



# CUSTOM SOUTH AFRICA CONSERVATION SAFARI

Specially prepared for Megan Bryant July 1 – 11, 2023



## **DAILY ITINERARY**

This safari is a unique opportunity to participate in conservation efforts on the ground in South Africa's private wildlife reserves. Starting in the Greater Kruger Park, explore the bush from your private field camp with expert guides. Journey to Cape Town, where you can learn about the Urban Caracal Project and explore the city's natural areas and wildlife. The safari culminates at Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, an important location for rhino conservation, with the opportunity to participate in rhino monitoring with local veterinarians.

## DAY 1: JULY 1, JOHANNESBURG

Arrive Johannesburg today. After completing all customs and immigrations formalities and baggage claim, exit into the arrivals hall where you will be met by a Natural Habitat Adventures representative holding a signboard with your name. They will assist you to your hotel or ground transportation.

Conveniently based at Africa's busiest airport within walking distance to the terminal, the City Lodge Hotel at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg offers travelers a comfortable and convenient spot to rest their weary heads at the end of a long international flight without having to travel 30 minutes into the city. The hotel is an ideal place to stay for a one-night layover between flights to or from your final destination, with easy access to restaurants, banking facilities and shops. At City Lodge, guest rooms are appointed with European modern décor and feature every amenity including air conditioning, unlimited Wi-Fi, satellite TV, tea- and coffee-making facilities, a writing desk with ample lighting and plugs, and an electronic safe large enough for a laptop. The bright and airy Cafe offers a full English and Continental breakfast, plus lunch and dinner daily. A gym and swimming pool is also available on the premises.

Overnight City Lodge O.R. Tambo (breakfast included)

## DAYS 2-4: JULY 2-4, TIMBAVATI PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

Transfer to the airport this morning for your scheduled Airlink flight to Hoedspruit (flight not included, contact your Adventure Specialist to book). Upon arrival, you will be met by a representative holding a signboard with your name and transferred by road to Tanda Tula Field Camp.

Tanda Tula Field Camp is situated in the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, a revered wildlife sanctuary bordering Kruger National Park. The camp is booked on a private basis for two to eight guests, providing a truly exclusive safari experience. The camp is non-permanent and semi-mobile with four classic canvas tents set around a central lounge and mess tent and a central fire pit for evening gatherings. The camp is set up for each safari and taken down afterward, making it one of the most eco-friendly operations in South Africa.

Each tent is equipped with campaign-style metal beds, mattresses, fine linens, side tables and luggage racks. Extending off the back of each tent is a private open-air safari shower, which is a large "bucket" with a shower spout and hot water provided on demand, hearkening to a bygone era of exploration. There is an eco-flush toilet, and water is provided as needed for washing.

Tanda Tula Field Camp captures the ambience of an early explorer's safari with pitched canvas tents and a focus on walking. Set within a completely exclusive private concession, the camp provides highly attuned trackers and skilled guides who lead bush walks tracking lion, elephant and rhino as well as giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, and the occasional cheetah or wild dog—all on foot. Wake early in the morning, enjoy tea, coffee and light snacks before embarking on a 3- to 4-hour walk. Return to camp mid-morning for a hot bucket shower and a sumptuous brunch. A midday siesta allows you to escape the heat while doing some birdwatching or reading a book in camp, keeping watch for wildlife passing through. The afternoon commences with high tea, then embark on a short afternoon game drive, concluding with a sunset drink out in the bush and a twilight wildlife drive back to camp. Because the camp is entirely private, activities may be tailored to your preferences.

Overnights Tanda Tula Field Camp (full board basis—all meals included)

#### DAYS 5-7: JULY 5-7, CAPE TOWN

You will have a road transfer back to Hoedspruit Airport today for your flight to Cape Town (flight not included, contact your Adventure Specialist to book). Upon arrival and after collecting your baggage, you will be met in the arrivals hall by a representative holding a signboard with your name. They will transfer you to Cape Cadogan.

The Cape Cadogan was originally a farmhouse that was refurbished in Victorian style in 1912 to create a luxury villa. Declared a national monument in 1984, the boutique hotel has achieved renown for its impressive interiors, their design inspired by Irish literary figure Oscar Wilde's bohemian and flamboyant lifestyle in the late 19th century. The 14 en suite bedrooms and the superior luxury suite combine classic touches with modern bohemian chic, decorated with an eclectic mix of contemporary and antique furniture and dramatic fabrics to maximize creative effect. Crisp white and natural tones prevail for an overall ambiance of restful refreshment. Large bathrooms are appointed with marble, stone and sleek modern fixtures. Public areas include a comfortable lounge with open fireplace, a sun-lit breakfast room, tranquil garden and plunge pool, and a library for browsing, reading or staying in touch via the computer terminal provided for guests' convenience.

Cape Town is more than a city. It's surrounded by mountains, ocean, some of the world's best land-based whale watching, breaching great white sharks, and the colorful Cape Malay culture. Optional activities include a visit to the top of Table Mountain, guided tour of Robben Island, the Cape of Good Hope, cycling in the Cape Winelands, stopping in Simonstown to see the African penguin colony, and shopping or dining in the V&A Waterfront or at the creative, up-and-coming Woodstock neighborhood markets. Surfing, kayaking, cooking and local township tours are also enriching. (All activities are at additional cost and can be discussed and booked with your Safari Specialist.)

#### Private full-day Cape Peninsula tour: July 6 - 9 am to 5 pm

Depart the city along the Atlantic Seaboard past the coastal suburbs of Sea Point, Bantry Bay and Clifton and stop for a photograph and to enjoy the view of Table Mountain's towering Twelve Apostles. Journey over the 1,968-foot mountain pass of Chapman's Peak, past Noordhoek with a chance to see southern right whales

offshore from June to November. See the fynbos vegetation, unique to the cape, viewing birds like the African black oystercatcher and Cape sugarbird, as well as Cape mountain zebra, bontebok and baboon as you enter the Cape of Good Hope National Park. Take in the views before lunch at a coastal restaurant and a visit to Boulders Beach penguin colony, then head home through the seaside havens of St. James and Muizenberg. Stop at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, one of the premier botanic gardens in the world. Half of South Africa's 18,000 indigenous flowering plant species are cultivated here. The plants attract myriad birdlife, including the Cape sugarbird, malachite, lesser double-collared and orange-breasted sunbirds, Cape bulbul, Cape francolin, Klaas's cuckoo and Cape batis.

Private Full Day Peninsula Tour inclusive of bottled water, lunch and entrance fees for Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Cape Funicular, Boulders Penguin Colony, Chapman's Peak Drive and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

## Private full-day Cape Winelands & Table Mountain National Park: July 7 - 9 am to 5 pm

This morning, take the revolving cable car to the top of Table Mountain at 3,560 feet above sea level. From the flat summit, survey 270-degree views of the city and peninsula (weather permitting; the cableway also closes annually in late July/early August for maintenance). Table Mountain National Park is part of the Cape Floral Region UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of the most biodiverse plant areas in the world. While it comprises less than 1% of the African continent, it contains 20% of its flora. On trails that lace the mountaintop, wander among the fynbos floral kingdom, found only in South Africa. Fynbos, Afrikaans for "fine bush," describes the unique and exquisite floral species endemic to a small portion of the Western Cape province. Some 9,000 species of fynbos plants are found in the Cape area, 6,200 of which are endemic and 2,000 of which grow on Table Mountain, and many of these are threatened with extinction.

Continue to the Western Cape's renowned wine country, traversing verdant valleys and farmlands backdropped by views of the Hottentots Holland and Simonsberg Mountains. Pass through the lively university town of Stellenbosch in the heart of the wine region, admiring its classic Cape Dutch architecture and oak-shaded streets bustling with cafes, boutiques and art galleries. During your visit to the Winelands, you'll have a chance to taste varied vintages and sample cheeses at two of the region's most beautiful estates. Your first stop is Babylonstoren, one of the oldest Cape Dutch farms, established in 1692. Your visit begins with a tour of the estate's magnificent 8-acre garden, which supplies its two restaurants and farm store with a rich bounty of produce. All of the more than 300 varieties of plants in the garden are edible or have medicinal value. On your guided tour, you'll be invited to pick, taste, smell and touch an array of fruits and vegetables. An indulgent lunch is included at one of the two estates you'll visit. Return to Cape Town for the night.

Overnights Cape Cadogan (breakfast included)

## DAYS 8-10: JULY 8-10, KWANDWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Transfer to the airport this morning for your scheduled flight to Port Elizabeth (flight not included, contact your Adventure Specialist to book). Upon arrival, you will have an onward road transfer to Kwandwe Ecca Lodge.

Kwandwe Ecca Lodge enjoys a magnificent view over an acacia, aloe and spekboom-studded valley. The lodge is intimate and laid back while exuding chic contemporary style and simple luxury. Its six stand-alone suites are exceptionally spacious, each with a separate bedroom and lounge and beautifully decorated with plush beds, fine linens and bright, contrasting colors. Each suite has a huge, luxurious en suite bathroom with free-standing soaking tub, double porcelain sinks, and both an enormous indoor rain shower and an outdoor

shower on your private deck. A private plunge pool is located on each wrap-around veranda, overlooking the rolling green hills. The lodge's public spaces are open and airy, including a lounge, indoor and outdoor dining areas, an interactive kitchen, centrally located infinity pool, and wooden decks throughout from which to take in the scenery.

Kwandwe Private Game Reserve lies within the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. The 54,000-acre wilderness is a Big Five sanctuary and habitat for cheetah, kudu, springbok, eland, red hartebeest, giraffe, black wildebeest, gemsbok and more. The reserve has private access to 19 miles of riverfront land on the Great Fish River. Birders will enjoy the fish eagle and endangered blue crane along with a wide variety of other bird species. Nocturnal sightings of aardvark and aardwolf are frequent. Rhino conservation is at the forefront here, and a hands-on rhino conservation safari can be arranged at additional cost in advance of your arrival, subject to availability. Daily activities include dawn wildlife drives with a naturalist guide, and afternoon wildlife drives that linger into evening with chances to see nocturnal creatures and watch the sun set with a cocktail or refreshment in hand. Guided large mammal tracking is available at additional cost. Kwandwe is malaria-free, making it an ideal destination for families.

**Nat Hab Signature Experience:** For an immersive experience that will bring you close to resident, wild rhinoceroses in soul and reality, experience the Rhino Conservation Safari. A full conservation briefing precedes the experience and each person (guests and professional team) is assigned a specific role in the day's events before accompanying Angus Sholto-Douglas (Managing Director and Conservation Manager) as well as a vet in their conservation efforts. Keep your eye on the African landscape and help the team quietly spot the rhino for darting. Once sedated, you and the specialist team on the ground administer medication, take measurements for scientific and medical purposes, and monitor the animal. These essential tasks will ensure the safety of these magnificent mammals.

Overnights Kwandwe Ecca Lodge

## DAY 11: JULY 11, DEPARTURE

You will be transferred by road back to Port Elizabeth today for your onward scheduled flight to Johannesburg (flight not included, contact your Adventure Specialist to book). Connect to your onward departing flight.

Our goal is to provide you with an exceptional, life-enhancing adventure. To achieve that goal, our Expedition Leaders are empowered to make reasonable changes to itineraries while a trip is underway. These decisions might be made to more closely follow the movements of wildlife, to accommodate extreme weather, to take advantage of unexpected opportunities, or generally to improve overall guest experience. For this reason, the above itinerary should be considered a general outline of your trip, but it is subject to change. After all, the very definition of adventure is "an exciting or remarkable undertaking involving the unknown."

## ADVENTURE INFORMATION

## TRIP PRICE & DEPOSIT

From \$11,995 per person sharing

\*Pricing will vary based on exact dates, group size and optional inclusions.\*

Single Supplement Price: Starting from \$995, based on minimum 2 guests traveling

This is a proposal only. No services or accommodations have been booked on your behalf until a non-refundable deposit is made to secure these services, which are then confirmed with local suppliers.

#### **NOTES**

- The Rhino Conservation Safari at Kwandwe Private Game Reserve is subject to availability of a helicopter, veterinarian, and dependent on weather conditions. The best time to do this experience is between May and September, as they will not dart the rhinos if it's too hot.
- A non-refundable deposit of 25% of the trip fee per person is required upon booking to confirm your reservation.

#### INCLUDED IN THE COST OF YOUR ADVENTURE

- All accommodations as noted
- All accommodation on a double occupancy basis
- All meals at Tanda Tula Field Camp and Kwandwe Ecca Lodge
- Breakfast daily while at Southern Sun Hotel and Cape Cadogan
- Excursions and transfers unless listed as optional
- Private safari vehicle at Tanda Tula and Kwandwe
- Services of the camp and lodge guides and staff unless a private safari guide is booked at additional cost
- Relevant park fees
- Alcoholic and soft drink beverages are included at some camps and lodges
- Laundry service is available at most permanent camps/lodges and hotels; in some cases this service is included in the tariff quoted
- Accommodation taxes, the applicable Tourism Levies and all relevant Value Added Tax (VAT) or Government Sales Tax (GST)
- Road transfers between Hoedspruit Airport and Tanda Tula, Cape Town Airport and Cape Cadogan, and Port Elizabeth Airport and Kwandwe Private Game Reserve

#### NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST OF YOUR ADVENTURE

- Travel to the start and end point of the route (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- All internal flights, as follows: Johannesburg to Hoedspruit on Day 2, Hoedspruit to Cape Town on Day 5, Cape Town to Port Elizabeth on Day 8, and Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg on Day 11
- Generally lunch and dinner in city hotels
- Alcoholic and soft drink beverages at some camps and lodges
- Cancellation, baggage and medical insurance
- Staff gratuities
- Any newly-implemented government taxes, levies, fuel or industry increases which are beyond our control
- Visa fees where relevant
- International airport departure taxes applicable from manned airports only, which is to be paid in US\$ cash on departure unless included in your ticket cost
- Any items of a personal nature

#### YOUR GUIDES

During the safari you will have the services of experienced local camp guides. These guides will take you on game drives and are charged with the important responsibilities of locating wildlife and taking care of you, our traveler. Their intimate knowledge of the surrounding environment is unmatched, as they successfully track wildlife day in and day out. Not only is this the most prudent way for you to observe the most wildlife while ensuring our adventures operate smoothly, it creates revenue for the host countries, motivating the local people to continue their protection of the animals and their habitat.

## **ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES & AMENITIES**

The following details include available facilities, amenities and services at each of your accommodations. Note that while we do update this information regularly, these details can and do change frequently and thus should be used as a guideline only. Please contact your Adventure Concierge team if you have any questions.

# City Lodge O.R. Tambo—Johannesburg, South Africa

- En suite bathroom with tub or shower
- Soap and lotion (hotel does not have liquid shampoo and conditioner)
- Hair dryer
- Air conditioning
- Tea/coffee in room
- Satellite television
- 220v charging outlets in room
- In-room safe

- Central swimming pool
- Fitness center
- Restaurant and bar
- Room service
- Business center
- Wi-Fi in room
- Laundry (extra cost)
- Credit cards accepted

# Cape Cadogan—Cape Town, South Africa

- En suite bathroom with shower, tubs in some rooms
- Hair dryer
- Air conditioning
- Mini bar
- Tea/coffee in room
- Satellite television
- 220v charging outlets in room

- In-room safe
- Central plunge pool
- Virgin Active Gym nearby (extra cost)
- Restaurant (breakfast only)
- Wi-Fi in room
- Laundry (extra cost)
- Credit cards accepted (Visa, MasterCard, Diner's, American Express)

## Kwandwe Ecca Lodge—Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, South Africa

- En suite bathroom with tub and indoor/outdoor showers
- Shampoo, soap and lotion
- Hair dryer
- Air conditioning
- Room fan
- Mini bar
- Tea/coffee in room
- 220v charging outlets in room

- In-room safe
- Private plunge pool
- Central pool
- Massage treatments (extra cost)
- Wi-Fi in room and main area
- Laundry included
- Local drinks included (house alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks)
- Credit cards accepted (Visa, MasterCard, American Express)

## AVERAGE CLIMATE DURING YOUR SAFARI

It is important to remember that the below information is based on general climate and weather patterns so the conditions during your visit could be quite different from what is listed below. Please check the current weather on the Internet (**weather.com** or **wunderground.com**) so you can be prepared for any unseasonable weather.

### South Africa

July is typically the coldest month in South Africa, with lows dipping into the low 40s F. Days are generally sunny and pleasant, with occasional cold and windy conditions. Highs can reach into the low 70s F but will most likely hover in the mid- to upper 60s F. July is the rainy season in Cape Town, so expect some days to be rainy and cloudy while others are sunny and warm.

# Average Temperature & Rainfall—July

Region	Low	High	Rainfall
Johannesburg	42 °F	61 °F	0.2 in
	5 °C	16 °C	5 mm
Kruger National Park	43 °F	72 °F	0.16 in
	6 °C	22 °C	4 mm
Cape Town	45 °F	65 °F	3.26 in
	7 °C	18 °C	83 mm
Eastern Cape	39 °F	71 °F	0.4 in
	3 ℃	21 °C	10 mm