



DREAMING OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA + VICTORIA FALLS

Inaugural Women's Only Tour | 17 Days | Physical Level 1

Johannesburg – Graskop - Greater Kruger – Gqeberha – Knysna –
Oudtshoorn - Cape Town – Victoria Falls

Witness the incredible wildlife of Kruger National Park in 5-star luxury, traverse the scenic Garden Route with its picturesque landscapes and charming towns, immerse yourself in the cosmopolitan allure of Cape Town, where a blend of culture, history, and natural beauty awaits – and finally end the tour by hearing the roar of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

- **Seek the renowned “Big 5” in Kruger National Park & experience the awe of Golden Hour**
- **Visit Robben Island & lunch with Christo Brand, one of Nelson Mandela’s prison guards**
- **Sample Ostrich meat, visit a Protea Farm & learn the magic behind a Diamond**
- **Taste exceptional drops in The Winelands & say hello to African penguins on the beach**
- **Ascend Table Mountain for breath-taking views**
- **Experience the wonder of Victoria Falls from every angle**



This unforgettable adventure will be hosted from New Zealand by none other than Wendy Wu's own, Lisa Anthony.

Lisa has been the Sales Manager of Wendy Wu Tours New Zealand for 10 years and has traveled extensively to over 100 countries, both personally and as a tour guide. Her incredible passion will drive you!

Join Lisa for what will be a tour filled with laughter, good fun and the start of new friendships (and future travel buddies) to last a lifetime!

TOUR MAP



DREAMING OF AFRICA INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All 4 & 5-star accommodation
- Most meals
- Locally guided sightseeing & entrance fees as specified
- All transportation (including domestic flights) and transfers
- Our very own Lisa Anthony from Wendy Wu Tours NZ as your Host throughout the journey from/to New Zealand

The only extras you may have to pay for are personal expenditure items such as drinks, optional excursions, insurance of any kind, customary tipping of approximately \$405 NZD per person and other items not specified on the itinerary.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. Girls on Tour! South Africa is rated as a Physical Level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches, safari vehicles and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.
- The safari's will be taken in open-air 4x4 vehicles

Of course, our local guides and NZ Host will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 17 days in duration including an overnight international flight on the return journey as this is the most likely flight option from New Zealand.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of the actual tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to wendywutours.co.nz so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

For 'Land Only': Join the tour for a Welcome Dinner on Day 1 at the hotel in Johannesburg and end the tour at approximately 12 noon on Day 16 at Johannesburg Airport. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Sun 6 Sept - Arrive Johannesburg

Meals: D

In the afternoon, fly into O.R Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg) where we will be met on arrival and transferred 45 minutes to our hotel in the affluent suburb of Sandton. This evening, we will have our Welcome Dinner (and briefing with our Guide) in the hotel's Bull Run Restaurant.

Accommodation: Protea Hotel by Marriott Johannesburg Balalaika Sandton (or similar)

**Destination Information**

Johannesburg - Johannesburg, known as Joburg or Jozi, is South Africa's largest city and a vibrant economic and cultural center. With a diverse population, it reflects the country's rich diversity. The city's history is linked to the discovery of gold - and today, it offers a blend of modern attractions, museums, art precincts and nearby nature reserves.

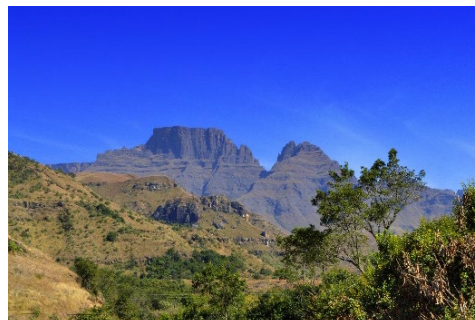
Sandton - Sandton is an affluent suburb in Johannesburg, known for its upscale lifestyle, business district and luxury amenities. It is also home to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, offers high-end shopping and fine dining.

Day 2: Mon 7 Sept - Johannesburg to Graskop

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast we'll visit Constitution Hill before travelling approximately 5.5 hours to the Mpumalanga Panorama Route region. This is a charming and picturesque area surrounded by the majestic Drakensberg Mountains, waterfalls and canyons - it serves as a gateway to the famous Kruger National Park.

Accommodation: Angels View Hotel (or similar)

**Destination Information**

Constitution Hill – Constitution Hill is a living museum that tells the story of South Africa's journey to democracy. The site is a former prison and military fort that bears testament to South Africa's turbulent past and, today, is home to the country's Constitutional Court, which endorses the rights of all citizens.

Panorama Route – A scenic region in South Africa connecting several cultural and natural points of interest. One of South Africa's most scenic drives explores the Mpumalanga Highlands, or the north-eastern section of the Great Escarpment of the Drakensberg. Here you will experience the area where the plateau comes to an abrupt and dramatic end, falling steeply away into the Lowveld accompanied by incredible views out over the grasslands of the South African Lowveld region.

Day 3: Tues 8 Sept - Panorama Route

Meals: B, L, D

Today we will experience the Graskop Gorge Lift offering breathtaking views of the forest canopy, before continuing to the Lisbon Waterfall, God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes - a natural wonder of swirling pools and rock formations. Marvel at the Three Rondavels, a majestic rock formation resembling traditional African huts.



Check-in at our private (and 5-star!) game lodge accommodation – Abelana River Lodge. This stylish, newly rebuilt 20-room lodge offers spectacular views over the Selati River. As the day draws to a close, we'll participate in our first dusk safari with the chance to spot local wildlife and indulge in a traditional 'sun downer.'

Accommodation: Abelana River Lodge (or similar)

Destination Information

Gorge Lift – A thrilling and unique forest experience offering a breath-taking view of the gorge below. The 51m lift consists of a glass-walled elevator that gently descends into the gorge, providing stunning panoramic views while at the base there is a network of suspended walkways to explore the forest floor, as well as the waterfall. Interactive exhibits and interpretation boards enable visitors to explore the diverse life that thrives under the dense canopy of trees. **Note**, only the front of the lift is glass, from waist height upwards.

God's Window - Part of the larger Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, which is the third-largest canyon in the world. The name "God's Window" is derived from the local Tsonga people, who called it "Lisbona le khleni," meaning "place of God." Standing on the edge of the cliff, visitors often feel as if they are at the edge of the world, looking out over a vast and untouched wilderness.

Bourke's Luck Potholes - A series of cylindrical rock formations created by centuries of erosion caused by the meeting of the Treur and Blyde rivers. The swirling whirlpools formed by the two rivers carried sand and rocks, slowly carving out these potholes in the bedrock. The name "Bourke's Luck" is a legend derived from the early gold rush days in the region. A man named Tom Bourke had a claim in the area but was unsuccessful in finding gold, unaware that he was quite close to a fortune. However, while he did not find gold, he did stumble upon this stunning geological marvel, and the name "Bourke's Luck" stuck.

Three Rondavels - The name "rondavel" originates from the traditional African hut, which is a circular-shaped dwelling with a thatched roof. The Three Rondavels were named because their rock formations resemble these traditional huts. The geological formations are made of quartzite and shale, and they stand proudly at the edge of the Blyde River Canyon. The first "rondavel" is named Makhonjwa, the second is named Modjadji, and the third is called Maseroto.

Days 4-5: Weds 9 to Thurs 10 Sept - Greater Kruger National Park

Meals: B, L, D

Game drives are the primary way to explore this park. These guided safari tours are conducted in open 4x4 vehicles, allowing you to get close to the animals while staying safe. Experienced safari guides lead the drives and are skilled at spotting wildlife and sharing their knowledge about the animals and their habitats.



Safaris take place during the early morning and late afternoon to maximize your chances of spotting wildlife, as many animals are more active during these cooler parts of the day.

A typical day while on safari is:

- Wake Up Call at 05h00
- Coffee, Tea, and Hot Chocolate Served with Rusk's in the Main lodge area
- Morning Game Drive commences at 05h30, and returns to the lodge at 08h30 - 09h00 for Breakfast
- Lunch is served at 13h00 – 15h00
- Afternoon Game Drive commences at approximately 16h00, and returns to the lodge at 19h00, after which Dinner is served at 19h30

Accommodation: Abelana River Lodge (or similar)

Destination Information

Greater Kruger National Park - One of Africa's premier and most renowned game reserves. It is in the northeastern part of South Africa, bordering Mozambique to the east and Zimbabwe to the north. Covering an immense area of approximately 19,485 square kilometres the park is larger than some countries and is considered one of the largest and oldest national parks on the continent. This region incorporates a great number of private reserves also adding to the conservation area of the region. Kruger National Park's primary purpose is to protect and preserve a wide variety of wildlife species and their natural habitats.

Day 6: Fri 11 Sept - Travel to Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth)

Meals: B, L, D

After our last Morning Game Drive and breakfast, we'll depart for Johannesburg, travelling about 5 hours by coach to the Airport. We'll then board our 2-hour flight to Gqeberha, where upon arrival we'll check into the hotel and enjoy dinner.

Accommodation: The Beach Hotel (or similar)

**Destination Information**

Gqeberha – Previously called Port Elizabeth and often referred to as PE, our destination is a coastal city in the Eastern Cape province and is a major seaport and tourist destination known for its beautiful beaches, pleasant climate, and diverse range of attractions. Gqeberha (pronounced as "gqe-ber-ha") is derived from the isiXhosa language, which is one of the official languages of South Africa. The name change is intended to honour and acknowledge the Xhosa heritage and the historical significance of the region.

Day 7: Sat 12 Sept - Gqeberha to Knysna

Meals: B, L, D

Depart this morning for Knysna and enroute we will tour the Oudebosch Protea Farm, learning about the country's national flower. Then, continue further to Tsitsikamma National Park - a protected area renowned for its stunning coastal and forest landscape.

Further south, we'll arrive in the picturesque town of Knysna which boasts a beautiful lagoon, the Knysna Heads and has a vibrant waterfront where we'll be having dinner later that night.



Accommodation: Protea Hotel by Marriott Knysna Quays (or similar)

Destination Information

Oudebosch Protea Farm – Learn about proteas and how they are propagated and enjoy a tour through the packing shed where the flowers are mainly prepared for export.

Tsitsikamma National Forest – A protected area along the Garden Route with highlights that include its coastal beauty, Storms River Mouth with a suspension bridge and ancient indigenous forests.

Knysna - A stunning coastal town with two striking sandstone cliffs that form a narrow entrance lagoon. Both offer panoramic views with the Eastern Head being inhabited while the Western Head is unpopulated and is a privately-owned nature reserve called Featherbed.

Day 8: Sun 13 Sept – Knysna to Oudtsoorn

Meals: B, L, D

Today's highlight is The Featherbed Eco Experience, an enchanting adventure that takes visitors on a scenic boat cruise across the Knysna Lagoon.

Afterwards a guided 4x4 ride leads you to the top of the western head, offering breathtaking views of the lagoon, ocean, and mountains. A gentle nature walk through the coastal forest provides insights into the area's unique flora and fauna. We'll enjoy a delicious lunch in this picturesque setting before continuing our journey to Oudtsoorn for the night.



Accommodation: Surval Boutique Olive Estate (or similar)

Destination Information

Featherbed Eco Experience - The privately-owned Featherbed Nature Reserve is a pristine piece of land situated on the Western Head of Knysna and is only accessible by ferry. This 4-hour outing includes a ferry cruise, 4x4 vehicle drive and a 2.2 km guided nature walk. The views are breathtaking, and the knowledgeable nature guides will share their insights of the area, fauna and flora.

Day 9: Mon 14 Sept - Oudtsoorn to Cape Town

Meals: B, L

Today in Oudtsoorn, we'll explore the fascinating Cango Caves, a subterranean wonder with impressive stalactite and stalagmite formations.

From there, we'll head to an ostrich farm for a tractor tour and enjoy a scrumptious lunch featuring ostrich delicacies. Then, our drive on Route 62 continues to Cape Town. Today's journey and sightseeing will last approximately 8 hours.



Accommodation: The Commodore Hotel (or similar)

Destination Information

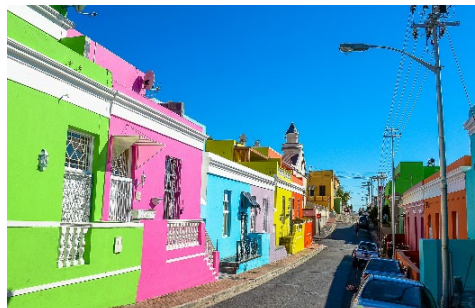
Cango Caves - Formed millions of years ago through the slow dissolution of underground rock by water. Here, we'll learn about the real discoverers and inhabitants of the cave with a comfortable walk through the most majestic of the cave chambers.

Oudtshoorn – Experience the world’s only Tractor Tour of an Ostrich Farm while you get up close and personal with the world’s largest bird. Drive inside the breeder bird camps - and also to be seen are the second largest birds, the Emus.

Day 10: Tues 15 Sept – Explore Cape Town

Meals: B, L

Start today with an orientation tour into the rich history and vibrant culture of this stunning city known as Cape Town. We’ll drive past the Castle of Good Hope, Company Gardens and Houses of Parliament.



Lunch will be quite the experience in the Bo-Kaap Kombuis neighborhood. Offering an authentic Cape Malay cooking demonstration that is hands-on, we’ll learn how to prepare traditional dishes like samosas, rotis, dhaltjies and Cape Malay curry.

Later in the day, get ready to ascend Table Mountain (weather permitting) via the cableway for breathtaking panoramic views.

Afterward, we’ll discover the magic of a diamond’s journey in South Africa. Shaped by nature, we’ll see how diamonds are transformed from mine to finger.

***Note**, should Table Mountain be closed due to weather, a drive-up Signal Hill for photo opportunities will be provided.

Accommodation: The Commodore Hotel (or similar)

Destination Information

Table Mountain – An iconic natural wonder standing proudly at over 1,000 meters above sea level. This flat-topped mountain offers breathtaking panoramic views of the city, its surrounding coastline and the majestic Atlantic Ocean.

Day 11: Weds 16 Sept - The Peninsular

Meals: B, L, D

Begin today with a thrilling 45-minute sea island cruise, where you can witness playful seals in their natural habitat. Weather permitting, we’ll also embark on a spectacular drive along Chapman’s Peak to witness views of the Atlantic Ocean, whilst discovering the rugged beauty of Cape Point where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet. We’ll also see the historic Cape Point Lighthouse for more stunning panoramic vistas. Finally, stop at the famous Boulders



Beach to see the resident penguin colony and these charming creatures up close. Touring this magnificent peninsular last for approximately 8 hours.

We end this day with an unforgettable dinner at Gold Restaurant with live entertainment.

Accommodation: The Commodore Hotel (or similar)

Destination Information

Sea Island Cruise – A wondrous ocean safari to see seals, a variety of birds and beautiful landscapes. On occasion you will see majestic whales, joyful dolphins and various other sea life. All vessels have a fully licensed bar, state-of-the-art sound system and full toilet facilities. The Nauticat also has glass bottom windows which make for incredible underwater viewing.

Chapman's Peak - Chapman's Peak is a spectacular coastal road and mountain pass offering breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, rugged cliffs and the picturesque coastline.

Boulders Beach – Famous for its adorable colony of African penguins. The beach's picturesque setting, with granite boulders and clear waters, makes it a serene spot to relax and observe the penguins in their natural habitat.

Gold Restaurant - GOLD Restaurant in Cape Town offers an authentic African experience. So much more than just an African restaurant, a night at GOLD is an immersive experience that will take you on a 14-dish taste safari paired with traditional Mali puppets and entertainment. Dinner is accompanied by interactive entertainment, and one cannot help but be swept up in the excitement of archetypal African stories told through the live entertainment, which includes praise singing to welcome you, Mali puppetry, and dancing to the rhythms of the marimba percussion and djembe drums.

Day 12: Thurs 17 Sept – Robben Island

Meals: B, L

For most, today will be an absolute highlight! Weather permitting, we'll begin in the morning with a ferry ride across to Robben Island to learn about this prison complex, and to feel a small portion of what it must have been like incarcerated as a Freedom Fighter. Lunch will be in the V&A Waterfront area at Gibsons Restaurant where we'll be joined by none other than Christo Brand who speak to us about what it was like on Robben Island as one of Nelson Mandela's prison guards.



Afterwards, you'll have some time at leisure to explore the waterfront area and hit the shops!

Accommodation: The Commodore Hotel (or similar)

Destination Information

Robben Island - The prison tour will be conducted by an official Robben Island Tour Guide as part of the island's integrated tour model. Guides are fully conversant and knowledgeable about the Island's multi-layered 500-year-old history. The tour route includes the graveyard of people who died from leprosy, the Lime Quarry, Robert Sobukwe's house, the Bluestone quarry, the army and navy bunkers and the Maximum Security Prison where thousands of South Africa's freedom fighters were incarcerated for years. The tour culminates with a viewing of Nelson Mandela's cell.

Christo Brand - Christo Brand is a South African former prison guard who was one of several that were responsible for guarding Nelson Mandela. He came to Robben Island, where Mandela was being held, in 1978 when he was 19 years old. In 1982 he was transferred along with Mandela to Pollsmoor Prison. Christo and Mandela developed a close friendship over the course of many years. Christo retired from Robben Island on 31st July 2018 to pursue his story-telling and writing on a full-time basis.

Day 13: Fri 18 Sept - Winelands

Meals: B, L

Embark on a delightful Winelands tour exploring world renowned regions, starting in Stellenbosch at Blaauwklippen Vineyards. We'll also briefly see the town before making our way to the charming village of Franschhoek. Boschendal Wine Farm awaits with its picturesque vineyards and rich history. Taste exquisite wines and savour a delicious 3-course lunch at Haute Cabriere, offering magnificent views of the valley. Discover the art of winemaking and sample their finest vintages. You will enjoy approximately 7 hours discovering this picturesque region.



Destination Information

Winelands Region – A wine lover's paradise and a feast for the senses. With its picturesque vineyards, historic estates, and stunning landscapes, it offers a memorable escape from city life. Indulge in wine tastings, explore charming towns with Cape Dutch architecture, and savor delectable cuisine at a top-notch restaurant.

Accommodation: The Commodore Hotel (or similar)

Day 14:**Sat 19 Sept – Cape Town to Victoria Falls**

Meals: B

After breakfast, we'll travel to Cape Town International Airport where we board our direct flight to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

Once checked into the hotel adjacent to the town's golf course, enjoy a peaceful and unforgettable afternoon sunset cruise (selected beverages and canapes included) along the majestic Zambezi River. Here we hope to spot hippos and crocodiles lounging on the riverbanks, with elephants often appearing to drink at the water's edge.



Accommodation: Insika Lodge (or similar)

Destination Information

Victoria Falls – Victoria Falls thunders with breathtaking power, as the Zambezi River plunges dramatically into the gorge below. Known as "The Smoke That Thunders," the falls create a towering mist visible for miles, while rainbows dance in the spray.

Day 15:**Sun 20 Sept – Explore Victoria Falls**

Meals: B, L, A/Tea

With our guide this morning, we'll wander along a pathway through lush rainforest (hearing the roar of tumbling water getting louder and louder) to reach several different lookout points. Before us will be one of the world's most awe-inspiring sights - Victoria Falls. A whopping 1,708m across with a 100m drop into the Zambezi Gorge, the falls have been mesmerizing travelers with its sheer power and beauty for centuries.

After walking, we can fortify once again with lunch at the iconic Lookout Café, open air and boasting glorious views of the Batoka Gorge. This will give you the energy to explore the local village and to buy some last-minute souvenirs before a very special Afternoon High Tea at the famous Victoria Falls Hotel - a fabulous way to Farewell what has been an incredible "Girl's on Tour."



Accommodation: Insika Lodge (or similar)

Days 16/17:**Mon 21 Sept - Victoria Fall to Johannesburg****Meals: B**

Sadly, today we farewell our newly found friends and transfer to the Victoria Falls International Airport for our flight to Johannesburg, and then begin the journey home later in the afternoon.



SOUTH AFRICA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders currently do **not** require a visa to enter South Africa. However, your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to New Zealand and contain at least three blank pages within.

New Zealand passport holders **will** require a single-entry visa to enter Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls Airport. Upon arrival at the airport in Zimbabwe, guests are asked to proceed to the Immigration Counter where you'll be provided with an '**Immigration Declaration Form**' to complete and request to pay the visa fee in cash (US dollars). It's advisable to have the exact change of US\$30 to ensure a smooth process. We suggest that you take x2 professional passport photos with you as well.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate. Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Eating in South Africa is a diverse and flavourful experience, reflecting the country's rich cultural heritage and its blend of indigenous, European, Asian, and African influences. The cuisine is influenced by the country's history and various ethnic groups. You'll find traditional African dishes, Dutch, British, Indian, and Malay-inspired foods, among others. The iconic braai, a barbecue feast of meats and traditional sauces, embodies communal gatherings. Biltong and droëwors offer savoury snacking options, while dishes like bobotie, a fragrant blend of spiced meat and custard, showcase Cape Malay influences. Indian-inspired samosas and the unique bunny chow add further dimension to South African dining. From pap and wors, a staple pairing of maize porridge and sausages, to seafood harvested from the extensive coastline, the culinary scene is a celebration of diversity. Wine regions like Stellenbosch, and cultural festivals, highlight the country's love for wine and food throughout.

Ultimately, South African cuisine tells a story of cultural fusion and community, inviting locals and visitors alike to savour its distinctive flavours. Restaurants in South Africa offer good value. In every city you'll find fine restaurants with imaginative menus. Generally, restaurants are licensed (sell alcohol) except for Muslim establishments serving Cape Cuisine which don't sell alcohol at all. In big cities such as Cape Town, continental-style cafes are also popular. Service is good and friendly.

Note, please inform us of any allergies and/or special dietary requirements at the time of your booking so we can ensure a quality and healthy experience for you.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in South Africa have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in South Africa have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Public Transport: South Africa does not have a well-developed public transport system. All the cities have a municipal bus service, which runs according to an established schedule, but only until a certain time of night. The service is infrequent and even more limited over the weekends and public holidays. Towns do not offer a municipal bus service. It is not recommended that tourists use public transport.

Taxis: There are mainly two types of taxis in South Africa. Metered taxis are more expensive and are found mainly in the cities, although some small towns may have a limited number. They cannot be hailed from the street and must either be ordered by phone or secured at the taxi ranks, which are scarce. Minibus taxis are the cheapest, but also the most uncomfortable. Violence connected with minibus taxis, and a relatively high accident rate, make this the least preferable mode of transport.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world, with South Africa & Zimbabwe being no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. To avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where an amount of \$75 USD (for South Africa) and 3000 ZAR (for Zimbabwe) per person is given to your Host (Lisa Anthony) at the beginning of the tour - and then tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides, drivers, trackers and rangers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers, while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort in both South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants, restaurant staff or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure the smooth operation of your tour.

ACCOMMODATION:

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV and a telephone. Electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. Hotels are generally rated as local four-star standard, but do note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and South Africa/Zimbabwe. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff, and our ground partners, to ensure that standards are met. Please be aware that there are security measures carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When traveling to South Africa, especially in warm and sunny climates, it's advisable to pack light and comfortable clothing made from cotton in light colours to stay cool. Long-sleeved shirts and trousers can provide protection from the sun and insects. Carrying a lightweight waterproof jacket is also a good idea in case of unexpected rain. A sturdy pair of trainers or hiking shoes is essential for exploring various terrains comfortably. To shield yourself from the sun, a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses are important items to have.

Don't forget to capture the stunning landscapes and experiences with a camera, and make sure to bring along chargers and spare memory cards. A lightweight flashlight can be handy for navigating in low-light conditions. Prioritize your well-being by packing a medical kit that includes essentials like first aid supplies and any personal medications you might need. If you're visiting malaria-prone areas, remember to take appropriate anti-malarial precautions. With these essentials in your luggage, you'll be well prepared for a memorable and comfortable adventure in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

PARK RULES:

Game Drive Rules:

- Guests should always remain seated.
- Refrain from talking when viewing animals.
- Always keep arms and legs within the confines of the game drive vehicle.
- Do not grab onto any branches or leaves whilst the vehicle is moving.

- Strictly no feeding of animals.
- Guests should note that game drive vehicles are open to the elements.
- Ensure to wear comfortable / neutral colouring clothing.
- Sun Hats, and Sunglasses in particular, are advisable.
- Bring a light jacket with as it gets chilly during the early morning and once the sun sets on afternoon drives.
- Warmer jackets, beanies and scarves are advisable for winter months.

WEATHER:

Temperate conditions are typical in South Africa and Zimbabwe, making it a popular destination for sunshine-seekers. South Africa is renowned for almost seven months of sunshine. From May to August, temperatures drop. April and May are the most temperate months. In certain areas however, notably the hot and humid KwaZulu-Natal coast, Mpumalanga and the Northern Province, June and July are the ideal holiday months. The wide expanses of ocean on three sides of South Africa have a moderating influence on its climate. More apparent, however, are the effects of the warm Agulhas and cold Benguela currents along the east and west coasts, respectively. While Durban (east coast) and Port Nolloth (West Coast) lie on the same latitude, there is a difference of at least 6 degrees centigrade in their mean annual temperatures.

Temperatures

Despite a latitudinal span of 13 degrees, average annual temperatures are remarkably uniform throughout South Africa. Owing to the increase in the height of the plateau towards the Northeast, there is hardly any increase in temperature from south to north, as might be expected. There is a striking contrast between temperatures on the east and west coasts. Temperatures above 32°C are fairly common in Summer and frequently exceed 38°C in the lower Orange River Valley and the Mpumalanga Lowveld.

The average temperatures in degrees Celsius are:

City	Province	Summer	Winter
Cape Town	Western Cape	24°C	22°C
Port Elizabeth	Eastern Cape	25°C	20°C
Johannesburg	Gauteng	24°C	18°C
Pretoria	Gauteng	27°C	22°C
Nelspruit	Mpumalanga	28°C	23°C

Rainfall

South Africa has an average annual rainfall of 464 mm, compared with a world average of 860 mm. About 20% of the country has a total annual rainfall of less than 200 mm, 48% between 200 and 600 mm, while only about 30% records more than 600 mm. Only the Western Cape experiences winter rainfall whilst the rest of the country has summer rains.

Caution

South Africa has one of the world's highest sunshine rates and everyone should take extra care, especially between 11h00 and 15h00. Sunscreen lotion with a protection factor of at least 20 is advised against the high UV rating.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety guidelines when:

At the hotel:

- Never leave your luggage unattended in public places.
- Store valuables in the hotel's safety deposit box.
- Keep your room locked, whether you're in it or not.
- If someone knocks, check who it is before opening the door.
- Always leave your keys at the reception desk when leaving the hotel.

In the street:

- Avoid displays of any jewellery, cameras and/or other valuables.
- It's definitely not advisable to carry large sums of money around.
- At night, use common sense and steer clear of dark and isolated areas.
- Do not walk around the city looking like a tourist.
- It's better to explore in groups and to stick to well-lit, busy streets.
- Plan your route beforehand.
- A policeman or traffic officer will be glad to direct you if you get lost.
- If you want to call a taxi, your hotel or the nearest tourism information office can recommend a reliable service.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURING:

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during the tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health Centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

The risk of contracting malaria is often a concern when visiting the Kruger National Park. The Kruger

is one of the two South African National Parks that are situated in **malaria risk areas**. It is important to note that the risk of malaria is usually low, even in the summer months. The highest risk period is between November and April - the end of the summer rainy season.

Malaria

Malaria within South Africa's borders is only prevalent in a few areas. It is encountered mainly in northern and eastern Mpumalanga, northern Kwa-Zulu Natal, and the border areas of the Northern and Northwest Provinces. Should you be visiting these areas malaria precautions are advised. Malaria transmission is at its highest during the warmer and wetter months of November through to April. From May through to October the risks of acquiring malaria are reduced.

Anti malaria prophylactics are advisable year-round. Expert opinion differs regarding the best approach to malaria prophylaxis. It is important to bear in mind that malaria may be contracted despite chemoprophylaxis, especially in areas where chloroquine resistance has been reported. Please remember that the best insurance is the preventative kind: avoid being bitten by using mosquito repellents liberally. Wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers/slacks in the evenings. If staying in a bungalow or tent, spray with an insecticide to kill any mosquitoes that may have flown into your room. Mosquito coils are also effective.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to each country's specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: 8 July 2025