



Discovering Our Planet Together



# Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition

*With Just Six Guests, Capture Shots of the Big Five & More from Exclusive Private Reserves*



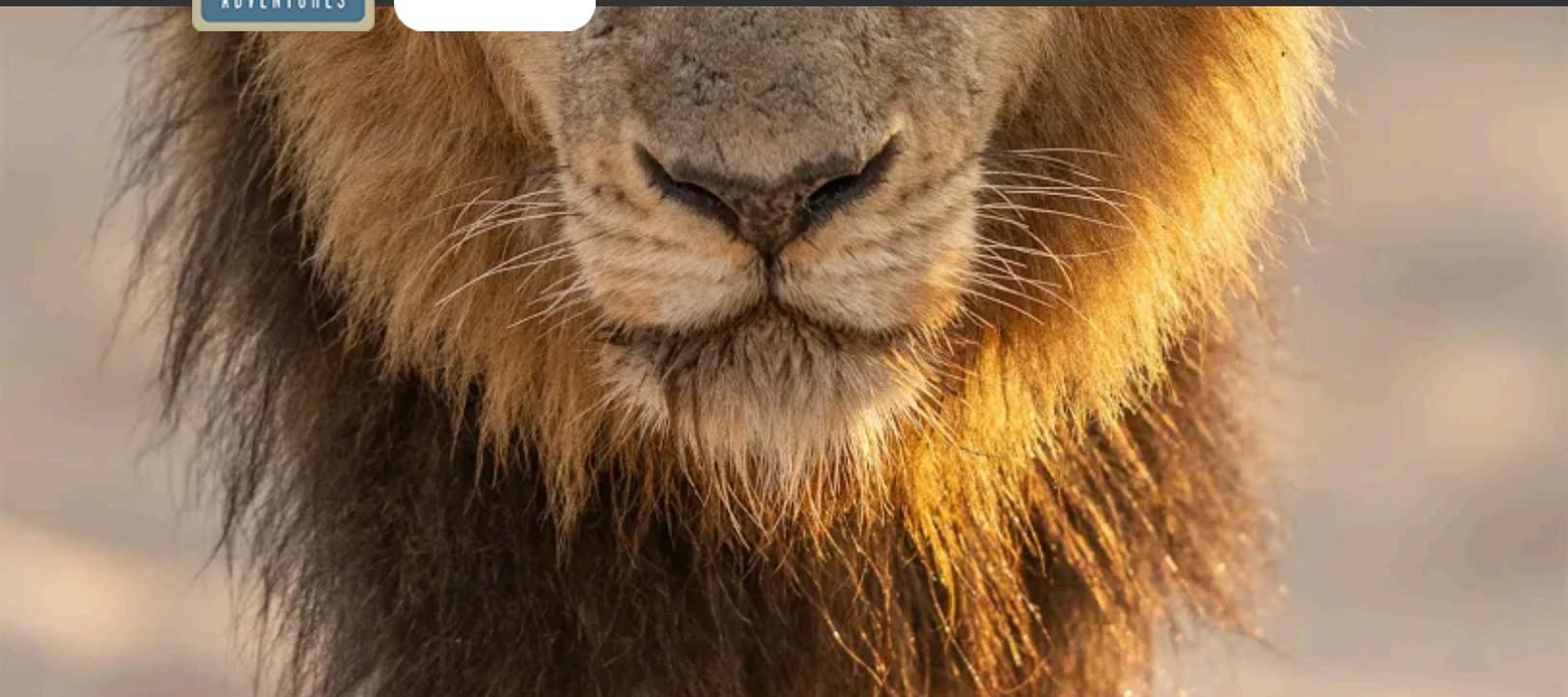
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Trip Details:

**Days**  
11 Days /  
Jun, Aug-  
Oct

**Price**  
From  
\$19995

## Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition

**With Just Six Guests, Capture Shots of the Big Five & More from Exclusive Private Reserves**

From massive-tusked African elephants to elegant leopards, from squat rhinos to regal lions and fierce Cape Buffalo, the Big Five are all here to provide one of Africa's greatest photo safaris—plus a host of other game and predators promising epic camera encounters! On our carefully crafted itinerary, you'll get all the wildlife riches of the Greater Kruger region without the crowds. We focus on exclusive private reserves, including famed Sabi Sand, Marataba and more, far from heavily touristed zones and tarmac roads in the national park. Amid the silence and solitude of the wild bushveld, just six guests travel with an expert Photo Expedition Leader, for the ultimate in personal attention. Your guide is equally adept at interpreting animal behavior while coaching you with techniques to elevate your shots. Add remote luxury camps and lodges as your base, and you won't find a superior South Africa photo safari!

## Trip Highlights

**With just six travelers, get close to the Big Five and much more in South Africa's top private wildlife enclaves, including legendary MalaMala**

**No packed national parks teeming with vehicles to impede your shots—we focus on three remote and varied enclaves where animals abound and visitors are few**

**Shoot alongside our naturalist Expedition Leader who is a top wildlife photographer, coaching you personally with tips and techniques to build your skills**



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**Trip Details:**

**Days**

11 Days / Jun, Aug-Oct

**Price**

From \$19995

## Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition Itineraries

With Just Six Guests, Capture Shots of the Big Five & More from Exclusive Private Reserves



### 2026 Itinerary

In 2026, we visit the MalaMala, Marataba and Madikwe private wildlife reserves.



### 2027 Itinerary

Our 2027 itinerary visits the MalaMala, Marataba and Phinda private game reserves.



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### Itinerary At A Glance

- Day 1**  
Johannesburg, South Africa
- Days 2 & 3**  
Madikwe Private Reserve
- Days 4 - 6**  
Marataba Private Reserve
- Days 7 - 10**  
Sabi Sand—MalaMala Private Reserve
- Day 11**  
MalaMala / Johannesburg / Depart

## 2026 Itinerary

With Just Six Guests, Capture Shots of the Big Five & More from Exclusive Private Reserves

### Day 1: Johannesburg, South Africa

Our South Africa Photo Expedition begins on arrival in Johannesburg. At our welcome dinner this evening, our Expedition Leader shares a preview of the many wildlife adventures and exciting photography opportunities that lie ahead on this exclusive safari itinerary.





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### Days 2 & 3: Madikwe Private Reserve

Transfer this morning to the Johannesburg airport for our flight to Madikwe Safari Lodge on the private Madikwe Reserve, tucked against South Africa's border with Botswana. Surrounded by grassland, forest and rocky hills, the lodge sits within a transitional zone where the lowveld of Kruger Park and the semi-arid Kalahari thornveld meet. At 185,000 acres, Madikwe is South Africa's fifth-largest private reserve. Supporting a broad range of wildlife, it is home to the Big Five as well as white rhino, cheetah, unique antelope species and the elusive African wild dog. Madikwe has the second-largest elephant population in South Africa, and leopard sightings are typically a highlight, too.

On exciting game drives, we go in search of outstanding wildlife photography opportunities in Madikwe's unspoiled wilderness, enjoying bush picnics along the way. After each exhilarating day, return to the comfort of our luxurious lodge, offering warm hospitality in this remote setting. Refresh in your private plunge pool, gather on the main deck to capture shots of wildlife that often ambles by, and enjoy fine dinners by the open fire in the boma. As the cloak of night descends, a spray of stars adds nature's glitter to the sky.

### Days 4 - 6: Marataba Private Reserve

A three-hour drive takes us from Madikwe to Marataba Private Reserve. Lying within Marakele National Park, this 57,000-acre mosaic of plains, mountains and valleys is home to predators, primates, antelope, small carnivores and more than 400 bird species. Marataba is a less-discovered treasure, and while it doesn't have the name cachet of Kruger or Sabi Sand, it delivers one of the most scenic and impressive photo safari experiences in South Africa. Black and white rhinos are a special focus here, and we seek them out in the company of our Expedition Leader and local guides adept at tracking them. Lion, leopard, elephant and buffalo round out the Big Five, with other abundant species on display, too, including greater kudu, eland, impala, giraffe, zebra, waterbuck, wildebeest, spotted hyena, bat-eared fox, jackal, chacma baboon and vervet monkey. Avian highlights include yellow-billed hornbill, African Scops owl, fiery-necked night jar and lilac-breasted roller. After dusk, we go in search of nocturnal animals to photograph. The camp's boat is also available for water safaris on the Matlabas River, where elephants snorkel and waterbirds abound.

In the evening, tuck into the comforts of Marataba Safari Lodge, which enjoys an unparalleled setting. Beautifully appointed stone and canvas tented suites are raised on stilts to survey the vast expanse of bushveld beyond. Views over the plains are spectacular, offering panoramic photos of the Waterberg escarpment merging into acacia savanna. Each luxury tent has a private shaded viewing deck, lending a sense of being one with the wild environment beyond.



### **Days 7 - 10: Sabi Sand—MalaMala Private Reserve**

Depart this morning on a private chartered flight directly to MalaMala Game Reserve, one of the oldest, largest and most highly regarded private wildlife sanctuaries in South Africa. Covering 33,000 acres and sharing a 12-mile unfenced border with world-renowned Kruger National Park, MalaMala lies in the heart of the legendary Sabi Sand region, the country's premier safari destination. Historic MalaMala was one of the first reserves to transition from hunting to wildlife-viewing safaris. Today it is renowned as one of the best places to photograph the Big Five in Africa. These famous five—lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and Cape buffalo—were once favorite hunting targets, and while many were hunted nearly to extinction, reserves like this one have made inspiring strides in bringing them back.

Enjoy the exclusivity of MalaMala Main Camp, situated along the Sand River where wildlife regularly wanders in to drink, providing great opportunities for close-up photos. MalaMala is famous for its leopard viewing, and nighttime photography drives are a highlight here, with an array of nocturnal species on view, including predators on the hunt. With the luxury of four days at MalaMala, we have ample opportunity to check a host of species off our viewing list. As the largest private game reserve in South Africa, safari tourism from MalaMala directly supports many individuals in neighboring communities, and it is gratifying to know that our presence contributes directly to conservation as a result.

### **Day 11: MalaMala / Johannesburg / Depart**

After breakfast, our safari concludes with a transfer to nearby Skukuza Airport. Capture aerial images on the flight back to Johannesburg to connect with onward flights or extensions.



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### Itinerary At A Glance

- Day 1**  
Johannesburg, South Africa
- Days 2 & 3**  
Marataba Private Reserve
- Days 4 - 6**  
Phinda Private Game Reserve
- Days 7 - 10**  
Sabi Sand—MalaMala Private Game Reserve
- Day 11**  
MalaMala / Johannesburg / Depart

## 2027 Itinerary

With Just Six Guests, Capture Shots of the Big Five & More from Exclusive Private Reserves

### Day 1: Johannesburg, South Africa

Our South Africa Photo Expedition begins on arrival in Johannesburg, where you are met and transferred to our hotel. At our welcome dinner this evening, our Expedition Leader shares a preview of the many wildlife adventures and exciting photography opportunities that lie ahead on this exclusive safari itinerary.





### **Days 2 & 3: Marataba Private Reserve**

Transfer to the Johannesburg airport for our flight to Thabazimbi, then continue by road to Marataba Private Reserve. Lying within Marakele National Park, this 57,000-acre mosaic of plains, mountains and valleys is home to predators, primates, antelope, small carnivores and more than 400 bird species. Marataba is a less-discovered treasure, and while it doesn't have the name cachet of Kruger or Sabi Sand, it delivers one of the most scenic and impressive photo safari experiences in South Africa. Black and white rhinos are a special focus here, and we seek them out in the company of our Expedition Leader and local guides adept at tracking them. Lion, leopard, elephant and buffalo round out the Big Five, with other abundant species on display, too, including greater kudu, eland, impala, giraffe, zebra, waterbuck, wildebeest, spotted hyena, bat-eared fox, jackal, chacma baboon and vervet monkey. Avian highlights include yellow-billed hornbill, African Scops owl, fiery-necked night jar and lilac-breasted roller. After dusk, we go in search of nocturnal animals to photograph. The camp's boat is also available for water safaris on the Matlabas River, where elephants snorkel and waterbirds abound.

In the evening, tuck into the comforts of Marataba Safari Lodge, which enjoys an unparalleled setting. Beautifully appointed stone and canvas tented suites are raised on stilts to survey the vast expanse of bushveld beyond. Views over the plains are spectacular, offering panoramic photos of the Waterberg escarpment merging into acacia savanna. Each luxury tent has a private shaded viewing deck, lending a sense of being one with the wild environment beyond.

### **Days 4 - 6: Phinda Private Game Reserve**

Take a chartered flight this morning from Thabazimbi to Phinda Private Game Reserve, one of South Africa's most ecologically diverse safari destinations. Spanning more than 70,000 acres, Phinda encompasses seven distinct habitats, from open grasslands and woodland to rare sand forest and wetland systems, creating a rich environment for a wide variety of wildlife and birdlife. This great variety of habitats offers outstanding photo opportunities, particularly for wildlife species less commonly seen elsewhere on the itinerary. Phinda is known for the Big Five, plus frequent sightings of cheetah sprinting over the open savanna—ideal conditions for capturing high-speed action and unobstructed scenes. The reserve also offers good chances to see rarer species such as pangolin, along with nyala and black rhino browsing dense tamboti thickets.

Our base, the award-winning Phinda Mountain Lodge, sits atop a hill with sweeping views across the surrounding bushveld. Daily game drives with our Expedition Leader plus expert local guides and trackers focus on maximizing photographic conditions, with time and flexibility to position for the best light and compositions.



### **Days 7 - 10: Sabi Sand—MalaMala Private Game Reserve**

Depart this morning on a scheduled flight to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, then transfer to MalaMala Game Reserve, one of the oldest, largest and most highly regarded private wildlife sanctuaries in South Africa. Covering 33,000 acres and sharing a 12-mile unfenced border with world-renowned Kruger National Park, MalaMala lies in the heart of the legendary Sabi Sand region, the country's premier safari destination. Historic MalaMala was one of the first reserves to transition from hunting to wildlife-viewing safaris. Today it is renowned as one of the best places to photograph the Big Five in Africa. These famous five—lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and Cape buffalo—were once favorite hunting targets, and while many were hunted nearly to extinction, reserves like this one have made inspiring strides in bringing them back.

Enjoy the exclusivity of MalaMala Main Camp, situated along the Sand River where wildlife regularly wanders in to drink, providing great opportunities for close-up photos. MalaMala is famous for its leopard viewing, and nighttime photography drives are a highlight here, with an array of nocturnal species on view, including predators on the hunt. With the luxury of four days at MalaMala, we have ample opportunity to check a host of species off our viewing list. As the largest private game reserve in South Africa, safari tourism from MalaMala directly supports many individuals in neighboring communities, and it is gratifying to know that our presence contributes directly to conservation as a result.

### **Day 11: MalaMala / Johannesburg / Depart**

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**Accommodation Details:**

Fairlawns Boutique Hotel

Marataba Safari Lodge

MalaMala Main Camp

Madikwe Safari Lodge

Phinda Mountain Lodge

For detailed descriptions, visit [nathab.com/africa/secluded-south-africa-photo-expedition/accommodations](http://nathab.com/africa/secluded-south-africa-photo-expedition/accommodations)

## Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition Accommodations

With Just Six Guests, Capture Shots of the Big Five & More from Exclusive Private Reserves



### Fairlawns Boutique Hotel

This tranquil sanctuary in the Johannesburg suburb of Sandton is near the international airport, yet a world apart, with luxury suites set among lush gardens that evoke traditional European ambience.



### Marataba Safari Lodge

This luxury eco-retreat enjoys an exceptionally secluded location on the Marataba Private Reserve, a hidden gem where the mountainous scenery rivals the incredible wildlife viewing.



### MalaMala Main Camp

With deep roots in an earlier safari era, this venerable camp has taken the essence of its history and translated it into one of the finest experiences of bush luxury in the private Sabi Sand reserve.



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### **Madikwe Safari Lodge**

The lodge offers an elegant yet relaxed base from which to explore the 185,000-acre Madikwe Game Reserve, one of the largest and most exclusive private wildlife sanctuaries in South Africa.



### **Phinda Mountain Lodge**

Perched above sweeping bushveld, this hillside lodge features private plunge pools, open-air dining, and spacious rooms with expansive reserve views, paired with a rim-flow pool, boma and lounge.



## No Better Choice for Your South Africa Photo Safari

South Africa has long been among the continent's most popular safari destinations, and for good reason: its scenic grandeur and prolific wildlife (including the famous Big Five) have few parallels. But popular can mean crowded and standardized, especially in South Africa, and that's not the kind of safari-of-a-lifetime experience we provide. Take a look at these crucial features that set our South Africa Photo Expedition apart from other photography safaris:

1

### Maximum Group Size Just Six Travelers!

An authentic encounter with nature is tough to achieve in a big group. We limit ours to six, granting us access to smaller camps and remote spots larger groups can't get to. We promise the most personalized photo safari available!

2

### Private Reserves Offer Seclusion & Superior Photo Opportunities

Private reserves are essential to the best African safari, especially in South Africa. In the exclusive wilderness areas of Sabi Sand, Marataba, and either Madikwe in 2026 or Phinda in 2027, we explore exceptionally varied habitats in solitude, photographing abundant wildlife away from other visitors (most of whom are traveling on paved roads inside the public parks).

3

### An Unusually Diverse Itinerary for Varied Photography

Most South Africa safaris concentrate on Kruger National Park, and rightfully so, as its wildlife is legendary. Naturally, our itinerary includes the Greater Kruger ecosystem, but from a private reserve, where visitor numbers are strictly limited. MalaMala has an unfenced border with the park, so wildlife can wander back and forth freely. Our itinerary also includes two other less-visited private reserves, adding yet more elements of diversity with completely different ecosystems and landscapes.

4

### Remote & Intimate Luxury Accommodations

Most visitors to South Africa are relegated to larger, impersonal safari lodges that dominate in the national parks. Since our focus is private reserves, our guests enjoy exclusive boutique lodgings. Our isolated luxury camps and lodges are highlights in their own right. Each blends seamlessly with the natural environment, and tents and chalets have private verandas to maximize personal wildlife photo encounters right where you're staying.

5

### Flights Maximize Your Time on Safari

While we enjoy watching the countryside unfold on driving transfers between airstrips and reserves, we put a big focus on flights between our destinations, arranging air transfers where possible to maximize your time photographing wildlife, rather than negotiating rough roads on too many long drives. And from the air, you'll gain a whole different perspective on South Africa's dramatic landscapes and roaming wildlife.



6

### **The Very Best Vehicles—with a Guaranteed Window Seat**

Standard safaris in South Africa often utilize cramped mini buses. In contrast, we charter top-quality custom safari vehicles that optimize comfort and photography access. Our 4x4 Land Rovers and Land Cruisers have a suspension system designed for rugged terrain, and an open-top, open-sided, tiered seating arrangement maximizes photo opportunities. Each vehicle has 10 cushioned passenger seats, but since we don't fill them to capacity, everyone has an unimpeded side view. Each row is raised slightly higher than the one in front of it, allowing for unobstructed views of scenery and wildlife.

7

### **Exclusive Opportunities for Bush Walks and Night Drives**

Guided bush walks and night drives are available on the private reserves we visit, though not in national parks, where most safaris go. You'll appreciate the rare opportunity to stretch your legs while on safari as we get close-up shots of interesting smaller species, which most safari-goers confined to vehicles miss. And drives after dark reveal fascinating nocturnal wildlife that's rarely seen by the typical traveler.

8

### **South Africa's Most Outstanding Photographer Guides**

We employ South Africa's premier Expedition Leaders, the most highly trained and experienced naturalist guides—who are also accomplished professional wildlife photographers and photo instructors. Your guide accompanies you from start to finish, by your side with ready advice to help you get the best possible images. They also have additional resources provided by WWF's leading scientists. See Expedition Leader bios and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

9

### **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior South Africa Photo Safari**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise for yourself!

10

### **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

11

### **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$1995

Group Size: Limited to 6 Travelers

# Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

With Just Six Guests, Capture Shots of the Big Five & More from Exclusive Private Reserves

## 2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Aug 7, 2026	Aug 17, 2026	\$1995 USD (+internal air)
Aug 19, 2026	Aug 29, 2026	\$1995 USD (+internal air)
Sep 20, 2026	Sep 30, 2026	\$1995 USD (+internal air)
Oct 2, 2026	Oct 12, 2026	\$1995 USD (+internal air)

## 2027 Departures



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Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 1, 2027	Jun 11, 2027	\$23995 USD (+internal air)
Aug 7, 2027	Aug 17, 2027	\$23995 USD (+internal air)
Sep 20, 2027	Sep 30, 2027	\$24495 USD (+internal air)
Oct 2, 2027	Oct 12, 2027	\$23995 USD (+internal air)

### Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/africa/secluded-south-africa-photo-expedition/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

### Included

**Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides and camp staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

### Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

**Internal air:** All aircraft flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

### Important Information About This Trip

Our Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition combines three spectacular wildlife camps. The itinerary involves quite a bit of travel—both by safari vehicle and by private aircraft—but in the company of our professional safari Expedition Leader, we've determined that our routing is the best way to explore this remote, diverse and far-reaching region that is replete with wildlife. Changes to the itinerary may occur in order to take advantage of conditions unique to the season and/or to accommodate unexpected changes in flight schedules; therefore, itineraries may need to be rerouted or redesigned without notice.



### Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

### Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Johannesburg, South Africa. Because this is a long international journey, **we recommend that you arrive at least one night prior to Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials. You must arrive in Johannesburg by 5 pm on Day 1 in order to attend the 6:30 pm welcome dinner.

**You may depart Johannesburg anytime after 6 pm on the final day.**

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



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**Extension Details:**

**Namibia Desert Extension**  
\$6395

**Cape Town Extension**  
\$2495

**Wild Cape Coast Extension**  
\$3595

**Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition**  
\$17495

**Ultimate Madagascar**  
\$15495

## Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition Extensions

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### Namibia Desert Extension

Namibia's towering sand dunes, arid canyons and desert-adapted wildlife offer a distinct contrast to other southern Africa safari destinations—look for endangered black rhino, desert elephant and more.

**\$6395 (+air)**



### Cape Town Extension

Discover one of the world's most entrancing cities and its natural environs. Survey the view from Table Mountain, explore the Cape Peninsula, visit Cape Point Nature Reserve, see penguins at Boulders Beach, and tour the Winelands.

**\$2495**



### Wild Cape Coast Extension

From our luxury ecolodge base on the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, explore pristine coastal wilderness including the rare Cape Floral plant kingdom and Stony Point penguin colony.

**\$3595**



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### **Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition**

From rainforest to spiny desert, discover a wild wonderland filled with unique subjects, including lemurs large and tiny, the turquoise Parson's chameleon, and other rare and unusual species found nowhere else.

**\$17495** (+air)



### **Ultimate Madagascar**

Look for lemurs and many more species found only here as we explore the biodiversity treasure trove of the planet's most unique island. Madagascar is an evolutionary time capsule—truly a world apart!

**\$15495** (+air)



**Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together**

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.