

# **A South African Journey: From the Clash between Civilizations to the Rainbow Nation**

**With Julian Resnick**

**March 16th to 29th 2016 (with an optional add on at the Victoria Falls,  
March 29th to 31st)**

One of the most complicated modern national stories. Nowhere else on the great African Continent have so many people left their mark. Someone once remarked that nobody told Cape Town that it was a part of Africa. But it once was archetypically African, in a time when conflicts were between the Khoi and the Xhosa, and there were no European footprints on the shores of the exquisite land. All that changed dramatically when the great search began for the Holy Grail of commerce: the trade route to India and all the fabulous riches it would bring. Christianity arrived with the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French and the British and played a complicated role in the unfolding story of what was to become South Africa.

Just in time for the great upheavals which would mark the history of the newly created South Africa in 1910 after the Anglo Boer War, the Jews of Lithuania and Latvia ran for their lives, escaping both pogroms and economic hardship. A curious mix of devout Jews filled with a passion for their Judaism and Radicals fired up by the new philosophies of Socialism and Zionism reach the shores of South Africa to make their home under this beautiful African sun.

Join us for a story more fascinating than most which takes place in a country more complicated than most with a backdrop more beautiful than most. Meet the remnants of the communities of Vilna, Kovno and Riga as well as the descendants of those who came to missionarize and those who came to escape the wars between Catholicism and Protestantism, all living as part of the Rainbow nation. Consider the past, the present and the future of this extraordinary, still developing society.

Our route will take in Cape Town and environs, Johannesburg and a wonderful game reserve, Motswari (for those who wish, there is also an optional add on to the magnificent Victoria Falls, staying at the legendary Victoria Falls Hotel). We will learn by meeting fascinating people, we will eat wonderful meals, we will drink great wine, we will be left breathless by the beauty, wonder and pain of it all.

### **Wednesday March 16th**

This will be the day you gather, coming in on flights from across the USA and Great Britain. We will begin with our opening site on the **Waterfront**, few steps away from our hotel. On to our opening dinner in the hotel.

**Dinner**

O/N Victoria and Alfred Hotel Cape Town

### **Thursday March 17th**

We begin to tell the story, an incredible story, in an incredible town, Cape Town. From the beginning of the story the complexities will be apparent, the questions difficult, past pain obvious. At the same time we will begin to savour the delightful flavours from the past which blend into a unique cuisine which hint at the origins of this ethnic melting pot. Sites include The **Cape Town Castle**, the **Grand Parade**, the **Slave Lodge**, the **Company Gardens** and the **District Six Museum**

**Breakfast, Dinner**

O/N Victoria and Alfred Hotel Cape Town

### **Friday March 18th**

We examine the Jewish and Christian communities during the Apartheid years. Sites include the **Jewish Museum**, the **Gardens Synagogue**, **St George's Cathedral**. There will be time to shop in **Greenmarket Square** and on **Long Street** (great alternative shopping venues). We will enjoy Home Hospitality with dinner in a number of local homes. Shabbat evening services are recommended for those who wish to join the local community.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

O/N Victoria and Alfred Hotel Cape Town

### **Saturday March 19th**

Cape Town is world famous for a number of iconic sites. Today we do two of them, arguably the most famous, **Table Mountain** (representing the wonders of nature with which South Africa is blessed) and **Robben Island** (recalling the curse of Apartheid).

**Breakfast**

O/N Victoria and Alfred Hotel Cape Town

### **Sunday March 20th**

We have a wonderful day in Nature, enjoying some of the wonders Cape Town has to offer. Sites include **Chapman's Peak drive**, the **Cape Point Nature reserve**, **Boulders Beach** (famous for the penguins) and **Kalk Bay**. Dinner in a Beach Restaurant.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

O/N Victoria and Alfred Hotel Cape Town

### **Monday March 21st**

The New South Africa. We start the day with a visit to the **Houses of Parliament**, once the site of the Albinocracy, South Africa's ersatz democracy and today the site of the struggle to maintain the Rainbow Nation. We continue the morning with a visit to one of the needier parts of Cape Town, meeting with both local residents and people involved in working for the New South Africa. We return to beauty in the afternoon after lunch in the beautiful **Constantia Valley**, visiting **Kirstenbosch**, one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

O/N Victoria and Alfred Hotel Cape Town

### **Tuesday March 22nd**

This powerful day has a very personal touch. I ask you to join me in visiting my own little piece of South Africa, not only to indulge my nostalgia, but also to understand what it meant, growing up in Apartheid South Africa and the price paid by those who chose to leave in addition to those who chose to stay. Luckily for you all, my childhood is connected to the heart of the famous **Wine lands** of the **Western Cape**. Sites include the **Jewish Cemetery, Stellenbosch** and **Somerset West**. Dinner with young people about what the future holds for South Africa.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

O/N Victoria and Alfred Hotel Cape Town

### **Wednesday March 23rd - Saturday March 26th**

The focus moves to one of the highlights of any visit to sub Saharan Africa, a **Safari** experience. For three and a half days we will search for the Big Five, an unforgettable experience.

**All Meals**

O/N Motswari Private Game Reserve

### **Saturday March 26th**

We leave the wilds for the troubled Metropolis of **Johannesburg**. The afternoon will use art as a lens to understanding what Johannesburg was, is and could be. The evening will be one filled with the special music of the townships.

**Breakfast**

O/N Intercontinental Sandton Towers Johannesburg

### **Sunday March 27th**

Soweto, Apartheid, Uprising. Some of the toughest moments of the Apartheid regime were experienced here. Soweto, South Western Townships remains one of the symbols of the days of Apartheid and here we will tell the story in all its painful detail. Sites include the **Apartheid Museum**, the **Hector Pieterse Museum** and **Mandela's house**.

**Breakfast, Lunch**

O/N Intercontinental Sandton Towers Johannesburg

**Monday March 28th**

"Justice will be done". Before leaving South Africa we will spend our last day looking at the memorials to the old South Africa and one of the Miracles of the New South Africa. We conclude with conversations about what will/could be. Lunch with Faith Leaders. Sites include the **John Vorster Square Heritage Memorial, The Constitutional Court, the Johannesburg Fort.**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

O/N Intercontinental Sandton Towers Johannesburg

**Tuesday March 29<sup>th</sup>**

At leisure until the transfer to your flight from the Oliver Tambo Airport back home

**Victoria Falls Add on**

**Tuesday March 29<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup>**

One final look at the wonder which is Africa and the challenge that is Africa as we leave South Africa for a two night visit to one of the wonders of the natural world, the **Victoria Falls** to see the "Thunder that Roars" on the **Zambezi River**. We stay at the extraordinary Victoria Falls Hotel, a once in a life time experience.

**Breakfasts**

O/N Victoria Falls Hotel

**Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Flight day. your flight returns to the Oliver Tambo airport around 3pm, in good time for evening flights.

**Subject to Change**

**Based on double occupancy for the South Africa portion \$6586 per person. Single supplement \$3250. Upgrade to a Mountain Facing room in Cape Town and a suite in Johannesburg \$1380 per person sharing**

This includes:

- Airport transfers, Cape Town and Johannesburg
- Internal flights, Cape Town to Hoedspruit (the airport adjacent to Motswari Game Reserve), Hoedspruit to Johannesburg
- All meals listed (including local drinks)
- All activities listed
- All entrance fees
- Julian Resnick accompanying the group throughout
- In addition, a local English speaking guide in Cape Town and Johannesburg
- Accompanied by an ex-political prisoner for the Robben Island visit
- An air conditioned bus in Cape Town and Johannesburg, plus small vans for Home Hospitality Friday evening meal
- Gratuities for meals included

Not included:

- Porterage
- Insurance
- Any visa costs

**Based on double occupancy the Victoria Falls add on, \$2500 per person**

This includes:

- Return international flights from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls
- All transfers to and from the airports
- 2 nights at the Victoria Falls hotel with breakfast included

Not included:

- Additional meals
- Special activities

**Notes:**

- Price subject to the changes in currency values on the days of payment as well as changes of the price of local air tickets until booked
- Price is based on a group of 20 paying participants
- Payment schedule: By July 1st 10% initial deposit paid directly to Julian Resnick\*; by September 1st 25% second payment; balance payment on December 15th. Please note that none of the payments are refundable except the initial deposit which will be refunded only in the event that we do not have sufficient participants to run the trip. We therefore recommend you take out cancellation insurance.
- I am partnering with a wonderful South African company Timeless African Safaris (TAS). Please read their Terms and Conditions (separate attachment). After the initial deposit to me all booking and payments to be done via Nicki Wray at TAS

\*Deposit Payment to Julian via a transfer to my Chase account in NYC:

Branch name: 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 41<sup>st</sup> Street

Address: 633 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, NY, NY 10017

Account routing number: 021000021

Account # 887533719