



Blending Africa's iconic archaeology and exquisite wildlife



# A JOURNEY 200 THOUSAND YEARS IN THE MAKING

*Set forth on an enthralling archaeology safari that blends South Africa's unique history and archaeology with its extraordinary natural beauty.*

Join us for a trip of many lifetimes, as we retrace the great sweep of human history while exploring South Africa's most vibrant, wild, and captivating regions. Our 11-day (this is flexible, depending on demand) **OriginSafari** invites you to peel back the layers of time and embark on an engaging historical journey that showcases a unique mix of South Africa's rich culture, its pioneering archaeological discoveries and remarkable wildlife.

From the Cape to the Cradle – you'll experience the post-colonial vibrancy of contemporary Cape Town; spend time exploring the breathtaking archaeological sites and ruins of the ancient walled kingdom of Thulamela in Kruger National Park; and end the journey at the **Cradle of Humankind**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the story of our species began.

*This journey through our Origin Story will access some of the world's most important archaeological sites ordinarily not open to the public, in the company of subject matter specialists and some of South Africa's foremost practicing archaeologists and historians.*

## Combining exquisite luxury with iconic archaeology and pristine bushveld

Each destination is anchored in a luxury boutique hotel situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty, adjacent to the historical and archaeological treasures that focus the tour.

### CORE ITINERARY

4 NIGHTS — CAPE TOWN

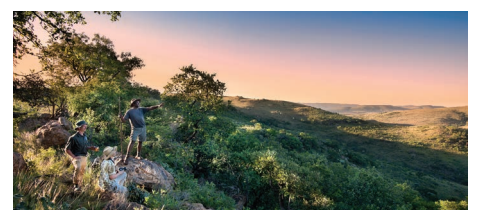
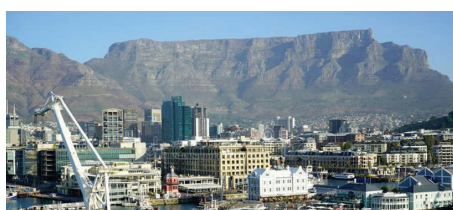
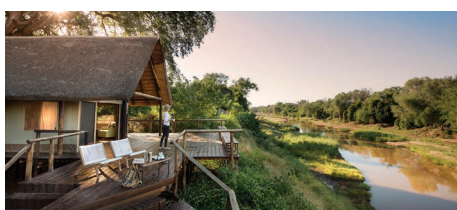
Stay: Welgelegen House

4 NIGHTS — PAFURI, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Stay: Pafuri Luxury Tented Camp

3 NIGHTS — CRADLE OF HUMANKIND

Stay: Riverhorse Lodge



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#### 4 NIGHTS — CAPE TOWN, [Welgelegen House](#)

Explore 'the Mother City' from its pre-colonial and colonial origins, through the apartheid era, to the cosmopolitan multi-cultural vibe of today. Experience the majesty of Table Mountain and its vineyards - all set against the beauty of the Cape Peninsula around which two oceans meet.



#### 4 NIGHTS — PAFURI, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, [Pafuri Luxury Tented Camp](#)

Discover the reconstructed sacred site of Thulamela, a little-known and breathtakingly beautiful archaeological treasure in Kruger National Park. Explore the wildlife paradise of Pafuri and meet the Makuleke people, national pioneers of innovative approaches to land reform. On game drives and guided bush walks, immerse yourself in the area's extraordinary biodiversity and natural beauty.



#### 3 NIGHTS — CRADLE OF HUMANKIND, [Riverhorse Lodge](#)

Venture deep into time as you unpack our Origin Story. Visit the archaeological dig sites that continue to yield the most extensive and complete concentration of early hominin fossils found anywhere in the world, while exploring a UNESCO World Heritage Site within the Greater Cradle Nature Reserve.

## ITINERARY

### DAYS 1 — 4: CAPE TOWN, South Africa's 'Mother City'



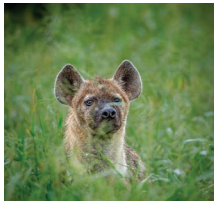
Your journey back through time begins in Cape Town, a city steeped in history and rich in culture, from the indigenous Khoi and San/Bushman who have inhabited the area for thousands of years to the Dutch colonizers who first settled there in the 17th century.



Your visit will include the city's most historically significant sites, including the [San Heritage Centre](#), the [Slave Lodge](#), [Robben Island](#) and the [District Six Museum](#). The tour tells the story of the Cape from its earliest inhabitants through colonization and apartheid to the magnificent present: a multi-cultural, vibrant cosmopolitan city with as much to offer as you have time for. Depending on your interests, your itinerary will include Table Mountain, a two-oceans tour of the Cape Peninsula and a winelands tour including wine tastings and meals at some of South Africa's most iconic wine estates.

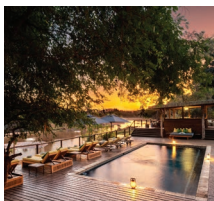
Guests are accommodated at Return Africa's exquisite [Welgelegen House](#), a restored Victorian treasure in the heart of Cape Town, within easy reach of excellent restaurants and all the city's main attractions.

### DAYS 5 — 8: PAFURI, THULAMELA RUINS, Kruger National Park



After a two-hour flight to Hoedspruit and a light aircraft hop, you arrive at [Pafuri Tented Camp](#) in the Kruger Park. This is an environment found nowhere else in the Kruger - a land of ancient baobabs and fever tree forests, of great predators and huge herds of antelope, buffalo and elephant.

The Pafuri region of Kruger National Park is home to [The Kingdom of Thulamela](#), South Africa's best-kept archaeological secret, which once lay at the heart of what was then the most dynamic economic and trading system in southern Africa. Hauntingly beautiful, this extensively renovated ancient settlement is surrounded by ancient baobabs and commands spectacular views across savannahs, flood plains and mountains.



Pafuri-Thulamela is a unique archaeology safari destination which blends iconic wildlife, history, and ancient culture with luxury accommodation - a combination found nowhere else in Southern Africa. The site is not open to the general public and visits are made by special arrangement with Pafuri Camp and the Kruger Park authority. Beyond your exploration of Thulamela, your days will be spent on leisurely game drives and walks, exploring some of the numerous loops and detours of this

game and bird-rich area between two great African rivers, the Luvuvhu to the south and the Limpopo to the north.

Following South Africa's democratic transition, Pafuri was the subject of a successful land reform partnership - the first of its kind - between the Makuleke community (who were removed from the area under apartheid) and the Kruger National Park. Pafuri Luxury Tented Camp is at the heart of this partnership, providing an important source of employment and training, and a share of the operating returns to the Makuleke community. The lodge is managed entirely by the Makulekes who will happily share their remarkable story and culture.

## DAYS 9 — 11: THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND, Riverhorse Lodge, Greater Cradle Nature Reserve



A one-and-a-half-hour light aircraft flight takes you to Lanseria near Johannesburg, ten minutes' drive from the [Cradle of Humankind](#). You will be accommodated in Riverhorse Lodge at the [Greater Cradle Nature Reserve](#). Enjoy game drives and sundowners with panoramic views of the rolling highveld landscape and vast African sky.

'The Cradle' is a UNESCO World Heritage site. An exquisite eco-tourism destination, it is home to three globally renowned paleoanthropological sites. All are active dig sites which are still yielding hominin and animal fossils of international scientific importance.

In addition to game drives and walks you will participate in the Human Origins Tour, an exclusive and unforgettable journey of discovery that will walk you in the footsteps of our ancestors to our earliest hominin origins. A tour of the Malapa Museum, a beautifully curated space developed in partnership with renowned paleoanthropologist Lee Berger, will take you on a journey into the deep past. Here you will explore some of the world's most important archaeological discoveries, including *Homo sediba* (2008) and *Homo naledi* (2013), that have transformed our understanding of the origins of humankind.

Your last day will include a visit to the [Origins Centre](#) at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, an hour's drive away. It was from here that the archaeologists responsible for the Cradle's extraordinary discoveries operated. The Centre offers the most extensive exhibition of modern hominin evolution and San Bushman rock art anywhere in the world.

### RESERVATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

This itinerary is for an 11-day tour comprising six people, up to a maximum of ten. This can be customized – shortened, extended or diversified – according to travelers' needs and interests.

To discuss your [OriginSafari](#), and for further information, please contact [info@originsafaris.africa](mailto:info@originsafaris.africa) or call +27 (0)83 306 6288.



### 11-NIGHT ITINERARY:

|                            |  |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Cape Town<br>1 — 4         | <b>Inclusions:</b>   | <b>Exclusions:</b>  |
|                            | Meet and greet at Cape Town International Airport                                  | Dinners and wine-tasting events   |
|                            | Transfers between Cape Town International Airport and Welgelegen House             | A concierge will recommend a variety of excellent restaurants in and around Cape Town             |
|                            | Four nights accommodation including breakfast                                      | Entrance fees to museums and national parks   |
|                            | Daily guided activities as per itinerary   |   |
|                            | Lunches on the tours, including soft drinks  |   |
|                            | Commercial flight to Hoedspruit Airport  |   |
| Pafuri-Thulamela<br>5 — 8  | <b>Inclusions:</b>   | <b>Exclusions:</b>  |
|                            | Transfers to/from Pafuri by light aircraft   | Premium beverages   |
|                            | Four nights at Pafuri Tented Camp (all activities, meals and non-premium drinks)   |   |
|                            | Commercial flight to OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg                  |   |
| Riverhorse Lodge<br>9 — 11 | <b>Inclusions:</b>   | <b>Exclusions:</b>  |
|                            | Airport transfers to/from Riverhorse Lodge   | Additional road transfers to destinations not stipulated in the itinerary                         |
|                            | Four nights accommodation at the Lodge (including all meals, guiding, soft drinks) |   |
| General                    | <b>Inclusions:</b>   | <b>Exclusions:</b>  |
|                            | Services of South African tour guide/chaperone                                     | International flights<br>Travel and medical insurance<br>Items of a personal nature<br>Gratuities |

