

SOUTH AFRICA

STUDY TOUR 19 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER 2025





The Marc – Sandton

DISCOVER SOUTH AFRICA'S DIVERSE AND UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE

Join us for a 15-night, 16-day captivating journey with the Design Matters National **South Africa Study Tour**, set for 19 September – 5 October 2025. This tour is an unforgettable experience for architects, building designers, urban planners and enthusiasts of architecture and design, offering a once-in-a-lifetime look into South Africa's tapestry of unique architectural styles reflecting the immense cultural diversity in this "Rainbow" nation.



Ndebele village

OUR ARCHITECTURAL DISCOVERY

FRI-19-SEP-25

Depart Australia

The most convenient option is the non-stop, 14-hour Qantas flight 63 from Sydney to Johannesburg. The current schedule departs at 9:30am arriving 4:45pm same day.

On arrival at Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport you will be met and transferred to the Maslow Hotel in Sandton.

Welcome Drinks

Meet your fellow travellers and colleagues for welcome drinks at your hotel.

SAT-20-SEP-25

Breakfast at leisure.

Morning Tour – Sandton, Africa's Richest Square Mile

On this morning's tour we delve into the heart of Sandton in Johannesburg's northern suburbs with its architecturally impressive corporate head offices, retail and residential precincts in this commercial hub, reputedly "Africa's Richest Square Mile".

Some of the projects we will view or visit include the stunning Sasol Headquarters, the sleek elegant Discovery Place and the sheer brilliance of The Marc – just a few of the impressive structures that will leave you inspired.

We will uncover the stories behind these architectural gems, uncovering the innovative design principles and visionary thinking that have transformed Sandton into a global hub of cutting-edge design.

Welcome Dinner

In dining, South Africa is renowned for perfectly aged tender steaks complemented by excellent red wines and this evening we will introduce you to this tradition at one of the renowned eateries in Sandton. For the non-carnivorous, of course seafood and vegetarian options are available.



Voortrekker Monument – Pretoria

SUN-21-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Full Day Tour – Johannesburg and Soweto – Challenging Perceptions

Founded in 1886 with the discovery of gold on the Reef, Johannesburg has grown into South Africa's largest city and the main financial centre of the country. Discover the city of gold on today's tour of Johannesburg and Soweto. This experience offers a profound exploration of the nation's complex past and its enduring resilience.

Our tour begins at the renowned Apartheid Museum, a poignant and powerful testament to the struggle for equality. As you wander through the exhibits, you will bear witness to the triumph of the human spirit and gain a deeper understanding of the architectural and urban planning decisions that both enabled and challenged the government of the time.

Next, you will venture into the vibrant township of Soweto, where you will have the opportunity to visit the iconic Nelson Mandela House. This humble abode serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and triumphs of one of the world's most revered leaders.

Enjoy a delectable lunch in Soweto, food that embodies the energetic and welcoming spirit of the township, bustling with enthusiastic tunes and drowned in the aroma of home-cooked Soweto cuisine!

After lunch return to Sandton where the remainder of the afternoon is free to relax.

Evening at leisure.

MON-22-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Transfer Johannesburg to Sun City via Pretoria – SA Seat of Power

En route to Sun City we begin our adventure at the Voortrekker Monument, a towering granite structure that stands as a testament to the resilience and determination of the Afrikaner people. Marvel at the intricate designs and symbolism that imbue this landmark with profound cultural significance.

Next, venture to the Union Buildings, the seat of South African government, where you'll be awed by the impressive Edwardian architecture and its harmonious blend of classical and contemporary elements designed by English architect Sir Herbert Baker.

No visit to Pretoria would be complete without exploring Freedom Park, a poignant memorial that commemorates the country's tumultuous past and celebrates its hard-won freedoms. Delve into the captivating narratives woven into the park's design, as you gain a deeper understanding of South Africa's complex history and its enduring spirit.

This enriching journey through Pretoria's architectural gems will serve as the perfect prelude to your arrival at the Sun City resort, where you'll have the opportunity to immerse yourself in a world of modern design and cutting-edge leisure experiences.

Private dinner at the Palace of the Lost City

An inclusive dinner, a chance to unwind and relax with your fellow travellers.



The Palace of the Lost City



Lobby dome – Palace of the Lost City



Cape Town

WED-24-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Today is a day at leisure – an opportunity to immerse yourselves in the breathtaking natural landscapes and meticulously designed facilities that have earned Sun City its reputation as a world-class destination.

From teeing off on championship golf courses to swimming in the iconic Wave Pool, or embark on thrilling game drives through the surrounding wilderness, where you'll have the chance to observe Africa's iconic wildlife in their natural habitat. Alternatively, explore the resort's cutting-edge architectural marvels, from the towering hotels to the innovative leisure facilities.

Whether you're seeking inspiration, relaxation, or a chance to network with like-minded professionals, this exclusive tour of Sun City promises to leave a lasting impression.

Evening at leisure.

THU-25-SEP-2025

Sun City to Cape Town

Breakfast at leisure.

10:30am After breakfast transfer to Johannesburg Airport for your flight to Sun City

Flight Airlink 4Z 931 dep 1505 arrival Cape Town 1720

Cape Town – the “Mother City”

With a population of approximately 3.7 million, Cape Town is South Africa's second most populous city, a quintessential melting pot of architectural styles, people, cuisine and colour. As the first settled region of southern Africa by the Dutch East India Company and Dutch settlers, it is referred to as the “Mother City”.

Dinner at the V&A Waterfront

This evening's welcome to Cape Town dinner will be at one of the restaurants in the vibrant Victoria & Alfred Waterfront precinct.

TUE-23-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Sun City – Fantasyland in the Bush

Discover Sun City and the inspiration that led to its creation.

The iconic Sun City resort is a marvel of modern inspiration, design and ingenuity. Led by a senior manager at the resort, we delve into the visionary concept that gave birth to this renowned leisure destination, gaining insights into the meticulous planning and execution that brought Sun City to life. Witness firsthand the seamless integration of natural landscapes and cutting-edge structures, where the boundaries between man-made and nature blur into seamless harmony.

Explore the resort's stunning architectural features, from the grand, sweeping vistas to the intricate details that showcase the design – glitzy and gaudy or sophisticated and tasteful – you be the judge. Immerse yourself in the grounds tour, where you'll uncover the ingenious use of space, light, and materials that have earned Sun City its reputation as a jewel in the crown of South African tourism.

Afternoon and evening at leisure to enjoy and experience this amazing resort.



African Penguins – Boulders Beach

FRI-26-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Full Day Tour – Cape Town's Icons

On today's exploration of Cape Town's rich architectural heritage we discover the city's iconic architectural landmarks, with the ever present dramatic backdrop of Table Mountain ensuring that nature still always dominates the beautiful city scape.

Your tour begins with the ascent to the top of Table Mountain on a revolving cable car that takes you to the top of the mountain, where you can enjoy stunning views of the city bowl, Robben Island and Table Bay.

Upon our descent, we venture to the historic Castle of Good Hope, a remarkable example of Dutch colonial architecture that has stood the test of time. Discover the vibrant Bokaap neighbourhood, renowned for its kaleidoscopic houses and unique Islamic-influenced styles.

The tour culminates at the renowned V&A Waterfront, where you'll have the opportunity to engage directly with a representative from the development team. Gain insights into the meticulous planning and innovative design that have transformed this once-industrial area into a thriving hub of commerce, culture, and architectural excellence.

Evening at leisure.



Bokaap – Cape Town

SAT-27-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Full Day Tour – Cape of Good Hope

The tour commences with a drive through spectacular and exclusive suburban beachside enclaves of Clifton and Camps Bay before venturing along the renowned Chapman's Peak Drive, a scenic coastal route that boasts some of the most awe-inspiring vistas in the world, as you make your way to the iconic Cape Point.

At the tip of the Cape Peninsula, you'll be greeted by the dramatic cliffs, pristine beaches and diverse wildlife as you view the meeting point of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

We'll view the charming African penguins at Boulders Beach before travelling through the Victorian-era splendour of Simonstown, a quaint coastal town that seamlessly blends history and modern architecture.

Evening at leisure.

SUN-28-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Half Day Tour – Discover Symbolic Robben Island

Robben Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and we will discover its captivating past as a former penal colony.

With guided commentary from former inmates explore the island's iconic buildings, including the maximum-security prison that once held Nelson Mandela and other prominent anti-apartheid activists. Gain insights into the design features that allowed the prison to function as a self-sufficient community, despite the harsh conditions imposed on its inhabitants. Discover how the island's unique geography and climate influenced the construction of its fortifications, hospitals and other structures, providing a fascinating case study for architects.

The afternoon and evening are at leisure. for you to explore the "Mother City" at your own pace.



MON-29-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Full Day Tour – Discover Cape Dutch Architectural Masterpieces

Today's captivating journey will take us through the historic town of Stellenbosch and the renowned Winelands region. This exclusive tour offers a unique opportunity to witness the remarkable interplay between timeless Cape Dutch architecture and the idyllic natural landscapes.

Your adventure begins in the charming streets of Stellenbosch, where you'll marvel at the impeccably preserved examples of Cape Dutch architectural style. Admire the ornate gables, whitewashed walls, and thatched roofs that define this heritage-rich town, gaining insight into the design principles and cultural influences that have shaped this architectural legacy.

Other highlights include visits to several wineries with their Cape Dutch architecture and others with cutting-edge contemporary design. We will also visit the prestigious Boschendal Wine Estate, where you'll indulge in a picnic lunch amidst the verdant vineyards and rolling hills. This picturesque setting will provide the perfect backdrop for networking, discussion, and gaining inspiration.

In the late afternoon return to Cape Town and enjoy the evening at leisure.

TUE-30-SEP-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Cape Town is regularly voted as one of the top 10 scenic cities in the world to visit. The city is vibrant, with diverse populations, architecture, museums, cultivated gardens and dramatic natural landscapes. With so much to discover, today is at leisure for you to explore at your own pace.

WED-1-OCT-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Cape Town to Victoria Falls

7:30am transfer to Cape Town airport for your flight to Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

Air Link Flight 4Z 390 dep 0945 arrival Vic Falls 1240

As you depart the vibrant city of Cape Town prepare yourself for the journey to one of the world's most breathtaking natural wonders – Victoria Falls.

Discover Victoria Falls – One of the World's 7 Natural Wonders

Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is home to part of Victoria Falls and is named so because "Mosi-Oa-Tunya" means "the smoke that thunders". At 1,700 metres wide and 100 metres in height, the Victoria Falls are the largest single falling sheet of water on the planet.

The numbers almost seem too impossible to imagine, at 500 million litres of water that cascades every minute, which is the equivalent of 200 Olympic-sized swimming pools to put things into perspective.

The area is surrounded by wilderness with abundant wildlife roaming the region: lion, elephant, hippos, crocodiles, giraffe, zebra and a plethora of antelope and buck.

Exploring the Architecture

How do you support tourism without spoiling the environment?

This is a unique unspoiled wilderness region where nature and wildlife dominate the landscape and humankind are just privileged observers.

During our exploration of this region, we will explore developments that harmoniously blend with their natural surroundings. These designs enhance the area's natural beauty while providing visitors with unparalleled experiences.

Sundowner Cruise on the Mighty Zambezi

Imagine yourself gliding along the iconic Zambezi River, surrounded by a unique riverscape as you sip on a refreshing sundowner. Keep your eyes peeled for the natural wildlife that call this breathtaking region home. And just when you think the day can't get any more spectacular, the sky erupts in a dazzling sunset display of colour as the sun dips below the horizon.



Victoria Falls

THU-2-OCT-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Uncover the Essence of African Culture at Victoria Falls

Today we visit a local African township offering a glimpse into the daily lives, customs, and traditions of the local people who have called this breathtaking region home for generations.

Witness how the tribe's time-honoured ways of living, working, and playing have endured the test of time. From observing traditional craftsmanship, this immersive experience will challenge your preconceptions and ignite a deeper appreciation for the resilience and ingenuity of African societies.

As you engage with the local inhabitants, you'll gain invaluable insights, from sustainable building techniques to the symbiotic relationship between people and their environment. This is an opportunity to not only expand your cultural awareness but also find inspiration in the timeless design principles that have shaped the tribe's enduring way of life.

Evening at leisure.

FRI-3-OCT-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

Full day at leisure – Victoria Falls is also regarded as the adventure capital of Africa where there are game viewing options, white-water rafting, scenic flights over the Falls, bungee jump or zip line over the canyon below the Falls or simply soak up the beauty and relax along the banks of the incomparable Zambezi River.

Farewell Dinner

This evening's dinner will be a unique experience where you can network, share stories and be inspired by the past 2 weeks of learning and discovery.

SAT-4-OCT-2025

Breakfast at leisure.

We depart from Victoria Falls for a flight to Johannesburg and convenient connections onto Australia.

10:00am transfer to the airport

Air Link Flight 4Z 493 dep 1230 arrival Johannesburg 1415

This flight connects with Qantas flight QF64 departing Johannesburg at 1715



The Palms Hotel



SUN-5-OCT-2025

Arrival in Australia.

Extend Your Stay

Victoria Falls is the perfect jumping off point for safaris in some of the most game-rich wildernesses on the planet.

Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe has a huge diversity of wildlife with a number of luxury tented safari camps.

Chobe National Park in Botswana boasts some of the largest elephant herds on the planet.

The **Okavango Delta** is where the 17,000 km² Okavango River Delta spreads into the Kalahari Desert, the only river on the planet that doesn't flow into the sea, creating one of the world's largest untouched wilderness regions with an abundance of wildlife.

Contact our office for further information.



INCLUSIONS

- 15 nights accommodation on a twin share basis
- Daily breakfasts
- All coach transportation, touring and transfers indicated in the program
- Admission fees to all attractions, museums and private sites we will be visiting
- Exclusive site visits to venues not available to the general public
- A total of 4 group dinners including beverages in each of the key locations we will be visiting
- Lunch on the full day tour in Soweto
- Picnic lunch at a wine estate
- Flights within southern Africa in economy class on AirLink:
 - Johannesburg to Cape Town (25 September)
 - Cape Town to Victoria Falls – Zimbabwe (1 October)
 - Victoria Falls to Johannesburg (4 October)
- Local guides will provide commentary and general background on all tours and site visits will be conducted by experts in their field
- Tips to service providers, drivers and guides

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights from your home port to Johannesburg and back to your home port
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified
- Room services and items of personal nature such as laundry



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