



Table Mountain

Engineering in South Africa

8 – 20 July 2018





The Drakensburg Mountains

This new study tour examines engineering, both historical and contemporary, in South Africa, combined with a range of visits exploring the wildlife, culture, scenic beauty and gastronomy of this spectacularly beautiful country.

Travel from Johannesburg to the attractive town of Clarens situated in the foothills of the Maluti Mountains. From here journey into the Kingdom of Lesotho and onto the Nambiti Game Reserve in the historic battlefield region of KwaZulu Natal. End the tour in the cosmopolitan harbour city of Cape Town, from where you will explore the Cape and Stellenbosch.

The tour starts in Johannesburg with an orientation tour looking at the historic development of the city and including a visit to the Constitutional Court. Enjoy a welcome dinner that evening.

The following morning drive out to Pretoria and visit the Rovos Rail Station with its fully operational locomotive workshop. Rovos Rail is a private luxury rail company operating diesel and electric locomotives, with steam locomotives kept on site for shunting as well as departures

and arrivals. The trains traverse Southern Africa and journeys include trips to Victoria Falls, Namibia and Tanzania. The company was established in the 1980's by Rohan and Anthea Vos, who purchased a 1938 Class 19D locomotive and several carriages.

Once purchased, rolling stock is restored and maintained at Rovos Rail Station. The trains range from one of the oldest mainline working locos in the world - the Class 6, 439 TIFFANY - built by Dubs & Co. of Scotland in 1894 and KING ZOG, which was built by the North British Locomotive Company in 1954.



King Zog, Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria



Katse Dam, Lesotho

In the afternoon visit the Cullinan Diamond Mine. Opened in 1903, the mine produces a quarter of the world's largest quality diamonds and is the only source of the rare type 2D diamond which is vivid blue in colour. Hear a briefing by an engineer before being escorted by a miner underground via the man-riding cage to tour the workings of the mine. Following the tour visit the History Room, a Heritage Society project, and the diamond room with information on the diamond finds over the years.

Drive out to the small town of Clarens, situated in the foothills of the Maloti Mountain and known for its beautiful natural surroundings, its rivers full of fish, its local artists and galleries as well as fine food, wine and craft beer. That afternoon drive out to view the stunning scenery of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park. Dinner that night is at the acclaimed Clementines restaurant.

The following day drive onto Lesotho and visit the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and Katse Dam. The project comprising several large dams and tunnels supplies water and generates hydroelectric power to Lesotho and northern South Africa. It is Africa's largest water transfer scheme. This is a long day and there is the option of further exploring and enjoying Clarens.

Drive into KwaZulu Natal and the Springbok Lodge in the Nambiti Private Game Reserve. The reserve encompasses 20,000 acres of pristine

bushveld and is home to the Big Five, as well as cheetah, hippo and over 30 species of plains game. Over three days take part in four game drives in the early morning and late afternoons. There is also the opportunity to take part in bush walks and enjoy the lodge's spa, superb cuisine and the memorable sunsets.

Following an early morning safari continue to the historic town of Ladysmith, established in 1850 as a staging-post for fortune hunters on their way to the gold fields. Visit the Siege Museum and learn of the Siege of Ladysmith and the Boer War. Winston Churchill, then a young war correspondent, was present at the Relief of Ladysmith, as was Mahatma Gandhi, who established stretcher bearing corps during the Boer War. Visit the poignant battlefield site of Spion Kop, a hill that prevented the British from relieving the siege of Ladysmith. Continue to Durban later that afternoon.

Following a relaxing morning at leisure, take part in a tour of the Moses Mabhida Stadium, which dominates the Durban skyline. Its most spectacular feature is the massive arch supporting the roof with slender columns creating the illusion of lightness, despite its giant size.

The following day there is an engineering visit to Bell Equipment or a partner programme exploring Durban. Bell Equipment is a South African Company and one of the world's leading manufacturers of mining, construction and forestry trucks. The company was started in the



Elephants on safari



1950's by Irvine Bell and is based in Richards Bay. Bell's principal manufacturing plant is located here and has a capacity of 5000 machines a year supplying Africa and Asia, with a range of trucks, haulers, loaders, tractors and custom equipment.

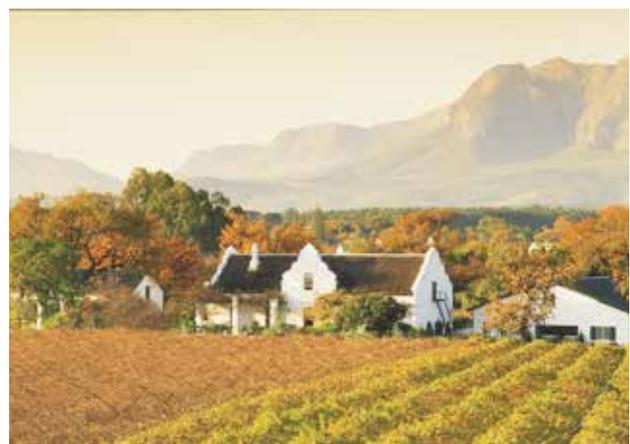
For those not taking part in the engineering visit take part in a half day sightseeing tour of Durban. Explore the culturally diverse city centre, the narrow lanes and arcades around Grey Street and spend time in the bustling Victoria Street Market. Drive back along the famous 'Golden Mile' where beaches stretch from the harbour to the mouth of the Umgeni River.

The next morning learn of the work of the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board (KZNSB). The (KZNSB) is a global leader in bather protection against sharks while minimising environmental impact. Transfer to the airport and fly to Cape Town, the glamorous face of South Africa. Dominated by Table Mountain, it boasts one of the most stunning natural settings in the world. See the city on an orientation tour en route to the hotel. That evening enjoy dinner on the Victoria and Albert waterfront.

Spend the next day enjoying the myriad attractions offered by Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula. Start the day with a cable car ride up Table Mountain for spectacular views. As you

descend, take in the beaches of Clifton and Camps Bay, before crossing over to Hout Bay. Continue onto the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve at the tip of Africa, where the Indian Ocean meets the Atlantic Ocean, for wonderful views across False Bay. Finish the tour with a visit to the penguin colony at Boulders Beach.

The following day drive into the winelands. Visit Stellenbosch and take part in chocolate and wine tasting at the Lanzerac Wine Estate. Continue to the Fairview Estate for a farewell lunch with wine and cheese tasting. Return to Cape Town for your final night or extend to Victoria Falls and / or on the Rovos Rail train journeys to Pretoria or from Victoria Falls (see overleaf).



Stellenbosch and the Cape Winelands

Itinerary 8 – 20 July 2018

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

2 nights Johannesburg – 2 nights Clarens – 2 nights Nambiti Game Reserve – 3 nights Durban
– 3 nights Cape Town

Optional Pre-Tour Extension in Victoria Falls

8 Jul (Sun) Johannesburg **B D**

Am Arrive Johannesburg
Pm Afternoon tour of the city including Constitutional Court
Eve Welcome dinner

9 Jul (Mon) Johannesburg **B**

Am Visit the Rovos Rail Maintenance Yards. Learn how the private train company restores and operates its trains
Pm Tour of the Cullinan Diamond Mine

10 Jul (Tue) Johannesburg / Clarens **B D**

Am Drive to Clarens. This is a charming village, with great craft breweries, galleries and restaurants
Pm Visit the Golden Highlands National Park and the Drakensburg Visitors centre. If possible tour of the Drakensburg Pumped Storage Scheme
Eve Dinner at Clementines

11 Jul (Wed) Clarens **B**

Am Full day drive to and visit in Lesotho. Visit the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and Tour of Katse Dam or at leisure in Clarens
Pm Return to Clarens and overnight

12 Jul (Thur) Clarens / Nambiti **B L D**

Am Depart for Nambiti Private Game Reserve and check into the Springbok Lodge
Pm Late afternoon game drive in a safari vehicle with game rangers to view the Big Five

13 Jul (Fri) Nambiti Game Reserve **B L D**

Am Early morning tea and coffee. Set out before sunrise in a safari vehicle with game rangers to view the Big Five on a game drive. Return to the lodge for breakfast. Optional walks or spa treatments
Pm Late afternoon game drive with game rangers to view the Big Five
Eve BOMA dinner under the stars

“A Zambezi River Lodge, transport arrangements and local guide at Victoria falls excellent.”

14 Jul (Sat) Nambiti / Durban **B L**

Am Early morning tea and coffee. Set out before sunrise to view the Big Five on a game drive. Return to the lodge for breakfast. Depart to visit the Siege Museum in Ladysmith
Pm Lunch at Spion Kop and visit the memorial and battlefield site. Drive to Durban

15 Jul (Sun) Durban **B D**

Am Private tour of the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium
Pm Afternoon at leisure in Durban

16 Jul (Mon) Durban **B**

Am Drive to Richards Bay and visit the Bell Equipment Company or partner programme visiting Durban
Pm Partners at leisure. Engineering visit returns afternoon

17 Jul (Tue) Durban / Cape Town **B D**

Am Visit Natal Sharks Board and learn of their work. Fly to Cape Town
Pm Take a city tour of Cape Town
Eve Dinner on the Victoria and Albert waterfront

18 Jul (Wed) Cape Town **B L**

Am Visit Table Mountain (by cable car or on foot). Continue onto Cape Point and the Peninsula. Take in the beaches of Clifton and Camps Bay and across to Hout Bay. Drive to the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve via Chapman's Peak. Take a funicular to the top of the Peninsula where the Indian Ocean and Atlantic meet. Later visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach

19 Jul (Thur) Cape Town **B L**

Am Visit Stellenbosch and take part in chocolate and wine tasting at the Lanzerac Wine Estate
Pm Farewell lunch and wine tasting at the Fairview Wine Estate followed by cheese and wine tasting

20 Jul (Fri) Cape Town **B**

Am At leisure
Pm Transfer to the airport for onward flight



Crossing the Cape Winelands



Victoria Falls

Extensions

Rovos Rail Train Journey - Cape Town to Pretoria

This extension takes place three days after the finish of the tour. We can arrange additional accommodation if required. Prices available on request.

23 Jul (Mon) Cape Town / Rovos Rail **B L D**

Am Depart from Platform 23 at Cape Town Station and travel inland through the winelands

Pm Lunch is served in the dining cars and later tea is served in the lounge and observation cars. Visit the historical village of Matjiesfontein

Eve Dinner is served in the dining cars

21 Jul (Tue) Rovos Rail **B L D**

Am At leisure

Pm Lunch is served in the dining cars. Arrive in Kimberley for a tour of the city and the Diamond Mine Museum

Eve Dinner is served in the dining cars

22 Jul (Wed) Rovos Rail / Pretoria **B**

Am The train travels via Krugersdorp and Johannesburg through the goldfields of the Witwatersrand towards Pretoria. Arrive at Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria at midday

Victoria Falls and Rovos Rail - Victoria Falls to Pretoria

Fly to Victoria Falls on the 20th for two nights with a guided tour and Zambezi sunset cruise. Then take the Rovos Rail train back to Pretoria. Prices available on request.

20 Jul (Fri) Cape Town / Victoria Falls **B**

Am Fly from Cape Town to Victoria Falls

Pm Afternoon at leisure

21 Jul (Sat) Victoria Falls **B**

Am Visit the Victoria Falls with a qualified guide for a nature walk

Pm Spend the evening on board an open sided cruise towards Palm Island, and enjoy a beautiful Zambezi sunset

22 Jul (Sun) Victoria Falls / Rovos Rail **B L D**

Am Depart Victoria Falls Station on Rovos Rail

Eve Dinner is served in the dining cars

23 Jul (Mon) Rovos Rail **B L D**

Am Disembark for a game drive at The Hide. Brunch is served as the train travels along one of Africa's longest stretches of straight railway line – 114km

24 Jul (Tue) Rovos Rail **B L D**

Am The train leaves baobab country

Pm The train crosses the Tropic of Capricorn

Eve Dinner is served as the train passes the edge of the escarpment

25 Jul (Wed) Rovos Rail / Pretoria **B**

Am Arrive at journey's end in Pretoria

Tour Leader

Michael Knight A Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and a Member of the National Society for Professional Engineers in the USA, Michael spent the major part of his working life with an American Chemical Corporation. He was based in the USA for several years as a Global Project Manager working on projects in Asia, Europe & North America. He returned to the UK in the role of Global Technology Centre Manager for the Corporation and Engineering Manager of a COMAH Site. After ten years in these roles he then spent five years as the Corporations Global Process Engineering Manager. Since retirement Michael has lectured at the four main Universities in South Wales and has also concentrated on promoting engineering to young people through the Year in Industry Scheme at two of these Universities. Michael has led two previous engineering study tours to India and China.

Hotels

Garden Court Sandton City Hotel (Johannesburg) This comfortable hotel has an excellent location adjacent to the shops and restaurants in the Sandton City complex.

Protea Hotel, Clarens is a cosy, designer hotel located on Main Street, closed to local galleries and restaurants. The hotel is known for its excellent breakfasts and dining.

Springbok Lodge, is situated in a private game reserve. Stay in stylish and comfortable en-suite tents each with their own viewing deck with chairs, a king-size bed, complimentary sherry, safety deposit box, hairdryer, air conditioning and heated electric blankets.

Garden Court Marine Parade, is located on Durban's beautiful Golden Mile and has an excellent reputation for service. The hotel has free wifi and a rooftop pool.

SunSquare Cape Town, is located in the Gardens area of Cape Town at the base of Table Mountain and is ideal for exploring the city, its shops and restaurants.

Ground only cost of the tour is USD \$4,056 (excluding international flights)

The cost includes:

- 12 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in medium grade hotels and in Luxury Tented Accommodation

The single room supplement is USD \$505

- Tour leader (Michael Knight)
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- Airport transfers
- Meals as per the itinerary
- Internal flight and taxes
- A full programme of cultural and professional visits as per the itinerary
- Admission fees where applicable and all Tips
- Local English speaking guide

The cost excludes:

- All personal extras such as portorage, laundry, inoculation fees and drinks not included with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Visa, if required (not required for UK or Australian citizens)

Flights

The tour price does not include international flights. If you require help booking flights to South Africa please contact the London office on +44 (0) 207 223 9485 or the Melbourne office on +61 (0) 3 9343 6367

Victoria Falls Extension (pre or post tour extension – which can be combined with Rovos Rail)

USD \$718 per person

USD \$345 single supplement

The cost includes:

- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at the A'Zambezi River Lodge
- Transfers to/from Victoria Falls extension
- Victoria Falls guided tour and Zambezi sunset cruise

The cost excludes:

- Visa fee (if required); USD \$30 Victoria Falls entrance fee (payable on arrival); USD \$10 River fee (prior to cruise); meals and transfers not included
- Flights to and from Victoria Falls

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.



Durban and the Moses Mabhida Stadium (top); Zulu Girls; Cape Point; Leopard (above)

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Jon Baines Tours (London)
Hyde Park House, 5 Manfred Road,
London, SW15 2RS
Tel: +44 (0) 207 223 9485 / 5618
Email: info@jonbainestours.co.uk
www.jonbainestours.co.uk

Jon Baines Tours (Melbourne)
PO Box 68, South Brunswick,
Victoria 3055
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9343 6367
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9012 4228
Email: info@jonbainestours.com.au
www.jonbainestours.com



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