

Day 1

En Route

Your adventure begins today as you enplane for Africa.

Day 2

Overnight in Johannesburg

Upon arrival in Johannesburg, we'll be met and escorted to the airport's InterContinental Hotel for an overnight stay. After a relaxing dinner, we'll have a trip briefing.

Days 3 to 5

Etosha National Park's natural grandeur

Namibia is renowned for eloquent landscapes, and Etosha captures its essence with gigantic, gently overpowering solitude and vast views across flat, animal-thronged plains dotted with stalwart camel thorn trees. In respectful contrast to that uncompromising nature, our Onguma the Fort's detached chalets offer lush, Moroccan-themed furnishings and a full range of modern amenities, not to mention a private deck from which to catch what just may be Southern Africa's most theatrical sunsets.

Onguma is set in a private reserve next to 8,600-square mile Etosha National Park, home to 114 mammalian species, including a fine population of rare black rhinos. Our game outings take us to the life-giving water holes that attract elephants, lions, baboons, and heartbreakingly elegant antelopes, including tiny dik-diks. We revel in Etosha's immense natural grandeur, knowing that a very different kind of natural and human-made magnificence awaits.

Days 6 & 7

The incomparably salubrious Cape Winelands

From Windhoek, we fly to Cape Town and drive due east into the Winelands and the first of our stellar duo of Sir Richard Branson properties, the luxuriously well-wrought, serene, and welcoming Mont Rochelle.

We spend the next couple of days exploring the Winelands, South Africa's scenic treasure, graced with bang-up views that—with all due respect—out-drama Napa and Sonoma. We wine taste at the Waterford Wine Estate in the resplendent Blaauwklippen Valley, lunch at Delaire Graff Estate, indulging in inspired pairings of the locally sourced fare and wines that have earned Delaire South Africa's coveted First Growth status, after which we might want to ramble in the Estate's spectacular gardens—home to more than 350 indigenous plants—and stop by the boutique for a goggle at the exquisite Graff diamonds. And in the gentle Winelands afternoon, we'll wander in the sparklingly kempt Cape Dutch

colonial town of Franschhoek, and maybe fit in an informal chocolate tasting before heading back to the soothing Mont Rochelle.

Days 8 to 10

Cape Town, and all that jazz

Cape Town has proudly vaulted to the top tier of the world's favourite cities. It was recently ranked the world's number one Place to Go in The New York Times' annual list—it "takes your breath away," says the Times. Cape Town's cultural, artistic, and culinary life is perhaps Africa's most bubbly, and our hotel, the sublime One&Only, right on the fizzy Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, is stage centre on one of the continent's grandest shows.

The great city is graced with a theatrical setting in a natural amphitheatre giving way to Table Bay, ringed with Devil's Peak, Signal Hill, Lion's Head, and the monarchical, ever-enchanting Table Mountain, the viewful top of which we'll reach via one of the planet's most astonishing aerial cableways. We'll give Cape Town a thorough and fascinated look and make the dramatic drive down the Cape Peninsula, travelling through the Cape Floristic Region, a unique bit of natural magic, home to more than 6,000 plants found nowhere else in the world, ending at the imposing and world-historic Cape of Good Hope. Along the way, we'll pay our respects to the gaily tottering penguins at Boulders Beach, and enjoy lunch at the stylish Foodbarn Restaurant in Noordhoek. And on one of our Cape days, we'll drop in for a visit to the Red Hill Community Centre and Library, one of Micato- AmericaShare's South African projects.

Days 11 to 13

Thoughtful luxury at private Sabi Sand Reserve

"At Ulusaba, we have set out to create the most beautiful game reserve in Africa," says Sir Richard Branson. There's no doubt that Branson & Co. are giving Ulusaba their best effort, which—as you know—entails a lot of creative, sumptuous, high-spirited best.

We fly northeast from Cape Town to Ulusaba Private Game Reserve—in the vast Sabi Sand Reserve, adjacent to Kruger National Park—and immediately begin to savour our lodgings' —either Sir Richard's Rock Lodge or Safari Lodge— distinctive mix of down-home hospitality and thoughtful luxury. Our rooms are designed to give us an intimate feel for life in the bush (some are built tree-house style); we watch from our private veranda as animals stroll by on their way to the nearby watering hole, we swim in the lodge's pool, dine al fresco (or restaurant-style, or in our room), and pay visits to Ulusaba's well-populated animal troops and solo stars by 4-wheel drive vehicle or on guided walks.

Days 14 & 15

Back to Johannesburg and on to home

...for flights home.