy a drink in the Lounge Car prior to 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, for our final two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**



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, Voortrekker Monument and Melrose House. Our afternoon is at leisure to relax in the beautiful surroundings of our hotel. Alternatively, 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. **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 we board our chosen flight for our homebound journey to the UK. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 18: Arrive UK
We arrive into our chosen airport. Flights to London Heathrow with British Airways are direct. For regional UK airports, flights will travel via London Heathrow. After 18 fabulous days, our Spectacular South Africa 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 for more details on these holiday extensions.

Departure Dates & Prices

Including Bayala Game Reserve

2023 Departures

04 Oct 2023	£3,995pp
08 Nov 2023	£3,995pp

2024 Departures

17 Jan 2024	£3,995pp
31 Jan 2024	£3,995pp
13 Mar 2024	£3,995pp
03 Apr 2024	£3,995pp

Including Rovos Rail

2023 Departures

	Pullman	Deluxe
04 Oct 2023	£4,995pp	£5,745pp
08 Nov 2023	£4,995pp	£5,745pp

2024 Departures

	Pullman	Deluxe
31 Jan 2024	£4,995pp	£5,745pp
13 Mar 2024	£4,995pp	£5,745pp
03 Apr 2024	£4,995pp	£5,745pp

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

Single occupancy supplement
Bayala Private Game Reserve £1,145.
Rovos Rail £1,595 in a Pullman Suite.
Rovos Rail £1,975 in a Deluxe Suite.

Deposit
£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £3,750 per person for Club World.

Holiday extensions
Extend your holiday to Victoria Falls from £1,395 per person. Extend your holiday to Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park from £2,495 per person.

Flight upgrades
Upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,395 per person return, or Club World from £3,795 per person return.

Important information
Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Deluxe Suites are subject to availability at the time of booking.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 60-63.

Call to book

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

Call FREE on 0800 141 3742

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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

