



A lion in Kruger Park

Veterinary Study Tour to South Africa 4 – 15 October 2023

2 nights Pretoria – 3 nights Timbavati Safari Lodge
– 2 nights Hazyview – 4 nights Cape Town

**“Trip of a lifetime! Fantastic having the opportunity
to witness a lot of ‘behind the scenes’ work.”**

Nicole-ann Curran, Veterinary Study Tour to South Africa, May 2017



Jon Baines
tours



Blyde River Canyon

Animal life is something that South Africa has in abundance. With a plethora of animal species large and small, wild and domestic, South Africa is a must-visit destination for anyone who has a passion for animals and their welfare. It is not only the animals of safari country that thrive here, but also domestic animals and horses, which South Africans are passionate about.

This is the third time that we've run this successful tour. It reveals the many faces of this beautiful and diverse land while giving you fascinating insight into South Africa's approach to veterinary practice in both an urban and rural context, while meeting local vets.

Starting in Pretoria, travel into the safari country of Kruger National Park and the Mpumalanga region and end in the cosmopolitan harbour city of Cape Town. Led by Dr Campbell Costello BVSc, one of the most well-travelled and charismatic

vets, your journey is punctuated with regular professional visits and talks and provides real insight into veterinary science and practice in South Africa and the challenges that vets face in treating both wild and domestic animals.

"The whole trip has been wonderful and has been superb as a veterinary studies tour. Fantastic!"

John Pumpa, Veterinary Study
Tour to South Africa, May, 2016



White Rhinos

Tour Leader

Dr Campbell Costello BVSc was raised on a cattle station in outback Queensland and graduated in 2010 to work in mixed-animal practice. He was the year's youngest rider in the world's longest horse race, the "Mongol Derby", in 2012 and has since returned to Mongolia several times as one of the senior veterinarians and crew for the race. In 2013 he trekked across the Wakhan Corridor of Afghanistan before relocating to the Highveldt of South Africa as a large African game and wildlife veterinarian.

He has since worked in Australia as a veterinary contractor in the international livestock sector, taking him all over the world. In 2016 Campbell was stationed in Kazakhstan as the head veterinarian and farm manager of an Angus Beef Cattle farm and helped establish one of the country's first cattle ventures since the demise of the Soviet Union. Campbell was also one of the only English-speaking veterinarians to attend the "World Nomad Games" in Kyrgyzstan. In early 2019 Campbell was the mounted veterinarian for the "Gaucho Derby" recce mission, which involved riding



across the Argentine area of Patagonia for several days, monitoring the local Criollo horses and mapping a basic route for the inaugural "Gaucho Derby" race in 2020.

Campbell (usually known as Cozzy) led a successful veterinary study tour to Borneo and Malaysia in 2022. Campbell lived and worked in South Africa and will lead the tour with our excellent and popular national guide, Frank Mbetse.

"Frank (national guide) is like a human encyclopedia and search engine.....very caring and great sense of humour."

Julian Smith, Veterinary Study Tour to South Africa, May, 2016

Stellenbosch





Itinerary 4 – 15 October 2023

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

2 nights Pretoria – 3 nights Timbavati Safari Lodge – 2 nights Hazyview – 4 nights Cape Town

Day 1: Johannesburg / Pretoria

(Wed 4 Oct)

D

Pm: Arrive in Johannesburg* and drive to Pretoria, taking in the sights of South Africa's capital city en route. Stop at the Paul Kruger House Museum, the Voortrekker Monument and Union Buildings. Arrive early afternoon and check into your hotel.

Eve: Welcome dinner.

Day 2: Pretoria (Thur, 5 Oct)

B D

Am: Visit the Pretoria Veterinary School to meet with staff and learn about the education of vets.

Pm: Meet with Dr David Pretorius and tour Motsumi Darts factory to learn about their remote drug delivery systems for wildlife.

Day 3: Pretoria / Timbavati Safari Lodge

(Fri, 6 Oct)

B D

Am: Depart Pretoria and head into safari country.

Pm: Arrive at Timbavati Safari Lodge. Early evening sunset drive through the Lodge's private reserve.

Day 4: Timbavati Safari Lodge (Sat, 7 Oct)

B D

Am: Visit Moholoholo Rehab Centre to meet with local staff and learn about the work they do.

Pm: Return to Timbavati in the afternoon and at leisure.

Day 5: Timbavati Safari Lodge

(Sun, 8 Oct)

B L D

Am: Rise before sunrise the next day for a full day's game drive in Kruger National Park in open safari vehicles. It isn't unusual to spot all the 'Big Five' (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and elephant) in a single day along with a fascinating range of mammal, bird and reptile species. Stop for a bush lunch during the day.

Pre-tour extension to Victoria Falls:

1 – 4 October 2023

Day 1: Victoria Falls (Sun 1 Oct)

Pm: Arrive Victoria Falls. Transfer to the A'Zambezi River Lodge and at leisure.

Day 2: Victoria Falls (Mon 2 Oct)

B L

Am: Guided tour of Victoria Falls after breakfast.

Pm: At leisure before an evening cruise towards Palm during a beautiful Zambezi sunset.

Day 3: Victoria Falls / Johannesburg

(Tues 3 Oct)

B

Am: At leisure.

Pm: Fly back to Johannesburg and transfer to the City Lodge Hotel OR Tambo Airport Hotel. Main tour starts the following day with the transfer into Pretoria.

Day 4: Johannesburg / Pretoria (Wed 4 Oct)

Am: Transfer to Pretoria and start tour.

Game drives are conducted with qualified rangers and Shangaan trackers, who share their intimate knowledge of the bush.

Pm: Continue with the game drive before returning to the Lodge late afternoon.

Eve: Traditional Boma dinner under the stars.

Day 6: Timbavati Safari Lodge / Hazyview (Mon, 9 Oct)

B D

Am: Spend the day touring some of the most spectacular scenery in South Africa as you drive the Panorama Route to Hazyview, with stunning views of the Lowveld. Your full day tour includes sights such as God's Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes, with its extraordinary rock formations, the Blyde River Canyon, the famous Three Rondavels and the historic gold rush town of Pilgrims Rest.

Pm: Check into Hippo Hollow Hotel, which sits on the banks of a river inhabited by hippos.

Eve: Dinner at the hotel and a talk by Peter Buss: 'The work of a vet in Kruger National Park'

Day 7: Hazyview (Tues, 10 Oct)

B D

Am: Set out before sunrise in an open top safari vehicle with qualified game rangers to view the 'big five' on a game drive (lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros) along with zebras, giraffes and a host of other wildlife.

Pm: At leisure to relax by the hotel pool.

Day 8: Hazyview / Cape Town (Wed, 11 Oct)

B D

Am: 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.

Pm: Transfer to the hotel and at leisure.

Day 9: Cape Town (Thur, 12 Oct)

B

Am: A full day's tour of Cape Peninsula starting with a cable car up Table Mountain for spectacular views. Drive past the beaches of Clifton and Camps Bay en route to Hout Bay. Continue onto the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve at the very tip of Africa, where the Indian Ocean meets the Atlantic

Ocean, for wonderful views across False Bay.

Pm: Return to Cape Town, stopping at SANCOB, a penguin and sea life rehabilitation centre, for a tour of the facilities and to learn about the work they do.

Day 10: Cape Town (Fri, 13 Oct)

B L

Am: Visit the Vetscape Animal Hospital, which caters for both small animals and horses. Continue to the winelands of Stellenbosch, stopping at a vineyard for lunch. Continue to another winery for wine and chocolate tasting. Return to Cape Town.

Day 11: Cape Town (Sat, 14 Oct)

B D

Am: Morning whale watching in the Indian Ocean accompanied by a vet onboard.

Pm: At leisure.

Eve: Farewell dinner at GOLD restaurant, a vibrant restaurant at the heart of the city.

Day 12: Cape Town (Sun, 15 Oct)

B

Am: Depart Cape Town after breakfast.

* Please arrive in Johannesburg Airport by 10.00am on Wed 4th October so you can transfer directly to Pretoria. If you cannot arrive for that time, then we suggest you arrive the night before.



A humpback whale breaching in front of Cape Point in False Bay, South Africa



Victoria Falls (extension)

Hotels

Courtyard Arcadia, Pretoria

A lovingly restored early 20th century manor house situated on 'Embassy Row' is the ideal location for exploring Pretoria. In a peaceful yet central location with park like gardens, you can explore the grounds, sit by the pool or relax in the bar.

Timbavati Safari Lodge, Kruger National Park

In the heart of the Kruger National Park, the Timbavati Lodge offers a selection of chalets and rondawels painted with vibrant Ndebele traditional artwork, nestled among indigenous trees and all with private facilities and mosquito nets. There is also a lovely pool, lounge and bar for relaxation.

Hippo Hollow, Hazyview

Nestled amongst lush indigenous gardens overlooking the beautiful Sapi River, Hippo Hollow provides spacious rooms with river or garden views, two swimming pools set in the peaceful gardens, a bar and a restaurant.

SunSquare, Cape Town

A few minutes from the V&A Waterfront, SunSquare Hotel comprises bright, modern

and spacious rooms with stylish contemporary design. There is a lovely rooftop bar, an outdoor pool overlooking the harbour and a top floor gym.

A'Zambezi River Lodge, Victoria Falls (extension)

A charming 4-star hotel set within beautiful grounds situated on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. The staff are warm, friendly and helpful and the bar and restaurant serves excellent food. Watch wildlife including warthogs and perhaps a hippo in the peaceful setting, with magnificent Victoria Falls just a few km up the river.



Timbavati Safari Lodge



Examining a cheetah on tour (photo credit John Pumpa)



Elephants on safari

The cost of the tour sharing a room is USD \$4,428

The cost of the tour with a room to yourself USD \$4,874

The cost includes:

- 11 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in medium grade hotels and game lodges
- Tour leader (Campbell Costello)
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- 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
- Arrival transfer
- Local English-speaking guides
- Tips

The cost excludes:

- All personal extras such as portorage, laundry, inoculation fees and drinks not included with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- All airport taxes
- Visa, if required

Victoria Falls Extension (Pre tour extension)

**USD \$794 per person sharing a room
USD \$1,177 per person with a room to yourself**

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 sundowner cruise
- Lunch at the Lookout Cafe
- One night at the City Lodge Airport Hotel Johannesburg after the extension before the main tour.

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
- Return Flights from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls

Additional nights in Johannesburg and Cape Town

Please contact us for additional nights before or after the tour. We can arrange additional nights for you in Johannesburg at the at the City Lodge Airport hotel.

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.

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Penguins at SANCOB (top); Ndebele women;
The winelands; Cape Town harbour (above)



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