

# Our Glorious AFS Itinerary

## **July 2 or 3 - Depart USA for Johannesburg, South Africa**

We encourage you to arrive early to rest, relax and explore. A dozen airlines fly to JNB. SAA or South African Airways offers best schedules. Arranging your own round-trip air provides you flexibility. Many like to add a stopover in another country pre or post AFS trip.

**South Africa:** This vast country is undoubtedly one of the most culturally and geographically diverse places on earth. Fondly known by locals as the 'Rainbow Nation', South Africa has 11 official languages and its multicultural inhabitants are influenced by a fascinating mix of African, Asian and European cultures. Spend your days: discovering the gourmet restaurants, impressive art and nightlife scenes and fine beaches of Cape Town; enjoying a typical local braai (barbecue) in the Soweto township; browsing the bustling Indian markets in Durban; or sampling some of the world's finest wines at the myriad wine estates dotted around the picturesque Cape Winelands. Due to its rich and turbulent history, there are plenty of historical attractions to explore including the Zululand battlefields of Kwa Zulu-Natal, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg and Robben Island, just off the coast of Cape Town. Above all else, South Africa's attraction lies in its remarkably untamed wilderness with its astonishing range of wildlife roaming freely across massive unfenced game reserves such as the world famous Kruger National Park. With all of this variety on offer, it is little wonder that South Africa has fast become Africa's most popular tourist destination.

**Lowveld:** The Mpumalanga Lowveld lies between the northernmost reaches of the Drakensberg Escarpment and the Kruger National Park. It is renowned for its sub-tropical climate, excellent farming areas and great access to the game reserves and attractions of the Panorama Route.

## **July 4 - Manyatta Rock Camp**

Welcome to South Africa where your adventure begins! We are met by our guide at JNB and transferred 4-hours to **Manyatta Rock Camp** in the Mpumalanga Lowveld, the northernmost reaches of the Drakensberg Escarpment and Kruger National Park.

Check in camp and unpack for 4 nights. After High Tea, enjoy your first game drive in open-air 4x4 Jeeps in the **Kwa Madwala Private Reserve**. You can expect to get close to elephants, rhino, giraffe, warthogs and more. In the early evening, we'll stop for a sundowner to enjoy snacks and cocktails served in the bush. Return to camp with time to freshen up before dinner (included).

Our past groups loved Manyatta! Meaning "place of the rock" in the local Swazi tongue, Kwa Madwala Private Game Reserve is near the southern side of Kruger National Park close to Swaziland and Mozambique.

Kwa Madwala is one of the few places on earth that offers Elephant Back Safaris, Microlight Safaris, and Horse Back Safaris on site in the reserve. Using open four wheel drive vehicles, our specially trained rangers take guests on safari drives in the Private Game Reserve and the Kruger National Park. You can enjoy **Walking Safaris** in the private reserve, Spa Treatments on a private wooden deck overlooking the reserve, Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre and the Cheetah breeding project and a visit to Matsamo Village.

The Manyatta Rock Camp nestles among boulders and trees that form a kopje overlooking the private Kwa Madwala Reserve, with magnificent views from the dining deck, bar and private lookout deck of each chalet. While staying in the Kwa Madwala Private Game Reserve, you will be able to watch the sun rise over the LebomboBoma.

Our chalets: looking like giant rocks, our unique dome shaped bedrooms are scattered across the rocky outcrop with fabulous views across the bush from the private wooden deck of each unit. All 20 rooms are comfortable yet tastefully furnished and infused with elegant African touches. Simplicity in the bush! The bedrooms are air-conditioned with two twin beds and a mini fridge. The en-suite bathroom has dual his and hers basins and bath. Each chalet has an outside shower on the private wooden deck. We will have the entire camp filled with AFSers.

Overnight: Manyatta Rock Camp (B, D)

### **July 5 - Kruger!**

Full day game drives in famous Kruger National Park. Our day begins at 6 AM for a full day game drive. You'll enjoy a hearty breakfast in the park. Here you'll get an opportunity to see the Big 5; lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo. Kruger is one of Africa's largest and most well-known game reserves with a high density of wild animals and diverse bird species such as vultures, eagles, and storks. We'll return to our camp in time for a fantastic fresh dinner buffet.

Overnight: Manyatta Rock Camp (B, D)

### **July 6 - Day at Leisure**

Today you can chill by the pool or revel in the Spa treatments here. Other optional activities include: Microlight Safaris, Horseback Safaris, walking safaris, day trips to Chimp Eden or the renowned Elephant Whispers to play with ellies as well as other activities.

Overnight: Manyatta Rock Camp (B, D)

### **July 7 - Royal Kingdom of Swaziland!**

After breakfast, we drive 3 hours and cross the border into Swazi. It is a long day driving, but with breath taking scenery into Ezulwini Mantenga Cultural Village and shopping in the craft markets. Later we visit Ngwenya Glass, Africa's most prestigious glass factory, and art gallery. Next door is Swazi Candles with unique work by local artists (someone, please get me zebra candles.)

Overnight: Manyatta Rock Camp (B, D)

### **July 8 - Fly to exotic Mozambique**

We SA Airlink directly from the airport near Kruger to Vilanculos Airport. Get your \$50 visa right on arrival. Transfer to our resort. After check-in, we all enjoy a Sunset Catamaran Cruise.

**Mozambique:** Situated on the east coast of Africa, this tropical paradise is blessed with 2500km of spectacular coastline. With its idyllic beaches fringed with palm trees and lapped by crystal clear waters brimming with a dazzling array of marine life, this enchanting African nation is an ideal adventure

Our glorious beach front home-away-from-home is Vila do Paraiso: the lap of luxury right on Mahaque Beach.

Each villa accommodates eight guests in 4 twin rooms with en-suite facilities and comes with a private butler. According to Trip Advisor, guests rave that these guys are extraordinary to make your 4-night stay so comfortable. Although the basic layouts of each villa are the same, each has its special charm.

Overnight: Vila do Paraiso (B)

### **July 9, 10, 11 - Three Days to Play in Paradise!**

Our resort has boats for sand bar picnics, beach bicycles, canoes for our exclusive use. Imagine when we get 40 AFSe booked, we'll fill up the resort all for ourselves! On arrival, you can create your ideal beach vacation by booking the activities you have always dreamed of doing. Below is just an appetizer of what's available.

### **Wanna Play?**

**Boating around the islands of Bengerrua, Bazaruto, Santa Carolina which make up the Bazaruto Archipelago!** The islands of Bazaruto in the Indian Ocean are wonderful places to go and spend an exciting day on the water by ski –boats, catamaran or by dhow, where a picnic or braai can be set up on the island of your choice while you work up a hunger fishing or snorkeling in the warm tropical waters. End off the day with a casual stroll collecting shells or just enjoy a coconut mai tai on a deck chair on your own private beach. Don't forget the spa and beach massages.

**Spend a day diving, snorkeling with picnic lunch on the beach!** There are numerous dive sites to choose from, ranging in depth from 6m to 34m catering for all from beginner to expert divers. The water temperature ranges from 28 degrees Celsius, with the visibility averaging 18m in July. Reefs range from shallow to deep; they offer the diver an abundance of marine life with a huge diversity of both coral and fish life. These waters are populated with manatee, sharks, rays, many whale species and a variety of fish like clownfish, angelfish, and others found nowhere else on the planet. This world is your oyster, so to speak.

**Mozambique is deep sea fishing paradise!** The Bazaruto Archipelago is blessed with a myriad of reefs that hold large amounts of baitfish, which in turn attract an immense variety of migrating pelagic fish that cruise past the area throughout the year making fishing for giant king fish, king mackerel, yellow fin tuna and barracuda possible all year round - this is game fishing at its best!

**Whale watching trips:** In July, it's whale season with Humpback whales along the coastline and whale watching tours are offered.

**Canoe trails:** The Govuro river canoe trip is unquestionably one of the best activities in Vilankulo with an ideal combination of unspoiled riverine and incredible birdlife. You have an option of doing an early morning canoe trail or an afternoon trip, which allows sighting of frogs, birds, fireflies, and star gazing.

**Dhow excursions:** A dhow is a traditional Arab vessel that was introduced around the coastline as early as the 11th century. The dhow boats are used by the locals for fishing purposes and, of course, to explore the tranquil waters beneath.

Setting off early in the morning, you'll sail to the beautiful islands of Shell Island and Two Mile Reef with rugged sails pulled taut in the breeze. The sense of the amazing history of this place overwhelms. Experience the ocean as never before.

**Town visits, local villages, and shopping:** Indulge your latent bargaining skills and go shopping in the local market, or find some well-crafted souvenirs.

**Horse riding:** Enjoy the coastline by horseback.

Overnight: Vila do Paraiso (B)

### **July 12 - Transfer to Airport**

Checkout after breakfast for transfer to airport and fly directly to Johannesburg (2 hours). Connect to your flights home. All USA flights depart early evening for a perfect schedule. Flight back will arrive in Johannesburg airport at 15h30

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**Fitness Level: Two** - I have no trouble walking and if necessary, can walk for 3+ miles. Uneven surfaces are not a problem. I do not need a cane or walking device.