



Sample Itinerary

South Africa: A Journey of Transformation and Reconciliation

Included:

- 10 nights' accommodation at hotels per itinerary
- 1 MEJDI-trained guide for 10 days
- 1 MEJDI Expert in tandem for 10 days
- 9 days of private transportation
- 2 domestic flights JHB-George & George-CPT
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners
- Water available on the bus throughout
- Entrance fees, site visits, and honorariums for speakers
- Customary tips for meals, drivers, guides, and hotel staff
- US-based, dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not Included:

- International airfare
- Travel & Health insurance - **highly recommended**
- Single occupancy supplement
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Group & Individual airport transfers on arrival & departure days
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section



Overview

Explore South Africa's vibrant evolution, starting in Johannesburg—the "City of Gold." Discover its economic influence, visit Constitution Hill for insights into the country's complex history, and walk the historic streets of Soweto, home to Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu. Engage with local activists driving social change, and venture into the Cradle of Humankind to explore groundbreaking archaeological sites.

Experience the tranquility of a private, malaria-free Big 5 game reserve, learning about cutting-edge conservation efforts under starry skies.

In Cape Town, journey from townships to the scenic Cape Peninsula, meeting locals and exploring the country's path from colonization to modernity. This thoughtfully guided tour offers a rich exploration of South Africa's diverse narratives, blending history, culture, and nature into a transformative travel experience.

MEJDI Socially Conscious Experiences

Our socially conscious model focuses on the human element of destinations—the diversity of its people and their stories—in a way that benefits local communities around the world. We specially design our itineraries to immerse you in these cultures. You don't just visit new places; you become part of them. MEJDI is set apart by human focused experiences and how every person we meet is treated with the respect they deserve.

- Visit Soweto with local activists and entrepreneurs for a discussion on social justice initiatives.
- Enjoy a special storytelling dinner hosted in a private penthouse in Maboneng.
- Visit the Cradle of Humankind, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for an exclusive Human Origins Tour.
- Stay at a Big-5 private game reserve - learn about their sustainable practices, rangeland restoration, and the complexities of protecting ecosystems from poaching and other threats.
- Engage with leaders from the “Rhodes Must Fall” movement, a campaign focusing on dismantling colonial symbols and promoting inclusion.
- Meet locals involved in grassroots art, culinary and political initiatives from Bo-Kaap to Salt River.
- Immerse yourself in a hands-on cooking class and savor the vibrant flavors of African cuisine.



Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to South Africa

Arrive in South Africa and check in to our Johannesburg hotel. The tour starts with a welcome dinner and orientation.

Hotel: [Seven Villas, Johannesburg \(Dinner Included\)](#)

Day 2: The City of Gold

We start on foot with a guided tour of downtown Johannesburg, learning about the multiple ages of Johannesburg's development and how that has impacted the development of Southern Africa's economy. Taste the flavours of a new South Africa and revel in the vibrancy.

Absorb the complexity of the country's divisive past at Constitution Hill – a former prison that is today's home of the country's Constitutional Court. Experience the pain of the past, the conflicts of the present, and the passion for a better future through an interactive guided tour. As the evening draws in, rest a while and watch as the cityscapes emerge after sunset.

Hotel: [Seven Villas, Johannesburg \(Breakfast Included\)](#)

Day 3: The Struggle for Democracy

Learn about South Africa's dark past of racial division, and the structural, economic and psychological consequences of separate development at the Apartheid Museum.

Visit Soweto with a local, walking the streets where Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu lived. Engage with civil activists and entrepreneurs who lead modern social justice initiatives.

Optional at added cost: Reflect on The City of Gold at a dinner hosted in the sanctuary of the late Nelson Mandela's home in nearby Houghton.

Hotel: [Seven Villas, Johannesburg \(Breakfast and Lunch Included\)](#)



Day 4: Exploring Human Origins

Today, we head to the Cradle of Humankind, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for an exclusive Human Origins Tour. This unique experience takes us to two world-famous fossil dig sites: Gladysvale and Malapa, where significant discoveries like Homo Naledi and Australopithecus Sediba have reshaped our understanding of human evolution.

After the tour, we return to Johannesburg for a special storytelling dinner hosted in a private penthouse in Maboneng. Over dinner, we'll hear about the next phase of Johannesburg, exploring how the 2020 Covid pandemic acted as a catalyst for alternative urban living, and how the city could evolve into a more liveable, inclusive metropolis in the future.

Hotel: [Seven Villas, Johannesburg \(Breakfast and Dinner Included\)](#)

Days 5 & 6: Conservation and Environmental Regeneration

Fly from Johannesburg to George, on the southern coast of South Africa, and transfer to a private game reserve in a malaria-free area. Spend two nights in an area dedicated to the regeneration of the land while building a best-in-class Big 5 game reserve.

Early morning and late afternoon/evening game drives will surprise and delight with up-close views of a large variety of Africa's iconic animals. Meet the reserve's conservation experts to learn about the interplay between conservation, the regeneration of rangelands and the need for world-class security to protect the ecosystem. Relax with fine dining, comfortable surroundings and under stunning night skies.

Hotel: [Gondwana Game Reserve, Herbertsdale \(Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included\)](#)

Day 7: The Fairest Cape in all the World

Fly from George to Cape Town, arriving early afternoon. After transferring to the hotel and checking in, if the weather permits, take a late cable car up Table Mountain to take in the beauty of the Cape Peninsula and enjoy the sunset over the Southern Atlantic. The evening is at your leisure.

Hotel: [Kloof Street Hotel, Cape Town \(Breakfast Included\)](#)



Day 8: From Colonization to Decolonisation

A tour of the Cape Peninsula offers our guides the opportunity for a dual narrative perspective on colonization, and how it shaped the development of the areas we visit. The historical implications in an international context will provide new insight into the lived reality of marginalized communities.

The conversation will include meeting a leader of the Rhodes Must Fall movement and learning about the change it initiated. The tour follows some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. We'll meet fishermen and entrepreneurs and visit an African Penguin colony and learn how to spot sharks – from the unique local safety initiative that uses ancient skills to keep modern bathers and surfers safe.

Hotel: [Kloof Street Hotel, Cape Town \(Breakfast and Lunch Included\)](#)

Day 9: The Tavern of the Seas

District 6 museum stands as a monument to the people who were physically disposed of their homes and community in the pursuit of the political ideals of apartheid. We will be immersed in the stories of those personally impacted.

Then we'll visit the nearby vibrant Bo-Kaap where locals proudly paint the exterior of their homes to signal their political support.

Continue on this trail of public art through the inner city, and nearby suburbs, meeting people of Africa who want to live the Pan African ideal. Shopkeepers, activists and entrepreneurs share their stories and consider the current social dynamics. We'll also explore issues of food security and meet those who are part of a city movement to provide marginalized communities with a seat at the table.

The day comes together in a lively evening of cooking, a Food Jam, where a master chef will teach us to prepare a dinner that melds the flavours of Africa into one wholesome meal.

Hotel: [Kloof Street Hotel, Cape Town \(Breakfast and Dinner Included\)](#)

Day 10: Truth and Reconciliation

We wrap the tour with a visit to the Desmond and Leah Tutu Foundation, a site dedicated to the life and work of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a central figure in the anti-apartheid movement. Our visit will include an engagement with the foundation, and a look into their future work.

The afternoon is at your leisure. We will join up for a Farewell Dinner at a restaurant close to the Hotel.

Hotel: [Kloof Street Hotel, Cape Town \(Breakfast and Dinner Included\)](#)



MEJDI TOURS
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Day 11: Day of Departure

After breakfast, check-out and make your way to the airport for departure on your flight home. Extension tours are available per request.

(Breakfast Included)