

2025 South Africa Trip Detail

Cost: \$8,600 per person, double occupancy

\$1,000 Deposit due upon registration; final payment due May 13, 2025

You are in for a trip of a lifetime! This trip is designed to build excitement and wonder each day, with safari drives being the highlight of your trip on the last five days. Lindani Private Reserve is a secluded offering where you can adjust to an entirely different time zone and see your first giraffe, zebra, and impala. Each day of the trip should be better than the preceding day. Going on safari is the goal of most people who visit South Africa, and this trip concludes with five full days of safari drives.

Temperatures will likely range from the mid-50s in the early morning hours to highs from the mid-70s in Cape Town to the low 90s while on safari. Food ranges from very good to excellent, with generous portions throughout the trip.

South Africa's history is fascinating, and you'll explore early human sites dating from 10,000 years ago to European settlement and from apartheid to modern times. The biological diversity of the Cape is greater per square meter than even that of the Amazon Rainforest.

In Cape Town, Sundown Manor provides comfortable lodging in an upscale and safe suburb of Cape Town. Our first Big-five game lodge, Thakadu River Camp, is outstanding, with astonishingly good food served every meal, matched by fantastic game viewing. You may think it can't get better, but it does. Impodimo Lodge offers animal viewing from your back deck, excellent bush drives, and fine gourmet dining.

October 11

Your flight must arrive in Jo'burg by this evening. You will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. **Overnight Africa Safari Lodge or similar.**

October 12

After a leisurely breakfast, you'll depart for Lindani Private Game Reserve at **8:30** for the 3.5-hour drive. There are a couple of bathroom stops along the way. Almost immediately upon entering Lindani, you're searching for your first big game, and you're likely to quickly spot a small herd of impala. A warthog may dart in front of your vehicle with its tail held straight up. After lunch, you'll take a short drive to see some pictographs and pottery from the Stone Age people. The shelter they used seems quite comfortable. **Overnight, Motseng Lodge**

October 13

This morning, Solly (our guide/driver) will pick us up at **6:00** for a Lindani safari. You will surely see giraffe, common zebra, warthog, impala, and kudu. You may also spot a common eland, the largest antelope species. Other less common antelope you hope to spot include blesbok and red hartebeest.



After lunch back at Motseng, you'll have a short break before boarding a safari vehicle with Solly again. He'll share stories of the South African bush, including many about the local plants. The safari day will conclude with your first sundowner. As you slowly return to Moteseng, Solly will use a spot light, hoping to spot nocturnal animals like aardvark, honey badger, spotted genet, and civet. You'll also stop under a tree where super-cute bush baby are often spotted. **Overnight, Motseng Lodge**

October 14

Paul will greet us at Motseng at **6:00** this morning for a three-hour bird walk. (You won't be on your feet for three hours, but drive to the best birding spots.) One highlight will be birding the stunning grounds of Lindani's owners. You'll gently stroll the grounds, seeing birds with names, most of which will be foreign to you.

After breakfast, Steve will lead you on a hike to the reserve. You'll learn a bit about how to read the tracks of animals. You return to Motseng in time for lunch, then have several hours at your leisure. In the early evening, Solly will drive us to Makgethelo, a beautiful area for a romantic dinner and a fantastic way to end our four days at Lindani. **Overnight, Motseng Lodge**

October 15

Our shuttle picks us up at **8:00** at Lindani for the journey back to Johannesburg and our **1:45** flight to Cape Town, arriving at **3:45**. As you approach one of the world's most beautiful cities, the views from the plane are jaw-dropping. You'll get an hour-long shuttle to Sea Point, an affluent Cape Town suburb, where you'll spend the next six nights. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

October 16

After an 8:00 breakfast, you'll head to Strandfontein Water Treatment Plant this morning. This is an excellent spot to see Lesser, Greater Flamingos and many other waterbirds. This afternoon, you'll explore the Sea Point waterfront near our lodge. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

October 17

After another 8:00 a.m. breakfast, you'll change your pace today and head to wine country. Your journey includes wine pairings for breakfast, lunch, and dessert. The mountains provide an incredible backdrop, making this among the world's most beautiful wine-growing areas. When we head back to Sea Point, you'll have enjoyed world-class wines and food. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

October 18

Today offers a full day of exploring the Cape of Good Hope. Our first stop will be an extraordinarily colorful Muslim community, Bo-Kap. You'll also stop at Boulder's Beach for African Penguin viewing before continuing to Cape Point, all within Table Mountain National Park. The scenery here is remarkable, with one vista after another. You're sure to see Common Ostrich. One of the most beautiful antelope, the bontebok, is also a common sighting. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

October 19

After breakfast, you'll head to Table Mountain National Park. The views 3,500 feet above Cape Town are amazing. There are almost limitless views of Cape Town and other villages below. We'll spend about 15 hours enjoying the views from Table Mountain. Before lunch, you travel to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, where the fantastic plantings are matched with incredible bird sightings. Malachite, Southern Double-collared, Amethyst Sunbird, the endemic Cape Sugarbird, and several raptor species are some targets. The mountain backdrops make this one of the most spectacular botanical gardens in the world. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

October 20

This morning is a day on your own exploring Cape Town. There are also optional trips to Robben Island, where Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years or other side trips. **(Whichever activity you choose is included in your trip registration. A list of optional trips will be sent to you at least six months before departure.)** In the afternoon, you'll board a motorized catamaran for a tour of



Cape Town from the sea. This is a fantastic way to end your visit to Cape Town as we raise a glass to one of the world's prettiest waterfronts. **Overnight Sundown Manor or similar**

October 21

A shuttle will pick us up around **7:00** for our **8:50** flight on **FlySafair 201** for our flight back to Johannesburg. A representative for Federal Air will meet you upon arrival at **11:00 a.m.** to transfer you to a private hangar, where there will be drinks and light bites. At 1:00, you'll board our private charter flight, landing on the eastern airstrip at **Madikwe Game Reserve** after about an hour. You'll arrive in time for a late lunch.

After lunch, you can grab a quick nap or recline in a chair at the stream for your first chance to spot elephants. Then, at 4:00, you'll have an opportunity to grab a bite before we head out on safari at about **4:30 p.m.** Madikwe is a Big Five reserve on the eastern end of Madikwe. You return for a gourmet dinner at around **8:00**, depending on sightings.

You'll likely see African lions, elephants, and numerous white rhinos. Other possibilities include a pack of African painted dog, spotted and brown hyena, and a variety of antelope. Your tent will have two twin beds or a nice king bed with air conditioning. There are also deck chairs on your back deck where you can relax and hope to spot some game coming to the creek for a drink. **Overnight Impodimu Lodge** This morning, you'll fly back to Jo'Burg before hopping on a private shuttle for your flight to Madikwe Private Game Reserve. After arrival, you'll be driven to your lodge for a late lunch in your first big 5-game reserve. At 4, you'll depart for a bush drive, where you'll search for elephants, leopards, lions, and other big game. Elephants are so plentiful here that they are seen every day. **Overnight: Jaci's Tree Lodge**

October 22

You'll enjoy your first full day of safari. The game is plentiful on this side of this massive reserve (almost 200,000 acres). Each morning, you'll be awakened at **5:00** to go on a bush drive. After a cup of coffee or tea, you'll load into your vehicle, which our group will exclusively use. Our guide will delight you with tales of animal sightings of the past, and you'll learn about all the animals as you see them in their natural environment. Part of the magic is the mystery of bush drive, which you might see daily. You'll return for a full breakfast at around 9:30, then have the next few hours to nap, explore what's visiting the waterhole, or lounge in a chair, giving you a slightly more distant view of the waterhole, hoping to spot elephants or other animals coming in to satisfy their thirst. Lunch is served at 1:30; after lunch, you have free time for two hours. At 3:30, you'll have some delicious snacks before loading back into our safari vehicle to explore Madike. As is the case all five nights, when we return for dinner is decided mainly by animal sightings, but generally, dinner will be around **8:30**. **Overnight: Jaci's Tree Lodge**

October 23

You'll be into the routine now. You'll awaken early for another game drive. After returning around **10:00** for breakfast, You'll transfer to the west side of Madikwe Game Reserve. The drive to Impodimo Lodge is about an hour, often an adventure with plentiful game spotted. You'll drive past a couple of waterholes that are magnets for elephant, rhino, and more.

You'll arrive in Impodimo (which translates to "A Gift from God") in about an hour. They don't serve lunch at Impodimo, but unfortunately, they serve a very high-end tea at **3:00**, with some of the tastiest morsels you've ever eaten. You'll be off on safari at **4:00** to explore new areas on the western side of Madikwe, where you'll be much more likely to spot cheetah and African painted dogs. Bird life is quite different on this side of Madikwe.

Before safari, you'll be torn about whether to visit the elephant hide, where animals walk within an arm's reach, or enjoy the view out your back deck, where a parade of big game makes their way to the waterhole. **Overnight Impodimo Lodge**



October 24

It's the same daily routine, with **5:00** wake-up calls and **5:30** safaris. Today is full day number one on the west side. You'll focus on whatever wildlife we haven't yet seen. You're hoping for truly unusual sightings at this point in the trip. Might we see African painted dogs on the hunt? Will a mother rhino delight us as she protects her newborn calf from you? Might a group of baby ostriches dash away as fast as their legs will carry them?

You'll think you can't possibly eat more tonight, but the food is so good it's simply irresistible. As others have said, it seems like eat, safari, sleep, and nothing else. But amazingly, you'll take delight in this routine. **Overnight Impodimo Lodge**

October 25

Today is another full day of game drives. If we haven't seen a leopard, that's where your focus will be. Today is a bonus day where you can fully relax and enjoy whatever sights you catch. Maybe you'll get a better photo of a jackal? Perhaps you'll correct the mistakes you noticed in your photos of a male lion. It is addictive to be on safari, and you'll know that today is your last full day of safari. **Overnight Impodimo Lodge**

October 26: You can do one last game drive this morning. Trip-goers are joyous this morning with all they've taken in over the previous two weeks.

After breakfast, you'll board our shuttle at around **11:00** for our four-hour drive back to Johannesburg. Most flights to the United States leave in the late evening, and you'll be back in plenty of time to make your flight home.

October 27

Your flight should arrive home today!