

SOUTHERN AFRICA ODYSSEY

April 27-May 14, 2017

**With an Optional Post-Tour Extension
Kruger: Kapama Private Game Reserve**

Itinerary

SOUTHERN AFRICA ODYSSEY 2017 Day-by-Day Itinerary

Important Information for Air Inclusive Guests Departing the U.S. One Day Early

Depending on flight schedules, guests from certain U.S. cities may require a departure day one day prior to Odysseys' listed tour departure date. In most cases, you will be able to connect within a few hours onto your Emirates flight to Johannesburg where you will meet your Tour Director.

Thursday, April 27, 2017

DAY 1: Depart the U.S. for Johannesburg, South Africa

We depart on our overnight flight to Johannesburg.

Friday, April 28, 2017

DAY 2: Arrive Johannesburg

Upon arrival in Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city and Africa's fourth largest, we transfer to our hotel located in the suburb of Rosebank. As guests' arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities planned. This evening is free to rest and relax and to enjoy dinner on your own in the "City of Gold," the nation's largest city as well as its most racially mixed.

Accommodations: 54 on Bath

Saturday, April 29, 2017

DAY 3: Johannesburg/Soweto

We meet our fellow travelers today as we embark on a tour of Johannesburg's renowned district of Soweto. Originally a collection of townships established by segregationists in the early 20th century to house black laborers, the "Southwest Townships" (from which the "Soweto" acronym derived) gained acclaim for its inhabitants' resistance to apartheid and today is a vibrant residential area. Here we see the home of former Archbishop Desmond Tutu and visit Nelson Mandela's home, now a museum. Next we visit the Hector Pieterse Memorial – a monument to the Soweto Uprising which figured prominently in the struggle against apartheid. It was here that 13-year-old Hector was among those shot and killed in June 1976 while protesting the government's order that school instruction be delivered in Afrikaans. We meet a local Sowetan who shares personal stories of the Soweto uprising, and what life is like today in this township. Afterwards, we enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant then return to our hotel where the remainder of our afternoon is at leisure. Tonight we toast the adventure ahead at a welcome dinner.

Accommodations: 54 on Bath

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sunday, April 30, 2017

DAY 4: Johannesburg/Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

This morning we return to the airport for our flight to Victoria Falls. Upon arrival early this afternoon, we board a motorcoach and travel to our deluxe hotel located in Victoria Falls National Park. With its 300-foot-deep gorge and thundering spray, Victoria Falls, known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya (the smoke that thunders), is a wonder of the natural world, especially as hippos, elephants, crocodiles, and other animals roam freely in the surrounding jungle. “Vic Falls” reach is higher and even more impressive than that of Niagara, as it plunges some 300 feet into the Zambezi Gorge below, forming the single largest cascade of water on earth. This afternoon’s tour is in a protected area (free from wildlife); you’ll be able to walk safely and photograph as you wish. Tonight we enjoy dinner together at the hotel.

Accommodations: The Victoria Falls Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday, May 1, 2017

DAY 5: Victoria Falls

This morning we encounter local life up close on a visit to a local grade school. We meet with teachers and students who treat us to a performance of traditional music and dance. Our tour director will facilitate the donation of any school supplies or books you may choose to bring as a greatly appreciated gift. Following our school visit, we spend some time walking through Victoria Falls town and visiting artisan shops. Lunch is on our own today; you may choose to remain in town or return to the hotel. Late afternoon we travel a short distance to embark on a “Sundowner” cruise on the mighty Zambezi River, where, as the sun sets, we keep our eyes peeled for wildlife along the river’s banks. We enjoy dinner on board our boat before returning to our hotel.

Accommodations: The Victoria Falls Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

DAY 6: Victoria Falls

This morning we embark on a rhino safari for sightings of the most endangered of the “Big Five” species, as well as other game we may encounter. Late afternoon, we enjoy listening to a guest speaker discuss the trials and travails of David Livingstone, the 19th century Scottish medical missionary and explorer. Livingstone is one of the most popular figures of the Victorian era, and is well-known as the man who discovered Mosi-oa-Tunya and named them for Queen Victoria in 1855. Of glimpsing the falls for the first time, Livingstone wrote: “No one can imagine the beauty of the view from anything witnessed in England. It had never been seen before by European eyes; but scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight.” After this informative and fascinating session, we dine together tonight at our hotel.

Accommodations: The Victoria Falls Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

DAY 7: Botswana/Chobe National Park

Early this morning we journey by motorcoach to spectacular Chobe National Park in neighboring Botswana – for both a morning game drive and an afternoon game cruise through this exceptional reserve. Since many animals congregate along the river that runs through Chobe, we make a point of driving there in search of antelope, zebra, buffalo, and hundreds of species of birds. Thanks to a varied terrain and plentiful

water supply, Chobe is renowned for its predator population, including lions, as well as zebras, hippos, and the rare puku, a species of antelope indigenous to the area. You also can expect to see many elephants since Chobe is home to the world's largest elephant population. We enjoy lunch in Botswana today; dinner tonight is at our hotel in Victoria Falls.

Accommodations: The Victoria Falls Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Thursday, May 4, 2017

DAY 8: Victoria Falls/Windhoek, Namibia

Today we are in transit, flying via Johannesburg to Windhoek, Namibia's German-influenced capital and the country's largest city (pop. 150,000). With just over two million inhabitants in an area nearly four times the size of the United Kingdom, Namibia has the world's second lowest population density. Upon arrival this evening, we board a motorcoach for the one-hour transfer to our hotel. Lunch and dinner are on our own today.

Accommodations: Windhoek Country Club

Meals: Breakfast

Friday, May 5, 2017

DAY 9: Windhoek/Namib Desert/Sossusvlei

After a brief tour of Windhoek, we set out on our journey through spectacular mountain passes en route to the Namibian desert of vast gravel plains and giant sand dunes that rise more than a thousand feet high. Though Namibia is one of the youngest of the African nations, it boasts a 130 million-year-old desert, the Namib – our destination today. Specifically, we're traveling to the Central Namib, which stretches for some 700 miles along the coast and is covered with huge dunes which each support tiny ecosystems – largely from the fog that rolls in off the ocean. Along the way we stop for a quick lunch en route to the western part of this scenic country. Then late this afternoon, we reach our lodge, where we dine tonight. We're in the heart of the Namibian desert, a kaleidoscope of color and mesmerizing sands at their most breathtaking during sunrise and sunset.

Accommodations: Sossusvlei Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Saturday, May 6, 2017

DAY 10: Namib Desert/Sossusvlei

We embark on an early morning excursion to the dramatic red sand dunes at Sossusvlei – the world's highest. Here the dunes seem to be “alive” – they constantly change and undulate as a result of the desert winds. Despite their barren look, the dunes actually support a rich, complex system of wildlife that includes the blind golden mole, a large dancing spider known as the “white lady,” plus geckoes and lizards. You may choose to climb on the velvety sands of Big Mama, as the locals fondly refer to the largest dune. We return to our lodge afterward for a leisurely lunch during the heat of the day and time to relax and enjoy the stunning scenery and pool here. Tonight we dine at our lodge.

Accommodations: Sossusvlei Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sunday, May 7, 2017

DAY 11: Sossusvlei/Swakopmund

We travel through the Namib Desert today en route to German-accented Swakopmund, Namibia's main port, a fishing center, and resort. During our journey we hope to see oryx, springbok, and ostrich in the wild; as well as picturesque mountain scenery. We arrive in Swakopmund in time for a late lunch, and then we get acquainted with the town by visiting the Natural History Museum, which occupies a former harbor warehouse; and the Crystal Gallery, which together lend us insight into Namibia's colonial past and rich natural resources. This evening we enjoy dinner together at our hotel.

Accommodations: Swakopmund Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Monday, May 8, 2017

DAY 12: Swakopmund/Walvis Bay/Skeleton Coast

This morning we set out from nearby Walvis Bay for a half-day cruise and lunch along Namibia's coastline. "Walvis" is the Dutch word for whale, and the Dutch who first named the bay did so due to the large numbers of Southern right whales which grazed the harbor for its rich plankton supply. Putting out to sea on a catamaran, we will see this renowned waterway (Namibia's only natural harbor) from the perspective of the many mariners who went before, witnessing some of the shipwrecks the coast has claimed, as well as the Cape fur seals, pelicans, and other sea birds native to these waters. Our nautical exploration of this rugged and striking region inland tribespeople call "the land God created in anger" will provide a cool respite after the arid desert atmosphere of Sossusvlei. After lunch aboard the cruise, we take a short tour of the Walvis Bay Lagoon, a protected area which is home to many species of water birds including the migratory greater and lesser flamingoes. Then we return to Swakopmund, where you have the remainder of the day at leisure to explore this charming coastal city with its palm-lined streets and historic German architecture on your own. Options abound: visit the National Marine Aquarium or the Swakopmund Military Museum, venture to the main beach area, or spend your time browsing at one of the many shops or the local outdoor crafts market. This evening we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Swakopmund Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

DAY 13: Swakopmund/Cape Town, South Africa

This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to one of the great cities in Africa, and indeed the world: Cape Town. After our two-hour flight, we arrive in Cape Town, South Africa early afternoon. We transfer immediately to our hotel on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, and have the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure to enjoy Cape Town and the waterfront. Lunch is your own today; we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

Accommodations: The Table Bay Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

DAY 14: Cape Town/The Winelands

South Africa is one of the finest wine-producing countries in the world – and some of its best vineyards lie a mere 45 miles from Cape Town. We embark on a full-day excursion through the Cape Winelands region, which has been producing wine since 1679. We travel through the historic town of Paarl (meaning "pearl")

and the delightful village of Franschhoek; then stop at one of the region's wineries for lunch. Next we travel to Stellenbosch, a former frontier town on the banks of the Eerste and the second oldest town in South Africa. The town square is one of the "newest" sections of town, with buildings from 1777 and several fine examples of Cape Dutch architecture. We return to our hotel late this afternoon; the remainder of the day is at leisure and you dine on your own tonight in this cosmopolitan city.

Please note that the exact order of sightseeing today and over the next two days may vary so that we can visit Table Mountain during the best possible weather during our stay in Cape Town.

Accommodations: The Table Bay Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Thursday, May 11, 2017

DAY 15: Cape Town/Cape of Good Hope

On today's full-day excursion to the Cape Peninsula, we visit the place that Sir Francis Drake called "the most stately thing and the fairest Cape we saw in the whole circumference of the earth" – the Cape of Good Hope. We pass by lovely Hout Bay before reaching the Cape Point Nature Reserve, with some 19,000 acres of protected parkland. Here on this unspoiled peninsula, mountains drop into the sea, unique flora thrives, and bird life is abundant. A funicular takes us to the summit of the Nature Reserve for a stupendous ocean view. After a seafood lunch, we drive through historic Simons Town, headquarters of the South African Navy; then continue on to Boulders Beach, where we visit a unique penguin colony. Our final stop of the day is at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, considered among the finest in the world. Cutting a swath across one thousand acres on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, the property was bequeathed to South Africa by wealthy industrialist Cecil Rhodes upon his death in 1902. The gardens planted here are almost exclusively devoted to the indigenous plants of South Africa – approximately 9,000 of the nation's 22,000 species. Dinner tonight is on your own.

Accommodations: The Table Bay Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Friday, May 12, 2017

DAY 16: Cape Town/Robben Island

On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years of imprisonment, and in April 1994 he was elected the nation's president in South Africa's first free elections. This morning we come face to face with an indelible aspect of both Mandela's and South Africa's history: the notorious 17th-century prison at Robben Island in Table Bay that once held Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and other noted opponents of apartheid. We travel by boat to the island, where we embark on an in-depth guided tour by bus and of the prison, often led by former prisoners who openly share their views. The prison is now a national museum chronicling a chapter of South Africa's painful past. Following our tour, we return to Cape Town for a visit by cable car (weather permitting) 3,500 feet to the top of Table Mountain. The views from the summit are phenomenal, so be sure to bring your camera. Mid-afternoon we return to our hotel; tonight we toast our Southern Africa Odyssey together with a farewell dinner.

Accommodations: The Table Bay Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday, May 13, 2017

DAY 17: Cape Town/Depart for U.S.

This morning we transfer to the Cape Town airport and our overnight return flight to the United States.

Meals: Breakfast

Sunday, May 14, 2017

DAY 18: Arrive U.S.

We arrive in the U.S. today and connect with our domestic flights home.

PLEASE NOTE

We will do our best to adhere to our printed itinerary. Occasionally, though, unexpected obstacles – or opportunities – may arise that will force us to deviate from the itinerary as written. We would ask you to be open-minded and flexible should we vary the itinerary slightly. In addition, please note that airline schedules are subject to change.

Since the country of Namibia and the magnificent sand dunes at Sossusvlei are located in a fairly remote region, this tour does include some lengthy motorcoach transfers and road conditions that may be less than ideal. You should be prepared for long – and often bumpy – drives on days 9 and 11.

Passport and Visa

A U.S. passport, valid for at least six months after your return home, is required of all U.S. citizens for this tour. A visa is required; you will find information about visa requirements in the “Important Visa Information” envelope. You should have at least 6 blank visa pages available in your passport (these have “VISA” printed at the top of the page). Please note, “Amendment” pages are not visa pages (these say “Amendment” at the top of the page); they have a different purpose. **Additionally, please note that South Africa has very strict passport and visa requirements: it requires two (2) blank visa pages side by side in order to issue their visa upon arrival. You may be denied entry into the country should these pages be unavailable.** If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or a visa service for information about required documents.

For Land Only Guests

When you purchase Odysseys Unlimited's **Southern Africa Odyssey** as "land only," you will be making your own international flight arrangements and joining the tour at the first hotel.

While airport transfers and luggage handling at the arrival and departure airports are not included when you purchase a tour as land only, should you be at the arrival airport concurrent with the group of arriving Odysseys Unlimited travelers and see the signs for our motorcoach transfer, you are welcome to transfer with the group at no charge, providing additional seating is available. However, please note that the motorcoach cannot wait for you; you must be aboard when the coach is leaving.

Similarly, when departing from the last hotel for your flight home, you are also welcome to take advantage of the group transfer, provided there is room and you are on board when the coach is leaving. It is important to note, however, that a motorcoach may not be used for transfers in all cases. Depending on the number of guests arriving or departing, we may utilize taxis or smaller vans. At such times, we regret that space restrictions will preclude your joining the group transfer and you will be responsible for your own transportation to or from the airport.

Should you require information about the arrival and departure times of our air-inclusive flights, please contact our Customer Service department no sooner than 75 days prior to departure: by email at customerservice@odysseys-unlimited.com or toll-free at (888) 370-6765, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

**For Guests Taking Odysseys Unlimited's
"KRUGER: KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE"
POST-TOUR EXTENSION**

Saturday, May 13, 2017

DAY 17: Kapama Private Game Reserve

This morning we transfer to the Cape Town airport for the flight to Hoedspruit or Mpumalanga, where we then transfer to our lodge in the Kapama Private Game Reserve. Here, the magic and mystery of Africa begin to unfold as this afternoon we embark on our first game drive. This wildlife region, which sits adjacent to the enormous Kruger National Park, boasts an abundance of bird and mammal species, including the "Big Five": elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, and rhino. Experienced rangers accompany us in our open Land Rovers to ensure we enjoy close-up encounters with the animals; they also tell us about the flora and fauna that surrounds us. As we're staying at a private lodge, we have the opportunity to enjoy longer game-viewing hours than guests in adjacent Kruger National Park. Additionally, vehicles can go off-road anywhere in the private reserve and guests are allowed to get out of the vehicle and go on foot, both of which are not allowed in the national park. Lunch today is on your own en route from Cape Town. Upon arrival to our lodge, we have some time to freshen up before our first game drive, and dinner is included in camp upon our return to the lodge.

Accommodations: Kapama Southern Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday, May 14, 2017

DAY 18: Kapama Private Game Reserve

At morning's first light and again in the late afternoon, when the animals hunt for their dinners, we embark on game drives. In between, we return to our lodge to rest, relax, and refresh ourselves.

Back in camp, we're free to relax amidst the splendid setting, cool off in the swimming pool, visit the library, gym, or spa, or observe wildlife from our lodge's private elevated viewing decks. All of our meals today and tomorrow are served at the lodge.

Accommodations: Kapama Southern Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Monday, May 15, 2017

DAY 19: Kapama Private Game Reserve

We have in store another full day of game drives and relaxing at our lodge, savoring the natural splendor of this amazing habitat.

Accommodations: Kapama Southern Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

DAY 20: Kapama/Johannesburg/Depart for U.S.

We return to the airport early this morning for the flight to Johannesburg where we will board our connecting flights to the United States.

Meals: Breakfast

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

DAY 21: Arrive U.S.

We arrive in the U.S. today and board our connecting flights home.

SOUTHERN AFRICA ODYSSEY 2017

Accommodations

April 28 & 29, 2017

54 on Bath

54 Bath Avenue
Rosebank, Johannesburg 2196
South Africa
Phone: 011-27-11-344-8500
Fax: 011-27-11-344-8501
www.tsogosunhotels.com

Opened in 2012, the contemporary 54 on Bath hotel is conveniently situated in the heart of Johannesburg's trendy Rosebank suburb, within walking distance of boutiques, restaurants, and art galleries. The 75-room hotel features a restaurant, bar, and lounge; outdoor pool; spa treatments; and laundry and dry cleaning services. All air-conditioned guest rooms have a private bath with hair dryer, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, TV, and phone.

April 30 - May 3, 2017

The Victoria Falls Hotel

1 Mallett Drive
Victoria Falls
Zimbabwe
Phone: 011-263-13-44751
Fax: 011-263-13-44762
www.victoriafallshotel.com

Built in 1904, The Victoria Falls Hotel stands inside of Victoria Falls National Park and is often referred to by locals as "the Grand Old Lady of the Falls." Facilities of this Edwardian-style hotel include two restaurants, two bars, and several lounges; internet lounge; laundry services; hair salon; spa with massage treatments; library; and outdoor pool. Air-conditioned guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, tea- and coffee-making facilities, TV, and phone.

May 4, 2017

Windhoek Country Club

Western Bypass, P.O. Box 30777
Pioneers Park, Windhoek South
Namibia
Phone: 011-264-61-205-5911
Fax: 011-264-61-205-2797
www.windhoek.co.za/

A desert oasis-themed resort located near the airport on the outskirts of Windhoek, the 152-room Windhoek Country Club offers an array of entertainment and relaxation options. Resort amenities include an two restaurants and two bars; rooftop terrace; 18-hole golf course with putting green and bowling green; casino; floodlit tennis courts; squash courts; unheated outdoor swimming pool; lazy river; fitness center; massage and reflexology treatments; hairdresser; complimentary Wi-Fi internet access; gift shops; laundry and dry cleaning service; and on-call house doctor. The air-conditioned guest rooms feature private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, minibar, tea- and coffee-making facilities, TV, and phone.

May 5 & 6, 2017

Sossusvlei Lodge

Sossusvlei, Namib-Naukluft Park
Namibia
Phone: 011-264-63-293-636
Fax: 011-264-63-293-645
www.sossusvleilodge.com

Situated in close proximity to the sand dunes and Namib-Naukluft Park, the eco-friendly Sossusvlei Lodge uses tents to create an adobe-style atmosphere similar to that of its surroundings. The 45-room lodge offers a restaurant, bar and beer garden, and lounge; complimentary Wi-Fi internet access; freshwater swimming pool; laundry services; and gift shop. Air-conditioned guest rooms have patio and private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, and tea- and coffee-making facilities. There are no televisions and one guest phone line is available at reception.

May 7 & 8, 2017

Swakopmund Hotel and Entertainment Centre

2 Theo-Ben Gurirab Street
Swakopmund, Namibia
Phone: 011-264-64-410-5200
Fax: 011-264-64-410-5360/61
www.legacyhotels.co.za

The 89-room Swakopmund Hotel and Entertainment Centre, built in and around a restored historical station on Namibia's premiere coastal resort, offers two restaurants, casino, lounge, tavern bar with live entertainment, heated outdoor swimming pool, hair salon, gift shop, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access (in public areas), and laundry and dry cleaning services. Your air-conditioned room has a private bath with hair dryer, minibar, TV, and phone.

May 9 - 12, 2017

The Table Bay Hotel

Quay 6, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront

Cape Town 8001

South Africa

Phone: 011-27-21-406-5000

Fax: 011-27-21-431-5230

www.suninternational.com

Standing in the heart of Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, The Table Bay Hotel provides stunning views of Table Mountain and Cape Town Harbour. Combining contemporary décor and Victorian accents, the hotel offers two restaurants, two bars, and lounge; spa with massage treatments and steam rooms; fitness center; internet access; laundry and dry cleaning services; heated outdoor pool; and complimentary shuttle service. The 329 air-conditioned rooms have private bath with hair dryer, tea- and coffee-making facilities, in-room safe, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access; minibar, TV, and phone.

**“KRUGER: KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE” 2017
OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION
Accommodations**

May 13 - 15, 2017

Kapama Southern Camp

Kapama Game Reserve

Kruger Park

South Africa

Phone: 011-27-74-150-7153

www.kapama.co.za

This luxury lodge sits in the middle of the private Kapama Game Reserve, adjacent to Kruger National Park, offering an unparalleled opportunity to spot game on the African bushveld. Featuring modern African décor, the 25-room lodge has an open-sided dining room, traditional *boma* (grass hut), outdoor swimming pool with patio bar, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, gift shop, and library. Guest rooms feature picture windows and private decks, along with air conditioning, private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, tea- and coffee-making facilities, minibar, and phone.