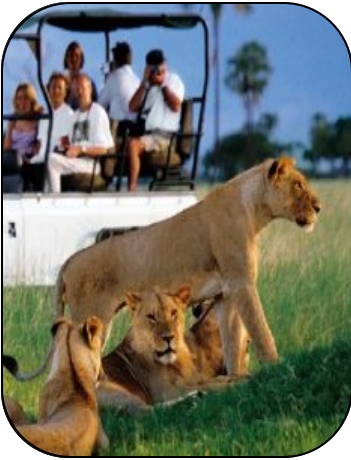


SOUTH AFRICA

September 14, 2017 ~ 19 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$8805 double/twin

\$10,145 single

tour
a more intimate travel experience



- > Tour is exempt from GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 8 seats; \$150 on next 4
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 150 points from this tour.
Redeem **150 points** if you book by **June 13**.

South Africa — The Rainbow Nation

The sheer beauty of South Africa's landscape, the unsurpassed flora and fauna, and the diversity of its people and culture is bewitching. South Africa offers the visitor a unique diversity of captivating landscapes — from bushveld of the Kruger National Park to the wetlands of Coastal Maputaland, to the soaring mountains and vineyards of the Winelands, to the white sandy beaches of the Indian Ocean. Embark on a journey of discovery to the land of colourful contrasts and animals that stretch your imagination. South Africa is known as the Rainbow Nation because of its magnificent natural beauty and its amazing diversity. The urban centres of Johannesburg and Pretoria offer an international flavour and the excitement of a developing economy, plus the pivotal history of the Nelson Mandela era. A safari into Africa's wildlands is one of the most rewarding experiences of a lifetime, and the opportunities in South Africa to view the Big Five – lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino, and leopard – are exceptional. The national parks, in addition to the bordering private game reserves that our group accesses, has wildlife in abundance. Swaziland displays the tribal culture that has existed in time immemorial. Cape Town introduces us to the historic legacy of colonization and coexistence. It is impossible to learn the secrets of this continent and her many cultures in just one journey.

Come and join Wells Gray Tours on our third excursion to South Africa in the past 10 years, and experience the extraordinary diversity of this remarkable country.

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Includes

- Transportation to/from Seattle
- 2 nights accommodation & taxes in Seattle
- Flight from Seattle to Cape Town with stopover in Dubai
- Tour of Dubai highlights with hotel stay
- Transfer from Cape Town airport to hotel
- Luxury air-conditioned coach transportation for 13 days in South Africa
- 12 nights accommodation in South Africa
- 1 night accommodation in Swaziland
- Tour of Cape Town including The Castle, Company's Garden, City Hall, Slave Lodge, and Malay Quarter
- Cable car to the top of Table Mountain
- Diamond cutting workshop
- Tour of the Cape Peninsula including Simon's Town, Chapman's Peak, and penguin colony
- Seal Island cruise
- Cape of Good Hope
- Cape Point Funicular
- Dinner theatre at Richard's Supper Stage
- Winelands tour with 2 tastings and cellar tour
- Transfer from hotel to Cape Town airport
- Flight from Cape Town to Durban
- Game drive in Hluhluwe National Park
- Wildlife cruise on the St. Lucia Estuary
- Cultural show at Gooderson Dumazulu
- Ngwenya Glass Factory
- Cultural tour at Matsamo Village
- Blyde River Canyon and Bourke's Luck Potholes
- God's Window
- 3 wildlife watching drives in Kapama Reserve
- Transfer to Hoedspruit airport
- Flight from Hoedspruit to Johannesburg
- Transfer from Johannesburg airport to hotel
- Tour of Soweto including Nelson Mandela House Museum and Regina Mundi Church
- Apartheid Museum
- Hector Pieterse Museum
- Tour of Pretoria including Voortrekker Monument
- Tour of Maropeng
- Transfer from hotel to Johannesburg airport
- Flight from Johannesburg to Seattle
- Current air taxes and fuel surcharges on 6 flights
- Gratuities for South African guides, coach drivers and game reserve drivers
- Wells Gray tour director throughout the tour
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **36 meals:** 15 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 13 dinners

Victoria Falls Option

Victoria Falls is one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world. The Local people call it "Mosi-oa-Tunya" - the smoke that thunders. There is a magic about the falls 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 hippos and crocodiles lurk. Victoria Falls is 1.7 km wide, making it the largest curtain of water in the world. It drops about 100 m into the Zambezi Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic metres of water plummet over the edge every minute. Preserved in its natural state by national parks and a World Heritage Site, Victoria Falls inspires visitors as much today as it did David Livingstone in the 1860s.

This is a four-day extension to your South Africa tour including 3 nights at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, flight from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls and return, local touring, wildlife cruise on Zambezi River, 3 breakfasts, 1 dinner. Fare is \$1975 per person double/twin, \$2230 single. Departs Johannesburg on September 30. This excursion and your flight home on October 3 does not have a Wells Gray tour director; depending on your home city, there may be extra costs from Seattle.

Tour Notes

- A valid passport is required with two blank pages and must not expire until 30 days after return date. Canadian citizens do not require a Tourist Visa, but a Temporary Residents Visa is issued upon arrival.
- Gratuities are an essential part of travel. Gratuities are included for all meals in the tour package, the South African guide, city guides, coach drivers, and drivers of wildlife viewing vehicles. Gratuities to the Wells Gray tour director are not included and are left to your discretion.
- Flight upgrades to Premium Economy may be possible at an extra charge. If confirmed, flight must be paid in full and is non-refundable. Please enquire at booking or no later than June 13.



Activity Level 3: Activity on this tour ranges from strenuous to sedentary. It may be necessary to climb stairs, get in and out of safari jeeps, walk on uneven surfaces, and walk up to 2 km at a time. Rooms in some hotels may be reached only by climbing stairs. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a cart in advance if this could be an issue for you. This tour is not appropriate for people who must use a walker. Seeing everything described in this itinerary requires active participation. The tour director, guides and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. Prior to Wells Gray accepting your booking, you will be required to sign a declaration that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.

Itinerary

Thursday, September 14:

Transportation is provided to Seattle. We stay overnight near the airport at the Quality Inn.

Friday, September 15: *Meals: B, in-flight*

Our flight on **Emirates Airlines** leaves Seattle about 10 am and is non-stop to Dubai in United Arab Emirates. This is a 13-hour flight.

Saturday, September 16:

Our flight arrives in **Dubai** at 11 am. It is a stunning city, sometimes compared to the Emerald City in *Wizard of Oz* because of its spectacular modern architecture and incredible skyscrapers. Its economic boom can be traced to oil in 1969. The city has a population of 2.2 million and is believed to be the fastest growing city in the world. An afternoon tour visits Dubai Marina, **Palm Jumeirah**, world's largest man-made island; the architectural wonder of the Palm Hotel; and the Souk Madinat Jumeirah, a colourful and vibrant market. If time permits, there is an option to ride the high-speed elevators to level 124 of **Burj Khalifa**, the world's tallest building at 828 metres. Emirates provides a hotel room for half of tonight!

Sunday, September 17: *Meals: D*

We depart Dubai at 3 am on Emirates for a 10-hour flight to **Cape Town**, arriving at 11 am. 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 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. We stay 4 nights at The Portwood Hotel. A welcome dinner is included.

Monday, September 18: *Meals: B,D*

Our city tour includes The Castle, the Company's Garden, Parliament, City Hall, and Slave Lodge. Visit the colourful **Malay Quarter** to marvel at the ice-cream colours of the quaint Bo-Kaap homes. Next, we ride the aerial cable car to the summit of legendary **Table Mountain** and admire the panoramic view of the city and ocean below. A diamond cutting workshop is included. The afternoon is leisure time. A sunset dinner is included in the Camps Bay area.

Tuesday, September 19: *Meals: B,L,D*

We drive along Millionaires' Paradise from Clifton to Ilandudno, heading towards the charming working harbour of Hout Bay where we board the

Seal Island cruise. Following the famed Chapman's Peak Drive, hugging the cliffs, we reach the **Cape of Good Hope**, southernmost point of Africa. Take a ride on the funicular for magnificent views. On the return, we meander back along the coast and stop in **Simon's Town** with lunch at Bertha's Restaurant. Next, visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach. Dinner and a show are included at **Richard's Supper Stage**, a unique theatrical experience with humour and soulful songs which celebrate the triumphs of the people of Cape Town.

Wednesday, September 20: *Meals: B,D*

There are over 70 wine growing regions around Cape Town. We tour the **Cape Wineland Region** which refers to the three most popular, Franschhoek, Stellenbosch and Paarl. We take a cellar tour and enjoy two wine tastings. Back in Cape Town, dinner is at Gold's Restaurant with a 14-course tasting menu consisting of African inspired dishes. This culinary experience is accompanied by traditional entertainment, including drumming.

Thursday, September 21: *Meals: B,D*

We fly to **Durban**, then drive to St. Lucia where we stay 2 nights at Amazulu Lodge. **St. Lucia** is a small town on the KwaZulu Natal Coast which serves as a gateway to **Isimangaliso Wetland Park**. This was South Africa's first World Heritage Site in recognition of its dazzling natural beauty, remarkable diversity, and unique global values. The park includes swamps, beaches, coral reefs, wetlands, and the highest coastal dunes in the world.

Friday, September 22: *Meals: B,L,D*

We take a morning game drive in open vehicles in **Hluhluwe National Park**, Africa's oldest game reserve. Enjoy a boat cruise on the **St. Lucia Estuary** where you may encounter large pods of hippos, the occasional crocodile, and prolific birdlife.

Saturday, September 23: *Meals: B,L,D*

We attend a traditional **KwaZulu-Natal Zulu** at Gooderson DumaZulu, South Africa's biggest cultural village. Watch as locals make spears, shields, baskets, and clay pots. Peek into the world of the sangoma and have a one on one reading. Experience the rhythmic drumbeat and dance of Africa. Then we have an enchanting drive to the tiny **Kingdom of Swaziland**, a former British Protection Territory, now ruled by King Mswati III. Swaziland, the smallest country in southern Africa, is among the most easy-going and laid back regions. Swazis are more likely to celebrate for fun than demonstrate for reform. A progressive and hands on attitude towards wildlife preservation has endowed it

with a remarkable group of national parks. We stay overnight at Foresters Arms Hotel.

Sunday, September 24: *Meals: B,L,D*
This morning, we visit the **Ngwenya Glass Factory** and then **Matsamo Cultural Village**. We stay overnight at Perry's Bridge Hollow Hotel in Hazyview.

Monday, September 25: *Meals: B,L,D*
We travel overland to **Kapama Game Reserve** via the panorama route. Highlights include famed **Blyde River Canyon**, third largest in the world, the extraordinary rock formations of Bourke's Luck Potholes, and the view of the vast Lowveld landscape from the ledge of God's Window. We stay two nights at Kapama River Lodge.

Tuesday, September 26: *Meals: B,L,D*
Two wildlife viewing drives are offered, accompanied by a skilled ranger and tracker, and you can expect to encounter a diverse range of animal and bird species. Since Kapama is a Big Five reserve, seeing **lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos and buffalo** is likely. About 350 species of birds have been recorded on the reserve. The trip starts at first light. We return to the lodge about 9 am for breakfast. You are likely to see wildlife around the lodge such as nyala antelope and vervet monkeys. A second game drive is in late afternoon and, as darkness falls, the nocturnal animals appear. The tracker scans the landscape using a spotlight which illuminates animals' eyes.

Wednesday, September 27: *Meals: B,D*
A third game drive is early this morning, then we drive to Hoedspruit and fly to **Johannesburg**. This is South Africa's largest city, the financial and commercial capital of South Africa. Renowned as the City of Gold, Johannesburg is a vibrant city with a vast web of suburbs and townships. We stay three nights at the Da Vinci Hotel. Dinner is at Bucher Grill on Mandela Square, rated as one of the country's top steakhouses.

Thursday, September 28: *Meals: B,L,D*
Soweto is home to over two million people living in crowded and chaotic conditions. South Africans gave much to achieve a truly democratic country and this full day tour shares some of the 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 **Nelson Mandela's house** where you can visit the small museum. Our next stop is the fascinating Regina Mundi Church, site of many underground meetings of banned political parties. Next, visit the famed **Apartheid Museum** which takes you from the dark days of 'whites only' privilege through to Mandela's historic release.

Friday, September 29: *Meals: B,L,D*
Pretoria is South Africa's administrative capital, founded in 1855 and named after the Voortrekker leader, Pretorius. The **Voortrekker Monument** is a striking memorial that honours the early Dutch pioneers. We drive by the Kruger Museum and the Union Buildings. During a tour of Maropeng, explore the evolution of life as the facility is designed to look like an ancient burial mound. A "Farewell to South Africa" dinner is included at the fabulous Beira Alta Restaurant which specializes in Portuguese cuisine with an African influence.

Saturday, September 30: *Meals: B, in-flight*
This is a day of leisure. We fly at 10 pm from Johannesburg via Dubai to Seattle on Emirates.

Sunday, October 1:
We arrive in Seattle at 1 pm and stay overnight at the Embassy Suites Hotel since a comfortable bed will be welcome after the long flight and the 10-hour time change.

Monday, October 2: *Meals: B*
Transportation is provided home to Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 13, 2017.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 8 seats and \$150 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 13.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 16, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From May 17 to June 13, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From June 14 to June 30, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From July 1 to July 27, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After July 27, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and currency exchange rates, and surcharges from airlines and tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

Home pickups and dropoffs may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and the size of the chartered vehicle. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

E-points: This tour earns 150 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points for a free tour! Redemptions offered until June 13.

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