Cornell's Adult University

South Africa: Nature and Human Nature

November 26–December 6, 2017
NOVEMBER 27 | ARRIVE CAPE TOWN (D)

- Upon arrival at Cape Town International Airport (CPT) you will be met by your private guide, who will accompany you throughout your trip. Private transfer to your hotel.

- Relax and/or have lunch (not included) before the afternoon excursion. For those who want to eat lunch, your guide can help with suggestions. Cape Town has a wide variety of restaurants. Your guide can also assist with money exchange and any other issues, questions, etc.

- **Visit Table Mountain** (weather and flight timing permitting*). You’ll take an aerial tram ride to the 3,558-foot summit of Table Mountain, a national park and part of the Cape Floristic Region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk the network of paths that crisscross the flat summit and photograph the entire Cape Peninsula, surrounding ocean, and the beautiful city.

- **Welcome Reception** (drinks and snack platters)

  *If weather and/or time does not permit the trip to Table Mountain today, you will have this excursion tomorrow.

**ACCOMMODATION: SOUTHERN SUN THE CULLINAN**
Introduction to South Africa – This presentation about South Africa's political and social history will give you a good foundation for the rest of your visit.

Table Mountain or Company Garden Walk
If your group was not able to take the cable car to Table Mountain yesterday, you can enjoy this excursion this morning.

If your group was able to visit Table Mountain yesterday, then you can enjoy:
Company Gardens Walk: This is a walk down "Government Avenue" and through the oldest gardens in South Africa, Company Gardens, named from the Dutch East India Company who set it up as a vegetable garden for its ships passing the Cape. There is a rose garden, Japanese garden, fish pond, aviary, and food garden. Stroll down the tree-lined avenue past the Houses of Parliament. Your guide will provide historical and current information about the two worlds that exist here, the antiquated world of the old Cape Colony with its Victorian sensibility and heritage, and another more modern world, which is brought to life by the new developments.

There is a lot to see here as many of Cape Town's important cultural sites can be accessed from the gardens, such as the South African Library, the National Gallery, Jewish and Holocaust museums, the Georgian Townhouse, Bertram House, the South African Museum, and the Cultural History Museum. At the bottom end the avenue meets Adderley Street, flanked by the Slave Museum and St. George's Cathedral.

Bo-Kaap Walk and Talk (led by Bo-Kaap Museum Curator if available or similar). The Bo-Kaap represents the only area in the city of Cape Town where the Cape Malay community was not forcefully removed. It is a bright and colorful area that is one of the most photographed places in Cape Town. The visit to this area offers an opportunity for interaction with local women. Having lunch together provides a unique opportunity to spend some time in the community and to learn about people's lives, culture, and cuisine.
- Enjoy lunch at “Restaurant with a View”

- Afternoon at leisure. Optional excursions (not included):
  - Constantia winelands tour by motorbike side-car
  - Two Oceans Aquarium

- Dinner on your own. Everyone will enjoy picking a restaurant that matches their own tastes. It will be a hard decision as Cape Town’s culinary choices are phenomenal.

**ACCOMMODATION: SOUTHERN SUN THE CULLINAN**

**NOVEMBER 29 | CAPE TOWN EXCURSIONS (B, L, D)**

- **Walking Tour of a Township**: Today will surely be a profound experience for the group as you will have a personalized township visit lead by an expert (from the Guga Sthebe Arts and Culture Centre) with an invitation into local homes there. (The particular township will vary depending on the group size.) Townships were created as dormitory-styled, racially divided suburbs for black South Africans. On a walking tour of the area you’ll see different housing and socio-economic areas and gain insight into the history and development of the township. A visit to a township is an important part of the South Africa experience, helping visitors to truly understand the history of apartheid and to witness firsthand the growth of the communities since it was abolished.

- Enjoy and participate in a **drumming circle**. This is a hands-on opportunity to do some drumming to the original rhythms of Africa. Learning the basic beats and join in a rhythmic orchestra conducted by a local drum teacher/leader.

- Lunch at V & A Waterfront
Visit Robben Island (weather dependent), starting with a short ferry ride. Robben Island, once described by Nelson Mandela as “the harshest, most iron-fisted outpost in the South African penal system,” has become an international symbol of the triumph of the human spirit. Over the years, the 574-hectare island has been put to a variety of uses. It has been used as a pantry, a hospital, a whaling station, a mental asylum, a leprosy colony, a military camp, and a maximum security prison to house anti-apartheid activists. Today Robben Island is a living museum and World Heritage Site, a tangible reminder of the past and a symbol of hope for the future. Tour the various buildings built from the rock quarried by the back-breaking work of political prisoners in the 1960s and ‘70s. At the maximum security prison, where more than 3,000 political prisoners were held between 1960 and 1991, you can view the tiny cell where Nelson Mandela lived for 18 years, sleeping on the cold cement floor. You will be provided with detailed information about the long and dark history of this once remote island.

Home-hosted dinner provided with Christo Brand (Mandela’s warder), who will discuss his book along with anecdotal stories.

ACCOMMODATION: SOUTHERN SUN THE CULLINAN

NOVEMBER 30| CAPE PENINSULA TOUR (B, L)

Today you will have a full-day tour. The Cape Peninsula tour takes in the whole of the southern peninsula, through the different areas of Table Mountain National Park. Starting from Cape Town you’ll travel along the coastal road down to Hout Bay and then over Chapman’s Peak (weather permitting). At the very tip is Cape Point, the most southwesterly point of Africa, the place at which legend claims the Atlantic and Indian Oceans merge. The sea cliff is one of the highest sea cliffs in the world. Named the "Cape of Storms," this rocky headland was treated with respect by sailors for centuries. By day it was a navigational landmark, and by night, and in fog, it was a menace beset by violent storms and dangerous rocks that littered shipwrecks around the coastline. Ride a funicular to the historical area. You’ll also visit Boulders Beach, home to a land-based breeding colony of the rare African penguin.

Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant during the tour

Dinner will be on own

ACCOMMODATION: SOUTHERN SUN THE CULLINAN
DECEMBER 1 | CAPE TOWN | SAFARI (B, L, D)

- After breakfast and check out, you will be transferred to Hoedspruit/Nelspruit airport for your flight to your safari.
- Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to the lodge
- Lunch provided at lodge
- Afternoon game drive
- Dinner provided at lodge

ACCOMMODATION: THORNYBUSH GAME LODGE

DECEMBER 2 | ON SAFARI (B, L, D)

- Enjoy an early morning game drive
- Lunch provided at lodge
- Afternoon game drive
- Dinner provided at lodge

ACCOMMODATION: THORNYBUSH GAME LODGE

DECEMBER 3 | ON SAFARI (B, L, D)

- Early morning game drive
- Lunch provided at lodge
- Afternoon game drive
- Rhino and Africa conservation talk
- Afternoon game drive
- Dinner provided at lodge

ACCOMMODATION: THORNYBUSH GAME LODGE
DECEMBER 4 | SAFARI | JOHANNESBURG (B, L)

- Early morning game drive
- Breakfast
- Transfer to airport
- Fly to Johannesburg
- Lunch in Maboneng
- **Maboneng Inner-city Walking Tour.** This tour combines history, markets, food, and street art. Regeneration in Johannesburg has seen the transformation of areas that, for years, were centers of urban decay and crime. The Maboneng precinct east of the city is one of them. Maboneng, a Sotho word meaning “place of light,” is a fitting name for a district that has fast become a center of creative energy for Johannesburg’s urban artists. With a mix of art galleries and retail and studio space, the precinct attracts the inner-city public as well as the chic, art-going crowd of the city’s northern suburbs, bringing life back into downtown Johannesburg.
- Transfer to hotel
- Dinner on your own

**ACCOMMODATION: DA VINCI**

DECEMBER 5 | JOHANNESBURG. (B, L, D)

- Today you will visit the **Apartheid Museum**, the pre-eminent museum in the world dealing with 20th century South Africa, at the heart of which is the apartheid story. A series of exhibition areas takes the visitor through a dramatic emotional journey that tells a story of a state-sanctioned system based on racial discrimination and the struggle of the majority to overthrow this tyranny. The exhibits have been assembled and organized by a multi-disciplinary team of curators, filmmakers, historians and designers. They include provocative film footage, photographs, text panels and artefacts illustrating the events and human stories that are part of this epic saga of South Africa’s history. For anyone wanting to understand and experience what apartheid South Africa was really like, a visit to the Apartheid Museum is an important addition to your itinerary.
- Lunch in Soweto
- **Kliptown Community Walk** led by local activist. Kliptown, one of the oldest districts in Soweto, is an area steeped in history—violent, restorative, sad, and uplifting. It is most famously known as the site where more than 3,000 people attended what became known as the Congress of the People in 1955 to adopt the Freedom Charter, a document in which oppressed South Africans formulated ideas of a society free from apartheid and which now forms the pre-amble to the constitution. Despite a police blockade barring the area, people came from far and wide to see the Freedom Charter signed in June of 1955, eager to see the beginnings of democracy form in the country.

Today, the population of Kliptown stands at roughly 45,000—bleak and poverty-stricken but proud and defiant. The area where the delegates met in 1955 is now a township bustling square with a marketplace for traders, offices, shops and a hotel. At the edge of the square is the Kliptown Open Air Museum, built in dedication to ANC stalwart Walter Sisulu. Through vibrant artworks, photographs, song, narration and newspaper clippings, it tells the story of how he and other leaders helped draft the Freedom Charter, the resistance they faced, and how the Charter ultimately formed the basis for South Africa’s liberal constitution.

- **Perspectives Talk @ TheBioscope.** A discussion/talk ("black and white voices"). This will be a discussion and personal reflections from both a local black and white person’s experience in South Africa.

- Dinner at Lebo’s: *Braai* (barbecue) with live music.

**ACCOMMODATION: DA VINCI**

**DECEMBER 6 | JOHANNESBURG (B, L, D)**

- After breakfast and lunch at your leisure you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.