



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–Oct

Price:
From \$18195
(+air)
(+ Air)

Physical Requirements:
Easy to Moderate

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 Sabi Sand, Marataba and Madikwe, 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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Itinerary At A Glance

- Day 1**
Johannesburg, South Africa
- Days 2-4**
Madikwe Private Reserve
- Days 5-6**
Marataba Private Reserve
- Days 7-10**
Sabi Sand—MalaMala Private Reserve
- Day 11**
MalaMala / Johannesburg / Depart

Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition 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.





Days 2-4: Madikwe Private Reserve

Transfer this morning to the Johannesburg airport for our flight to the private Madikwe Reserve, tucked against South Africa's border with Botswana. Our destination is Jaci's Tree Lodge, a luxury eco-retreat hidden in the riverine forest along the banks of the Marico River. Its eight treehouse suites, built on stilts and connected by elevated walkways, provide a cool respite from the heat of African summer days and a cozy fireside sanctuary during chilly winter months. Extending into the canopy, the treehouses offer outstanding birdwatching from your own private veranda. The Terrapin Hide on the premises is in the very midst of an active waterhole on the premises, offering an exciting view on abundant game that wanders through.

Much awaits immediately beyond, too, and we spend three days exploring the wildlife riches of Madikwe Private Reserve. Surrounded by grassland, forest and rocky hills, Madikwe lies 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 and is sure to captivate your imagination as it offers myriad photography subjects. 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 game drives and guided nature walks, enjoying bush picnics along the way. After each exhilarating day, return to the comforts of our lodge, offering warm hospitality in a wild setting. 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, grab your camera as a spray of stars adds nature's glitter to the sky.

Days 5-6: 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 gem, 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. 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 photograph 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.

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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Accommodation Details:

Fairlawns Boutique Hotel

Marataba Safari Lodge

MalaMala Main Camp

Jaci's Safari Lodge

For detailed descriptions, visit 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.



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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.



Jaci's Safari Lodge

Set in northwest South Africa's Madikwe Game Reserve, home to the "Super Seven," this lodge blends timeless bush luxury with modern conveniences for supreme comfort amid stunning nature.



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 Madikwe, 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 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 photo encounters right where you're staying.
- 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 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.

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.

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 with Your Family or Friends

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!

Please note that on Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition 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.

When you choose a private or custom safari, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic African safari on offer. Here are some of the advantages when you go private:

Your private group of family or friends, with special activities for kids

Your own private safari guide

Private safari vehicles for the utmost in flexibility

Surprisingly affordable pricing

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- 1 Your private group of family or friends, with special activities for kids**
 - 2 Your own private safari guide**
 - 3 Private safari vehicles for the utmost in flexibility**
 - 4 Surprisingly affordable pricing**

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



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a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$18195
(+air)
(+ Air)

Group Size:
Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements:
Easy to Moderate

Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

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2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 2, 2025	Jun 12, 2025	
Aug 6, 2025	Aug 16, 2025	
Sep 19, 2025	Sep 29, 2025	
Oct 1, 2025	Oct 11, 2025	

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Aug 7, 2026	Aug 17, 2026	
Sep 20, 2026	Sep 30, 2026	
Oct 2, 2026	Oct 12, 2026	



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$18195
(+air)
(+ Air)

Group Size:
Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements:
Easy to Moderate

Departure Return Notes

2027 Departures

Departure Return Notes

Aug 7, 2027	Aug 17, 2027	
Sep 20, 2027	Sep 30, 2027	
Oct 2, 2027	Oct 12, 2027	



Pricing

2024 Prices

▶ Trip Price

\$14895 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$2898 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$3595.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable).

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

2025 Prices

▶ Photo Expedition Price

\$18195 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$3198 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$4195.

Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition.

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

Specialized 4x4 Land Rovers and Land Cruisers

In South Africa we use open 4x4 Land Rovers or Land Cruisers with a suspension system custom-designed for safari terrain, and an open-top, open-sided, tiered seating arrangement designed to maximize game-viewing opportunities and passenger comfort. Typically, each vehicle has 10 cushioned passenger seats, one in front next to the driver, followed by three rows of three seats each, though we limit our capacity to approximately six travelers on this safari, with **a window seat for each person**. Each row is raised slightly higher than the one in front of it, allowing for unobstructed views of scenery and wildlife. Vehicles have a cooler box stocked with cold drinks, a small library with reference books and field guides, and ponchos for each traveler in case of rain. Each custom-built vehicle sports front bull bars and runner boards, as well as a full recovery kit, including spare tires and a high-lift jack. Vehicles are updated or replaced as needed and meticulously maintained to provide our guests with an unmatched safari experience.

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 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

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

Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition
\$15695

Madagascar Wildlife Adventure
\$13995

Secluded South Africa Photo Expedition Extensions

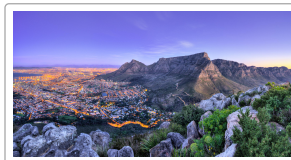
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Namibia Desert Extension

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.

\$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



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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.

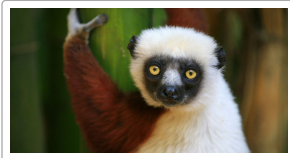
\$2995



Madagascar 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.

\$15695 (+air)



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!

\$13995 (+air)



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

Natural Habitat Adventures • PO Box 3065 • Boulder, CO 80307

USA & Canada: 800-543-8917 • International: +1-303-449-3711

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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.