

DAY TOUR ITINERARIES – ORCHID CONFERENCE

No. of guests: 12 adults
Vehicle: 17-seater semi-luxury coach
Crew Provided: One Driver
 One registered SA guide

The tour pricings are based on number of participants and are subject to changes pending group sizes.

Monday 27th September: Cullinan Diamond Mine / Pretoria Cultural Tour.

Today's tour starts with a visit to the Cullinan Diamond Mine. We leave our lodgings at 8:30 to visit the small mining village of Cullinan, located east of Pretoria, which gained world-wide attention with the discovery in 1905 of an incredible 3106 carat stone, named the Cullinan Diamond - the largest uncut diamond ever found. Over the years more than 120 million carats have been mined, including some of the most famous gem stones in the world.

After a guided surface tour of the mine and a browse around the jewelry shop (specialising in diamond and gold jewelry), the tour will head back to Pretoria and visit the Mapungubwe Museum located at the University of Pretoria. Mapungubwe was the centre of what is believed to have been the largest kingdom in Southern Africa before it was abandoned in the 14th century. The site was discovered in 1932, and a rich collection of articles made of gold and other materials, are displayed in the museum.

After a quick lunch, we visit some places of interest in Pretoria: the Union Buildings (seat of Government), Church Square (the city centre), the Voortrekker Monument (dedicated to the first white pioneers) and Freedom Park (devoted to those who sacrificed for freedom and democracy in South Africa) – subject to time constraints. Note that this is quite a busy day, and timing is reasonably pressurized.

Departure Time: 08:00
Return Time: 18:00

Inclusions: Entrance to the Cullinan Diamond Mine
 Entrance to Voortrekker Monument and to Freedom Square
 Entrance to Mapungubwe Museum
 Lunch

Cost: R 1190

Tuesday, 28th September: 'Jozi Tour' to Gold Reef City and Soweto

Gold was discovered in Johannesburg in the late 1800s and today Johannesburg is the commercial, industrial and mining capital of South Africa. Gold Reef City is a restored mining village, reflecting the life and times of Johannesburg's early development. The tour takes us to some of the major highlights of the village and discusses the significance of gold in South African history. An underground mine visit as well as a real-life gold pour are included. Gold Reef City's broad appeal spectrum of activities allows travellers to savour the offering of traditional African music, dance and history found throughout the complex.

Following lunch at Gold Reef City, we head into Soweto and explore this pulsating township. The establishment of Soweto is, like Johannesburg, linked directly to the discovery of Gold in 1885. Thousands of people from around the world and South Africa flocked to the new town to seek their fortunes or to offer their labour. Within 4 years Johannesburg was the second largest city in South Africa. More than half the population was black, most living in multi racial shanty towns near the gold mines in the centre of the town. As the gold mining industry developed, so did the need for labour increase. Migrant labour resulted in most of these workers living in mine compounds. However, other workers had to find their own accommodation often in appalling conditions. Modern Soweto is a sprawling and fascinating metropolis, providing incredible insights into the past, present and future of South Africa's development.

Departure Time: 08:00

Return Time: 18:00

**Inclusions: Entrance to Gold Reef City (excluding amusement park)
Lunch at Gold Reef City
Entrance to museums where appropriate**

Cost: R 1270

Wednesday 29th September: Up Close and Personal Tour (Elephant Sanctuary / Chameleon Village / De Wildt Cheetah Research and Rehabilitation Centre)

This day requires a very early start and a packed breakfast is provided en route! First, a visit to the Elephant Sanctuary at Hartebeestpoort Dam, where we assist with the morning brush-down and grooming of the elephants, interact with them whilst they feed and then accompany them on their morning walk. The Elephant Sanctuary hosts a fully guided educational program and provides wonderful opportunities to interact with, and touch, elephants. You can learn more about elephant habits, behaviour, different personalities and anatomy. The main focus



of The Elephant Sanctuary is to educate people about all aspects of elephants and elephant husbandry.

Afterwards, we visit the nearby Chameleon Village, a large craft centre featuring African carvings, woodwork, jewelry and beadwork, where you will be spoilt for choice - whether looking for eateries, browsing for gifts, home décor, that fine piece of art, or just looking for entertainment.

After enjoying lunch at one of the nearby restaurants, we cross the Magaliesberg Mountains en route to the De Wildt Cheetah Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre. Several endangered species are bred at the centre (including wild dog, brown hyena and cheetah), and we'll have the opportunity of touring the facilities before going on a game drive to see several of these species on the reserve.

Departure Time: 06:30

Return Time: 18:00

**Inclusions: Picnic Breakfast (packed breakfast en route)
Lunch at a restaurant
Entrance to Elephant Sanctuary
Entrance to de Wildt Cheetah Sanctuary**

Cost: R 1950

Thursday 30th September: Cradle of Humankind tour (Maropeng, Lesedi Cultural Village & Rhino and Lion Park)

We start off the day with a visit to the Maropeng Interpretation Centre in the Cradle of Humankind, an exciting, world-class exhibition, focusing on the development of humans and our ancestors over the past few million years. Maropeng is a World Heritage Site. In Setswana, the main indigenous language in this area, the name means "returning to the place of origin". Strong evidence suggests that our ancestors have lived in this area for more than 3-million years. By coming here, we are returning to the birthplace of humanity.

Our next visit is to the Lesedi Cultural Village to enjoy an introduction to the various tribal groups that have contributed to South Africa's rich heritage, and to watch tribal dancing and singing. Lesedi Cultural Village was established in 1993 to provide an authentic showcase of the traditional cultures of some of the well known African tribes, who have their home in South Africa. Members of these historic communities live at Lesedi and guides take you through the five different tribal cultures in the replicated traditional villages. Lunch is a sumptuous affair featuring a wide variety of local dishes.

We end off the day with a game drive (in our tour bus) around the Rhino & Lion Park, a relatively new conservation project located in the Cradle of Humankind. It is fairly usual

to find lion, wild dog, cheetah, rhino and a host of other mammals and bird species on the reserve, although this cannot always be guaranteed. The tour includes a visit to the animal nursery, where it is possible to come into close contact with some very interesting creatures (note that some “touch zoo” activities are extra).

Departure Time: 08:00

Return Time: 18:00

**Inclusions: Buffet Lunch (at Lesedi Cultural Village)
Entrance to Maropeng Interpretation Centre
Entrance to Rhino and Lion Park**

Cost: R 1600

OPTION 2

Thursday 30th September: Cradle of Humankind, Lesedi Cultural Village and Botanical Gardens

We start off the day with a visit to the Maropeng Interpretation Centre in the Cradle of Humankind, an exciting, world-class exhibition, focusing on the development of humans and our ancestors over the past few million years. Maropeng is a World Heritage Site. In Setswana, the main indigenous language in this area, the name means “returning to the place of origin” Strong evidence suggests that our ancestors have lived in this area for more than 3-million years. By coming here, we are returning to the birthplace of humanity.

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We end off the day with a visit to the beautiful Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens, one of the gems of South Africa’s floral heritage. The gardens are located in a fascinating area to the west of Johannesburg, incorporating both intriguing geological features as well as one of South Africa’s foremost and diverse displays of floral wealth. A specialist guide will accompany us around the gardens, explaining the various plant species we encounter there.

(Note that, instead of the Lesedi Cultural experience, we can have lunch in the gardens (foregoing the cultural experience. A reduction in cost of R120.00 would apply.)

Departure Time: 08:00

Return Time: 18:00

**Inclusions: Buffet Lunch (at Lesedi Cultural Village)
Entrance to Maropeng Interpretation Centre
Entrance to Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden (with specialist guide)**

Cost: R 1600

Friday, 1st October: Pilanesberg National Park and Sun City

Today we visit the Pilanesberg National Park, a Big-5 game reserve, located about 150km north-west of Pretoria. Not only is Pilanesberg popular for its wildlife and exceptional birdlife, but it is well-known in geological circles for its unique origin (and subsequently, it's variety of vegetation). Pilanesberg is the eroded remains of a huge volcano, about 25kms in diameter and substantially higher than Mount Everest, which erupted about 1300-million years ago. The 550km² game reserve contains most of SA's bigger mammal species, as well as over 300 bird species. The relocation of some 6000 animals in 1979 was considered one of the largest game relocation operations ever, and resulted in some very interesting animal behaviour.

Nestled in one of the valleys of the extinct volcano lies one of South Africa's best known adventure playgrounds – Sun City! The brain child of mega-entrepreneur Sol Kerzner 30 years ago, Sun City still holds pride of place as one of the favourite venues for South Africa's adventure and theme park market. The complex incorporates four large hotels, the Super-Bowl entertainment theatre, several casinos, the famous "Valley of the Waves", two famous golf courses, and a host of outdoor activities and water sports.

And so today we head out at daybreak to explore these two natural and man-made wonderlands. Arriving at Pilanesberg at about 09:00, we visit the park in search of the Big-5 and more, before returning to Sun City for an afternoon enjoying the activities of this huge entertainment complex. We leave Sun City by 17:00 to return to our lodgings in the early evening.

Note that this can be run as a separate tour to Pilanesberg only (Pilanesberg offers much to keep an avid nature lover busy – most of our tours to Pilanesberg alone are pretty action packed).

Departure Time: 07:00

Return Time: 19:00

**Inclusions: Breakfast on the run (packed breakfast or at roadside restaurant)
Picnic Lunch (at a picnic spot or hide in the reserve)
Entrance to Pilanesberg National Park**

Entrance to Sun City (note that access to some of the adventure activities is optional and is at own cost)

Price: R 1350

Refer enquiries and bookings to:

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