

# AFRICA CALLS 2011 – THE CAPE 14 Days

- 7 game drives
- elephant feeding
- guided township street walk and authentic Xhosa meal
- 2-night stay in a 5 star game lodge on an all inclusive basis
- 5 nights under canvas in luxury tents
- Tour ends with 3 nights in 5-star accommodation in Cape Town

Please note – all tent accommodation is luxury permanent camps; two of them are 5-star. The Cape is the only malaria-free area in South Africa where you can see the Big 5 – lion, leopard, buffalo, rhinoceros & elephant



Arrive Cape Town August 18 – either from Australia or Namibia

## **August 18 Cape Town –Township Streetwalk and the Marimba Band**

Those arriving from Australia will be met at the airport and taken to your hotel in the city centre; those travelling with us from Namibia will be dropped off at the hotel on arrival in the Mother City.

We get straight into it: After freshening up we travel to Khayelitsha (a black township on the outskirts of Cape Town) for a guided street walk with our local Xhosa guide, Mpho. Dinner is at Kopanong, Mama Thope's B&B where the Marimba Band will provide lively energetic entertainment while we enjoy a traditional Xhosa meal.

Mama Thope was the first woman to open a township B&B in Africa and was an inspirational guest speaker in Hay on International Women's Day in 2007.

Khayelitsha is South Africa's fastest growing township, and is one of Cape Town's leading tourist destinations.

The impression from the outside is pretty grim - many shacks line the outskirts and give no indication of the vibrant culture within.

The government has implemented many housing projects to replace shacks with permanent houses.

## **August 19 Clara Anna Fontein – our first night under canvas**

Today we introduce you to the African Markets which are located right outside our hotel on Greenmarket Square. Learn to bargain hard, especially with the Nigerians. There are some lovely craftwork and Ken and Tertia will guide you with your shopping so you don't end up paying too much or buying something which you cannot take into Australia.

After lunch we depart for Clara Anna Fontein, a beautiful rest camp with luxury permanent tents, all with ensuite facilities.

A game drive with drinks is included and we can expect to see a variety of antelope. An early dinner is advised to catch up with jetlag and a cash bar will operate.

### **August 20 The Little Karoo, ostriches and another night under canvas**

If you thought Clara Anna was pretty flash, wait until you see Buffelsdrift!

After an early breakfast we hit the R62, the longest wine route in the world – bound for Oudtshoorn, known as the ostrich capital of the world.

We stop at a few wineries to stock up and have lunch at Ronnie's Sex Shop – it's nothing what you would expect!

Get to Buffelsdrift early afternoon to maximise our time here.

Game drive before dinner.

Those who have just arrived from Australia will need another early night to get the body clock back to normal again.

Accommodation is a luxury permanent tent for two nights, overlooking a lake filled with hippos – there is even a bidet in your ensuite bathroom!



### **August 21 Cango Caves, hippos and horseback safari**

After a sumptuous breakfast watching the hippos sunbaking in a distance, you have the choice of visiting the world renowned Cango Caves at Oudtshoorn, an ostrich farm (where you may be able to ride one) or a wildgame ranch.

Return to Buffesldrfit for lunch and a horseback safari in the afternoon.

Your evening meal is included tonight.

## **August 22, 23 Gem of the Karoo, slaves quarters and monuments**



Two-hour game drive and a chance to feed the elephants before we leave the Little Karoo and make our way further inland to the Great Karoo where you are introduced to different aspect of South Africa.

We travel through the small 'dorp' (town) Aberdeen on our way to Graaff-Reinet, the fourth oldest town in South Africa (Tertia's hometown) for a two-night stay at the beautifully restored Drosty Hotel (pictured above right)

This former Magistrate's Court is one of 220 national monuments in Graaff-Reinet. 144 candles are lit in brass candelabras in the original court room of the Landdrost – now the elegant table d'hote 18<sup>th</sup> century dining room.

The Drosty has a wonderful long stoep (verandah) right on the main street where you can enjoy a drink while watching the world go by – African style.

The church (also pictured above) is open for tours.

It contains one of the best silver collections in the country and most of its timber work inside is stinkwood – the most expensive timber in the world.

Graaff-Reinet is steeped in history and has many museums and art galleries.

Leisure time to shop – there are two souvenir shops across the road from our hotel - or you can visit the largest private cactus garden in the world or take a tour of the Valley of Destination – one of South Africa's five natural wonders (own expense).

## **August 24, 25 Shamwari – 5 star plus**

Time to track down the Big 5 and there is no better place to do this than Shamwari, about 4 hours south of Graaff-Reinet.

You have paid a lot of money for the next two days and it will be worth every cent. Accommodation is in super luxury tents at Bayethe, all inclusive plus two game drives per day.

The food here is unbelievable and so is the service.

## **August 26 Garden Route**

It is always hard leaving Shamwari and we stay there until we're kicked out!

Recommend you take the early morning game drive, followed by a long leisurely breakfast/brunch (have champagne too!).

After we tear ourselves away we travel along the Garden Route to the Tsitsikamma forest.

Free time here to do your own thing (at own expense) including the internationally acclaimed Tsitsikamma Canopy Tour, mountain biking, forest hikes, snorkelling in a marine reserve – all within a stone's throw away.

The world's highest bungi jump is a mere 20 minutes away!

### **August 27 Family and a free braai**



Today we have a leisurely drive to George along the Garden Route – the most scenic road in South Africa with the Indian Ocean on our left and majestic forests to our right. Elephants still live in the Tsitsikamma Forest and it is also home to one of the rarest birds in the world, the Kynsna Loerie.

Accommodation in George is at a homely B&B where you will be made very welcome.

Those interested in trains can visit the Train Museum, which is quite impressive. I can also take you to a shop which sells traditional South African fabrics.

This evening we have a complimentary braai (barbecue) at the home of my sister and brother-in-law.

### **August 28-30 Cape Town – Table Mountain, Robben Island and shopping**



We return to Cape Town where 5-star accommodation awaits us. Free time in the Mother City to climb Table Mountain – yes, right to the top! (there is also a cable car), visit Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated and more shopping at Greenmarket Square or the beautiful but more expensive V&A Waterfront.

### **August 31 Home**

Your flight back to Australia, or continue your African adventures visiting the Victoria Falls, Botswana or Kruger National Park.

(Tour will be costed as soon as airfares can be obtained, usually 330 days from departure. This tour can be added to the Namibian Tour which departs Australia on August 6. For those doing the Namibian Tour and wanting to see a little bit of South Africa but are time or money poor, the Africa Calls tour can be ended on August 22 or August 24, returning to Johannesburg or Cape Town airport by commercial bus. The most expensive part of the Africa Calls Tour is Shamwari.)

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