

DAY 1 CAPE TOWN

Arrive at any time. Arrival transfer included.

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

Meet your Cape Town G Adventures representative at the hotel (at approx. 18:00) - please have a look at the information board in the hotel. Your rep will go through your tour details, help you with booking optional activities, and be your contact person for the next few days.

Inn on the Square (or similar)

DAY 2 CAPE TOWN

Visit Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden with an expert guide on a tour exclusively designed for our groups – the garden has been named one of the top gardens in the world by National Geographic Traveler magazine. Continue on to explore vibrant Cape Town and Cape Point, with a visit to the penguins at Boulders Beach.

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens Guided Tour

Stop and smell the flowers on a tour specially designed for National Geographic travellers. Visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, led by an expert who will talk about the history of the gardens, its exhibits and a behind the scenes look at the mother beds. The garden is administered by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) who have received funding from National Geographic and the site has been named one of the Top 10 gardens in the world by National Geographic Traveler.

Enjoy some free time to explore the city; opt to visit the Waterfront complex, which features an aquarium, several shops, and excellent restaurants.

Inn on the Square (or similar)

Meals included: (B)

DAY 3 CAPE TOWN

Enjoy a day of leisure and choose from a variety of optional activities, including Table Mountain or a Stellenbosch wine tour.

There is something for everyone in Cape Town. Visit Table Mountain, walk the V&A Waterfront or embark on a wine tour in and around Stellenbosch. For the adventurous, opt to go skydiving, abseiling, or, if you're really brave, cage diving for a close encounter with a great white shark. Wander through the city centre, which has some of the oldest buildings and gardens in South Africa. Check out the Cultural Historical Museum, Planetarium, and many other museums and theatres.

Inn on the Square (or similar)

Meals included: (B)

DAY 4 CAPE TOWN/JOHANNESBURG

Fly to Johannesburg and transfer to the hotel. Meet your CEO and enjoy a traditional South African “braai” (barbecue) welcome dinner in the evening.

Malikana Guesthouse (or similar)

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 5 JOHANNESBURG/KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a full day scenic drive along the famed Panorama Route with stops at Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, and God's Window. Continue to our tented camp located just outside Kruger National Park.

Today is a very long driving day; however, we will make many stops along the way at sites along the Panorama Route.

Enjoy a scenic drive along the famed Panorama Route. You'll see magnificent mountains, panoramic passes, valleys, and waterfalls. There will also be stops at Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, and God's Window.

Nkambeni Safari Camp (or similar)

Meals included: (B)

DAY 6 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a morning wildlife safari drive through Kruger National Park in an open vehicle. Take in views of the abundant wildlife including elephants, lions and giraffe. Afterwards, opt to take an afternoon safari drive, wildlife bush walk, or relax on the deck with views of the watering hole - a popular spot for animals to visit. This evening enjoy a delicious South African dinner on the deck or in the boma.

At over 19,000 sq km (7,500 sq mi), South Africa's Kruger National Park is one of the largest and most impressive animal reserves in the world. With 147 species, Kruger has more species of large mammals than any other park on the continent.

Get a better view and take better snapshots aboard this off-road ride.

Opt to take an optional afternoon safari drive or game walk.

Embark on a bush walk in Kruger National Park with a local guide/ranger. Encounter the wildlife and enjoy an on the ground perspective of this amazing ecosystem.

Nkambeni Safari Camp (or similar)

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 7 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK/KARONGWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Continue on to a private nature reserve in the Greater Kruger area. This afternoon, take in a lecture with a researcher from the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Cheetah Metapopulation Project who will share information about their efforts to protect cheetahs and other carnivores. This National Geographic-sponsored project is part of the Big Cats Initiative. After, the researcher will join us on our evening game drive.

For the next two days, enjoy ranger-led morning and evening game drives in an open safari vehicle in Karongwe Nature Reserve. Search for buffaloes, elephants, leopards, lions, and rhinos – Africa's famed Big Five. With over 9,000 hectares (22,240 acres) of supreme African bushveld, Karongwe Private Game Reserve is home to many creatures, and our safari drives provide several opportunities for game viewing.

We use various accommodations within the reserve (the location is based on availability). During your time here, you will either stay in lodge rooms or very comfortable permanent tents (both of equal quality and with similar amenities).

Game drives are conducted with qualified game rangers and Shangaan trackers who will share their vast experience of the African bush.

On some occasions, if space is unavailable, we may need to change accommodations or even use a different private reserve. In such a case, be assured we will choose other lodges or comfort camps (of equal quality) within the Greater Kruger area.

National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Carnivore Conservation Experience

Meet with a researcher from the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Cheetah Metapopulation Project, a project managed by National Geographic grantee Vincent van der Merwe. A member of Vincent's team will give a talk about cheetahs in South Africa and the important research CMP is doing. We will also discuss conservation within parks and reserves in South Africa and National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative. You will then be accompanied by the researcher on a game drive to give you more insight into cheetahs and other carnivores.

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 8 KARONGWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Enjoy early morning and afternoon safari drives with our local guides, searching for buffaloes, elephants, leopards, lions, and rhinos – Africa's famed Big Five. In our down time, relax at the camp, take a walk around the grounds or enjoy a cool drink on the deck.

Wake up before the sun (around 5am) and sip your morning coffee before heading out on a morning game drive. Return to the lodge following the game drive for brunch and some leisure time.

Converse on the deck, walk the grounds and gardens, and enjoy high tea. Following tea, it's time for the late afternoon game drive. After spotting tons of wildlife, it's time to return to camp and freshen up before dinner.

Karongwe Private Reserve Open Vehicle Wildlife Safari Drive

Relax and enjoy some down time between game drives.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 9 KARONGWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE/JOHANNESBURG

After one last safari game drive, head back to the city. In the evening, enjoy dinner at our local guest house.

Jump into a safari 4x4 and keep your eyes open for fantastic wildlife encounters. Game drives are conducted with qualified game rangers and Shangaan trackers; both will share their vast experience of the African bush.

Malikana Guesthouse (or similar)

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 10 JOHANNESBURG/WINDHOEK

Fly to Windhoek and transfer to the hotel. Free time to explore Windhoek in the afternoon and then meet your CEO and the rest of the group in the evening.

Windhoek Country Club Resort (or similar)

Meals included: (B)

DAY 11 WINDHOEK/SESRIEM

Enjoy the dramatic Namibian landscapes as we drive to the desert area of Sesriem, gateway to Namib-Naukluft National Park. Settle in to our desert lodge, relax at the pool or enjoy a cool drink watching the stunning sunset over the desertscape.

Enjoy postcard perfect desert scenery around Sesriem and Sossusvlei - vast deserts of reds and orange, stark camel thorn trees and towering dunes with dramatic curved ridges. Also keep an eye out for the surprising amount of wildlife that call this area home such as oryx, springbok, jackal, ground squirrel and hyena.

Sossusvlei Lodge (or similar)

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 12 SESRIEM

Embark on a scenic excursion into the national park to explore the Namib Desert. Visit Sossusvlei and Deadvlei, clay pans covered in a crust of salt-rich sand surrounded by burnt orange and red towering dunes; considered one of the most stunning desert landscapes in Africa. After visit Sesriem Canyon, a natural gorge carved out by the Tsauchab River.

Sesriem Canyon Visit

Enjoy a short stop at Sesriem Canyon, a small canyon typical of the area. The Tsauchab River flows through the canyon every five to ten years, and this creates the nearby salt and clay pan of Sossusvlei.

Sossusvlei Dunes Visit

This area is famous for its high, red sand dunes. This clay and salt pan is surrounded by the dunes, making it a spectacularly beautiful sight with a remote and isolated feel.

Sossusvlei Lodge (or similar)

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 13 SESRIEM/SWAKOPMUND

Continue through changing desert landscapes, keeping an eye out for free-roaming zebra, kudu, springbok and oryx. Stop in the quirky town of Solitaire for a break before heading out into the countryside. Here we meet a local to this remote region who takes us on a drive and talks about the survival strategies of ancient and modern Bushmen who live in the area. We also search out the smaller animal life who manage to survive in these harsh conditions such as snakes, geckos, spiders and insects and learn how they have adapted to this arid region. After, continue to Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast.

Living Desert Tour

Hop into a 4x4 vehicle and set out into the desert. An expert guide will point out signs of animal life and emphasize survival in the harsh desert landscape for both humans and animals.

Hotel Zum Kaiser (or similar)

Breakfast | Lunch

DAY 14 SWAKOPMUND

Enjoy the morning free and opt to go quad biking or sandboarding or just take a walk in town. This afternoon, visit the township of Mondesa with a local guide. Visit the lively local market for an introduction to traditional food including Wild Spinach, Mopane worms and dried Kapenta Fish. Also visit Datango art and craft shop, a project that helps train local unemployed youth in traditional crafts. After, visit the shebeen (Tavern) for a cool drink, then visit a traditional restaurant for dinner and enjoy entertainment by the local choir.

Explore the town's unique mix of German and African culture and opt to visit curio shops, the museum and restaurants. Optional activities include sandboarding, quad biking, or if you're feeling brave, skydiving.

Enjoy a free morning in the historic coastal town of Swakopmund.

National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Mondesa Township Walk

Visit the working-class community of Mondesa Township with an expert resident guide. Learn about its daily life, history and traditions through an immersive experience with the welcoming people that live here. Visit its lively market for an introduction to traditional foods like wild spinach, mopane worms, and dried kapenta fish. Also visit an arts-and-crafts shop that helps train the township's youth in traditional crafts. Drop by a shebeen (tavern) to enjoy a favourite drink, meet some local residents, and even dance to popular African music. Finally, continue on to a local home for dinner and entertainment by a choir from the township.

Hotel Zum Kaiser (or similar)

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 15 SWAKOPMUND/TWYFELFONTEIN

Continue on to Twyfelfontein where we visit the ancient petroglyphs which were named Namibia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. The site is thought to hold the largest concentrations of Bushman engravings in Africa, with over 2500 figures, ranging from 2000-5000 years old.

Prehistoric Rock Engravings Guided Tour

Step back in time to see prehistoric rock engravings made during the early Stone Age. Their exact origin is uncertain, but these works depicting animals and hunters are probably the work of Bushmen or Nama artists estimated to have lived near Twyfelfontein at least 5,000 years ago. Marvel at the more than 2,500 rock carvings and paintings and understand why this is Namibia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Palmwag Lodge (or similar)

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 16 TWYFELFONTEIN/ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Depart early to visit the Petrified Forest national monument, a stunning site of fossilized tree trunks dating from approximately 280 million years ago. Continue to our lodge located in the Etosha National Park area, considered the greatest wildlife sanctuary in Namibia. This afternoon, take an open vehicle game drive to view the abundant wildlife who congregate around the park's waterholes.

After the vast desert, Etosha National Park, offers a contrast of wide open grasslands, a massive pan that covers 4731km² and tall camel thorn trees intermixed with Mopani trees. Combined with the vast amount of natural waterholes with this diverse vegetation, wildlife flock to the park. Some of the largest elephants in Africa can be found in areas of thicker vegetation, as well as leopard and the critically endangered black rhino. Lions, giraffe, ostrich and heard animals the grasslands, while birders will love the salt pans which attract flamingos in the rainy season. More than 340 bird species have been counted in Etosha National Park including the European bee-eater, the kori bustard and numerous migratory birds.

Etosha is a very popular park with limited accommodation. While we aim to secure lodging inside the park, on some departures we will stay at lodges adjacent to the park (the park is unfenced allowing the animals to roam freely throughout the area) which still provides access to all safari activities and wildlife.

Visit Petrified Forest national monument

Visit the Petrified Forest national monument, a stunning site of fossilized tree trunks which was discovered in the 1940s by local farmers. This bizarre stone forest consists of fossilized tree trunks dating from approximately 280 million years ago.

Etosha Open Vehicle Wildlife Safari Drive

Etosha National Park

Set off in an open 4x4 safari vehicle with a naturalist guide in search of the stunning wildlife in the park. Wildlife often come to the many watering holes to drink, so keep your eyes peeled for many animals on the move.

Etosha NP Okaukuejo Restcamp (or similar)

Campground

Meals Included: (B)

DAY 17 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Early this morning, embark on a sunrise wildlife safari drive in an open vehicle with a local guide through the park. There is abundant wildlife that congregate around the waterholes, so keep your cameras at the ready for elephants, lions, endangered black rhinos, and even leopards. The remainder of the day is free to relax at our lodge, take a swim or join our CEO for a drive. Our lodge is perfectly situated, so sit back with a sundowner, and enjoy the sunset over the park. This afternoon or evening, opt to take another open vehicle safari drive.

Etosha Open Vehicle Wildlife Safari Drive

Etosha National Park

Set off in an open 4x4 safari vehicle with a naturalist guide in search of the stunning wildlife in the park. Wildlife often come to the many watering holes to drink, so keep your eyes peeled for many animals on the move.

Etosha NP Okaukuejo Restcamp (or similar)

Campground

Meals Included: (B)

DAY 18 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK/WINDHOEK

After breakfast, visit the Cheetah Conservation Fund, a global field research and education facility founded by Dr. Laurie Marker whose research has been supported by National Geographic. Tour the facility to learn about the important research, conservation, and community outreach work they do as one of the world's leading organizations dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild. Meet with a researcher for a lecture to learn about the various projects in the works, then enjoy a cheetah drive to view some of these amazing creatures up close. After, enjoy lunch on the veranda overlooking the magnificent Waterberg Plateau. Continue on to Windhoek for our final evening.

National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Cheetah Conservation Experience

The Cheetah Conservation Fund is a global field research and education facility founded by Dr. Laurie Marker whose research has been supported by National Geographic. Tour the centre and learn about the important conservation and community outreach work they perform as one of the world's leading organizations dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild. One of the program's researchers will give us a lecture before we head out on a cheetah drive to view some of these incredible creatures up close in their natural habitat. Conclude the experience by sitting down as a group for lunch on the veranda that overlooks the magnificent Waterberg Plateau.

Windhoek Country Club Resort (or similar)

Breakfast | Lunch

DAY 19 WINDHOEK/VICTORIA FALLS

Fly to Zimbabwe and enjoy a guided tour along the trails of the famous falls. Gain insight into what life's like in Africa with a walk through a local market and dinner at a family homestead. Meet the family, learn their history, and share stories as you help prepare a traditional Zimbabwean dinner.

The mist off Victoria Falls can rise to a height of more than 400m (1312 ft). Local tribes used to call the falls Mosi-o-Tunya or “the smoke that thunders.” Explorer and missionary David Livingstone renamed the falls after Queen Victoria when he first saw them in 1855.

Victoria Falls Guided Tour

Join a knowledgeable guide for an unforgettable experience at Victoria Falls. Explore the rainforest and learn about the geology, history, and local legends of this world wonder. After your immersion, get up close to the falls and discover the beauty of “the smoke that thunders.” Be sure to have your camera ready!

National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Zimbabwean Family Dinner

Flatter Ncube is the head of her family which includes two sisters and numerous children. She’s the youngest of a family of 10 and, now in her early 40s, lives in the village she was raised in near Victoria Falls. There she takes care of her extended family on their homestead, which she and they have been proudly building by hand, brick by brick, for years. Flatter’s story highlights that life isn’t easy in Africa, but despite its challenges, there is much love and laughter and a strong sense of family here.

Visit Flatter’s homestead in her rural village; meet her and some of her family, and walk with some of them throughout the property, among the fruit and vegetable plants the family grows for consumption. (They even plant hot chillies among the vegetables to discourage nosy elephants.) Then help the family prepare a traditional Zimbabwean dinner, which we’ll all eat together outside on the property, weather permitting. Ingredients for the meal will have been hand-selected earlier in the day, at the bustling and friendly local village market.

This experience offers great insight into typical African life, and ultimately reinforce how we all really want and need the same things in life: a stable home full of love, a good education, and plenty of opportunity for our children.

Cresta Sprayview Hotel (or similar)

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 20 VICTORIA FALLS

Enjoy a free day to explore the area. Take part in a river safari, cultural tours, Whitewater rafting, canoeing, or a helicopter ride over the falls.

Cresta Sprayview Hotel (or similar)

Meals included: (B)

DAY 21 VICTORIA FALLS

Depart at any time.

Breakfast (B)