

A photograph of a safari vehicle in a savanna with elephants. The vehicle is a yellow and black Land Rover with a canvas top. A person with white hair is leaning out of the back, taking a photo with a camera. In the background, two elephants are walking across a dirt path. The scene is set in a lush green savanna with trees and bushes.

Craig
travel

BOOK BY SEP 28
SAVE \$200 PP

EXPERIENCE SOUTH AFRICA

MAXIMUM

20

SMALL GROUP

PLUS VICTORIA FALLS AND CHOBE NATIONAL PARK
FEB 4-26, 2024 | 23 DAYS | 42 MEALS
ESCORTED BY ROSS AND LUCY MCLEAN

Often described as “The World in One Country”, South Africa is blessed with a diversity of climate, geography, wildlife and cultural heritage not possible anywhere else. Each day we find new and exciting vistas spread before us: the rolling pasturelands of the Mpumalanga, the rugged peaks of the Drakensberg, the bush with its endless varieties of game and bird life, miles of golden sand beaches, quaint country towns, modern thriving cities and much more. South Africa has undergone a number of tremendous political and social changes over the past two decades, from minority white rule and apartheid to representative government. Today, we find a country that is living in harmony, both with nature and man. We'll have special opportunities to meet with and to learn from different ethnic groups within South Africa throughout our journey. As our previous departures to South Africa fill extremely quickly, we urge you to enroll early.

Our 2024 South Africa Tours will be LIMITED TO JUST 20 MEMBERS

**THIS SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE will be popular so
enrol early to avoid disappointment**

Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to South Africa on KLM Royal Dutch Airlines plus domestic flights within each country
- First class hotels and lodges as indicated or similar
- Extensive sightseeing throughout including all admissions plus more than five game drives
- Special opportunities to meet and share with local South Africans receptions and hosted meals
- 42 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 20 breakfasts, L - 11 lunches, D - 11 dinners)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Journey Leaders

We are pleased to have **Ross and Lucy McLean** escorting this exciting adventure. They have travelled extensively through six continents, including some time living abroad, and now call Muskoka home. Lucy is a retired educator and Ross worked for an international consultancy. One of travel's greatest appeals for them is experiencing culture and how it varies from place to place. One of the aspects they truly appreciate about Craig Travel is the friendships made while “on the road” that continues from adventure to adventure. They are excited by undertaking itineraries to exotic and new destinations while sharing Craig Travel's world with new and old friends alike. They look forward to sharing this journey to Southern Africa with you!



Highlights

- Four nights in Africa's most beautiful city, Cape Town with tours to the Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain and the surrounding Wine Districts
- Arid Little Karoo and Oudtshoorn, home of the ostrich
- Garden Route via Tsitsikamma Forest, Wilderness, Knysna, and Plettenberg Bay
- Homelands of the Zulu and the Kingdom of Swaziland with opportunities to see tribal activities
- Kruger and Chobe National Parks for the best game viewing and scenic drives in southern Africa
- Pretoria, national capital of South Africa, Johannesburg and Bishop Desmond Tutu's Soweto
- Victoria Falls, Africa's most magnificent waterfall on the Zambesi River and Chobe National Park on the flood plains of the Chobe River

FEB 4, Sunday

Depart Canada / Amsterdam

Tour members from across Canada gather to fly to Amsterdam before connecting to South Africa.

FEB 5, Monday

Amsterdam / Cape Town

After our late arrival in Cape Town, we will be transferred directly to our hotel in vibrant Bantry Bay on the slopes of Lion's Head. **The President Hotel** (4 nights)

FEB 6, Tuesday

Cape Town

Our day begins with a cable car ride to the heights of Table Mountain (weather permitting). This unique landmark rises over 1,000 metres above the city and spreads horizontally across the skyline. Following a lunch at the waterfront, enjoy some leisure time exploring. BL

FEB 7, Wednesday

Cape Town

Take in the sights as we drive through the city centre and visit the Government Garden, Bo-Kapp Malay Quarter, and St. George's Cathedral. Dating from 1824, the church has been the pillar of the Anglican Church in South Africa and was a major centre against apartheid led by Bishop Desmond Tutu. At an additional cost, you may wish to explore Robben Island before we enjoy a welcome dinner together at Gold Restaurant. BD

FEB 8, Thursday**Cape of Good Hope**

Enjoy a guided walk through the National Botanical Garden in Kirstenbosch, a 528 hectare natural area set on the slopes of Table Mountain with over 10,000 different native flowers and plants. Following a lunch break, we will visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach. Delight in the magnificent scenery as we drive to Cape Point, on the tip of the Cape of Good Hope. BL



Breathtaking views of Blyde River Canyon

FEB 9, Friday**Stellenbosch / Franschhoek / Montagu**

This morning we depart for the long established university town of Stellenbosch, with its oak lined streets and stately mansions. The area was first settled in 1680 and many buildings date from the late 18th century. Continue to Grand Provence Estate to appreciate a cellar tour, wine tasting and lunch. Explore Franschhoek, situated in a beautiful valley of its own, where we shall see the Huguenot Monument before we continue to Montagu.

Montagu Country Hotel (1 night)

BL

FEB 10, Saturday**Little Karoo / Oudtshoorn**

Our journey east follows the route of the early settlers over rolling farmlands and past spectacular scenery. Our travels will take us through Barrydale into the Little Karoo. Following lunch, we continue to De Krans Estate where we will enjoy a glass of port wine. We then head to our hotel in the old fashioned town of Oudtshoorn, made wealthy by the feathers of the flightless Ostrich.

Survall Olive Estate (1 night)

BL



Experience the magnificent Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe

FEB 11, Sunday**Oudtshoorn / Garden Route**

This morning we shall explore the fascinating Cango Caves followed by a visit to an ostrich farm to learn more about these fascinating birds and to enjoy a lunch featuring its eggs and very lean meat. This afternoon we descend the Outeniqua Pass and drive through the Garden Route Lakes District to the resort centre of Knysna.

Protea Knysna Quays (2 nights)

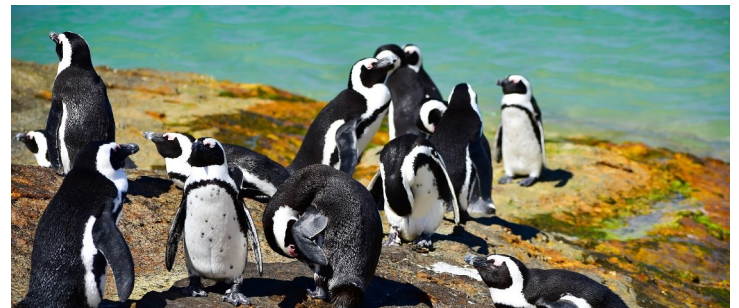
BL



A pride of lions enjoying the shade

FEB 12, Monday**Garden Route**

Enjoy a leisurely morning relaxing or exploring on your own (members can take a cruise on the Lagoon). Our afternoon is highlighted by a reception at Theodora Creche, hosted by the local community and a visit to a local soup kitchen. With your help, we support both of these operations financially. Enjoy a short nature walk on Robberg Nature Reserve followed by a glass of champagne. Following this we will share a homemade dinner with South Africans in aid of the soup kitchen. BD



Boulders Beach penguins

FEB 13, Tuesday**Port Elizabeth / Umhlanga**

Departing early, we head east along the coast following the scenic route from Tsitsikamma to Port Elizabeth which is known for its sunshine and beautiful sandy beaches. From there, we fly to Durban, where we will overnight by the northern beaches.

Protea Hotel Umhlanga (1 night)

BD

FEB 14, Wednesday**Durban / Zululand**

Relax this morning with opportunities to stroll along the beach or join an optional early morning panoramic tour of Durban. Drive through Zululand to Lake St. Lucia, an area known for its exceptional bird life, where we will enjoy a luncheon cruise. Continue into the land of Zulu and our delightful country inn. **Ghost Mountain Inn** (2 nights) BLD

FEB 15, Thursday**Mkuze Game Reserve**

This morning we are taken on our first game drive, exploring the Mkuze Game Reserve in open 4x4 vehicles, with opportunities to see a wide variety of game. This afternoon we can relax at our resort or join an optional excursion to explore the mountainous countryside of the traditional Zulu homelands, highlighted by a visit to a Zulu compound where we will be introduced to their unique lifestyle. This evening, weather permitting, we are treated to a BBQ dinner and a presentation of Zulu war dances. BD

FEB 16, Friday**Swaziland**

Our morning drive takes us to neighbouring Swaziland, an independent kingdom. Follow the Ezulwini Valley, known as the "Place of Heaven", to the capital of Mbabane. Lunch is in the Ezulwini Valley. Along the way we will visit the Swazi Market, Swazi Candle Factory and a craft centre.

Piggs Peak Hotel (1 night)

BL

FEB 17, Saturday Kruger National Park

Enjoy spectacular scenery as we drive over Piggs Peak and enter eastern Mpumalanga en route to Kruger National Park. Enjoy game viewing from our coach as we drive across the park. **Kruger Gate Hotel** (2 nights) BD

FEB 18, Sunday Kruger National Park

Enjoy a full day game drive through the heart of Kruger National Park in open game-viewing vehicles. Keep an eye out for sightings of the "Big Five" which includes elephants, buffalos, rhinos, lions and leopards. This evening, relax in our delightful lodge. BD

FEB 19, Monday Blyde River Canyon / Nelspruit

This morning we drive from the plain of Kruger to the Highveld and follow along its crest for magnificent views of the Blyde River Canyon and God's Window. Enjoy the wonderful scenery along the escarpment before we continue to the **Protea Nelspruit Hotel** (1 night). BD

FEB 20, Tuesday Pretoria / Rosebank

This morning we travel to Pretoria crossing the rolling farmlands of the Highveld. Pretoria is the picturesque capital of South Africa. Explore this gracious city known for its broad avenues bordered by flowering trees and its impressive public buildings and monuments.

Fire & Ice Melrose Arch (2 nights) BL

FEB 21, Wednesday Johannesburg / Soweto

Enjoy a morning drive through Johannesburg, a city created from the wealth of gold and diamonds, before a visit to the engaging Apartheid Museum. We enjoy a special lunch at *Chez Alina* before heading off to explore the township of Soweto, home of Bishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. BL

FEB 22, Thursday Soweto / Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Our flight today brings us to Victoria Falls. Discovered by David Livingstone in 1855, the falls are this region's most spectacular natural sight. Enjoy a guided walk along the falls. Weather permitting, there will also be an optional helicopter ride. At 353 feet high and over a mile wide, they are the largest in Africa. Enjoy the sights of the main falls, Devil's Cataract and Danger Point.

Victoria Falls Hotel (1 night) BD

FEB 23, Friday Chobe, Botswana

This morning we drive across the border and into the north of Botswana and the gateway to Chobe National Park. Home to superb game viewing, Chobe covers over 11,000 sq. kilometres and has a large variety of wildlife including large herds of buffalo and elephant plus hippos and lions. Enjoy free time to relax by the pool and appreciate a dinner under the stars accompanied by the unique sounds of Africa. **Chobe Game Lodge** (2 nights) BLD

FEB 24, Saturday Chobe

Enjoy a full day in the park with morning and afternoon excursions in open land rovers and by boat to view the game that frequent the fertile flood plains of the Zambesi. A highlight of our stay will be the visit by boat to the natural hippo pool, a short distance from the lodge. BLD

FEB 25, Sunday Kasane / Canada

Relax and enjoy the amenities of our beautiful resort or join

an early morning game drive before checking out after breakfast. Later today we catch our return flights to Canada. B

FEB 26, Monday Canada

On arrival in Toronto, we catch our continuing flights to our homes across Canada.

CT Rating 3/5 - Moderately Challenging: While relatively easy, this journey features long flights, a number of walks over uneven ground (some with steps) and some hot humid days. Members should be physically active to fully enjoy this tour. Hotels are comfortable, roads are good and the food is excellent throughout the region.



**Book and deposit by September 28, 2023
and save \$200 per person**

**Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars per person**

Land only* (Join/Leave at hotel)	\$9,175
Toronto	\$11,995
Montreal / Ottawa	\$12,195
Halifax / St. John's / Moncton / Winnipeg	\$12,355
Regina / Saskatoon	\$12,455
Calgary / Edmonton	\$12,355
Vancouver / Victoria	\$12,455
Single Supplement	\$2,625

***Land only price excludes all flights and airport transfers.** Land only join at the Cape Town hotel/ leave at the Chobe Lodge. International and internal flights are only included if booking air-inclusive. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a group of 15 travellers plus one group escort and on rates, taxes and fees effective May 2023 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 10 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment will be due on November 1, 2023**Deposit is \$800 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



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