



Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
South Africa Conservation Safari
Cape Town - MalaMala Game Reserve - Johannesburg
11 Days / 10 Nights
Date of Issue: August 25, 2026
September 19, 2027 - September 29, 2027



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Introduction

Join **Lily Maynard**, Vice President of Conservation Impact, for a conservation-focused journey in **South Africa**, where extraordinary wildlife, remarkable biodiversity, and the country's complex human history come together.

Begin in **Cape Town**, where the dramatic landscapes of the Cape Peninsula provide the setting for a closer look at the rescue and rehabilitation of endangered African penguins and other seabirds with SANCCOB. Then observe a wild penguin colony at Boulders Beach and explore the unique fynbos landscapes of Cape Point. Visits to Robben Island and Bo-Kaap add important historical and cultural context, while a day in the Cape Winelands introduces the agricultural traditions, gardens, and flavors of the Western Cape.

Next, fly to the Greater Kruger ecosystem for a safari in **MalaMala Game Reserve**, one of South Africa's most respected private reserves. Game drives with expert rangers offer exceptional wildlife viewing and insight into this remarkable ecosystem. Here, meet with CZBG partner Cheetah Outreach Trust for an in-depth look at its conservation efforts.

Conclude in **Johannesburg** with a special visit to VulPro, one of the country's leading vulture conservation organizations, then explore the landscapes and birdlife of Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden. Finally, examine South Africa's modern history at the Apartheid Museum and gain a local perspective on Soweto through art, memory, and community storytelling.

Throughout the program, examine wildlife conservation in tandem with the people, institutions, and historical forces that shape South Africa today, gaining a deeper understanding of what it takes to protect biodiversity in a country where conservation, culture, science, and community are closely connected.

Extend your journey to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Duration
Overnight Travel		Sep 19	Sep 20	1 Night
Victoria & Alfred Hotel	Cape Town	Sep 20	Sep 24	4 Nights
MalaMala Camp	MalaMala Game Reserve	Sep 24	Sep 27	3 Nights
54 on Bath	Johannesburg	Sep 27	Sep 29	2 Nights

Price

\$12,999 per person, sharing a double room

\$17,137 Single Rate

REGISTRATION click on BOOK NOW at the top of the page from a computer, laptop or tablet, or use this link if viewing from a mobile phone: <https://shorturl.at/lUndZ>

OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP NIGHT FOR REST & RECOVERY

1 Additional night Cape Town September 19, 2027

\$442 Per Person Double Occupancy

Single Rate \$736

Includes Airport Arrival Meet & Greet, private transfer to the hotel, 1 night accommodation, breakfast. Check in available from 2:00 p.m.

FOUR-NIGHT POST TRIP EXTENSION TO VICTORIA FALLS

Extend your trip with four nights at Victoria Falls, featuring a guided visit to the Falls, a sunset cruise on the Zambezi, an elephant conservation experience, and a wildlife drive with bush breakfast in Stanley & Livingstone Private Game Reserve.

For detailed information: <https://shorturl.at/bRnze>

Included

- Individual Arrival Meet & Greet & private transfer from Cape Town International Airport to the hotel; check-in available from 2 p.m.
- Accommodation for 9 nights
- 22 meals: 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 6 dinners
- Two domestic scheduled flights: Cape Town – Skukuza / Skukuza – Johannesburg
- Private transportation throughout the journey
- Guided tours, conservation visits and activities as described in the itinerary, including qualified English-speaking local guides and applicable entrance fees
- Three-night all-inclusive safari at MalaMala Game Reserve, including meals, snacks, selected beverages, twice-daily game drives, nature walks, and limited laundry service
- Airport and hotel portorage
- Bottled water during private touring
- Gratuities for included meals, local guides, drivers, portorage, hotel and lodge staff, and other local services, except as noted below
- A single group departure transfer from the hotel to Johannesburg Airport

Excluded

- International airfare and baggage fees to/from South Africa
- Passport and other entry-related fees
- Optional tours and activities other than those specified in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature, including communication fees, room service, beverages other than included
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages not specified in the itinerary
- Premium-brand beverages at MalaMala
- Laundry, except for the limited laundry service included at MalaMala
- Travel insurance
- Early check-in or late check-out
- Excess baggage fees for scheduled domestic flights
- Gratuities for safari rangers/guides at MalaMala Game Reserve, suggested at USD\$20 to \$30 per person, per day.
- Any other services not specifically listed as included

Day 1: Overnight Travel (Sun, September 19)

Day Itinerary

DEPART USA

Depart the USA on overnight flights to Cape Town, South Africa.

Expert Tips

OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP NIGHT FOR REST & RECOVERY

One Additional night Cape Town September 19, 2027

Includes Airport Arrival Meet & Greet, private transfer to the hotel, 1 night accommodation, breakfast. Check in available from 2:00 p.m.

Day 2: Victoria & Alfred Hotel, Cape Town (Mon, September 20)

South Africa

South Africa presents one of the continent's most intricate tapestries of landscape, wildlife, and human heritage—a complexity that rewards the traveler with experiences found nowhere else on earth. Beyond its well-known safari destinations lies a country where ancient geological forces have sculpted dramatic coastlines, mountain ranges, and bushveld that harbor both iconic megafauna and lesser-known endemic species critical to ongoing conservation efforts.

The Western Cape's fynbos biome—one of the world's six floral kingdoms—supports more plant species than the entire British Isles within an area smaller than Portugal. Here, responsible wine estates are pioneering biodiversity corridors that connect fragmented habitats while producing wines of increasing international recognition. The country's complex political history, while challenging, has fostered innovative community-based conservation models where local communities benefit directly from wildlife protection.

From tracking desert-adapted elephants in the Greater Limpopo region to witnessing the annual sardine run along the Wild Coast, South Africa offers naturalists and cultural enthusiasts encounters that go well beyond the expected.

Cape Town

Set at the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic oceans and backed by the iconic Table Mountain, the bustling city of Cape Town presents an alluring combination of drawcards. Incredible powdery white beaches, highly acclaimed wine routes, and astonishingly beautiful mountain trails surround a cosmopolitan hub. This diverse metropolis is filled with superb shops and restaurants, extraordinary heritage monuments, a multitude of entertainment venues, and a spectacular, chic waterfront harbour. Highlights include the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art; Table Mountain's jaw-dropping views; Boulders Beach, where penguins might swim right up to you in the warm Indian ocean waters; the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, where you can walk along a treetop canopy among incredible native flora or watch an open-air concert at the base of the mountain; Robben Island, where visitors can see the cell where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years; and many more.

Day Itinerary

WELCOME TO SOUTH AFRICA

Arrive in Cape Town, one of Africa's most striking cities, set between Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean.

You'll be met upon arrival at the airport and transferred to the **Victoria & Alfred Hotel**, ideally located in the heart of the V&A Waterfront.

Settle in and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. The V&A Waterfront offers an excellent introduction to Cape Town, with restaurants, shops, harbor views, at your doorstep, and views of Table Mountain rising above the city.

Expert Tips

Dinner is excluded this evening, as many flights from the USA arrive late afternoon or early evening.

Overnight: Victoria & Alfred Hotel [View iBrochure](#)

Set within Cape Town's lively **V&A Waterfront**, the **Victoria & Alfred Hotel** combines a historic setting with contemporary comfort. The building dates to 1904, when it served as the North Quay Warehouse, and the hotel takes its name from Queen Victoria and her son Prince Alfred, whose work helped shape the harbor area that later became the V&A Waterfront.

Today, the hotel offers 94 well-appointed rooms with views toward the Alfred Basin, Table Mountain, or the waterfront piazza. Its central location places guests within easy reach of restaurants, shops, harbor attractions, and the wider city, while still providing a refined and comfortable base for exploring Cape Town.



Excluded

Meals

Day 3: Victoria & Alfred Hotel, Cape Town (Tue, September 21)

Day Itinerary

AFRICAN PENGUINS & THE CAPE PENINSULA

Set out for a full day exploring the Cape Peninsula, combining dramatic coastal landscapes with an inside look at efforts to protect one of southern Africa's most threatened seabirds.

Begin at **SANCCOB, the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds**, for a conservation-focused visit examining the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of seabirds. African penguins are among SANCCOB's priority species, and the visit provides an opportunity to learn about the pressures facing wild populations, including habitat change, food availability, pollution, and other human impacts.

Continue to **Boulders Beach**, home to one of South Africa's best-known colonies of African penguins. Observe these endangered birds in their natural coastal habitat and see firsthand the species whose conservation challenges you explored earlier in the day.

Enjoy lunch at **Harbour House Restaurant** before continuing south to **Cape Point Nature Reserve**, part of the Cape Floral Region. Rugged cliffs, coastal fynbos, windswept beaches, and sweeping ocean views make this one of the most biologically distinctive landscapes in South Africa.

Return to Cape Town along the Peninsula's scenic coastline.

This evening, gather for a **Welcome Dinner**.

Expert Tips

Read more about our partnership with SANCCOB here: <https://cincinnatizoo.org/new-african-penguin-chicks-spark-hope-for-species/>

Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Excluded

Beverages at lunch.

Day 4: Victoria & Alfred Hotel, Cape Town (Wed, September 22)

Day Itinerary

ROBBEN ISLAND, BO-KAAP & TABLE MOUNTAIN

This morning, walk to the ferry and cross Table Bay to **Robben Island**, weather permitting. The crossing offers memorable views back toward Cape Town and Table Mountain.

Robben Island has served many purposes over its long history, but it is best known as the site where Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were incarcerated during apartheid. The visit includes a guided tour of the island and the former maximum-security prison, often led by a former political prisoner who can provide firsthand context about daily life, resistance, and imprisonment. See the limestone quarry where Mandela and fellow prisoners worked and visit the cell where he spent much of his 27 years in captivity.

Please note that the Robben Island portion of today's program is a shared public tour.

Return to Cape Town and continue to **Bo-Kaap**, the historic center of Cape Malay culture. Walk through its colorful streets while learning about the community's history, traditions, architecture, and role in Cape Town's cultural identity.

Enjoy lunch at **Cape Malay Spiced Restaurant**.

This afternoon, ascend **Table Mountain** by revolving cable car for panoramic views across Cape Town, Table Bay, Robben Island, and the Cape Peninsula. The summit also offers an introduction to the remarkable plant diversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom.

Expert Tips

Please note that the ferry to Robben Island is weather dependent, and the visit is a shared public tour.

If the Table Mountain cableway is closed due to wind or weather, we will instead visit Signal Hill, for sunset views over Cape Town.

Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Excluded

Beverages with lunch; Dinner

Day 5: Victoria & Alfred Hotel, Cape Town (Thu, September 23)

Day Itinerary

THE CAPE WINELANDS

Today, we'll enjoy a full day exploring the Cape Winelands.

Travel toward Paarl and **Babylonstoren**, a historic Cape Dutch farm set among vineyards, orchards, cultivated fields, and extensive gardens.

Explore the farm and gardens and learn more about the agricultural traditions of the region. Visit the wine museum and enjoy a wine tasting before lunch at one of Babylonstoren's restaurants, accompanied by a glass of wine.

After lunch, continue to **Stellenbosch**, one of South Africa's oldest towns and the heart of one of the country's most important wine-growing regions. Enjoy free time to explore its historic center, characterized by Cape Dutch and Victorian architecture, tree-lined streets, galleries, shops, and cafés.

Return to Cape Town in the afternoon.

Dinner is at leisure.

Activities

Babylonstoren

Babylonstoren

Babylonstoren, nestled at the foot of Simonsberg in the Franschhoek wine valley, is one of the oldest Cape Dutch farms and a destination that beautifully blends heritage with contemporary charm. Its centrepiece is a vast fruit and vegetable garden of remarkable botanical diversity, which inspires everything from the farm-to-fork menus at Babel and The Bakery to the design of its stylish Farm Hotel and Spa. Travellers can wander through the lush gardens, enjoy seasonal cuisine crafted directly from the harvest, explore Soetmelksvlei for an interactive glimpse into 19th-century farm life, and immerse themselves in the estate's philosophy of wellbeing, natural beauty, and hands-on experiences that celebrate the rhythm of the land.

Day 6: MalaMala Camp, MalaMala Game Reserve (Fri, September 24)

MalaMala Game Reserve

Established in 1927, MalaMala Game Reserve is one of South Africa's largest private Big Five reserves, encompassing approximately 33,000 acres. It shares a 12-mile unfenced boundary with Kruger National Park and lies between Kruger and the Sabi Sand Reserve, allowing wildlife to move freely across this extensive protected landscape.

MalaMala has played an important role in the development of the modern photographic safari and is especially renowned for consistently strong wildlife viewing, including leopard, lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo, and a wide variety of other mammals and birdlife. The Sand River runs through the reserve, providing an important water source and helping create the rich habitat that supports its exceptional biodiversity.

Day Itinerary

FLY TO MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

Check out of the Cape Town hotel and transfer to Cape Town International Airport for the scheduled flight to Skukuza Airport, the gateway to the Greater Kruger ecosystem.

Transfer from the airport to **MalaMala Game Reserve**, sharing an unfenced boundary with Kruger National Park.

MalaMala protects approximately 33,000 acres of bushveld, savanna, riverine woodland, and the vital Sand River corridor. The absence of fences between MalaMala and Kruger allows wildlife to move naturally across an enormous protected landscape.

Settle into **MalaMala Camp** and meet the ranger who will serve as your guide, host, and educator during the safari.

Time permitting, head out on your first afternoon game drive. The reserve supports lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, rhino, and an exceptional variety of smaller mammals, birds, reptiles, and other wildlife.

Return to camp for dinner.

Expert Tips

MalaMala Game Reserve is located in northeastern South Africa's Mpumalanga province and shares an unfenced boundary with Kruger National Park. Its classic bushveld, open savannah, riverine woodland and dense thickets are shaped by the Sand River, a critical water source that attracts wildlife throughout the year.

The day is devoted to safari activities, typically including early morning and late afternoon or evening game drives in open 4-wheel-drive vehicles. Rangers remain in communication with one another to optimize wildlife sightings while preserving the sounds and atmosphere of the bush.

Between activities, enjoy time at camp, where the setting along the Sand River allows for wildlife viewing, birding and quiet time in the reserve.

Overnight: MalaMala Camp [View iBrochure](#)

Set beneath mature trees along the banks of the **Sand River**, MalaMala Camp is designed to keep guests closely connected to the surrounding landscape. Pathways wind through the grounds to guest rooms and suites

tucked into the greenery, while decks, lawns, and common areas offer frequent opportunities to watch wildlife and birdlife between game drives.

The camp underwent an extensive reimagining and refurbishment in 2017-2018, updating the accommodations and central lodge areas while preserving its traditional safari character. Guest rooms were renovated, interiors refreshed with natural textures and earthy tones, and shared spaces including the dining room, bar, lounge, and riverfront deck were redesigned to create a more contemporary and comfortable experience. The result is a historic safari camp with an updated style that remains firmly rooted in its setting and heritage.



Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions at MalaMala

- All meals and snacks
- Drinks (excluding premium brands)
- Game drives in open 4-wheel drive safari vehicles conducted by an experienced ranger
- Nature walks
- Limited laundry service

Excluded

Lunch

Day 7-9: MalaMala Camp, MalaMala Game Reserve (Sat, September 25 to Mon, September 27)

Day Itinerary

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE - TWO FULL DAYS ON SAFARI

Spend two full days exploring MalaMala Game Reserve with early morning and late afternoon/evening game drives in open 4-wheel-drive safari vehicles.

Renowned for exceptional sightings of leopard, lion and other Big Five species, MalaMala also offers the chance to look beyond individual sightings and better understand the Greater Kruger ecosystem. With your ranger, examine tracks, animal behavior, birdlife, habitat, predator-prey relationships, and the role of the Sand River in sustaining wildlife throughout the reserve.

Between drives, enjoy time at camp, watch for wildlife along the river, or join a guided nature walk when conditions allow. During the MalaMala stay, a representative from **Cheetah Outreach Trust** is planned to meet with the group for an introduction to cheetah and predator conservation in South Africa and efforts to reduce conflict between wildlife and people.

Evening drives continue after sunset, when nocturnal species become active, followed by dinner at camp, sometimes served beneath the stars in MalaMala's traditional boma.

Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: 54 on Bath, Johannesburg (Mon, September 27)

Johannesburg

Located on South Africa's Highveld plateau, Johannesburg is a fast-paced, creative city shaped by gold-rush history, cultural diversity and constant reinvention. Its atmosphere is energetic and urban, with contemporary galleries, rooftop bars and leafy suburbs existing alongside powerful reminders of the country's past. Visitors can explore the Apartheid Museum, tour Soweto's historic streets or browse vibrant markets and design spaces in neighbourhoods such as Maboneng. The city's soundtrack shifts from lively jazz and amapiano beats to the hum of busy streets, while the scent of grilled street food drifts through open-air cafés and market stalls. Johannesburg rewards travellers who engage with its complexity and culture, though its size, traffic and contrasts mean it is best experienced with some planning and local insight.

Day Itinerary

FLY FROM MALAMALA TO JOHANNESBURG

Begin the morning with one final game drive through MalaMala.

After breakfast, say farewell to the reserve and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to **Johannesburg**.

On arrival at O.R. Tambo International Airport, transfer to **54 on Bath** in the leafy Rosebank neighborhood.

Check in and enjoy some time to relax after your journey.

Dinner is included this evening at the hotel.

Overnight: 54 on Bath

Set in the leafy Johannesburg suburb of Rosebank, **54 on Bath** is a stylish boutique hotel offering 75 rooms and suites in a convenient city location. Guest rooms feature modern comforts including Wi-Fi, espresso machines, minibars, and 24-hour room service.

The hotel's **Level Four Restaurant** serves contemporary cuisine, while the adjoining bar and terrace provide a relaxed setting for drinks or afternoon tea. Guests also have access to a fitness center and outdoor pool.

The hotel is well positioned for exploring Johannesburg, with easy access to Rosebank, Sandton, and the nearby Gautrain station for connections throughout the city and to O.R. Tambo International Airport.



Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Excluded

Lunch

Day 10: 54 on Bath, Johannesburg (Tue, September 28)

Day Itinerary

VULTURE CONSERVATION & BOTANICAL GARDEN

Today we travel north toward the Hartbeespoort and Magaliesberg region for a special conservation visit with **VulPro**, one of South Africa's leading organizations dedicated to the protection of African vultures.

Vultures perform an essential ecological role as scavengers, yet many African species are experiencing severe population declines. As we meet with staff, gain insight into VulPro's work in rescue, rehabilitation, research, breeding, monitoring, education, and the broader challenges affecting vultures across southern Africa.

Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant.

En route back to Johannesburg, visit **Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden**, part of the South African National Biodiversity Institute. Explore indigenous vegetation and protected habitat beneath the dramatic Roodekrans cliffs while looking for local birdlife and considering the role that urban green spaces can play in protecting biodiversity.

Return to the hotel in the late afternoon.

This evening, gather for a **Farewell Dinner** at a local restaurant.

Day 11: End of Itinerary (Wed, September 29)

Day Itinerary

APARTHEID MUSEUM & SOWETO / DEPARTURES

After breakfast, check out of the hotel.

We begin our final day with an in-depth guided visit to the **Apartheid Museum**.

Through photographs, artifacts, film, personal testimony, and historical interpretation, examine South Africa's system of apartheid, the resistance movements that challenged it, and the long transition toward democracy. The experience provides essential context for understanding Johannesburg and the political, economic, and social questions that continue to shape the country.

Continue to **Soweto** for a more personal exploration led by **Thabo Modise**, who uses public art, murals, mosaics, memory, and neighborhood storytelling to introduce the township through the perspectives of the people who live there, by examining how artists and residents interpret their own communities and engage with questions of history, identity, inequality, resilience, and change.

Enjoy lunch at a local Soweto restaurant.

Transfer to Johannesburg O.R. Tambo International Airport for international departure flights back to the USA, or continue to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe if opting for the extension.

End of Main Program.

Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Excluded

Dinner

Transport

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
24 Sep	Scheduled		Cape Town International Airport [CPT]		Skukuza Airport [SZK]			
27 Sep	Scheduled		Skukuza Airport [SZK]		OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]			

Terms and Conditions

Itinerary Terms and Conditions

Deposit: \$4,000

Final Payment Due: May 23, 2027

WHAT TO EXPECT

On this journey through South Africa, you can expect excellent accommodations that include well-located city hotels and a deluxe safari lodge at MalaMala Game Reserve. Dining includes local and international cuisine with ample choices to accommodate a variety of dietary preferences; some meals are set menus. Travel between destinations includes scheduled domestic flights and private transportation on paved roads, while safari game drives take place in open 4x4 vehicles over unpaved, uneven, bumpy and sometimes dusty roads.

September weather varies considerably by region. Cape Town can be cool and changeable, while early mornings and evenings on safari may be quite cool and the middle of the day warm. Layered clothing is recommended.

To participate fully, you should be able to step up into and out of a 4x4 safari vehicle, board and disembark ferries and aircraft, and walk over uneven ground and pathways at wildlife, cultural and natural sites. Some visits involve extended periods of walking and standing. You should be in good physical condition for active touring and safari activities, remain flexible when weather or wildlife conditions affect the schedule, and bring a spirit of adventure and curiosity to enjoy the experience to its fullest.

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Terms and Conditions

CONSERVANCY TRAVEL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

<https://conservancytravel.org/terms-and-conditions/>