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The Superior South African Experience - 12 Days / 11 Nights

This adventure starts at OR Tambo International Airport and ends at Cape Town International Airport.

DAY 1

Upon arrival at OR Tambo International Airport, you will be met our representative and transferred by road to Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff. After a bawdy start as a tent and shanty town, today Johannesburg is the second largest city in Africa. Had it not been for the discovery of gold by prospector George Harrison, who pegged the first claim on the reef, sold it for just £10 and disappeared without a trace, the city probably wouldn't even be in existence. Known as the greatest gold-mining area on earth, this vibrant city is not just an industrial giant, but the heart of the country's economy. From traditional 'muti' (medicine) shops, exclusive boutiques in upmarket malls, theatres and museums to cultural villages, restaurants, beautiful walks in indigenous gardens and more, Johannesburg is a diverse cultural melting pot.

Spend one night at Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff. Accommodation is in a deluxe room with en-suite bathroom. Your stay includes breakfast.

DAY 2

After breakfast you will be collected by our representative for your half day Soweto tour. This 3-hour guided tour takes you into the heart of the vibrant Soweto Township, which produced three Nobel Peace Prize winners. Here you visit the Mandela Family Museum, Hector Pieterse Memorial commemorating the 1976 student uprising, the Regina Mundi Church and a shebeen – an informal bar (optional). You will be transferred by road to the Federal Air hanger at OR Tambo International Airport for your Federal Air flight to Singita airstrip. On arrival at Singita airstrip, you will be met by a representative from Singita and transferred to Singita Boulders Lodge.

The Sabi Sand Game Reserve consists of more than 65 000 hectares (160 620 acres) that border the Kruger National Park. With no fences between the farms (or, for that matter, between them and the Kruger Park), animals wander across vast stretches of grazing land as they did years and years ago. With one of the richest game populations in the country, the chances of seeing the Big Five (lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant and rhino) are excellent. The Reserve is also home to a host of other animals!

Spend three nights at Singita Boulders Lodge in a suite with ensuite bathroom. Your stay includes accommodation, all meals and beverages (including premium wines, spirits and liqueurs, but excluding French Champagne), twice daily open Land Rover safaris, walking safaris, mountain biking safaris (accompanied by experienced guides and trackers), return road transfers between the Singita airstrip and the lodges.

DAY 3

On day three experience the Cascades and Canyon Spectacular. This is an exhilarating flight that swoops over deep and mysterious gorges, through lush valleys bursting with vegetation and colour. You will be collected from your lodge in the southern part of the Sabi Sands and chauffeured through to Hazyview, where you will meet your helicopter pilot. You will linger above cascading waterfalls, allowing for spectacular photographic opportunities. The flight will continue along the escarpment to God's Window, which offers awesome panoramic views of the bushveld below and on to the fascinating and dramatic rock formations of the 1 000-metre-deep, 30-kilometre-long Blyde River

Canyon, (the third deepest and greenest Canyon in the World). You will have a bird's eye view of the curious Three Rondavels! We will land at a sight with magnificent views of the Mpumalanga Lowveld, where you are invited to enjoy a delicious picnic accompanied by South African Sparkling wine. Once the helicopter lands for the final time, you will be transferred back to your luxurious lodge in the heart of the Sabi Sands.

DAY 4

Explore the bush on twice-daily game drives that venture out in search of the Big Five, as well as a host of other fascinating creatures. The Sabi Sand is particularly well known for sightings of the normally elusive leopard, so make sure to keep an eye out for this graceful and elegant cat. The early morning game drives leaves shortly after dawn, with the mysteries of the bush lying open before you. Your experienced ranger and tracker team will discuss what you hope to see prior to the drive and will do their best to find all your favourite animals for you.

After breakfast there is the option to set off on a bush walk and explore the finer details of your surroundings, from animal tracks to plants, insects and birds.

Another game drive sets off in the late afternoon, continuing after dark in search of a fascinating glimpse into the nocturnal lives of Africa's predators.

DAY 5

You will be transferred by road to Singita airstrip for your Federal Air flight to Phinda airstrip. Upon arrival at Phinda airstrip, you will be warmly welcomed by a member of the &Beyond team and driven to &Beyond Phinda Vlei Lodge.

Set within easy reach of the Indian Ocean coastline and the famous iSimangaliso / Greater St Lucia Wetland Park in northern KwaZulu-Natal, Phinda Private Game Reserve is known for its abundant wildlife, diversity of habitats and wide range of safari activities. Thanks to its coastal rainfall pattern, the Reserve enjoys a lush green environment that contains seven distinct ecosystems. &Beyond Phinda is often referred to as 'Seven Worlds of Wonder.' This fascinating variety of landscape and vegetation shelters an abundance of wildlife, including not only the Big Five but many rarer and less easily spotted species, such as the elusive cheetah or the scarce black rhino. With only a handful of lodges sharing an area of 23 000 hectares, and expert rangers and trackers in search of prime wildlife sightings, guests are assured an exclusive game viewing experience. Adding to Phinda's wildlife charms, the marine diversity of nearby Sodwana Bay on the coast is easily accessible, with scuba diving, fishing and even turtle watching only some of the adventures available from Phinda.

Spend three nights at Phinda Vlei Lodge. Accommodation is in an air conditioned suite with ensuite bathroom dressing room, private plunge pool and game viewing deck, overlooks the grassy vlei where guests can observe herds of grazing antelope and a dazzling variety of birdlife Your stay includes three meals daily, soft drinks, house wines, local brand spirits and beers, teas and coffees, emergency medical evacuation insurance, laundry and daily lodge adventures.

DAY 6 & 7

Adventures include twice-daily game drives in open 4x4 safari vehicles, nature walks, excellent bird watching, riverboat cruises and canoeing along the Mzinene River. Optional Phinda Adventures, available at an additional cost, include Maputaland beach adventures, night turtle drives, scuba safaris, black rhino tracking on foot, visits to an endangered wild cats project and swimming with whale sharks. Specialist Safaris at Phinda (also at an additional cost) are birding, photographic, rhino capture and research, tracking, luxury walking, family and private safaris.

DAY 8

After breakfast you will be transferred to the Airstrip for your Federal Air flight to King Shaka International Airport. On arrival at King Shaka International Airport, you will check in for your regional flight to Cape Town International Airport.

Upon arrival at Cape Town International Airport, you will be met our representative and transferred by road to Delaire Graff Lodge and Spa.

The second town to be founded in South Africa in 1685, Governor Simon van der Stel liked the area so much, he named it after himself! Known as the 'town of the oaks' – some of which are so old they've been proclaimed national monuments, many of the town's original gabled and thatched buildings still stand. From brandy museums, to wine estates, churches and beautiful old houses, Stellenbosch may be steeped in history, but the town has certainly aged well – probably due to the number of students that pedal their way around this important university town. Whilst the world-famous Stellenbosch wine route has attracted many a visitor, be warned: after three or four tastings, even connoisseurs have been known to express the opinion that everything here tastes good!

Spend two nights at Delaire Graff Lodge and Spa. Accommodation is in a luxury lodge with en-suite bathroom. Your stay includes breakfast, daily newspaper, mini bar, Nespresso machine, wireless internet access, daily Stellenbosch town transfers, valet service, Delaire wine tasting and evening sparkling wine with canapes.

DAY 9

On day nine you will experience a private full day Winelands Tour. The Cape Winelands are known for producing some of the world's finest wines. Add to this a smattering of gourmet cuisine; some of the country's most truly spectacular scenery and a sprinkling of the region's colourful history, and you have a tour that will delight the heart of any wine lover. Your adventure kicks off with a healthy dose of history as you drive past the Groot Drakenstein Prison and see for yourself the very spot where Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela took his first steps as a free man following his release from this jail. Feast your eyes on the scenic sights of the quaint village of Franschhoek and imbibe another slice of history at the elegant Huguenot monument, which celebrates the cultural influences of this group of intrepid settlers. Then it's time to tantalise your taste buds with wine tasting at some of the country's premier wine estates before heading off for yet more gastronomic delights with lunch in the town, known as South Africa's gourmet capital. Finally, soak in the visual treats of the scenic Helshoogte Mountain Pass before walking off your lunch on the pretty, oak-lined streets of Stellenbosch, where you can admire the grace and style of traditional Cape Dutch architecture.

DAY 10

After breakfast you will be collected for your half day City and Table Mountain Tour. Discover the cultural melting pot that is Cape Town, from slaves' quarters to castles, Dutch buildings and the colourful Malay quarter. An icon of the city, no trip is complete without a visit to magnificent Table Mountain to gaze down upon the sprawling seaside metropolis or, if the weather is not favourable, to its smaller cousin, the similarly flat-topped Signal Hill. Once you have viewed the town from above, descend deep into its heart, starting with the exclusive and secluded beaches of Clifton and moving to the hustle and bustle of the paved walkway along the waterfront known as Sea Point promenade, with its restaurants, bars and shops. Step back in time as your feet touch the cobblestones of Greenmarket Square, one of the city's oldest markets and now home to a vibrant mass of stalls selling just about anything under the sun. Give in to the allure of a peaceful stroll through Company Gardens, established by Dutch settlers in 1652 and gaze at the multitude of historical landmarks that surround this quiet oasis, from the Houses of Parliament to the historical Castle of Good Hope and the haunting Slave Lodge, home to thousands of slaves of the Dutch East India Company. Experience yet another of Cape Town's many faces in the traditional Malay Quarter, with its narrow streets, colourful houses, mosques and minarets, where your adventure will end to the sound of the noonday gun being fired from Signal Hill, as it has for thousands of years before.

After your tour, you will be transferred by road to One&Only Cape Town. With Table Mountain – one of the most spiritual places on earth – at its heart and two oceans at its feet, the city of Cape Town, strategically situated at the south-western tip of Africa, has been famed for centuries as the Tavern of the Seas. Vibrant, cosmopolitan and an eclectic mix of old and new, this laid-back city is as much at home with its 17th century castle – whose cannons have never been fired in anger – as it is with its sleek skyscrapers and trendy malls. Home to South Africa's first Mosque, oldest wine farm, a 350 year old garden and timelessly beautiful beaches, it's no surprise the legendary Flying Dutchman and his spectral ship have spent eternity sailing the city's shores.

Spend two nights at One&Only Cape Town. Accommodation is in a Marina Table Mountain room. Your stay includes full English breakfast.

DAY 11

On day eleven experience a private half day Cape Point tour. A magnificent showcase of the Cape's natural beauty, this whirlwind tour proudly shows off the region's spectacular scenery. Silky white sands contrast against ocean blue waters on the beaches of Clifton, while the trendy sidewalk cafes and bars of Camp's Bay draw in leisurely strollers eager for the ideal spot to enjoy the lovely scenery. Carved into the cliffside, the thrilling Chapman's Peak Drive delivers a thrilling jolt of adrenalin, combined with a healthy dose of awe at the exquisite vistas. For a moment of light relief, enjoy the antics of the thronging masses of penguins that hustle in and out among the massive seaside rock of Boulders Beach. Finish your day with a hint of nostalgia at beautiful Simon's Town, where you can listen to stories of the daring history of the town's naval base.

Experience a Robben Island Helicopter scenic flight. This incredible journey begins with a scenic helicopter flight up the West Coast (renowned for its spectacular wild flowers) to Blaauwberg before turning towards historical Robben Island. The helicopter will circle the Island, providing exceptional photographic opportunities and insight as to why it was used as a prison in the Apartheid era. Afterwards, you'll turn back to the cityscape of Cape Town.

DAY 12

You will be transferred by road to Cape Town International Airport.