



## SOUTH AFRICA ENCOMPASSED

This journey showcases the finest experiences South Africa has to offer, from some of the best boutique lodges on the African continent and mouth-watering cuisine to amazing guides that really bring this beautiful country to life.

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Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury African Safaris



Africa, South Africa



16 days from AU\$35,540 pp



Private

## Journey Overview

This journey showcases the finest experiences South Africa has to offer, from some of the best boutique lodges on the African continent and mouth-watering cuisine to amazing guides. Go on safari in the incomparable Sabi Sand Game Reserve where all of Africa's iconic species roam. Discover Cape Town and its spectacular surrounds including scenic Chapman's Peak, Cape Point, the delightful Cape Winelands and the fabulous Grootbos on the Cape Whale Route. For the finale, experience the incomparable Tswalu surrounded by unspoiled Kalahari grasslands.

### Journey Highlights

- Seek out the stunning array of wildlife across the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve, a 160,000 acre wildlife conservancy
- Travel to the summit of Table Mountain by cable car, followed by a guided city tour
- Peel back the many layers of cosmopolitan Cape Town while shopping and dining like a local
- Explore quaint fishing towns, see endangered African penguins and hike Cape Point
- Drive scenic Chapman's Peak and enjoy sundowner drinks in a secret setting
- Enjoy nature walks and horseback rides through rare fynbos and milkwood forests at the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve
- Take in stunning landscapes and seasonal whale migrations around Walker Bay
- Indulge in fine wines and gourmet cuisine in the Cape Winelands
- Experience the solitude of Tswalu, South Africa's largest private wilderness
- Look for iconic Kalahari species including meerkat, cheetah, aardvark and brown hyena



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Johannesburg, South Africa**

A warm A&K welcome awaits on arrival, and you are met and transferred to your hotel.

***Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa***

### **Day 2: Johannesburg - Sabi Sand Game Reserve**

Transfer back to Johannesburg Airport for your flight to Sabi Sand Game Reserve. Located in one of the finest wilderness areas in southern Kruger, Dulini River will be your home for the next three nights. Set in a stunning location amongst an evergreen clearing on a river, Dulini features six spacious, luxury suites with private plunge pool and verandah offering panoramic views over the river that attracts abundant wildlife.

***Dulini River Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### **Days 3-4: Sabi Sand Game Reserve**

The Sabi Sand Game Reserve, renowned for its exceptional opportunities for viewing Africa's iconic species including lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant, as well as cheetah, wild dog and hippo in addition to an abundance of general game and over 400 bird species. Spend two days enjoying a range of activities including early morning and late afternoon drives. Guided walks are also an option, as well as night safaris showcases the nocturnal species such as the loveable bushbaby.

***Dulini River Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 5: Sabi Sand Game Reserve - Cape Town**

A final game-drive before the safari finishes and a flight to Cape Town where you will be transferred to your hotel.

***Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel | Meals: B***

**Day 6: Cape Town**

This morning head off for an ascent by aerial cableway up Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain (weather permitting) for dazzling views of city and sea. Afterwards, enjoy a wandering exploration of some of Cape Town's landmarks such as Greenmarket Square and the colourful, extremely photogenic Cape Malay neighbourhood of Bo-Kaap.

Stop for a lunch of gastronomic treats before heading to Sea Point Promenade to admire the edgy and provocative art installations. Wander the Watershed Market to pick up handmade souvenirs and finish the day like a local with a bonbon and cheeky gin cocktail at a local chocolate shop. Don't forget to stop in at the secret gin bar tucked behind it. You earned it!

***Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel | Meals: BL***

**Day 7: Cape Town**

Explore the Cape Peninsula your way, with plenty of flexibility to suit your tastes and fitness levels. Take a walk through the bohemian fishing community of Kalk Bay, famous for its art galleries, brightly painted fishing boats and resident seals. You may like to walk among the penguins with a conservationist at Simon's Town or seek out a rogue splinter colony. Ride the "Flying Dutchman" funicular to the great pinnacle at blustery Cape Point, which presides over treacherous reefs and sandy beaches, or, if you're feeling energetic, perhaps take a hike inside the Table Mountain National Park, keeping your eyes peeled for ostrich, baboon, mountain zebra, bontebok and tortoise.

This afternoon, savour tasty treats at Noordhoek Farm Village, a thriving food hub where you can tuck into freshly made ice cream, artisanal treats, and aromatic java. Grab a bite and soak up the atmosphere. Then follow the 144 curves of Cape Town's most scenic road to a quiet spot where you can admire an extravagant African sunset.

***Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel | Meals: BL***

**Day 8: Cape Town**

The Cape Winelands brim with open cellar doors, which you will discover today. Begin the day with a guided tour of the Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden in Stellenbosch where you can admire over 60 sculptures carefully nestled amongst indigenous flora. Then drop into a meticulously restored homestead - Oldenburg - to taste their distinctive, complex and sustainably produced small batch wines. Time permitting, visit a neighbouring farm.

In Franschhoek, delve into the French Huguenot origins of the town and the captivating backstory of wine production in the region. Browse quaint boutiques and art galleries before sitting down to a scrumptious lunch at one of Franschhoek's many picturesque wineries. More wine tasting awaits this afternoon, on the comfortable veranda of Jacoline Haasbroek, owner of the award-winning My Wyn Wine Estate, with the option of a waterfall walk afterwards.

Wind down with a gentle stroll of the expansive gardens of Babylonstoren, a working Cape Dutch farm which dates back to 1692 before returning to Cape Town.

***Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel | Meals: BL***

**Day 9: Cape Town - Grootbos Private Nature Reserve**

Depart your hotel and trace the Cape Whale Route all the way to the incomparable Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, which protects rare and highly endangered fynbos, endemic to this mountainous coastal region. Check-in to Grootbos Forest Lodge, a sophisticated, modern lodge flanked by the spectacular cliffs of Walker Bay with stunning views over the Atlantic Ocean.

***Grootbos Forest Lodge | Meals: BLD***

**Days 10-11: Grootbos Private Nature Reserve**

Tailor your time at Grootbos from the many included activities such as guided horseback tours for riders of all levels, nature walks, coastal drives and seasonal land-based whale watching (Jun-Sep).

***Grootbos Forest Lodge | Meals: BLD***

**Day 12: Grootbos Private Nature Reserve - Tswalu Game Reserve**

Transfer back to Cape Town for your flight to the Tswalu Kalahari Reserve. Your superb safari lodge sits upon 100,000 hectares of malaria-free desert wilderness sheltering over 70 species of mammal including lion, cheetah and black rhino.

***Tswalu The Motse | Meals: BLD***

**Days 13-15: Tswalu Game Reserve**

Spend three glorious days unravelling the mysteries of the Kalahari Desert, home of the San, whose thought-provoking paintings and engravings can be seen at sites throughout this reserve. By vehicle, on foot or on horseback, track the iconic Kalahari species that inhabit this wilderness including meerkat, cheetah, brown hyena, aardvark and the highly endangered pangolin. On one of the evenings during your stay at Tswalu, enjoy an opportunity to dine at Klein Jan Restaurant. Here the culinary traditions, ingredients and regional produce of the Northern Cape are the shining stars on a seasonal menu rooted not only in the southern Kalahari's remote and dramatic landscapes, but also in the resourceful, creative people of this remote, unexplored region.

***Tswalu The Motse | Meals: BLD***

**Day 16: Tswalu Game Reserve - Depart Johannesburg**

Fly back to Johannesburg where your safari comes to an end.

***Meals: B***

# Map



## Accommodation

### Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa, Johannesburg



The interior of the hotel is an elegant fusion of contemporary design with traditional African flare. Aside from relaxing by the pool, working out in the gym or enjoying one of the many spa treatments, guests can explore the best of Johannesburg. Saxon has witnessed history within its walls as it became home to Nelson Mandela after he was released from prison. It was during this time that South Africa's former President used the serene setting of Saxon to edit his autobiography 'Long walk to Freedom.

Saxon boasts three Villas each with their own terrace, plunge pool and spa area and comprises of several individual interconnecting suites. The Villas offer guests an informal, personalized, home-from-home atmosphere and are nestled in lush indigenous gardens with water features for complete privacy. All suites and villas are accompanied by a 24 hour butler service. The world's finest linen, a complex pillow menu and opulent bath robe and slippers are provided to ensure the comfort of every guest.

#### Why we like it

- Nestled on ten acres of beautiful landscaped gardens, in the exclusive Sandhurst suburb of Sandton
- A haven of tranquillity and a complete escape from city life
- Exquisite personalized attention to detail



- Gourmet dining experiences to delight the seasoned foodie from fine dining to a sumptuous traditional Afternoon tea
- Enjoy the sublime facilities of the Saxon Spa and Studio

## Dulini River Lodge, Sabi Sand



Located in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve adjacent to the world renowned Kruger National Park is Dulini River Lodge boasting access to a vibrant conservation area of over two million hectares in which lie the 'big five' and in particular the elusive leopard. This lodge is located in a leafy and evergreen clearing on a river, attracting a host of wildlife.

A stay at River Lodge can look forward to sighting not only the entire Big Five, but other rare animals, such as the cheetah and hyena, various antelope species, from impala, waterbuck and duiker to kudu, bushbuck and nyala can also be seen. However, it is the leopard that is the real star of the show, with the area well known for some of the best leopard experiences in Africa. This shy and elusive animal, normally the most solitary of the African cats is often viewed both in daylight hours and during game drives making this camp a must for the cat lovers amongst us.

River Lodge delivers a personal and intimate game drive experience with knowledgeable rangers in continuous contact to track the animals movements, the off road game driving ensures the best possible opportunity for sighting the animals. After a long game drive, retiring to the cool interior of your spacious suite for a siesta will be a pleasure. Each suite offers panoramic views of the water and the wild life it attracts, sitting on your individual veranda or soaking in your private plunge pool is an ideal viewing platform for all that takes place below you.

### Why we like it

- Adjacent to the world renowned Kruger National Park
- Intimate 'big five' sightings - including the elusive leopard
- Off road driving on over 24,700 acres of private game reserve

- Luxury suites offering panoramic views over the river attracting abundant wildlife
- Outdoor showers and private plunge pool

## Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel Cape Town



An oasis of calm at the foot of Table Mountain, Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel Cape Town is a unique hideaway within the vibrant heart of Cape Town. Painted pink for peace in 1918, the hotel has become an icon and exudes the magic of a bygone era with exquisitely restored interiors and quirky modern touches.

Each of the 57 suites and 144 spacious bedrooms are individually furnished and four cottages in Sydenham Terrace have been meticulously restored for increased seclusion and are set in private gardens with a swimming pool.

Dining is a delight with seasonal specialities on offer at the Lord Nelson Restaurant. Afternoon tea is a spread of tempting tastes and treats and lighter fare is delivered at the poolside Oasis Bistro. The stylish and lively Planet Bar offers an impressive selection of wine, champagne and cocktails.

For those wishing to explore, complimentary transfers are available within a 10km radius of the hotel. Labrisa Spa offers eight treatment rooms of which four are double and perfect for romantic relaxation treatments. The floodlit tennis courts and two heated swimming pools are set against the mighty backdrop of Table Mountain.

### Why we like it

- An discreetly elegant property located in the historic city centre
- A short stroll to the Company Gardens and the boutiques and eateries of Kloof Street
- Sit down to high tea, a Cape Town institution
- Labrisa Spa using only 100% chemical free products
- Beautiful landscaped gardens

## Grootbos Private Nature Reserve



Grootbos delivers the basics with ease, international cuisine, fine wines and stunning lodge accommodation along with some more refined touches. There are telescopes in the main lounge area for armchair naturalists and boat trips for those who want to get a little closer. Within the reserve itself highly-qualified resident research botanists offer fascinating guided tours around the unique ecosystem, by vehicle or on the superbly trained thoroughbred horses from Grootbos' own stables. Community projects are important at Grootbos and guests are actively encouraged to learn and engage in local township life.

Grootbos has carved a unique niche in the upmarket eco-lodge sector by specialising in the Cape region's world-renowned flora and marine biodiversity. The multi-award winning 1,750 2500 hectare reserve is home to more than 740 different species of plants and is a nature lover's paradise. Revered conservationist, David Bellamy has described Grootbos as 'The best example of conservation of biodiversity I have ever seen - Grootbos says it with flowers'. This is a truly exceptional nature destination and is linked with the Eden project in Cornwall.

### Why we like it

- Biodiverse eco-paradise in the Cape Floristic Kingdom
- Marine Big Five - whale watching, great white shark cage diving, penguins, seals and dolphins
- Pristine ecosystem and rare fynbos
- Conservation and horticulture training programme for local students

## Tswalu Kalahari



In the Northern Cape Province of South Africa, at the foot of the Korannaberg Mountains, lies Tswalu. Founded in 1995, it is one of the largest private conservation projects in Africa. The 100,000 hectare reserve (over half the size of the Masai Mara) is home to thousands of animals, including the rare desert black rhino, sable and roan antelope, Cape buffalo and cheetah.

The accommodation at Tswalu epitomises stylish yet rustic elegance. The main lodge The Motse consists of eight authentic stone-walled and thatch-roofed bungalows. For those looking for exclusivity and personal service, Tarkuni is ideal for a small party or family due to its privacy and the ability to book it exclusively. The Motse boasts a galleried library, outdoor and indoor dining areas, wine cellar and an outdoor heated swimming pool. Sundowners on lantern-lit dunes, boma dining and Lekgaba Lookout offer a variety of exciting eating experiences. Activities include game drives in open-sided, canopied safari vehicles, horse riding with a qualified equestrian and bush walks led by experienced field guides. There is an award winning spa offering a variety of wellness treatments and massages. Tswalu is a fascinating and magical place a pristine wilderness waiting to be discovered with so much to see and do here a minimum of three nights is highly recommended. Daily Flights from Cape Town or Johannesburg allow Tswalu to be added simply to any South Africa itinerary.

### Why we like it

- South Africa's largest private game reserve owned by the Oppenheimer family
- A member of the prestigious Relais & Chateaux
- Activities available include bush walks, horse riding, game drives, talks with the

- reserve's ecologists, visit the staff village and an
- array of interactive children's activities
  - The perfect choice of camps for travellers looking to immerse themselves in the wilderness and life in the bush
  - A dedicated team of field guides and butlers allow guests to choose how to get the best of their day

# Abercrombie & Kent

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