

BIAL 00423 - Heart & Culture of South Africa

Departure Date: April 23, 2010

Day 1 – 22 Apr/Thu – Board your overnight transatlantic flight

Day 2 – 23 Apr/Fri – Arrival in Cape Town, South Africa

Upon arrival in Cape Town please claim your luggage and proceed through customs. When exiting customs meet your Tour Director and receive a group transfer to the hotel. The afternoon is at leisure to rest or explore independently. Tonight, join your fellow travelers and Tour Director for an EXCURSION TO TABLE MOUNTAIN. Enjoy a thrilling cable car ride up Table Mountain, South Africa's most famous landmark. Rising 3,500 feet above Cape Town, it affords breathtaking panoramic views of the city and harbor. Excursion operated by United Touring Company/Cape Town. Next enjoy dinner at KHAYA-NYAMA GAME RESTAURANT. Set in a rural cave setting, this is a restaurant specializing in the foods of East, South, West and North Africa as well as some of the East coast islands. (D)

Day 3 – 24 Apr/Sat – Cape Town-Excursion to Robben Island

After breakfast at the hotel, board your awaiting coach. This morning enjoy a City Tour including highlights such as The Castle, SA Museum and Company Gardens. Around lunchtime you will be drop at the clock Tower Precinct where you may grab an independent bite to eat before embarking on a ROBBEN ISLAND TOUR (weather permitting). Return to the Waterfront and your coach will transfer you back to your hotel where you may freshen up for dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Note: Please include the Museum in the schools tour of Robben Island.

Day 4 – 25 Apr/Sun – Cape Town

Discover the spectacular wineland area. See the city center of PAARL, founded by Dutch settlers in the late 17th century, and admire the surrounding countryside, mountains, and vineyards. Continue to the tiny village of Franschoek for a visit of the HUGUENOT MEMORIAL MUSEUM, where you learn how French refugees brought the art of wine-making to South Africa. Midday break in the ancient university town of Stellenbosch, where you can stroll along oak-lined streets and admire gracious mansions built in the distinctive Cape-Dutch style. Then, time to visit a CHEETAH ENCLOSURE, established to save the great cats from extinction. Return to Cape Town. (B,D)

Day 5 – 26 Apr/Mon – Cape Town

Sightseeing on the Cape Peninsula starts with a drive through the country's "Mother City," the historic gateway for European settlers. Via the fishing port of Hout Bay; proceed to the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE NATURE RESERVE; nowhere else in the world does an area of such spectacular beauty and such rich biodiversity exist almost within a metropolitan area. The panoramic view from Cape Point is simply breathtaking! Seafood Lunch is included in Cape Point. Continue to the naval port of Simon's Town and visit Boulders Beach to view the African Jack Ass Penguins. Make your way back to the hotel via a drive through the coastal towns of Fish Hoek, Kalk Bay, St James, etc. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy your last day in this fascinating city. (B,L,D)

Day 6 – 27 Apr/Tue – Cape Town-Durban

This morning depart Cape Town and fly to Durban. Upon arrival in Durban travel to the BAT CENTRE. Established in 1995, the centre is a home for all who seek support & vibrant space to develop their artistic talent for the benefit of the country as a whole. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the music, visual arts, dance, craft and literature of



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KwaZulu-Natal. Check into your hotel with time to rest before an evening outing to BEAN BAG BOHEMIA, located in a two storey National Monument building, built in 1885 and has strong ties with the arts, creative industries and politics. (B,D)

Day 7 – 28 Apr/Wed – Durban-Zululand

Start the day with an orientation tour of Durban, the bustling port city with a strong oriental accent. View the Da Gama Clock and City Hall, and drive along the Golden Mile. Mid-morning departure for ZULULAND, locale of the Shaka Zulu TV series. This afternoon, learn about the exploits and traditional way of life of southern Africa's most warlike tribe. Taste home-brewed beer and authentic Zulu fare, and witness rousing, athletic dances. Overnight in a Zulu-style beehive hut, modified to include all modern comforts. (B,D)

Note: Flight from Cape Town to Durban not included.

Day 8 – 29 Apr/Thu – Zululand-St. Lucia

After breakfast, depart for St Lucia and enjoy 2 Hours to explore the St Lucia Estuary with skipper Riëtte, Dave or Berno for hippos, crocs, fish-eagle, heron, mangroves, kingfishers, mud skippers etc. A fulfilling educational relaxing trip with lunch included onboard. Check in at the lodge and freshen up. Neighbouring the World Heritage Site of St Lucia, Falaza is near the renowned Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve, boasting the 'Big Five', and the fascinating corals of Sodwana Bay. Refreshments and meals can be enjoyed in a variety of cozy indoor settings or by staying in touch with the surrounding nature outdoors. The bar, lounges, outdoor boma shelter and swimming pool all encourage intimacy with nature, embracing the mood of the bush. Depart on PM Game Drive Led by experienced rangers. The game drives yield exciting game viewing opportunities. Our highly qualified rangers have a wide knowledge of the rich bird and animal life of the region, as well as the indigenous trees and plants. Dinner is included at the lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 9 – 30 Apr/Fri – St. Lucia-Kruger National Park

Depart St. Lucia and head for KRUGER NATIONAL PARK. The park was first proclaimed in 1898 as the Sabie Game Reserve by the then president of the Transvaal Republic, Paul Kruger. He first proposed the need to protect the animals of the Lowveld in 1884, but his revolutionary vision took another 12 years to be realized when the area between the Sabie and Crocodile Rivers was set aside for restricted hunting. Dinner will be provided at your lodge hotel this evening. (B,D)

Day 10 – 01 May/Sat – Kruger National Park

The full day will be spent in an open vehicle viewing game throughout the Park – see if you can catch a glimpse of SA's Big Five! Along the way you will make a stop to enjoy your packed breakfast. Further in the day a stop will be made at one of the Rest Camps for an independent lunch. Return to your hotel to freshen up for dinner, served at the hotel. (B,D)

Day 11 – 02 May/Sun – Kruger National Park-Lesedi Cultural Village

This morning journey west to the LESEDI CULTURAL VILLAGE; established in 1993 to provide an authentic showcase of the traditional cultures of some of the well-known African tribes. Once settled in your comfortable guest huts, you will then get to know the many colorful and fascinating aspects of the cultures of the people of Lesedi. Guests are invited to the NDEBELE VILLAGE where an additional welcome by all the people of Lesedi, takes place. The cultural program begins with a multi-visual presentation on the history and origins of today's rainbow nation. This is followed by a guided tour of the four ethnic homesteads – Zulu, Basotho, Xhosa and Pedi. As the sun sets over the African bush, guests are escorted to the Boma for TRADITIONAL SINGING AND DANCING (a very participative affair!!) depicting stories that date back to the days of their ancestors. You are then treated to a PAN AFRICAN BUFFET DINNER. After dinner you are invited to gather round the fire outside the bar for a cultural surprise. This entertainment starts off with

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some "Mamba Juice", a unique Lesedi potion accompanied by Storytelling, Participative Singing and Dancing or simply an opportunity to gather more information regarding the myths and traditions of the people of South Africa. (B,D)

Day 12 – 03 May/Mon – Lesedi Cultural Village- Johannesburg

Morning departure takes you to Johannesburg, the economic and cultural centre of South Africa. Today's touring is sure to be an unforgettable experience; CONSTITUTION HILL PRISON MUSEUM. Join your trained tour guide for a walk through all prison buildings and exhibitions. No visit to Johannesburg would be complete without a visit to the APARTIED MUSEUM. The Apartheid Museum is the story of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. Whoever you are, you cannot but come away with a deeper understanding and appreciation of this country, its darkest days and its brightest triumphs.

Day 13 – 04 May/Tue – Johannesburg-Soweto Excursion

This morning travel to the SOWETO, (South Western Township), largest black residential area in South Africa, we see a fascinating contrast to Sandton and Rosebank in the north east. This "city within a city" consists of 50 suburbs, or sections, and essentially acts as a labor reservoir for the greater metropolitan area of the Witwatersrand. In many ways, the story of Soweto is the story of South Africa. Our tour route takes us to all the major points of interest, such as Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Baragwanath taxi rank, Freedom Square, Hector Peterson Memorial and Nelson Mandela's former home. Late afternoon return to the hotel to freshen up for tonight's Farewell Dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

Day 14 – 05 May/Wed – Johannesburg

After breakfast receive a group transfer to the airport. Your homebound flight arrives the same day. (B)

ALL THIS INCLUDED:

TRANSPORTATION

Motorcoaches are fully air-conditioned everywhere while touring. No use of the motorcoach other than as specified in the itinerary. One group airport transfer on arrival and departure.

HOTELS

Hotels are confirmed 30 to 60 days prior to departure. Accommodations will be provided in first class hotels. Twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower, based on double occupancy. Hotel taxes, service charges, state and local taxes, tips to baggage porters and hotel staff are all included in the tour prices.

If for any reason we are unable to accommodate your group in our regularly contracted hotels, we reserve the right to seek alternative accommodation. We will advise you immediately if such a situation should occur. Hotels are subject to availability & subject to change.

MEALS

12 - Buffet breakfasts (B)
02 - Lunches
12 - Dinners (D)

SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary with inside visits (including admission charges) shown in UPPER CASE in the tour description. Sightseeing with local guides where applicable.

TOUR DIRECTOR

The services of a professional, multilingual Tour Director will be provided throughout.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

Airport taxes (where applicable), excess baggage, meals not included in attached itinerary, all items of a personal nature such as laundry, cleaning, telephone, telex or fax expenses, beverages including tea and coffee (except at breakfast and at hotel dinners), wines, liquors, soft drinks, etc. and TIPS TO MOTORCOACH DRIVER, TOUR DIRECTOR, AND LOCAL GUIDES.

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