



Discovering Our Planet Together



Secluded South Africa

Escape the Crowds! Explore Private Reserves on an Exclusive Safari for Just Six Guests



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Trip Details:

Days
10 Days / Jun-Oct

Price
From \$16295 (+Air)

Physical Requirements
Easy to Moderate

Secluded South Africa

Escape the Crowds! Explore Private Reserves on an Exclusive Safari for Just Six Guests

To many, South Africa’s wealth is synonymous with its diamonds and gold. But we think its greatest riches lie in another of its natural treasures: its wildlife. Sabi Sand, Marataba, Madikwe and other vast bushveld reserves protect an astounding diversity of big game. From massive-tusked African elephants to sleek leopards, from squat rhinos to regal lions and Cape buffalo, the Big Five are all here to provide one of Africa’s greatest safari experiences—and with our focus on secluded private reserves in the Greater Kruger region and remote realms beyond, the only crowds you’ll encounter are crowds of animals. At every turn, our Expedition Leader reveals the intricate wonders of the bush ecosystem, sharing interpretive insights and conservation success stories. When your safari is over, one thing is certain: you’ll go home far richer than when you arrived.

Trip Highlights

With just six travelers, get close to the Big Five on a diverse sampler of South Africa’s top private wildlife enclaves, including legendary MalaMala

Guided by top safari Expedition Leaders, explore a diverse range of habitats in Sabi Sand, Marataba and Madikwe, where animals abound and visitors are few

Surrounded by solitude in wild nature, stay in intimate and distinctive accommodations where sustainability and conservation are integral values



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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 - 9**
Sabi Sand—MalaMala Private Reserve
- Day 10**
MalaMala / Johannesburg / Depart

Secluded South Africa Itinerary

Escape the Crowds! Explore Private Reserves on an Exclusive Safari for Just Six Guests

Day 1: Johannesburg, South Africa

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





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. We explore Madikwe's unspoiled wilderness on exciting wildlife drives and guided nature walks, enjoying bush picnics along the way.

After each exhilarating day, return to the comforts of our luxurious lodge, offering warm hospitality in a wild setting. Refresh in your private plunge pool, gather on the main deck to watch 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 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 gem, and while it doesn't have the name cachet of Kruger or Sabi Sand, it delivers one of the most scenic and impressive safari experiences in South Africa. Walking safaris are the focus here, and we seek out black and white rhinos in the company of specialist walking guides. 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. And since we are on a private reserve, we can search for nocturnal species after dusk as we drive off-road to find more elusive animals. The camp's boat is also available for water safaris on the Matlabas River, where elephants snorkel and waterbirds abound.

Each 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, with wide-angle vistas 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 - 9: 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 for some of the best Big Five viewing 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. MalaMala is famous for its leopard viewing, and evening drives are a highlight here, with an array of nocturnal species on view, including predators on the hunt. As the largest private game reserve in South Africa, safari tourism from MalaMala directly supports many individuals in neighboring communities.

Day 10: MalaMala / Johannesburg / Depart

After breakfast, our safari concludes with a transfer to nearby Skukuza Airport where we board our flight back to Johannesburg to connect with onward flights or extensions.



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Accommodation Details:

Fairlawns Boutique Hotel

Madikwe Safari Lodge

Marataba Safari Lodge

MalaMala Main Camp

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/africa/secluded-south-africa/accommodations

Secluded South Africa Accommodations

Escape the Crowds! Explore Private Reserves on an Exclusive Safari for Just Six Guests



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.



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.

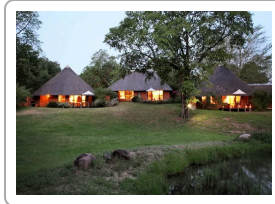


Marataba Safari Lodge

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.



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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.



Outstanding Wildlife Viewing Away from the Crowds

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 safari apart:

1

Maximum Group Size Just *six* Travelers!

An authentic encounter with nature is tough to achieve in a big group. While South Africa's tarmac road system and established network of lodges encourages a more bus-based safari approach, often with 15-20 guests aboard, we limit our groups to six, lessening our impact and granting us access to smaller camps and remote spots larger groups can't get to. We promise the most personalized safari experience available!

2

Private Reserves Offer Seclusion & Superior Wildlife Viewing

Private reserves are essential to the best African safari, especially in South Africa. In the exclusive wilderness areas of Sabi Sand, Marataba and Madikwe, we explore exceptionally varied habitats in solitude, viewing abundant wildlife away from crowds of other visitors (who are mostly traveling on paved roads inside the public parks).

3

An Unusually Diverse Itinerary

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 the less-visited Marataba and Madikwe 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 viewing opportunities.



5

Flights Maximize Your Time on Safari

While we enjoy watching the countryside unfold on the drive between Madikwe and Marataba, we put a big focus on flights, arranging air transfers where possible to maximize your time with wildlife, rather than spending too much of it negotiating rough roads on 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 Window Seat for All

Standard safaris often utilize cramped mini buses. In contrast, we charter top-quality custom safari vehicles that optimize comfort. 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 game-viewing 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 to Explore via 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 views 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 Safari Guides

We are proud to provide the personalized service of some of South Africa's premier naturalist guides. We employ only the most highly trained and experienced Safari Expedition Leaders. Rather than relying on less-qualified local camp guides at each stop, our Expedition Leaders accompany our guests from start to finish. Our guides average 15 years' experience each, with 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 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.



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!



Make It Private or Design Your Own Custom Safari

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. Our in-house safari experts can reserve a private departure for your group or help you design your own custom Africa itinerary—their expertise is second to none! **Click here** to request more info.

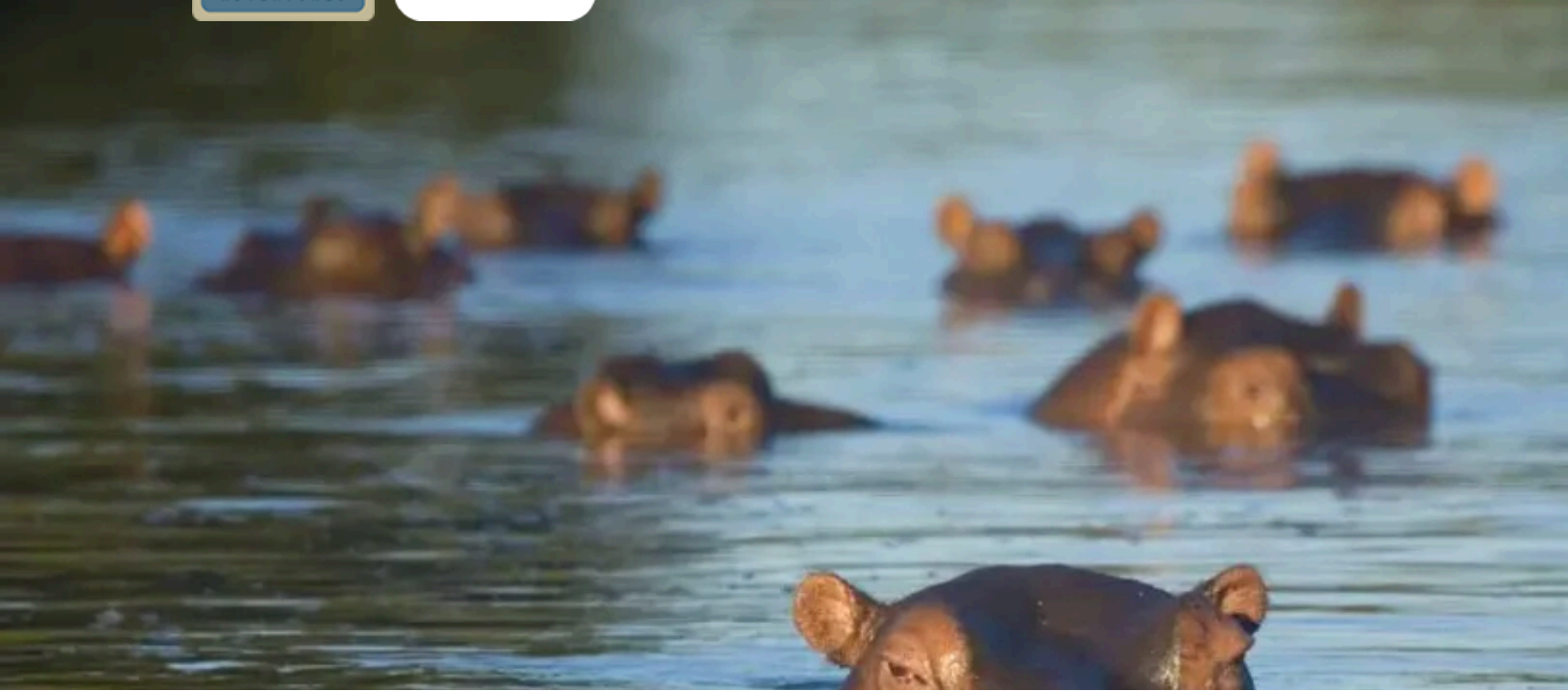
Please note that on Secluded South Africa Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 3 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$16295 (+Air)

Group Size: Limited to 6 Travelers

Physical Requirements: Easy to Moderate

Secluded South Africa Dates, Pricing & Info

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2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 13, 2025	Jun 22, 2025	Women's Journey
Jul 8, 2025	Jul 17, 2025	
Jul 14, 2025	Jul 23, 2025	
Jul 23, 2025	Aug 1, 2025	
Aug 3, 2025	Aug 12, 2025	
Aug 11, 2025	Aug 20, 2025	
Aug 18, 2025	Aug 27, 2025	
Aug 23, 2025	Sep 1, 2025	
Aug 26, 2025	Sep 4, 2025	Habitat Club Pricing Available
Sep 4, 2025	Sep 13, 2025	
Sep 10, 2025	Sep 19, 2025	



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$16295 (+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 6 Travelers

Physical Requirements:
Easy to Moderate

Departure	Return	Notes
Oct 14, 2025	Oct 23, 2025	Habitat Club Pricing Available
Oct 23, 2025	Nov 1, 2025	Habitat Club Pricing Available

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 14, 2026	Jun 23, 2026	Women's Journey
Jun 17, 2026	Jun 26, 2026	
Jun 22, 2026	Jul 1, 2026	
Jul 2, 2026	Jul 11, 2026	
Jul 15, 2026	Jul 24, 2026	
Jul 24, 2026	Aug 2, 2026	
Aug 4, 2026	Aug 13, 2026	
Aug 12, 2026	Aug 21, 2026	
Aug 19, 2026	Aug 28, 2026	
Aug 24, 2026	Sep 2, 2026	
Aug 27, 2026	Sep 5, 2026	
Sep 5, 2026	Sep 14, 2026	
Sep 11, 2026	Sep 20, 2026	
Oct 15, 2026	Oct 24, 2026	
Oct 24, 2026	Nov 2, 2026	

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 14, 2027	Jun 23, 2027	Women's Journey
Jun 17, 2027	Jun 26, 2027	
Jun 22, 2027	Jul 1, 2027	



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$16295 (+Air)

Group Size: Limited to 6 Travelers

Physical Requirements: Easy to Moderate

Departure	Return	Notes
Jul 2, 2027	Jul 11, 2027	
Jul 15, 2027	Jul 24, 2027	
Jul 24, 2027	Aug 2, 2027	
Aug 4, 2027	Aug 13, 2027	
Aug 12, 2027	Aug 21, 2027	
Aug 19, 2027	Aug 28, 2027	
Aug 24, 2027	Sep 2, 2027	
Aug 27, 2027	Sep 5, 2027	
Sep 5, 2027	Sep 14, 2027	
Sep 11, 2027	Sep 20, 2027	
Oct 15, 2027	Oct 24, 2027	
Oct 24, 2027	Nov 2, 2027	



Pricing

2025 Prices

➤ **Trip Price**

\$15995 to \$16295 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$2984 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$3795. **Click here** to learn how you can avoid the single supplement.

Make It Private: Take this trip privately with just you and your select travel companions. View pricing for our **Secluded South Africa itinerary**.

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

Please read our Payment & Refund Policy here.



2026 Prices

Mouse over or tap dates above to view prices for specific departure dates.

➤ **Trip Price**

\$17795 to \$17995 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$3684 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$3995. **Click here** to learn how you can avoid the single supplement.

Make It Private:

Take this trip privately with just you and your select travel companions.

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. **Please read our Payment & Refund Policy here.**

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.

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

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 and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.



Physical Requirements

Easy to Moderate

To participate in this trip, you must be able to walk unassisted at a steady pace for at least one mile over uneven terrain, climb steps to get into and out of our raised safari vehicles, and be able to tolerate daily outdoor excursions that may last 4-5 hours or even a full day at a time, sometimes in hot, windy and/or dusty conditions. Wildlife drives pose a particular type of physical demand on the body, as they require long hours of sitting and take place over terrain that is often very rough and bumpy, including dirt roads with many ruts and potholes. Travelers with back or neck problems, or other health issues that could be exacerbated by such conditions, should take this into consideration. While any walking safaris are considered optional, travelers must be able to walk unassisted to and from the vehicle to our camp accommodations, sometimes walking over uneven ground or on boardwalks. Days spent on safari are often long, as mornings typically start before daybreak and evening meals are served after sundown. Safari accommodations and vehicles are not climate-controlled and, depending on the season, temperatures can range from quite cold to extremely hot, so it is critical that travelers come prepared.

On custom or private departures with smaller groups, our ability to accommodate varying levels of physical abilities or interests is limited, since these trips are staffed with a single Expedition Leader who may be assisted, pending availability, by local guides.

Important Information About This Trip

Our Secluded South Africa safari 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 on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests' safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests' safety.

Getting There & Getting Home

Please plan to arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa by 6 pm on Day 1 in order to attend a 7 pm welcome dinner. You are free to depart Johannesburg after 6 pm on the final day.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of these programs and can arrange the most efficient and cost-effective travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



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Extension Details:

Namibia Desert Extension
\$5795

Cape Town Extension
\$1995

Wild Cape Coast Extension
\$2995

Namibia Desert Extension
\$5795

Cape Town Extension
\$1995

Wild Cape Coast Extension
\$2995

Madagascar Explorer
\$11995

Madagascar Wildlife Adventure
\$14295

Secluded South Africa Extensions

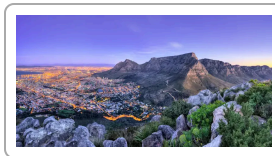
Escape the Crowds! Explore Private Reserves on an Exclusive Safari for Just Six Guests



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.

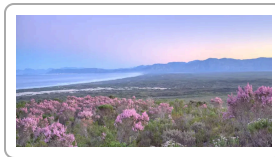
\$5795 (+air)



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.

\$1995



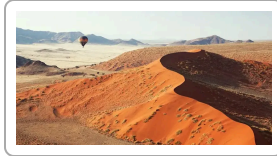
Wild Cape Coast Extension

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.

\$2995



Discovering Our Planet Together



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.

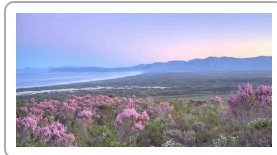
\$5795 (+air)



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.

\$1995



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.

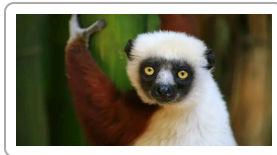
\$2995



Madagascar Explorer

Our compact yet diverse itinerary reveals a mix of contrasting ecosystems—primary rainforest, pristine beaches, ancient baobabs and coastal mangroves—as we go in search of rare and endemic flora and fauna.

\$11995



Madagascar Wildlife Adventure

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!

\$14295 (+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.