

Travcoa Flying Safaris

The Very Best Way to Explore Africa

Once in a Lifetime Africa

19 days departing from Johannesburg September 21, 2009

In celebration of Travcoa's 55th anniversary year, we proudly introduce a historic African expedition by private classic airliner. You will discover the hidden treasures of six spectacular African countries. This expedition combines the range, safety and efficiency of an airliner flying safari with luxury accommodations and unique insider access to Africa's special people and places.



Who would have thought it possible to experience, in a single voyage, the vastness, the magnificence, the variety, the beauty, the soul of Africa? More than four times the size of the continental U.S., Africa spreads many of its definitive, must-see places in widely separated regions, beyond comfortable connection by light aircraft. In each region, special treasures are in remote areas, inaccessible to airlines or private jets. Until now, experiencing the range of authentic Africa's wildlife, peoples and places

This *Once in a Lifetime Africa* expedition introduces you to an authentic, intimate experience with Africa where you will discover peoples and places you never knew existed.

in a single comfortable voyage was the exclusive privilege of the few adventurers, VIPs and celebrities who could commission a private classic airliner expedition to fly them directly to the magnificent lodges or distant bush camps of far-spread regions.

Now you can embark upon an extraordinary flying safari expedition by classic airliner through six of southern Africa's most interesting countries—a journey specially created for up to 18 discerning, curious and intelligent

adventurers. This 3,600-mile luxury expedition will explore the wildlife, peoples and natural beauty of the most intensely varied and beautiful regions of Africa – areas so aesthetically, culturally and ecologically important that they include six UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

This *Once in a Lifetime Africa* expedition introduces you to an authentic, intimate experience with Africa where you will discover peoples and places you never knew existed. You will fly directly to some of the most magnificent resorts, lodges and tented camps to be found anywhere in the world, landing on private airstrips and remote bush strips with no scheduled service.

Every place is unique, every day brings new experiences. Each of the 12 places you visit has a completely different environment. You will explore the extraordinarily game-rich water-world of Botswana's Okavango Delta, tour Zimbabwe's thunderous Victoria Falls, experience Zambia's unspoiled South Luangwa National Park, discover Malawi's seldom-seen cultural and natural beauty and relax on Mozambique's luxurious Bazaruto island.

Journeying along the magnificent crescent of Africa's Indian Ocean coast to where it meets the Atlantic at Vasco Da Gama's "Fairest Cape of All," you will be



enchanted by the fascinating wildlife and superb hospitality of Zululand's Phinda game reserve and an insider's experience of South African hospitality. Skimming along the singularly beautiful Drakensberg mountains and the brooding Wild Coast to the KwanDwe Game Reserve, you'll luxuriate in world-leading accommodations while exploring the Cape Garden Route and Cape Peninsula.

Accompanying your expedition leader and three-person professional flight crew on this historic inaugural journey marking Travcoa's 55th anniversary will be Randy Durband, Travcoa's president, and Patricia Schultz, author of *1,000 Places to See Before You Die* and executive producer of the Travel Channel's show of the same name.

This expedition is as much a quest as a journey, a cooperative mission to discover and understand the real Africa beyond the usual visitor experience. In this way, your expedition creates a bond with others and memories that are both special and long-lasting. If you were to see Africa only once, this life-changing experience is the way to do it.

Once in a Lifetime Africa

- SOUTH AFRICA: JOHANNESBURG
- BOTSWANA: OKAVANGO DELTA
- ZIMBABWE: VICTORIA FALLS
- ZAMBIA: S. LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK
- LAKE MALAWI: WORLD HERITAGE MARINE SITE
- MALAWI: KUNGGONI CULTURAL CENTER AT MUA MISSION
- MOZAMBIQUE: BAZARUTO ISLAND
- ZULULAND: PHINDA GAME RESERVE
- EASTERN CAPE: KWANDWE GAME RESERVE
- KARROO DESERT: OUDTSHOORN
- CAPE GARDEN ROUTE: PLETTENBERG BAY
- CAPE PENINSULA: CAPE TOWN

An opportunity to make a difference

Travcoa has chosen lodges and camps that support the needs of local wildlife and communities. As you journey beyond the cocoon of the standard visitor experience, you will personally discover some of the health, nutrition and education challenges of the Real Africa, and recognize that a small contribution can make a huge difference in the life of a child, the future of a species, or the health of a community.

Therefore, rather than the customary tour director's gratuity, (the only gratuity not included in any Travcoa program) your expedition leader suggests that those wishing to help a local cause instead contribute to a benefit fund to be distributed according to the wishes of the expedition group.



Once in a Lifetime Africa

- Experience the wildlife, people and natural beauty of six countries and 11 of Africa's most interesting ecosystems. A region so beautiful and culturally significant that you will visit four different UNESCO World Heritage Sites during your expedition.
- Your 3,600-mile Africa expedition will be flown in the ambiance of the golden age of aviation. Two senior airline pilots, a flight hostess and your expedition leader will accompany you throughout the safari.
- You will fly directly and easily between some of the most magnificent hotels, lodges, tented camps and wildlife areas to be found anywhere in the world. By not having to return to airports, you will gain extra days to enjoy Africa.
- You will have special access to the best guides, the most knowledgeable local experts, the most extraordinary places and the most interesting people.
- African hosts introduce you to the cultural, ecological and socio-political issues of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique.

Expedition Highlights

- Track game in Botswana's Okavango Delta
- Experience the might of Victoria Falls from the dramatic Zimbabwe side
- Explore Zambia's pristine South Luangwa National park
- Enjoy "Theatre in the bush" at Mfuwe
- Snorkel with millions of tropical fish in the clear waters of Lake Malawi
- Meet Africa's finest traditional artists at a remote mission
- Enjoy a special cultural performance by a Malawi tribal group
- Relax on the beach of a tropical Island off Mozambique
- See how a Zululand game reserve is bringing back endangered species
- Take a low-level flight along the Drakensberg and Transkei Wild Coast
- Participate in a private discussion about the turbulent Eastern Cape with a noted historian
- See the famed Cape Garden Route by land and from the air
- A private visit to Oudtshoorn's "Feather Palace"
- See the best of the Cape with noted historian Peter Fiske



4x4 safari vehicles to see and photograph wildlife

Your Aircraft

The legendary DC-3 is the ideal expeditionary aircraft for a flying safari. Operated to the highest airline standards and flown by two senior airline captains, our DC-3 provides the highest level of safety and security of any way to travel through Africa. The DC-3's range, propeller power, rugged landing gear and excellent short-field landing capability enable it to fly directly from one destination to the next without the constraints of airline routes, schedules, or exposure to crowded airports. This enhances safety and saves days of time over the course of a journey.

Long distances are traveled in comfort as you skim gracefully over rivers and mountains, over native villages and herds of animals in the ambiance of the golden age of aviation. With all-inclusive cabin service, generous leg-room and space to walk about, you can visit the cockpit, socialize, or view the scenery passing below – the best way to truly understand Africa's size, topography and diversity.



Ready for work at Johannesburg

Your Expedition Staff

Your expedition will be hosted by some of the most experienced flying safari leaders in Africa, including Dr. Loel Fenwick, the son of a Zululand game ranger, and Captain Flippie Vermeulen, a senior airline training captain and demonstration pilot who is licensed to fly more than a hundred types of aircraft from 747 jumbo jets to antique biplanes. Flippie has pioneered many historic flying safaris throughout Africa, some extending to Europe and the United States.

Your aircraft, expedition leader and three flight crew members will remain with you throughout your journey to Cape Town, providing their insider's viewpoint of Africa while ensuring your comfort and safety. All are eager to introduce you to their favorite places, their best experiences, their friends and families, their heroes, their unique Africa.



The crew



Group photo



The Westcliff Hotel

Itinerary

DAY 1: Monday, September 21, 2009 **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Expedition accommodations begin on the afternoon of Day 1. Check-in is approximately 2 pm. Included meal services begin with lunch on Day 1.

Your adventure begins upon arrival at Johannesburg International Airport where you will be met and driven directly to the Westcliff Hotel in luxury cars or mini-buses. If you arrive by private aircraft, you will be met at Lanseria, the preferred General Aviation Airport, or at Johannesburg International Airport.

Situated in Johannesburg's most exclusive residential suburb, The Westcliff Hotel's hillside setting with cascading, sculpted gardens and elegantly opulent accommodation evoke a bygone era of leisure and refinement in one of the world's most vibrant and cosmopolitan cities.

A favorite of visiting heads of state, the secure Westcliff offers spectacular views of Johannesburg and the surrounding parkland from beautifully appointed rooms, restaurants and expansive verandahs.

This evening Mr. Randy Durband will host a welcoming cocktail party and dinner to introduce guests to Captain Flippie Vermeulen and Dr. Loel Fenwick, your expedition leader.

□ *The Westcliff Hotel*

DAYS 2 and 3: Tuesday and Wednesday, **September 22 and 23** **Okavango Delta, Botswana**

After an early breakfast at the Westcliff Hotel, you will be driven to Lanseria Airport. Here you will meet a pristine Springbok Flying Safaris Douglas DC-3 "Dakota" and your flight crew of Captain, First Officer and Air Hostess. Captain Vermeulen will give his first pre-flight briefing at the airplane accompanied by a champagne toast.

Soon, you're watching Africa's economic and industrial powerhouse recede beneath the wings of your DC-3. The Transvaal highveld gives way to the sculpted patterns of the Kalahari desert and Botswana's arid scrubland. A leisurely lunch, a stroll around the cabin, a visit to the cockpit and then Maun appears on the shimmering horizon ahead. A quick Cessna transfer (Okavango is the only place where our DC-3 cannot land) and you're in a magical water-world at the luxurious Nxabega tented camp, or the Sandibe Safari Lodge. Both private safari lodges bear the stamp of understated sophistication, where luxury is gracefully and discreetly integrated into the primal pleasure of life on safari.

Nxabega Okavango Safari Camp is located on the edge of the Okavango Delta in a 17,000-acre exclusive wildlife reserve bordering the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana. Meaning "Place of the Giraffe," Nxabega is ideally positioned to explore the magnificence of the Okavango – the largest



inland delta in the world. A wetland wilderness of looping channels, islands forested with palms and wide grassy floodplains, the Delta is home to a magnificent array of wild animals and exceptional birdlife.

The Okavango offers abundant bird-watching opportunities with 349 species recorded here. The area is rich in wetland species such as African jacana, malachite kingfisher and open-billed stork. Guests are able to experience this irresistible combination of water and wildlife on twice-daily game-drives in open 4x4 safari vehicles.

□ *Nxabega Tented Camp or Sandibe Camp*



Nxabega Tented Camp



Sandibe Camp



Victoria Falls Hotel



Victoria Falls

DAY 4: Thursday, September 24, 2009

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

This morning we will enjoy an early morning game drive and breakfast in the Okavango Delta before returning by light aircraft to our DC-3 waiting for us in Maun. Our 1 hour 20 minute flight along the Zambezi River to Victoria Falls gives us the opportunity to view the world's largest body of falling water from the air as we position for landing at the Victoria Falls Airport. After transiting Zimbabwean customs and immigration, the famous colonial Victoria Falls Hotel is a 30-minute air-conditioned transfer away.

Established in 1904, The Victoria Falls Hotel is set in The Victoria Falls National Park. For 100 years, visiting members of royal families, international and local statesmen, and celebrities worldwide, have preferred to stay at The Victoria Falls Hotel.

The hotel's atmosphere is steeped in history, combining the charm of the old with the comfort and convenience of today. Elegant lounges offer serenity and seclusion. Corridors reflect all the past glories of the Empire and suites and rooms are superbly furnished in Edwardian style. The courtyard entrance overlooks lily ponds, lush flowering shrubs and palm trees.

After a light lunch at the Victoria Falls Hotel, we will walk down the hotel's private path to Victoria Falls for a guided tour of the immense "Smoke That Thunders" at this UNESCO World Heritage site. Our next adventure will be a sundowner cruise on the Zambezi River, an opportunity for spectacular photographs of the sunset over the river.

□ *Victoria Falls Hotel*

**DAYS 5 and 6: Friday and Saturday,
September 25 and 26**
South Luangwa National Park, Zambia

After an early breakfast at the Victoria Falls Hotel, we will depart to Mfuwe Airport, a 3 hour 30 minute flight. We take a scenic drive through native farmlands in open safari vehicles to the South Luangwa Game Reserve, and then on through the wildlife area to the Mfuwe Lodge. We will lunch at the Mfuwe Lodge, above a hippo-thronged horseshoe bend in the river below. An early afternoon tea will be accompanied by the Mfuwe Lodge Choir before we set out on a guided game drive by open safari vehicle.

This evening we will be treated to a special performance by the SEKA Theater Group. This surprising theater in the bush is a small group of actors from the villages surrounding the park who have created a vibrant blend of traditional song and dance, puppetry, physical theatre and storytelling. The team of actors is a diverse group from single mothers to reformed poachers to royalty in line to the chieftainship throne. They have enchanted audiences in villages and at international environmental conferences. After the performance by SEKA there will be a private dinner for our party at the Mfuwe Lodge boma (outdoor dining area).

□ [Mfuwe Lodge](#)



Mfuwe Lodge

**DAYS 7 and 8: Sunday and Monday,
September 27 and 28**
Lake Malawi, Malawi

Our full English breakfast is followed by an early departure to the Mfuwe Airport for our flight to Club Makokola's private air strip on the shore of Lake Malawi.

By special arrangement with the Malawian authorities, who will dispatch a team from the capital city to meet us, we will clear customs at Club Makokola.

Malawi is a beautiful, friendly and peaceful country as yet discovered by only a few Western travelers. Club Makokola is on the shore of Lake Malawi, which has the richest variety of tropical fish of any freshwater lake in the world. Up to 500 species of cichlids are unique to these waters. The southern part of this huge inland sea, which is Africa's third largest lake, is a UNESCO Marine World Heritage Site.

"Club Mak" has been a favorite vacation refuge for inhabitants of the region for many decades. As an authentic beach resort much loved by the local population, traditional thatch-roofed bungalows are comfortable but not "over the top." Instead, Club Mak provides a chance to meet Africa's business and farming families in a relaxed atmosphere.

After lunch on the verandah overlooking the lake, we have these options:

- a) An afternoon at leisure, perhaps a round of golf at the Mlambe Gold Course (the course is dotted with magnificent baobab trees) or relax on the beach.
- b) A visit to the historical town of Mangochi, once a slave trading town and now the district capital. We can walk around this authentic African town, untouched by tourism, exploring its

historical buildings and vibrant market in the company of local hosts. Consultations with the “World Known Dr. Champion,” the local traditional healer, can be organized if he is not fully booked!

c) A sunset cruise of Lake Malawi aboard the M.V. Sunbird, to Broadzulu Island, at the southernmost part of the Lake Malawi National Park. This is home of Africa’s largest breeding colony of White-breasted Cormorants and has many pair of African Fish-eagles. You may swim or snorkel in the clear waters around the island and enjoy the thousands of cichlids that inhabit the island waters. (Lake

Malawi is a beautiful, friendly and peaceful country as yet discovered by only a few Western travelers.

Malawi cichlids are known by aquarium-keepers world-wide.) On the way back from the island, Malawi Gin and Tonics (reputed to be the best drink in the world to watch a sunset by) will be served, along with a variety of refreshments.

A Malawi night dinner will be served on the beach accompanied by local acrobats and traditional dancers. Authentic Malawian dishes will be served from traditional clay pots using local ingredients and prepared according to local custom.



Lake Malawi



Club Makokola

DAY 8

After an English breakfast, we depart by bus for the Mua Mission. Its founder 35 years ago, Father Claude Bouchet, a missionary, artist and anthropologist, will arrange a traditional performance by the Kungoni Cultural Group which he established here. The group performs rituals and dances of the Angoni tradition, dressed in full traditional Angoni regalia. Father Claude will explain the meaning of the various dances and their origin. This is a true traditional activity, not made up for tourists!

After the show, we’ll visit the Kungoni crafts center, also founded by Father Claude, to see artists producing the best carvings in Africa. Kungoni pieces are found in galleries all over the world, including the Vatican Museums. This is a great opportunity to acquire the very finest African artwork. (Arrangements can be made for shipment, as there will not be space on the DC-3.)

After lunch in the Mua Mission Guest House, Father Claude will guide a visit to the Chamare Museum to discuss the way of life, beliefs and culture of the people of this part of Africa.

Upon our return to Club Makokola we meet for a drink at the pool bar. Weather permitting, we will board MV Sunbird for an exclusive dinner while sailing on the waters of Africa’s Lake of Stars.

□ Club Makokola



White breasted cormorants

**DAY 9 and 10: Tuesday and Wednesday,
September 29 and 30, 2009**
Bazaruto Island, Mozambique

We start this day with an early English breakfast on the verandah at Club Makokola before taking off for Mozambique. After a flight across Mozambique's magnificent mountain escarpment, we land at the town of Vilanculos to clear customs and immigration before a short flight across the Mozambique Channel to the private air strip at the Indigo Bay Resort.

Indigo Bay Island Resort and Spa is an exquisite island destination situated on Bazaruto Island, the largest island in the Mozambican archipelago of the same name. It offers visitors the quintessential Indian Ocean island holiday as well as a gateway to the unspoiled beauty of the surrounding area. State-of-the-art facilities include restaurants, swimming pools and an activity centre, which coordinates a wide variety of water sports, as well as diving and fishing activities.

The largest of the archipelago islands, Bazaruto has more than 100 species of coral, thousands of tropical fish species, five kinds of dolphins, four whale species and sharks, all five marine sea turtle species, and the largest population of the rare dugong on the African east coast.

The owners of the resort have built community centers and schools, provided transport facilities and access to fresh water for local islanders, and formed a partnership with local communities to conserve the ecosystem.

On Bazaruto we will enjoy a wide range of beach and leisure activities such as snorkeling, kayaking, windsurfing, Hobie Cat sailing and hiking.

□ *Indigo Bay Resort*



Indigo Bay Resort

**DAYS 11 and 12: Thursday and Friday,
October 1 and 2, 2009**
Phinda Private Game Reserve, Zululand

This morning we board our waiting private airliner to fly to the Phinda Private Game Reserve, landing first at Vilanculos to clear Mozambique customs and at Richard's Bay, Zululand to clear South African customs and immigration.

Phinda Private Game Reserve is situated in the lush Maputaland region in northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Bordering the iSimangaliso/Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park – another World Heritage Site – Phinda comprises 55,000 acres of prime conservation land. Seven distinct habitats shelter an abundance of wildlife including Africa's Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, black and white rhino, buffalo) and over 380 bird species.



Diving at Indigo Bay



Phinda Forest Lodge is set deep in the heart of a rare dry sand forest, the spectacular stilted suites of this award-winning safari lodge are an exemplary exercise in building eco-sensitive structures with a light footprint. You will wake up to the sight of graceful nyala and duiker browsing in the foliage of the sand forest right outside the glass walls of your private suite. Inventively designed in what is often called “Zulu-Zen,” each suite is a combination of glass, wood and minimalist design incorporating high-gloss wooden floors and crimson Zulu artifacts. Each spacious bungalow is tucked away at the end of a private sandy path. All are air-conditioned with private viewing decks and luxurious en suite bathrooms. The lodge has a sparkling rim-flow swimming pool and a crafts gallery with a range of local Zulu crafts and artwork. Delicious Pan-African cuisine is served on the deck overlooking the grassy plains or in the boma illuminated by dozens of candles and lanterns.

You can look forward to exciting twice-daily interpretive game-drives in open 4x4 safari vehicles, nature walks led by experienced rangers and Zulu trackers.

□ *Phinda Forest Lodge*



Wildlife at Phinda Private Game Reserve



Phinda Forest Lodge



Flying over Suikerbosrand

DAY 13: Saturday, October 3
Fly along the Drakensberg Mountains and Transkei Wild Coast to Kwandwe Game Reserve, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

This day we embark on a spectacular flight from Phinda, along the face of the serenely beautiful Drakensberg Mountains, and see rivers cascade into the sea along the remote cliffs of the Transkei Wild Coast before landing in Grahamstown. From here it is a short drive to Kwandwe Private Game Reserve.

In Xhosa, Kwandwe aptly means “Place of the Blue Crane,” South Africa’s highly endangered national bird. It is home to a population of these rare birds. Kwandwe

offers an exceptional safari experience in a region steeped in history and culture. The Great Fish River was a hotly contested border during the Frontier Wars of 1779 to 1878 between the Xhosa nation, Dutch farmers, and the 1820 settlers from England.

A member of Relais & Chateaux, Kwandwe lies in the heart of South Africa’s Eastern Cape and is a natural starting point for a journey along the world-famous Garden Route. A victory for far-sighted conservation, 62,000 acres of farmland in the Great Fish River region were restored and restocked with African wildlife. Today, thousands of animals including lion, cheetah, black and white rhino, springbok, buffalo and elephant roam this diverse and fascinating reserve.

We will first visit Heatherton Towers, the main reception building, situated 40 minutes from the Lodge. It is, in fact, a Frontier War-era fortified homestead, complete with dramatic gun turrets and private chapel. From Heatherton Towers we will drive to the Fish River Lodge and



The beautiful Drakensberg mountains

Ecce Lodge, where we will lunch before setting out in 4-wheel drive safari vehicles for a guided exploration of this Big Five game wilderness. Our game drive will be followed by sundowners in the bush before returning to our lodges for supper, where Andrew Weyer, an author and historian, will speak about the turbulent history of this fascinating region.

Great Fish River Lodge is set along the steep banks of the Great Fish River. This extraordinary safari lodge affords spectacular views of the wild yet gentle African landscape. The lodge is stylishly furnished in Frontier Settler style, integrating local African culture with colonial settler history. Elegant thatched stone and glass suites feature an African gift gallery and floor-to-ceiling doors which fold back to reveal uninterrupted wilderness vistas. Guest areas have a large fireplace with massive stone chimney, and a soaring thatched roof with imposing chandeliers. Sophisticated, glass-fronted sitting and dining areas

Kwandwe offers an exceptional safari experience in a region steeped in history and culture.

boast expansive viewing decks with breathtaking river views. Delicious Pan-African cuisine is served on the private decks, in the candlelit dining room.

Ecce Lodge is set in spectacular African wilderness surrounds. This unique safari lodge boasts an evolutionary design – stone-and-mesh gabion walls, sliding glass, timber and gauze doors and corrugated iron roofing. Each suite is air-conditioned, with en suite bathrooms, indoor and outdoor showers, a spacious thatched verandah, and private plunge pool with terrace. Exquisite guest areas overlook spekboom valleys with a backdrop of the distant cliff-faces of ecce shale.

□ Fish River Lodge and Ecce Lodge



Fish River Lodge



Ecce Lodge

**DAYS 14 and 15: Sunday and Monday,
October 4 and 5
Plettenberg Bay, South Africa**

After breakfast and a morning game drive at Kwandwe, we depart for a short flight down the Eastern Cape coast to the Cape Garden Route. Known for its ancient hardwood forests, impenetrable mountain ranges and spectacular coasts, the Garden Route has been one of South Africa's favorite retreats for 200 years.

The Plettenberg is a 5-star Relais & Chateaux Hotel built on a rocky headland with breathtaking vistas of the sea, mountains and miles of golden sand in one of the most spectacular resorts in Africa – Plettenberg Bay.

We have reserved luxury ocean-view rooms. All are air-conditioned and offer a truly idyllic and indulgent experience. The hotel has two swimming pools, one of which is heated, and both visually flow into the ocean below. Other hotel facilities include an award-winning wine cellar stocked with a selection of the best local wines, and a Collection McGrath boutique – offering a unique selection of specialty items and clothing from the area. Supper will be at The Plettenberg, with guests from the town of Plettenberg Bay.



A little briefing time prior to departure

DAY 15

This could be a day at leisure at The Plettenberg. At this time of year, sightings of dolphins and whales in the bay are not uncommon, even from the hotel's terraces. Lunch and supper will be included at The Plettenberg, or you may choose to Dine Around. For the more adventurous, a luxury coach and local guide will be available for visiting highlights of the Garden Route, including the historic town of Knysna and the Tsitsikamma Forest. We will stop along the way for an included lunch. Supper will be at a local fine dining establishment.

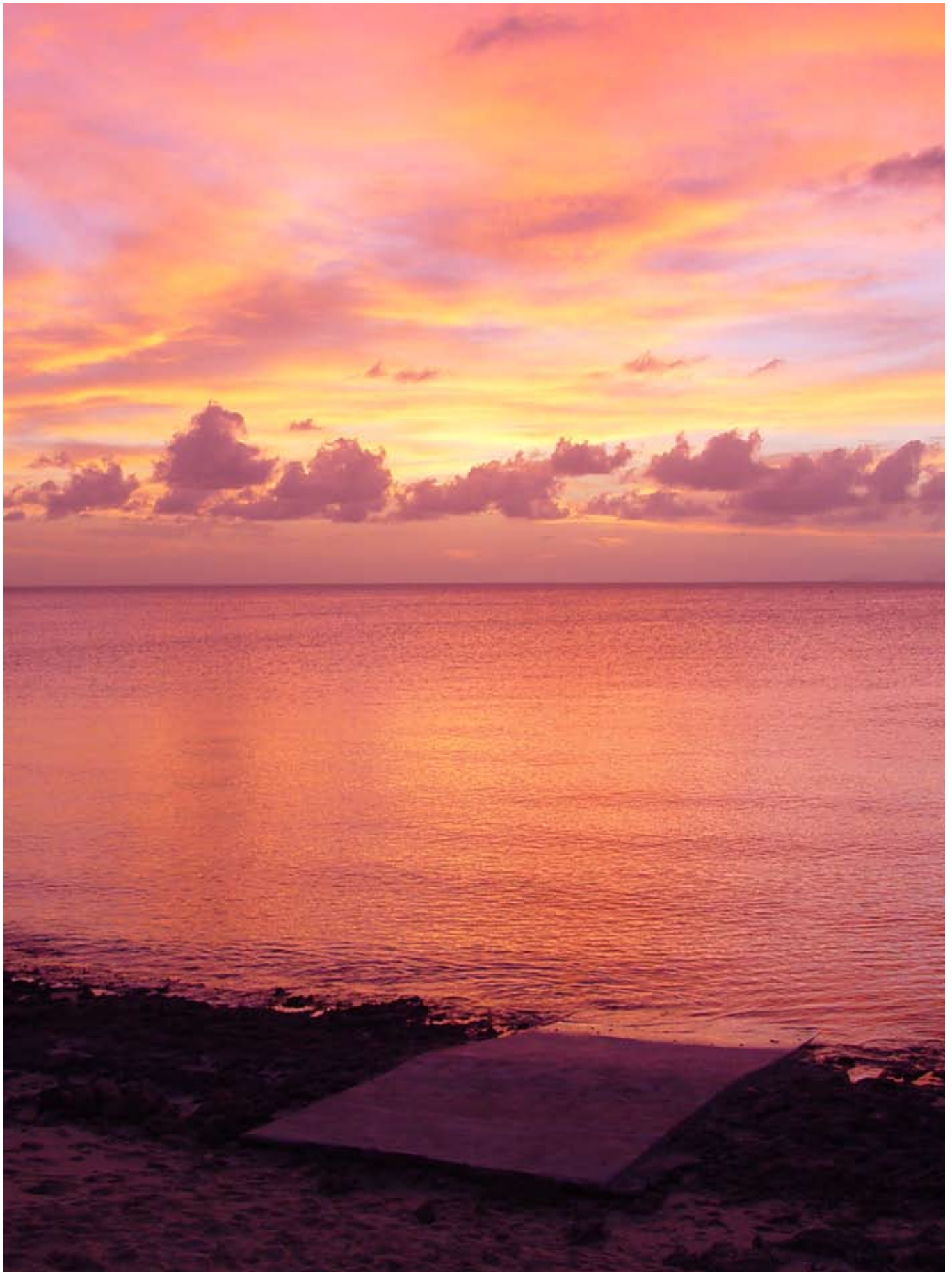
□ [The Plettenberg Hotel](#)



Dolphins riding the wave



The Plettenberg Hotel



Beautiful African sunset

DAY 16: Tuesday, October 6
Safari Ostrich Farm, Oudtshoorn,
Klein Karoo Desert

Today we take a short scenic flight over the coastal mountain range to Oudtshoorn in the Karoo desert. Commercial ostrich farming began during the 1880s in South Africa, starting the ostrich industry worldwide. Fashion demand in Europe for ostrich feathers inspired the growth of the industry, with the Oudtshoorn district quickly being established as the Ostrich capital of the world. During the first decade of the previous century, ostrich feathers gained record prices on foreign markets, ranking 4th on the list of South African exports, after gold, diamonds and wool. The consequence of this newly found opulence meant that ostrich farmers were able to build beautiful sandstone mansions.

Safari Ostrich Show Farm was established by 4th generation ostrich farmers. One of the owners, Ida Lipchitz, will host us as special guests and treat us to a rare tour of her homestead, the Ostrich Palace “Welgeluk” which was built at the height of the feather boom in 1910. Welgeluk is a national monument and a superb example of the eclectic architecture in fashion at the time.

Safari is an operating farm where we will see large flocks of ostriches at different stages of development in the surrounding fields. We will learn about every aspect of ostrich farming, from breeding to rearing. In the breeding camp we will get to test the strength of the eggs by standing on them – a great photo opportunity. Those who are brave enough can even try their hand at riding an ostrich!



Ostrich farm

Before we enjoy the special VIP lunch that Ida has promised for us, we will visit Safari’s Ostrich Gallery which contains some of the finest ostrich leather articles to be found anywhere.

Continuation of DAY 16: Tuesday,
October 6

After lunch we return to our waiting DC-3 for the last flight of this expedition. We will cross the coastal mountain range to drop down over False Bay (where Great White sharks explode from the ocean to swallow whole seals) then fly around the Riviera-like western coast of the Cape Peninsula to cross Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years. Here we will experience the best view of Table Mountain and Cape Town before landing at Cape Town International airport.

A 40-minute transfer along the foothills of Table Mountain takes us to the Constantia wine lands, where we bid farewell to our flight crew over dinner at the serene 5-star Relais & Chateaux Cellars-Hohenort Hotel.

□ *The Cellars-Hohenort Hotel*



The Cellars-Hohenort Hotel

DAYS 17 and 18: Wednesday and Thursday, October 7 and 8
Cape Peninsula, South Africa

This morning we meet our Cape Town host, Peter Fiske. Peter is a lifetime Cape Town resident, world traveler, connoisseur of music and literature, ardent fly-fisherman and extraordinary font of knowledge about African history, politics and culture. Peter will accompany us during the remainder of our visit to the Cape Town region.

On the first two full days in Cape Town, Peter Fiske and Loel Fenwick will show you the best of the Cape peninsula. In addition to a tour of the Cape Peninsula and the Cape Wine Lands, Peter is planning a wide choice of exclusive excursions to places that few visitors see.

Choices include a private tasting of award-winning wines at a famous vineyard (arranged by Africa's top sommelier, who reigns at The Cellars), a visit with members of the Cape Malay and Xhosa communities, a visit to the spectacular Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, or a day at leisure in the city. Also expect the opportunity to visit local Capetonians on their farms or in their homes.

Arrangements will be flexible to accommodate the Cape's famously changeable weather. Peter Fiske will also offer a number of choices to satisfy individual interests, suggesting activities and places that can be visited independently.

During our visit to the Cape, we will have a luxury coach at our disposal throughout each day and evening, until we return to the hotel after supper. Lunch will be at selected restaurants in the region. Supper



The Cellars-Hohenort Hotel

could either be in a fine restaurant or in a private home with Cape Town residents. On Thursday evening the whole expeditionary group will gather for a farewell supper.

□ *The Cellars-Hohenort Hotel*

DAY 19: Friday, October 9

On this last day in Africa, breakfast will again be at The Cellars-Hohenort Hotel before we take our coach to the Table Bay Waterfront, which is a vibrant cosmopolitan gathering place in the heart of a working harbor. Peter and Loel will be glad to accompany you on your exploration of this bustling shopping district (a wide selection of African arts and crafts is available), with entertainment and a maritime museum. We will gather for lunch at a Waterfront restaurant before taking our coach to Cape Town Airport for outgoing flights.



Cape Town

Travel Planning Details

The 18-night *Once in a Lifetime Africa* expedition begins in Johannesburg on September 21, 2009, and ends in Cape Town on October 9th, 2009.

Price per person is \$34,400, based on two people sharing a room. Airfares within the expedition are included. Airfare to and from South Africa is additional.

Check with Travcoa for special international airfares.

Expedition Pace:

Fast-paced travel, moderate physical activity.

Expectations and Eligibility:

All guests are expected to be in good health. This journey is fast-paced, with travel every one or two days. Moderate exertion, including long walks and climbing stairs is sometimes an integral part of this expedition. Flying aboard a classic airliner and aboard small aircraft is required. This expedition will have many early mornings and late nights, with occasional down time in the middle of the day.

Private Expeditions

Private custom flying safari expeditions can also be planned for 4 to 18 guests. This option is ideal for small groups of family or friends, and it enables you to choose the places, itineraries and departure dates that are most interesting to you. Please contact a Travcoa journey planner at 800.992.2005.



Farewell group photo

Rendezvous and Schedule Points:

Below are the times and locations where the expedition officially begins and ends. Travcoa is pleased to provide arrival and departure transfers between the designated airport city and the rendezvous location when confirmed flight details are provided with final payment.

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Leave home for 19-day expedition

DAY 1: Monday, September 21, 2009

Arrive **Johannesburg, South Africa.**

Rendezvous Point: Westcliff Hotel, Johannesburg, before cocktails and supper.

Journey accommodations begin with the hotel night of Day 1.

Check-in from 2 pm.

Included meal services begin with refreshments after 2pm on Day 1.

DAY 19: Friday, October 9, 2009

Depart **Cape Town, South Africa.**

Farewell Point: Cape Town Airport, 3:30 pm.

Journey accommodations end with the hotel night of Day 18.

Included meal services end with lunch on Day 19.

Optional Pre-safari Day Sunday, September 20, 2009

Pretoria and Johannesburg

If you would like a day to settle in to Africa, and would enjoy exploring Johannesburg and Pretoria, we suggest this pre-Safari day. Upon arrival you will be met and taken to the Westcliff Hotel by luxury car or mini-bus for an evening at leisure.

On the morning of Monday, September 21, Captain Flippie Vermeulen will meet you at the hotel and take you on a coach and walking tour of his hometown and South Africa's administrative capital, Pretoria. Flippie's insider's orientation to Africa's history, cultures and current affairs will include the South African capital buildings, the home of Boer President Paul Kruger, the iconic Voortrekker Monument, and the Anglo-Boer war Fort Klapperkop. Lunch will be at a Pretoria Restaurant, with a return to the Westcliff Hotel in time to relax before the evening cocktail party and welcome dinner.

Includes:

- Meet and transfer from the Johannesburg Airport to the Westcliff Hotel
- Deluxe room at the Westcliff Hotel
- 3-course dinner, including gratuity and wine
- Full breakfast at the Westcliff Hotel
- Pretoria tour by coach, mini-bus or car, depending on number participating
- Lunch at a Pretoria restaurant with Captain Vermeulen
- All entry fees and taxes



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