

Adventures in South Africa: Gardens, Wildlife & Natural Beauty

Main Tour: October 12th – 25th 2023. Optional extension: October 25th – 28th 2023

With Karen & Andy Chapman

THIS TOUR IS NOW FULL – BUT YOU MAY JOIN OUR WAITING LIST!



From restios to rhinos and protea to penguins – this tour has it all.

South Africa is world-renowned for its outstanding natural beauty, delicious wines, and abundant wildlife and our two-week tour promises to be the adventure of a lifetime as we explore the highlights of it all.

Our journey will begin in Cape Town with visits including Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden and the Western Cape. From here we will travel to the Winelands of the Cape, to enjoy an exciting variety of public and private gardens.

Heading north we will visit the Harold Porter Botanical Garden, view the breeding colony of African penguins at Stony Point then make our way to the Overberg region to see the Cape Fynbos both on foot and from open vehicles before traveling the Garden Route. Highlights of our stay in the Knysna region include the Tsitsikamma National Park before we take a short flight to Johannesburg.

We have selected the Kapama Game Reserve as our base camp for several game drives to see the Big 5 of Africa (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino & elephant).

An optional 3-day extension to Zimbabwe includes a sunset river cruise on the great Zambezi River, a full day in Chobe National Park, Botswana and a guided tour of the Victoria Falls.

This the tour filled with the sights and sounds of South Africa, one that is sure to leave you with memories that will forever become a part of our soul.

ITINERARY

Day 0: Wednesday, October 11th

This will be your latest departure date from the USA if using one of their direct flights from Washington DC or Atlanta. Flights via Europe may require earlier departures – please check with relevant airlines.

Day 1: Thursday, October 12th

All arrivals will be met at Cape Town airport by our tour guide and transferred to our four-star waterfront hotel, **The Commodore**, our base for the next 4 nights. For those arriving in time, Karen and Andy will host an informal gathering and **drinks** in the early evening. Dinner will be at your leisure.

Day 2: Friday, October 13th (B/L/D)

Our tour begins in earnest today with a **welcome breakfast**, after which we will enjoy a combination walking/motorized **orientation tour** of Cape Town – the “Mother City” of South Africa. This will be followed by a short drive to the **Cellars-Hohenort Hotel** where we will enjoy a private guided tour of the beautiful gardens before **lunch**. **Stellenberg Gardens and Nursery** in Kenilworth is our afternoon destination. This Cape Dutch homestead has a long and interesting history dating back to 1697. We will be treated to a private guided tour of the magical gardens which consist of 16 distinct areas and aim to harmonize with the architecture. **Dinner** will be together this evening in Cape Town.

Day 3: Saturday, October 14th (B/L/-)

After an early breakfast we will enjoy a cable car trip to the top of **Table Mountain**, one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature, a World Heritage Site and a National Park. There will be time to enjoy the spectacular views from this iconic landmark. A short drive will then take us to **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**, for a guided tour. Heralded as being one of the great botanic gardens of the world and in springtime we can anticipate colorful carpets of Namaqualand daisies and vygies as well as spring bulbs and many fynbos plants in bloom. After a light lunch and some free time, we will return to our hotel for an independent dinner.

Day 4: Sunday, October 15th (B/L/-)

No visit to the Western Cape can ever be complete without spending a full day on the exquisite **Cape Peninsula**. Departing from your hotel, we will travel to the fishing village of Hout Bay, for a short **sea cruise** to Duiker Island to view the colony of Cape fur seals. A scenic drive (with photo ops) will take us on to the **Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve** where guests may choose to join a short hike to view the Fynbos. A late **lunch** will be enjoyed at a seafood restaurant in Simon's Town, the last British Naval town in South Africa before returning to our hotel where you will have the evening at your leisure and an independent dinner.

Day 5: Monday, October 16th (B/L/D)

After checking out of our hotel we travel to the **Winelands of the Cape** stopping briefly en route at the statue of Mr Nelson Mandela which stands at the gate of the **Drakenstein Prison** to commemorate his release on 11th February 1990. We will continue on to a **Danie Steenkamp** designed garden with time both for a guided tour and solo exploration. From the Franschhoek region, Helshoogte Pass brings us to the Jonkershoek Valley and the lush gardens at **Oude Nektar**. The gardens were planned and laid out by

Una van der Spuy – matriarch of the family who has been living here since 1941. She personally planted virtually every tree in the garden! A **light lunch** and **wine tasting** will be enjoyed next door at Starke Conde Wines and the Post Card Café. We continue on to **Stellenbosch**, the oldest town in South Africa. We will stay for the next 2 nights at **Oude Werf Hotel**, a delightful **hotel** in the very heart of this town and you will have the afternoon free to explore the many small stores and cafes before re-joining the group for **dinner** at a local restaurant.

Day 6: Tuesday, October 17th (B/L/-)

After breakfast a short walk will take us to the **Johnman Garden** to meet the curator for a private tour of one of the last of the Old Cape gardens in Stellenbosch, and a true plant lover's paradise featuring both native and exotic specimens. Our coach will then take us to the **Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden**, a garden of private myth, where the artist explores the Jungian notion of 'the wilderness within'. After **refreshments**, the curator will guide us around this wonderland, explaining the artistic intent and symbolism. Our final stop of the day will be the **Vergelegen Wine Estate** where a late **lunch** will be waiting. There will then be time for a guided tour of the gardens together with some time for free exploration: the rose gardens and historic camphor trees are two special highlights. We will round out our visit here with a late afternoon **wine tasting** before returning to our hotel in Stellenbosch. Dinner will be on your own this evening either at our hotel or a local restaurant of your choosing.

Day 7: Wednesday, October 18th (B/L/D)

An early breakfast and check out today before a scenic drive to see the breeding colony of **African penguins** at Stony Point Nature Reserve. From here we continue to the **Harold Porter Botanical Garden**, a beautiful, secluded garden set between the mountains and the sea in the heart of the Cape Fynbos region and renowned for its indigenous plants. This will be a self-guided visit. The last stop of the day is the coastal town of **Hermanus**, also the best land-based place in the world from which to view whales. We will have **lunch** here together followed by a free afternoon to explore then get together again for **dinner**. Our base for tonight will be the seafront **Windsor Hotel** in Hermanus.

Day 8: Thursday, October 19th (B/L/D)

A leisurely start to a wonderful day as we travel to the **Overberg region** to experience the beauty of the **Cape Fynbos** both on foot and from open vehicles. **Lunch** and a **wine tasting** will be at the **Black Oyster Catcher Wine farm**, a delightful boutique, family winery. We will also be joined during lunch by **Marjolijn Malan**, an award-winning floral arranger who will give us a demonstration and tell us more about her work. We then make our way to the **De Wagenhuis Farm Guesthouse**, for **dinner** and our overnight stop. This is a working farm in a delightful country setting.

Day 9: Friday, October 20th (B/L/D)

After breakfast we travel via Swellendam to begin the scenic drive known as the **Garden Route**. After **lunch** in Mossel Bay there will be time to visit to the **Dias Museum Complex**. This is a great spot to stretch your legs, pick up some souvenirs and explore the museum attractions. **Dinner** this evening will be at a select restaurant on the Knysna Waterfront, while our home for the next 2 nights will be the **Marriot Knysna Quays**.

Day 10: Saturday, October 21st (B/L/-)

After breakfast we will meet **Graham van Hoesselin**, a leading landscape designer who will take us to one of his inspiring installations. The afternoon will be a leisurely blend of **lunch**, free time at **Plettenberg Bay**, and a short side trip to view the **Knysna Heads** before returning to the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are free for you to relax by the pool, explore the local shops and enjoy an independent dinner at your leisure.

Day 11: Sunday, October 22nd (B/L/-)

After breakfast and check out we will travel towards the Tsitsikamma region. You may choose to visit one of two attractions: **Monkeylands** (guided tour only) offers a remarkable opportunity to see over 550 primates in a free-roaming sanctuary. A suspension bridge running through the forest canopy will allow for a unique perspective. Or you may prefer to visit **Birds of Eden** (guided or solo), the world's largest free-flight aviary and bird sanctuary. It is housed within a dome spanning a gorge of indigenous forest and is currently home to over 3500 birds. **Lunch** will be enjoyed at the **Tsitsikamma National Park** with time for a short hike to the suspension bridge over the Storms River if you wish. We then drive on to George airport for a **domestic flight** to Johannesburg. Vouchers will be provided for purchasing a light snack on the plane. Our overnight hotel is within the airport itself (**City Lodge ORTIA**).

Day 12: Monday, October 23rd (B/L/D)

After a buffet breakfast our ongoing flight this morning is to Hoedspruit where our open game drive vehicles from **Kapama Game Reserve** will be waiting for us. After check in and a **buffet lunch** there will be time to relax before we head into the African bush for our first **open vehicle safari** in search of the BIG5 (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and elephant). We will enjoy a **sundowner** under the African skies before returning to the lodge for a **buffet dinner** in the boma (an open-air meeting place). We will stay here at the luxurious **River Lodge**, Kapama Game Reserve for 2 nights.

Day 13: Tuesday, October 24th (B/L/D)

An exciting day is planned, beginning with a pre-dawn wake-up call and coffee/continental style breakfast before heading out on a 3-hour **game drive** in open vehicles. Back at the lodge a buffet breakfast will be waiting for us after which we are being offered a **bush walk**. This is mostly flat walking and be approximately 3 hours in length but do consider your ability to cope with the significant midday heat. Alternatively, you may choose to relax and enjoy the pool or wonderful spa facilities at the lodge. A **buffet lunch** is followed by free time and refreshments before our second **game drive** and **sundowner drinks** in the African bush. Our return to the lodge will be under spotlight as we seek out the nocturnal animals of Africa. A **boma dinner** will round out the day.

Day 14: Wednesday, October 25th (B/-/-)

Our last day will begin with one more pre-dawn wake-up call plus coffee and snacks before heading out on our final **game drive**. After a buffet breakfast back at the lodge it is time to check out and prepare for your return home or continue on for our extension tour. Those ending their tour here will be taken to Hoedspruit airport for a **flight** to Jo'burg to make ongoing connections. For guests continuing on we will also fly to Jo'burg and stay overnight again at **City Lodge ORTIA**. Dinner will be independent.



OPTIONAL POST TOUR EXTENSION

Day 15: Thursday, October 26th (B/-/D)

After an early breakfast we will take a regional **flight** to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. After customs and the purchase of our multiple entry visa we will check in at the **Victoria Falls Safari Lodge**, our base for 2 nights. The spectacular setting of this award-winning lodge offers endless views and overlooks a waterhole frequented by elephant, buffalo and more. Mid-afternoon we will enjoy a **sunset river cruise** on the great Zambezi River to look for hippos, crocodiles and elephants gathering by the riverbanks while flocks of birds skim the waterline. **Drinks** and snacks will be served on board, to be followed by **dinner** and **African entertainment** at the Boma Restaurant.

Day 16: Friday, October 27th (B/L/D)

An early breakfast will enable us to make the most of our full day in Botswana. A morning **game drive** (open vehicles) in **Chobe National Park** will have us looking for elephants, buffalo, giraffe and hippos. This will be followed by **lunch** and an **afternoon river cruise** on the Chobe River. Chobe has the highest concentration of elephants globally and herds frequently cross the river while hippos and crocodiles like to bask in the sun on the banks. We will return to our hotel late afternoon and enjoy our final **dinner** together.

Day 17: Saturday, October 28th (B/-/)

Making every moment count, we will have one more early start to enjoy a morning guided tour of the **Victoria Falls** before our **farewell breakfast** and check out. Victoria Falls is a truly spectacular sight, with columns of spray visible from several miles away. We will **then transfer to the Victoria Falls airport** for our **flight to Johannesburg** for your international flight home after wishing your fellow adventurers Bon Voyage!

HOW DO I KNOW IF THIS TOUR IS RIGHT FOR ME?

While periods of free time are built in, this is still a full itinerary with longer days than you may be used to. In order to fully enjoy this tour please be sure you:

- Have an adventurous spirit and an easy-going attitude.
- Are in good/excellent general health
- Can comfortably manage walking several miles each day at a moderate pace, often on uneven ground
- Can comfortably climb steps and also stand unaided for periods of time
- Can adjust from your usual routine *with a smile* to accommodate earlier starts and/or later dinners.

COVID STATEMENT

While we cannot predict exactly what restrictions may or may not still be in place during our visit, for the safety and peace of mind of all our guests, we have made the decision to only offer this tour to **fully vaccinated individuals**. Please be prepared to provide proof of vaccination both during the booking process and during the tour itself.

We also request that all tour guests travel with a supply of face masks in case they are required for entry to any establishment. Thank you for your understanding.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS & PREVENTION

Malaria:

While October is less problematic for mosquitos there are still precautions that should be taken.

Main tour: Kapama Game Reserve is in a low-risk malaria area. Although anti-malaria medication is therefore not strictly needed, we strongly advise you to seek the advice of your doctor and consider taking it as a preventative measure anyway.

Tour extension to Victoria Falls and Botswana: this will take us into a higher-risk area and anti-malaria medications together with other preventative measures are essential. There is more information [here](#) and we will review this in more detail with all registered guests.

Yellow Fever:

Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa are not considered Yellow Fever risk zones. If you are traveling to additional countries within Africa, please consult your doctor and advise us if this will be *pre-tour*, as a Yellow Fever certificate may then be needed to enter South Africa.

Further information can be found on the **CDC website** for [South Africa](#), [Zimbabwe](#) and [Botswana](#).

SMOKING

Please note that all our hotels are non-smoking establishments.

POTENTIAL CHANGES

Should any changes have to be made to hotels or tours for any reason, a suitable alternative will be found of equal standing, and finalized closer to departure.

DISCLAIMER

Le jardinet acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Le jardinet and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Le jardinet is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Le jardinet. Individual travelers are responsible of purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desires, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.

MEET YOUR HOSTS



Both Karen and Andy grew up in northern England. In fact, they first met when Andy was just 9 and Karen was 14 (and she still hasn't forgiven him for not remembering her, even though she has the photographs to prove it!) Despite such inauspicious beginnings they married in 1987 and lived in the heart of the Peak District before moving to Seattle in 1996 with their two young children.

A love of the English countryside was a common bond even in those early days, which for Karen naturally led to an interest in gardening while both Karen and Andy enjoy photographing landscapes and wildlife.

Today, as a landscape designer, award-winning author, and international speaker Karen has the knowledge, enthusiasm, personal connections, and detailed, organizational skills that are needed to put together a tour of inspirational gardens, historical sites, and cultural experiences.

As always, Andy is an integral part of Karen's business, offering logistical support, attention to detail, and a reassuring pair of extra hands, ears, and eyes to make sure every guest feels cared for.

Together, we would love to share this adventure of a lifetime with you.

Karen Chapman, Le jardinet: <https://lejardinetdesigns.com/>

Andy Chapman, Stumpdust: <https://www.stumpdust.com/>

For questions or more information contact Karen: karen@lejardinetdesigns.com

Main Tour - What's included:

- Airport shuttle service upon arrival
- 13 nights' accommodation (including all taxes) in superior 3-5-star hotels and lodges
- All ground transportation in an air-conditioned coach or open vehicle (as specified)
- Domestic flight from George to Hoedspruit via Johannesburg
- Domestic flight from Hoedspruit to Jo'burg.
- Breakfast daily
- 12 lunches, 7 dinners, 5 refreshments (tea/coffee/drinks and snacks)
- 3 wine tastings
- 4 game drives, 1 bush walk
- All entrance fees and private guided tours to gardens, reserves, and estates per itinerary
- All taxes and most gratuities
- Services of a local, English-speaking registered tour guide throughout
- A virtual get together for all guests to meet before our tour
- A pre-tour gathering at your hosts garden for local guests
- Hosts, Andy and Karen Chapman traveling with group at all times

Optional Tour Extension - What's included:

- Domestic flight from Hoedspruit via Johannesburg, SA to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- Domestic flight from Victoria Falls to Jo'burg
- 3 nights' accommodation
- 1 sunset river cruise
- 1 afternoon river cruise
- 1 game drive
- Breakfast daily
- 1 lunch, 2 dinners, 1 refreshment
- All entrance fees and private guided tours to reserves and sites per itinerary
- Services of an English-speaking registered tour guide throughout
- Hosts, Andy and Karen Chapman traveling with group at all times

Main Tour - What's excluded:

- Visas for entry to South Africa (Please check if your citizenship requires that [here](#)). Please wait to be advised in writing that our tour has met the minimum numbers to proceed before purchasing)
- Flights to Cape Town, South Africa from your home country.
- Your return flight home from Jo'burg
- Any meals not listed
- Personal travel and accident insurance
- Personal expenses (including bottled water – but the water is safe to drink in South Africa)
- Porterage (usually R20/bag)
- Discretionary tips to driver, tour guide, Kapama safari ranger & tracker

Optional Tour Extension – What's excluded

- All of above
- Discretionary tips to Zimbabwe bus driver/guide, plus Chobe ranger/tracker
- Visas for entry to South Africa (Please check if your citizenship/passport requires that [here](#). If you are joining this extension, you will need to purchase a **multiple entry visa** for South Africa. Please wait to be advised in writing that our tour has met the minimum numbers to proceed before purchasing)
- Your return flight home from either Zimbabwe (Ethiopian Airlines offers flights to the USA from Victoria Falls) or South Africa
- Multiple entry visa to Zimbabwe. Currently these are \$60 (USD) cash only, payable at border entry – further details will be provided to registered guests

Main Tour:

Tour Cost*

For 15-22 passengers (group is capped at 22 plus two hosts):

\$6319 per person based on double occupancy

Single supplement: **\$1549**

(Additional nights in Cape Town can be arranged for \$225 per person, per night)

**The cost of intra-Africa flights is based on pricing available in January 2023 and taxes may fluctuate. The final tour price will reflect any such changes and is therefore subject to change.*

Post-Tour Extension to Victoria Falls:

\$2630 per person based on double occupancy

Single supplement: **\$239**

Payment schedule and cancellation policy:

A **\$2000 deposit per person** is due at time of booking and is non-refundable.

Final payment is due August 10th and is non-refundable.

Check is the required form of payment for deposit and preferred for final payment. A 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Note: our main tour will proceed with a minimum of 15 reservations. Likewise, the extension will proceed with a minimum of 15. If those criteria are not met, Le jardinet reserves the right to cancel the tour(s) at which time all payments will be refunded in full. Please do not make your airline reservations or purchase visas until I have confirmed in writing that the tours have met these criteria.

THIS TOUR IS NOW FULL:

but good things come to those who wait, so we invite you to join our waiting list

To reserve your place on the waiting list:

Please email Karen (karen@lejardinetdesigns.com) to confirm space is still available on our waiting list, after which you will be asked to email your completed reservation form(s) and proof of vaccination. You will not be asked for a deposit or other payments until we are able to offer you a place and you confirm your request to join us in writing.

The following information is provided for your information should a place become available.

Insurance:

Insurance is highly recommended. Our booking agent Dee Montpetit will send you a link for a personalized quote from Allianz as soon as your documents have been received. Note: this insurance must be **purchased within 14 days** of paying your tour deposit. Your flights may be added to the insurance at a later date if necessary.

Air Travel:

Do NOT book your international flights until notified by Karen in writing that we have enough guests to proceed with the tour.

Flights in/out of South Africa from your home country are not included in the tour cost.

Main tour only: you will fly into **Cape Town** and out of **Jo'burg**, South Africa

Main tour + extension: you will fly into **Cape Town** and out of **Jo'burg**, South Africa

General questions about air travel may be addressed in the first instance to our USA-based booking agent [Dee Montpetit](#).

If you prefer not to book your own flights, our local agent Deborah Van Pevenage can assist you. Please contact her at dvanpevenage@dt.com, 425-775-1595 and mention that you are part of the **Karen Chapman South Africa Tour**.

Documentation:

You will need a valid US passport with at least 30 days validity beyond your intended exit date together with two consecutive completely blank visa pages in your passports upon every arrival in South Africa. You will be denied entry if you do not have two consecutive blank visa pages.

Non-American passport holders may have different requirements. Please reach out if you are unsure.

For guests joining the tour extension, you will need a valid US passport with at least 6 months validity to enter both Zimbabwe and Botswana plus 2 consecutive, completely blank pages to enter Zimbabwe and 3 or more unused pages for Botswana.

Visitor visas:

US passport holders do not need a visa to enter South Africa for up to 90 days. Non-USA passport holders please check [here](#) but do not purchase until advised to do so in writing. Note that different rules apply to citizens of USA, Canada, Mexico, and UK for example.

All those joining the tour extension will need to purchase a \$60 multi-entry visa to Zimbabwe at the border – further information will be provided after registration.

Tourist visas are not required by US, UK, or Canadian citizens to enter Botswana. Many other citizens are also exempt. Please check the [Botswana e-visa website](#) if in doubt.

COVID Vaccination:

We will keep you updated regarding any COVID-related documentation or testing that may be required, but at a minimum you should anticipate providing proof of full vaccination and a recent negative test.

For more information contact:

Karen Chapman at **425-765-3574** or email: karen@lejardinetdesigns.com

RESERVATION FORM: PLEASE PRINT

October 12th-24th (with opt. extension to 10/28) to South Africa with Karen & Andy Chapman

Passenger One:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email: _____

Non-tour emergency contact person and phone: _____

Relationship to above: _____

Legal name as it appears on passport: _____

Country issuing passport: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of birth: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Food /medical allergies: _____

Other:

Do you wish to join the optional tour extension to Zimbabwe/Botswana? _____

Do you wish to purchase insurance? _____

Special requests:

Single requesting share?

Please provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 when you submit this registration form

Passenger Two:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email: _____

Non-tour emergency contact person and phone: _____

Relationship to above: _____

Legal name as it appears on passport: _____

Country issuing passport: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of birth: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Food/medical allergies: _____

Other:

Do you wish to join the optional tour extension to Zimbabwe/Botswana? _____

Do you wish to purchase insurance? _____

Please provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 when you submit this registration form