



18 nights

📍 **\$14,995*** p.p.

Departs Toronto:

Feb. 28, 2019

Group size: 24 maximum

🚗 Visits to:

Cape Town - Robben Island -
Franschhoek - Plettenberg Bay -
Durban - Johannesburg - Apartheid
Museum - Mandela House - Kapama
Private Game Reserve

✔ What's Included:

* *round-trip airfare*

- Plaza Premium airport lounge pass
- domestic flights
- Cape Town: four nights 5-star hotel accommodations
- Franschhoek: two nights 5-star hotel accommodation
- Plettenberg Bay: two nights 5-star hotel accommodation
- Eastern Free State: two nights 4-star hotel accommodation
- Johannesburg: three nights 5-star hotel accommodation
- Kapama Game Reserve: five nights 5-star hotel accommodation
- 18 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 14 dinners
- sightseeing and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- private motor coach transportation
- safari: 6-8 passengers per vehicle
- local English-speaking tour guide
- South Africa destination guidebook
- Merit Travel tour host**
- all taxes and gratuities

THE WONDERS OF SOUTH AFRICA

By land: Cape Town to Johannesburg

Over the 18 nights on this luxury tour, we will visit the beautiful scenery of Franschhoek, Plettenberg Bay, and the Eastern Free State. Cape Town has much to offer the eager visitor including pristine beaches, world-class vineyards, whale watching, hiking, mountain biking, an assortment of cultural experiences and plenty of good food.

Depart by ferry from the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront at Nelson Mandela Gateway for an unforgettable visit to the World Heritage Site of Robben Island, a historical prison which housed slaves and political prisoners for 450 years and is now a museum.

Johannesburg is one of Africa's biggest and most vibrant cities; here, you'll learn about South Africa's political history at the Apartheid Museum. In Soweto, visit the Mandela House, Nelson Mandela's family home, and follow the story of the legendary leader to get an understanding of where he started his fight against Apartheid.

The Kapama Private Game Reserve will be our next stop; an African Eden, sweeping across the Savannah and riverine forest, Kapama represents a piece of Africa as it used to be. The iconic Big Five are at home on Kapama, but so too are over 40 other mammal species and 350 different types of birds. Game drives and bush walks offer fascinating encounters with wildlife, as well as a unique African wildlife experience.

Single supplements available!
Call your local Merit Travel expert.



APPROPRIATE FOR:

Travellers who are physically fit and comfortable with longer days of touring by transport and by foot and do not require mobility aids.



Your Itinerary | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner = (B, L, D)

DAY 1 | Feb. 28, 2019 | Toronto - Cape Town

Board overnight flight to Cape Town, South Africa.

DAY 2 | Mar. 1, 2019 | Cape Town

Upon arrival at Cape Town Airport, meet your local representative and transfer to hotel for check in.

Enjoy a welcome reception at the hotel with your group.

Cape Town has much to offer the eager visitor including pristine beaches, world-class vineyards, whale watching, hiking, mountain biking, an assortment of cultural experiences and plenty of good food.

Overnight at the Radisson Red V&A Waterfront Hotel (4 nights)

DAY 3 | Mar. 2, 2019 | Cape Town (B, L, D)

Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll explore the beauty of Cape Town and enjoy breathtaking panoramic views from the top of Table Mountain. Then we'll explore the city center on a drive around the Malay Quarter, Company Gardens, Castle of Good Hope, Diamond Works, and Milnerton.

Tonight, we'll enjoy an African wine and dinner experience at the Gold Restaurant.

DAY 4 | Mar. 3, 2019 | Cape Town (B, L)

After breakfast, we'll start a full day of touring exploring the Cape Peninsula. We'll travel along the Atlantic Seaboard, passing the beaches of Clifton and Camps Bay – which have been awarded Blue Flag status. These beaches offer pristine white sand and beautiful clear water (if slightly cold), that have made them very popular with locals and visitors alike.

The tour continues, passed the Twelve Apostle Mountains on its way to Hout Bay, along Chapman's Peak Drive. Chapman's Peak Drive with its tight turns and steep cliffs is breathtaking and offers many photo opportunities. Boulders Beach Penguin Colony on the shores of False Bay allows us to get close to some of the best loved inhabitants of the Cape Peninsula before we start our journey back to Cape Town over the Steenberg on Ou Kaapseweg.

DAY 5 | Mar. 4, 2019 | Cape Town (B, D)

After breakfast, we board a boat to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Robben Island. Robben Island is infamous for being used as a prison for nearly 400 years as well as where former President Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

This evening we transfer to Camps Bay and enjoy dinner at Umi Restaurant.

DAY 6 | Mar. 5, 2019 | Cape Town - Franschhoek (B, L, D)

After breakfast we check out and commence our private half day winelands tours, including lunch and wine tastings at Delaire Graff estate.

Enjoy Africa's finest wines, from illustrious reds and whites to sparkling wine and delightful rosé, crafted from vine to bottle with the expert hands of their our winemaker, Morné Vrey.

We then check in to our hotel in time for dinner.

Overnight at Le Quartier Français (2 nights)

DAY 7 | Mar. 6, 2019 | Franschhoek (B, L)

Today after breakfast we enjoy a full day of wine activities and breathtaking scenery of the Cape Winelands. Become acquainted with Franschhoek, Stellenbosch and Paarl while you ride through beautiful countryside with picturesque vineyards with over 300 years of history.

DAY 8 | Mar. 7, 2019 | Franschhoek - Plettenberg Bay (B, D)

After breakfast and check out, we transfer from Franschhoek to Plettenberg Bay, making a stop en route for lunch and then continuing on to our hotel.

This evening we will enjoy a group dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Overnight at The Robberg Beach Lodge (2 nights)

DAY 9 | Mar. 8, 2019 | Plettenberg Bay (B, D)

After breakfast we have a full day at leisure to enjoy Plettenberg Bay. Plettenberg Bay is a picturesque, charming town with miles of pristine beaches, tranquil lagoons, clean rivers, indigenous forests and a dramatic rocky peninsula. Playground to the wealthy, beach mansions overlook the Indian Ocean, often dotted with luxury yachts, while leisure time is given over to polo and golf, among other things.

Dinner at the hotel in the evening.

DAY 10 | Mar. 9, 2019 | Plettenberg Bay - Eastern Free State (B, D)

After breakfast today, we transfer to Port Elizabeth airport for our flight to Durban. Upon arrival in Durban, we transfer to Clarens to check in to our hotel and enjoy dinner.

The Eastern Free State is situated in the eastern quadrant of the South African province of the Free State. Featuring sprawling grass plains fringed by majestic mountains, this area possesses an alluring beauty. The spectacularly scenic landscape provides visitors with a plethora of historical, cultural, and natural destinations to explore.

Overnight at Protea Hotel Marriot The Clarens (2 nights)

DAY 11 | Mar. 10, 2019 | Eastern Free State (B, D)

After breakfast we depart for a dinosaur tour at Clarens where we'll see many examples of fossils from the area and get a very informative talk on the geological history.

We'll then be shown an ancient river/lake bed where the trackways of multiple species of dinosaurs and mammal-like reptiles can be seen.

Return to the hotel for dinner.

DAY 12 | Mar. 11, 2019 | Eastern Free State - Johannesburg (B, L)

After breakfast and check out, we join a cultural village tour of Basotho and Lesedi and stop for lunch en route to Johannesburg.

Johannesburg is one of Africa's biggest and most vibrant cities. There are excellent museums, art galleries, restaurants to cater to all tastes, and the shopping is Southern Africa's best.

Overnight at The Radisson Blu Hotel Sandton (3 nights)

DAY 13 | Mar. 12, 2019 | Johannesburg (B, L, D)

Following breakfast at the hotel, we proceed on a private Apartheid Museum and Soweto tour including lunch and a visit to former President, Nelson Mandela's house. Follow the story of the legendary leader to get an understanding of where he started his fight against Apartheid.

DAY 14 | Mar. 13, 2019 | Johannesburg (B, L, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, we start our day with a private UNESCO Cradle of Humanity Tour and dine at a local restaurant for lunch. This designated UNESCO world Heritage site is home to some of the world's oldest hominid fossils. Delve into paleontological mysteries at the world-famous Sterkfontein caves, and then spot wildlife as you cruise around the Lion and Safari Park.

Later we'll enjoy a tapas-style dinner at Sun Deck at Sandton Sun with some champagne upon arrival.

DAY 15 | Mar. 14, 2019 | Johannesburg - Kapama Private Game Reserve (B, L, D)

After breakfast at the hotel and check out, we'll transfer to the airport for our flight to Hoedspruit. Upon arrival we transfer to the all-inclusive Kapama Private Game Reserve. We will spend the next five nights enjoying this wonderful place.

The Kapama Private Game Reserve is an African Eden, sweeping across the Savannah and riverine forest. The iconic Big Five are at

home on Kapama, but so too are over 40 other mammal species and 350 different types of birds. We'll enjoy game drive, bush walks and fascinating encounters with wildlife.

Overnight at The Kapama River Lodge (5 nights)

DAY 16 | Mar. 15, 2019 | Kapama Private Game Reserve (B, L, D)

Today is day one of our Safari adventures in Kapama. Today includes a full day of game drives, meals and drinks.

DAY 17 | Mar. 16, 2019 | Kapama Private Game Reserve (B, L, D)

Day two of Safari adventures in Kapama. Today includes a full day of game drives, meals and drinks.

DAY 18 | Mar. 17, 2019 | Kapama Private Game Reserve (B, L, D)

Day three of Safari adventures in Kapama. Today includes a full day of game drives, meals and drinks.

DAY 19 | Mar. 18, 2019 | Kapama Private Game Reserve (B, L, D)

Day four of Safari adventures in Kapama. Today includes a full day of game drives, meals and drinks.

We finish the day with a farewell dinner.

DAY 20 | Mar. 19, 2019 | Kapama Private Game Reserve - Johannesburg - Toronto (B)

After breakfast at the Kapama, we transfer to Hoedspruit for our flight to Johannesburg and then our international flights home.



RESPONSIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- a. Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- b. Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- c. Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- d. Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
- e. Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- f. Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- g. Personal injuries or death;
- h. Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$750 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Please note, some of our suppliers may require additional deposit or full payments at time of booking, pending seasonality. You will be advised of additional requirements at time of booking.

LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance,

baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited. There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services. Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- a. 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
- b. 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
- c. 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.