

Southern Africa Safari Adventure Annual Friends Trip

OCTOBER 20 – 29, 2025





Late October offers a thrilling safari experience in Southern Africa, as dwindling water sources draw wildlife to concentrated areas, creating prime game-viewing opportunities.

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey through Southern Africa's premier safari destinations, exploring the Big Five-rich landscapes of MalaMala Game Reserve, the untamed wilderness of Botswana's Okavango Region, and the majestic beauty of Victoria Falls.

With predators on the hunt and iconic wildlife gathering at remaining waterholes, this journey promises exceptional sightings, unforgettable encounters and superlative surroundings in the heart of the wild.



ITINERARY SUMMARY

- Johannesburg, South Africa: 1 night at 54 on Bath
- MalaMala Game Reserve: 3 nights at MalaMala Camp
- Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe: 2 nights at Mbano Manor Hotel
- Okavango Region / Khwai Conservancy, Botswana: 3 nights at Machaba Camp

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience game viewing is at its most dramatic, as animals concentrate around the river and remaining waterholes in the Big Five-rich landscapes of MalaMala Game Reserve
- Witness the majestic Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.
- Immerse in wildlife observations in Botswana's Khwai Conservancy, in the Okavango Region.
- Enjoy superlative accommodations that blend comfort, luxury and authentic African Safari style



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

OPTIONAL PRE-NIGHT: OCTOBER 19

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Arrive a day early for rest and recovery. Hotel check in from 2:00 p.m. Early check-in available at a supplement. *54 on Bath*

DAY 1: OCTOBER 20, 2025 ARRIVALS IN JOHANNESBURG

Independent arrivals to O.R. Tambo International Airport. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by a local Conservancy Travel representative and transferred to 54 on Bath. The day is at leisure. Hotel check in from 2:00 p.m. Early check-in available at a supplement. *54 on Bath*

OPTIONAL TOUR 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Privately guided visit of Soweto, the Apartheid Museum and Mandela Museum. (A stop for lunch is included, but lunch and drinks are not included and payable in cash based on personal consumption.)

DAY 2: OCTOBER 21 MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

Early this afternoon, fly from Johannesburg to Kruger National Airport, then transfer to MalaMala Game Reserve. Upon arrival, meet your ranger—your host, guide, and educator—before settling in and embarking on an afternoon game drive in search of the Big Five.

Located in northeastern South Africa's Mpumalanga province, MalaMala is one of Southern Africa's largest and most renowned private Big Five reserves, spanning 13,300 hectares and sharing an unfenced boundary with Kruger National Park. Its diverse landscapes—open savannah, riverine woodlands, and dense bushveld—are shaped by the Sand River, a critical water source, especially in late October when dwindling water supplies create dramatic wildlife interactions.



Game viewing is at its peak as large herds of elephants, buffalo, rhinoceroses, giraffes, and antelope gather near the remaining waterholes, attracting predators like lions, leopards, and hyenas. Your ranger will tailor game activities to your interests, ensuring optimal comfort and prime wildlife encounters. In addition to game-viewing activities, take time to relax and immerse yourself in the camp's atmosphere and facilities. *MalaMala Camp (B,D)*

DAYS 3-4: OCTOBER 22-23 MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

Experience two unforgettable days at MalaMala Game Reserve, featuring expertly guided game drives, up-close Big Five encounters, luxurious accommodations, and exceptional dining under the African stars.

Typical Daily Schedule

5:30 a.m. Wake-up call from your ranger signals the start of the day.

6:00 a.m. Gather on the safari deck as the sun rises over the bushveld. Enjoy hot and cold beverages with a light snack before setting off on the morning game drive.

9:30 a.m. Return to camp for a hearty brunch in the air-conditioned dining room or on the safari deck. Afterward, join a bush walk, relax by the pool, browse the boutique, visit the gym, or take a siesta. Feel free to explore the camp, but do not venture beyond its perimeter without a ranger.

3:00 p.m. Meet on the safari deck for refreshments before departing on the afternoon game drive. A cooler box stocked for sundowners accompanies the drive, with your group deciding whether a gin and tonic rivals a leopard sighting. As night falls, your ranger uses a spotlight to reveal elusive nocturnal wildlife, and the star-filled sky offers a chance to spot the Milky Way and Southern Cross.

8:00 p.m. Return to camp and freshen up before gathering for pre-dinner drinks at the Safari Bar.

8:30 p.m. Dinner is served in the reed-enclosed boma under a jackalberry tree or, weather permitting, by candlelight on the safari deck overlooking the Sand River. Enjoy superb cuisine, fine wines, and a fireside setting beneath the African stars—another highlight of the MalaMala experience. *MalaMala Camp (B,L,D)*



DAY 5: OCTOBER 24 VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

This morning, transfer to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport for your flight to Victoria Falls. Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel for check-in. Later, unwind on a scenic sunset cruise along the Zambezi River, searching for wildlife along the banks as the sun sets over the water. *Mbano Manor Hotel (B)*

DAY 6: OCTOBER 25 VICTORIA FALLS

This morning, your local guide will meet you for the “Through the Eyes of an Elephant” interaction experience: a journey into the lives of these amazing gentle giants. Connect with, understand, and get up close to these majestic mammals. Learn about their lives, what excites them, the bonds they form, and the depth of their intelligence and emotions.

Lunch at Lookout Café (drinks excluded).

In the afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of the mighty Victoria Falls. Described by the Kololo tribe in the 1800s as “Mosi-oa-Tunya”—“The Smoke That Thunders”—and more modernly as “the greatest known curtain of falling water,” Victoria Falls is a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, bordering Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Explore the Zimbabwean side of the falls, where Main Falls, Devil’s Cataract, and Rainbow Falls still showcase impressive cascades, even at the end of the dry season. Stroll along well-maintained rainforest trails, shaded by lush vegetation nourished by the ever-present mist. While the spray is lighter than during peak flood months, you may feel a gentle mist near Main Falls, though

you’re unlikely to get fully drenched. As the afternoon sun illuminates the deep gorges and shimmering water, rainbows often form in the mist, offering spectacular photo opportunities.

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. *Mbano Manor Hotel (B,L)*

DAY 7: OCTOBER 26 OKAVANGO REGION / KHWAI CONSERVANCY, BOTSWANA

This morning, we transfer by road from Victoria Falls, across the border into Botswana, to Kasane Airport, for our charter flight to Machaba Camp.

NOTE: *There is a strict luggage allowance of 20kgs (soft bag) per person including hand luggage. Bags must be soft-sided with no hard frames or wheels and must not exceed 35cm x 70cm (13x27 in.) to fit through the pod door. Any additional costs due to non-compliance are the traveler’s responsibility.*

On arrival at the airstrip, meet your ranger who will transfer you to the lodge for your 3-night stay. Select from your choice of safari activities during your stay.

Located between Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve, the 200,000-hectare Khwai Conservancy is a wildlife-rich region of diverse landscapes, from dense mopane forests to the plentiful Khwai River, which attracts an abundance of animals. In late October, as the dry season nears its end, game viewing is exceptional, with large elephant herds, lions, leopards, hyenas, and wild dogs frequently seen near the dwindling water sources. Other wildlife includes buffalo, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, hippos, kudu, tsessebe, and the rarer roan and the rare sable antelope.

Khwai permits night drives and off-road safaris, offering a unique opportunity to spot nocturnal wildlife. Enjoy game drives, guided walks, and immersive bush experiences in one of Africa's premier safari destinations. *Machaba Camp (B,L,D)*

DAYS 8-9: OCTOBER 27-28 KHWAI CONSERVANCY

Enjoy your choice of activities, according to your interests: Game Drive, Walking Safari, Mokoro (Water Dependent); Bird Watching; Photography, Game viewing from the camp. Fishing upon request and may carry an additional cost. *Machaba Camp (B,L,D)*

DAY 10: OCTOBER 29 DEPARTURE

This morning, we head out onto the reeAfter a final safari activity and breakfast, transfer to the airstrip for your charter flight to Maun Airport.

On arrival in Maun, connect to your scheduled flight to Johannesburg, and onward international flight connections home. (B)

Or, upon arrival in Maun, connect to your flight to Cape Town and begin Optional Cape Town Extension.



OPTIONAL CAPE TOWN EXTENSION

Upon arrival in Cape Town, you are met by and transferred to the Mount Nelson Hotel for check-in. Evening and dinner at leisure. *Mount Nelson Hotel (B)*

OCTOBER 30: CAPE TOWN

Full day tour to Robben Island, Table Mountain and historic Cape Town. A lunch stop is included; however, lunch and drinks are on your own account. *Mount Nelson Hotel (B)*

OCTOBER 31: CAPE TOWN

Full day visit to Stellenbosch Wine Lands, including two wine tastings & cellar tour. A lunch stop is included; however, lunch and drinks are on your own account. *Mount Nelson Hotel (B)*

NOVEMBER 1: DEPARTURE

Private return transfer to Cape Town International Airport for return flights to the US. (B)

B- Breakfast; L=Lunch; D= Dinner

This schedule is preliminary and may be adjusted according to conditions on the day of operation.

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\$11,574 per person in a double room

\$14,992 single rate (limited availability)

+ \$867 Required Internal Airfare

(two flights: JNB-SKU & KMIA – VFA via JNB)

Deposit: \$3,000 + \$867 per person

Registration and Deposit online, with payment by credit card. (No manual registration option.)

Final Payment due by check July 12, 2025. (If paid by credit card, the final balance due incurs an additional 4.5% credit card fee which is automatically added to the online price.)

Register online at

www.conservancytravel.org/SA25_JBO



TRIP INCLUSIONS:

- ✓ Private meet and greet upon arrival in South Africa
- ✓ Accommodation and meals as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ All private transportation during the tour
- ✓ Guided tours and game drives with local, English-speaking guides
- ✓ Entrance fees to national parks and reserves
- ✓ Porterage for two pieces of luggage per person at airports
- ✓ Local 24-hour Conservancy Travel support services
- ✓ One 500ml bottled water per person per day on the vehicle

EXCLUDED OR AT A SUPPLEMENT:

- Regional airfare listed separately at \$867 per person
- International airfare, airport taxes not included in issued airline tickets, baggage fees
- Visa fees and related entry requirements
- Personal expenses such as laundry (except where noted by the accommodation as included), phone calls, room service, and minibar charges
- Beverages unless noted in the accommodations inclusions
- Optional tours and activities not specified in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, hotel and safari camp staff
- Early check-in or late check-out

Cancellation Fee Schedule

Up to 100 days before departure: \$3,000 + \$867

99 – 60 days before departure: 75% of total fees owed

59 – 0 days before departure: no refund



Rest and Recover Optional Pre Night in Johannesburg (October 19)

\$239 per person in a double room

\$423 single rate

- 1 night's accommodation at 54 on Bath in Johannesburg, including breakfast
- Meet & Greet on arrival and Private transfer

Optional Full day Tour Apartheid Museum / Soweto tour (10 a.m.–5 p.m. on October 20)

\$144 per person

- Included: Private Transportation and Guide; entrance fees
- Excluded: Gratuities for guides, drivers, hotel

Optional Post Trip Extension to Cape Town (October 29 – Nov 1)

\$2,598 per person in a double room

\$4,650 single rate

Included

- One way flight from Maun to Cape Town
- 3 night's accommodation at Mount Nelson Hotel, in Deluxe Room, including breakfast
- Meet & Greet on arrival and Private departure transfer from Cape Town International Airport.
- 2 Full day Tours with Table Mountain, Robben Island, Stellenbosch tours, including 2 wine tastings & cellar tour

Excluded Lunches and dinners, beverages, Gratuities for guides, drivers, hotel

ACCOMMODATIONS

Johannesburg – 54 on Bath

Located in Rosebank, 54 on Bath offers contemporary luxury with elegant rooms, a rooftop pool, and fine dining. Conveniently situated near city attractions.

MalaMala Game Reserve – MalaMala Camp

MalaMala Camp, the reserve's original and recently reimagined camp, blends classic African character with modern comfort. Unfenced and overlooking the Sand River, it offers understated luxury, warm hospitality, and superb wildlife viewing.

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe – Mbano Manor Hotel

Set in a teak forest near Victoria Falls, Mbano Manor Hotel offers boutique luxury in a tranquil environment, with spacious suites and close proximity to the falls.

Okavango Delta, Botswana – Machaba Camp

Located in the wildlife-rich Khwai area, Machaba Camp blends classic 1950s safari charm with modern comforts. The camp features eight luxury and two family tents, each with a private bathroom, outdoor shower, and veranda overlooking the Delta. Shaded by riverine trees, the camp offers outdoor dining along the Khwai River, where wildlife gathers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

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