

South Africa & Victoria Falls

featuring Ngala Safari Lodge

JANUARY 15–25 // 2024



Join the Purdue President's Council for an exclusive 10-night adventure showcasing the best of Southern Africa! Journey across varied landscapes, experiencing four nights in cosmopolitan **Cape Town** at the **5-star Table Bay Hotel**. Fly to **Kruger National Park** for a three-night safari at the **luxurious &Beyond Ngala Safari Lodge**. Conclude with three nights at the iconic **5-star Victoria Falls Hotel**, overlooking magnificent **Victoria Falls**.

Itinerary:

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024 // ARRIVE CAPE TOWN

WELCOME TO SOUTH AFRICA!

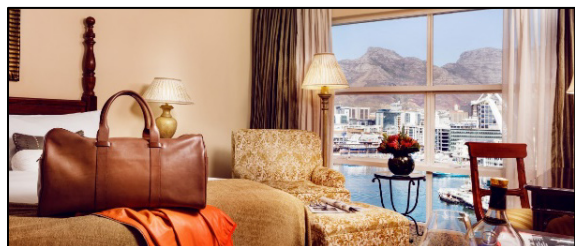
Upon arrival at the Cape Town International Airport (CPT), transfer to the **5-star Table Bay Hotel**, located at the V&A Waterfront with beautiful views of Table Mountain and the Atlantic.

The remainder of the day and dinner is at leisure.



TABLE BAY HOTEL // LUXURY KING MOUNTAIN ROOM

Rising eight stories above a historic working harbor, the sophisticated Table Bay Hotel has picture-perfect views and direct access to waterfront shops and restaurants. Occupying a modern gabled building, the hotel sits on the site of an 1869 stone breakwater wall, which has been incorporated into the architecture. Common areas here have a maritime theme, with paintings of legendary local ships; the most inviting space being the first-floor lounge, with its high open-trussed ceiling and expansive atrium window beautifully framing Table Mountain.



All spacious and elegant rooms have unbeatable views across the working harbor to Table Mountain and are furnished with a walk-in wardrobe, desk, armchair, flat screen TV, personal electronic safe, and an en-suite bathroom with marble top vanity, shower, bath amenities, and hairdryer. Rooms also offer a coffee machine with complimentary coffee and tea, kettle, free Wi-Fi, mini bar, 24-hour room service, and blackout curtains.

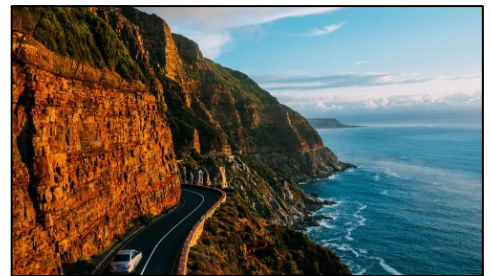
Overnight Table Bay Hotel



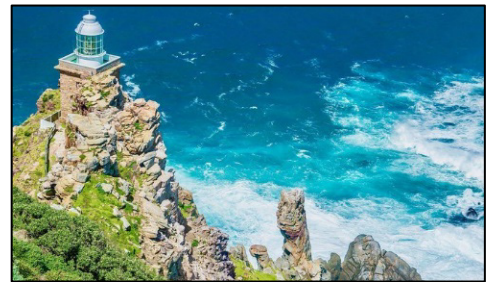
A buffet breakfast is served daily in **The Atlantic Restaurant** beginning at 6:00 am. The Atlantic offers the “best breakfast in Cape Town” serving up fresh, local ingredients and unbeatable views of Cape Town’s harbor and Table Mountain.

After breakfast, meet our local guide in the lobby and depart for a **full-day Cape Peninsula Tour**. Begin with one of the world’s most legendary drives, towards **picture-perfect Hout Bay**. Enjoy leisure time to stroll this small maritime village and its lively **Mariner’s Warf**, home to dozens of resident seals, lovely shops with **local handicrafts**, and plenty of seaside charm.

Continue along the dramatic **Chapman’s Peak Drive** that winds its way through steep coastal cliffsides to the southernmost edge of the Cape Peninsula. The toll route runs six miles along the coast taking over 100 curves, with towering cliffs on one side and a steep drop to the Atlantic on the other. The road was carved out by prisoners of war in the mid-1910’s over a seven-year period and is a favorite for its spectacular beauty.



Arrive at the famous **Cape of Good Hope** nature reserve, a World Heritage site, where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet. A botanical and scenic delight, the reserve is home to several antelope species as well as a great diversity of flowering plants and birds. Enjoy a ride up to an old lighthouse which presides over treacherous reefs, sandy beaches, and sparkling blue water at blustery **Cape Point**, via the **Flying Dutchman Funicular**. The railway is named after the legendary 17th-century ship, said to have met its end on Cape Point’s shoreline.



Enjoy a **group lunch at the Harbour House Restaurant, Kalk Bay**. Overlooking False Bay and the Hottentots Mountain Range, the restaurant has an elegant nautical interior in marine blue and white with touches of natural timber, stone, and shell. The relaxed seafood restaurant offers world-class cuisine and friendly, professional service with a stunning view.



Next stop is the sheltered cove of **Boulders Beach**, in historic Simon’s Town. The beach is home to an endangered land-based colony of **African penguins** (over 2,000). Walk between the three pristine and protected beaches on boardwalks, which also link to the penguin-viewing area offering fantastic sightings of these unique and endearing animals in their natural habitat. Accustomed to humans, they provide endless photo opportunities as they play in the water and wander along the sandy shores.



Return to the hotel where the remainder of the day and dinner is at leisure.

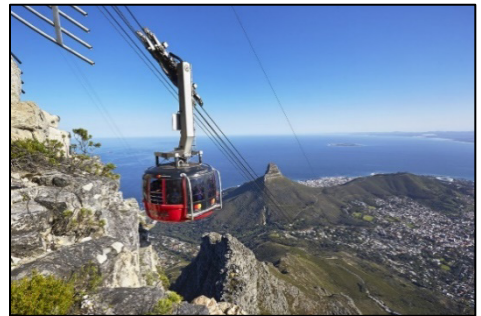
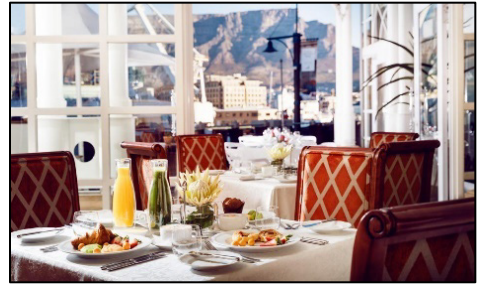
Overnight Table Bay Hotel (B, L)

Breakfast is served in The Atlantic Restaurant beginning at 6:00 am. The breakfast buffet includes everything from fresh juices and smoothies to baked goods, fruits, and yogurts, as well as a hot buffet with favorites including sushi, cold meats, cheeses, and a Belgian-style waffle bar.

After breakfast, meet our local guide in the lobby and depart on a full-day tour that begins with taking the **cableway for a scenic ride up to Table Mountain** to enjoy sweeping panoramic views of Cape Town.

The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway has transported more than 20 million people to the top of the mountain in revolving cars that afford 360° views of the surrounds during the ascent. Each cable car can carry 65 people at a time, and trips run on a continuous basis. At the top, visitors will discover a series of walking paths and stunning views of the surrounding oceans and the city below.

Please note that the cableway cannot operate during bad weather.



Our tour continues with a delightful drive through the **Cape Winelands**, which winds through superb mountain ranges, vineyards, and Cape Dutch homesteads for an afternoon of tasting **wonderful wines and farm-to-table food**. World famous for crisp white and French-style red wines, the fertile wine valleys are a treasury of rustic beauty and sprawling estates shaded by giant oak trees.



The first stop is **Stellenbosch**, the second oldest town in South Africa, and home of the **prestigious University of Stellenbosch**. The town is known for its Cape Dutch Architecture, oak-lined avenues, epicurean delights, and student life. Enjoy a group **wine tasting** followed by free time for independent exploration.

Continue to the beautiful town of **Franschhoek**, founded in 1688 by French immigrants fleeing the Huguenot religious persecution in Europe. These very settlers produced the fine wines once sought after by Napoleon, Bismarck, and royalty such as Edward VII, the Prince of Wales.

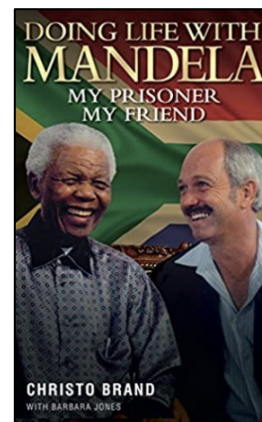


Lunch today is at the **Boschendal Wine Farm** in Franschhoek, which boasts some of the most picturesque views in the Cape Winelands, with dramatic mountain vistas visible from the lush lawns. Enjoy a **classic gourmet picnic lunch in the Boschendal Rhone Rose Garden**. Picnic baskets include food made from natural farm produce including freshly baked bread, green salads from the Werf Food Garden, roasted free-range chicken, Boschendal Butchery charcuterie, homemade preserves, and a homemade dessert.

Return to the hotel for the remainder of the afternoon at your leisure.

This evening enjoy an **exclusive President's Council Dinner at the Table Bay Hotel with a talk by Christo Brand, a former prison guard at South Africa's Robben Island and author of *Mandela: My Prisoner, My Friend***. Mr. Brand, at only 18, first met Mandela in 1978. His book recounts the 12 years he spent with Mandela at Robben Island. During his talk, hear the story of unlikely admiration and friendship that evolved between the two men during the years of apartheid and the transition to a democratic South Africa. Mr. Brand will give us insight into a different side of one of the world's greatest leaders and how he went from being his prison guard to his confidant and collaborator.

Overnight Table Bay Hotel (B, L, D)



THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 // ROB BEN ISLAND & AMY FOUNDATION

This morning after breakfast at the hotel, walk as a group across the Marina Swing Bridge to Nelson Mandela Gateway, in time to board a ferry for a scenic cruise across the bay to the **UNESCO World Heritage-listed Robben Island**. In 1964, an anti-apartheid revolutionary named Nelson Mandela was arrested and brought to the island. He would spend the next **18 years imprisoned** in an 8x7-foot cell, forced to do hard labor, and permitted only one visitor a year. Even so, Mandela went on to become his country's first black president, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, and known globally for his significant contributions to human rights and social justice.



Tour the island **accompanied by a former political inmate** and hear first-hand tales of hope and hardship. Begin with a bus ride as the guide explains the island's history as a military base, leper colony, and prison. Stop at the leper graveyard and at the quarries where prisoners labored daily.



The second half of the tour visits the former maximum-security prison, where apartheid freedom fighters were held, concluding the visit at Mandela's cell. Robben Island was turned into a museum in 1997 and has become a symbol for the new South Africa, reflecting the triumph of democracy over apartheid and the ongoing journey towards racial tolerance. Return via ferry to the V&A waterfront.



Depart on a short drive to the **Amy Foundation** for an informative visit of this non-profit organization that transforms the lives of local young people through a variety of empowering programs. For 22 years, the Amy Foundation has been working to provide underprivileged learners, up to 1,000 daily, with enrichment opportunities.



The Foundation was named after American student, Amy Biehl, a gifted and dynamic young woman who was committed to making a difference. In 1993, Amy's life was tragically cut short when she was murdered by four young men in an act of political mob violence. After spending five years in prison they were granted amnesty through Amy's parents and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. To honor her love of South Africa and her belief in the truth and reconciliation process, the Foundation began.



Enjoy a **group lunch at Amy's Bistro**, which is run under their hospitality program. This program is staffed by Youth Skills Development learners, including local graduates and unemployed youth from impoverished communities. The learners are taught basic kitchen and culinary skills and are then supplied with entry-level hospitality jobs.

After lunch, **visit an African township and school** to meet some of the inspiring beneficiaries. This personalized tour takes you through the colorful streets and informal settlements, passing the Amy Biehl Memorial site, and finishing with a visit to an after-school program to interact with the children and their teachers and to participate in various activities.

Return to the hotel with time to freshen up before dinner.



Tonight's **Cape Town Farewell Dinner at Gold Restaurant** is an immersive experience with a 14-course menu of savory and sweet delights inspired by various cuisines from all over the African continent. Before dinner, enjoy an exciting drumming class and learn the African beat of the djembe drum. While dining, witness enthralling song, dance, and music displays, as well as extraordinary puppet shows.



Overnight Table Bay Hotel (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024 // DEPART CAPE TOWN – ARRIVE KRUGER

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Cape Town International Airport for our **flight to Hoedspruit**.

Upon arrival, we will be met by safari staff and will transfer directly to **&Beyond Ngala Safari Lodge**, situated within the western boundary of the **world-renowned Kruger National Park**, one of the richest wildlife regions on the continent. Ngala was the first private reserve to be incorporated into Kruger National Park, and its established reputation and impeccable service is immediately sensed. In terms of wildlife, this 36,000-acre reserve is similar to what Kruger possesses, but Ngala benefits from good concentrations of lion, frequent leopard spotting, and a wide-open terrain preferred by the wild dog.

Conservation is a very big part of what the lodge does, with projects focusing on land and wildlife and educating the next generation.

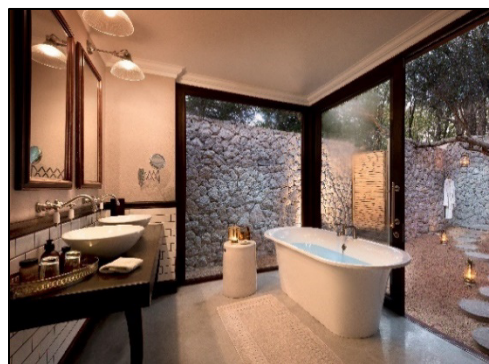


&BEYOND NGALA SAFARI LODGE // CLASSIC THATCHED COTTAGE

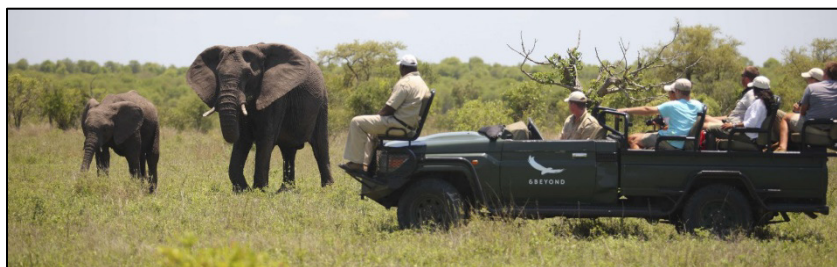
The magic and mystery of Africa come alive in the colonial ambiance of the elegant &Beyond Ngala Safari Lodge. The main spacious, thatched lounge, bar, and dining area with an open deck serves as the public areas for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and drinks. Dinner is served in either an outdoor boma or in the lantern-lit walled courtyard. The lodge also features a pool area with a spa and fitness center and a Safari Shop.

All safari activities are included, as well as all meals, with dinner featuring signature African cuisine. House wines, local brand spirits and beers, soft drinks, tea, coffee, and refreshments on game drives are also included. Plus, complimentary Wi-Fi and laundry service! Safari activities include daily morning and afternoon game drives that continue after nightfall, interpretive nature walks, and big game viewing walks accompanied by experienced trackers.

The Lodge boasts 20 classic thatched cottages, each exuding a romantic colonial ambience with nostalgic safari memorabilia throughout. Each cottage has floor-to-ceiling glass windows, a luxurious en-suite bathroom with double showers (indoor and outdoor), and a private veranda with comfortable lounge chairs.



After settling in, set out on the **first game drive!** Join an expert guide in search of **Africa's Big Five—the lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and Cape buffalo**—as well as other iconic African wildlife.



Game drives accommodate a **maximum of six guests** allowing for unsurpassed game viewing and photographic opportunities. Guides have been expertly trained on the intricacies of the reserve and its surrounds, offering interesting anecdotes along your journey. This adventure offers the perfect introduction to South Africa's wildlife.

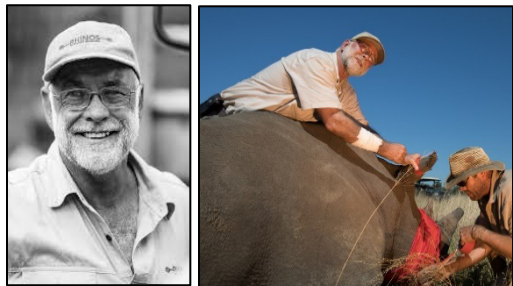


Return from the game drive with time to freshen up and meet your fellow Boilermakers in the spacious thatched lounge before dinner.

Tonight, enjoy a **special reception with a talk by renowned conservationist Les Carlisle, &Beyond's Group Conservation Manager & Rhinos Without Borders Project Manager.** He has been an intrinsic part of the &Beyond team for more than 28 years, providing invaluable conservation management across the group, and also sits on the Africa Foundation board as a trustee. Les will talk about Rhinos Without Borders which aims to translocate up to a hundred rhino from high-risk areas in South Africa to the relative safety of Botswana as a response to the growing threat of poaching.

He might also share stories on his other interests of the heart, as he is an advanced scuba diver, licensed private pilot, keen naturalist, and avid birdwatcher.

Overnight Ngala Safari Lodge (B, L, D)



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024 // KRUGER NATIONAL PARK SAFARI

A typical day on safari as follows:

Early morning // Tea and biscuits are served at about 6:00 am before you head off on your early-morning game drive. This is generally the best time to spot the wildlife, as the temperature is cool and the animals are still very active, including the big cats, which will be returning from a night of hunting. After a few hours, return to the lodge for a hearty breakfast followed by time to relax.



Lunch and afternoon // Spend the main part of the day at the lodge enjoying panoramic views, taking a dip in the swimming pool, or simply relaxing in your luxury suite. Guided walks are a highlight for those wanting even closer contact with this magnificent African wilderness. Lunch, as well as afternoon tea, will be served before heading out for another game drive.



Evening // Early evening is the ideal time to spot members of the Big Five, including rhinoceros, buffalo, and lion. Sit tight as your ranger leads the way to unforgettable game sightings. Drink a toast to nature's bounties, as the sun dips beyond the savannah. Return to the lodge just before dark in time for a shower, pre-dinner drinks, and dinner. The evenings are often rounded off with a few drinks around the campfire, warming toes, and swapping safari stories.



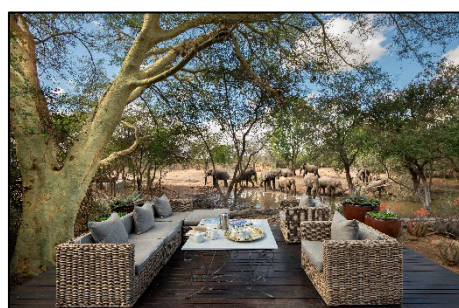
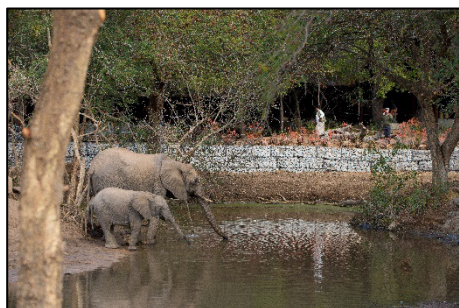
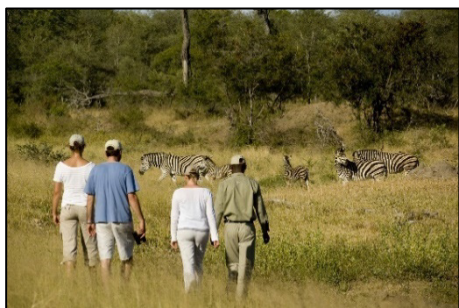
Overnight Ngala Safari Lodge (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 // KRUGER NATIONAL PARK SAFARI



Arise with the sunrise to a cup of freshly brewed coffee and depart on an early morning game drive. Marvel at the game tracker's skills, as he analyses animal spoor and reads the bush, like a book, in search of the Big Five.

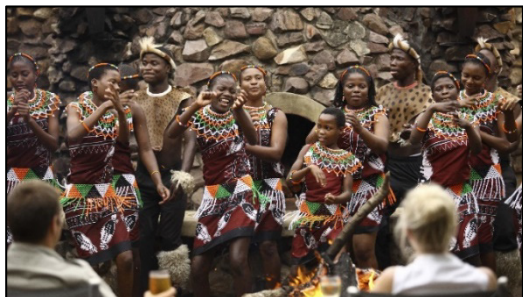
Return to the lodge for breakfast with time to relax and enjoy a variety of activities. The lodge's pool area overlooks a natural riverine woodland and private waterhole, ideal for avid birdwatchers, while a tranquil spa and well-equipped fitness area can be enjoyed between game viewing.



Lunch, as well as afternoon tea, will be served before heading out for another game drive.

This evening join fellow Boilermakers for an African feast and cheers to the final night at &Beyond Ngala Safari Lodge and the conclusion of our safari adventure! Tonight's **Farewell Safari Dinner is in a traditional open-air Boma** set under the stars and enchantingly lit by candlelight, lanterns, and a roaring fire. Taste a piece of southern African culture and cuisine.

What is a Boma? In literal terms, a Boma (also called a kraal), refers to an enclosure used to limit the movement of various animals. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Boma referred to a type of fortification an African village would use to keep their new animals inside until they became acclimated to their new surroundings and were ready to be released onto the reserve. At safari lodges the Boma is a place where people festively gather for dinner, entertainment, and conversation.



This special evening will be enhanced by a **performance of local dancers** during the meal. Truly an unforgettable night of fun and friends that you won't soon forget.

Overnight Ngala Safari Lodge (B, L, D)



MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 // DEPART KRUGER – ARRIVE VICTORIA FALLS

Time allowing, embark on a final **morning game drive** before saying goodbye to the African bush. Following breakfast, depart for Hoedspruit for a connecting **flight to Victoria Falls**.



Upon arrival at the Victoria Falls airport, the group will be met by a local representative and transferred to the **Dusty Road, a traditional Zimbabwean restaurant**, for lunch. Step inside this thriving home, situated in the bustling heart of Chinotimba, the largest and oldest township in Victoria Falls, and experience the vibrancy of the community, as **local vendors sell their wares**, enticing smells waft from the charcoal fires, and your eyes are treated to bright and inventive creations recycled from the region with a heavy dose of African humor and ingenuity.

The food is **cooked the Zimbabwean way**, on open fires and in cast iron pots and ovens, giving an authentic, wholesome, and tasty food experience. The Dusty Road style is cheerful, earthy, soulful, and funky with a true purpose at its core: to improve the livelihoods of the families in this town through exposure to outside visitors and the transcendental gift of human interaction over a delicious meal.

After lunch, transfer to the historic **5-star Victoria Falls Hotel** for check-in with the remainder of the day and dinner at leisure.



Explore the small town of Victoria Falls, do some shopping, or enjoy a connoisseur's delight of dining options at the hotel, with internationally trained chefs creating exquisite dishes.

VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL // CENTRAL DELUXE ROOMS

With dramatic views of the gorges of Zimbabwe's spectacular Victoria Falls, The Victoria Falls Hotel, built by the British in 1904, remains the landmark accommodation facility to view the popular tourist attraction. Serene Lily ponds, arched loggias, and broad verandas offering magnificent vistas, seem custom-built for a spot of high tea or a relaxing gin and tonic. Steeped in history and one of the oldest hotels in Africa, The Victoria Falls Hotel serves as a reminder of the distinguished and elegant era to which it was born and has earned its status as the epitome of grand luxury travel.



Furnished in traditional Edwardian style with an “Out of Africa” ambiance, the Central Deluxe Rooms have a spectacular view of the perfectly manicured gardens, while some overlook the Batoka Gorge and the Victoria Falls Bridge that spans the legendary Zambezi River. The hotel offers a colonial restaurant and bar, nightly cultural entertainment, afternoon tea, and poolside bar, as well as tennis courts, fitness center, and a private entrance to Victoria Falls. The rooms feature fine wood furnishings, complimentary Wi-Fi, tea and coffee making facilities, satellite TV, and a bathroom with tub/shower combination.

Overnight Victoria Falls Hotel (B, L)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 // VICTORIA FALLS – FALLS TOUR & STEAM TRAIN

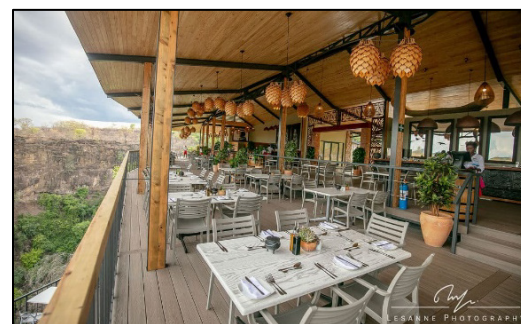
Breakfast is served in The Jungle Junction Restaurant beginning at 6:30 am. Jungle Junction offers an unforgettable experience, gazing over the gorge and the spray of the Falls, while enjoying their legendary buffet. With so many choices, it is possible to have a different breakfast every day.



This morning we set out on a **guided walking tour of breathtaking Victoria Falls**. A World Heritage Site, Victoria Falls is one of the world's greatest natural spectacles. Long before the Scottish missionary and explorer Dr. David Livingstone ‘discovered’ Victoria Falls in 1855, the local Batonga people had named them Mosi-oa-Tunya, ‘the smoke that thunders’. Livingstone had named the Falls after his queen.



Enjoy the memorable opportunity to explore the **rainforest** that surrounds the majestic Victoria Falls. This adventure begins at the **Victoria Falls Map Room** where our guide will divulge the fascinating history, layout, and geology of the Falls. Afterwards, we make our way on foot to the David Livingstone Statue and then onwards through the flourishing rainforest to the beautiful viewpoints of Cataract View, Devils Cataract, the main Falls, and lastly to the Eastern Cataract.



After our tour, walk to the nearby **Wild Horizon's Lookout Café** for lunch. Enjoy a fresh, vibrant menu with traditional, as well as new flavors like local game meats and produce. The menu changes frequently to incorporate seasonal produce sourced locally and to keep things interesting!



This evening enjoy a **Gourmet Dinner** aboard the classic **Bushtracks Express Steam Train**. Experience all the luxury and grandeur of a bygone era as we enjoy a **5-star service** dining experience and marvel in the surrounding beauty of **Victoria Falls at sunset**.

The steam train departs from The Victoria Falls Station, situated behind the Victoria Falls Hotel. This is a fitting departure point as the hotel was built in 1904 to accommodate the workers building the Cape to Cairo Railway Line and the Victoria Falls Bridge. The hotel is still owned by the Zimbabwe Railways.



Once on board, travel to the Victoria Falls Bridge where we are served with light snacks and beverages along the way. This part of the journey gives the opportunity to view local wildlife along the Zambezi River. Once on the bridge you will be invited to step off the train and enjoy **wonderful photo opportunities as the sun sets behind Victoria Falls**.



When the dinner bell rings, it is time for the train manager to lead guests to the dining carriage where a five-course dinner and fine South African wines are served.

At the end of the evening, return back to the hotel.

Overnight Victoria Falls Hotel (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 // VICTORIA FALLS TOURS & SUNSET CRUISE

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before embarking on today's activities.

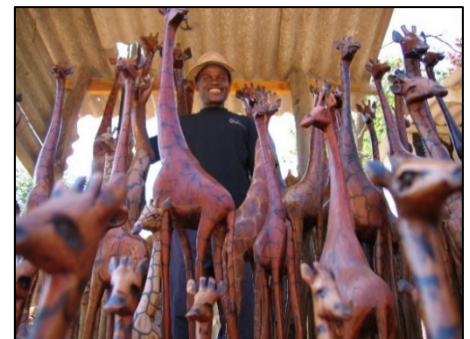


This morning we have the unique opportunity to visit the **Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust (VFWT)**. They are a non-profit whose mission is to advance environmental conservation through hands-on wildlife research, the management of a veterinary laboratory and rehabilitation facility, and the education of local people in the sustainable usage of natural resources. Tour the high-care wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center and their laboratory facilities in Victoria Falls to learn about their recent conservation work.

Return to the hotel with free time for lunch on your own. This afternoon you have the choice of an included tour:

Option 1 // Rural Village Visit & Meet the People

Enjoy an eye-opening **visit to a local Zimbabwean village** with an interactive tour, giving insight into the old ways of the Zimbabwean people, essentially taking you back in time. In the quiet, rural countryside you get to meet the local inhabitants, including the village chief, go through introductions, and talk about their culture, customs, history, and daily lives. You will be shown how their homestead is set up, the animals that they keep, what sort of equipment and utensils they use, the way their rooms are set up, the kind of food they eat, and so much more. Afterwards, **visit a local market** where you will have the opportunity to purchase handmade wares.



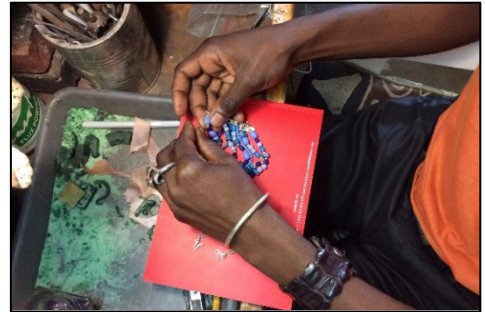
Option 2 // Bike Tour

Victoria Falls is brimming with craft markets, enticing restaurants, and an array of shops. **Zip around town on your bike** visiting markets, shops, and landmarks with ease, **learning more about the region's history and culture** from your guide. **Cycle along the Zambezi River**, visit **the famous Big Tree**, a baobab tree estimated to be 3,500 years old, enjoy spectacular views of the **Batoka Gorges** below the Falls, and **ride across the Victoria Falls Bridge**.



Option 3 // Shopping Adventure

Visit the **Elephant's Walk Shopping and Artist Village** which is a vibrant mix of local artists, retailers, and artisan studios, all working within the cool tropical garden courtyard. Tour the **Ndau Collection Studio** to meet the artisans who design and produce exquisite jewelry out of sterling silver, gemstones, leathers, and rare African trade beads in their onsite workshop. There is also a museum that shows the material and visual culture of the people of the region.



This evening join your fellow Boilermakers for a **President's Council Farewell Reception** on a **Zambezi sunset river cruise** to celebrate the end of our adventure. Sail the mighty Zambezi aboard the **Riversong** and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres while we encounter amazing wildlife during the magical sunset, including the ever-present hippos and crocodiles. If we are lucky, we might just spot some elephants playing in the water or giraffe, buffalo, and waterbuck grazing near the riverbanks.

After this extraordinary experience, return to the hotel where the remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Overnight Victoria Falls Hotel (B, Reception)



THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 // DEPART

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Victoria Falls Airport (VFA) for your flight home.

(B)