



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION of SMITH COLLEGE

Treasures of Southern Africa January 6 to 19, 2009

Preliminary Itinerary (subject to amendment)

Day 1 – Tuesday, January 6, 2009

- Depart your gateway city for Cape Town, South Africa aboard scheduled jet service. (*Flight provided for Air Package participants only.*)

(*Appropriate in-flight meals*)

Day 2 – Wednesday, January 7, 2009

- Arrive at the Cape Town Airport, and transfer by deluxe motorcoach to the exquisite **Mount Nelson Hotel**, an historic city landmark. (*Transfer provided for Air Package participants only.*)
- The evening is at leisure.

Day 3 – Thursday, January 8, 2009

- **Excursion: Robben Island.** For nearly 400 years, isolated Robben Island was a place of exile. Now it is a UNESCO *World Heritage List* site. Cruise to the island by boat and tour the former prison where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated from 1964 to 1982. Following the tour, participate in a private discussion with a former Robben Island prisoner. Then, see the island's lime quarry and local village.
- **Excursion: Highlights of Cape Town.** Begin your exploration of Cape Town with a tour of the city's highlights and an ascent of Table Mountain (weather permitting) for breathtaking panoramic views of the city, Table Bay and the Cape of Good Hope.
- **Educational Focus: History and Culture of South Africa**
This presentation will highlight some of the key events in the history of this amazing country, including the Dutch and British colonialization, the introduction of slavery, the struggle of native tribes, the discovery of gold and diamonds, and more.
- This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a festive *Welcome Reception* in the hotel.

(*B, R*)

Day 4 – Friday, January 9, 2009

- **Optional Excursion: Wine Country.** The Cape has become synonymous with the art of winemaking. Travel by motorcoach to Franschoek, the French Corner of the Cape area, and visit one of the area's premier wine estates. Enjoy a wine tasting session followed by a delicious

lunch. Afterwards, stroll through historic Stellenbosch, one of South Africa's most attractive and best-preserved towns.

- **Cost:** approx. \$110 per person.

- For those not on the excursion, this time is free for independent exploration. The AHI Hospitality Desk is available to help you with sightseeing arrangements, restaurant reservations, shopping suggestions or any other assistance you may require.

(B)

Day 5 – Saturday, January 10, 2009

- **Excursion: *Cape Peninsula National Park, Boulders Beach and Kirstenbosch Gardens.***

Travel by motorcoach to Boulders Beach and see the African Penguin colony. Then, journey to the Cape Point Nature Reserve along the magnificent Marine Drive, beyond Lion's Head and past the Twelve Apostles that stretch to Hout Bay, a quaint fishing village. Enjoy some time free here for shopping in the market. Ascend Cape Point by funicular (cable car) and marvel at the panoramic views before enjoying a delicious lunch.

(B, L)

Day 6 – Sunday, January 11, 2009

- After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight to **Johannesburg**. Upon arrival, transfer to the luxurious ***Royal Livingstone Hotel***.
- **Optional Excursion: *Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi.*** This evening, experience a spellbinding cruise on the mighty Zambezi River. Watch for buffalo, giraffes and the elusive white rhino stopping cautiously for a drink along the banks.
 - **Cost:** approx. \$75 per person.

(B)

Day 7 – Monday, January 12, 2009

- **Optional Excursion: *Chobe National Park.*** Chobe is the second largest national park in Botswana and encompasses four distinct ecosystems. See its renowned African elephants, present during all seasons. Numbering around 120,000, these tuskers are part of what is possibly the largest surviving continuous population of the species. Chobe is also home to one of the most diverse concentrations of game and birds found on the African continent.
 - **Cost:** approx. \$245 per person.
- **Independent Excursion: *Victoria Falls.*** You can feel its power as you approach—marvel at *Mosi-oa-Tunya*, the “*Smoke that Thunders,*” one of the *Seven Natural Wonders of the World* and a *UNESCO World Heritage List* site!
- For those who choose the optional, full-day excursion to Chobe National Park, tomorrow morning's leisure time can be used to independently explore Victoria Falls as well. The Falls are within walking distance of the hotel.

(B)

Day 8 – Tuesday, January 13, 2009

- This morning is at leisure to take in the majesty of Victoria Falls or relax and enjoy the facilities of the Royal Livingstone Hotel.
- Early this afternoon, check out of the lodge and transfer to the airport for your flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival, transfer to the deluxe ***Westcliff Hotel***, a tranquil oasis in the “*City of Gold.*”

(B)

Day 9 – Wednesday, January 14, 2009

- **Excursion: Soweto.** This morning, visit the Apartheid Museum and the internationally acclaimed, award-winning exhibits on life in the townships during the 1970s and '80s. After lunch in Soweto, enjoy an afternoon tour of the township, viewing the homes of Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu.
- **Educational Focus: Contemporary South Africa.** The dramatic changes seen recently in this country have led to what was once considered inconceivable. The end of apartheid has affected every aspect of politics, both domestic and international, as well as society as a whole.

(B, L)

Day 10 – Thursday, January 15, 2009

- This morning, check out of the hotel and transfer by motorcoach to *Shishangeni Private Lodge* located in the southeastern part of Kruger National Park.
- **Excursion: Game Viewing.** After settling into the elegant lodges, set out on an afternoon game drive. Begin your quest for the *Big Five*: lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros and buffalo.

(B, L, D)

Day 11 – Friday, January 16, 2009

- **Excursion: Game Viewing.** Morning and afternoon/evening game drives in open Land Rovers can bring you close to zebras, blue wildebeest, eland, waterbuck, bushbuck and giraffes, all at home in these magnificent natural panoramas.

(B, L, D)

Day 12 – Saturday, January 17, 2009

- **Excursion: Game Viewing.** Reload your camera with film and set out on morning and afternoon/evening game drives in search of common duiker, kudu, impala, steenbok, spotted genets and more than 300 bird species.
- This evening, join your fellow travelers for a festive al fresco *Farewell Dinner* at the lodge.

(B, L, R)

Day 13 – Sunday, January 18, 2009

- The morning is at leisure to enjoy one last game drive or just relax. Later, check out of the lodge, and transfer by motorcoach to the Johannesburg Airport. There, you'll connect to the trans-Atlantic return flight to your gateway city. (*Transfer and flight provided for Air Program participants only.*)

(B, appropriate in-flight meals)

Day 14 – Monday, January 19, 2009

Arrive at your North American gateway city.

(Appropriate in-flight meals)

* *Itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions. Excursions in this program may involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are not always located in areas closely accessible by motorcoach.*