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## GEEO ITINERARY

South Africa and Zimbabwe 6/30/2025

### **Day 1: Cape Town Arrive in Cape Town at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.**

Arrive in Cape Town at any time. The airport is **Cape Town International Airport (CPT)**. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in South Africa at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference and overcome any jet lag. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Cape Town before the trip. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. **Joining Instructions** Cape Town International Airport is about 22 km from downtown. If you pay in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. Otherwise, we recommend two ways to get into the city:

- Taxi: After exiting the international terminal, cross the street to the taxi stand. Official taxis have the kilometer rate indicated on the door. Uber and Bolt are also available in Cape Town.
- Shuttle: After arriving at the international terminal, turn left and walk straight ahead until you come to the shuttle services desk.

**Accommodation:** Inn on the Square (or similar) \* *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

### **Day 2: Cape Town Enjoy a full day in Cape Town with the option to visit Table Mountain, choose to explore Cape Point, or embark on a wine tour around Stellenbosch. In the evening, opt to join your group for a meal at one of Cape Town's many great restaurants.**

Enjoy a day of leisure in Cape Town, choosing from a variety of optional activities. There is something for everyone in Cape Town. Visit Table Mountain, explore Cape Point, or embark on a wine tour in and around Stellenbosch. For the adventurous, opt to go skydiving, abseiling, or, if you're really brave, cage diving for a close encounter with a great white shark. Wander through the city center, which has some of the oldest buildings and gardens in South Africa. Check out the Cultural Historical Museum, Planetarium, and many other museums and theaters. See our optional activities section further below for more information. If you are interested in visiting Robben Island, you must book it directly with the museum on their website in advance: <http://www.robben-island.org.za>. **Due to high demand, it is common that this tour can be sold out over one month in advance.** **Accommodation:** Inn on the Square (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

### **Day 3: Cape Town/Johannesburg Take a short flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg. In the afternoon, travel to Soweto for a bicycle tour and learn more about its important history and significant role during apartheid in bringing the issues of segregation to the forefront.**

Take a short flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg. In the afternoon, explore South Africa's largest township on two wheels and under your own steam. This guided bike tour (1-2 hrs) will take you through the vibrant streets of Soweto, giving you the opportunity to meet some of its diverse residents, see the sights, hear the music, and even taste a local "home-brewed" beer. **Accommodation:** Onomo

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Johannesburg Sandton Hotel (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast **Approximate travel time:** 2 hrs by plane, 1.5 hrs by private vehicle, 1-2 hrs by bike

**Day 4: Johannesburg/Greater Kruger Area Take the Panorama Route into the Kruger National Park area. In the evening, enjoy a traditional dinner and dance experience.**

Sit back for a long day on the road as we take in the scenery on the Panorama Route into the Kruger National Park area. In the evening, enjoy a cultural encounter with the local community. Get a taste of the local cuisine with a delicious dinner, then watch a traditional dance performance. Accommodation for the next two nights will be in luxury, air-conditioned tents with en-suite bathrooms. Each tent has a lovely covered deck overlooking the Sabie River and the lush foliage of hundreds of macadamia trees.

**Accommodation:** Lions Rock Rapids luxury tents (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner **Approximate travel time:** 8 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 5: Kruger National Park Enjoy a full-day wildlife safari drive in Kruger NP. Keep an eye out for Africa's famed "big five."**

Jump into our touring vehicle for a full-day safari in Kruger National Park, home to an extraordinary array of large mammals. Spot elephants, lions, giraffes, and perhaps elusive leopards as we explore this breathtaking wilderness of savanna and scrubland. At over 7,500 square miles and 147 species, Kruger is one of the largest and most impressive animal reserves in the world and has more species of large mammals than any other park on the continent. If you want an open-top 4x4 safari instead of the included safari in our touring vehicle, you can sign up for an optional 4x4 safari instead for an extra fee. Return to our camp in the evening, where you can take some time to relax and enjoy the nocturnal sounds of the bush. **Accommodation:** Lions Rock Rapids luxury tents (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

**Day 6: Kruger National Park Head north to Timbavati Safari Lodge for a guided nature walk in search of the "small 5." Listening, touching, and sensing can open your world to the real secrets of the African Lowveld.**

Head north to Timbavati Safari Lodge. We will have a bush walk looking out for the "small 5": the antlion, elephant shrew, leopard tortoise, buffalo weaver, and rhino beetle. The bush is rich in legends and historical narratives and boasts a diverse array of bugs/insects and reptiles, as well as an abundance of indigenous plant species with medicinal and traditional uses that are best explored through the expertise of local guides. **Accommodation:** Timbavati Safari Lodge (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner **Approximate travel time:** 2 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 7: Greater Kruger Area/Louis Trichardt Opt for a morning safari drive or soak up the atmosphere in the camp before traveling to the next location in the Louis Trichardt area. Spend the afternoon relaxing by the pool or opt to walk/hike around the property.**

Opt for a morning safari drive or soak up the atmosphere in the camp before traveling to the next location in the Louis Trichardt area. You will have a free afternoon. One option is to explore and investigate the diverse fauna and flora of this lush area on foot. Marked trails take you across scenic valleys, along sparkling streams, and through various indigenous forests. There is an Anglo-Boer history museum that can be visited at Lalapanzi Hotel free of charge. Guided tours of the museum can be arranged in advance at Reception with the help of your tour leader. You could also relax by the pool. **Accommodation:** Lalapanzi Hotel (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast **Approximate travel time:** 3-4 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 8: Louis Trichardt/Great Zimbabwe Monument Area Get an earlier start and cross the border into Zimbabwe. Continue on to the Great Zimbabwe**

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## Monument.

Get an early start for another long day on the road. You'll want to have your passport easily accessible for the border crossing into Zimbabwe. **Accommodation:** Clevers Lakeview Resort Guesthouse (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner **Approximate travel time:** 7-8 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 9: Great Zimbabwe Monument Area/Matobo National Park Start the day with a visit to the Great Zimbabwe National Monument, Africa's most significant ruins site south of Cairo. Learn the history of the ruins and climb to the citadel for a view of the site. Continue on to Matobo National Park.**

We start the day with a visit to the Great Zimbabwe National Monument, the ancient ruins site the country was named for. Hike around the site, climb to the citadel, and learn more about the life of the people who inhabited the area and how these structures were built. Afterward, continue to Matobo National Park. **Accommodation:** Farmhouse Matopos (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast **Approximate travel time:** 4.5-5.5 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 10: Matobo National Park Wake up early and opt to explore ancient cave paintings, visit the grave of Rhodes, hike the unique and stunning landscape, or hang out by the pool. In the afternoon, enjoy an included nature walk with the opportunity to get up close and personal with the resident wildlife.**

Wake up early and opt to explore ancient cave paintings, visit the grave of Rhodes, hike the unique and stunning landscape, or hang out by the pool. In the afternoon, enjoy an included nature walk with the opportunity to get up close and personal with the resident wildlife. **Accommodation:** Farmhouse Matopos (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 11: Matobo National Park/Hwange National Park Travel to Hwange National Park for an opportunity to spot more wildlife. Opt to enjoy an evening wildlife safari drive in a safari vehicle.**

We will spend most of today driving to Hwange National Park. When we arrive, opt to enjoy an evening wildlife safari drive in a safari vehicle. **Accommodation:** Hwange Safari Lodge (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast **Approximate travel time:** 6-7 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 12: Hwange National Park/Victoria Falls Continue on to Victoria Falls and enjoy lunch at the G Adventures-supported Lusumpuko Women's Club. Marvel at the spectacular falls from the Zimbabwean side, then enjoy free time in the afternoon to explore further.**

This morning, we will drive to our final stop, Victoria Falls! For lunch, we will sit down for a traditional, Zimbabwean meal, cooked by the Lusumpuko Women's Club, a group of women from a nearby township. A demonstration by the ladies will show you exactly how Zimbabweans traditionally eat their food, and you'll be served a farm-to-table meal made with traditional, local, in-season ingredients. This meal provides much-needed income to the cooperatives' 20 members, changing their lives and families in the process. In the afternoon, witness the natural splendor of the massive falls from the Zimbabwean side. The entrance fee is included for your self-guided visit. The rest of your day will be free to explore more of Victoria Falls. We recommend crossing the border to see the Falls from the Zambian side. Please keep in mind your accommodation is in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) and NOT Livingstone (Zambia). Please make sure you have the necessary visa. We recommend getting visas for both countries. You cannot use a KAZA visa for this trip because you are entering Zimbabwe through a border that does not accept a KAZA visa. **Accommodation:** Explorers Village Lodge (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch **Approximate travel time:** 2-3 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 13: Victoria Falls Depart Victoria Falls at any time.**

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There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Victoria Falls at any time. The airport is **Victoria Falls International Airport (VFA)**. If you wish to extend your stay in Victoria Falls, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. We highly recommend pre-booking an excursion with us to **Chobe National Park** in Botswana. This full-day guided tour to a wildlife-abundant region includes a cruise on the Chobe River, lunch, and an afternoon wildlife safari with an expert guide. This activity includes two border crossings between Zimbabwe and Botswana (transportation provided), so you will need to purchase a double-entry visa when you first arrive in Zimbabwe. (If you also plan to visit the Zambian side of Victoria Falls, you will need to pay for the Zambian visa and yet another Zimbabwean visa to re-enter Zimbabwe.) Please note the Chobe National Park excursion takes an entire day, so you will need to book at least one post-trip night in Victoria Falls. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:**  
Breakfast

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*\*Itinerary Disclaimer: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*