

# THOMPSON TOURS SOUTH AFRICA SAFARI

April 4-18, 2025

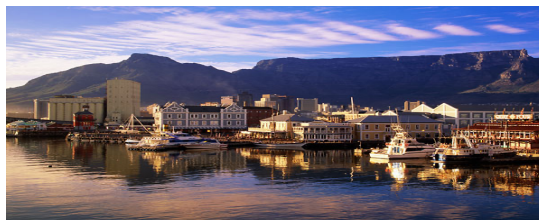
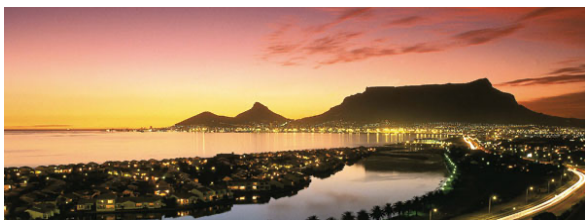
Early booking price of \$6595.00 per person based on two to a room.

\*Early booking rate book now for this pricing.

Single Supplement is \$975.00

Travel Insurance is additional at \$450.00

*There is absolutely no doubt South Africa is blessed with spectacular natural beauty, a fantastic climate and diversely interesting regions with diverse cultures. To say that South Africa is a virtual paradise is a true statement. The country geographically consists of an unspoiled coastline stretching for 2800 kilometres/1740 miles, dramatic mountains and escarpments, extensive bushveld, subtropical forest and outstanding wetlands. Although a comparatively large country, South Africa is easy to get around due to its excellent air and rail services.*



**APRIL 4, 2025- Flight to South Africa. Transportation to airport included.**

**APRIL 5, 2025**

## **CAPE TOWN ARRIVAL**

Upon arrival at Cape Town, your group will be met by our local guide and will be transferred to the hotel for check in (regular check in time is after 2:00pm).

Cape Town is located in the southwest corner of South Africa near the Cape of Good Hope. With its unrivalled natural beauty, Cape Town is certainly a highlight of Southern Africa. Originally intended as a supply station for Dutch ships en route to Eastern Africa, India and the Far East, by 1652, Cape Town had become the first permanent European settlement in South Africa. As time passed other settlements were created, yet the Cape Colony looked to Cape Town as its economic and cultural hub.

With its majestic Table Mountain backdrop, Cape Town is one of the most beautiful and exciting cities in the world; an eclectic mix of architectural styles reflects the tastes and dictates of the past and the more functional demands of the 20th Century. Cobblestone streets, mosques and the flat roofed pastel homes of the Malay quarter enhance a cosmopolitan ambience and in a recent development, the restoration of the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront evokes images of the seafaring activities of the 19th century. At the end of the day, gourmets and lovers of sophisticated entertainment have a treat in store as the choice for your evening's repast is vast.

**Overnight in Cape Town at Commodore Hotel, standard room (4 Nights) OR SIMILAR**

**APRIL 6, 2025**

## **FULL DAY ROBBEN ISLAND & TABLE MOUNTAIN**

**B**

Breakfast at the hotel and then group will be transfer to the V & A waterfront and will walk to the ferry terminal with the guide for your tour to **Robben Island**. Embark on your 3 ½ hour tour of Robben Island. (9:00am).

Robben Island needs no introduction with regards to the significance of its place in South Africa's and indeed the world's history. You will have a guided tour and see where Nelson Mandela spent 18 years of the 27 years of his incarceration imprisoned on the island.

Return to the waterfront for time at leisure for lunch on own.

Afterwards transfer to Table Mountain and arrive at the Cableway. You will be taken to ride on a cable car to the summit of legendary **Table Mountain** (weather dependant) for a view of the city and the surrounding layout of the southernmost tip of Africa. This is a great place to take photos of the city and ocean below. After enjoy a city orientation tour before being dropped off at hotel for evening at leisure.

### Welcome Dinner

Tonight, group will be taken to **Gold Restaurant** for dinner and interactive drumming. **Gold Restaurant** is a unique African restaurant in the heart of Cape Town. An evening here begins with a djembe drumming session, followed by a hand-washing ceremony and afterwards, you will tuck into the set 3-course meal consisting of 14 'taster dishes'. This dining experience can best be described as a taste safari that will transport you from Table Mountain to Timbuktu. This culinary experience is accompanied by a unique interactive traditional entertainment.

**APRIL 7, 2025**

### FULL DAY PENINSULA TOUR

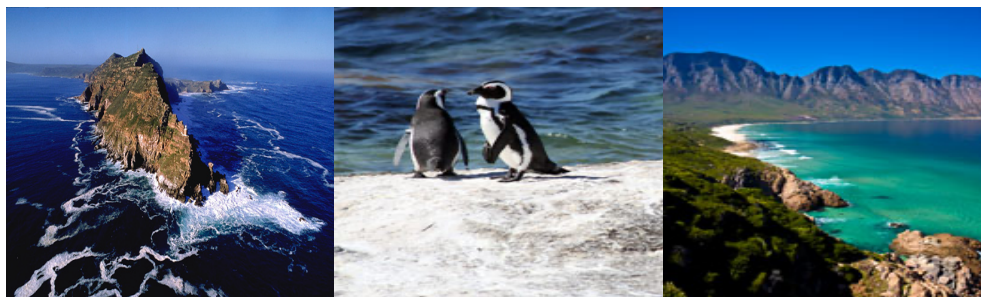
**B, L**

Breakfast at the hotel and then group will be picked up for a **full day tour of the Cape Peninsula**.

Drive along Millionaires Paradise from Clifton to Camps Bay and llandudno, heading towards the charming working harbour of **Hout Bay for a short cruise** (weather dependant). Wind along the legendary Chapman's Peak Drive hugging the cliffs and relishing the breath taking ocean views. You end up at the wild and beautiful Cape of Good Hope Section of the Table Mountain National Park, an integral part of the world renowned Cape Floral Kingdom. Once at Cape Point, you will have time to explore (funicular ticket included).

On the return, stop at in Simon's town for **lunch at Bertha's restaurant**. Relaxed, warm and informal with a cosmopolitan appeal it is a favourite place for visitors. Berthas Restaurant fronts the old Town Pier and boasts picturesque views across the yacht harbour and over False Bay, absolute water's edge position, in the very heart of Simons Town. Here visit the **penguins at Boulders Beach**.

Later return to Cape Town for evening at leisure.



**APRIL 8, 2025**

### CAPE TOWN AT LEISURE

**B**

Breakfast at the hotel and then group will have the full day at their leisure.

**APRIL 9, 2025**

### CAPE TOWN – HOEDSPRUIT FLIGHT – KARONGWE

**B L, D**

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and check in for onward flight to Hoedspruit

On arrival in Hoedspruit, transfer to the Karongwe Game Reserve and check in to your game lodge for the next three nights.

This afternoon set out for a **game drive safari** in an open vehicle.

**Karongwe Private Game Reserve**, overlooking the majestic Drakensberg mountain range in the Limpopo Province, is set apart from similar properties by the extraordinary lengths they are willing to go to in order to ensure that your stay with them is a memorable experience. It is the people that create the magic of Karongwe and the dedicated and professional team are with them not simply because they want to work on one of the best natural game reserves in the world, they are there because they genuinely care about their work and their environment elements which they carry out with passion.

**Shiduli Private Game Lodge** is set against the backdrop of the grandiose Drakensberg Mountain Range. Shiduli embodies grace and elegance, yet oozes unsurpassed warmth and hospitality. Guests can step into the relaxed ambience of the lodge with its lush indigenous garden dappled in shade, lounges with internet facilities, bar, enormous sparkling pool and thatched dining areas punctuated with original South African art. Traversing over 9000 hectares of supreme African bushveld and diverse vegetation with three perennial rivers, huge variety of trees such as the Jackelberry and Leadwood trees and over 365 different bird species. Shiduli is home to the Big 5 (Lion, Leopard, Buffalo, Rhino and Elephant) as well as a wealth of other smaller creatures and bird species. Shiduli Lodge offers suites, featuring en-suite bathrooms in rich African tones. Experience the finest cuisine at Shiduli.

**Accommodation: Shiduli Lodge – suite room type (3 Nights) OR SIMILAR**  
<https://www.karongweportfolio.com/shiduli/>

**APRIL 10, 2025**

**FULL DAY SAFARI**

**B L, D**

Your day starts with an early wake-up call and you head out at first light on your **morning safari**. While seeing big game is always exhilarating, there are many other smaller species that are also captivating, and birding enthusiasts will be delighted at the approximately 350 species of birds recorded on the reserve. You return to the lodge for a few hours of relaxation. At around 3:00 or 4:00pm, everyone gathers for high tea, before heading out for the **afternoon game drive** through the reserve. As darkness falls, the nocturnal animals of the bush come out. A variety of completely different species can be seen on the night drive back to the lodge. Return to your lodge for dinner. **Both game drives today are in open safari vehicles.**

A typical day looks like this – An early morning wakeup call at 5:00am, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate served with rusks in the main area. Then the morning game drive commences at approx. 5:30am. Return to the lodge at approx. 8:30am – 9:00am when breakfast is served. The rest of the morning is at leisure until lunch is served at approx. 1:00pm – 3:00pm. This afternoon set out at approx. 4:00pm for your afternoon game drive. Return to the lodge at approx. 7:00pm – 7:30 pm and then dinner is served. The evening is at your leisure.

**APRIL 11, 2025**

**FULL DAY SAFARI**

**B L, D**

Another day at the park. All meals and two game drives included.

**APRIL 12, 2025**

**OVERLAND PANORAMA ROUTE – JOHANNESBURG**

**B**

**An early morning game drive** and then return to the lodge and check out. Travel overland to Johannesburg via the **glorious Panorama route** taking in the spectacular scenery. Gasp at the glory of the never-ending Lowveld landscape from the ledge of **God's Window**, a boundless view of forested mountains and fertile plains, explore the extraordinary rock formations of **Bourke's Luck Potholes**, one of nature's most intriguing creations and **3 Rondavels** at the legendary **Blyde River Canyon**, third largest in the world. Group will stop for lunch enroute (own account)

On arrival in Johannesburg, check into the hotel and check in for the next two nights

**Overnight in Johannesburg at Southern Sun Rosebank 4\* Hotel, standard room (2 Nights)**

**APRIL 13, 2025**

**FULL DAY SOWETO TOUR & APARTHEID MUSEUM**

**B, L**

You will be taken on a **Full day tour or Soweto**. You know the name. It is a legend. SOWETO, acronym for South Western Township, is home to over 2 million people, who, despite living in crowded and chaotic conditions, have a tangible sense of community, one which ironically, the ordered, walled, elitist northern suburbs lack. Many South Africans gave much, some gave all, to achieve a truly democratic South Africa. Come with us on this full day tour which shares some of the journey, pain and struggle of those heroes.

Our day begins at the **Hector Pieterse Museum**, where we start to unravel the cause of the devastating riots, before travelling past Mandela House, where you have the option of visiting this small museum. Our next significant stop is the fascinating **Regina Mundi Church**, site of so many of the underground meetings of the then banned political parties. Standing in here, you can feel the tension, picture the intensity, the strain on the

faces of those unthinkably brave souls, committed at any cost to changing the way of life of a nation. After **drive by Mandela House**. Soweto is unlike a suburb you've ever seen or been to, yet the history of struggle encapsulated here is a cornerstone of the South African Story.

We've chosen to **lunch in Soweto** at a local restaurant, **the Sakhumzi's Restaurant**.

Sakhumzi Restaurant is located in Soweto – the largest black township in South Africa. Vilakazi Street, the tourist Mecca of Soweto, is where Sakhumzi opens its doors to anyone and everyone – from locals, to tourists and even corporate groups. Sakhumzi is a restaurant with true 'kasi' flavour. Kasi, meaning township – a vibrant community welcoming everyone in for lively local tunes and authentic home cooked Soweto food

Afterwards visit the legendary **Apartheid Museum**. This is an interactive voyage of discovery, one which takes you from the dark days of 'whites only' privilege, through to Nelson Mandela's historic release. The Apartheid Museum is a multimedia experience, with documentary film snippets, texts, sound clips and live accounts, recapturing life in the dark days of South Africa. It's a fascinating tour, filled with tales of bravery and sadness, but ultimately, it's a story with the right ending. Soweto is unlike a suburb you have ever seen or been to, yet the history of struggle encapsulated here is a cornerstone of the South African Story. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

**APRIL 14, 2025**

### **FLY TO VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE**

**B**

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and check in for onward flight to Victoria Falls.

On arrival in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe you are transferred to your lodge on the Zimbabwe side of the falls and check in for the next two nights.

The Victoria Falls constitutes one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world. The Local people call it "Mosi-oa-Tunya" - the smoke that thunders and the falls are remarkable. There is a magic about them manifested in the towering column of spray when the river is high, the thunder of the falling water, the terrifying abyss and tranquil lagoons upstream in which hippo and deadly crocodiles lurk. The Victoria Falls is 1 708 meters wide, making it the largest curtain of water in the world. It drops between 90m and 107m into the Zambezi Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic metres of water plummet over the edge every minute. Remarkably preserved in its natural state, Victoria Falls inspires visitors as much today as it did David Livingstone in the 1860's. The falls and the surrounding area have been declared National Parks and a World Heritage Site, thus preserving the area from excessive commercialisation.

This afternoon (Approx. 4:00 pm) enjoy a **sunset cruise on Zambezi Explorer (Deck 1 & 2)**. We will have the finest vantage point from which to watch hippo, crocodiles and other animals which come down to the river's edge in the early evening, to quench their thirst. We return to the hotel later this after the cruise.

**Overnight in Victoria Falls at Ilala Lodge, standard room (3 Nights)**

**APRIL 15, 2025**

### **VICTORIA FALLS TOUR & BOMA DINNER**

**B, D**

Breakfast at the hotel and then this morning we set out for a **morning tour of the falls on the Zimbabwe side**. Victoria Falls is regarded as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. We understand it instantly as we tour the Zimbabwean side and enjoy this astounding gift of nature, which will simply take our breath away. Walk through the permanent, beautifully misty rain forest which surrounds the falls and enjoy time to stop and marvel at the principle sites as it cascades to the depths below: the Main Falls, Horseshoe Falls, Rainbow Falls, the Boiling Pot, Cataract Island and Livingstone Island.

Group will have the afternoon at their leisure.

**Tonight group will be taken for a dinner at Boma Restaurant.**

The Boma – Place of Eating provides a unique cultural experience that bombards the senses with the tastes, sights, sounds and smells of Africa, together with the warmth and hospitality of Zimbabwe and its people. The Boma Restaurant specializes in a superb selection of traditional Zimbabwean dishes and is renowned for its

warthog fillet. Tuck into a four-course meal of mouth-watering starters from the kitchen, soup from the campfire, a substantial barbeque buffet served on cast iron plates with a selection of salads, followed by a choice of delicious desserts. Everyone's tastes are catered for, and whilst the adventurous are enticed with local delicacies such as Mopani worms and game stews, those wishing to enjoy beef, pork, fish and chicken or a variety of vegetarian meals are welcome to do so. Later the evening is filled with entertainment from Amakwezi traditional dancers, to a local story teller and a fortune teller. Don't rush off after dinner, as you can join in the drumming extravaganza from 9:00pm, which is always a highlight of the evening.

#### APRIL 16, 2025

##### **FULL DAY CHOBE PARK, BOTSWANA SAFARI**

**B, L**

Breakfast at the hotel and then set out for a **Full day tour to Chobe Park, in Botswana**

Group will enjoy a **boat cruise, lunch and an afternoon game drive**. Then return back to Victoria Falls. Chobe Park is located in the northwest of Botswana, near the borders of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia is Chobe National Park, the third largest national park in Botswana. Covering approximately 11,700 square kilometres (4,517.39 square miles) of floodplains, swamps and woodland, Chobe was Botswana's first national park. The park has a huge concentration of elephants. Return at approx. 6:00 pm. **\*Need to bring passport today**

#### APRIL 17, 2025

##### **VICTORIA FALLS DEPARTURE**

**B**

Breakfast at the hotel and then check out and transfer back to the airport for your return flight home.. Overnight flight arrive April 18, 2025

**For reservations and information visit us at**  
<https://thompstontours.com/south-africa-safari>  
**For information and questions call us at 1-866-484-6677.**  
**Travel Insurance is additional at \$450.00 per person**

#### **Inclusions in above prices:**

**Transportation to the airport from Scranton/Wilkes Barre area included.**

**All flights listed on the itinerary are also included.**

- 12 Nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary based on twin share
- All transfers and transportation is by private, air-conditioned coach (Any individuals travelling outside the group arrangements will require additional transfers, cost not included, or must organize own transportation)
- Services of a qualified English speaking guides on transfers and day tours
- Arrival Meet & Greet assistance
- Entrance fees and game activities as per the itinerary
- Government/local taxes at existing rates
- Meals as indicated on itinerary (B-full breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)
- Hotel and airport portorage
- E-mail documents

#### **Exclusions in above prices:**

- Personal items
- Meals unless listed in itinerary and all drinks
- Tips & Gratuities
- Early check-in & late check out of rooms (standard check-in time is 2pm and check out 10am)
- Travel Insurance
- Changes in Government/local taxes
- Visa/passport handling fees
- Baggage and seat fees.