

WALKING ADVENTURES INTERNATIONAL

Southern Africa Walking Safari 2011



September 8-21, 2011 • 14 Days • \$5250

DAY 1: SEP 8: ARRIVE CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA (D)

Our Southern Africa Walking Safari begins today in Cape Town, birthplace of the nation of South Africa. You'll be met at the Cape Town airport by a representative of WAI and transferred to our hotel in the heart of this historic city at the bottom tip of Africa. This evening we rendezvous for a welcome dinner at our hotel in the shadow of Table Mountain.



DAY 2: SEP 9: ACTIVITIES FROM CAPE TOWN (BD)

Table Mountain & Cape Town Historical Walk - 10 km, rated 3/1

Today's two-part walk begins with a gondola ride to Table Mountain for 360° views from the tabletop vantage point of this legendary mariner's landmark. Spectacular views and the wonderful fynbos foliage of Table Mountain precede an afternoon sightseeing walk through Cape Town's historic district. Our route surveys four centuries of discovery and drama in this region rich in resources but plagued by conflict.

DAY 3: SEP 10: ACTIVITIES FROM CAPE TOWN (BD)

Cape of Good Hope Walk - 10 km, rated 2/2+

A stroll through Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens offers another opportunity to marvel at South Africa's floral diversity. The second segment of today's walk climbs first to Cape Point's lighthouse to gaze out over the meeting of the oceans—Atlantic and Indian. Wonderful sea vistas and possible wildlife sightings then mark our trail to neighboring Cape of Good Hope, a beacon to storm-tossed sailors since the days of the Portuguese explorers.

DAY 4: SEP 11: ACTIVITIES IN CAPE TOWN (BD)

Today's schedule includes a morning visit to Robben Island and an afternoon free to shop, stroll Cape Town, or just relax in anticipation of the

next leg of our Adventure. Robben Island has long been a place of incarceration, most recently for opponents of Apartheid. Our visit brings perspective to a tumultuous period in the country's complex history and a growing awareness of the challenges and triumphs of today's South Africa.

DAY 5-6: SEP 12-13: CAPE TOWN-BONAMANZI GAME RESERVE (BD)

Bonamanzi Game Reserve Walk - 10 km, rated 1+

Mbonise Zulu Cultural Walk - 10 km, rated 2

A morning flight to Kwazulu Natal takes us to the shores of the Indian Ocean, then a two-night stay at Bonamanzi Game Reserve in Zululand. We explore a small portion of the Reserve on a game walk that offers possible encounters with warthog, impala, zebra, giraffe, ostrich, and a host of beautiful birds. Hippos and crocs are the main event of a two-hour cruise up St. Lucia Estuary, part of South Africa's 3rd largest national park. We'll also have a rare opportunity to experience life in a rural Zulu community firsthand, minus the tourist veneer. Our walk starts at the school and continues in small groups, each with a local Zulu resident anxious to provide visitors with a personalized window into their village.



DAY 7: SEP 14: BONAMANZI GAME PARK-PONGOLA GAME RESERVE (BD)

Pongola Game Reserve Walk - 10 km, rated 2

Home to the Big 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and cape buffalo), Hluhluwe/Umfolozi Game Reserve is best known for its high concentration of rhinos. After bagging today's limit of wildlife memories on our first game drive, we head north to Pongola Game Reserve. Here, we split into two groups and check into Nkwazi and Mvubu Lodges, situated on opposite sides of the lake. Each group will enjoy a walk on their side of the lake, then rendezvous for dinner at Nkwazi Lodge.

DAY 8: SEP 15: ACTIVITIES IN PONGOLA (BLD)

Pongola Game Reserve Walk #2 - 10 km, rated 3+

After a Zululand breakfast, our two groups switch places to participate in a second Pongola walk. A lunch cruise on the Fish Eagle Safari ship is followed by an afternoon of optional activities (fees not included) to include angling for the aptly named African Tiger Fish, tracking rhino with an armed guide, or relaxing in the "Out of Africa" charm of your lodge.

DAY 9: SEP 16: PONGOLA – MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, SWAZILAND (BD)

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary Game Walk - 10 km, rated 2

We cross into the Kingdom of Swaziland today en route to Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary. Beware of grazing warthogs, ostrich, and impala as you make your way to our primitive beehive huts (bathrooms en suite). Mlilwane offers a wonderful game walk through meadows frequented by zebra, impala, blue wildebeest, and blesbok. The return loop passes a pond where a rookery of blue heron keep things lively and hippos and crocodiles patrol with regularity.

DAY 10: SEP 17: MLILWANE – KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA (BD)

Leaving Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary this morning, a taste of Swazi culture awaits us on a visit to the Umphakatsi Chief's Homestead. The afternoon drive takes us through the mountains of Swaziland towards South Africa's Kruger National Park where we'll stay just outside the park in a private game reserve, our base to explore Kruger tomorrow.

DAY 11: SEP 18: ACTIVITIES IN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (BD)

Our day in one of Africa's premier national parks begins with an early morning game drive. Game jeeps will take us through the parks in small groups to search for the Big Five and other magnificent members of the animal kingdom. Following a break for lunch, we'll resume the "hunt,"

accompanied by our game rangers, for elephant, giraffe, impala, rhino, and countless other exotic African species.

DAY 12: SEP 19: KRUGER NATIONAL PARK – BLYDE RIVER CANYON (BD)

Optional Game Walk - 8 km, unrated & non-sanctioned

Looking for a bit more adventure? Join a ranger-led game walk this morning for an up close and personal African game experience. We'll walk in small groups led by rangers on a walk of about 2-3 hours. This is an unforgettable experience, but not without risks! Later this morning, we depart the Kruger area for Blyde River Canyon.

DAY 13: SEP 20: ACTIVITIES IN THE BLYDE RIVER CANYON AREA (BD)

Blyde River Canyon Trail - 10 km, rated 2+

In addition to some lovely forest walking, our last African trail offers outstanding views of the Three Rondavels, a stunning rock formation in Blyde River Canyon—the world's third largest canyon system. Following free time for lunch, we'll spend the afternoon exploring local scenic wonders at God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes.

DAY 14: SEP 21: DEPART FOR HOME – OR – CONTINUE ON TO VICTORIA FALLS (B)

Our route takes us west this morning to Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city. Here we'll explore the history of apartheid in the townships of Soweto and visit the former home of Nelson Mandela, now the Mandela Family Museum. Travelers returning home this evening will be transferred to the Johannesburg airport. After two life-changing weeks exploring Southern Africa, your globe-spanning flight provides time to reflect on the lives we have touched and the intriguing history, culture, and scenery of this region of amazing Africa.

Victoria Falls Extension Zimbabwe, Zambia & Botswana

See insert



WHAT'S INCLUDED

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INCLUDING

- Airport to hotel group transfers on first and last day*
- Flight from Cape Town to Durban
- Superior tourist-class or better hotel accommodations (except Swaziland)
- All land travel as outlined
- 25 meals: All breakfasts and dinners plus one lunch as listed (BLD)
- 8 IVV-sanctioned walks as listed
- Fees for walking credit
- WAI guide service throughout
- Cultural & historical expertise of our local guide throughout
- All tipping for local guides and coach drivers
- A limited number of single supplements are available: \$550
- **Entrance fees/admissions to:**
- Table Mountain Cableway
- Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens
- Robben Island boat ride and tour
- Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park wildlife cruise
- Hluhluwe/Umfolozi Game Reserve game drive
- Umphakatsi Chief's Homestead (Swaziland)
- Kruger National Park and game drives
- Soweto tour to visit Mandela Family Museum
- More fun and enriching experiences than we can possibly list!

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

- African Tiger Fish angling expedition (DAY 8)
- Rhino tracking with an armed guide (DAY 8)



*Details of transfers provided are listed in Adventure Advice memo sent upon receipt of tour registration.

**Adventure price includes domestic airfare estimates at time of brochure publication. Travelers will be notified of any changes in airfare pricing and will be billed or credited accordingly.

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