



SOUTH AFRICA TRAVEL

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South Africa was a destination I'd wanted to travel to for a long time. Because it was far away and required at least a week's time, I'd been putting it off for a long time. Finally, since the holiday season hadn't fully opened yet, we made time for South Africa, my 69th country, during Eid al-Adha.

I've also been receiving feedback for a long time that I travel a lot. My beloved gastroenterologist, Prof. Dr. Sait Bağcı, told me one day that he saw how much traveling nourished my soul. He also loved traveling, and that everyone should definitely have a hobby in their daily lives. He advises everyone to pursue art, sports, or something else that interests them. I continue to travel thanks to the advice of my family friend, a doctor who also conducts a Turkish Classical Music choir.

I also see that businesspeople all over the world have hobbies. A businessperson without a hobby can't relieve stress, and their resources for self-sufficiency are limited.

To benefit from our resources, we absolutely must open new avenues for ourselves. Furthermore, we must see the beauty our Almighty Creator has created in the world through the eyes of the world, be inspired, and examine it, step outside our shells, and expand our global vision.

After this introduction, where I explained the importance of travel, I'll finally begin to tell you about my trip to the Republic of South Africa.

How to Get to South Africa?

You can fly directly from Istanbul to Cape Town and Johannesburg, the capital of South Africa, with Turkish Airlines. You can also fly via Doha with Qatar Airways. Since we were traveling on a tour, the tour company flew us via Doha with Qatar Airways. We flew from Doha to Cape Town in 10 hours. From Johannesburg, we returned to Doha in 8 hours. The journey from Doha to Istanbul takes approximately 3.5 hours.

South Africa Route Planning

A South Africa trip can be planned as follows: Cape Town - Johannesburg - Sun City/Pilanesberg National Park - Johannesburg.

The domestic flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg takes approximately two hours.

The road trip from Johannesburg to Sun City takes approximately three hours.



Is South Africa Safe?

One person is killed every hour in Cape Town. In Johannesburg, one person is killed every 22 minutes. That's why we chose to take a tour. We didn't experience any safety issues anywhere the tour took us. We used Uber to go to places our guide recommended in both cities on our own and had no problems. However, South Africa is a place where robbery is very common due to an unemployment rate of around 40%, the problem of illegal immigration from neighboring African countries, their unemployment, and the unbalanced economic distribution between rich and poor.

In fact, South Africa is Africa's most developed country and Africa's "motherland," or Anatolia, as we call it. Because it is Africa's most developed country in terms of education, healthcare, and urbanization, and because Nelson Mandela embraced all of Africa, it is a country where citizens from all African countries have emigrated or

want to emigrate. However, irregular migration, past racism, and unbalanced economic distribution have made this country a country with a high crime rate in the last 10-15 years. In Johannesburg, the tour took us on a panoramic tour from inside the bus because the area was dangerous. Johannesburg also boasts one of the world's largest hospitals.

Our guide told us that the hospital has over 4,000 beds and consists of 70 buildings. In other words, South Africa is a country that surprises you in every way. Moreover, 8% of its population is white South Africans.

1.Cape Town

Cape Town was the most developed African city I've ever seen. The best part about this city is that you can reach nature in 15 minutes. And the world-famous Table Mountain is undeniably visible from every point in the city. Situated on the seashore, with Table Mountain as its backdrop, this city embraces you

with all the beauty of nature.

You find yourself in an African country. You feel like you're in America. It's a must-see city. Every corner of the city is covered in beautiful vegetation, an extension of Table Mountain National Park, and the entire national park is protected. The city's natural flora is said to be the richest in the world, home to thousands of plant species.

1.1.Table Mountain

Table Mountain greets all Cape Town residents as they wake up each morning. Clouds often descend over Table Mountain, and locals say it's been covered again. Table Mountain National Park encompasses a vast area. All of the natural flora and wildlife are protected. If you're lucky, if the cover has lifted, you can take a funicular up Table Mountain and enjoy the view. You can hike on Table Mountain, participate in trekking



and mountaineering activities, and enjoy the magnificent views of Cape Town.

1.2.Cape of Good Hope

The Cape of Good Hope is the southernmost point of Cape Town. The lighthouse at the Cape of Good Hope has been a beacon for traders for years. It's a very windy area, but the views are truly beautiful.

1.3.African Penguins

You've been wondering if there are penguins in Africa, haven't you? There are only 2,000 of these plump penguins left in South Africa.

Penguins are protected. You can see the African penguins at Boulders Beach while visiting the penguin park or on Boulder Beach.

1.4.Seal Island

Seal Island is a small island in Cape Town. You can reach this island by boat and observe the protected seals living on Seal Island. They are truly magnificent!

1.5.Gold Restaurant

Get ready to enjoy a wonderful African night with a 14-course tasting menu! Gold Restaurant offers a wonderful show featuring African dances. You should definitely visit this restaurant, which guarantees you'll enjoy a wide variety of dishes, from ostrich to impala, accompanied by energetic African music and dance.

1.6.Waterfront

Waterfront is a shopping mall, home to international brands and delightful restaurants. It's a safe



place in Cape Town where you can dine and shop, and enjoy a seaside restaurant with a view of both the sea and Table Mountain.

2.Johannesburg

2.1.City center tour

Johannesburg offers a completely different atmosphere than Cape Town. Yes, we see a very developed city here.

However, unplanned migration and unemployment have led to very high rates of extortion and crime. This is why you have to explore Downtown for a panoramic view before even getting off the bus. The city boasts tourist attractions where you can witness Nelson Mandela and the Dutch influence.

2.2.Apartheid Museum

The Apartheid Museum is one of the most impressive museums I've ever visited. This is the first time I've encountered the concept of racism so closely. At the entrance of the museum, we were randomly Tickets are provided. My ticket says "non-whites." Some people's tickets say "whites."

In other words, it's a museum that tells the story of apartheid in South



Africa, a period when it was divided into whites and non-whites, and supports it with photographs and documentaries. I enter through the "Negro" entrance. Others enter through the "Whites" entrance. The museum truly depicts the suffering endured during apartheid. It's a must-see, and if possible, a must-see with a local guide.

2.3. Gold Reef Gold Mine

Gold mines are the primary reason for the exploitation of South Africa, first by the British and then by the Dutch. Here, we visit a gold mine that has been converted into a museum, now defunct. It was a unique experience for me, as it was the first time I'd ever seen a gold mine. Furthermore, this mine contains iron, in addition to gold. Iron reserves interest me professionally, and my eyes sparkle.

2.4. Gold Reef Theme Park

Gold Reef Theme Park is a beautiful theme park, featuring the Apartheid Museum, the Gold Reef Gold Mine, and the Gold Reef Casino. Here, we can ride roller coasters and experience some adrenaline.

2.5. Monte Casino

Monte Casino is a casino complex located in Johannesburg. This complex's specialty isn't its casino, but its beautifully decorated indoor studios and numerous restaurants. It feels like a mini Universal Studios. Additionally, its exterior boasts numerous entertainment centers and restaurants. Because socializing in a safe environment is crucial for Johannesburg, it's a great place to visit.

2.6. Nelson Mandela Square

Nelson Mandela Square, which houses two shopping malls and restaurants, is a safe place to explore Johannesburg.

3. Suncity

Suncity is a place for visitors to South Africa to relax and have fun after their safari. Built as Africa's largest construction project, it hosted Queen Elizabeth and many Hollywood stars. It's a complex featuring a casino, hotels, a golf course, a world-famous wave pool, and a shopping mall. It's a man-made yet beautiful place where you can plan a two-day getaway during the spring season.

3.1. Suncity Hotels

The Palace Hotel is the region's most luxurious hotel. The Palace Hotel has previously hosted Queen Elizabeth and many other celebrities. It boasts beautiful natural pools and elegant restaurants. It's truly a haven from paradise! There are also several other hotel complexes within 5 minutes of each other in the area. You can stay at these hotels and enjoy the Suncity complex.

4. Safari

Now, let's get to the main reason for this trip! We traveled to South Africa to go on safari. It truly was one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life. I recommend it to everyone. However, there are some essential items you should bring with you when going on safari.

This is because safaris generally take place in the early morning or late afternoon. Animals usually come out to drink or hunt when the weather is cool. This also means cooler weather for us. Therefore, it's important to dress in layers when going on safari and wear neutral tones to avoid spooking the

animals. It's also important to bring a hat and a shawl to protect against the wind. Most importantly, bring a fully charged cell phone or camera! The safari lasts 3 hours, and I'm sure you'll capture some incredible photos!

4.1. Pilanesberg National Park

The areas where safaris take place in South Africa are called "National Reserves" or "Game Reserves." These areas are declared natural areas and national parks. Hunting is prohibited. You can go on safari in your own car or in a chauffeured 4x4 vehicle. However, the key here is for the safari guide to gather information and take you to areas where herds of five different animal species, known as the "Big Five," are found. Pilanesberg is a vast National Park, and in three hours, we only explored the areas where we had received intelligence. If we hadn't, we would have only seen one or two species.

The first 15 minutes of our safari were magical. First, we encountered gazelles, then a herd of rhinos...

then, suddenly, an elephant appeared in front of our Jeep and came within 4-5 meters of us. While we were mesmerized by the elephant, a giraffe appeared on our left and passed within 4-5 meters of us again. Just as we decided to continue on, an impala spotted us and ran past our Jeep, away from us. It was truly incredible.

Our local and Turkish guides were both amazed. It was a true miracle. Later, we saw tigers, rhinos, elephants, giraffes, zebras, impalas, a special kind of owl, deer, and gazelles. Going on safari to see them, trying to find them, remaining silent and watching, and photographing them were truly indescribable experiences. I'll save it among the memories I'll never forget...

4.2. Safari: Lion Park

Since we couldn't see any lions during the safari, we went on safari at the Lion Park, home to protected lion and cat species. This time, we boarded a jeep enclosed by bars. We saw animals like cheetahs, lions,

white lions, wild dogs, tigers, and giraffes. The animals were commonplace here, and while it wasn't a completely natural park, they were still found in vast, natural-looking areas, separated only by fences. The white lions were definitely my favorite! And the lions came right up to our jeep; it was truly incredible, just like in documentaries!

4.3. Lesedi Village

Lesedi Village is a mock African tribal village on the way back from Suncity to Johannesburg. There's a program here that includes lunch, a village tour, and dance performances. It felt artificial to me, but it offers a small glimpse into African culture.

Finally, South Africa was a dream country. I had a great time traveling and made some wonderful memories. I hope your next trip is to South Africa! Have a great trip!

