

KHOISAN KAROO  
CONSERVANCY

**SOUTHERN SKY  
ADVENTURES**  
IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS



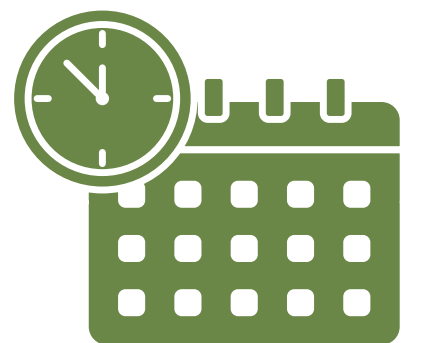
# Karoo Conservation and Biodiversity Volunteer Program



Volunteering  
Experience in  
Conservation



[www.southernskyadventures.com](http://www.southernskyadventures.com)



21 Days / 20 Nights



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**Biomes of South Africa:**

- Fynbos
- Succulent-karoo
- Nama-karoo
- Desert
- Savanna
- Grassland
- Albany Thicket
- Indian Ocean Coastal Belt
- By air
- By road
- Provincial borders



**Memorable Experiences**



**Practical Learning**



**Unforgettable Views**



**Karoo Star Gazing**



# Day to Day

## Day 1

Land in the vibrant Johannesburg city. After your long journey you will be able to unwind by making silver African themed jewellery with an experienced jeweller. Shirley will enlighten you on the rich history of diamonds and jewellery in South Africa. At the end of the trip you will be able to take this hand-made memorabilia back home.



## Day 2

Fly to Bloemfontein and then take a two-and-a-half-hour drive to the remote Khoisan Karoo Conservancy. After the safety briefing we will discuss the general course outline giving everyone a chance to get familiar with the hosts and ask any questions. Then, a brief introduction to the farm set up and your room. After a delicious dinner you will enjoy a "get to know each other" session around an African fire for you and your fellow volunteers. Skills learned during this trip will give you a better idea of science, research and ecology of conservation.

## Day 3

You will learn how to collect data for the virtual museum. This is a platform that allows citizen scientists (such as yourself) to contribute to long term biodiversity projects (<https://vmus.adu.org.za/>). Those among you who enjoy taking photos are guaranteed to enjoy this very much. For the next few days we will learn how to use this platform and then go out to find and map all creatures, big and small.



## Day 4

Now we will put the learned skills about the virtual museum to work. We will spend the day out in the field photographing the small inconspicuous animals of the mysterious Karoo. Even though they are small, many play an integral part in the maintenance of the ecosystem. During the evening we will photograph the nocturnal insects and moths, identifying them and then uploading them to the virtual museum to contribute to these long-term biodiversity projects.

## Day 5

What a wonderful day to spend on the water! The Seekoei (Hippo) River runs through the Khoisan Karoo Conservancy property and offers perfect conditions for kayaking. You will then drive to an adjacent river to watch the sunset and witness the hippopotamus, the third-largest land mammal after the elephant and the rhinoceros. This majestic creature is called Beertjie ("Beer'key") and is the only hippo in all the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.



## Day 6

Today we will look for the larger animals that inhabit the enormous 8000 hectare Khoisan Karoo Conservancy. These will be identified and mapped on the virtual museum website. In the evening we will set out to find the quiet nocturnal animals - the iconic Shy Five - which include the mysterious Aardvark, Aardwolf, Black Footed Cat, Porcupine, and Bat-eared fox.

## Day 7

Today is all about birds! Following an introductory lecture and discussion about identifying birds, one team will go out into the field attempting to find birds and discreetly photographing them. While the other team learn how to do waterbird and terrestrial bird counts as well as understanding the importance of such surveys. After lunch the teams will swap activities.



## Day 8

Early morning wake up call, with coffee and rusks to get you going, followed by a morning birding drive. We return to the lodge at 10am for a warm, hearty farm breakfast. After breakfast a Khoi etching walk (a 10km drive and 1 km walk) will be a good way to collect some more pictures of insects, butterflies, birds and animals to upload onto the virtual museum in the evening at the lodge. Return to the lodge at 6pm to refresh and enjoy dinner.

## Day 9

Today you will learn how to place trail cameras, this is often how scientists see and learn about very shy animals. You will learn how to set them up and how to analyse the collected photos. After setting up our trail cameras, awaiting the animals to pass through, we will take part in a star gazing activity. The stars you see in the Karoo are out of this world, literally and figuratively.



## Day 10

Rhino day speaks for itself. Just before breakfast you and your fellow volunteers will find yourself feeding full-size adult rhino, after which you will learn about their conservation status, threats and ways in which we can mitigate such threats. Ending the day under the astonishing stars where you will spend the evening taking shifts in anti-poaching activities.

## Day 11

For the next three days you will learn how to be a true scientist. You will divide yourselves into groups after which you will start to conduct a mini research project. This might help you explore possible career options in science and to help you make future career plans.



## Day 12

The topic of your mini research experiment will be chosen by you and your group members. You will have to improvise, for example: Every evening you drink fruit juice and frustratingly you observe that when you leave your juice alone then suddenly there are many insects inside your juice. However, your friend's juice doesn't attract as many insects. Why is that? Your science experiment might be to explore which fruit juice is more attractive to insects and why you think this is the case. How will you test this and set up the experiment? This is where the fun begins!



# Day to Day

## Day 13

Today will be your final day of conducting your science project. In the evening you and your teammates will present your science experiment and findings to the rest of the group. This will be a fun interactive activity. Be prepared to get creative.



## Day 14

Now it is a good chance to experience more intimate time with the animals by feeding the rhinos, buffalos and lambs. The baby animals will pull at your heart strings. Then a relaxing day to spend at your leisure with a tasty "braai" (African barbecue) evening to top it all off.

## Day 15

Today is all about horses, we will go to the neighboring farms where you spend time with these elegant creatures, getting to know them and learning how to take care of them. You will have the opportunity to practice horse riding (a great opportunity for any newcomers or experienced riders).



## Day 16

Another day spent with the horses. For those of you who did not get the opportunity to go on the outrides or those who did not take part in grooming activities, now is your chance.

## Day 17

For your last day in the Karoo you can relax and soak up the glowing African sun next to the refreshing pool.



## Day 18

After breakfast you will check out of your accommodation and depart for Bloemfontein Airport by road. After a short flight you will arrive at Cape Town International Airport and be transferred to your accommodation in Greenpoint. After check in you will be shown to your rooms and will have the afternoon/evening at leisure.

## Day 19

Start your day with a joyride in the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway which offers you a scenic ride up to the top of Table Mountain (weather dependent). Once you reach the top you will be welcomed with views of Cape Town, Table Bay, Robben Island and the Atlantic seaboard to the west and the south. While you are up there, spend some time walking the footpaths. Next up visit the Bo-Kaap area, or "Malay Quarter" with its brightly coloured houses and vibrant culture. Here you will discover the unique history, lifestyle and personality of the Cape's Muslim community and their contribution to the South African heritage.



## Day 20

Cape Peninsula Tour – Shipwreck Trail Hike, Boulders Beach and Stand-up Paddle Boarding in Muizenberg  
A Cape Peninsula Tour with a difference. Hike Cape Point Nature Reserve with an experienced, qualified and knowledgeable guide. This hike is an easy 2 hours and suitable for all ages. Then visit the Penguins at Boulders Beach and learn to stand-up paddle board in Muizenberg.

## Day 21

Whale Watching in Hermanus.  
Join us for a spectacular day out in Hermanus, watching the Giants of the Sea, the majestic whales, from either a kayak or boat, spotting Cape Fur seals, penguins and dolphins. Eat lunch at a seaside restaurant and then a walk through this quaint little town for some last minute gift shopping. Thereafter return to Cape Town International Airport where your adventure comes to an end.





# TERMS

## Included

- 1-night stay at the Garden Court OR Tambo International Airport on an AI basis
- 16-night stay at the KhoiSan Karoo Conservancy on a FI basis
- 3-night stay at The B.I.G on a B&B basis
- Ground transfers

## Excluded

- Dinner and lunch at The B.I.G
- Items of personal nature
- International flights



...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS



# WHY SOUTH AFRICA?



South Africa, on the continent's southern tip, is the 25th-largest country in the world – slightly less than twice the size of Texas. It boasts a lengthy coastline, stretching more than 1,500 miles along two oceans, the South Atlantic on the west and the Indian on the south and east. South Africa is neighbored by Namibia in the northwest, Zimbabwe and Botswana in the north, with Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho in the northeast.

Its natural beauty and scenic wonders are legendary, from its soaring mountain peaks and passes, dense and ancient forests, to its miles of unspoiled coastline and rolling flower fields and grasslands of every hue. South Africa truly offers something to lift everyone's spirits.

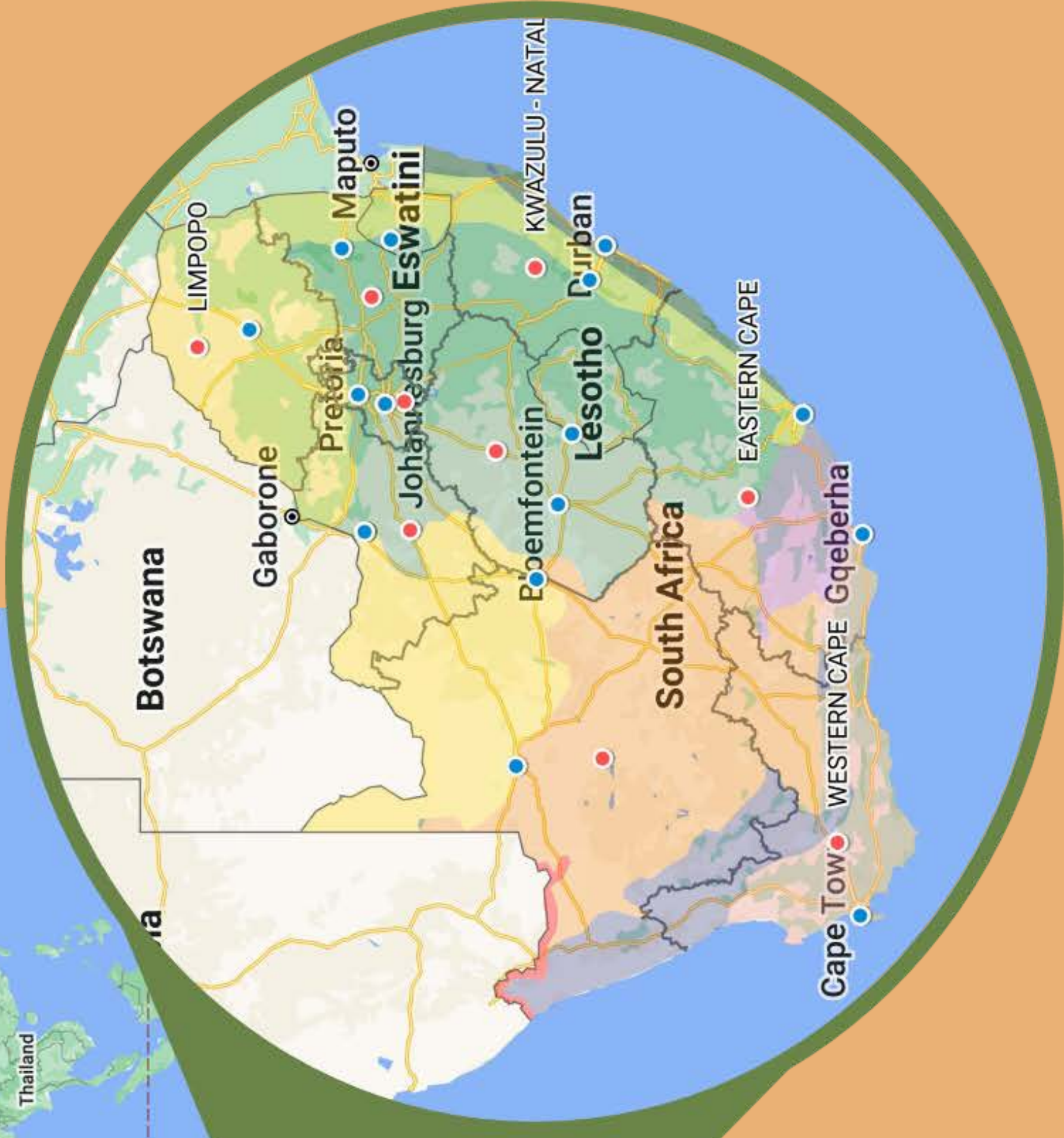
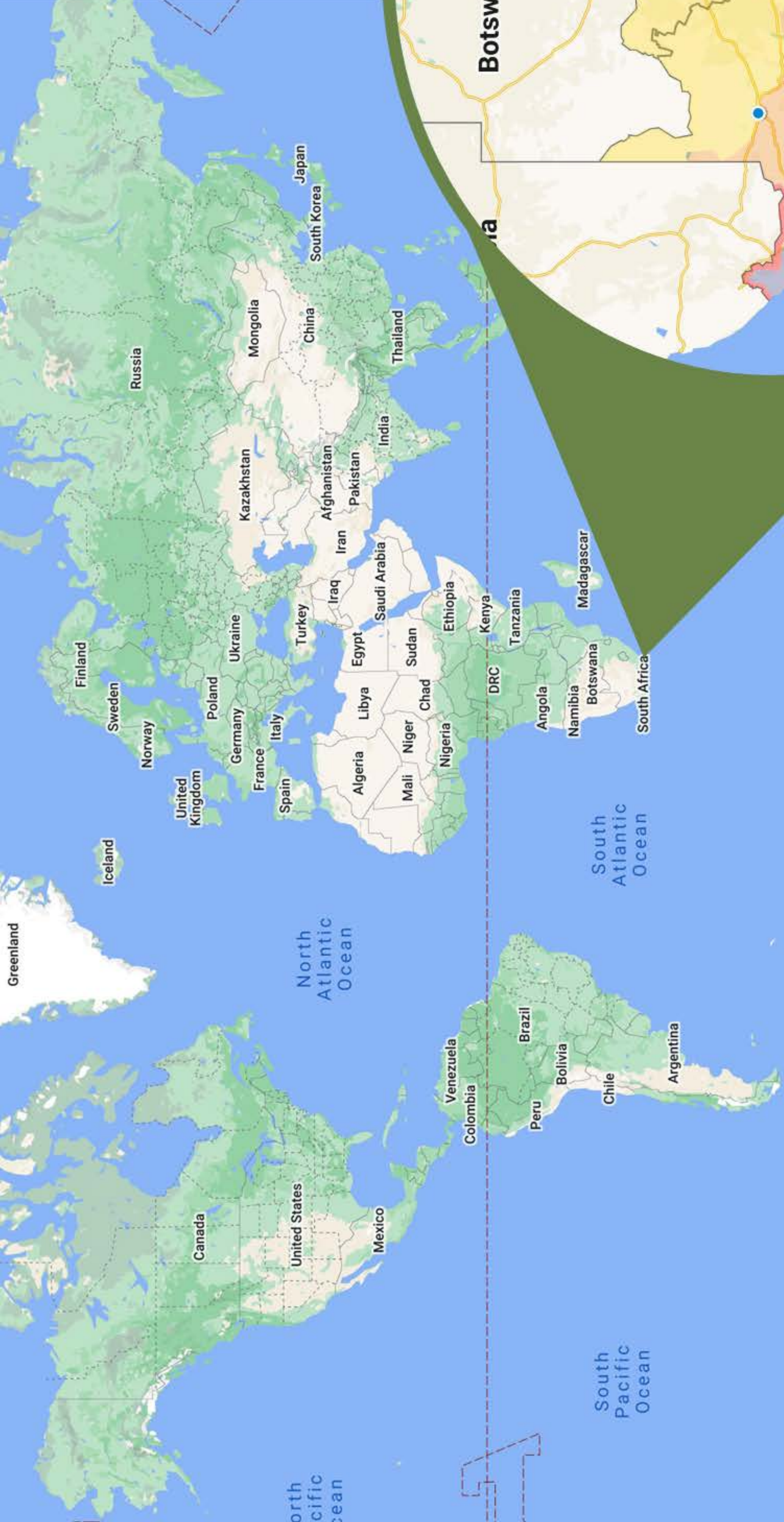
South Africa is known as the adventure capital of the world. Whether it's seeing the big game animals, diving with Great White Sharks, death defying adventure sports or discovering the humanity and generosity of other cultures. Game viewing and safari in South Africa is as up-close and wild as it gets. Almost anywhere you travel in South Africa you will experience an overwhelming abundance of nature, wildlife, culture, adventure, heritage and good vibes.

One of the world's most captivating cities, Cape Town – and the Cape Peninsula up to Cape Point – are famous for its scenic beauty and celebrity beaches, 3,500 foot Table Mountain rising above the city, whale-watching, world-class shopping, nightlife, food & wine, and a laid-back atmosphere. Indeed, with wine regions stretching from the Western to the far Northern Cape and the edge of the Karoo, one can almost taste their way around South Africa.

South Africa's 'City of Gold' is Johannesburg, which pulsates with an African heartbeat felt in its endless opportunities for shopping, entertainment, freedom tours and eating out, while the world-renowned Kruger National Park is as large as Massachusetts, and consists of nearly 5 million acres and features 16 ecosystems.

When it's time to plan the most exotic golf getaway imaginable, think South Africa. The quintet of Sun City, Johannesburg, Cape Town, the Garden Route and Durban will provide the trip of a lifetime and memories for a lifetime too.





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**KHOISAN KAROO**  
CONSERVANCY

**\*All itineraries can be adjusted/customised to suit your specific needs**

**\*Contact us to enquire about special student deals**

Photos were provided by Rick Nuttall, Jamie Paterson, Pc Ferreira and Southern Sky Adventures , unless otherwise indicated.



# ABOUT Us

## Southern Sky Adventures

For almost two decades Southern Sky Adventures has introduced discerning travellers to the sheer magnificence of AFRICA. A land of warm welcomes, breath-taking sunsets, pristine wilderness areas and diversity as colourful as the local artwork.

Our tailormade- and expertly-guided safaris showcase Africa's finest hidden gems, the elusive BIG 5, wild remote locations and a natural space to unplug from the stress of modern day living. We pride ourselves on the delivery of exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime and truly memorable travel experiences for not only families, honeymooners and friends but also business travellers, school- & university groups and adventure seekers.

Although passionate about travel, we care deeply for the preservation of these untouched wild areas, the inhabiting wildlife and the surrounding communities.

Sit back, relax and allow our team of destination specialists to design and deliver your dream vacation!



Southern Sky  
Adventures



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## Khoisan Karoo Conservancy

KhoiSan Karoo Conservancy includes the Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve and the Hanover Aardvark Nature Reserve. New Holme Nature Lodge is the main lodge at Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve with Stoffels Rus and Karoo Gariep tented camp as additional accommodation options.

At Karoo Gariep Nature reserve we offer a variety of activities, from bird watching, night drives, a 3-day horse trail, fishing and mountain biking. On these two Reserves we also host and organize eight different events per year. We have four social- and two nature orientated projects we initiate under the Karoo Gariep Wildlife Conservation and Rhino Project (NPO).

Come and enjoy the finest the Karoo has to offer.



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Conservancy



[www.khoisankaroo.co.za](http://www.khoisankaroo.co.za)



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