



JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH AZAMARA CRUISES

Classic Cruising Tour | 23 Days | Physical Level 1

VICTORIA FALLS – CHOBE NATIONAL PARK – KASANE – CAPE TOWN – PORT ELIZABETH – RICHARDS BAY –
DURBAN – MOSSEL BAY

On this tour you will witness the incredible wildlife at Chobe National Park, traverse through scenic sites and charming towns and immerse yourself in the cosmopolitan allure of Cape Town; where a blend of culture, history, and natural beauty awaits. This unforgettable adventure showcases the best of South Africa's diverse landscapes and experiences that combines land and cruise touring into one.

- Discover wildlife at Chobe National Park
- Admire Victoria Falls
- Be charmed by Cape Town
- Cruise on the luxurious Azamara Quest
- Relax on the beautiful beaches of Port Elizabeth
- Delight in wine tasting at the Cape Winelands

TOUR MAP



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 12 nights Azamara cruise on Azamara Quest
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) – 20 breakfasts (B), 19 lunches (L), 20 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed on board. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense.

CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to discover the local culture and breath-taking sites of South Africa on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis pre & post cruise, so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements before and after your cruise are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

For travellers that have booked a 'Land & Cruise Only' tour with no international flights, please note the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if you are arriving on the start and departing on the conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 at Chobe National Park (arrive into Victoria Falls airport) and end the tour on Day 22 in Cape Town. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

'Journey through Southern Africa with Azamara Cruises' is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Day 1:****Fly to Johannesburg****Meals: D**

Fly to Johannesburg airport. On arrival, you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your hotel for the night.

Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant.

**Day 2:****Arrive at Victoria Falls****Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will be met at your hotel and transferred to the airport for your flight to Victoria Falls. On arrival, you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your lodge at Chobe National Park for the rest of the day at leisure.

**Destination Information**

Victoria Falls – Located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls is one of the world's largest waterfalls, with a width of 1,708 m. It is referred to by its indigenous name 'Most-oa-Tunya', which means 'the Smoke that Thunders'.

Day 3: Explore Kasane & Chobe National Park**Meals: B, L, D**

Rise early this morning and embark on a journey through Chobe National Park that will have you experience your first game drive of the tour, in search of the majestic wildlife and birdlife Chobe is famed for.

Learn about the park and wildlife that surrounds you onboard an open 4x4 vehicle. Afterwards, return to your lodge for some time at leisure before heading out for your second game drive in the afternoon.

**Destination Information**

Kasane – Located between the border of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia and Botswana and forming the gateway to Chobe National Park and Victoria Falls, the town of Kasane is known for its stunning views and wildlife that roam freely.

Chobe National Park – The second largest national park in Botswana, Chobe National Park offers one of the greatest concentrations of game found on the African continent. It is famous for its large elephant population, which is more than 50,000, and can be seen drinking or swimming in the Chobe River. The park is home to a vast array of other animal too, such as the lion, giraffe, impala, hippos and many more!

Day 4: Ride the Livingstone Express**Meals: B, L, D**

Today starts with another morning game drive across Chobe National Park for your final chance to spot the habitant wildlife, before returning over the border into Zambia.

This evening, step back into a bygone era aboard the Royal Livingstone Express, a luxurious steam train. There will be fine wining and dining onboard, as you travel from Livingstone to Victoria Falls Bridge for a glorious African sunset and your first glimpse at Victoria Falls.



Please note: Selected dates only for the Royal Livingstone Express day tour

Day 5:**Victoria Falls****Meals: B, L, D**

Rise early this morning and experience an unforgettable sunrise cruise on the mighty Zambezi River, where you will be met with unparalleled views and have the opportunity to spot even more wildlife.

Then it's time to discover one of the world's most awe-inspiring sights - Most-oa-Tunya, 'the Smoke that Thunders' or Victoria Falls. During your tour, you will learn about the emergence of this amazing wonder before transferring to your hotel and delighting in dinner this evening.

**Destination Information**

Zambezi River – The Zambezi River is the fourth-longest river in Africa and forms the boundaries of Angola, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Victoria Falls – Located in Zimbabwe the falls are a whopping 1,708 metres across with a 90 to 107 metre drop into the Zambezi Gorge. The falls have been mesmerising travellers with its sheer power and beauty for centuries.

Day 6:**Journey to Cape Town****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, you will be met by your English-speaking assistant and transferred to Victoria Falls airport to board your flight to Cape Town, a journey of approximately 3 hours.

On arrival, you will be met by an English-speaking assistant and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Later this evening, enjoy dinner at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront.

**Destination Information**

Cape Town – Located on the southwest coast of South Africa, Cape Town is South Africa's most popular tourist destination. Boasting a gorgeous coastline and stunning beaches, South Africa is home to a rich history and an abundance of wonderful wildlife.

Day 7:**Discover Cape Town****Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before going on to embark on a guided tour of the 'Mother City' with your English-speaking guide.

Drive past the DHL stadium and the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront with a stop for lunch and an opportunity for a quick shop. Afterwards, take a drive through the city centre and make a stop at the historical Greenmarket Square before heading to the 17th century Castle of Good Hope.

You will also visit the Company's Garden and discover the Bo-Kaap area of Cape Town. Formerly known as the Malay Quarter, this picturesque corner of Cape Town is well-known for its vast collection of colourful houses and cobblestone streets.



Continue on to pay a visit to Table Mountain (weather dependent), a flat-topped mountain overlooking the city of Cape Town, with spectacular views of the Lions Head and Signal Hill on the left, the City Bowl in the middle and Devils Peak on the right.

In the event of bad weather, a visit to the Table view will be included instead of the Table Mountain.

Finish the evening with a beautiful dinner at the famous Gold Restaurant in Cape Town. 14 different dishes will be served, featuring flavours of the African continent.

Destination Information

Victoria & Alfred Waterfront – A beautiful neighbourhood situated within the oldest working harbours in the southern hemisphere and home to a retail district, dining, leisure and entertainment facilities, the V&A Waterfront makes for a perfect place to visit for both tourists and locals alike.

Castle of Good Hope – Made up of 9 boutique museums, the Castle of Good Hope was once an Army base, former seat of government as well as a slave port and is now deemed a National Heritage Site. The castle is considered the oldest remaining colonial building in South Africa, a symbol of the country's complex colonial past.

Day 8: Embark Azamara Cruise in Cape Town**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checking out.

You will be met by your English-speaking assistant and transferred privately to Cape Town cruise port.

Please note: your Guide will travel with you to the port, however they will not board the cruise with you. You will be met again by your new Guide once you disembark in Cape Town.

Upon arrival, board the Azamara Quest, where your cruise adventure begins! Spend the rest of your day at leisure onboard the cruise ship.



Lunch and dinner can be enjoyed onboard your cruise ship today.

Please note: Depending on your tour departure date the cruise itinerary may differ to what is outlined here. All touring and destinations visited will remain the same, but order of visitation may be changed by cruiseline.

Days 9-10: Cruising**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy two days at leisure onboard the Azamara Quest and discover all the ship has to offer.

Your boutique hotel at sea, the Azamara Quest is a mid-sized ship that offers a vast range of amenities, including seven restaurants, cafes, and lounges as well as a refreshing pool, sun-drenched decks and a revitalizing spa.

Onboard activities available on the Azamara Quest include trivia contests, dance lessons, entertaining shows that feature a talented cast of singers and much more.

During your time here, you will also be able to benefit from the range of shopping facilities, selling a variety of items, from fine jewelry to fragrances and clothing.



Day 11:**Cruising - Durban****Meals: B, L, D**

Today, arrive at the city of Durban, commonly known as “The Asian Capital of South Africa”, where Indian, Zulu and European cultures come together.

Discover the many wonders of this culturally diverse city at your own pace, as today is also at leisure.

You can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation.

Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.

**Destination Information**

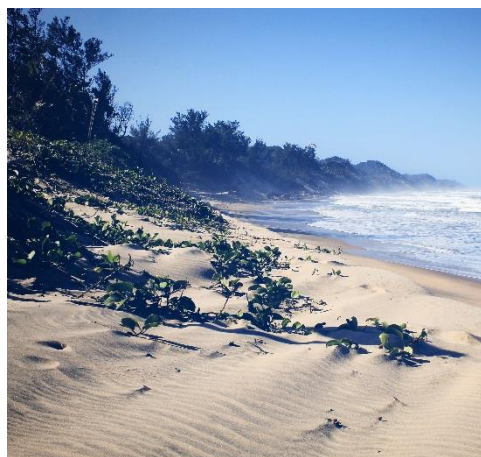
Durban – A gateway to South Africa’s KwaZulu-Natal and Drakensberg regions, Durban is home to the largest population of Indian descendants outside of India, which has translated into the city’s food and culture. Durban’s harbour remains as one of the world’s major commercial ports, acting as a primary point of entry for a vast number of raw materials, including coal, sugar and more.

Day 12:**Cruising - Richards Bay****Meals: B, L, D**

Port in Richards Bay, famous for some of the most breathtaking scenery and exotic wildlife in South Africa. Explore the bay at your own pace, as today is at leisure.

You can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.

**Destination Information**

Richards Bay – Located on the northeast coast of South Africa, Richards Bay, established by Sir Frederick Richards, a Commodore of the Cape during the Anglo-Boer War, is home to colourful wildlife, unspoiled beaches and stunning scenery. The town also makes up part of the Zululand Birding Route, hosting over 300 species of bird, making it the perfect destination for bird-watching enthusiasts.

Day 13: Cruising - Richards Bay**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy your second day at port in Richards Bay at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation.

Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.

**Days 14-15: Cruising****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend 2 days at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Quest has to offer.

**Day 16: Cruising - Port Elizabeth****Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will dock in Port Elizabeth, famously known as “The Friendly City” and for being the home to beautiful beaches, amazing restaurants and the densest population of elephants in the world. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day.

You can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Destination Information

Port Elizabeth – Located on the cusp of the Algoa Bay, Port Elizabeth, established in 1820 as a British settlement, is renowned for their beaches, nearby Addo Elephant National Park and its many brilliant museums. Home to a rich collection of marine life, Port Elizabeth also boasts a number of heritage buildings and is one of the largest cities in South Africa.

Day 17: Cruise - Port Elizabeth

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today ported in Port Elizabeth, enjoying everything that your cruise ship has to offer.



Day 18: Cruising - Mossel Bay

Meals: B, L, D

Port in Mossel Bay, a destination of amazing natural beauty, known for its beaches. Explore Mossel Bay at your own pace before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Destination Information

Mossel Bay – Located between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay is home to stunning sand-covered beaches and lies within the heart of the Garden Route, renowned for its diverse nature. Mossel Bay is also known for featuring evidence of the world's oldest human inhabitants, which can be found in fossil form within the caverns of Pinnacle Point.

Day 19:**Cruising****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend your final day at sea, enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Quest has to offer.

**Day 20:****Disembark Azamara Cruise in Cape Town****Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruise concludes as you reach Cape Town cruise terminal today, where you will be met by an English-speaking guide.

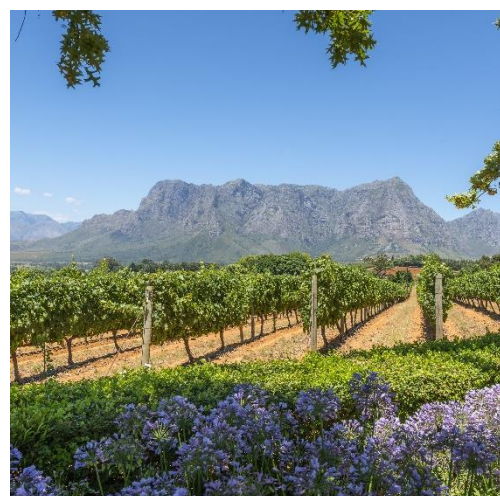
Head towards Simon's Town and visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach, home to approximately 300 endangered African penguins, all before transferring back to your hotel, and enjoying dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

**Day 21:****Cape Town****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, meet your English-speaking guide and transfer to the Winelands by tram.

Today you will enjoy 3 wine tastings at Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl, with lunch en-route.

Journey back to Cape Town and spend the remainder of your evening at leisure.



Destination Information

Cape Winelands – Comprising of the Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl Valleys, the Cape Winelands feature some of South Africa's oldest towns and are considered by many as the wine and food hotspots. Each town also features influences from Dutch architecture, with colonial history dating back to the 17th century.

Days 22-23:

Cape Town

Meals: B

This morning is free at leisure before being transferred to the airport for your return flight home. Fly to Australia, arriving home the following day.

Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Cape Town, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. Visas are not required for Australian passport holders for entry into South Africa for stays of up to 90 days.

Entry visas are required for Australian passport holders to visit Zimbabwe. The Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visas process' are changing on regular basis.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of booking Cruise & Tour that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance. We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Eating in South Africa is a diverse and flavourful experience, reflecting the country's rich cultural heritage and its blend of indigenous, European, Asian, and African influences. The cuisine is influenced by the country's history and various ethnic groups. You'll find traditional African dishes, Dutch, British, Indian, and Malay-inspired foods, among others.

The iconic braai, a barbecue feast of meats and traditional sauces, embodies communal gatherings. Biltong and droëwors offer savoury snacking options, while dishes like bobotie, a fragrant blend of spiced meat and custard, showcase Cape Malay influences. Indian-inspired samosas and the unique bunny chow add further dimension to South African dining. From pap and wors, a staple pairing of maize porridge and sausages, to seafood harvested from the extensive coastline, the culinary scene is a celebration of diversity.

Wine regions like Stellenbosch highlight the country's love for wine and food. South African cuisine varies by region and cultural background, so there's a wide range of flavours and dishes to explore. Ultimately, South African cuisine tells a story of cultural fusion and community, inviting locals and visitors alike to savour its distinctive flavours.

Restaurants in South Africa offer good value. In every city you'll find fine restaurants with imaginative menus. Generally, restaurants are licensed (sell alcohol) except for Muslim establishments serving Cape Cuisine which don't sell alcohol at all. In big cities such as Cape Town, continental style cafes are popular. In addition to fine dining, South Africa also have a string of franchise restaurants including Wimpy, Nando's, and KFC.

All beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available.

ACCOMMODATION:

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, and a telephone. Electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and South Africa. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met. Please be aware that there are security measures carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

PARK RULES:

Game Drive Rules:

- Guests should always remain seated.
- Refrain from talking loudly when viewing animals.
- Always keep arms and legs within the confines of the game drive vehicle.
- Do not grab onto any branches or leaves whilst the vehicle is moving.
- No feeding of animals.

Guests should note that game drive vehicles are open to the elements, in which case, please ensure to wear comfortable / neutral colouring clothing. Sun hats and Sunglasses are advisable. Bring a light jacket with as it tends to be chilly during the early morning and once the sun sets on afternoon drives. Warmer jackets, beanies and scarves are advisable for winter months.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in South Africa pre & post cruise. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like coaches.

Portorage is included onboard the Azamara Quest Cruise Ship. Please note, you will be able to leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the last night of your cruise, staff will then be able to make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation early next morning. Please also note, it is customary to tip for the portorage service.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in South Africa have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in South Africa have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Public Transport: South Africa does not have a well-developed public transport system. All the cities have a municipal bus service, which runs according to an established schedule, but only until a certain time of night. The service is infrequent and even more limited over the weekends and public holidays. Towns do not offer a municipal bus service. It is not recommended that tourists use public transport.

Taxis: There are mainly two types of taxis in South Africa. Metered taxis are more expensive and to be found mainly in the cities although some small towns may have a limited number. They cannot be hailed from the street and must either be ordered by phone or at the taxi ranks, which are scarce. Minibus taxis are the cheapest but also the most uncomfortable. Violence connected with minibus taxis and a relatively high accident rate makes this the least preferable mode of transport.

CRUISE – AZAMARA QUEST:

Your boutique hotel at sea, the Azamara Quest is a mid-sized ship that offers a vast range of amenities, including seven restaurants, cafes, and lounges as well as a refreshing pool, sun-drenched decks and a revitalizing spa.

Boarding Procedures: Departure times may vary and be as early as noon, so you are encouraged to allow plenty of time to get to the port on the day of boarding. Please note, all

boarding times are noted in your travel documents. Priority boarding is available for guests staying in suites.

Government regulations require Azamara to submit final departure manifests. You must board the ship at least 90 minutes prior to our scheduled departure time. If you fail to check in at least 90 minutes before our scheduled departure, this constitutes a "no-show" and will result in an automatic cancellation of your booking.

Cruise Schedule: While we do our best to adhere to our published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

Dining: Please note, there are no set menus onboard the cruise ship, instead, you will have the opportunity to dine at your choice of restaurant included in your package and have the option to upgrade your package whilst onboard to dine in the various speciality restaurants.

Your package also includes soft drinks and alcoholic beverages whilst onboard your cruise. There is the option to upgrade your drinks package on your Guest Account or on your cruise.

Onboard Dress Code: In keeping with the friendly yet sophisticated onboard environment, guests are encouraged to keep a "resort casual" dress code.

Please note, bare feet, tank tops, caps, bathing suits, casual shorts, and torn jeans are not allowed in the dining room or specialty restaurants. When dining at Windows Café, guests must wear footwear and a cover-up or shirt.

Formal evening wear is not expected nor required in any restaurants. If you prefer to dress more formally, you are welcome to do so.

Tipping: On board gratuities are included in your trip cost.

Downloadable Luggage Tag: Luggage tags will be available to download through your personal cruise account.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When traveling to South Africa, especially in warm and sunny climates, it's advisable to pack light and comfortable clothing made from cotton in light colours to stay cool. Long-sleeved shirts and trousers can provide protection from the sun and insects. Carrying a lightweight waterproof jacket is also a good idea in case of unexpected rain. A sturdy pair of trainers or hiking shoes is essential for exploring various terrains comfortably. To shield yourself from the sun, a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses are important items to have.

Don't forget to capture the stunning landscapes and experiences with a camera, and make sure to bring along chargers and spare memory cards. A lightweight flashlight can be handy for navigating in low-light conditions. Prioritize your well-being by packing a medical kit that includes essentials like first aid supplies and any personal medications you might need. If you're visiting malaria-prone areas, remember to take appropriate anti-malarial precautions. With these essentials in your luggage, you'll be well-prepared for a memorable and comfortable adventure in South Africa.

WEATHER:

Seasons are opposite to those of the Northern Hemisphere. Warm temperate conditions are typical of South Africa, making it a popular destination for sunshine-seekers. South Africa is renowned for almost seven months of sunshine. From May to August, temperatures drop. However, April and May are the most temperate months. In certain areas, however, notably the hot, humid KwaZulu-Natal coast and the Northern Province, June and July are the ideal holiday months. The wide expanses of ocean on three sides of South Africa have a moderating influence on its climate.

More apparent, however, are the effects of the warm Agulhas and cold Benguela currents along the east and west coasts, respectively. While Durban (east coast) and Port Nolloth (West Coast) lie on the same latitude, there is a difference of at least 6 degrees centigrade in their mean annual temperatures.

Temperatures: Despite a latitudinal span of 13 degrees, average annual temperatures are remarkably uniform throughout the country. Owing to the increase in the height of the plateau towards the Northeast, there is hardly any increase in temperature from south to north, as might be expected.

There is a striking contrast between temperatures on the east and west coasts. Temperatures above 32°C are fairly common in summer.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups pre & post cruise consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

TIPPING POLICY PRE & POST CRUISE:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South Africa is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. To avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides, drivers, trackers and rangers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort.

Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants, restaurant staff or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) at least 6 weeks prior to travel for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

Malaria:

It is important to note that the risk of malaria is usually low, even in the summer months. The highest risk period is between November and April - the end of the summer rainy season. Malaria within South Africa's borders is only prevalent in a few areas. It is encountered mainly in northern and eastern Mpumalanga, northern Kwa-Zulu Natal, and the border areas of the Northern and North West Provinces. Should you be visiting these areas malaria precautions are advised.

Malaria transmission is at its highest during the warmer and wetter months of November through to April. From May through to October the risks of acquiring malaria are reduced. Anti malaria prophylactics are advisable year round. Expert opinion differs regarding the best approach to malaria prophylaxis. It is important to bear in mind that malaria may be contracted despite chemoprophylaxis, especially in areas where chloroquine resistance has been reported.

Please remember that the best insurance is the preventative kind: avoid being bitten by using mosquito repellents liberally, wear long-sleeved clothing in the evenings and use mosquito coils if you would like.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice along with a link to our website where you can find more useful predeparture travel information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: December 2024