

BEST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
South Africa & Botswana
November 2026

Our Starting Location – The City of Cape Town

Located on the shore of Table Bay, Cape Town was first developed in the mid-17th century by the Dutch East India Company as a supply station for Dutch ships sailing to East Africa, India and the Far East. Today, with a little over 3.5 million people, it is the legislative capital of the country and a bustling centre for tourism.

This vibrant, multicultural city is a healthy mix of urban and suburban living, busy night spots, outdoor recreational activities and relaxation opportunities. This is a bucket list destination to be experienced and enjoyed.

Our Starting Hotel

Our starting hotel, the Queen Victoria, is a distinguished boutique hotel located in the historic V&A Waterfront. Offering a seamless blend of classic elegance and contemporary design, this five-star gem provides a serene escape in the heart of the city. With exceptional service and access to tranquil amenities, the hotel ensures an unforgettable stay for all guests.

FRIDAY CAPE TOWN ARRIVALS - START DAY OF THE TOUR (B, D)
NOV 6

Although today is identified as "Day 1" of the tour and is set aside for arrival of guests, some guests may have chosen to arrive earlier into Cape Town. For those guests, breakfast is available this morning at the hotel.

All TrailFinders' guests, regardless of what day they have chosen to arrive, will be met at the airport upon arrival and assisted through immigration, baggage collection and customs, then transferred to the hotel.

The rest of today is free. No group activities are planned today.

If you find yourself with some free time, we highly recommend that you attempt to go up to Table Mountain if the weather cooperates. The flat peak of the mountain reaches only 1,086 meters above sea level but because of its proximity to the city, its features look more imposing. From here you will have breathtaking views of Cape Town.

This evening, we will enjoy happy hour and a welcome dinner together.

Overnight at the Queen Victoria Hotel.

SATURDAY CAPE TOWN (B, L, D)
NOV 7

Breakfast at the hotel.

This morning, we will meet the local guide at the hotel and transfer to the Clock Tower in the V&A waterfront, where we board the ferry for Robben Island.

The island is a unique symbol of "the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, suffering and injustice". Its prison became world famous as the place where Nelson Mandela was held for 18 years. It is visited every year by thousands of people eager to understand the important aspects of South Africa's history.

The island was used as a training and defence station during WW 2 but has mainly served as a place of banishment, isolation and imprisonment. Today, it is a World Heritage Site which acts as a focal point of South African heritage. It runs educational programmes for schools and facilitates tourism development - a poignant reminder of the price paid for freedom. As your ferry arrives at the Island, we will be joined by a special local guide who spent time there during the Apartheid years and is thus able to give a personal and often moving account of the experience. We will also see the cell where Nelson Mandela spent a large part of his life.

After our visit, we will board the ferry again and return to Cape Town and enjoy a simple lunch at a local restaurant.

No visit to Cape Town would be complete without examining the history of South Africa and hearing first-hand accounts from those who have lived it.

This afternoon, our guide will take us on a history tour where we will learn about the birth of South Africa, Apartheid and the New South Africa. This will include a walking tour in Langa township where we will meet locals and share experiences that are engaging, rewarding and uplifting.

Townships were created as living areas for non-whites at the time of Apartheid. Apartheid, an Afrikaans word meaning "the state of being apart" (apart-hood) was a system of racial segregation in South Africa enforced through legislation by the National Party, the governing party from 1948 to 1994. These township subdivisions are still home to a large percentage of Cape Town's population.

Tonight, we'll enjoy dinner together at the unique and exciting Gold Restaurant, a vibrant, one-of-a-kind dining experience of all things African. Dinner will be a multi-course African set menu accompanied by traditional African entertainment.

Overnight at the Queen Victoria Hotel.

**SUNDAY
NOV 8** **CAPE PENINSULA (B, L)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today we enjoy a full day tour of the Cape Peninsula.

We drive south from Cape Town along the Atlantic Seaboard via Sea Point, Clifton and Camps Bay, to Hout Bay, a quaint village and fishing harbour with magnificent mountain views and beach.

We continue via Chapman's Peak, one of the world's most breath-taking coastal drives, to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point, which is perceived to be the meeting point of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

The peninsula divides the Atlantic west coast with its cold "Benguel" current from the False Bay east coast warm "Agulhas" current. Weather at the tip of the peninsula can often be windy and unpredictable.

We plan to have lunch at a local restaurant on the way northbound toward Simon's Town, a village with charming Victorian architecture, a naval base and a large colony of vulnerable African Jackass Penguins at the beautiful Boulders Beach. This site has wooden walkways which allow visitors to view the penguins in their natural habitat.

We then return to our hotel.

Free for dinner.

Overnight at the Queen Victoria Hotel.

**MONDAY
NOV 9** **CAPE TOWN - STELLENBOSCH (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today, we will check out of the hotel and leave Cape Town, heading east into the Cape Winelands area.

Encompassing a huge region across the Western Cape, stretching up the West Coast and east into the Klein Karoo and right down into the Hermanus and Overberg regions, the Cape Winelands is a profoundly special place for any lover of good food and drink, scenery and photography. Set in and amongst quaint and traditional Cape Dutch houses, magical vineyards and majestic mountain surroundings, you might think you are in Bordeaux when in fact you have found a truly South African piece of heaven.

The country's famed and best-known wine regions are Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek and although close to the city centre, it feels like a different world.

For the next two nights we will be staying in the attractive town of Stellenbosch and we will check in to our historic 1802 hotel sometime this afternoon.

The name Stellenbosch comes from the former Governor of the Cape, Simon van der Stel and was established by Dutch settlers. The town is also known as "Eikestad" or town of oaks. This youthful university town buzzes with wine, music, art, sport and student festivals throughout the year.

Upon arriving, we'll begin a leisurely walking tour of the old town centre along with entertaining stories about its history and culture. We'll visit the oldest restored pioneer home in South Africa and along the way we'll sample various eateries for a true taste of Stellenbosch including home-grown teas and typical cape sweet treats for morning teatime. We'll also enjoy a few wines of the region, some traditional cured beef from a family run butchery and a heritage lunch platter.

We then visit Waterford Wine Estate for some wine tasting.

And, finally, if we have time, we'll visit the beautiful town of Franschhoek where you can enjoy an hour or so walking along the main street and visiting the shops and cafes.

We then return to Stellenbosch and check in to our hotel.

Oude Werf, the oldest hotel in Stellenbosch, boasts a rich history dating back to 1802, built on the site of the town's first church. This charming hotel seamlessly blends the grace of the past with the style and sophistication of modern design, offering a unique escape in the heart of the town.

We enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant.

Overnight at the Oude Werf Hotel.

**TUESDAY
NOV 10** **STELLENBOSCH (B, L)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will concentrate our visits on local wine estates in the region.

We plan to begin by visiting Zorgvliet Wine Estate whose products display elegant expressions of this unique mountain terroir, all crafted in the Zorgvliet cellar, one of the most technologically advanced cellars in South Africa.

We then plan a lunch and wine pairing at Grande Provence Wine Estate. The Gallery here is a premier contemporary art space showcasing works by leading local artists across various mediums, especially celebrated for its outstanding sculptures. An adjoining annex contains a curated selection of smaller artworks, decorative objects and African artifacts.

And finally, we will make a stop at Plaisir Wine Estate for a wonderful chocolate and wine pairing.

Free for dinner this evening.

Overnight at Oude Werf Hotel

**WEDNESDAY
NOV 11** **STELLENBOSCH TO BOTSWANA (B, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

This morning, we drive to the Cape Town international airport to board our flight to Botswana.

Upon arrival at the Maun Airport we will transfer to our short local flight to the breathtaking Moremi Game Reserve which is situated in the eastern part of the Okavango Delta, on the south-western border of the Chobe National Park and it covers almost one-third of the Delta.

With such a wide variety of vegetation comes a diverse spectrum of wildlife. Huge herds of Impala and Tsessebe are found in the area, while Buffalo, Wildebeest, Elephant and Zebra are also seen during their search of food and water. The rare Sitatunga and Lechwe antelope live in the papyrus banks of the waterways and Lions, Cheetahs and packs of Wild Dogs hunt in the open grassland.

The reserve is home to over 400 species of birds, including the Crested Crane and the Sacred Ibis. This vast variety of mammal, bird, insect, plant, fish and reptile species have successfully adapted to the swamp conditions.

Moremi Game Reserve is a wilderness paradise, with great game viewing throughout the year.

On the north-eastern tip of Moremi, the Khwai River is an area where tall evergreen trees fringe a wide floodplain. In the heart of Moremi, at the tip of the Mopane Tongue, lies Xakanaxa Lagoon. Mopane forests and a patchwork of deep waterways and shallow flooded areas create a beautiful area packed with game. Leopard and Cheetah are

regularly seen and the density of antelope is amazing.

Our accommodation, Camp Moremi, boasts 12 expansive, modern styled thatched safari tents. Its communal areas include a sunken bar, masterfully built around a large termite mound and ebony tree, an expansive lounge area with beautiful brass and soft finishes, leading towards an extended library and private deck. These areas, including the elevated dining area, connects by boardwalk to the fireplace in front of the camp. In addition, an open-air boma and secluded swimming pool complement the public area facilities.

Guest activities include a choice of morning and afternoon game drives throughout the many different ecosystems that the Moremi Game Reserve has to offer or the possibility to explore the Xakanaxa Lagoon and its surrounding channels by boat. This blend of activities allows for access to incredible landscapes, impressive wildlife, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the picturesque waters of the Okavango Delta.

The team of experienced professional guides will introduce us to a whole new world of wildlife. Watch a leopard stretched out lazily in the branches of a Mopane tree, herds of elephant grazing under a canopy of green or a pride of lions camouflaged in the long grass.

Moremi Game Reserve's incredible wetlands support a vast number of antelope, including impala, kudu, and waterbuck. Birdlife is prolific and the majestic fish eagle and vivid malachite kingfisher are frequently seen and even the rare pel's fishing owl makes an occasional appearance, to the delight of guides and guests alike.

All meals, beverages and scheduled activities are included.

Overnight at Camp Moremi.

THURSDAY BOTSWANA (B, L, D)

NOV 12

Breakfast at the camp.

Today, we continue safari activities.

All meals, beverages and scheduled activities are included.

Overnight at Camp Moremi.

FRIDAY BOTSWANA (B, L, D)

NOV 13

After a leisurely breakfast, we will check out of Camp Moremi and transfer to the local airstrip in time to board our scheduled flight to Camp Okavango.

Upon arrival at the local airstrip near the camp, we will then be transferred to the camp.

This part of the Okavango Delta is the largest intact inland delta in the world and is exceptionally rich in wildlife. Situated deep within the Kalahari Basin, the Delta is characterized by meandering deep water channels lined with papyrus reeds that open up into larger lagoons and islands which in turn give way to seasonal floodplains and eventually large tracts of dry land where animals congregate.

It is one of the most sought-after wilderness destinations in the world. In addition to big game viewing, visitors come to experience the supreme tranquility and serenity of an untouched delta and scenes of extraordinary natural beauty. It consistently produces very good predator action with considerable herds of ungulates and elephants.

Our accommodation, Camp Okavango, is a unique and exclusive African safari camp, situated on the remote Nxaragha Island within the heart of the permanent Okavango Delta. To ensure a peaceful and genuine safari experience, Camp Okavango accommodates just twenty-four guests.

Its main area includes a network of interconnected walkways linking up two lounge areas, a dining room, library, self-service bar and curio shop. Sweeping ramps lead to the lower-level deck with two open-air fire pits and comfortable seating areas to relax and take in the natural surroundings. There is a third deck with a swimming pool and thatched lounge deck.

Water-based activities are conducted by our experienced professional guides who will expertly navigate through the many meandering, reed-lined waterways. We will roam the vast expanses of water in the comfort of a modern motorboat or explore the intricacies of the Okavango Delta the quiet old-fashioned way, in the traditional mokoro (dugout canoe).

For those wanting to get a little closer to nature, guided bush walks are conducted on a number of the nearby islands, offering an opportunity to track some of the larger land-

based species that inhabit this water wilderness. Birding opportunities are outstanding and anglers may put their skill against bream and tiger fish.

All meals, beverages and scheduled activities are included.

Overnight at Camp Okavango.

**SATURDAY
& SUNDAY
NOV 14 & 15**

BOTSWANA (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the camp.

We continue safari activities over these two days.

All meals, beverages and scheduled activities are included.

Overnight at Camp Okavango.

**MONDAY
NOV 16**

BOTSWANA (B, L, D)

After an early breakfast at Camp Okavango, we bid farewell to the tranquil waterways of the Okavango Delta. A short boat transfer takes us across the reed-lined channels to the nearby airstrip, where our light aircraft awaits.

We lift off over the Delta's shimmering floodplains for a scenic flight northwards. From the air, watch the mosaic of lagoons and islands slowly give way to open savanna as you journey toward Botswana's northern frontier.

Chobe National Park is located in northern Botswana, in easy driving distance to Kasane and Victoria Falls. Chobe is Botswana's first designated national park and, at over 11,700 square kilometres is one of the largest. The greater Chobe area consists of the Chobe River, Savute and Linyanti, which combined is home to Africa's largest elephant population.

There is a rich variety of landscapes in addition to the famed riverfront including vast floodplains, woodlands, grasslands, and clay pans which can be enjoyed by boating safaris and game drives.

On arrival at the airport, we are transferred by road into Chobe National Park and to the Chobe Game Lodge. The drive is short, yet often rewarding, with the possibility of our first wildlife sightings along the Chobe River.

Chobe Game Lodge is designed as a haven of peace and privacy, where relaxation is effortless and we can enjoy at our own pace. With six comfortably furnished viewing decks, a riverside boma, two bars, six different lounges and four dining locations, a comfy chair or lounge is never far away, each with a different perspective on the wilderness that surrounds the lodge. A large swimming pool provides welcome relief during hot afternoons and there is always a waiter on hand to bring you refreshments from the bar.

We arrive in time for a relaxed lunch overlooking the river, where elephants frequently gather along the banks. After settling into our rooms and enjoying some leisure time, the afternoon unfolds with our Chobe activity - either a game drive or a sunset boat cruise on the river.

As the sun sets over the water and the calls of wildlife echo across the floodplain, we return to the lodge for dinner, marking the end of our stay in one of Botswana's most iconic wildlife regions.

All meals, beverages and scheduled activities are included.

Overnight at Chobe Game Lodge.

**TUESDAY
NOV 17**

BOTSWANA TO VICTORIA FALLS (B)

After breakfast, we will transfer across the border into Zimbabwe where we will be delivered to the Victoria Falls International Airport to board our flight which begins our trip home.

For those who wish to extend the stay in Africa, we can also offer a two-night stay in Victoria Falls which includes walking tours of the falls themselves. For the more adventurous, there are various activities available including guided tours, helicopter rides or even white-water rafting on the Zambezi River.

If you would like to discuss this extension, please call us.