

DESCRIPTION

This 8-day journey brings together three of South Africa's most extraordinary experiences in a single, coherent itinerary — history, wilderness, and world-class music. It begins in Johannesburg, where two full days explore the Apartheid Museum, the streets of Soweto, and Constitution Hill: tracing the arc from apartheid's machinery to the democracy it produced.

A transfer to Pilanesberg National Park follows — one of Africa's finest Big Five reserves, set in the crater of a 1.2-billion-year-old volcano — for a sunset and dawn game drive before flying south to Cape Town. Four nights in the Mother City combine Table Mountain, the profound silence of Robben Island, a coastal drive to the penguin colony at Boulders Beach, and the headline event: two nights of **premium admission** at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, Africa's premier celebration of jazz.

This is South Africa at its fullest — history, wilderness, culture, music, and coastline — in eight days.

Highlights

- ✓ Visit to the Apartheid Museum, offering a powerful understanding of South Africa's history
- ✓ Guided Soweto heritage tour, including Vilakazi Street — home to both Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu
- ✓ Visit to the Hector Pieterseon Museum, commemorating the 1976 student uprising
- ✓ Explore Constitution Hill, a symbol of South Africa's democracy and justice system
- ✓ Scenic transfer to Pilanesberg National Park, set within an ancient volcanic crater
- ✓ Sunset game drive in Pilanesberg with opportunities to spot the Big Five (lion, elephant, rhino, leopard, buffalo)
- ✓ Early morning (dawn) safari experience, when wildlife activity is at its peak
- ✓ Ride the rotating cable car up Table Mountain for breathtaking 360° panoramic views
- ✓ Explore the unique fynbos ecosystem — a floral kingdom found nowhere else on Earth
- ✓ Attend two nights of the Cape Town International Jazz Festival with premium access to multiple stages
- ✓ Ferry excursion to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned
- ✓ Guided tour led by a former political prisoner, offering deep personal insight into South Africa's past
- ✓ Scenic coastal drive along False Bay with stops in Kalk Bay and Simon's Town

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE JOHANNESBURG (MON, 22 MAR) Arrive at O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, on your overnight flight from the United States. Your expert local representative will meet you in the arrivals hall and transfer you to your hotel in Sandton — Johannesburg's most dynamic and cosmopolitan district. This is a day of arrival only. Check in, unpack, and give yourself space to adjust to the time difference. Sandton City Mall and Nelson Mandela Square are a short walk from the hotel if you feel like stretching your legs. Tomorrow the journey begins in earnest. Hotel: Southern Sun Sandton
DAY 2: APARTHEID MUSEUM & SOWETO HERITAGE TOUR(TUE, 23 MAR) Begin at the Apartheid Museum — one of the most powerful museums in the world. Visitors enter through separate ‘White’ and ‘Non-White’ gates as an immediate reminder of what apartheid meant in the fabric of daily life. Film, photography, artefacts and immersive design trace the rise and fall of apartheid across seven decades. In the afternoon, explore Soweto — the Southwestern Townships and the most historically significant urban area in South Africa. Visit the Hector Pieterseon Museum, dedicated to the 13-year-old shot on June 16, 1976, and Vilakazi Street — the only street in the world home to two Nobel Peace Prize laureates: Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Visit the Nelson Mandela National Museum in his former home, and Walter Sisulu Square in Kliptown, where the Freedom Charter was signed in 1955. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast,Dinner Hotel: Southern Sun Sandton
DAY 3: CONSTITUTION HILL & PILANESBERG SUNSET GAME DRIVE(WED, 24 MAR) After breakfast, visit Constitution Hill — a living museum and fully functioning court built on the site of the notorious Old Fort Prison, where both Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela were once held. The Constitutional Court was constructed using bricks salvaged from the demolished Number Four Prison, its interior woven with an extraordinary collection of South African art. Late morning, depart northwest — approximately 2 hours — to Pilanesberg National Park, set in the crater of a 1,200-million-year-old volcano. Check in at Ivory Tree Game Lodge before your late afternoon sunset game drive — golden hour in the bush, with elephant, white rhino, giraffe, zebra, hippo, and the possibility of lion and leopard all within reach. Return for dinner under the stars. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast,Dinner Hotel: Kwa Maritane Nush Lodge
DAY 4: DAWN GAME DRIVE & FLY TO CAPE TOWN(THU, 25 MAR) Rise early for a dawn game drive into Pilanesberg. The cool early hours reveal a completely different bush — lions often still active, birds in full chorus, the park waking to a new day. Return to Ivory Tree for a full breakfast and checkout. Transfer to O.R. Tambo International Airport for your afternoon flight to Cape Town. Arrive at Cape Town International Airport in the afternoon — your Cape Town guide will meet you and transfer you to The Commodore Hotel, located directly adjacent to the V&A Waterfront with panoramic views of Table Mountain, Cape Town Harbour, and Robben Island. The V&A Waterfront is on the hotel's doorstep — Cape Town announces itself immediately. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast Hotel: The Commodore Hotel
DAY 5: TABLE MOUNTAIN JAZZ FESTIVAL — NIGHT (FRI, 26 MAR) After breakfast, ride the state-of-the-art rotating cable car to the 1,086-metre summit of Table Mountain (weather permitting). The car completes a full 360-degree rotation on ascent, offering sweeping views across Cape Town, the Atlantic Seaboard, Robben Island, and the Peninsula. Enjoy short, well-marked walks along the plateau surrounded by the extraordinary fynbos ecosystem — a floral kingdom found nowhere else on Earth. The afternoon is free to explore the V&A Waterfront. This evening: Night 1 of the Cape Town International Jazz Festival at the CTICC — Africa's premier jazz event, with world-class South African and international artists across multiple stages simultaneously. Your premium admission gives you full access to all stages throughout the evening. Transport to and from the festival is included. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast Hotel: The Commodore Hotel
DAY 6:ROBBEN ISLAND JAZZ FESTIVAL — NIGHT 2 (SAT, 27 MAR) After breakfast, take the ferry from the V&A Waterfront to Robben Island — a UNESCO World Heritage Site once the prison that held Nelson Mandela for 18 of his 27 years of incarceration. The 3.5-hour tour includes two return ferry crossings, a guided visit to the Maximum-Security Prison led by a former political prisoner, and a bus tour of the island taking in the blue slate quarry where Mandela worked and the Muslim shrine. Return to the Waterfront by early afternoon. This evening: Night 2 of the Cape Town International Jazz Festival — with the lay of the land already familiar, use your premium admission to move between artists with ease and savour every moment of this remarkable event. Transport included. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast Hotel: The Commodore Hotel
DAY 7: KALK BAY · SIMON'S TOWN · BOULDERS BEACH PENGUINS(SUN, 28 MAR) A deliberately relaxed morning — sleep in after two festival nights, enjoy a leisurely breakfast, and take your time. Late morning, depart for a scenic coastal drive south along the magnificent False Bay coastline. Browse the colourful fishing harbour village of Kalk Bay, with its antique shops, art galleries, and charming independent cafés. Continue to Simon's Town — a beautifully preserved Victorian naval town — for lunch at leisure at one of the harborside restaurants. A short distance away, Boulders Beach is home to a thriving colony of African penguins living among granite boulders. Walk the boardwalks among these remarkable birds at close range — the ideal note of pure joy on which to close your Cape Town days. Return to the V&A Waterfront by late afternoon for a final evening at leisure. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast Hotel: The Commodore Hotel
DAY 8: CAPE TOWN — INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURE(MON, 29 MAR) After a final leisurely breakfast at The Commodore Hotel, complete checkout and allow a moment to take in one last view of Table Mountain from the Waterfront. Your private vehicle and guide will transfer you to Cape Town International Airport in comfortable time for your international departure. We hope this journey — from the streets of Soweto and the silence of Pilanesberg at dawn, to the profound stillness of Robben Island and the extraordinary energy of the Cape Town Jazz Festival — has left you with lasting impressions and a deeper love for this remarkable country. Hamba kahle. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast

INCLUDED/EXCLUDED

✓ International flights to Johannesburg and from Cape Town	✗ Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
✓ Meeting and assistance on arrival and departure	✗ Visa fees where applicable
✓ All airport/hotel transfers throughout	✗ Meals not listed in the itinerary
✓ 7 nights hotel accommodation as listed	✗ Alcoholic and personal beverages
✓ Private vehicle and experienced cultural guide throughout	✗ Personal expenses and souvenirs
✓ Breakfast daily & dinners as listed	✗ Gratuities for guide and driver
✓ Cape Town International Jazz Festival — Premium Admission, 2 nights (Fri & Sat)	✗ Optional activities not specified above
✓ Festival transfers — hotel to CTICC and return, both evenings	✗ Early check-in or late check-out fees
✓ Sunset and dawn game drives at Pilanesberg National Park	
✓ Economy class airfare: Johannesburg to Cape Town	
✓ Apartheid Museum, Constitution Hill, Hector Pieterseon Museum, Mandela Museum	
✓ Robben Island ferry & guided tour	
✓ Table Mountain cable car	
✓ Boulders Beach penguins admission	
✓ Bottled water during all touring	
✓ Assistance with visa applications where required	