



**Duquesne University
Alumni & Friends Travel
Ultimate Southern Africa: Wine, Whales & Wildlife
October 26 - November 9, 2025**

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the diverse landscapes of South Africa, Victoria Falls and Botswana. Begin in Cape Town, a city steeped in history with Table Mountain as its majestic backdrop. Drive to the Cape of Good Hope, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans converge, and visit Robben Island to reflect on the country's struggle for freedom and democracy.

Travel along the Whale Coast, a rugged coastal stretch adorned with fynbos-covered mountains and the chance to witness whales. Then, indulge in farm-to-table cuisine and world-class wines in the picturesque Cape Winelands.

Transition into safari mode at Victoria Falls, marveling at the world's widest waterfalls and discovering elephants while enjoying a serene sunset cruise along the Zambezi River. Continue to Botswana for a thrilling safari adventure in Chobe National Park, where game viewing on land and on the river offer encounters with abundant wildlife and colorful birdlife.

Finally, fly to the Okavango Delta, where you'll experience the ultimate safari in a well-appointed tented camp, surrounded by the enchanting sounds of the African night and immersed in the captivating wildlife.

Itinerary

Cape Town, South Africa, 3 Nights at Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel

Hermanus, 2 Nights at Harbour House Hotel

Franschhoek, 1 Night at Protea Hotel by Marriott Franschhoek

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 2 Nights at Pioneers Victoria Falls

Kasane Forest Reserve, Botswana, 2 Nights, Elephant Valley Lodge

Okavango Delta, 2 Nights, Kadizora Camp

Johannesburg, 1 Night, Peermont Mondior Hotel at Emperors Palace

DAILY SCHEDULE

October 26 DEPARTURE FROM THE USA

Sunday Depart on independent flights from the USA.

October 27 ARRIVAL IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Monday Independent flights arrive in Cape Town, South Africa. You'll be met upon arrival and transferred to the hotel for check-in. The evening is at leisure.

Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel

October 28 CAPE TOWN

Tuesday Bring your camera! We're headed for Cape Point at the southwestern tip of the Cape Peninsula, and the most spectacular scenery in the world. The drive there is just as inspiring, passing steep mountains, secluded coves and sweeping beaches, as well as villages and fishing communities.

Our tour begins with a scenic drive along the Atlantic coast, passing through the cosmopolitan suburbs of Sea Point, then on to Camps Bay with its glorious views of the Twelve Apostles, part of the Table Mountain range. We'll continue to the fishing village of Hout Bay, one of Cape Town's best-kept secrets. Here there is an option to take a short boat trip to Seal Island (additional cost, time and weather permitting) to view the Cape Fur Seals that inhabit the island. From here we continue to the Cape Point Nature Reserve, comprising over 17,300 acres of indigenous fauna and flora. We may see wildlife that includes baboons, Reebok, Cape Mountain zebra, bontebok and the elusive eland. The reserve is also one of the world's largest breeding grounds for tortoises. Ostrich and a variety of birds can also be seen.

The majestic coastline offers scenery worthy of being called "Nature's Greatest Show." We'll view the area where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans "meet" and may even feel the brisk wind that is dubbed the "Cape Doctor" for its presumed curative powers. Following the coastline along False Bay, we'll return to Cape Town by way of Simon's Town, where we stroll Boulders Beach to visit the Penguin colony and have time for lunch on your own. We return to Cape Town, passing the University of Cape Town, Rhodes Memorial and the Groote Schuur Hospital.

We'll gather this evening for a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant.

Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel (B,D)

October 29 CAPE TOWN

Wednesday This morning we take the ferry (weather permitting) from the V&A Waterfront, across the bay (30-45 minutes) to Robben Island. Sailing across Table Bay, enjoy stunning views of Cape Town's skyline, Table Mountain, and the Atlantic Ocean. (Please note, the tour of Robben Island is a shared, public tour.) Upon arrival, we disembark and are greeted by a guide, often a former political prisoner, who leads the tour and shares personal anecdotes about life on the island. We take a guided bus tour around the island, viewing the Limestone

Quarry where Nelson Mandela and other prisoners worked under harsh conditions, the Leper Cemetery as a poignant reminder of the island's history as a leper colony, WWII relics, and the village where the island's staff and their families live. We then visit the former Maximum-Security Prison, including Nelson Mandela's cell, a small, stark room where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison. The guides provide detailed accounts of the daily lives of the prisoners, their struggles, and their resilience. We return to Cape Town on the ferry.

Next, we visit Bo-Kaap, the historic Malay Quarter known for its 200-year-old architecture. On a guided walk, learn about Cape Town's cultural diversity. We'll conclude with lunch at Bo-Kaap Kombuis.

After lunch, we head to Table Mountain, where you can ascend* to the top by revolving cable car. See wildflowers, the famous silver tree, and marvel at a sunset birds-eye view of the city and its beaches. On a clear day it is even possible to see Robben Island on one side and Cape Point on the other.

*Note: The cable car to Table Mountain may be inaccessible due to weather conditions (wind). In that case, we'll head to Signal Hill for sunset views over the city.

Dinner at leisure.

Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel (B,L)

October 30 HERMANUS

Thursday

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and drive 88 miles / approximately two hours to the Whale Coast, and the town of Hermanus. Built between the beautiful shores of Walker Bay, Hermanus is famed for its natural scenic beauty, featuring long stretches of pristine beaches and is known as one of the best whale-watching destinations in the world. We are here for the peak whale season, when southern right whales migrate to the coastal waters off Hermanus to mate, calve, and nurse their young. Here, we'll embark on a whale watching boat cruise (approximately two hours) to search for wildlife. We're on the lookout for sightings of southern right and humpback whales, seals, dolphins and various marine birds, including the African penguin.

Check in at the hotel. After some time to freshen up, we'll head to dinner in a local restaurant.

Harbour House Hotel (B,D)

October 31 HERMANUS

Friday

This morning, explore the Hermanus waterfront with a local guide and learn about the history of abalone in Walker Bay and South Africa. Discover its natural habitat, biology, life cycle, and the impact of over-harvesting and poaching. We'll boot up for a guided walk to experience the aquaculture industry of abalone farming firsthand on one the oldest and largest abalone farms in South Africa, Abagold. Visit the state-of-the-art hatchery, see farming activities like feeding and tank cleaning, and explore the impressive sea water pumps and aeration system, backup power generation, innovative water reticulation & renewable energy projects, and the construction of Mean Sea Level the first-ever wave energy

converter in South Africa. *Expert Tip: Dress warmly for the outdoor portions and bring socks for the provided gumboots.*

Lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch, we'll take a scenic walk to explore the diverse fynbos of Fernkloof Nature Reserve, which spans 4,448 acres in the Kleinrivier Mountains and ranges in elevation from sea level to 2,762 feet. Cape fynbos is the unique vegetation found in the Cape Floral Region of South Africa, one of the richest areas of plant biodiversity on earth. We'll observe endemic species such as proteas, ericas, and restios and learn about their ecological significance.

Dinner is at leisure.

Harbour House Hotel (B,D)

November 1 FRANSCHHOEK

Saturday Enjoy breakfast and a leisurely morning before we check out of the hotel and drive to the picturesque Stellenbosch region to Waterford Estate, situated in the Blaauklippen Valley for the world-class wine and chocolate pairing experience, created by Kevin Arnold and Chocolatier Richard von Geusau.

Enjoy a wine tasting and lunch at a local wine estate.

Drove to Franschhoek, and check in at the hotel. Dinner and evening at leisure.

Protea Hotel Franschhoek (B,L)

November 2 VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

Sunday After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to Cape Town International Airport for our flight to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. On arrival, we're met and assisted through customs and immigration then drive to our hotel for check in.

This afternoon, enjoy a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. Absorb the splendor of being on the mighty Zambezi River and relive the historical journey taken by David Livingstone with a cruise along the mighty Zambezi River, upstream of the Victoria Falls, navigating close to the banks for enhanced bird and wildlife viewing.

Pioneers Victoria Falls (B)

November 3 VICTORIA FALLS

Monday This morning we go to a 'Through the Eyes of an elephant' an immersive educational experience with expert elephant caretakers at a community education program that supports the Zambezi Elephant Welfare and Conservation Trust. Get up close and meet some of the remarkable personalities in the herd. Discover some of the unique skills and behaviors that make elephants amazing. Then watch them in their natural environment, playing, bathing, rolling in mud and generally putting on a show at the waterhole!

Lunch at the Lookout Café.

Late afternoon, we'll take a guided walk of Victoria Falls - Described by the Kololo tribe living in the area in the 1800s as 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' - 'the Smoke that Thunders'. Considered to be the world's widest waterfalls, Victoria Falls measures an impressive 5,604 feet in width.

Dinner at leisure.

Pioneers Victoria Falls (B, L)

November 4 CHOBE NATIONAL PARK, BOTSWANA

Tuesday

This morning, we check out of the hotel and travel by road over the border of Zimbabwe into Botswana, into the Kasane Forest Reserve and our lodge, situated between Chobe National Park in Botswana and the Matetsi wildlife conservancy, in the Kasane Forest Reserve.

Check in to your safari tents, and enjoy lunch at the lodge, then relax until our afternoon game drive in Chobe National Park. The park covers a diverse range of ecosystems, including floodplains, mopane woodlands, and riverine forests, which supports an extensive variety of wildlife. Chobe is famous for having one of the largest concentrations of elephants in Africa. We're also likely to find Giraffe, Zebra, Lion, Warthog, Leopard, herds of buffalo; Hippos near the rivers and waterholes, and if we're lucky, Sable Antelope and Wild Dogs.

Return to the lodge and refresh before dinner. Enjoy the view around the lodge's waterhole and the sounds of the African night.

Elephant Valley Lodge (B,L,D)

November 5 CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Wednesday

Early morning game drive followed by breakfast at the lodge. Then relax or observe wildlife around the lodge's waterhole until lunch in the lodge.

Late afternoon, we head to the Chobe River for a game-viewing boat cruise. Chobe is particularly known for its riverfront area, where animals congregate in large numbers, especially during the dry season, making it one of the most unique safari destinations in Africa. A boat Safari along the Chobe River is a wonderful way to experience close encounters with an abundance of riverine birds and animals. The game viewing while cruising the Chobe River is epic: Watch elephants bathing and playing in the river or going for a swim. Hippos can be seen wallowing in the shallow waters or munching grass on the lush islands. Giraffes and antelope make their way to the water's edge and sightings of predators along the riverbank are common.

Dinner at the lodge

Elephant Valley Lodge (B,L,D)

November 6 OKAVANGO DELTA

Thursday

After a morning game drive and breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart to Kasane Airport for the light air flight to Kadizora Airstrip (1 hour & 25-minute flight) followed by a short transfer to Kadizora Camp (about 10 minutes).

The Okavango Delta represents one of the last truly unspoiled wilderness areas in Africa, and remains one of nature's marvels, characterized by the gentle flooding of endless plains. The northern areas of the delta feature larger expanses of savannahs punctuated by lagoons and tributaries, explored by motorless, poled canoes called 'mokoro'.

On arrival at the lodge, check in and enjoy lunch and some time at leisure until high tea.

Head out on a late afternoon game drive. On arrival back at camp freshen up before dinner in the camp.

Kadizora Camp (B,L,D)

November 7 OKAVANGO DELTA

Friday Your schedule this morning will depend on your choice of game viewing activity: Game drive with bush breakfast; or breakfast followed by mokoro.
Lunch and high tea, followed by afternoon game viewing activity, and final dinner under the African sky.
Kadizora Camp (B,L,D)

November 8 JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Saturday After a final game drive and breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the Kadizora Airstrip for light aircraft flight to Maun Airport, and onward scheduled flight to Johannesburg.
After check in at the hotel and some time to freshen up, we depart to our Farewell Dinner in a local restaurant.
Peermont Mondior Hotel (B, D)

November 9 DEPARTURES

Sunday After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart by motorcoach to the Apartheid Museum for an in-depth tour and discussion of the history of South Africa. Continue to the vibrant township of Soweto, and visit significant landmarks, including the Mandela House and the Hector Petersen Memorial. We'll have an included buffet lunch at a local restaurant, savoring the flavors of the region.
Transfer to OR Tambo International Airport, for flight check in and departures to the USA.
(B,L)

HOTELS

Southern Sun Waterfront, Cape Town

Standard Rooms & breakfast

Located in the heart of Cape Town, the Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel is a 10-minute walk from Zeitz MOCAA, Two Oceans Aquarium, the V&A, and downtown Cape Town. The hotel offers a free shuttle to the V&A Waterfront. The hotel's 537 beautifully appointed rooms and suites and extensive facilities provide everything for an enjoyable stay. Rooms feature private bathroom with both bathtub and a shower, queen-size bed or two doubles beds, flatscreen with DStv, tea and coffee facilities, air-conditioning, free Wi-Fi.

Harbour House Hotel, Hermanus

Harbour Square Village Rooms and Harbour Square Sky Rooms & breakfast

The exceptional location of Harbour House Hermanus Hotel & Apartments in the heart of the Old Harbour area, enables guest to indulge in everything this stunning seaside town has to offer.

Accommodations are modern and bright rooms in the contemporary Harbour House New Wing and spacious, comfortable and contemporary rooms in the nearby Harbour Square, situated right across the road from Harbour House Hotel.

The Lookout Terrace is the perfect place for whale watching with sweeping views of Walker Bay. The sparkling infinity pool offers a stunning place from which to unwind and watch the sunset.

Protea Hotel By Marriott Franschhoek

Standard Rooms & breakfast

Charming 4-star hotel overlooks the mountains and vineyards of the historic village of Franschhoek, near art galleries and wine estates. Enjoy comfortable rooms, a renowned restaurant and a sparkling swimming pool. 27 Tastefully decorated rooms with either twin or king beds include private bathroom with shower, Air Conditioning, satellite TV, Wi-Fi, Hair Dryer, Mini Bar, Safe, tea and coffee making facilities, minibar.

Pioneers Victoria Falls

Standard Rooms & breakfast

Set in lush gardens with beautifully manicured lawns, this environmentally-friendly, fifty-room lodge is situated 1.5 miles from Victoria Falls in a residential area.

The rooms are spacious and tastefully decorated in a classic style, and each has a clear and open view of the garden. As well as comfortable furniture, multi plugs and good lighting, they all feature private bathroom with shower, air-conditioners, fans, room safes, mosquito nets and tea/coffee making facilities.

The expansive garden's beautiful flowers and shady trees are home to a variety of bird species, butterflies, and chameleons big and small. Two swimming pools with lounge chairs and provided towels are a perfect spot to relax.

Elephant Valley Lodge, Kasane Forest Reserve

Valley Tents, all meals, teas and snacks, select local drinks, soft drinks and waters, 2 safari activities per day (morning boat cruise and afternoon game drive), laundry (max 2 items per person per stay)

The camp comprises of 20 'meru' style safari tents and can accommodate a maximum of 40 guests.

The lodge overlooks an extremely productive water hole. Each tastefully furnished Tent features private bathroom with shower and toilet; tea and coffee making facilities, fan and mini safe.

Activities include daily safaris and boat cruises into Chobe National Park. The unique lodge location provides guests with game viewing opportunities throughout the day and night. Lodge facilities also include open guest areas, a viewing platform and a new rim-flow swimming pool overlooking the water hole.

Kadizora Camp, Ng12 Concession/ Okavango Delta

Luxury Tents, all meals, teas and snacks, select local drinks, soft drinks and waters, 2 safari activities per day (safari drive, mokoro trip, boat cruise or village tour), laundry (max 2 items per person per stay)

Kadizora Camp is situated in the northern area of the Okavango Delta, where larger expanses of savannahs are punctuated by lagoons and tributaries. Beneath a majestic stand of trees and along a peninsula, commanding uninterrupted panoramic vistas of the delta, the camp has been set out to afford each luxury tent absolute privacy.

Kadizora has 13 tents, each with generous living spaces, and surrounded by sophisticated furnishing, making time between exciting wildlife experiences comfortable and tranquil. In addition to game drives in open vehicle, mokoro excursions, boating (during rainy season) and fishing, the camp is ideally positioned to explore the endless flow of rivers and tributaries and provide close encounters with an abundance of bird and wildlife. The camp is a 40 minute, light-air flight from Maun.

Property Facilities: Bar, Dining area, Laundry Service, Mobile phone connectivity, Pool, Restaurant

Room Facilities: Balcony / Deck, Bath, Electrical Outlets, Private bathroom with shower, Fan, Hair Dryer, Heater, Outside Shower, Safe, Tea / Coffee

Peermont Mondior Hotel at Emperors Palace, Johannesburg

Standard Rooms & breakfast, Two Twins or King Bed

the 4-star Peermont Mondior hotel at Emperors Palace features 150 spacious rooms and suites furnished in contemporary African elegance and fitted with cutting-edge technology. It is conveniently located next to O.R. Tambo International Airport. Enjoy breakfast and light meals at the chic Oriana restaurant or a sociable cocktail at The Silver Moon bar. Guests have access to the casino, dining, entertainment, convention and relaxation facilities of the Emperors Palace hotel, casino and convention resort.

Rooms have Air Conditioning, Private bathroom with shower, Complimentary Wi-Fi, Hair Dryer, Safe, Tea / Coffee

Services: Airport Shuttle (Complimentary), ATM, Credit Card, Foreign Exchange, Room Service