Day 1 – Monday, November 7, 2011

• Your journey begins as you board your overnight flight.

(Meals aloft)

Day 2 – Tuesday, November 8, 2011

• Upon arrival at the Johannesburg International Airport this afternoon, you will be met and escorted to your hotel. Often called Jo'burg, Johannesburg is the country's largest city and financial center with ultra modern skyscrapers and a bustling way of life. It is the city of gold, as its claim to fame is the gold that was discovered close-by.

• Located near the Tambo International Airport, the Metcourt Suites Hotel offers eighty suites furnished with all modern amenities for your convenience. Enjoy access to the casino, dining and entertainment facilities of the Emperors Palace. Marvel at the palatial buildings of the resort or explore its stunning gardens. Intricate mosaics, Roman columns and magnificent stained-glass domes contribute to the Emperors Palace's elegant and lavish ambience. Imagine you are in fashionable Rome when strolling through the spectacular Emporium shopping area. Enjoy breakfast the next morning at the charming Primavera Restaurant.

(Meals aloft)

Day 3 & 4 – Wednesday & Thursday, November 9 & 10, 2011

• Today you will fly to Maun, Botswana, where upon arrival you will board your light aircraft for your flight to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve – one of the most remote and unspoiled experiences on the African continent. At over 20,000 square miles this reserve is one of the largest in the world. The abundance of herbivores and their prey is perfectly complemented with lush green landscapes, floral displays and beautiful skies. At this time of year these verdant flatlands are alive with aggregations of gemsbok, springbok and blue wildebeest. As a result of these populations on the fossil riverbeds, predator concentrations are also high and sightings of the almost mythical black-maned Kalahari lions are complemented with some of the best cheetah viewing in Africa. Wild dog and leopard are seen on occasion and black-backed jackal, bat-eared fox also occur. Other mammal possibilities include southern giraffe, steenbok, red hartebeest and the charismatic ground squirrels.

• After sunset the Kalahari is alive with the sounds of roaring lions, White-faced Scops-Owls and the garrulous calls of barking geckos. The avifauna in the reserve is equally
diverse with over 220 species recorded to date. There are significant healthy populations of regionally threatened species like Kori Bustard and Lappet-faced Vulture, but birders will enjoy the opportunity to see a variety of arid-west endemic species such as Burchell’s Sandgrouse, Grey-backed Sparrowlark, Kalahari Scrub-Robin and African Wren-Warbler. The vivid colors of birds such as Crimson-breasted Shrike and Violet-eared Waxbill provide a startling contrast to the sometimes stark surroundings. Prime wildlife viewing areas include places with evocative names such as Deception Valley and Sunday Pan, made famous by Mark and Delia Owen in their book “Cry of the Kalahari.” The former is all that remains of an ancient riverbed which today is a 50 miles-long gentle valley floor covered with short palatable grasses interspersed with picturesque tree islands. The name ‘Deception’ is derived from the mirage effect caused by the dry surface of the pan halfway along its length which often appears misleadingly full of water.

- Your home for the next three nights will be in the rustic 12-tented camp situated in a remote part of this productive and diverse protected area. The camp is beautifully situated on a low sandy ridge fringing a typical Kalahari pan. Guided wildlife drives and walks will unlock the fascinating wildlife treasures found in this wonderful area.

(B, L, D daily) Kalahari Plains Camp

Days 5, 6, & 7 – Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 11, 12, & 13, 2011

Okavango Delta/ Banoka Camp

- Board your light aircraft once again for your flight to one of the world’s most distinctive regions, the Okavango Delta – the earth’s largest inland water system. Its headwaters start in Angola’s western highlands, with numerous tributaries joining to form the Cubango River, which then flows through Namibia (called the Kavango) and finally enters Botswana, where it is then called the Okavango. Millions of years ago the Okavango River used to flow into a large inland lake called Lake Makgadikgadi (now Makgadikgadi Pans). Tectonic activity and faulting interrupted the flow of the river causing it to backup and form what is now the Okavango Delta. This has created a unique system of waterways that now supports a vast array of animal and plant life that would have otherwise been a dry Kalahari savannah.

- The Banoka Bush Camp is situated in the Khwai Community Concession in a private area in the north eastern parts of the beautiful Okavango Delta. Accommodation consists of 10 tented units with en-suite facilities. The main camp area boasts a lounge as well as a dining area offering beautiful views. The camp is named in honor of the River San, or Banoka, ancestors of the Khoi and the earliest settlers of the Okavango Delta. The magnificent location of Banoka Bush Camp offers fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities. The narrow Khwai Channel is home to large mammals such as hippo and crocodile with buffalo and red lechwe grazing along the fringe. Elusive roan antelope often come to the river to drink. Mopane woodland and permanent water attract large numbers of elephants to the area. Larger predators include lion, wild dog and spotted hyena and birdlife found here is just as varied thanks to the wide array of habitats. Some 450 bird species can be seen in the area.

(B, L, D daily) Banoka Bush Camp

Days 8 & 9 – Monday & Tuesday, November 14 & 15, 2011

Okavango Delta/ Seba Camp

- This morning’s flight takes you to Seba Camp, your home for the next two nights. Designed to blend in with an ancient riverine forest of majestic hardwood trees such as the sycamore fig and leadwood, all tents at Seba overlook a perennial lagoon with
prolific birdlife and resident pods of hippo. It is comprised of eight well-appointed and spacious elevated tents, each with en-suite bathroom and a private deck on which to relax and observe the passing wildlife, each vibrantly decorated celebrating the different tribes of Botswana. Two are family units, so Seba can accommodate up to 22 travelers. Well-lit paths lead to the communal dining area and a lounge-library replete with reference and pictorial books. There is a secluded swimming pool enabling guests to refresh themselves and relax. The dining and bar areas are also set on a raised saligna deck with wonderful views. Gourmet meals are served, usually al fresco, in the dining area, followed by cocktails and stories shared by guests, researchers and guides around a traditional campfire.

• The camp is named after Seba, one of the elephants historically released from nearby Abu Camp. As a baby, Seba starred in the Walt Disney movie, *Whispers*, that was filmed in the area. The word "seba" means whisper in the language of Batswana. A number of elephants that were released back into the wild have formed their own herd. The interaction between these and the wild herds in the area provides rich fodder for research teams from Bristol University in the UK. Guests can observe the researchers at work, often in close proximity to the elephant herds. Guides are always happy to drive visitors to see a released elephant and its wild companions when they are in the vicinity of the camp. Part from the large elephant population, there is a seasonal abundance of wildlife in the area including giraffe, zebra, impala, wildebeest, tsessebe and lechwe. Lion frequent the greater area and herds of buffalo are occasional visitors too. For bird enthusiasts, some 380 different species are found in the region.

(B, L, D daily)  

**Seba Camp**

**Day 10 – Wednesday, November 16, 2011**  
**Maun/ Johannesburg/En Route**

• Enjoy a last wildlife run this morning and a hearty breakfast before flying back to Johannesburg via Maun where you connect with your South African Airways overnight flight to the U.S.A.

(B, meals aloft)

**Day 11 – Thursday, November 17, 2011**  
**Boston**

• This morning you land in the USA and connect with your flight home, bringing with you the memories of all the wonderful sights of Southern Africa.

(Meals aloft)

**Trip Details**

• **Duration:** 11 days  
• **Activity level:** Moderately active  
• **Cost:** $5,995 per person, based on double occupancy  
• **Single supplement:** $1,495 per person  
• **Deposit:** $750 per person, payable to Classic Escapes

*A full brochure and itinerary will be available shortly. If you would like to receive the brochure, please let us know by requesting it from our website.*
Optional Pre-Extension to Cape Town, South Africa

November 3 to 8, 2011

Preliminary Itinerary
(subject to amendment)

Day 1 – Thursday, November 3, 2011

   • Your journey begins as you board your South African Airways overnight flight.
   (meals aloft)

Day 2 – Friday, November 4, 2011

   • Upon arrival at the Johannesburg International Airport you will connect with your flight to Cape Town, South Africa’s “Mother City”.
   • Upon arrival, you will be met and escorted to your hotel.
   • The provincial capital, Cape Town, is a sophisticated city with plenty to see and do, particularly around the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront area, where delightful buildings of the Cape Dutch and Victorian-era architecture have been restored as shops, restaurants, museums and pubs, as the busy water traffic of the docks goes on unabated.
   • The Aquarium is within easy walking distance from your hotel, and well worth a visit.
   • If interested in shopping, the area has a larger shopping plaza and numerous fine shops.
   • Cape Town, which faces north across Table Bay, has thrived from its birth, first as a Dutch settlement in 1652 when Jan van Ribeek established it as a supply station for ships of the Dutch East India Company, and later, under the British as a port supplying ships with food and fresh water from the perennial mountain streams.
   • Your home for the next four nights will be at Winchester Mansions, situated on Cape Town's Platinum mile and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This exclusive, privately-owned 4 star hotel sets itself apart among other hotels in and around Cape Town with its spectacular beachfront location, stylish elegance and personalized service. Each of the 51 guestrooms and 25 suites has been exquisitely furnished by one of Cape Town’s leading interior designers. All rooms and suites have stocked mini-bars, satellite television including international channels, direct dial telephones, tea & coffee making facilities, hairdryers, electronic safes and beautifully furnished bathrooms with separate walk in showers. All rooms have air conditioning. Each elegantly appointed room or suite has breathtaking views of either the Atlantic Ocean or historic Signal Hill. After your long flights, Winchester Mansions is a welcome retreat.

(B) Winchester Mansions
Day 3 – Saturday, November 5, 2011

- Your luxury motorcoach takes you on a breathtaking coastal drive to the Cape of Good Hope. You are surrounded by spectacular mountains, rugged shorelines, and the blue sea below.
- See Devil's Peak, Lion's Head, Table Mountain and the Twelve Apostles.
- Pass quaint seaside towns as you continue to Cape Point where the stormy waters of the Atlantic meet up with the calm waters of the Indian Ocean.
- At Cape Point, climb the steps or ride a funicular to the top where you can explore a lighthouse, enjoy the views or even indulge in a bit of shopping. Take a close look at the ocean where you may see southern right whales in the spring and early summer as well as dolphins and a variety of seabirds.
- You will also have the chance to explore the Cape Point Nature Reserve which is host to approximately half of the 2,700 species of indigenous plants contained in the Cape Peninsula. Look for the distinctive orange found in leucospermums, one of the rarest types of proteas – the mimetes, marvel at the helicrysums and pelargonium calcullums, and enjoy the ericas, phenacomas and fine bush which the Dutch called “fynbos.”
- There are 250 species of birds in the reserve, ranging from ostriches to minuscule sunbirds. Caracal, chacma baboon, a wide variety of buck and various other mammal species may be seen, including Cape Mountain zebra and the bontebok which is endemic to this part of the world. The baboons feed occasionally on marine foods which they garner at low tide. At Olifants Bay, look for Oystercatchers, and enjoy some superb birding.
- Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and continue to Boulders Beach where the African (Jackass) Penguins can be seen – also known as the Black-footed Penguins. These flightless seabirds are found only on the coast of Southern Africa and the only penguins found on this continent.
- Enjoy a delightful walk on a specially-built platform onto the little sheltered beach where they nest among the rocks, and "waddle" up and down into and out of the sea. Since the penguins are accustomed to human presence you can safely get within a few feet of them as you stand on the platform, and it is sometimes possible to view them nesting behind rocks and bushes.
- Return to Cape Town in the evening, where you have another chance to discover one of the numerous restaurants that Cape Town has to offer.

(B, L)  Winchester Mansions

Day 4 – Sunday, November 6, 2011

- Today you will venture off on a full day expedition to the wine lands region situated below the spectacular Boland Mountains only 50 minutes from the city. Discover the internationally acclaimed vineyards of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek on the Western Cape, along a most scenic route.
- You will visit the historic estate of Boschendal with some of the most brilliantly preserved Cape Dutch buildings in the Cape, and its collection of priceless period furniture.
- You will also visit Franschhoek with its lovely antique shops and gardens, nestled in the "Valley of the Huguenots" where the French first settled in 1688.
- All the wine estates you will be visiting in the region offer tastings and cellar tours and you will enjoy lunch in one of them.
- This afternoon, explore the university town of Stellenbosch, the oldest town in South Africa after Cape Town, undoubtedly the most scenic and historically-preserved town...
in Southern Africa. Oak-lined streets next to water furrows compliment the many fine examples of elegant Cape Dutch, Victorian and Georgian architecture - all part of this unique "Town of Oaks".

(B, L)

Day 5 – Monday, November 7, 2011

Cape Town: Khayelitsha (New Hope)/Robben Island

- Today you will visit the settlement of Khayelitsha, on the Cape Flats. Khayelitsha means "new hope" and was established in 1984 during the tribal war outbreak in informal settlements. Like many other townships, it was created during the apartheid era as a dormitory area for the working class. Today residents continue to face challenges of HIV/AIDS and poverty in post-apartheid South Africa.

- You will meet your guide, founder Vivian Zilo, and spend time with her gaining a personal insight into her work in the community and learning more about the area in which they live. Vivian established the Iliso Care Society in June 2005 when she solicited the help of four other women to begin providing services to her community. The mission of the Iliso Care Society is to fight poverty, encourage community empowerment, organize workshops for youth, provide safety and care for orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly and school children. ICS started giving meals to over 100 beneficiaries once a day from Monday through Friday, but the numbers were increasing each and every day. Today, Vivian brings new hope to the people of Khayelitsha and you will get a chance to experience this first hand.

- Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant, sampling typical African food and hospitality in an authentic setting.

- Your day draws to a close as you visit one of the most symbolically significant and moving sights in South Africa, Robben Island.

- For nearly 400 years, Robben Island was a place of banishment, exile, isolation and imprisonment. It was here that rulers sent those they regarded as political troublemakers, social outcasts and the unwanted of society. During the apartheid years Robben Island became internationally known for its institutional brutality. The duty of those who ran the Island and its prison was to isolate opponents of apartheid and to crush their morale. Some freedom fighters, including former President Nelson Mandela, spent more than a quarter of a century in prison for their beliefs. Those imprisoned on the Island succeeded on a psychological and political level in turning a prison 'hell-hole' into a symbol of freedom and personal liberation.

- In 1997 Robben Island became a National Museum and National Monument. The Museum is a dynamic institution, which runs educational programs for schools, youths and adults, facilitates tourism development, conducts ongoing research related to the Island and fulfills an archiving function. It was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. Tours are conducted by former prisoners of Robben Island, who bring to life this South African heritage, which speaks of heroic endurance and triumph of the human spirit in the face of enormous hardship and adversity.

(B, L)

Day 6 – Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Cape Town/Kirstenbosch Gardens /Johannesburg

- Visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, arguably one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. Founded in 1913, Kirstenbosch lies on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain and consists of landscaped gardens of indigenous plants and trees, watered by the Liesbeek River, as well as natural forest that extend up to the lower slopes.
Kirstenbosch covers an area of 1,383 acres, 148 of which are cultivated; the remainder is a natural flora reserve. It is a living display featuring 9,000 of the estimated 20,000 species of indigenous South African flora, and close to 50% of the peninsula’s floral wealth. Among the interesting sections here are the Cycad Amphitheatre, which hosts most species of these “living fossils” found in southern Africa; the famed Protea Garden on the higher slopes, with its profuse growth of silver trees (*Leucadendron argenteum*); the JV Mathews Rock Garden (named after the first curator) containing succulents of the genera Crassula, Aloe, Lampranthus and Euphorbia; the Erica Garden and the Pelargonium Koppie. Two streams cut through Kirstenbosch, both laced with besembos, red alder and hard fern. Of historical interest is an avenue of camphor trees and fig trees planted by Cecil Rhodes in 1898, and a small section of wild almond (*Brabejum stellatifolium*) hedge planted by Dutch settler Jan van Riebeeck in 1660. Birds of all sorts can be seen here as well – Dusky and Paradise Flycatchers, sunbirds, Klaas's Cuckoos, bulbuls, pigeons, brilliant green and red Cape Sugarbirds (which pollinate the flowers), guinea fowls, and the Cape Batis.

The rest of the day is at your own leisure to relax or take advantage of the excellent shopping opportunities nearby.

Later today, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Johannesburg to meet up with the group arriving from the USA this evening.

(B)

**Trip Details**

- **Cost:** $2,495 per person, based on double occupancy
- **Single supplement:** $695 per person
- **Internal Airfare:** $500 per person
Optional Post-Extension to
Livingstone & Victoria Falls, Zambia

November 16 to 19, 2011

Preliminary Itinerary
(subject to amendment)

Days 10 & 11 – Wednesday & Thursday, November 16 & 17, 2011
Livingstone/Victoria Falls, Zambia

- Today a new adventure awaits you as you fly to Kasane where you will cross by ferry to Zambia and continue by vehicle to Livingstone, located on the Zambian side of Victoria Falls.
- At more than twice the size of Niagara Falls it’s no surprise that Victoria Falls are among the Seven Wonders of the World. Mosi-oa-Tunya – The Smoke that Thunders, derived from the towering column of spray when the Zambezi River runs high, is the name that Zimbabwe's local people have given to this awesome natural phenomenon. The name is probably more appropriate and descriptive than "Victoria", which has a far too calm and composed ring to it to do justice to the masses of thundering, swirling water of these spectacular falls. But all Dr. David Livingstone probably thought of when he named the falls after his Queen in 1855 was his royal duty.
- Five separate falls make up this incredible spectacle that plunges more than 300 feet into a sheer-sided chasm which separates Zimbabwe from Zambia. The awe-inspiring abyss is spanned by a 1905 Edwardian bridge which links the two countries and many adventurers now use to bungee jump. The masses of water plunging down the falls and into the gorge below originate from the mighty Zambezi River that meanders through more than 1,677 miles of African countryside.
- Your visit will include a tour of the falls on the Zambian side. An afternoon sundowner cruise on a private boat will be a highlight as you glide along the Zambezi River, watching hippos snort, elephants drink on the riverbank, monkeys jump from branch to branch, birds fly overhead or pose for a photograph on the branches, and much more. Enjoy your gin and tonic, cool beer, or drink of choice, and see a panoramic sunset as the sun dips below the horizon, painting the whole area in unbelievable colors of brilliant reds, yellows, purples and mauves.
- Enjoy a visit to an authentic native village to see how the local people live. You will be escorted by your English-speaking village guide, seeing a culture and ways of life that remains virtually unchanged through the ages. View their daily rituals, from the women cooking and mending their huts, to the artistic woodcarvings created right in front of you by the village artisans. Children scatter about and you are welcome to mingle and take photographs. Long after you’ve left, this cultural visit will remain...
with you, as you’ll feel as though you’ve experienced a different part of Africa, quite essential if you’re to understand the complexity of this continent.

- Overlooking the mighty Zambezi River and some of its islands, under a shady canopy of jackal berry and water berry trees lies Toka Leya, your accommodation for the next two nights. The islands in front of camp are intriguing and part of the braided channel of the Zambezi with some rapids, a main channel and fringing dense vegetation. The camp consists of 12 safari-style tents, each en-suite with a view of the magnificent Zambezi River and some of its islands. The camp's dining and bar area is set beneath a shaded canopy of trees overlooking the River and a swimming pool.

*(B, L, D daily)  Toka Leya Camp*

**Day 12 – Friday, November 18, 2011  Victoria Falls/Johannesburg/En Route**

- Last chance to photograph the incredible Falls, visit the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park which also features rhino, or shop at Livingstone, before transferring to the airport for your flight to Johannesburg.
- Here, connect with your overnight flight back to Phoenix on South African Airways.

*(B, meals aloft)*

**Day 13 – Saturday, November 19, 2011  Arrive in the U.S.**

- This morning you land in the USA and connect with your flight home, bringing with you the memories of all the wonderful sights of Southern Africa.

*(meals aloft)*

**Trip Details**

- **Cost:** $1,795 per person, based on double occupancy (includes return flight to Johannesburg)
- **Single supplement:** $395 per person