South Africa:
Botanical Riches, Gardens, and Game Reserves
October 28—November 13, 2018
With optional 3-night extension to Victoria Falls
November 12—16, 2018

Join Cole Burrell and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society to explore the biodiversity, big game wildlife, cuisine and history of South Africa.
Tour Highlights

South Africa is noted for its biodiversity, big game animals, colorful birdlife, wines, cuisine, culture and history. During this springtime exploration of natural and cultural history, we indulge in all that South Africa has to offer. Johannesburg and Pretoria share a rich gardening tradition. We will explore both public and private gardens in these capital cities.

The Cape Floral Region, the smallest but richest of the world’s six floral kingdoms, is dominated by Mediterranean-type fynbos filled with botanical treasures. An excursion to The Cape of Good Hope takes us through rugged scenery in the heart of the fynbos. In addition to wild areas, we will explore private and public gardens, including the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens at the foot of Cape Town’s Table Mountain. We will explore Cape Town’s storied colonialism and Apartheid.

The Drakensberg Mountains offer a distinctly different flora, with familiar plants like gladiolus and agapanthus. Starting in the coastal town of Durban, we visit gardens and travel to the dramatic Giant’s Castle to discover unique plants, game animals, and bushman rock art.

No trip to Africa is complete without a big game safari. Kapama Game Reserve is home to many of Africa’s Big Five game animals: lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros, as well as a dazzling array of exquisite birds.

Land-Only Tour Price

From $5,995* per person

*Price is per person based on double occupancy and a minimum of 16 participants. Additional cost for single accommodations from $1,725 per person. Airfare to and within South Africa is additional. Carlson Wagonlit Travel air coordinators will assist you with flight reservations.

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:
- Fourteen nights accommodations in 4-star hotels
- Daily breakfast, 5 lunches, and 6 dinners
- All ground transportation in private motor coaches
- Arrival Meet & Greet guide assistance
- Local tour escorts for duration of the trip
- Private botanist guide in Drakensburg
- Sightseeing, garden, and museum admissions as listed on the itinerary
- Safari in Krueger National Park with morning and afternoon game drives
- Expert host C. Colston Burrell
- A tax-deductible donation of $100 for members of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

NOT INCLUDED: Round-trip international airfare; inter-Africa flights from Hoedspruit to Cape Town and Cape Town to Durban; airline fees for luggage; additional nights; optional sightseeing activities; gratuities to coach drivers, luggage handlers, housekeeping, tour manager or individual garden guides; meals not indicated in the itinerary; travel insurance; other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary.

Registration is subject to availability and limited!

Contact Carlson Wagonlit Travel:

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- Toll Free 800-533-0324

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Tour Host: C. Colston Burrell

Mr. Burrell, a landscape designer, avid gardener and naturalist, has devoted a lifetime to studying plants in the wild and in gardens. He holds an MS in Horticulture and received an MLA from the University of Minnesota, where he was also an instructor. He is excited to return to South Africa to share its beauty with travelers.
Itinerary

Day 1, Sunday, October 28 - Departures
Depart Washington’s Dulles airport to Johannesburg.

Day 2, Monday, October 29 - Arrival in Johannesburg
Welcome to South Africa! Upon arrival in Johannesburg you’ll be greeted warmly and assisted with the transfer to our hotel and check in. The rest of the evening is yours to enjoy at leisure. Dinner is on your own.

Day 3, Tuesday, October 30 - Johannesburg
Enjoy breakfast at our hotel and then head out to visit the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens. This 81-hectare botanical garden forms one of Johannesburg’s vital green lungs. The land for the gardens was set aside in 1969; at the time it was a sports field and golf driving range consisting of bare veld and no trees. Now it consists of large, grassy, open spaces scattered with trees and used by runners, picnickers and dog walkers. It hosts the occasional concert season and kite-flying competitions. Visitors enjoy its special gardens – the Shakespeare Garden, the Rose Garden, the Herb Garden, a Hedge Demonstration Garden and the main arboretum, which houses family groupings of plants and trees of South Africa and the rest of the world.

Our day includes a visit to the Beechwood Gardens, a classic Johannesburg garden laid out in 1945 by legendary landscape architect Joane Pym and featuring magnificent trees including a colossal Water Oak believed to be one of the largest trees in Johannesburg. Christopher and Susan Greig acquired the 3½ acre garden some 12 years ago and have worked extensively on redesigning and landscaping this botanical sanctuary. The homestead was designed by Steffen Ahrends for the late Rudy Frankel of Tiger Oats in a romantic Flemish country style with a cedar shingle roof. The Greigs have created a rainforest, a water garden comprising six ponds and a bog, a colonnade, a formal rose garden, a lotus garden and a sunken vegetable garden.

Next we visit the Walter Sisu National Botanical Gardens, which were founded in 1982, but have been a popular venue for outings since the 1800’s. The garden has been voted the best place to get back to nature in Gauteng for nine years in a row. The natural vegetation of the area is known as the “Rocky Highveld Grassland” and consists of a mosaic of grassland and savanna, with dense bush in kloofs and along streams. The variety of habitats accommodates over 600 naturally occurring plant species. A breeding pair of majestic Verreaux’s Eagles nest on the cliffs alongside the waterfall, and the garden is home to an abundance of wildlife with over 220 birds species recorded. There are also many reptiles and mammals, including small antelope and jackals, which occur naturally in the nature reserve.

We continue with visits to private gardens before returning to our hotel for the evening. Dinner is on your own.

Day 4, Wednesday, October 31 - Kapama Game Reserve
Today after checkout we travel by coach to Kapama Private Game Reserve. En route we’ll stop for a tour of the Lowveld National Botanical Garden in Nelspruit. The character of this garden is shaped by the two main rivers that cut across it, namely the Crocodile and Nels. Before these two rivers converge in the garden, they form spectacular waterfalls that can be viewed at the Cascades and the Nels viewpoints. When the Crocodile River is low, interesting geological formations are visible.
When in bloom, the clivias at the garden's main entrance are a beautiful and welcoming sight. Walking through the enchanting African Rain Forest enables one to cross the Crocodile River on the famous suspended bridge, where the cascading waterfall can also be viewed. The South African forest contains fascinating vegetation from the Coastal Belt as well as the Limpopo Province.

After touring the garden we continue our journey to the lodge at Kapama Private Game Reserve. If time permits, you may go on an afternoon game drive before dinner at the lodge.

Day 5, Thursday, November 1 - Kapama Game Reserve
Today we have a full day at the lodge, with both morning and afternoon game drives.

Kapama Private Game Reserve is an African Eden. Sweeping across 13,000 hectares of savannah and riverine forest, Kapama represents a piece of Africa as it used to be. With the mighty Drakensberg Mountains in the distance and iconic Kruger National Park to the east, Kapama has distilled the finest wildlife safari offerings for the enjoyment of guests. As part of the greater Kruger area, vast herds of buffalo, elephant and antelope are resident on Kapama, along with plentiful predators. The reserve is a slice of wilderness paradise far from the madding crowd; a place of renewal and reconnection with the natural world.

The iconic and most dangerous wild animals of Africa are at home on Kapama, but so too are over 40 other mammal species and 350 different types of birds. Game drives and bush walks offer fascinating encounters with wildlife, but Kapama also offers guests unique African wildlife experiences. Guided personal elephant interactions give guests the opportunity to get up close and personal with the elephants and to learn more about their behavior and natural habitat. Lunch and dinner are included.

Day 6, Friday, November 2 - Kapama Game Reserve
Enjoy another full day at the Kapama Game Reserve.

Day 7, Saturday, November 3 - Cape Town
This morning we check out and transfer to the airport in Hoedspruit and fly to Cape Town.

Welcome to Cape Town, one of the most beautiful cities in the world strategically situated at the southwestern tip of Africa. The city lies about 60 km north of Cape Point, in a natural bowl with the magnificent Table Mountain to the rear and the vast Atlantic Ocean to the front. It has the reputation of being the most laid-back city in the Southern Hemisphere with Capetonians adhering to Africa time, which is somewhat slower than most other major cities. This relaxed atmosphere is attributed to Table Mountain, known to be amongst the most spiritual places on earth. People are drawn towards the mountain and every visitor feels the need to climb up or take the revolving Cable Car to the top. At 3,563-feet above sea level, you will see the most dramatic views of the whole of the Cape Peninsula. The city is safer than most on any continent with a bustling street life of shops, cafes and market stalls, as well as street artists.

Upon arrival in Cape Town you will be met by a local guide and transferred to your hotel for check in for the next five nights. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore this magnificent city. Dinner is on your own.
Day 8, Sunday, November 4 - Full Day City Tour

Today begins with a visit to the summit of Table Mountain via cableway (weather permitting).

After lunch we visit the world famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, which lives up to its reputation as the most beautiful garden in Africa and one of the great botanic gardens of the world. Few gardens can match the sheer grandeur of the setting of Kirstenbosch, against the eastern slopes of Cape Town’s Table Mountain.

Kirstenbosch was established in 1913 to promote, conserve and display the extraordinarily rich and diverse flora of southern Africa, and was the first botanic garden in the world to be devoted to a country's indigenous flora. Kirstenbosch displays a wide variety of the unique plant life of the Cape Flora, also known as fynbos, including sugar bushes (Protea spp.), pincushions (Leucospermum spp.) and heaths (Erica spp.). Plants from all the diverse regions and biomes of southern Africa are also grown at Kirstenbosch, including a near-complete collection of cycads (Encephalartos spp.). The Botanical Society Conservatory is a custom-built glasshouse to grow and display plants from the arid regions that cannot survive outdoors. There are over 7,000 species in cultivation at Kirstenbosch, including many rare and threatened species.

After our exciting day of touring we return to the hotel for dinner on your own.

Day 9, Monday, November 5 - Robben Island

If weather permits, we will begin the day with a tour of Robben Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned by the Apartheid government. Departing from the ferry crossing located at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront close to the Clock Tower, you’ll board the ferry and cross Table Bay to Robben Island, where you will have the opportunity to interact with an ex-political prisoner. After a 45-minute bus ride with a guide providing commentary, you have the opportunity to explore the Murray's Bay Harbour precinct attractions, such as the Muslim shrine, or kramat, and the Museum Shop. Formerly a political prison and a leper colony before that, the historic landmark of Robben Island was recently established as a museum, national monument and world heritage site. Experience the conditions of incarceration; view Mandela's maximum-security prison cell and see the lime quarries. In the one, hard labor was served, and in the other, prisoners discussed strategy, freedom and the future. This well-preserved landmark is a monument to the triumph of freedom, dignity and determination over humiliation and oppression.

Return to the mainland. No visit to Cape Town is complete without a tour of the "Mother City". You will be taken to see the Castle and Company Gardens, and drive by the Parliament and Slave Lodge. Next we will visit the picturesque Malay Quarter with its spicy bobotie and curry aromas filling the air. We return to the hotel for dinner on your own.

Day 10, Tuesday, November 6 - Full Day Cape Peninsula Tour

Today we enjoy a full day touring the ruggedly beautiful Cape Peninsula via the Atlantic seaboard as we cruise along the exquisite stretch of coastline known as Millionaire's Paradise, from Camps Bay and Clifton to the exclusive beach hamlet of Llandudno, towards the charming working harbor of Hout Bay. We will also embark on an up-close-and-personal Seal Island cruise.
Back on terra firma we wind along the legendary Chapman’s Peak Drive, hugging the cliffs and relishing the breathtaking ocean views: the wild and beautiful Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, an integral part of the world-renowned Cape Floral Kingdom. Take a ride up on the funicular for magnificent views. We meander back along the coast towards the city, and have lunch in the historic and quaint naval port of Simon’s Town. Here you will have the option to visit the endearing penguin colony at Boulder’s Beach (at your own expense). Return to Cape Town for dinner on your own.  

**Day 11, Wednesday, November 7 - Full Day Garden Visits**

After breakfast at the hotel we start our garden exploration with Stellenberg Gardens which is located on the grounds of a beautiful, old estate surrounded by old walls, ancient oak trees, and towering poplars. These gardens were designed and implemented by Sandy Ovenstone, the current owner of the estate, with the help of several well-known garden designers. Open to the public only once a year in November, these extensive and incredibly beautiful gardens are as remarkable as they are acclaimed. Stellenberg is one of two well-known Cape Town gardens (the other being Kirstenbosch) featured on the BBC television series, *Around the World in 80 Gardens*. There are sixteen parts to the gardens, each with its own character and name: the vegetable garden, herb garden, garden entrance, shady walkway. Amongst these are a series of garden statues and modern sculptures. The homestead is a U-shaped, Cape Dutch manor house that has served over time as a farm dwelling, country retreat, and family home and heritage site.

We continue to Old Nectar Gardens in Stellenbosch. Noteworthy to all visitors are the variety of trees in the Old Nectar gardens; other than the oak trees, every tree in these gardens was planted by Una van der Spuy over a period of more than 70 years. They include Redwood, Elm, Copper Beech, Chorisia, Lombardy Poplar, Magnolia, Liquidambar, Cape Chestnut, Maple, Flowering Peach, Flowering Plum, Camellia and Prunus trees.

The 120-meter driveway to Old Nectar lies below a hillside of oak trees and overlooks an ornamental dam with views of trees and the sandstone cliffs of the 1,500-meter Jonkershoek Mountains. Visitors are encouraged to park cars at the entrance to Old Nectar and walk up the drive to get a feel for the beautiful environment surrounding Old Nectar.

Our next stop is a private garden in a lovely residential neighborhood. We will then return to Cape Town for the evening and dinner on your own.

**Day 12, Thursday, November 8 - Cape Town to Durban**

After breakfast at the hotel we will be transferred to the Cape Town airport for our flight to Durban. Once we land in Durban, we will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel where we stay for one night.

This afternoon we depart on a Durban City Tour. We travel along the Durban beachfront, and see Point Waterfront, City Hall and the Markets at Warwick Triangle. We then visit the Durban Botanical Gardens, which cover 37 acres of lushly planted ornamental and economically important subtropical plants from around the world. The garden features important collections of orchids, ferns, bromeliads and cycads. After our tour we will return to our hotel. Elsa Pooley, our botanist guide will meet us in Durban to accompany us for the next three days.
Day 13, Friday, November 9 - Durban to Drakensburg
After breakfast check out of the hotel. Our first stop is a visit to Makaranga Gardens whose paths wind lazily through this oasis of peace and serenity. There are 18 ponds and a labyrinth set in a quiet corner of the gardens. Makaranga is home to many beautiful statues in stone, bronze and marble imported from Italy and Zimbabwe. Throughout the garden you will discover an impressive variety of both indigenous and exotic trees. Makaranga is home to many rare and exotic species of Orchid, Camelia, and Rhododendron. For the avid birth watcher, Makaranga offers and ideal setting for a casual outing.

We then continue overland to the Drakensburg Mountains. En route we will visit Rosehurst Gardens, whose layout is formal and divided into roomed spaces inspired by the gardens of Sissinghurst in England. Beautifully sculpted hedges accent the axial layout and lush beds overflow with colorful perennials. After touring the garden, we sit down to a sumptuous tea with sandwiches and cakes.

Our next stop is the Nelson Mandela Capture Site. On August 5, 1962, this otherwise ordinary piece of road outside Howick suddenly took on profound consequence. Armed apartheid police flagged down a car in which Nelson Mandela was pretending to be the chauffeur. It was in this dramatic way, at this unassuming spot, that Nelson Mandela was captured and arrested. As one of the historically important moments in the struggle against Apartheid, the installation of an internationally recognizable sculpture in the Natal Midlands landscape is an appropriate replacement for the modest original monument on the site, consisting of a plaque set into a wall on the side of the road.

After the tour we continue our journey to Drakensburg, enjoying stops for views and flowers before arriving at our hotel, where dinner this evening is included.

Day 14, Saturday, November 10 - Drakensburg
Discover the beauty of the undulating Drakensberg Mountain range as we travel through the breathtaking vistas to visit the World Heritage Site of Giant’s Castle. On this dramatic escarpment, we find enigmatic Bushman paintings that date back 2,400 years. We set off on food with Elsa Pooley, our botanical guide, for a leisurely 3K roundtrip hike to the site of the caves to discover this magical legacy of the Bushmen. After our included lunch, we will discover some of the unique plants that grow in these ancient mountains and observe birds and other wildlife. The mountains are rich in plant life, including a large number of species of threatened plants, with 119 species listed globally. Later, we return to our hotel for dinner.

Day 15, Sunday, November 11 - Overland to Johannesburg
Our day starts with a visit to Giants Castle Lammergeyer Hide with our botanist guide to see a variety of birds in a dramatic setting on a cliff above a deep gorge. Next we will enjoy a wild flower walk with a view of the mountain cypress, or Widdringtonia Forrest. This species is found only in southern Africa.

After a morning of touring, we continue overland to Johannesburg and check in to our hotel for the night. Dinner is on your own.
Day 16, Monday, November 12 - Depart Johannesburg
After breakfast we will check out of the hotel and visit the Pretoria Botanical Garden. This 76-hectare urban oasis is a pristine getaway situated in the eastern suburbs of South Africa's administrative capital, Pretoria. A 115-foot high quartzite outcrop divides the garden in two sections. Its frosty south-facing section and the north-facing, warmer section present two different worlds to the visitor and botanist. A paved nature trail gives access to the fascinating natural vegetation on the ridge, which boasts a diversity of indigenous fauna and flora. Fifty hectares of the total area is devoted to developed garden, using almost exclusively South African plants. All the flowering plant species to be seen, including 50% of the country's tree species, make this garden a botanical tapestry. Visitors are offered a glimpse of different biomes such as savanna and forest biomes. Different theme gardens are continuously being developed.

After the visit to Pretoria Botanical Garden, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

**Anyone participating in the optional post-extension to Victoria Falls will not visit Pretoria Botanical Garden as the flight departs earlier in the day.

Day 17, Tuesday, November 13 - Welcome home
Arrive home with a lifetime of memories.

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner
Itinerary subject to change

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For more information about the optional post-extension to Victoria Falls, see pages 9 and 10 of this brochure.
Zimbabwe Tourist Visa Required

Zimbabwe requires U.S. citizens to carry a valid U.S. passport and tourist visa when traveling to Zimbabwe for any purpose. There is currently no option of getting a Zimbabwean tourist visa in advance through the Zimbabwean Embassy in Washington. Upon arrival, you can expect to pay $30 USD for a 30-day/single-entry visa or $60 USD for a 60-day/multiple entry visa. Since you will be visiting the Chobe National Park, a multiple entry visa will be required. These prices are subject to change without notice. You should bring enough cash to pay for the visa upon arrival, as credit cards or checks are not accepted.

Optional Post-Extension to Victoria Falls

Land-Only Tour Price

From $1,550* per person

*Price is per person based on double occupancy and a minimum of 10 participants. Additional cost for single accommodations from $300 per person. Airfare to Zimbabwe is additional. Carlson Wagonlit Travel air coordinators will assist you with flight reservations.

Optional Extension Tour Package Inclusions:

- Three nights accommodations in a 4-star hotel
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch and 1 dinner
- Afternoon sunset cruise of Victoria Falls
- Tour of Victoria Falls
- Chobe River Day Tour
- Arrival Meet & Greet guide assistance
- Ground transfers within Zimbabwe
- Local tour escort for duration of trip
- Expert host C. Colston Burrell

Not Included: Round-trip international and domestic airfare; airline fees for luggage; Zimbabwean tourist visa; additional nights; optional sightseeing activities; meals not indicated in the itinerary; travel insurance; other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary.

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Victoria Falls Optional Post-Extension Itinerary

Day 16, Monday, November 12 - Victoria Falls
After breakfast take our transfer to the airport for a flight to Victoria Falls. Upon arrival in Zimbabwe we will be welcomed by our local representative and transferred to our lodge where we will spend the next three nights.

In the afternoon put your feet up, sip a sundowner as the light gently fades, and let the tranquil afternoon sunset cruise float you along the Zambezi River above the Falls. You'll have the finest vantage point from which to watch hippo, crocodiles and other animals that come down to drink at the river’s edge in the fading sunlight. Dinner is on your own following the cruise. B

Day 17, Tuesday, November 13 - Victoria Falls
There is no surprise why Victoria Falls is one of the seven Natural Wonders of the World! You’ll understand it instantly as we tour the Zimbabwean side, where there are numerous spectacular vantage points along the width of the Falls, and the sight of this astounding gift of nature simply takes your breath away. Walk through the permanent, beautifully misty rain forest which flanks the Falls, stopping to marvel at the principal sites as it cascades to the depths below: the Main Falls, Horseshoe Falls, Rainbow Falls, the Boiling Pot, Cataract Island and Livingstone Island. Feel the spray and hear the thunderous noise from the millions of gallons of water tumbling over the Falls into a series of narrow gorges below.

In the evening, enjoy a Boma dinner, with exuberant cultural songs, dances and an extraordinary traditional meal. Shangaan and Ndebele dancers and singers will inspire you with their pulsating energy. You’ll be served traditional Zimbabwean delicacies for dinner; and for the brave hearts among us, we have a few lightly grilled Mopani worms. B, D

Day 18, Wednesday, November 14 - Chobe Day Tour
This is a sensational trip with both land and water-based game viewing. Your first game sighting is from the Chobe River where you are sitting securely on board, just off the riverbank, viewing from the relaxing vantage point of a boat. You’re on the mighty Chobe River which flows through the renowned Chobe National Park providing a haven for herds of grazing animals and bird life. Just sit back, relax, and keep those binoculars handy. Watch this glorious scene unfold: large herds of elephant, often with the tiniest frolicking calves, kicking up dust as they wait their turn at the water’s edge to drink. Frighteningly large crocodiles sun themselves on the banks of the river, mouths agape, teeth terrifying. Glorious birdlife, wonderful game, and the gentle rocking of the riverboat make for unforgettable memories. Can life get any better? Apparently. When we disembark, we join our open safari vehicle for a drive through the Chobe Game Reserve with the chance of seeing more wildlife and birdlife. We will stop for lunch at a lodge overlooking the Chobe River. Return to the hotel for dinner on your own. B, L

Day 19, Thursday, November 15 - Departures for home
Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Fly first to Johannesburg and connect to your overnight flight to Washington, D.C. B

Day 20, Friday, November 16 - Welcome home
Arrive home with a lifetime of memories.

Itinerary subject to change