

ULTIMATE SOUTHERN AFRICA WINE, WHALES & WILDLIFE

Duquesne University Alumni & Friends Travel
October 26-November 9, 2025



Center for Global Engagement

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 SUMMARY

- **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
- **Chobe National Park, Botswana**, 2 Nights, Elephant Valley Lodge
- **Okavango Delta**, 2 Nights, Kadizora Camp
- **Johannesburg**, 1 Night, Peermont Mondior Hotel at Emperors Palace



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025

DEPARTURE FROM THE USA

Depart on independent flights from the USA.

DAY 2 - MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

ARRIVAL IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

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

DAY 3 - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 CAPE TOWN

Bring your camera! We're headed for Cape Point at the southwestern tip of the Cape Peninsula, known for its spectacular scenery. The journey is equally inspiring, with steep mountains, secluded coves, sweeping beaches, villages, and fishing communities. Our tour starts with a scenic drive along the Atlantic coast through the cosmopolitan suburbs of Sea Point and Camps Bay, offering stunning views of the Twelve Apostles. We'll visit Hout Bay, a charming fishing village, with an optional (additional cost) boat trip to Seal Island to see Cape Fur Seals (weather permitting). Next, we'll explore the Cape Point Nature Reserve, home to diverse wildlife such as baboons, Cape Mountain zebra, and various bird species. The coastline here is known as "Nature's Greatest Show," where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans "meet." We'll continue along False Bay to Simon's Town, visit the Penguin colony at Boulders Beach, and have time for lunch on our own. On the return to Cape Town, we'll pass the University of Cape Town, Rhodes Memorial, and Groote Schuur Hospital. We'll gather this evening for a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant. *Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel (B, D)*

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 CAPE TOWN

This morning, we take the ferry (30-45 minutes, weather permitting) from the V&A Waterfront to Robben Island. The cruise provides stunning views of Cape Town's skyline, Table Mountain, and the Atlantic Ocean. Upon arrival, a guide, often a former political prisoner, leads the (shared public) tour. We take a guided tour of the island by bus, seeing the Limestone Quarry where Nelson Mandela worked, the Leper Cemetery, WWII relics, and the village for island staff. We then visit the Maximum-Security Prison, including Mandela's cell, where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison. Guides share detailed accounts of prisoners' lives and struggles. We return to Cape Town by 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, an authentic Cape Malay restaurant.

After lunch, we head to Table Mountain, where we'll 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)**

DAY 5 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30 HERMANUS

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and drive 88 miles (approximately two hours) to Hermanus on the Whale Coast, renowned for its natural beauty and pristine beaches. Hermanus is one of the world's best whale-watching destinations, where southern right whales migrate to mate, calve, and nurse. We'll embark on a two-hour whale-watching boat cruise to spot 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)*

DAY 6 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 HERMANUS

This morning, explore the Hermanus waterfront with a local guide to learn about the history of abalone in Walker Bay and South Africa. Discover its natural habitat, biology, and the effects of over-harvesting and poaching. We'll take a guided tour of Abagold, one of South Africa's oldest and largest abalone farms. Visit the hatchery, observe feeding and tank cleaning, and see the seawater pumps, aeration system, backup power generation, water reticulation, renewable energy projects, and South Africa's first wave energy converter. ****Expert Tip:**** *Dress warmly and bring socks for the provided gumboots.* Lunch in a local restaurant.

After lunch, we'll take a scenic walk in Fernkloof Nature Reserve, spanning 4,448 acres in the Kleinrivier Mountains. This reserve features diverse fynbos unique to the Cape Floral Region, a hotspot for plant biodiversity. We'll observe endemic species like proteas, ericas, and restios and learn about their ecological significance. Dinner is at leisure. *Harbour House Hotel (B, L)*



DAY 7 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 FRANSCHHOEK

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 Blaauwklippen 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.

Continue to Franschhoek, and check in at the hotel. Dinner and evening at leisure. *Protea Hotel Franschhoek (B, L)*

DAY 8 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

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. Relive David Livingstone's historic journey upstream of Victoria Falls, navigating close to the banks for enhanced bird and wildlife viewing. Absorb the splendor of the mighty Zambezi. *Pioneers Victoria Falls (B)*

DAY 9 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3 VICTORIA FALLS

This morning we go to '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)*

DAY 10 - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 CHOBE NATIONAL PARK, BOTSWANA

This morning, we check out of the hotel and travel by road from Zimbabwe into Botswana, arriving at our lodge in the Kasane Forest Reserve, situated between Chobe National Park and the Matetsi wildlife conservancy. After checking into your safari tents and enjoying lunch, relax until our afternoon game drive in Chobe National Park. The park's diverse ecosystems, including floodplains, mopane woodlands, and riverine forests, support a wide variety of wildlife. Chobe is famous for its large elephant population, and we're also likely to see giraffes, zebras, lions, warthogs, leopards, buffalo herds, hippos, and possibly 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)*

DAY 11 - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy an 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. Relax around the campfire surrounded by nature. *Elephant Valley Lodge (B, L, D)*





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October 26-November 9, 2025

\$11,999 per person in a double room

\$13,511 per person in a single room

Deposit: \$3,000 per person

Full Payment Balance Due: June 26, 2025

Register online at

www.conservancytravel.org/DuquesneSA25



DAY 12 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 OKAVANGO DELTA

After a morning game drive and breakfast, check out of the lodge and head to Kasane Airport for a 90-minute, light-air flight to Kadizora Airstrip, followed by a 10-minute drive to Kadizora Camp. The Okavango Delta is one of Africa's last unspoiled wilderness areas, characterized by the gentle flooding of vast plains. The northern delta features expansive savannahs with lagoons and tributaries, best explored by traditional mokoro canoes.

Upon arrival at the camp, check in, enjoy lunch, and relax until high tea. Then, embark on a late afternoon game drive. Return to camp, freshen up, and dine under the African sky.

Kadizora Camp (B,L,D)

DAY 13 - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 OKAVANGO DELTA

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 stars.

Kadizora Camp (B,L,D)

DAY 14 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

After a final game drive and breakfast, check out of the safari camp and transfer to Kadizora Airstrip for 40-minute, light air 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)

DAY 15 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 DEPARTURES

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart by motor-coach to the Apartheid Museum for an in-depth visit 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)

INCLUDED:

- ✓ Fully escorted tour program with Local Tour Manager throughout.
- ✓ Meals as defined in the itinerary, including Welcome /Farewell Dinners and Wine estate lunch, with a glass of wine.
- ✓ Airport transfers and all transportation as indicated in itinerary.
- ✓ Accommodation in double/twin bedded rooms in hotels stated in the itinerary, or similar.
- ✓ Entrance fees, park fees, visits, tours and activities as described in the itinerary, with a certified English Speaking local guides
- ✓ Porterage for 1 piece of luggage per person at airport and hotels
- ✓ Gratuities for included meals, safari camp staff gratuities
- ✓ Two light aircraft transfers Kasane-Kadizora and Kadizora-Maun
- ✓ Two domestic and regional flights within Southern Africa: Cape Town-Victoria Falls and Maun-Johannesburg

EXCLUDED:

- International airfare and baggage fees
- Excess baggage fees on light aircraft - strictly limited to 20kg/ 44 lbs per person for all baggage, camera equipment and hand baggage; must be soft-sided luggage.
- Optional tours or activities other than those specified
- Items of a personal nature, beverages, laundry, telephone calls, drinks, housekeeping tips etc.
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Drinks not specified in the itinerary
- Any other services not specified above
- Personal items and expenses
- Travel Insurance
- Visas (Zimbabwe \$30 cash upon arrival)
- Early check-in / Late Check-out
- Gratuity to Tour Manager, South Africa Driver, Safari Guides/ Drivers



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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REGISTER ONLINE:

www.conservancytravel.org/DuquesneSA25

