

East Cape, South Africa 2026

Luxury Photographic Safari

Date: 3rd – 15th May 2026 Code: EC24 Duration: 14-Days

Cost: \$AU 10,490 Twin Share + Airfares Tour Leader: Gabby or Ron Hunter

Exclusive Small Group Tour: Maximum TWELVE Persons

Optional Extensions Victoria Falls (Zambia, Botswana), and / or Cape Town

East Cape May '26

Itinerary



HIGHLIGHTS

The best of East Cape South Africa

3 Private, **Luxury** "BIG 5" Game Reserves

- 30 Superb Meals
- Wine, beer, softs all included
- Up to 22 x 4WD Game Drives
- Wildlife Photo Safaris
- Photographic Workshops
- Optional Extension available:
 - 1: Victoria Falls, Zambia, Botswana
 - 2: The Beautiful City of Cape Town



For more of what to expect on this luxury Safari, view our previous trip **VIDEO**

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**East Cape
May '26**



The Private “BIG FIVE” Game Reserves:

1. Mount Camdeboo: “Big 5” Stunning Wilderness, 14,500 hectares. Videos: [ONE](#) [TWO](#)
2. Pumba / Bush Lodge: “BIG 5”, 6,500 hectares, famous for their White Lions.
3. Kariega: “Big 5”, 10,000 hectares. Videos: [ONE](#) [TWO](#) [THREE](#)

Departure to include Victoria Falls

Sydney / Johannesburg – South Africa

Wednesday 29th April 2026 for Victoria Falls, pre-main Safari extension

Depart Sydney (SYD) 09:30 am, arrive Johannesburg (JNB), South Africa at 15:40 (B*,L*)

Transfer to Airport Hotel for overnight. dinner tonight will be a quantum leap over aircraft food.

And return to airport next morning. Johannesburg, South Africa / Livingstone, Zambia

Thu 30th Apr (B) Depart Jo’burg (JNB) at 11:00 arrive 12:45 Livingstone (LVI) Zambia

Sun 3rd May (B) Depart Livingstone (LVI) 13:25 arrive 15:20 Jo’burg JNB; Overnight Airport Hotel

Departure not including Victoria Falls

Sun 3rd May Depart Sydney (SYD) 09:30 am, arrive Johannesburg (JNB), South Africa at 15:40 (B*,L*)

Transfer to Airport Hotel for overnight. dinner tonight will be a quantum leap over aircraft food.

Monday 4th May (B) Depart Jo’burg (JNB) at 08:40 arrive 10:30 Port Elizabeth (PLZ) S.A.

At Port Elizabeth airport we will meet our transfer company driver who will organize our road travel to three unique Game Reserves. Each reserve offers a totally different environment, climate and variety of wildlife. From the ocean to snow-capped mountains, we will explore the best that South Africa’s East Cape has to offer. Located on vast tracts of wilderness, these three fabulous “BIG FIVE” Game Reserves and Lodges offering superb levels of service, cuisine & luxury, will be our homes for the next eleven days.

Quest Tours Unique Guarantee:

“There will be only TWO persons on each bench seat of the game vehicles.”

This is essential to ensure that everyone in each game vehicle has a side or “window” seat to allow unobscured viewing of the wildlife, for the best experiences possible.



Victoria Falls, “Mosi-oa-Tunya” (The Smoke that Thunders) Zambia

Wed 29th April: South Africa – Zambia – Victoria Falls: Johannesburg (JNB) 10:50 > 12:35 Livingstone (LVI) Zambia

We will be picked up at the airport by our guide in Zambia,, he will escort us to the Maramba River Lodge (Breakfasts included) on the banks of the Maramba River, here Hippos and Elephants wander at night !!

Victoria Falls: There are a myriad of activities available to select from for you to enjoy here. All of these activities have different prices; accordingly we are unable to include them as part of each person’s package.

You can select from the following activities, prices of each are in **\$US**. We have included a selection of suggestions for each day. There are other activities available, but are not practical due to time & logistics restraints



Livingstone - Victoria Falls - Botswana Activities prices include National Park Fees & transfers

Day 1: Victoria Falls Tour in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park \$55

Day 1: Evening Zambesi River Cruise incl. bar snacks, BBQ dinner, soft drinks, beer, wine & local spirits \$80.

Day 2: A: White Water Rafting, Zambesi Grade 4-5 rapids, full day incl. lunch \$140.

Day 2: B: Raft Float – Half Day Upper Zambesi River Raft-Float Safari, with lunch \$140.

Evening Day 2 A: Elephant Café Dinner, \$220

Evening Day 2: B: Dinner at own expense at Maramba River Lodge.

Day 3: Full Day Safari in Chobe, Botswana incl transfers, buffet lunch, 4WD and River game drives \$240.

Evening Day 3: Dinner at own expense at Maramba River Lodge.

Day 4: A Early morning game drive Mosi-oa-Tunya N. P. and Rhino Tracking Walk POA before transferring to Airport

Day 4: At leisure enjoy early breakfast watching Hippos and Elephants by Maramba River before transferring to Airport

Zambia – South Africa: Sun 3rd May LVI 13:25 > 15:20 JNB, transfer to JNB Airport Hotel for overnight



Zambesi Sunset Cruise



Sunset at the Elephant Cafe



White Water Rafting the mighty Zambesi below the Falls



Zambesi River Raft Float Safari



Meet the "Locals" Elephant Café / Evening Dinner - If you're not living life on the edge, you're taking up too much room



Chobe River, Botswana 4WD Safari



Walking Safari with Rhinos in Mosi-oa-Tunya Nat. Park

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Mon 4th May (B) Depart Jo'burg (JNB) at 08:40 arrive 09:45 Port Elizabeth (PLZ) S.A

Our transfer company will safely drive us the 3-4 hours to Mount Camdeboo. Following check-in, we will have time to settle in, explore the fabulous accommodation, the two-17th century Dutch Manor Houses, our luxury rooms, dining room, then meet in the courtyard for lunch / high-tea by the swimming pool

Late afternoon we set off on a 3-hour game drive up on the plateau, returning to the Manor for dinner

This is to be our home for the next FOUR nights. (B,HT,D)



Each day whilst we are on safari in the three game reserves our pattern of activities will be the similar; early coffee and rusks, game drive with a break for coffee and pastries,

Return to the lodge for a sumptuous breakfast, relax or enjoy other activities, probably best to avoid lunch, then high tea around 2:45pm before afternoon game drive with a break for traditional sundowners, beer, cider, wine and nibbles.

After sundowners and as dusk falls we may be lucky enough to witness the thrill of a lion-hunt or watch as a family of hippo emerge from the water for a night of grazing. As nocturnal life begins to stir, return safely to the lodge to freshen up, before a superb evening meal where we can relate and share stories of our day's adventures and experiences.

There are SEVEN opportunities for food every day, definitely best to avoid lunch!



Leopards are one of the "Big Five". Leopards are also reclusive, allusive, nocturnal hunters, and if you are lucky, you may see one during the day resting up a tree, so always check-out substantial trees with wide limbs.

A male Leopard weighs around 95 kg, and can lift 1.5 times his body weight, say, a prey 140 kg antelope on one claw, whilst climbing up a tree with his other three claws.

A Leopard may be under that low bush that you were considering "peeing" behind. So, DON'T, OK?

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Mount Camdeboo invites you to share its people's love for this sometimes harsh, yet always spectacularly beautiful, vast land of contrasts. What started out as one family's dream has evolved into the creation of a family of a different kind. Managers Richard and Daron Slater - supported by an exceptionally loyal, friendly and hardworking team - welcome guests to Mount Camdeboo. Not as strangers, but as long forgotten friends. During our 2016,/18/19/24, visits here, we travelled up onto the high plateau, overlooking the Manor houses in the valley. From here you can clearly see a measured 170 kims down the valleys towards the sea, in the other direction a distant snow-capped mountain marked the Game Reserve's boundary



As part of our stay at Mount Camdeboo we will be treated to 2 game drives per day, alternating between the high plateau, and the (bit less height) low plateau; drives average about 3-hours each, at optimal wildlife viewing times, namely: pre-dawn & sunset. The vehicles used on the Reserve are purpose-built, game viewing Land Rovers. They are SABS safety approved and are equipped with seatbelts, a shade canopy and drink holders. Given that the Camdeboo Manors are nestled in a valley, the game drives typically start with a breathtaking climb up the mountain slopes, then on to the plateaus above where the animals graze and the world unfolds at your feet,

Mount Camdeboo have introduced more of the traditional species back into the reserve Elephant, Lion and elusive Leopard have all been added, and Camdeboo has now gained Africa "Big 5" status.

The highly knowledgeable and experienced game rangers will try their best to make sure you see our "Camdeboo Favourite 5", breeding cheetah pair, rare white rhinos, giraffe, almost extinct mountain zebra, and "Crazy Gnu" whome, when startled by their blond manes & tails, leap and spin in circles

Thu 7th May Mount Camdeboo to Pumba Private Game Reserve

After breakfast, we will bid farewell to our friends at Mount Camdeboo and set off with the transfer company for a 3 ½ -hour drive to Pumba Private Game Reserve

Msenge Chalet has ELEVEN Glass & bush enclosed chalets flowing naturally into the African bush veld

Gauze and sliding glass doors open onto a private plunge pool, the glass-enclosed chalets provide the illusion that there's nothing separating you & the surrounding bush, ensuring a true African Safari feel.

Four poster beds complete with dreamy white mosquito nets & en-suite bathrooms allow you to become one with nature in the lap of luxury. On a still day, open the doors & listen to the sounds of nature.

Experienced rangers maximize every opportunity to ensure exceptional viewing during your game drive and walks on this vast, established 6,500-hectare game reserve.

Excellent sightings are enjoyed on game drives across the open plains of the reserve. Expect to see lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo, cheetah, hippo, giraffe, hyena, zebra, warthog and many species of antelope.

Large herds of plains game, including eland, gemsbok, springbok, wildebeest and zebra, are all found on this reserve

Pumba boasts diverse vegetation, 5five biomes: savanna grassland, valley bushveld, fynbos, riverine forest and acacia woodland.

With little or no light pollution, night at Pumba is an opportunity to 'hear the silence of Africa', star gaze in wonder at the Southern Hemisphere's Milky Way and identify Orion's Belt, The Southern Cross and Scorpio





THE WHITE LIONS of PUMBA

In Africa, in this diverse cultural and mystical land steep in African beliefs and secrets, you will be enchanted, fascinated and a changed person when you leave.

White Lions are regarded by African Shangaan tribal elders as the most sacred animal on the African continent, carrying the eternal essence of native African wisdom and a message of crucial importance for all humanity. They believe that the birth of a white lion is a gift from the ancestors, its presence ensuring peace and prosperity for all in the tribal lands.

Tribal members feel that they can walk safely amongst the white lions, protected by the Spirit Guides that they believe are present in the lions.

Sunday 10th May – Pumba to Kariega Private Game Reserve – The Homestead

After an early morning game drive, depart Pumba, travel 40-minutes to Kariega main gate, here we check-in at Kariega Game Reserve Reception, then 4WD transfer to the wilderness and the fabulous 4/5 Star “The Homestead” situated on the southern side of the road to the town of Kempton on Sea, that divides Kariega.

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Our party of TWELVE will have **EXCLUSIVE** use of the entire Homestead for the next **FOUR** nights.

We will have the services of our own hosts, chefs, barman, game drive vehicles and game rangers. All bedrooms are king twin / double with ensuites. After checking-in, we will enjoy “high tea” before setting out on the first of our 3-hour game drives. (B,L,D)

The Homestead Dining Room, Outdoor Lounge and Bedroom Suite



This family owned “Big FIVE” Private Game Reserve stretches across 10,000 hectares of pristine wilderness and is home to some of the richest biodiversity in Southern Africa, as well as the picturesque Kariega River.

Experience close-up viewing of the Big 5 – lion, elephant, rhino, leopard and buffalo. There is an abundance of indigenous wildlife spread across this vast tract of wilderness, ensuring an authentic safari experience at this spectacular game reserve

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In the evenings, relax and sit back to simply enjoy the sights and sounds of the African bush within this unique environment. * The Homestead is fenced separating guests from the wildlife.

The grunt or roar of a lion passing by will certainly get your attention, as you realize that you are really out in the wild. It is common to encounter herds of antelope everywhere

Elephants are also often encountered, whilst out on our daily morning or afternoon game drives



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Thursday 14th: Early game drive & breakfast at Kariega, Transfer to Port Elizabeth PLZ >Johannesburg JNB
Johannesburg JNB > Sydney SYD 15th May

OR Cape Town post-safari extension:

Thursday 14th May 2026, Port Elizabeth - Cape Town (The “Mother City”)

Thu 14th May: Depart Port Elizabeth (PLZ) 14:30 > 15:55 arrive in Cape Town (CPT)

You will be transferred to our accommodation for the next five nights at the La Splendida Hotel, situated near the Victoria & Albert Waterfront

Thursday 14th thru Monday 18th May 2026 (B)

Four (plus) days to explore Cape Town:

Your journey in Africa now continues in Cape Town, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. We have the opportunity to enjoy tours of the highlights of Cape Town and surrounding districts.

In Cape Town we always use the great services of our tour partners there, and we trust them to introduce us to their city, its' surrounds and the hidden gems that are often only known to locals.

The must do cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain, Muizenberg, Kalk Bay Station, Fish Hoek, Simon's Town – here there is a penguin colony and great seafood, so maybe make this a lunchtime stop, and then take the cable car to Table Mountain in the afternoon.

A visit to the Cape of Good Hope and the encompassing National Park, a Settlement Tour and the university town of Stellenbosch and the nearby wineries at Kirstenbosch, are all must do's.

A ferry ride to Robben Island with half-day tour of the island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, is possible, but must be booked well in advance

We will be staying near the V & A waterfront, and it is here we will be able to enjoy a vast selection of shopping and dining experiences, as well as the Two Oceans Aquarium

Our last night in Capetown is a surprise, and will be one of your most treasured memories of Africa



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Tour Leader Profile

GABBY HUNTER

Gabby has escorted tours for 12 years with the family business and has travelled all over Indonesia, The Pacific, Europe, the Americas, and is now branching out to other destinations, with Africa being added in 2023.

Gabby has absolutely adored photography for over a decade now, and honed her skills in post – processing editing Ron's images from his many years of tours to Africa, as well as her own catalogue of African wildlife from her Botswana, Zambia Tour '23 and East Cape South Africa '24 .

Learn about positioning each type of animal in the frame, taking photos on the right settings to preserve editing capabilities, perspectives, and get the most out your photographic equipment and capture some unbelievable images in the East Cape of South Africa.

Gabby Uses: Canon 7D, 100-400mm 4.5L Lens



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Inclusions

- One nights' accommodation Airport Hotel - Johannesburg
- Road transfers by Africa Shuttles for our 12 days in East Cape
- Four nights' accommodation 5★ Mt. Camdeboo Manors
- Three nights' accommodation 4/5★ Pumba Game Reserve
- Four nights' accommodation 4/5★ Kariega Game Reserve
- Eleven nights on East Cape Safari all superb meals, wine, beer and soft drinks
- 22 Game Drives plus other activities in three "BIG FIVE" Game Reserves, East Cape
- Fun & Informative Photographic Workshops
- Experienced Africa Guides and Safari Rangers
- All Meals and transfers as per itinerary

Budget for

- Pre-tour extension to Victoria Falls (Zambia and Botswana)
- Visa fees: NIL required as of May 2025
- Post-tour extension to Cape Town
- International & internal return flights to Africa
- Meals & drinks other than specified
- Tips & Personal Travel Insurance (compulsory)

Tour Cost: \$AU 10,490 + airfares

Costs as of May 2025 at AU\$ 1:00 = ZAR \$12 (S.A. Rand) & AU\$ 1:00 = US\$ 0.65 (for Victoria Falls only)

Flights in itinerary are as of May 2025 and are subject to change

Maximum number on East Cape – South Africa Tour is TWELVE or (FOURTEEN by application)

Costs based on twin-share accommodation. Single supplement may not be available every night POA



East Cape May '26



N.B. All lodges, & everywhere on the East Cape, prominently advertise their areas as “malaria free”. Quest Tours understands that this is the case, but does not warrant nor guarantee it is so, & accepts no responsibility nor liability in the event of anyone contracting malaria whilst on tour.

Itinerary overview April / May 2026:

- **Optional Victoria Falls pre Main Tour extension:**
- Tue 28th Sydney -Johannesburg – Airport Hotel (B,L*)
- Wed 29th Airport Hotel JNB– Livingstone LVI, Zambia; afternoon - Victoria Falls (B, L*)
- Thu 30th Waterfront Lodge Select more activities available around Victoria Falls (B)
- Fri 1st MAY Waterfront Lodge Select from many activities available around Victoria Falls (B)
- Sat 2nd Waterfront Lodge Morning activity at Victoria Falls LVI – JNB – Airport Hotel (B,L*)
- **CORE MAIN TOUR**
- **MAY** Sat 2nd Sydney - Johannesburg JNB – Airport Hotel Jo’burg (B,L*)
- Sun 3rd Johannesburg JNB (B) Port Elizabeth PLZ Mount Camdeboo Game Reserve (B,HT,D)
- Mon 4th Mount Camdeboo Game Reserve, 2 game drives & other activities each day (B,HT,D)
- Tue 5th Mount Camdeboo Game Reserve, 2 game drives & other activities each day (B,HT,D)
- Wed 6th Mount Camdeboo Game Reserve, 2 game drives & other activities each day (B,HT,D)
- Thu 7th Early Game drive Mt Camdeboo – Pumba Game Lodge, afternoon game drive (B,HT,D)
- Fri 8th Pumba Game Reserve, 2 game drives plus other activities each day (B,HT,D)
- Sat 9th Pumba – 2 game drives plus other activities each day (B,HT,D)
- Sun 10th Morning game drive, Pumba -Kariega Game Reserve afternoon game drive (B,HT,D))
- Mon 11th Kariega Game Reserve, 2 game drives each day (B,HT,D)
- Tue 12th Kariega Game Reserve, 2 game drives each day (B,HT,D)
- Wed 13th Kariega Game Reserve, 2 game drives each day (B,HT,D)
- Thu 14th Early breakfast Kariega – Port Elizabeth – Johannesburg - Sydney (B)
- Fri 15th Arrive Sydney (D,B)*
- **OR OPTIONAL Cape Town extension**
- Thu 14th Kariega Game Reserve – Port Elizabeth – Cape Town (B)
- Fri 15th Cape Town (B) Selection of activities in and around the “Mother City”
- Sat 16th Cape Town (B) Selection of activities in and around the “Mother City”
- Sun 17th Cape Town Selection of activities and final night celebratory dinner (B, D)
- Mon 18th Cape Town (B) - Johannesburg - Sydney (B)
- Tue 19th 20th Arrive Sydney (D*, B*)
- Meal Codes: B, Breakfast. L, lunch. HT, High Tea. D, Dinner. Meals indicated with* are in-flight



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For airfares to, from and within Africa please contact us

We are really across the excursion flights in South Africa, which, when booked early, can deliver a considerable saving over buying the flights separately.

Flights SYD / JNB / PLZ / JNB /SYD are around \$2200 (add \$250 for PLZ / CPT / JNB) as of May '25

Flights are also available ex: Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth (ex Perth arrival time is early A.M.)

From other parts of the World Flights; To join the tour, you must arrive at Johannesburg (JNB) on same date as flights from Australia. Please contact for advice on what flights arrival times & dates suit

We are notified as soon as airfare "specials" become available, and we can book these for you at that time, saving you many hundreds of \$\$\$s in the process

**** Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours. We strongly recommend taking out travel insurance at the same time as paying your deposit. We recommend Covermore as an insurance provider, they will cover you from the time of paying your premium, until your tour's return date. We suggest carefully checking conditions of any travel insurance you may be considering.**

If you choose to book your own flights, and then in the event of changes of schedules, we will not be responsible for any punitive charges that may be applied by other companies or airlines

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