

AFRICAN SAFARI WITH RABBI DR. NATAN SLIFKIN MAY 1 - 11, 2017 ITINERARY (subject to change)

MONDAY: ARRIVE IN JOHANNESBURG

Arrive at OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) in Johannesburg. You will be met at the airport.

After an early lunch you'll depart on a bus tour of Soweto. Soweto, synonymous with the apartheid era, is Southern Africa's biggest city - a vibrant city of great contrasts with a pulse and culture of its own. Enter Soweto through FNB Stadium (stadium for the WorldCup in 2010), drive through the upmarket Diepkloof suburb, pass Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and the iconic Maponya Mall, the Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, pass Winnie Mandela's and bishop Tutu's homes, and visit The Apartheid Museum.

Participation in Johannesburg community Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut Programs.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Hyatt Regency – Guest rooms

TUESDAY: JOHANNESBURG - VICTORIA FALLS

This morning you'll travel to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. You'll be met on arrival at Victoria Falls Airport and transferred to your hotel for a 2-night stay.

This afternoon you'll enjoy a guided walking tour of the Falls, one of the 7 natural wonders of the world.

First stop is the Big Tree – a massive baobab many hundreds of years old with a girth of some 22 metres. The tour continues on to the Falls themselves, starting at Livingstone's statue and Devil's Cataract and proceeding through the rainforest to Danger Point. The total walk is 3kms with many spectacular view points along the way.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Victoria Falls Safari Club - Club rooms

WEDNESDAY: VICTORIA FALLS

You will be collected this morning for a full day tour to Chobe National Park in Botswana. Transfer across the Botswana, completing immigration and customs formalities before continuing to the Chobe National Park. Cruise on the Chobe River where you should see elephant, crocodiles, pods of hippos and other game species coming to drink and bathe in the river, as well as many bird species. Lunch at a lodge. The afternoon continues with a game drive in open vehicles into the Chobe National Park, with a chance of spotting lion and buffalo as well as numerous plains game species. Transfer back across the Zimbabwean border in the late afternoon.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Victoria Falls Safari Club - Club rooms

THURSDAY: VICTORIA FALLS, JOHANNESBURG, CAPE TOWN

This morning you will be collected for an elephant back safari. Clients are transferred to The Elephant Company reception for a 15-minute introductory talk on African elephants and their relationship with man, as well as a safety talk. Clients are then introduced to the elephants and their "Ndunas". After a short familiarisation with the elephants, the elephant back safari through the bush begins (1.5-2 hours) ride.

Late morning you will be transferred to the airport for and a return flight to Johannesburg and connecting flight to Cape Town.

You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel for a 4-night stay.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Cape Manor - Family rooms

FRIDAY: CAPE TOWN

This morning your tour guide will collect you for a full day's sightseeing that can include a cable-car ride up Table Mountain (weather permitting) and then a trip to the winelands.

Leaving Cape Town proceed through the spectacular mountain scenery and lush fertile valleys of the Cape to Stellenbosch, South Africa's second oldest city. This oak lined university town has a museum showing different styles of architecture in the Cape from the 16th century. Visit Spier to see the eagles. (time permitting) We visit a kosher winery for a tour and tastings. The day can be spent combining a mixture of fascinating history with spectacular scenery and tastings at a kosher winery. Return to the hotel in time to prepare for Shabbat.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Cape Manor - Family rooms

SHABBAT: CAPE TOWN

Shul services.

This evening the group will be taken to the V&A Waterfront. Return to the hotel thereafter for dinner.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Cape Manor - Family rooms

SUNDAY: CAPE TOWN

Depart this morning on a full day sightseeing tour to Cape Point.

This 25 mile drive to Cape Point includes a stop at Hout Bay, a beautiful fishing village from where a boat trip is made to Duiker Island, to see the mass of seals (optional and weather permitting). To arrive at Cape Point, you pass through the 7750 hectare plant rich expanse of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. This reserve is home to a variety of indigenous wildlife species including the Cape Mountain zebra, red lynx, caracal and a variety of antelope. In addition about five troops of chacma baboons frequent the area. There are also over 250 species of marine birds. While the reserve itself is stellar for its natural beauty, a trip to the peninsula is not complete without a visit to the massive and spectacular headland. Cape Point's trademark turbulent waters and 300 metre sheer cliffs encompass viewers who may be lucky enough to spot seals, whales and dolphins. Leaving the reserve we drive along the False Bay coastline to Boulders beach, home of the largest Jackass Penguin colony in South Africa. A stop can then be made at Simonstown a naval base (time permitting) and then it's back to the city via Boyes Drive.

Group will then have a tour at the Jewish Museum and daven at the beautiful Gardens Shul.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Cape Manor - Family rooms

MONDAY: CAPE TOWN, NELSPRUIT, GAME LODGE

This morning you'll have a flight to Nelspruit and from there you will be transferred by road to Lukimbi Game Lodge. Check in at your lodge in for a 3-night stay.

The activities at the lodge include late afternoon game drives, early morning game drives and an optional bush walk after breakfast. The game drives are all conducted in open 4 wheel drive land Rover game drives accompanied by experienced rangers and trackers, ensuring an informative and stimulating safari experience. These drives are undertaken at times best suited for game viewing at the particular time of the year.

The afternoon game drive departs at approximately 4.00pm and returns at approximately 7.00pm. The afternoon drives extend into the evening with the aid of spotlights to view seldom seen nocturnal species.

Drinks and dinner follow.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Lukimbi Safari Lodge

TUESDAY: GAME LODGE

It's an early start for the morning game drive. As the early morning sun rises over the horizon, rangers and trackers head out with guests into the African bushveld. One can sense the excitement... who knows what to expect? A herd of ever-cautious impala huddled together, a leopard in the branches of a knobthorn tree with a kill from the last hours of darkness, a herd of elephant feeding in the lush vegetation or a pride of lion in the shade of an acacia. Tea/coffee are served prior to departing the lodge, and again there will be refreshments about mid-way through the drive. Return to the lodge for breakfast. Now clients have the option of a bush walk, accompanied by an armed ranger. A wonderful way to learn about the flora and fauna of the area. Afternoon/evening program as per previous day.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Lukimbi Safari Lodge

WEDNESDAY: GAME LODGE

Another day to enjoy the tranquility of the bush and thrill of game viewing.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Lukimbi Safari Lodge

THURSDAY: GAME LODGE, NELSPRUIT, JOHANNESBURG

Early morning game drive followed by breakfast. Then it's time to pack up for your return light aircraft flight to Johannesburg. Arrive back at ORTIA.

Late lunch before ONE group transfer back to the airport.