



BLAIR GROUP

CAPE TOWN AND PILANSBERG NATIONAL PARK

SEPTEMBER 20 - 29, 2018

SEP 20 WASHINGTON DC / JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Depart on your international South African Airways flight to Cape Town, via Johannesburg. From the moment you board your South African Airways flight you feel the warm and welcoming African hospitality in every detail of the world class service you are about to experience.

SEP 21 ARRIVE JOHANNESBURG /CAPE TOWN

On arrival at Johannesburg's International Airport's Central Terminal Building, collect your luggage and clear customs and immigration. Re-check your bags for your onward flight to Cape Town.

Arrive in the bustling and vibrant city of Cape Town to enjoy all the best that South Africa has to offer. You will be met by an African Travel Inc. representative at Cape Town Airport and transferred to your reserved hotel.



The city is an eclectic mix of architectural styles, reflecting both the tastes of the past and more modern designs. Edwardian and Victorian buildings have been meticulously preserved, and many outstanding examples of Cape Dutch architecture are found in the city and its environs. Cobblestone streets, mosques and the flat-roofed pastel homes of the Malay Quarter enhance the cosmopolitan ambience, while the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront evokes images of the seafaring activities of the 19th century.



ACCOMMODATIONS: THE COMMODORE (standard)

The Commodore, located at the highest point on Cape Town's historic Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, offers spectacular views of Table Mountain, Signal Hill, Granger Bay, Table Bay and Robben Island. Each of the elegantly furnished en-suite bedrooms is air-conditioned, bright and spacious. All rooms have satellite TV, tea/coffee making facilities, mini bar, in-room internet access, electric razor plug and hair dryer. For your convenience, there are a variety of amenities and services available at The Commodore. From a transit lounge where early arrivals and late departures can relax between journeys to a well-equipped gymnasium overlooking the pool area and a health and wellness center. In addition, the Commodore offers 24-hour room service, babysitting, and same day laundry and dry cleaning. The Clipper Restaurant offers fine dining in a relaxed setting. Savor a mouthwatering buffet breakfast or choose from an a la carte menu for lunch and dinner. The Admiralty Bar and Lounge and The Terrace offers light meals.

SEP 22 CAPE TOWN – CAPE PENINSULA TOUR

This morning meet your Thompsons Africa private guide in the hotel lobby for your full day excursion to the Cape Peninsula.



Embark on a spectacular day discovering the pristine coastline and quaint towns along "The Fairest Cape." Board a boat to see the Cape Fur seal colony in the charming fishing village of Hout Bay, weather permitting. Hug the cliffs as you snake along legendary Chapman's Peak Drive to the Cape of Good



Hope Nature Reserve. You will have the opportunity to ride the Flying Dutchman funicular to the old lighthouse for awe-inspiring views! After lunch (**on own account**), continue along the coast to the lively penguin colony at Boulders Beach. Then head back to the city via the naval village of Simon's Town.

ACCOMMODATIONS: COMMODORE HOTEL (B)

SEP 23 CAPE TOWN – DAY AT LEISURE

Enjoy the day at leisure for independent activities.

ACCOMMODATIONS: COMMODORE HOTEL (B)

SEP 24 CAPE TOWN – FULL DAY WINELANDS

This morning meet your private guide in the hotel lobby for your full day excursion to the Cape Winelands.



This is a superb day dedicated to celebrating the glorious grape. Learn all about the process of winemaking, from grape to goblet. Revel in the scenery...like the picturesque little village of Franschhoek, first settled by the Huguenots. Take a stroll through historical, charming Stellenbosch with its Cape Dutch architecture, absorbing the quaintness of this lovely university town. A trip to the winelands isn't complete without a wine tasting, so a cellar tour and two tastings have been organized at different wine estates. Of course, you'll be able to purchase your favorite wine to take back home! Enjoy lunch (**on your own account**) at a leading wine estate or in delightful Franschhoek, South Africa's gourmet capital.



This evening, you will be collected at your hotel to discover GOLD in Cape Town. Feel the heartbeat of this unique African restaurant, as you embark on a taste safari from Cape Town to Timbuktu. Your evening starts with an interactive Djembe drumming session which will get you in tune with the African rhythms and songs of the night.



A soothing hand washing ceremony completes your interactive drumming experience. Dinner is a set course menu consisting of Cape Malay cuisine and African cuisine, served by beautifully adorned staff who will explain each dish to you and the country from which it originates. Be captivated by the drummers, singers and graceful Mali Puppets as they dance around your table. Their performances will embrace you and take you into the heart of Africa.

ACCOMMODATIONS: COMMODORE HOTEL (B,D)

SEP 25 CAPE TOWN / JOHANNESBURG / PILANESBERG NATIONAL PARK

Today you are transferred by private vehicle to the airport for your flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival, you will be transferred by road to your lodge in the Pilanesberg National Park, approximately three hours' drive from Johannesburg.

The malaria-free Pilanesberg National Park ranks among one of the largest national parks in southern Africa. It is a unique area encircled by four rings of hills, produced by volcanic action some 1,200 million years ago. The scenic beauty of Pilanesberg is reflected in a large central lake. The park boasts healthy populations of lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo - Africa's "Big Five". Bird-watching is excellent with over 300 species recorded.

Arrive in time for lunch and some time to relax until your very first game drive with fellow guests. Return to the lodge for dinner and a relaxing evening sharing your days experience with the other guests.



ACCOMMODATIONS: SHEPHERD'S TREE GAME LODGE – Standard room

Shepherd's Tree Game Lodge is set against the foothills of an amphitheater within the malaria-free, "Big 5" wilderness of the Pilanesberg National Park. The spaciouly designed suites are decorated in warm earthy tones and provide a welcome retreat. All the rooms are climate controlled with full en-suite bathroom including an outside shower. Amenities include tea and coffee making facilities, mini bar, TV with satellite channels, and tea & coffee making facilities. The main lodge acts as the central gathering point for all activities. Facilities include a casual lounge and bar with stunning views, an entertainment deck with a cocktail bar overlooking the rim-flow swimming pool, curio shop, business center and an award-winning health and beauty spa. Gourmet cuisine is served in the restaurant or at the boma.

All meals, teas & snacks and twice daily shared game viewing activities are included. Bush walks and bird watching are optional activities on offer at an additional cost. (B,L,D)



SEP 26 & SEP 27 PILANESBERG NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy two expertly guided game drives per day, with other lodge guests, in this spectacular wildlife kingdom. You will have the opportunity to spot lion, elephant, giraffe, rhino, leopard, hippo, wildebeest, warthog, hyena, and the elusive cheetah - to name just a few! Early morning and late afternoon are the best times to see the animals.

ACCOMMODATIONS: SHEPHERD'S TREE GAME LODGE (B,L,D)

**SEP 28 PILANESBERG NATIONAL PARK / JOHANNESBURG / WASHINGTON D.C.**

An early morning wake-up call and out into the bush on the morning safari in search of animals not seen the day before. Return to camp for a hearty breakfast, and then relax at the camp until time to transfer overland to Johannesburg for your international flight home.

Or, you may wish to add to your adventure an optional excursion to Victoria Falls, the world's largest curtain of falling water. (B)

SEP 29 ARRIVE WASHINGTON D.C.

Arrive home today with memories to last a lifetime!

 END OF AFRICAN TRAVEL SERVICES 



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO:
SOUTH AFRICA**

For SOUTH AFRICA:

Please ensure that your passport has a minimum of two blank visa pages facing each other for each entry into South Africa, and **must** have the word “VISA” to enable entry permit to be issued. **Passport must be valid at least six months beyond the intended period of stay in South Africa.** *For NON-U.S. Citizens, please check directly with appropriate consulate for visa requirements.*

Special documentation is required for minors (under 18 years old) travelling to South Africa. Please ask your Safari Consultant for details.

- **Travel Health Information**

Please consult your personal physician or local health department for recommended inoculations at least 6 weeks prior to travel. Anti-malaria medications are recommended for many African countries and some require yellow fever vaccination.

Yellow fever vaccination is compulsory IF traveling from or through a country with risk of yellow fever transmission, including travelers in transit for more than 12 hours in an airport located in a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. In such cases, a yellow fever certificate is required upon entry into any port of debarkation in South Africa.

Malaria risk mainly exists within South Africa’s borders in northern and eastern Mpumalanga, northern KwaZulu-Natal and the border areas of the northern and northwest provinces. For preventive measures, travelers should consult with their personal physicians or local health department.

- **Important Luggage Notice for Scheduled Commercial Air flights**

These refer to all flights booked on Air Botswana, SA Airlink, Air Namibia, British Airways, South African Airways, etc.

The maximum checked baggage allowance for internal scheduled South Africa flights on this itinerary is **44 pounds per person per economy traveler**. Hand baggage allowance, which includes ladies handbags, laptop bags, etc. is strictly **7 kg (15 lbs) within specified dimensions (14 ins x 9 ins x 22 ins)**. Should your luggage be over the weight limit and specified dimensions, you might be subject to an excess luggage fee.

- **Excess Luggage Storage**

Excess luggage may be stored at Ateck, located in the basement parking area of Terminal A in the International Arrivals Hall of Johannesburg’s O.R. Tambo International Airport. There are signs throughout the airport to direct you to the facility which is open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

The cost of storage is not included in your tour services and is payable direct to Ateck. They only accept **cash**, payable in South African Rands. The fee is approximately R90 per 24 hour period, per item stored. Rates are subject to change without notice. We suggest you pack conservatively. For more information, call + 27 (0)11 390-2318.