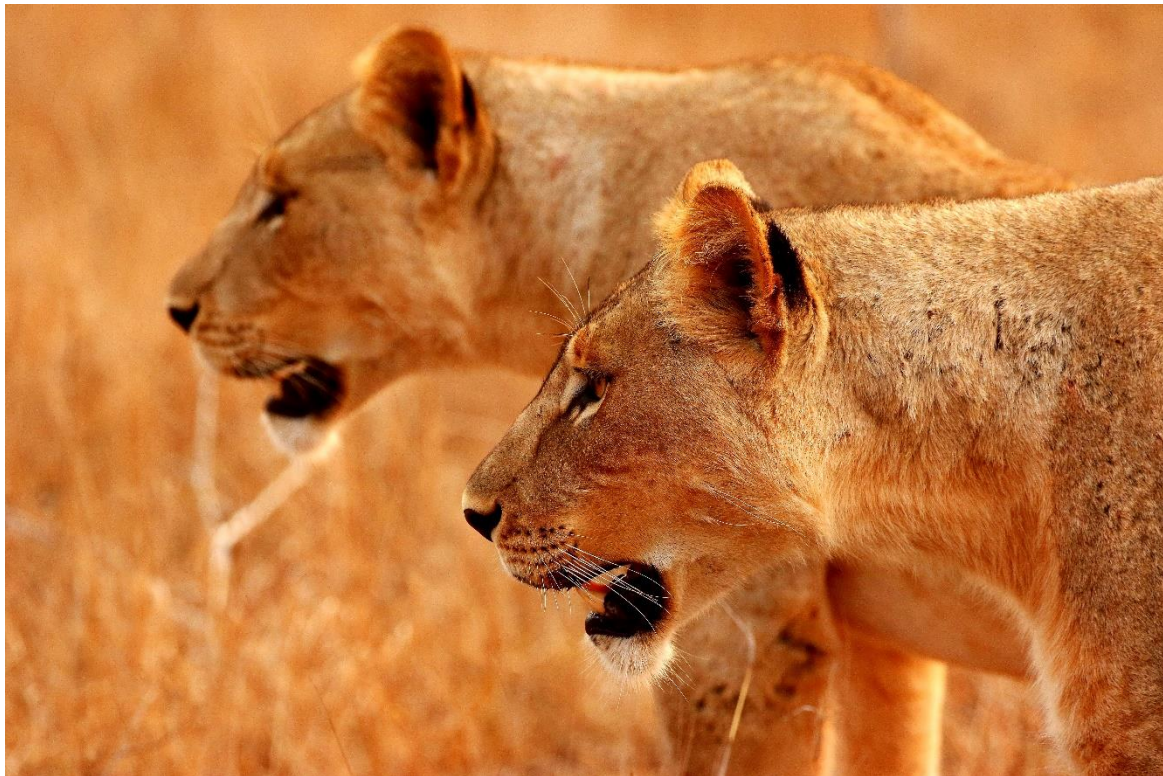




South African Rock Art Paintings - an indigenous African cultural experience, Wildlife and the associated Hospitality Industry

Synopsis: This unique Study Abroad option is focussed on the ancient painted art of the San, or Bushmen of South Africa. We have a treasure chest of images here, tens of thousands have been found, in some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. Around this culture, wildlife and scenery, a tourism industry has grown, from museums to lodges, from restaurants to breweries and from political excursion companies to national parks. During this trip, we will explore many of these fascinating aspects, in an action packed ten days!



Summarized Itinerary

Day 1 – Johannesburg – Cultural museum with guest lecturer and evening in a guest lodge

Day 2 – Waterberg Mountains and safari with expert guides, at a big five safari lodge

Day 3 – Rock Art site visitation and big five safari experience

Day 4 – Tracking wild animals through the African bush then travel to Bronkhorstspuit to a unique Rock Art site

Day 5 – Travel to KwaZulu-Natal province to safari and cultural lodge in the Drakensberg Mountains

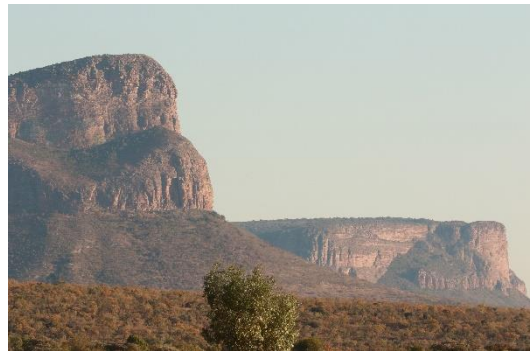
Day 6 – Visit to spectacular Rock Art sites in the Scenic Drakensberg

Day 7 – Morning drive in the game reserve, then travel to Nottingham Road, brewery visit and historic hotel

Day 8 – Visit to arguably the most famous Rock Art shelter in Southern Africa

Day 9 – Anglo-Boer war site visit with a local history expert, and travel to Johannesburg

Day 10 – Visit to Soweto, with a local political tourism expert, before departure flights home



Detailed itinerary of the trip

Day 1

After landing in Johannesburg, we will enjoy lunch at our lodge, and then prepare for an afternoon excursion to the 'Origins' museum at WITS University to gain a background on rock art in southern Africa, and understand some of the fascinating history of these discoveries. Then in the afternoon we will head back to our evenings accommodation and a sumptuous dinner.

Day 2

After an early breakfast we shall journey north to the Waterberg region, and check into a famous big game reserve. We will enjoy a pleasant lunch at the lodge followed by a big game safari in the afternoon

searching for lions and elephant and other fascinating animals, with expert guides, including Lee Gutteridge, the author of Bushveld - a field guide from the Waterberg. In the evening we will enjoy a traditional supper at the lodge.

Day 3

After an early breakfast we will travel by game viewer up into the mountains to a nearby location with wonderful rock art sites, in the ancient northern tradition (Please note that a reasonable level of fitness is required for this as the art is usually situated in fairly secret, inaccessible places). This rock art is simplistic, and usually monochromatic, with some fascinating themes and interpretations, which will be shared with you by your expert guides. We will then enjoy lunch and travel back towards our lodge during the early afternoon, searching for game animals such as rhinoceros or giraffe. We will take some time to refresh ourselves before we head out for an evening dinner in the bush, at a specially prepared location.

Day 4

We will have some breakfast and then venture out on an early morning game walk, to experience Africa the old way - on foot, (accompanied by an armed guide) - with a special focus on tracking. Tracking of wild animals is an ancient tradition, which may have found its origins right here in Africa. This is a chance to experience the sounds, smells and smaller details of the environment. We will then return for brunch in the camp. After brunch we will pack and then travel to Bronkhorstspuit area (about 2.5 hours' drive) to a unique shelter, which has been the focus of recent studies. A guest instructor will interpret this panel for us. Interestingly this shelter has been used to link various rock art cultures, spanning a multi-millennial time period - it is a true 'one of a kind'. Then we will journey on toward our evenings accommodation and a sumptuous dinner.

Day 5

Today, in the morning, we will travel across the Vaal River to KwaZulu-Natal and head to Giants Castle Region to check into our lodge. This is a fairly long drive of about 4 hours, bringing us into the Drakensberg Mountains, or the "Roof of Africa" as it is sometimes



known. These are the highest peaks in the southern part of Africa, and encompass the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho. We will see other types of animals here, such as Eland, a significant creature in San tradition. It is also the subject of much of the rock art of the region. Our dinner will be at the lodge.

Day 6

After an early breakfast we will take a morning walk to a rock art site. We will focus on the interpretation of paintings, using Bushman Rock Art- an interpretive guide, a book co-authored by Lee Gutteridge, looking at a totally different rock art tradition from the previous ones we have seen, with a very apparent and different set of techniques. We will then return to camp for lunch and a siesta. In the afternoon we shall walk to another site (as always, a reasonable level of fitness is required) where more wonderful paintings can be seen, with different interpretations and foci. This evening the meal will be for your own cost, at a restaurant in camp.

Day 7

After breakfast we will take a morning game drive, and then return to pack to depart to Nottingham Road with its 'haunted hotel'. We will have a lunch at the hotel. In the afternoon we will take a tour of the 'Notties Brewery' (the home of the "Pickled pig", the "Wobbling wombat" and the "Pye-eyed possum" and several other interesting beverages!). We will then have an afternoon at leisure, to shop and relax in the area around the hotel. Dinner is at our own cost this evening.

Day 8

After an early light breakfast, we shall travel up to the Kamberg Reserve, the home of the Game Pass Shelter. Then we shall prepare to take a walk up to the shelter - this is one of the most wonderful (and arguably important) panels in the country, and contains the world-famous Rosetta Stone Panel used by Lewis-Williams in the current deciphering technique of rock art. On the way we will meander along, viewing the wonderful vistas, wild flowers and exciting and unique birdlife of the region. We will also interpret the tracks and signs of the animals as we go. Our packed lunches will be eaten high in the mountains sharing the view



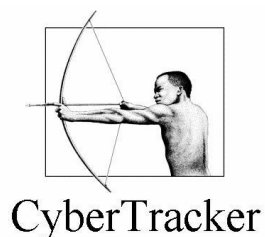
that these ancient bushman artists once had whilst creating the wonderful polychromatic images on the walls. Later, we will begin our gradual descent to our vehicle, and a cold drink will be waiting at our vehicle below. We will then travel to our next lodge for the evening. Dinner at our own account.

Day 9

This morning we will enjoy a visit to an Anglo-Boer war (1898-1901) battle field and gain a little understanding of the Afrikaans and English cultures of South Africa and their conflicted past – and for this trip a local expert guide will join us. By midday we would have departed, toward Johannesburg and our evenings accommodation, with a lunch en route. Our supper will be at the lodge.

Day 10

An early morning wake-up, followed by a big breakfast will precede our packing, before we head off on a Soweto Tour. This huge township is very famous in terms of recent South African Apartheid history, and we will be visiting the Hector Pietersen Museum and Nelson Mandela's home amongst other highlights, with a local Soweto Resident as our guide - giving us a thorough insight into this dark chapter of South Africa's history! Our lunch is at our own cost on Vilakazi street, the only street in the world where two Nobel Peace Prize winners lived side by side! Then we shall head for the airport for our international departures, and the end of an amazing tour.



Please note that this is an approximate itinerary and locations, lodgings and activities will vary slightly upon booking, dependent upon time of year, availability and budgets.