

# SOUTH AFRICA: The Evolution of a Democracy

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

*South Africa is a nation that has been troubled for centuries by deep rooted racial divisions and apartheid, but today its proud populous is determined to begin anew and offer its visitors an inspiring and unforgettable place to explore.*

**Day 1-2:** Depart for South Africa. Leave in the spring and arrive in the Southern Hemisphere in the fall!!

**Day 3:** Arrive in **Johannesburg**. The discovery of diamonds and gold outside Joberg changed it from a simple mining town, to SA's most cosmopolitan city and commercial heart. Historically, the British had financial interests in the country's mineral wealth, and ultimately took control. Today SA is an independent African Nation.



**Day 4:** Full day sightseeing in the city of Joberg. Visit **The Apartheid Museum** which displays the Nationals Party's apartheid policies that turned 20,000,000 non-white SA's into second class citizens. Then to Soweto. In 1976, students of **Soweto** held an antigovernment protest march during which white police killed more than 200 people including students. The township is also home to Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

**Day 5:** Drive to the **Cullinan Diamond Mine**, named after the famous diamond. Vast natural resources make SA one of the richest countries on earth yielding silver, platinum, chromite, uranium, gold and diamonds.

**Day 6-8:** Depart this morning for the **Game Park**. For 2 full days, enjoy morning and evening game drive

**Day 9:** Travel to **Isandlwana** the heart of Zululand. Millions of Zulus still live a traditional lifestyle.

**Day 10:** Zulus evolved into the most powerful and fierce black African kingdom in SA. Following the British colonization of SA, Zulus fought for years to defend their lands but ultimately gave up their fight against the troops. Many sites associated with Zulu history will be visited in this region and Isandlwana is the famous site of the 1879 Zulu British battle at which a 1200 strong British force was annihilated by 20,000 Zulu warriors.



**Day 11:** Spend the day at a **local school** children in this Zululand community.

**Day 12:** Travel back to Joberg

**Day 13:** Fly to **Cape Town**. In 1652, the Dutch East India Co. set up a refreshment station for ships enroute to India. Cape Town today is South Africa's premier tourist destination. Enjoy a full day sightseeing and a visit atop its most famous landmark, **Table Mountain**.

**Day 14:** Full day coach tour travelling to the **Cape of Good Hope**. In 1498 Vasco de Gamma successfully rounded the Cape and discovered the long sought after route to India. Continue to **Cape Point**. Return to Cape Town passing through Simons Town, a picturesque town that is the base of the South African navy and has been since 1957. Also visit **Boulders Beach**, home to a land based colony of almost 3000 African penguins.



**Day 15:** Spend the day at a **local school or local community** sharing with the charming children of South Africa.

**Day 16:** After many long years of British colonization, the union of SA became a self-governing colony. In 1912 the ANC – African National Congress was founded. In 1942 the Afrikaner (white) National Party came to power and enforced laws that stripped all powers from black South Africans. The Afrikaans word for segregation based on skin color is “apartheid” and this policy was in place after 1948. Blacks and the ANC tried for decades to work with the National Party but to no avail. Leaders of the ANC were imprisoned for life as political prisoners. Nelson Mandela was one of the most famous leaders imprisoned. Finally in 1990 President of SA de Klerk freed **Nelson Mandela**. Mandela was elected president and SA joined the rest of the world on the political stage. The infamous island of **Robben Island** was maximum security prison that gained international fame because of the political prisoners who were incarcerated there. The most famous of its prisoners was Nelson Mandela. Today the island has been declared a world heritage site, and the island is a protected area and the prison is now a museum. Today you will tour the island and prison facility. You will see where prisoners like Mandela were imprisoned for decades. The ferry to Robben Island docks at the **Victoria and Alfred Waterfront**, Cape Town’s successful Waterfront project. The project was named after the son of Queen Victoria. In 1988 the Waterfront Company set out to revitalize, modernize and upgrade the area. Today it is a visitor’s paradise with upscale hotels, designer boutiques, quirky specialty shops, a fabulous Aquarium and Amphitheatre concert venue, restaurants and shopping malls. When you return from your visit to Robben Island you will have several hours to enjoy the Waterfront. This is a great opportunity to do some last minute shopping before you head off tomorrow.

**Day 17:** Unfortunately today you are homeward bound.

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- Return airfare – North American – South Africa
- Internal flight – Johannesburg - Cape Town
- 14 nights accommodation
  - o 4 nights Johannesburg
  - o 3 nights Kruger Park
  - o 3 nights Isandlwana
  - o 4 nights Cape Town
- Most meals daily
- All return airport transfers
- All coaching throughout tour as described in itinerary
- Guided sightseeing tours
  - o Johannesburg
  - o Cape Town
  - o Cape of Good Hope, Cape Point, Boulders Bay, Table Mountain
- Entrances/ Activities/ Tours
  - o Cullinan Diamond Mine
  - o Robben Island
  - o Isandwana Battlefield Tour and Hike, Zulu Village walkabout
  - o Activities in Zulu Village – varies depending on availability
  - o Apartheid Museum
  - o Hector Pieterse Museum
  - o Cullinan Diamond Mine
  - o Kruger National Park
  - o 2 Days Game drives Kruger Park
  - o Table Mountain Cable Lift
  - o Cape of Good Hope Park
  - o Boulders Bay National Park
  - o Robbin Island Entrance and ferry transfer
- 2 days humanitarian activities

