



# South Africa & Eswatini: Kruger Natl. Park, the Garden Route & Cape Town July 2023

*Journey into South Africa and Eswatini (Swaziland) where you'll explore the open wilderness in safari vehicles, step into local families' homes in rural villages and cosmopolitan cities, and let harbor towns charm you along the famed Garden Route. Join O.A.T. on an adventure that takes you into the city streets of Johannesburg and Cape Town; the forests and bush plains of Kruger National Park and Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve; and the mountainous kingdom of Eswatini.*

*You'll also gain invaluable insights from the locals we meet along the way, whether it's mingling with shoppers in Johannesburg's produce and craft markets or enjoying a home-cooked meal with a family in Cape Town.*

*And whenever you'd like, you have the freedom to explore more of the world on your own: Break off from the group for independent discoveries—visit a traditional Zulu village, seek out rare whales and penguins, and more—during free time.*

**REMINDER:** Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**. If you haven't experienced a Scott & Curtis travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff.



## **Snapshot Itinerary: South Africa & Eswatini: Kruger National Park, the Garden Route & Cape Town 2023**

Travel Dates: *July 2023*

**Day 1 – Depart for South Africa**

**Day 2 – Arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa**

**Day 3 – Explore Soweto • Apartheid conversation •  
Local interaction**

**Day 4 – Explore Johannesburg • Apartheid Museum  
visit**

**Day 5 – Fly to Kruger • Overland to Kruger National  
Park • Rhino poaching conversation**

**Day 6 – Full-day game-viewing drive in Kruger  
National Park**

**Day 7 – Kruger National Park bush walk • School visit  
• Afternoon game-viewing drive**

**Day 8 – Overland to Mbabane, Eswatini (Swaziland)  
• Glass factory visit**



**Day 9 – A Day in the Life of a Swazi village**

**Day 10 – Overland to Hluhluwe, South Africa**

**Day 11 – Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve • Game-  
viewing drives in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi • Zulu dance  
performance & conversation**

**Day 12 – Overland to Durban • Fly to Port Elizabeth**

**Day 13 – Port Elizabeth • Penguin Rehabilitation  
Center • Local interaction**

**Day 14 – Jeffrey’s Bay • Overland to Knysna**

**Day 15 – Explore Knysna • Featherbed Nature  
Reserve visit**

**Day 16 – Fly to Cape Town**

**Day 17 – Explore Cape Town • Table Mountain cable-  
car ride • Home-Hosted Dinner.**

**Day 18 – Explore Cape Town & the Cape Peninsula**

**Day 19 – Cape Town • Optional Stellenbosch  
Winelands Tour**

**Day 20 – Fly to U.S.**

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Your health and safety is our #1 priority. In partnership with our travel providers Great Circle Travel and OAT, we are monitoring the COVID-19 situation daily, including how it may impact future travel plans. If any changes are made, we will do our best to alert you as soon as possible. If you have questions in the meantime, please call Curtis Whitaker during regular business hours at **(269) 209-5889**. Thank you!



## **Detailed Itinerary: South Africa & Eswatini: Kruger National Park, the Garden Route & Cape Town 2023**

### **Day 1 – Depart U.S. for South Africa**

You depart the U.S. today on an overnight flight.

### **Day 2 – Arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa**

Afternoon: You'll touch down in South Africa's largest city around 5:30pm. An O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel via minibus—a transfer of about 45 minutes, depending on traffic. Here we'll be joined by travelers who took our optional South Africa's Entabeni Private Game Reserve or New! Madagascar: Lemurs, Biodiversity & Colonial History pre-trip extensions.

Upon arrival around 7pm, you will check in and receive your room assignment. Depending on where we stay, our hotel may include amenities such as an outdoor pool, spa, and on-site restaurant. Typical rooms feature a TV, wireless Internet, coffee- and tea-making facilities, and a private bath.

Dinner: On your own. You're free to settle into the hotel and dine at the on-site restaurant, or ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations on where to go for your first culinary experience in South Africa. You may want to try some nearby favorites, which include Italian and Thai restaurants.

Evening: You're free to retire early tonight to rest after your journey. Or, you may choose to chat with your fellow travelers about the adventure that awaits us.

Freedom to Explore: During your three days in Johannesburg, you have the freedom to explore "Jozi" on your own during your free time. Below are a few recommended options for independent exploration:

**REMINDER:** *Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call Curtis Whitaker at (269) 209-5889. Welcome!*



Immerse yourself in the Maboneng Arts & Craft Walking Experience: This 5-hour walking tour will introduce you to the thriving community of galleries and studios within eastern Johannesburg’s Maboneng precinct.

How to get there: A 35- to 45-minute car ride one way (included in the cost).

Hours: 9am-2pm, daily.

Cost: About \$110 USD per person.

Embark on a graffiti walking tour: See how street artists are turning several of Johannesburg’s neighborhoods—Newtown, Braamfontein, and more—into a thrilling, ever-evolving art canvas.

How to get there: A 35- to 45-minute car ride one way (included in the cost).

Hours: 9am-2pm, daily.

Cost: About \$110 USD per person.

### Important Travel Notes:

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).
- Please read the “What to Expect” box on the next page carefully. If you have further questions, call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

Learn the timeless art of traditional beading: Learn from a master beader as she introduces you to techniques that have been passed down, generation by generation.

How to get there: A 25- to 30-minute taxi ride one way, about \$25 USD.

Hours: Flexible and can be arranged by appointment. A minimum of three hours is required.

Cost: About \$75 USD per person, with a four-person minimum.

### Day 3 – Destination: Johannesburg

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with local and American options available.

Morning: Around 9am we'll meet with our Trip Experience Leader for a Welcome Briefing. During this briefing, we will review our itinerary in more detail (including any changes that may need to occur). Our Trip Experience Leader will also discuss logistics, safety and emergency procedures, and answer any questions we may have.

We'll then board our bus around 10am to venture to Soweto, a former shantytown on the outskirts of the city. Today, Soweto is both a bustling center of black South African life and a poignant symbol of the struggle to end apartheid. Stepping off our bus around 11am, we'll be able to immerse ourselves in local culture as we connect closely with the township's residents—meeting them where they work, possibly taking local transportation with them, and even stepping into their homes.

Lunch: Around 1pm at a local restaurant along our walk, featuring a buffet of traditional South African dishes. While here, we'll get to meet a group of local taxi drivers to talk more about life in Soweto.

Afternoon: Our bus will come to meet us and we depart around 2pm, driving about 10-15 minutes to see the Hector Pietersen memorial. Around 2:30pm, we'll benefit richly from our small group size: We'll enjoy an intimate meeting with a relative of Hector Pietersen. In 1976, the young boy was shot and killed by police during a protest, becoming an iconic image of the struggle for equality. We'll engage in a candid conversation with this member of Pietersen's family. We'll depart Soweto by bus around 3pm, arriving at our hotel about an hour later. The rest of the afternoon is yours, with the freedom to relax with a book in the hotel's common areas, ask your Trip Experience Leader any lingering questions you may have, or venture out into the city on your own.

Dinner: On your own—you're free to seek out local cuisine or your favorite American standards. Whatever you're craving, your Trip Experience Leader will be ready with recommendations. You may choose to seek out bunny chow, a popular local dish that consists of curry and vegetables served in a hollowed-out loaf of bread. While influenced by Indian cuisine, the dish itself is distinctly South African.

Evening: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader is happy to provide recommendations on how you can spend this free time. Perhaps you'll seek out a performance of traditional African drumming.

## What to Expect: South Africa 2023

■ **Physical Requirements:** Pacing is 7 locations in 19 days. Must be able to walk approximately 2-3 miles unassisted each day and participate in 6-8 hours of daily physical activities. Walk 1-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs. Balance and agility are required for boarding 4x4 vehicles. Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers in need of a CPAP machine may only bring one that runs on rechargeable batteries. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them. We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience.

■ **Terrain and Transportation:** Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones. Travel by 45- to 48-seat motorcoach, 4x4 vehicle, ferry, local train, taxi, and cable car.

■ **Climate:** Daytime temperatures range from 62-80°F during touring season. December-March are the warmest months.

## Passport & Visa Information

Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary: It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. U.S. citizens will need a visa (or visas) for this trip. In addition, there may be other entry requirements that also need to be met. For your convenience, we've included a quick reference list, organized by country:

South Africa: No visa required. Zimbabwe: Visa required. Eswatini (Swaziland): No visa required. Travelers who are booked on this adventure will be sent a complete Visa Packet—with instructions, applications, and a list of visa fees—approximately 100 days prior to their departure.

## Vaccinations Information

Our travel partner GCT requires a valid Covid-19 vaccination **plus** booster shot for all travelers. For other vaccinations that **may** be recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).



#### **Day 4 – Explore Johannesburg • Apartheid Museum visit**

**Breakfast:** Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with local and American options available.

**Morning:** Around 9am, we'll begin our full-day exploration of Johannesburg. Established in 1886 on the site of gold-rich farmland, the city today is a thriving metropolis of skyscrapers, including the Carlton Centre (the tallest office block in Africa), and the Nelson Mandela Bridge.

After about a 30-minute bus ride, we'll arrive at the Apartheid Museum for what will likely be a powerful experience. Here, we'll be immersed in nearly a half-century's worth of unequal rights, a history that affected more than 20 million black South Africans. With 22 exhibits spanning print, photo, and film, the museum provides a moving examination of the era before equality. It'll provide rich insight into how far South Africa has come to reach its current state, governed by a constitutional democracy that celebrates diversity. We'll explore the museum until around 11:30am, at which point we'll embark on a 15-minute ride to our next stop: Constitution Hill, site of the historic Old Fort Prison. Originally constructed by the Boers during colonial times in the 19th century, the white-walled fort has held prisoners of war, common criminals, and political figures—especially during the apartheid era. Nelson and Winnie Mandela were incarcerated here, as was Mahatma Gandhi. We'll explore

the site and learn how it came to be called “the Robben Island of Johannesburg” during our hour-long visit accompanied by a local guide. At about 1pm, we'll walk about 10 minutes to our bus and drive for about a half hour back to our hotel.

**Lunch:** On your own around 1:45pm—you're free to seek out your preferred dining options. Your Trip Experience Leader will be ready with recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Upon our return to the hotel, the rest of the afternoon is yours, with the freedom to relax in the hotel or venture back out into the city for additional exploration. Perhaps you'll ask your Trip Experience Leader where you can find some of the city's tributes to Nelson Mandela, including the “shadow boxer” statue in front of the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court, and the 20-foot-tall bronze statue on display within Nelson Mandela Square. We'll regroup around 5:30pm and take about a 15-minute drive to dinner.

**Dinner:** Around 5:45pm, we'll enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant, featuring local cuisine. Dinner will include an appetizer, main course, dessert, and your choice of bottled water, soft drinks, or a glass of beer or wine.

Evening: You're free to relax at the hotel before tomorrow's travel day, or soak up some more of the local scene here in "Jozi." Perhaps you'll tap into the city's vibrant beer scene—your Trip Experience Leader will be ready to recommend a local watering hole.

### **Day 5 – Fly to Kruger • Overland to Kruger National Park • Rhino poaching conversation**

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 6:45am, with local and American options available.

Morning: We'll depart our hotel around 9am this morning, and begin the day's journey east. We'll ride about an hour by bus to the airport before checking in for our 11am flight to Kruger International Airport. The flight is about 45 minutes, and afterward we'll continue toward Kruger National Park, South Africa's first national park.

Lunch: On your own around 1pm in the town of White River. Your Trip Experience Leader will be ready to recommend local dining spots.

Afternoon: We'll commence the final leg of the day's journey around 1:30pm, with a 1.5-hour ride from White River to our tented camp. Upon arrival around 4pm, we'll check in and receive our tent assignments. We'll spend the next three nights here—and since our camp is located within Kruger's park grounds we'll have unparalleled access to its wonders. On-site camp amenities may include a swimming pool, bar, and restaurant; your timber and canvas tented suite will likely feature air-conditioning, coffee- and tea-making facilities, and a private bath with shower.

You're free to settle in and get acquainted with the campgrounds until 5pm, at which point our group will reconvene in the camp common spaces. An expert ranger will meet with us to discuss rhino poaching, which has wreaked havoc on the animal population in recent decades. We'll learn why poachers have sought the horns of rhinos in this area, as well as the myriad efforts that have been undertaken to curb the poaching—from raising awareness to proactively dehorning rhinos in the wild.

Dinner: Around 6pm, we'll enjoy a traditional outdoor boma dinner, which consists of traditional African cuisine.

Evening: All evenings at our tented camp are free for you to relax in your room, linger in the main dining area for a night cap, or sit by the fire with your fellow travelers.

#### **Freedom to Explore**

During your three days in Kruger National Park, you

have the freedom to explore the area on your own during your free time. Below is a recommended option for independent exploration:

Connect with a "tusker" during an Elephant Whispers Interaction: Get up close with an African Elephant during a 5-hour immersive experience. You'll have the opportunity to connect with, touch, and even feed one of these incredible creatures.

How to get there: A 30- to 40-minute car ride one way (included in the cost).

Hours: 9am, 12pm, 4pm, and 2pm, daily.

Cost: About \$65 USD.

### **Day 6 – Full-day game-viewing drive in Kruger National Park**

Breakfast: Served buffet-style in the camp's main restaurant beginning at 6am, with local and American options available.

Morning: Around 6:30am, our group will board safari vehicles for our introduction to Kruger National Park. At just over 7,500 square miles, the park is among Africa's largest game reserves: Within its four main ecosystems, one could witness more than 517 species of birds, more than 100 reptile species, and an assortment of larger animals. The park is home to all of Africa's legendary "Big Five" safari animals—lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, and Cape buffalo—and if we're lucky, we'll be able to witness them in person today. Our Trip Experience Leader and driver-guides are highly trained in the behavior of wildlife here, so we'll be well-positioned to maximize our discoveries and insights.

Lunch: On your own around 1pm, at a restaurant located in one of the park's rest camps, featuring sandwiches and burgers.

Afternoon: We'll continue our explorations this afternoon. Perhaps we'll see a pack of highly endangered African wild dogs—experts estimate that about 400 remain in South Africa today. We'll return to our camp by 4pm, with time to relax on your own.

Dinner: Served buffet-style at our camp's main restaurant around 6pm. Dinner at camp usually features a choice of entrees (fish, meat, and vegetarian options), along with regionally inspired side dishes that utilize fresh local ingredients.

Evening: You're free to relax with a beverage in the bar, or retire to your tent.

**Day 7 – Kruger National Park bush walk • School visit  
• Afternoon game-viewing drive**

Activity Note: This morning will start early, with a wakeup call at 5:30am. Our morning excursion will include a 2-hour walk through the bush, which may involve uneven surfaces. And while temperatures vary greatly depending on the time of year, the air is usually cool on early-morning excursions, so you may wish to dress in layers to stay warm.

Early Morning: Around 6am, we'll embark and begin today's Kruger exploration, as we join our Trip Experience Leader and a park ranger for a morning bush walk. Both experts will help us learn as much as possible about the local flora and fauna within this park, which is tucked into South Africa's northeastern corner, along the country's border with Mozambique. We'll return to our camp by 8am, just in time for breakfast.

Breakfast: Served buffet-style in the camp's main restaurant beginning at 8am, with local and American options available.

Morning: We'll depart our camp by safari vehicle around 10am for a short ride to the George Mhale Primary School, which is supported by Grand Circle Foundation as part of the World Classroom initiative. Here, our small group will enjoy a special opportunity to meet and connect with some of the school's students, who range in age from five to six, as well as their teachers. If you'd like, you're welcome to bring school supplies to help

assist in school operations: Especially helpful are deflated soccer balls, pencils, construction paper, and crayons. You may also choose to bring a small token from your hometown—such as a postcard or map—to show the school community just how far you've traveled to meet them. We'll spend about an hour here before we start the ride back to our lodge around 11:30am.

Lunch: Around noon, in the camp's main restaurant, featuring an assortment of finger-food dishes.

Afternoon: You'll have a couple hours of free time this afternoon, whether you'd prefer to retire to your tent or chat with your fellow travelers.

Around 3pm, we'll board safari vehicles for a game-viewing drive. Kruger is one of the most notable among African game parks, and its origin dates to Transvaal President Paul Kruger, who saw the need to protect the wilderness and its animals. It was known as the Sabi Game Reserve before it became a national park. As we drive, our expert driver-guides will point out the array of distinct wildlife on display here: We may spot zebra, hyenas, impala, and more during our 3-hour excursion. We'll return to the lodge around 6pm.

Dinner: Around 6:30pm at the camp restaurant, featuring local cuisine.

Evening: On your own. You're free to join your fellow travelers and compare favorite photographs from the



day's events, or quietly contemplate the view of the African night sky up above.

**FOUNDATION VISIT:** George Mhaule Primary School  
When you travel to South Africa with O.A.T., you'll get the chance to interact with and inspire the next generation at the George Mhaule Primary School. Grand Circle Foundation recently partnered with this school, and with the help of donations, they hope to fund the addition of an administrative building. When in session, you'll have the opportunity to see the school, meet the students, and get a sense of the targeted improvements for yourself.

Total donated in Africa: \$21,212  
Partner since: 2015

### **Day 8 – Overland to Mbabane, Eswatini (Swaziland) • Glass factory visit**

**Activity Note:** King Mswati III of Swaziland officially changed the name of the country to “the Kingdom of Eswatini.” The change was the result of confusion between the names Swaziland and Switzerland. The king also believes that Eswatini is a more appropriate name for the country as it translates to “land of the Swazis.”

**Breakfast:** Served buffet-style in the camp's main restaurant beginning at 6:30am, with local and American options available.

**Morning:** Around 8:30am, we'll begin our journey south into the Kingdom of Eswatini. We'll make a 30-minute stop around 10am to stretch our legs before continuing on to a local lodge for lunch.

**Lunch:** Around noon, we'll stop and enjoy lunch at a local lodge before we cross the border.

**Afternoon:** When we enter Eswatini at the Oshoek Border Post around 2:15pm, we'll travel across its mountainous northwest border. As we travel, we'll take in a landscape of sloping hills and sugarcane plantations. Fully independent since 1968, this African kingdom originated in the early 19th century and maintained its cultural identity as a British protectorate—never absorbed into South Africa—throughout much of the 20th century. Today, Eswatini has a population of more than 1 million and is a peaceful, agricultural country in which ancient and modern ways mingle. Around 2pm, we'll stop by Ngweyna Glass, a factory that has been producing handblown glass since 1979. Here we'll enjoy a tea and chocolate break, and if the factory is operating, we may even have a chance to see its artisans in action.

## **What's Included in the Package**

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from South Africa.
- Airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- Accommodations for 18 nights.
- 40 meals: Daily breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 11 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner).
- 23 small group activities, including game-viewing drives, hikes, museum visits, plus park fees
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, lodge and camp staff, driver-guides, and luggage porters
- Explore in a small group of 8-16 travelers (average group size of 13).



We'll reach our hotel around 4pm, at which point we'll check in and get our room assignments. Depending on which hotel we stay in for the next two nights, we may be just a few minutes from Mbabane Center. In addition to scenic views of the Ezulwini Valley, our on-site amenities are likely to include a hot tub, outdoor pool, restaurant, wireless Internet in common areas, and laundry service. Your room may feature a TV, refrigerator, coffee- and tea-making facilities, and a private bath.

**Dinner:** Around 7pm at the hotel's on-site restaurant, featuring regionally inspired dishes.

**Evening:** You're free to ask your Trip Experience Leader for more insight into the relationship between South Africa and Eswatini, or chat with fellow travelers about favorite moments from our adventure thus far.

**Freedom to Explore:** During your two days in Mbabane, you have the freedom to explore the area on your own during your free time. Below are a few recommended options for independent exploration:

Discover traditional Swazi culture in Mantenga Village: Immerse yourself in village life as you meet a local family, help to weave a traditional hut, grind maize, and more.

How to get there: A 15- to 20-minute taxi ride one way, about \$15 USD.

Hours: 11am and 3pm, daily.

Cost: About \$20 USD.

Connect with community support efforts at the Fontein Social Care Centre: Witness how this center supports 40 preschool children, most HIV-positive and orphaned by AIDS.

How to get there: A 15- to 20-minute taxi ride one way, about \$15 USD.

Hours: By appointment only.

Cost: Free.

Partake in a visit to the Swazi Candle Factory: Behold as artists create wax candles by hand, and browse their wares—in addition to other locally made handicrafts and food options.

How to get there: A 35- to 40-minute taxi ride one way, about \$20 USD.

Hours: 8am-5pm, daily.

Cost: Free.

### **Day 9 – A Day in the Life of a Swazi village**

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with local and American options available.

Morning: Around 8:30am, in the company of a member of the local Swazi community, we'll board our bus and begin our A Day in the Life experience, traveling to a small, rural settlement nestled in the Ezulwini Valley. After a 1.5-mile walk, we will reach the home of the InDuna, the village's leader, and have the opportunity to share a conversation with him or his wife about their integral role in the community and life as a subsistence farmer. Contrary to commercial farmers, these farmers work primarily toward the goal of self-sufficiency, rather than profit. They live off the land and crops they cultivate for their family's well-being. Afterwards, we'll board our bus once more to travel to a local fruit and vegetable market to pick up fresh produce for our upcoming lunch. We'll walk or drive back to the village and will be welcomed into two homesteads owned by elderly women who care for their families. Here, we'll learn how to prepare a traditional Swazi meal from these wise women, while chatting about their daily lives in the village and rich heritage.

Lunch: Around noon, we'll enjoy the fruits of our labor—the homemade lunch we helped prepare.

Afternoon: Departing the village around 2pm, we'll return to our hotel about two hours later, stopping at an Ezulwini handicrafts market along the way to admire the artistry of the village women. After arriving back at the hotel around 4pm, you'll have a couple of hours of free time—a perfect opportunity to experience the grounds' hiking trails and birding routes, should you wish—before we regroup around 7pm.

Dinner: Around 7pm at the hotel restaurant, featuring local fare.

Evening: On your own. You're free to reflect upon the day, or settle in with a book in one of the hotel's common areas.

### **Day 10 – Overland to Hluhluwe, South Africa**

Activity Note: Today's transfer will take about seven hours, with a border crossing and a stop for lunch.

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 6:30am, with American options available.

Morning: At 8am, we'll depart our hotel and start to make our way back into South Africa, taking in views of local farms and villages along the way. We'll reach the border around 10:30am, and then continue toward Hluhluwe, a small town within the Kwazulu-Natal province.

Lunch: Around 11:30am at a local game lodge, featuring a buffet of traditional dishes.

Afternoon: Our surroundings transform from flat land to more mountainous terrain, and we reach Hluhluwe around 2:15pm. It was here that the great warrior-king Shaka unified many clans in the early 19th century under the name Zulu (the name of his own clan). Though mostly ceremonial today, the Zulu monarchy continues as a proud symbol of a living culture. Upon arriving at our lodge, we'll check in and get our room assignments. We'll spend the next two nights here, within a coastal game reserve, where our on-site amenities may include a swimming pool, roof deck, and restaurant. Your room will likely feature air-conditioning and coffee- and tea-making facilities. You'll have some time to freshen up before dinner.

Dinner: Around 6:30pm at the lodge, featuring local fare.

Evening: On your own, with the freedom to explore the on-site amenities or reflect on the day's experiences.

Freedom to Explore: During your two days in Hluhluwe, you have the freedom to explore the area on your own during your free time. Below are a few recommended options for independent exploration:



Experience traditional Zulu life at DumaZulu Traditional Village: Get a multisensory introduction to the Zulu, as you witness traditional drumming, taste locally made beer, and connect with village residents.

How to get there: A 5- to 10-minute taxi ride one way, about \$7 USD.

Hours: 8:15am, 11am, and 3pm, daily.

Cost: About \$16 USD.

Witness the lifecycle of turtles (and more) during a St. Lucia Turtle Tour: Observe endangered leatherback and loggerhead turtles as they lay their eggs during a special late-day tour. Also included is an evening game-viewing drive.

How to get there: A 1-hour car ride one way, included in the cost of the tour.

Hours: Late afternoon or early evening, November to February only.

Cost: About \$152 USD.

Explore the wildlife with a water view on a iSimangaliso Boat Cruise: Explore St. Lucia by double-decker boat, and look for hippo, crocodiles, and other species of animals.

How to get there: A 1-hour car ride one way, included in the cost of the tour.

Hours: 10am, 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm September-April; 10am, 1pm, and 3pm May-August.

Cost: About \$90 USD per person.

### **Day 11 – Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve • Game-viewing drives in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi • Zulu dance performance & conversation**

Activity Note: Today includes an early wakeup call at 5:30am, and about five and a half hours of travel via safari vehicle this morning.

Breakfast: Served buffet-style in the lodge beginning at 6am, with local and American options available.

Morning: At about 6:30am, we'll set off for a game-viewing drive through the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve—the oldest park in all of Africa. Thanks to the efforts of conservationists, the once-threatened rhino population has soared here; the park is now home to the largest concentration of white rhinos in the world. Keep your eyes peeled for their signature horns. We'll return to the lodge around noon.

Lunch: Around noon at the lodge, featuring a buffet of traditional dishes.

Afternoon: The early afternoon is free for you to spend as you'd like. Or if you'd like, you're welcome to venture back out into the reserve at 3:30pm, on an optional afternoon game-viewing drive. You'll have another chance to climb aboard a 4x4 safari vehicle to seek out residents of the reserve, seeing the animals in a new light at a different time of day. Or, if you'd prefer to remain at the lodge

this afternoon, the rest of the afternoon is free for your own activities. We'll then regroup around 6pm to enjoy a traditional Zulu dance performance put on by the lodge staff, and a conversation about modern Zulu culture with local tribe members.

Dinner: Around 7pm in the lodge, featuring local dishes.

Evening: You're free to enjoy your final night here in Hlulhuwe as you'd like.

### **Day 12 – Overland to Durban • Fly to Port Elizabeth**

Breakfast: Served buffet-style in the lodge beginning at 6:30am, with local and American options available.

Morning: We'll depart our hotel around 8:30am, boarding our bus for the 2.5-hour ride south to the airport in Durban. Our journey will take us along South Africa's Indian Ocean coast, with views of the sea along the way. We'll arrive around 11am for our 1:30pm flight of about 1.5 hours.

Lunch: On your own in the airport. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to point out spots where you can get a bite to eat as we wait to board our flight.

Afternoon: Around 3:30pm, we'll reach our destination: Port Elizabeth, the largest town on South Africa's famed Garden Route. We'll travel from the airport to our hotel via bus—about a 30-minute ride, depending on traffic. Upon arrival at our hotel around 4pm, we'll check in and get our room assignments. Depending on which hotel we stay in for the next two nights, we may find ourselves with the beach just a short walk away. On-site amenities may include a fitness center, as well as a swimming pool. Your room is likely to feature air conditioning, a TV, safe, coffee- and tea-making facilities, wireless Internet, and a private bath with hair dryer.

You'll have some free time to settle in and explore the hotel grounds before dinner. Or, if you'd like to join your Trip Experience Leader around 4:30pm, a local university professor will be hosting a conversation at our hotel on the current state of affairs in local education.

Dinner: You're free to find your preferred dinner options tonight. Perhaps you'll try one of the city's many indulgent burger options, which include truffle sauce or even ostrich patties.

Evening: You're free to relax on the hotel grounds, or venture out to start your explorations of Port Elizabeth on your own. If you choose the latter, your Trip Experience Leader will be ready with recommendations for you.

Freedom to Explore: During your two days in Port Elizabeth, you have the freedom to explore the area on your own during your free time. Below are some recommended options for independent exploration:

Discover hand-crafted ceramic art in New Brighton: Visit the studio of two sisters whose ceramics are inspired by African landscapes, animals, and more.

How to get there: A 30- to 40-minute taxi ride one way, about \$20 USD.

Hours: By appointment.

Cost: Free.

Behold Port Elizabeth's aquatic wildlife on a dolphin cruise: Venture onto Algoa Bay in search of dolphins, whales, and Port Elizabeth's large breeding colony of African penguins.

How to get there: A 10- to 15-minute taxi ride one way, about \$5 USD.

Hours: 8am-noon, daily. Prior arrangement required.

Cost: About \$107 USD.

### **Day 13 – Port Elizabeth • Penguin Rehabilitation Center • Local interaction**

Breakfast: Served buffet-style in the hotel beginning at 7am, with local and American options available.

Morning: Around 9am, we'll board our coach and depart for our explorations of Port Elizabeth, arriving at Donkin Reserve around 9:15am. Named after Port Elizabeth's governor in the 1820s, this hilltop park offers scenic views, and pathways strewn with monuments and artwork. During our walking tour, we'll also pass sites like the Opera House and St. Augustine Cathedral, and will likely find opportunities to interact with locals along the way. Around 10:15am, we'll board our coach to visit a local artists' studio just about 10 minutes away, where leather and silver crafts are made. Here, we'll get to interact with local artists to learn about their lives and crafts. We may even get a chance to help create our own items to take home as souvenirs.

Lunch: Around 12:30pm at a local restaurant within the artists' workshop.

Afternoon: Around 1:30pm, we'll head out for our next destination: Cape Recife Nature Reserve, about an hour away. The reserve is home to a variety of unspoiled beaches and rock pools, and we'll get to spend some time at the park's penguin rehabilitation center. During our visit, we'll get to watch the penguins get fed, and take part in a discussion about the conservation of this endangered species. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a scenic walk along

one of the reserve's scenic beaches. We'll depart around 4:30pm, driving roughly a half hour back to our hotel. The remainder of the day is yours, with the freedom to spend the time as you wish. We'll gather shortly before 6pm for about a 5-minute drive to dinner.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant around 6pm, featuring a selection of local cuisines.

**Evening:** Tonight is free for you to explore and enjoy as you see fit. You may choose to explore Richmond Hill: One of Port Elizabeth's oldest neighborhoods, the streets are lined with Victorian homes and, on Stanley Street, a wide variety of restaurants and cocktail bars.

#### **Day 14 – Jeffrey's Bay • Overland to Knysna**

**Activity Note:** Today's transfer to Knysna involves about three and a half hours of non-continuous bus travel. You'll also have an opportunity to swim during our morning stop at Jeffrey's Bay, so plan accordingly.

**Breakfast:** Served buffet-style in the hotel beginning at 6:30am, with local and American options available.

**Morning:** We'll gather at about 8:30am this morning. Boarding our bus, we'll embark on a ride along South Africa's Garden Route, surrounded by forests, rivers, and scenic hiking trails. Since the Garden Route is nestled between the Tsitsikamma Mountains and the Indian Ocean, the climate here is among the mildest in the world, which contributes to the lush scenery that we pass by. Around 9:45am, we'll stop in Jeffrey's Bay, a beach town with a thriving surfing community. While here, you'll have about an hour of free time: You may choose to explore the town, do a little shopping, or even dip into the water for a swim. We'll resume our travels to Knysna around 10:45am.

**Lunch:** Around 1:30pm at a local restaurant, featuring regionally inspired dishes.

**Afternoon:** We leave the restaurant around 2:30pm for a drive of about 15 minutes, arriving at our hotel around 2:45pm. Upon arrival, we'll check in and get our room assignments. Depending on which hotel we stay at, we're likely to spend the next two nights at an accommodation with waterfront views, a heated on-site pool, wireless Internet, and on-site restaurant. Your room may feature air conditioning, a TV, phone, coffee- and tea-making facilities, and a private bath with hair dryer.

The rest of the afternoon is yours for independent discovery. You're free to settle into the hotel, or perhaps explore one of the nearby hiking trails. Your Trip Experience

Leader can provide tips on what flora and fauna you may encounter along the way.

**Dinner:** On your own. You're welcome to seek out a meal with fellow travelers at one of the hotel's restaurants, or venture out into Knysna for your meal. Perhaps you'll take advantage of our coastal location and enjoy fresh, flavorful oysters tonight.

**Evening:** You're free to settle in for the night at the hotel, or venture out for a nightcap in town.

**Freedom to Explore:** During your two days in Knysna, you have the freedom to explore the town on your own during your free time. Below are some recommended options for independent exploration:

**Connect with a local painter during a studio visit:** Meet and chat with Peggy, a passionate local artist known for her vibrant artwork and colorful personality.

**How to get there:** A 15- to 20-minute taxi ride one way, about \$10 USD.

**Hours:** By appointment.

**Cost:** About \$20 USD.

**Sharpen your culinary skills with a South African cooking lesson:** Learn how to prepare flavorful local dishes—and then enjoy the meal you've created.

**How to get there:** A 10- to 15-minute taxi ride one way, about \$7 USD.

**Hours:** 9am-1:30pm, daily.

**Cost:** About \$65 USD.

#### **Day 15 – Explore Knysna • Featherbed Nature Reserve visit**

**Activity Note:** Today's discoveries will include two ferry boat rides, each about an hour long. If you suffer from motion sickness aboard boats, we recommend that you have medication available with you today.

**Breakfast:** Served buffet-style in the hotel beginning at 7am, with local and American options available.

**Morning:** At about 9am, we'll depart our hotel for a trip into the lush forests, trickling rivers, and mountainous terrain of Knysna. First, we'll cross the Knysna Lagoon by ferry to reach Featherbed Bay. This will take approximately 30 minutes one-way. Upon arrival around noon, we'll enjoy a scenic walk through the reserve, privately owned land designed to preserve its natural wonders. As we explore, we'll learn about—and then behold—Knysna's famous "heads," cliffs formed where the Indian Ocean and Knysna River meet.



Lunch: Around 12:30pm in the reserve, featuring a buffet of local dishes.

Afternoon: We'll begin our ferry ride back to the mainland around 1:30pm, and arrive at our hotel around 2:30pm. The remainder of your day is free, whether you choose to remain on the hotel grounds, or venture out with your fellow travelers or on your own.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Perhaps you'll travel into town, and choose from an assortment of Indian, French, Italian, and other options. Whatever you crave, your Trip Experience Leader can offer a recommendation.

Evening: You're free to linger over a coffee at a local café, or a drink at the bar in our hotel. Or, perhaps you'll return to your room to rest up for tomorrow's early departure, depending on your group's flight schedule.

### **Day 16 – Fly to Cape Town**

Activity Note: Though flight times may vary, today's itinerary typically includes an early morning departure, with plans to leave the hotel by 5:45am to catch our flight to Cape Town.

Breakfast: At 5:30am, we will collect boxed breakfasts from the hotel and bring them with us for our journey to the airport.

Morning: We'll leave our hotel at 5:45am, embarking on a 1.5-hour bus ride to the airport in neighboring George. We'll arrive and check in for our flight that leaves around 8:30am. We'll land in Cape Town around 10am and board a coach for our drive to the hotel, which should take just about an hour. The drive will also serve as our introduction to South Africa's "Mother City." Cape Town is one of the nation's three capital cities: As the seat of Parliament, Cape Town serves as legislative capital; Pretoria is the administrative capital; and Bloemfontein serves as the judicial capital. Since its Portuguese and Dutch origins in the 15th century, Cape Town has become a multiculturally diverse city popular among expats from around the world. The city was a hotspot in the anti-apartheid movement: Political leaders were held for years at nearby Robben Island, and it was on the balcony of Cape Town City Hall that the newly released Nelson Mandela made his first public speech as a free man in 1990.

Upon arrival, we'll drop our bags off to be stored in the hotel, and set out to make our own discoveries.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader is happy to provide recommendations. Perhaps you'll try Gibson's, a local burger joint.

Afternoon: You're free to make your own discoveries today. We encourage you to head out to acquaint yourself with the city. Perhaps you'll stroll down the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, shop crafts at the Watershed market, or visit the local aquarium. Around 2pm, we can check in to our rooms, where we'll be staying for the next four nights. Depending on where we stay, our hotel likely offers an on-site bar, outdoor pool, and more. Your room may feature a TV, safe, minibar, air conditioning, and a private bath with hair dryer.

Dinner: On your own whenever you like. You're free to find your preferred dinner options tonight.

Evening: This evening is on your own, whether you'd prefer to explore Cape Town (ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations) or return to the hotel. Mojo Market is a good option nearby, with seafood, salad, and grilled entrees.

Freedom to Explore: During your four days in Cape Town, you have the freedom to explore the city on your own during your free time. Below are a few recommended options for independent exploration:

Indulge in Tea by the Sea at the 12 Apostles: Take in views and a delectable high-tea spread of scones, macarons, sandwiches and more at one of Cape Town's five-star hotels.

How to get there: A 15- to 20-minute taxi ride one way, about \$7 USD.

Hours: 10am-4:30pm, daily.

Cost: About \$25 USD.

Tap into local culture and wares at The Watershed: This eclectic market of more than 150 local artisans, located along the Victoria & Albert Waterfront, features one-stop shopping for arts and crafts, along with a captivating, funky design aesthetic.

How to get there: A 15-minute taxi ride one way, about \$5 USD.

Hours: 9am-5:30pm, daily.

Cost: Free.

Experience a mix of cultures during the Bo-Kaap Cooking Tour: Step into Bo-Kaap, or the Malay Quarter, for a hands-on glimpse into the food and culture of the Cape Malay people, originally from Southeast Asia. Enjoy a cooking lesson, visit a food bazaar, and more.

How to get there: A 15- to 20-minute taxi ride one way, about \$5 USD.

Hours: Starts at 11am, daily.

Cost: About \$45 USD per person.

## **Day 17 – Explore Cape Town • Table Mountain cable-car ride • Home-Hosted Dinner**

Breakfast: Served buffet-style in the hotel beginning at 6:30am, with local and American options available.

Morning: We'll continue our Cape Town explorations around 8am, as we commence a 4-hour bus- and walking- tour. We'll make our way to District Six to learn how apartheid literally changed the Cape Town cityscape. This former neighborhood of cultural diversity was targeted as part of the 1950 Group Areas Act, which expressly forbade different races cohabitating in the same space. Within 20 years, District Six was designated "whites only." Thousands of residents were relocated to settlements elsewhere, and much of the district was destroyed. Today, the district is considered by many a lasting scar from South Africa's ugly chapter of history.

Around 10:30am, we'll take in the scenery of Cape Town and its surroundings, as we enjoy a 5- to 10-minute cable car ride (weather permitting) to the top of Table Mountain. This 3,563-foot sandstone mountain is known around the world for its iconic flat top and ocean views. We'll spend about 1.5 hours atop the mountain before we make our return to the city below to continue our tour.

Lunch: At a local restaurant around 12:30pm, walking distance from one of our stops along the city tour.

Afternoon: We'll return to our hotel around 2pm, and you'll have the freedom to remain in your room, explore town and sample some espresso, or seek out some of the caves and hiking trails in the surrounding area. Around 6:30pm, we'll regroup and drive about a half-hour for a special experience made possible by our small group size: we'll split into even small groups and local families will welcome us into their homes.

Dinner: Around 7pm in the home of a local family. This Home-Hosted visit gives us the chance to connect with our hosts, and learn about their daily life, such as what they eat, how they live, and what their thoughts are on Cape Town and South Africa. We'll even help prepare a home-cooked meal and enjoy the finished product together. Should you wish, you may bring a token of appreciation with you—Your Trip Experience Leader is happy to recommend a local item you may offer our hosts as a gift, or you might prefer to bring a piece of home with you. A postcard, map, or photograph from your hometown is an easy way to create a special moment with the welcoming family members.

Evening: We'll depart our Home-Hosted Dinner around 9pm, taking a 20- to 30-minute drive to the hotel, and the

rest of the evening is on your own, whether you'd prefer to explore Cape Town or return to the hotel.

### **Day 18 – Explore Cape Town & the Cape Peninsula**

Activity Note: Today's full-day excursion includes about four hours of bus travel, occasionally over uneven and bumpy roads, with stops along the way.

Breakfast: Served buffet-style in the hotel beginning at 7am, with local and American options available.

Morning: We'll depart from our hotel around 8am this morning, and drive along a coast road, from which we can see the Atlantic Ocean's surf as it endlessly crashes against the rocks below. Our first destination is the Cape Point Nature Reserve, where we'll arrive around 10:30am. Here, we'll be treated to the sight of wild fynbos landscapes, flowers, and ocean views—in addition to baboons and elusive bontebok.

Lunch: Around 1:30pm at a nearby restaurant, about a 20-minute drive away, featuring local dishes.

Afternoon: At about 2:15pm, we'll board our coach for a roughly-20-minute drive, followed by a train ride of about the same length. Upon arrival, we'll drive another 15 minutes or so to the lush Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, home to a variety of evergreen Cape flora. About a third of the flora we observe on our 40-minute walking tour is native only to this narrow strip of South African land. At about 4:30pm, we'll make our way back to Cape Town with about a 1-hour ride, offering more scenic views along the way. Upon our return to the hotel at about 5:30pm, the rest of the day is free for you to spend as you'd like.

Dinner: On your own tonight. You're free to seek out some of the city's best fish and chips, or try bobotie, a dish of spiced meat and egg custard. Your Trip Experience Leader can offer recommendations on where to find these dishes and more.

Evening: If you'd like, you're free to round out the day on a sweet note: Ask your Trip Experience Leader where to find koeksisters, fried sweet dough shaped into a braid.

### **Day 19 – Cape Town • Optional Stellenbosch Winelands Tour**

Breakfast: Served buffet-style in the hotel beginning at 7am, with local and American options available.

Morning: Your morning is free. You may choose to relax in the hotel, or seek out some of Cape Town's charms on your own. Perhaps you'll explore the Victoria & Albert Waterfront, a hub of activity since it was first built in the

late 19th century.

Or, if you'd like, you're welcome to join us this morning on a full-day optional excursion to Stellenbosch and the surrounding Cape Winelands region. We'll depart around 9am and travel straight into the heart of South Africa's renowned wine industry. We'll visit various wine estates, tasting and sampling their offerings. During the tour, we'll behold rolling hills, farms, and dramatic mountain vistas, in addition to traditional Cape Dutch architecture.

Lunch: Travelers who choose to spend the day on their own and travelers who join us on our Optional Tour will both enjoy lunch on your own today. This could be your chance to seek out a boerewors, a popular sausage roll sold by street vendors. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to suggest where to find Cape Town's best.

Afternoon: If you've chosen to remain in Cape Town, you're free to continue your explorations as you'd like. Perhaps you'll choose to explore the vibrantly hued Bo-Kaap neighborhood, including a visit to a local museum. Or, if you'd prefer, you can remain on the hotel grounds to prepare for your travels home tomorrow. If you join us on our Optional Tour, you'll return to the hotel around 5pm.

Dinner: We'll gather as a group one final time around 7pm, as we toast to our discoveries and memories with a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant. Tonight's meal will feature local cuisine and includes an appetizer, main course, and dessert. Bottled water, soft drinks, beer, or wine are included.

Evening: On your own. You may want to soak up some final experiences in Cape Town, or prefer to swap stories and impressions of South Africa and Eswatini with fellow travelers at the hotel.

### **Stellenbosch Winelands Tour - \$90/person**

Join us on a full-day optional tour to the heart of South Africa's beautiful wine country to explore the historic area around the town of Stellenbosch. We'll visit various wine estates, tasting and sampling their delicious offerings. The scenery includes rolling hills, graceful farms, and dramatic mountain vistas. This area is also the heart of Cape Dutch culture, and you will see fine examples of traditional architecture while learning about the history of early settlement here.

### **Day 20 – Fly to the U.S.**

## Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

**Trip Name:** South Africa 2023  
**Trip Dates:** July 2023 (exact dates TBA)  
**Base Price (PP):** \$3,895\*  
**Rd. Trip Airfare:** \$2,400\*

\* **Note** – The prices listed above are subject to change for the planned 2023 trip explained in this document. For the latest updates, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

**Trip Cancellation Coverage** – Trip cancellation insurance is not required but is highly recommended. For details, please visit [www.oattravel.com/TPP](http://www.oattravel.com/TPP) or call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

**Reservation Deposit:** The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$350 per person, fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure.

**Discount Note:** Please note that the special \$500 discount offered by Grand Circle Travel and O.A.T. during the pandemic years of 2020-21 is not offered for trips during the 2023 travel season.

**Need Help?** For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

## TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**. A \$350 deposit is required to guarantee your place (credit cards accepted). Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

**Note:** The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

**Pricing Disclaimer:** *Every effort will be made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.*

