

JoburgSunCitySafari



SPAS7J: 7-night package – Johannesburg + Pilanesberg Safari + Sun City

Day 1

Arrive **Johannesburg Airport** and meet your South African holiday host, who will transfer you to your Sandton hotel conveniently situated opposite **Sandton City** and **Nelson Mandela Square**, with its numerous lively outdoor restaurants and entertainment facilities.

Check in to your hotel, settle in and relax in your cosmopolitan surroundings.

Day 2

Discover the thriving city of **Johannesburg** today, with its complex history of gold mining and conflict.

Start with a guided visit to the sprawling township of **Soweto**, including a visit to the original home of **Nelson Mandela**. Visit significant memorials to the freedom struggle and the fascinating **Apartheid Museum**.

In the afternoon either visit **Gold Reef City**, a reconstructed gold mining village where you can see gold being poured and go down a gold mine, or the thriving centre of **Newtown** near the Nelson Mandela Bridge (*Note: Gold Reef City is closed on Mondays*).

Day 3

Today your host will share with you some of South Africa's greatest archaeological treasures as you visit the ancient **Sterkfontein Wonder Caves** that date back 3.5 billion years. Dr Broom found one of the first ape-men in these caves, which have since yielded many more treasures. Recognised as a World Heritage site, this is one of Africa's greatest archaeology and palaeontology sites.

Continue to your **Observatory** hotel, check in and relax under clear blue skies. Weather permitting, tonight view the stars of the southern sky, including the spectacular **Southern Cross** and **Milky Way** through two large telescopes: a 16-inch Meade and 25-inch Newtonian, the largest privately-owned telescopes in South Africa.

Day 4

This morning enjoy a tour of **Pretoria**, the administrative capital of South Africa and renowned for its jacaranda trees that flower from September to November. Visit the impressive **Voortrekker Monument** and view the beautiful **Union Buildings**, the official residence of the State President designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

In the afternoon bid farewell to your host, after he transfers you to the beautiful malaria-free **Pilanesberg Game Reserve**, a 2-hour drive through the rural North West Province.

After checking into your luxury game lodge, enjoy your first game drive in an **open-top game viewing vehicle** in this superb **Big Five** game reserve, which is uniquely situated inside an extinct volcano. Hopefully see elephants, lions, antelope and a wide variety of other game, before enjoying dinner in your warm African surroundings.

Day 5

Up early this morning, when viewing conditions are at their best, for another **open-top game drive** in the **Pilanesberg Game Reserve** with a lodge ranger. See more of the **Big Five** today: lion, buffalo, rhino, elephant and leopard – as well as giraffe, wildebeest, crocodiles, hippos, antelope and many other interesting species, before returning to the lodge for breakfast.

The rest of the morning is at leisure, relaxing beside the lodge swimming pool or visiting the viewing hide. In the afternoon return to **Pilanesberg Game Reserve** for another open-top game drive, before dining at the lodge in the atmosphere that only the African bushveld can provide!

Day 6

Enjoy another early morning open-top game drive in the **Pilanesberg National Park** before breakfast and your transfer to the neighbouring international resort of **Sun City**.

Check in to your luxury **Sun City** hotel and enjoy the many pleasures of this sophisticated resort, which offers the best of Vegas-style gaming combined with world-class sporting and family facilities. Settle in to your lush subtropical surrounding, under warm blue African skies.

Day 7

Relax and enjoy the many holiday facilities of **Sun City**. Although famous for its gaming activities, Sun City offers a wide variety of outdoor, family and sporting activities - making it one of South Africa's most popular holiday destinations.

Its world-class **Entertainment Centre** includes slot machines and bingo, whilst the sophisticated **Casino** offers Black Jack, Roulette and much more.

Outside there are **waterfalls** and **abundant tropical bird life**. The **Valley of the Waves** water theme park offers both gentle rides and thrilling steep slides, as well as a man-made tropical beach with real waves!

There is an excellent **gym** and **spa** and a full range of sporting activities, including **water sports** on the dam, **tennis courts** and **two world-class championship golf courses** at the Gary Player Country Club and Lost City, where crocodiles are found in some water hazards!

Kamp Kwena **children's club** offers a supervised programme of activities for children up to 12 years - including painting, play dough, mini golf, bumper boats, trampolines, mini cars, animal world and indoor and outdoor games.

On one afternoon, enjoy an included open-top safari drive into the beautiful malaria-free **Pilanesberg Game Reserve**, which is home to all the Big 5 – lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino leopard and much more.

Later simply relax at one of the many swimming pools and absorb the atmosphere of this very special resort.

Day 8

Return transfer to **Johannesburg Airport**.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

JOHANNESBURG

- ❑ 2 nights luxury accommodation in Sandton, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ Soweto
- ❑ Apartheid Museum
- ❑ Gold Reef City OR Newtown
- ❑ English breakfasts daily

OBSERVATORY

- ❑ 1 nights accommodation at Observatory hotel, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ Sterkfontein Caves
- ❑ Observatory telescope (weather permitting)
- ❑ Voortrekker Museum + Pretoria
- ❑ Breakfast
- ❑ Dinner

PILANESBERG SAFARI

- ❑ 2 nights luxury game lodge accommodation in Pilanesberg, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ 2 game drives per day in the Pilanesberg Game Reserve
- ❑ All game park fees and local taxes
- ❑ English breakfasts daily
- ❑ Dinners daily

SUN CITY

- ❑ 2 nights luxury accommodation at Sun City, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ English breakfasts daily

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

All airport and ground transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis
Activities specified in itinerary, including transfers and entrance charges

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

International & domestic flights (quoted separately)
Lunches & dinners (unless specified)
Drinks & refreshments
Tips for porters and restaurants
Telephone calls, laundry & other incidental personal expenditure
Visa fees, in countries where these apply
Airport departure taxes, in countries where these apply
 e.g. Victoria Falls: currently US\$20 per person
 Mozambique: currently US \$10 per person
Please ensure you take the necessary US dollars for this purpose

TIPS

It is not necessary to tip your host. However, if you have received exceptional service and wish to express your gratitude, you may of course do so. In such circumstances, a tip of between £20 and £40 per couple per week would be regarded as normal.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All activities are subject to prevailing weather conditions

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES - please enquire for supplements

JOHANNESBURG

Johannesburg City – orientation tour of this fascinating gold mining city including Nelson Mandela Bridge, guided tour of Constitution Hill & Museum Africa (half day pm)

Gold Reef City – reconstruction of early Johannesburg, including the opportunity to go underground; see a gold pour & watch mine gumboot dancing (half day pm – closed Mondays)

Soweto – visit this sprawling township, including the original home of Nelson Mandela and other apartheid memorials. Visit a shebeen beer hall & traditional healer (half day am)

Apartheid Museum – guided tour of this living memorial to racial segregation (full day, combined with Soweto tour)

Pretoria – orientation tour of South Africa's administrative capital, now called Tshokwane), covered in jacaranda trees that bloom from September to November. Also see the Union Buildings, Church Square and visit the impressive Voortrekker Monument (half day pm)

Lesedi Cultural Village – authentically reconstructed village showing the culture, arts and crafts of South Africa's five main tribes, including visit to sangoma traditional healer and dinner (evenings; or afternoon and evening if combined with Pretoria tour)

Sun City Safari – game drive in the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, followed by guided tour of Sun City (full day)

Sterkfontein Wonder Caves – ancient caves that have yielded South Africa's finest archaeology and palaeontology treasures. A World Heritage site (half day)

Meteor Crater – visit Vredefort Dome, the world's biggest meteor crater situated about 1-hr drive south west of Johannesburg. A World Heritage site of great scenic beauty (full day)

Diamond Mine – visit the Premier Diamond Mine outside Pretoria to see how diamonds are mined and processed (half day, or full day if combined with Pretoria tour)

Golf – play 18-holes of championship golf, with shared cart **Golf club hire**

Cricket, Rugby & Football matches – international & local (subject to fixtures)

Cheetah Breeding Centre – dedicated to breeding cheetah and other endangered species

Astronomy – enjoy magnificent views of the Southern Sky through a 25-inch Newtonian and 16-inch Meade telescope (overnight stay)

Kwandebele – travel 1.5 hrs into the land of the colourful Ndebele, renowned for their geometric paintings on the walls of their homes and unusual dress. Visit the doll makers and the Catholic Mission, with its interesting display of Ndebele sculptures showing the seven stations of the cross (full day, including lunch)

Mazumba Tribal Dancing – experience an African operetta that describes the ancient custom of sacrificing a princess to the rain god at times of drought, followed by tribal songs and dances (Sundays only - half day, including BBQ lunch)

Johannesburg Botanical Gardens – enjoy the indigenous flora of South Africa (half day)

Jazz – enjoy a relaxing evening of local music **Kwaito Casinos** – test lady luck

Hot Air Balloon Ride - pre-dawn departure for thrilling 1-hr flight over the Magaliesberg Mountains (subject to prevailing weather conditions)

PILANESBERG

Safari Drives – open-top game drives into this beautiful malaria-free Big 5 game reserve (2.5 hrs)

Elephant Back Safari – 20 min drive through Letsatsing Game Park to the Elephant Wallow, viewing birds and game. After an initial opportunity to interact with the elephants, saddle up and enjoy a 1-hr elephant-back safari following ancient game trails through the reserve

Hot Air Balloon Ride – pre-dawn departure for 1-hour flight over Pilanesberg Game Reserve, followed by a game drive and breakfast (subject to prevailing weather conditions)

SUN CITY

Entertainment Centre – casino, slots, bingo, restaurants, movies and live shows

Valley of the Waves – tropical beach with real waves, lazy river, tubes and slides

Golf – 18-holes of championship golf, with shared cart or caddy **Golf club hire/Caddy**

Gary Player Health Spa – wide variety of treatments, including Marula body wrap & gym

Walk-through Aviary – for close-up views of many colourful indigenous bird species

Motseng Cultural Village & Shebeen – African foods, arts & crafts and tribal dancing

Helicopter Flips – over Sun City

Butterfly World – spectacular variety of tropical butterflies

Horse Riding – variety of trails through Pilanesberg Game Park

Birds of Prey – daily educational flying displays

Drumming – learn to play the African drums in a drum circle designed for beginners (1-hr)

Quad Biking – adventure trail through Letsatsing Game Park, accompanied by a guide. You may see wildlife on the way (1-hour)

Clay Pigeon Shooting – assisted by an instructor, become acquainted with the 12 gauge shotguns used in this exciting sport. No experience necessary (1-hour)

Archery – master this ancient art by learning to shoot the crossbow and modern compound bow. No experience necessary (1-hour)