



Most safari vehicles in southern Africa have been fitted with graduated seating. While these open 4-wheel drive vehicles allow for excellent photography, they can also be dusty.

nonstop from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls, enjoy the many tourist-oriented activities (such as white water rafting, Zambezi river cruises, bungee jumping, a short elephant safari, etc.) in the area of the Falls, and then take their safari in nearby Botswana, only a short drive away. This option is best for those who prefer to bump into fewer tourists while on safari and who also want to include Victoria Falls on their itinerary.

Those with a more substantial safari budget will want to consider including Botswana's incredible Okavango Delta region, which provides the opportunity to experience both dry and wet camps. Game drives at dry camps are taken in open vehicles while game drives at wet camps are taken by canoe. The Okavango is pricey because transportation to and between the camps is by light aircraft.

#### What else is a "must see" in southern Africa?

##### VICTORIA FALLS:

I have already made reference to Victoria Falls above. Tourists should consider whether they are ever likely to return to southern Africa and, if not, whether they would like to include this "world class" waterfall in their itinerary. If so, it makes economic sense to take a safari in Botswana. But because nowadays a travel advisory is often in effect for nearby Zimbabwe, everyone must decide his/her own comfort level vis-à-vis the current political situation in that country. I am not aware of any security-related incidents involving tourists at Victoria Falls and, personally, I would not hesitate to visit the far west of Zimbabwe in the course of a safari in southern Africa.

##### CAPE TOWN:

In southern Africa tourists also have the opportunity to include unique urban and suburban experiences before or after their safari. Cape Town and its beautiful surroundings offer three full

days of interesting activities. As airfare between Johannesburg and Cape Town is not significant, these sights should be included whether visitors take their safari at Kruger Park or in Botswana.

A half-day tour to Robben Island just off Cape Town is worthwhile. On Robben Island is the prison where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for many years. Prison tours are conducted by former inmates. The view from Robben Island looking back at Cape Town is one of the most picturesque views in the world, and the tiny fairy penguins which inhabit the island are also a highlight. Another half day can be devoted to shopping in Cape Town's recently redeveloped waterfront area and/or riding the cable car up 3,563-foot (1,086 meter)-high Table Mountain, South Africa's most famous landmark. From the top the views of city and harbor are breathtaking.

Two day trips from Cape Town by coach or, better yet, by rental car are also highly recommended.

The Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa is only about 50 miles south of Cape Town. The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve supports unique marine food-eating baboons which most tourists find entertaining. The lighthouse and sheer cliffs at Cape Point provide an unforgettable viewpoint at the tip of Africa.

A visit inland to Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl in the Western Cape wine lands region makes for a second pleasant day trip. In addition to wine tasting, tourists also obtain an introduction to Cape Dutch architecture. This architectural style drew from medieval Holland and Huguenot France as well as from Indonesia. The lovely Cape Dutch country houses which grace the region are accessible to tourists via the various wine routes. Even teetotalers will appreciate the beauty of the countryside and a lovely venue for lunch.

You have covered a lot of ground here. Please sum it all up for me.

In summary, airfare to East Africa is cheaper than airfare to southern Africa; but Kenya's major parks in East Africa and Kruger Park in South Africa all tend to be subject to mass safari tourism. Mass tourism is terrific for those who are on a very limited budget. After all, the animals are the same no matter where one sleeps. But, for those who can afford it, options to avoid mass safari tourism exist in Tanzania in East Africa and in Botswana in southern Africa. Victoria Falls in the far west of Zimbabwe can be included by those who elect to safari in Botswana. Cape Town and its environs offer unique urban and suburban experiences which should not be missed by visitors who opt to take their safaris in southern Africa. ■

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