

## **AFRICA EASY PRESENTS SOUTH AFRICA & SWAZILAND TOUR & SAFARI**

### **Highlights:**

#### **Cape Town and the Western Cape:**

- Explore the Cape Peninsula/Cape Point, Kirstenbosch Gardens, African Penguins at Boulders Beach
- Visit Historic Robben Island by boat (a World Heritage Site)
- Cable car to the top of magnificent Table Mountain, Cape Town
- Explore the West Coast National Park & Cape Winelands
- Travel to Hermanus for southern right whale viewing (June-Nov)

#### **St. Lucia, Zululand, Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve & Mkuze Falls:**

- Cruise to see hippo, crocs & birds on the St. Lucia Estuary (A World Heritage Site)
- Experience Zulu culture in Kwa Zulu Natal
- On Safari in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve
- Outstanding game & bird viewing opportunities at Mkuze Falls Private Reserve

#### **Swaziland:**

- Mkhaya Game Reserve – refuge for endangered species
- National Museum & Ngwenya Glass Factory

#### **Safari in the Kruger National Park region:**

- On Safari in the Sabi Sands Private Reserve
- In search of the Big Five – exclusive game viewing

### **Day 1 – Arrive Cape Town, South Africa**

Arrive in The Mother City of Cape Town and transfer to our centrally-situated hotel. Take in the awesome sight of Table Mountain! Based on time of arrival, there will be the option to take a scenic drive through Cape Town center, via Signal Hill and Camps Bay. Alternatively, take time to rest this afternoon and enjoy dinner on your own at one of the many local restaurants within easy reach of the hotel.

**Overnight: Cape Milner Hotel, Cape Town or guesthouse of similar standard**

### **Day 2 – Cape Point/Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Kirstenbosch Gardens**

Tour the Cape Peninsula; see the African penguins at Boulders Beach before continuing to the southernmost point of the Peninsula: Cape Point Nature Reserve. Enjoy a scenic drive over Chapman's Peak (conditions permitting) then on via the fishing village of Hout Bay, stopping for lunch at Two Oceans Restaurant in the seaside town of Simonstown. The touring direction may operate in a different order. Visit world-renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, internationally acclaimed as one of the seven most magnificent botanical gardens in the world. Dinner on own account this evening.

**Overnight: Cape Milner Hotel or guesthouse of similar standard**

### **Day 3 - Robben Island and Table Mountain**

After breakfast, transfer to the Waterfront and travel by catamaran (conditions permitting) to Robben Island (a World Heritage Site) where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years. There will be a guided bus tour through the small community and around part of the island before returning to the Waterfront where you're free to enjoy lunch on your own. After lunch, the group transfers to the base of Table Mountain for a cable car ride up to the summit (conditions permitting) and experience unbelievable views of the city and beyond. Signal Hill

will be used as the alternative view point if Table Mountain is closed due to weather/wind. Group dinner this evening at a local restaurant in Tamboerskloof.

**Overnight: Cape Milner Hotel or guesthouse of similar standard**

#### **Day 4 – Cape Town / Cape Winelands**

The early morning is at leisure before departing Cape Town with your guide for a half-day tour of the Cape Winelands which includes lunch at the local Wine Farm/restaurant *Spier*. Journey into the beautiful and tranquil Cape Winelands visiting a few wine estates and the historical towns of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek (time permitting). These three towns form the district of the Cape Winelands, the main wine region of South Africa. Winemaking is one of the main industries of the country, with more than a billion liters of wine produced each year. At the end of the day, settle into our quaint local guesthouse in Stellenbosch before enjoying dinner on your own this evening.

**Overnight: D’Ouwe Werf Inn or similar in Stellenbosch**

#### **Day 5 – Hermanus (seaside town)**

Embark this morning on a full-day guided tour to Hermanus in search of southern right whales. Hermanus is the best place in South Africa to see the annual migration of Southern right whales as they pass through Walker Bay. In recent years, as many as 2,000 whales have followed the annual migration from Antarctica to mate and calve in the warmer waters of the southern Cape coast (between June and November). Hermanus, with a backdrop of mountains, a large lagoon and long white beach, deep rock pools, and a wealth of coastal fynbos, is beautiful in spring, and is recognized by the World Wildlife Fund as one of the world’s top whale-viewing spots. Lunch on your own in Hermanus – there will also be time to explore the little town on foot and/or take a short walk on the scenic coastal path skirting the town. Group dinner is included this evening.

**Overnight: D’Ouwe Werf Inn or similar**

#### **Day 6 – Cape Town / Durban / St. Lucia (Kwa-Zulu Natal)**

After breakfast we head to the airport for our two-hour scheduled flight to Durban, the gateway to Zululand. From Durban airport we drive through the city north along the lush Kwa-Zulu Natal coastline. Our lunch stop will be at the seaside resort of Balitto before crossing the Tugela River into the Zulu Kingdom, continuing to the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park area. After check-in to our guest lodge, we will stroll down the main street to a restaurant for dinner in St Lucia tonight.

**Overnight: Lidiko Lodge, St Lucia or similar**

#### **Day 7 – St. Lucia (Kwa-Zulu Natal) / Eastern Shores Game Reserve**

After breakfast, we set off for the Eastern Shores Game Reserve, with a chance of seeing some big game and also antelope and zebra as well as other species of game on the way. We stop at Mission Rocks and walk up to the viewing area and then drive on to Cape Vidal. There may be a chance for snorkeling (tide permitting) or relaxing/walking on the beach. Enjoy a barbeque picnic lunch today at Cape Vidal before returning to St. Lucia. Once back in St Lucia, board a tour boat to cruise the St. Lucia Estuary at sunset searching for hippos, crocodiles, fish eagles and much more. 367 species of birds are known to be in the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park. Group dinner in St. Lucia at the local restaurant *Fur Elize* this evening.

**Overnight: Lidiko Lodge or similar**

#### **Day 8 – St. Lucia / Hluhluwe-Umfolozu Game Reserve**

Check out of our St Lucia accommodations after breakfast this morning and head a short distance north to the Hluhluwe-Umfolozu Game Reserve (Africa’s oldest game park). Enjoy a late morning game drive followed by lunch at Hilltops Restaurant and then check into our

overnight accommodations at Hilltops located inside the Hluhluwe-Umfolozzi National Park. Late afternoon we explore part of this huge reserve, made up of a combination of 2 parks (nearly 100,000 hectares) where the animals move freely. Enjoy good game viewing and birding as well as stupendous views over Kwa-Zulu Natal. Large concentrations of white rhino and the elusive black rhino may also be spotted. Dinner on your own at Hilltops this evening.

**Overnight: Hilltop Camp Hluhluwe-Umfolozzi or similar**

#### **Day 9 – Hluhluwe-Umfolozzi Game Reserve / Mkuze Falls Private Game Reserve**

After breakfast, we depart the Reserve and set out for Mkuze Falls stopping for a unique cultural experience on the way. Our visit will be to a Zulu village, where we will have the chance to walk through part of the community, possibly visit a school and a private home as well as meet with some of the students and/or other village members. Late lunch on arrival at our lodge followed by a little time to enjoy our luxury chalets at Mkuze Falls Lodge and private reserve. Each thatched chalet has a private viewing deck, splash pool and wonderful views. Late afternoon, depart on a game drive in open vehicles with our experienced Mkuze Rangers. Group dinner this evening at the lodge.

**Overnight: Mkuze Falls Lodge or similar**

#### **Day 10 – Mkuze Falls**

Our day starts with an early wake up call, followed by coffee before departing on our first early morning game drive in the Mkuze Reserve. A full day lies ahead of us in this game-rich private reserve with very diverse fauna and flora. The unique ecosystems of riverine, wetland, lowveld bushveld and montane grassland provide the diversity and large quantity of bird and animal species. The reserve is home to the Big Five, cheetah, hippo and a vast number of plains game. For ornithologists and bird-lovers, Mkuze Falls and its wetlands are an absolute must. There are more than 400 species of birds in the area. More specifically the reserve is home to the fish eagle, giant kingfisher, Narina trogon and the spectacular purple-crested lourie to mention a few. Return to the lodge for brunch followed by an early afternoon walk into the African bush with knowledgeable and experienced rangers. Alternatively take time out to relax and enjoy your private chalets and viewing decks. Later this afternoon, we enjoy another thrilling game drive returning to our lodge for cocktails, dinner and to swap stories of game we sighted.

**Overnight: Mkuze Falls Lodge or similar**

#### **Day 11 – Mkuze Falls / The Kingdom of Swaziland**

Today we leave South Africa and enter the Kingdom of Swaziland – the smallest country in Africa. Swaziland became independent in 1968 and is rich in traditional culture, preserving many ancient ceremonies and customs. Most of our day will be spent at the Refuge for Endangered Species – Mkhaya Game Reserve. Expect close encounters with (possibly) black and white rhino, elephant, buffalo, and sightings of roan and sable antelope. Mkhaya's visitors find this experience soul enriching. Late afternoon you have a choice to continue north to the Royal Swazi Sun Hotel for overnight or stay at Stone Camp within the Mkhaya Endangered Species Reserve for an 'out in the bush overnight experience'. Stone Camp is made up of 'open air' thatched roof chalets with en suite 'open air' bathrooms. The Royal Swazi Sun Hotel is the leading hotel in the Kingdom of Swaziland and is famed for its location, superb golf course, casino, the magnificent poolside area and for the superb cuisine of its three restaurants. Dinner will be provided this evening at either option of lodging you choose.

**Overnight: Mkhaya or Royal Swazi Sun Hotel or Stone Camp, Mkhaya Swaziland**

#### **Day 12 – The Kingdom of Swaziland**

Mid-morning we visit the National Museum, which displays Swazi life throughout history as well as a memorial to King Sobhuza II. We will also visit the fascinating Ngwenya Glass factory. Those who overnighted at Mkhaya will do an early morning game drive in the reserve, and after a meal they will drive slowly out of the reserve and head north and join the rest of the group at Milwane Reserve for lunch at Hippo Haunt Restaurant. This afternoon we will all visit a 'traditional' Swazi homestead, under the rule of the local Chief, an extraordinary woman. Dinner together at Royal Swazi Sun Hotel.

**Overnight: Royal Swazi Sun Hotel, Swaziland**

### **Day 13 –Swaziland / Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve**

Early morning we travel through scenic northern Swaziland heading north via Piggs Peak back into South Africa and to the Sabi Sands Game Reserve (65,000 hectares), bordering Kruger National Park. Exeter River Lodge, situated in the shade of ebony trees and overlooking the Sand River, comprises 8 luxurious suites each with their own private plunge pools. The air-conditioned suites all have en-suite bathrooms with both indoor and outdoor showers. After a welcome briefing, late lunch and check into our Exeter River Lodge accommodations, we will head out on a late afternoon game drive with top notch rangers in open game drive vehicles. Game drives in the private Sabi Sands reserve are superior!

**Overnight: Exeter River Lodge, Sabi Sands or similar**

### **Day 14 –\_Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve**

It is claimed the Sabi Sands Game Reserve has the greatest variety of animals of any park in Africa: elephant, Cape buffalo, leopard, lion as well as cheetah, giraffe, hippo, crocodile and many species of antelope and smaller animals. We explore the reserve on an early morning game-drive and then after brunch another late afternoon search for wildlife from open game drive vehicles. Farewell cocktails before dinner this evening at the lodge.

**Overnight: Exeter River Lodge or similar**

### **Day 15 – Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve / Johannesburg / Home**

An early morning game drive followed by brunch and check out and then transfer to Sabi air strip for the scheduled flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival in Johannesburg connect with international flights home.