

Southern Africa Walking Safari

Adventure Memo

Greetings from the WAI Travel Team,

After several months of planning, we are excited to present the 2011 edition of one of our most exotic Adventures — the *Southern Africa Walking Safari*. This is not your average Adventure!

Feedback from previous travelers has been exceedingly enthusiastic. The spectacular scenery in the Cape of Good Hope peninsula, the Blyde River Canyon, and Victoria Falls; the unforgettable interactions with the locals, kids and adults alike, throughout the program; and opportunities for close encounters with some of the planet's largest and wildest animals all unite to leave an Africa-shaped impression in your hearts when you leave this special continent!

Before you sign up for this exotic expedition, there are a few important points that need clarification.

How do I lock in my place on the Adventure?

To save yourself a spot on this Adventure, contact us with a \$500 payment as soon as possible. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis!

How do we arrange airfare for this Adventure?

The official start point for this Adventure is the Cape Town airport in South Africa. The official finish point is the Johannesburg airport. Internal flights within Africa (one flight for the main tour and two flights for the optional extension) are included in the tour price. Pricing and itineraries for air travel are generally not available until about 10.5 months before departure. Preliminary research indicates that it is possible, but unlikely, that we will offer a group air package when group pricing and itineraries become available later this fall.

We recommend that you contact the travel agent we work with to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment! More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided in the Adventure Advice flyer, which will be mailed to you in November when air information becomes available. **Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!**

Travel insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the back of the General Tour Conditions sheet for more detailed information.)

IMPORTANT: The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for a couple of extra benefits, including pre-existing conditions and trip cancellation coverage for any reason

(with additional fee), **provided you purchase the insurance within 14 days of your registration.** Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office after you purchase your airfare.

Group travel credit

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name to us before you register, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full deposit is needed to officially reserve your place.

A word about immunizations

No preparation for a trip to Africa would be complete without a discussion about immunizations. We will address this topic in more detail in the *Tips & Tidbits* factsheet that you will receive about three months before departure. If you want to discuss this Adventure with your doctor at this point, here is what we can tell you now: No immunizations are required by immigration officials. Yellow fever, the malady that most often triggers the requirement to show proof of immunizations, is not a problem in the regions of Africa we are visiting. However, although we have had no problems with previous travelers, malaria is a risk that should be taken seriously.

As we are not qualified to give medical advice, you will definitely need to see your personal health care provider or visit a travel clinic. In general, travel health clinics are more reliable sources of information in this matter than general practitioners and the Center for Disease Control. You can find travel health clinics in the yellow pages or online. Two examples are: www.ushealthworks.com and www.passporthealthusa.com. If you intend to research immunization further before receiving the *Tips & Tidbits* factsheet, remember to take your Adventure brochure with you so you can show the medical staff where we are traveling.

Other immunizations that are usually recommended for this part of Africa include: hepatitis A, typhoid, tetanus/diphtheria (if not up-to-date). Your doctor may recommend others depending upon your health history and age.

Insurance – What if I need to place a claim?

Jumping through hoops to get results from large, bureaucratic organizations can be enough to try the patience of Job! Travel insurance companies, unfortunately, are not immune to bureaucracy. Ambiguity and forms-overload sometimes seem to outweigh reason and logic. Ultimately, however, travelers are paid and the *Preferred Benefits* policy we recommend works! Though it is easy to view insurance as a necessary evil, we have seen the benefits of travel insurance time and again. We believe it is worth the cost... and hoop-jumping required!

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What Happens Next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter, initial invoice, and Adventure Advice flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. **Please do not buy your airline tickets until you receive the Adventure Advice flyer.** The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a Tips & Tidbits factsheet with additional information about the Adventure to help you prepare! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

Now it's time to grab a cup of coffee and curl up in your favorite chair with the *Southern Africa Walking Safari* brochure. Africa is half a world away, a distant dream that is now very close to becoming an unforgettable part of your reality!

We look forward to exploring Africa with you in 2011!!

***More than a vacation...
it's an Adventure!***

