



South Africa Summer 2022 Johannesburg, Kruger National Park Area, Cape Town

Travel Dates: May 16 – May 26, 2022

DAYS 1-2 16-17 MAY

Students meet their group in the U.S. and travel on an overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.

DAY 3 18 MAY, Johannesburg

Students and faculty meet their Tour Director at the airport and begin the program. Four major sites are on the schedule for this first day of activities in Johannesburg.

First, the **Cradle of Mankind**: the group takes an excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Cradle of Mankind, one of the world's richest hominin sites and home to around 40% of the world's human ancestor fossils. [According to UNESCO](#), 'the area contains essential elements that define the origin and evolution of humanity. Fossils found there have enabled the identification of several specimens of early hominids, more particularly of Paranthropus, dating back between 4.5 million and 2.5 million years, as well as evidence of the domestication of fire 1.8 million to 1 million years ago'.

Second, the **Maropeng Visitor Centre**: where the group visits an award-winning exhibition focusing on the development of humans and our ancestors over the past few million years. Maropeng is the official Visitor Centre of the Cradle of Humankind, one of South Africa's eight World Heritage Sites. [More than just an exploration of human origins, the Maropeng exhibition also inspires visitors to be more aware of threats to the environment. The sustainability wall, which runs across the main exhibition room, highlights important facts about modern humans and our consumption of rapidly decreasing natural resources.](#)

Third, the **Sterkfontein Caves**: there the group discovers ancient fossils during a guided tour of the Sterkfontein Caves. [The Sterkfontein Caves are owned by the University of the Witwatersrand, whose scientists have been responsible for the main excavations at this World Heritage Site.](#)

Fourth, the **Reserve Bank of South Africa**: on the way back into the city, the group visits the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of South Africa (*time and bank availability permitting*). [According to its website](#), 'the primary purpose of the Bank is to achieve and maintain price stability in the interest of balanced and sustainable economic growth in South Africa. Together with other institutions, it also plays a pivotal role in ensuring financial stability.'

Overall, this first day of activities is geared to helping students understand the origin and the common ancestry of humans. For several international theorists, human cooperation is made possible by this interconnectedness of humans. It is the basis of international relations between nations. Also included in that first day is a visit at the Reserve Bank of South Africa, the central bank of South Africa similar to the U.S. Federal Reserve. There, students will get the opportunity to see a key economic policy center in the world in the form of the Reserve Bank of South Africa.

DAY 4 19 MAY, Johannesburg

Welcome to Johannesburg, the heart of South Africa and the largest city in the world that isn't situated on a lake, river or coastline. Today is a day full of events. The whole group takes a *guided tour* of Johannesburg, South Africa's main industrial and financial center.

First, the group will explore the **Soweto neighborhood**. A startling example of segregationist planning, Soweto is also known for its contributions to fashion, music, language and politics. [Soweto was created in the 1930s when the White government started separating Blacks from Whites. Blacks were moved away from Johannesburg, to an area separated from White suburbs by a so-called cordon sanitaire \(or sanitary corridor\).](#) Overtime, Soweto (for SouthWest Townships) became domestically and internationally known for being a key center of political and social resistances to the policies of the South African government under Apartheid.

Second, the group will see the **Regina Mundi Catholic Church**, the largest Roman Catholic Church in South Africa. [Regina Mundi is often referred to as the 'people's church' or the 'people's cathedral' due to the role it played as a place of gathering for the people of Soweto in the years before, during, and after the anti-apartheid struggle.](#) It also played an important role in the reconciliation process in South Africa. Indeed, [from 1995 to 1998, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu presided over Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings at Regina Mundi.](#) These hearings were designed to help the country heal from the sins of the Apartheid era and bring about national reconciliation.

Third; the group will visit the **former homes of Winnie Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Nelson Mandela at the Mandela House Museum**. Those three were major actors of South Africa's democratic transition. The group will also stop by a local entrepreneur's project and finish with lunch at a local restaurant in Soweto.

Fourth, on the drive into downtown, the group will swing past the **Luthuli House** – the Headquarters of the African National Congress (ANC). Named after [Chief Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli, Africa's first Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 1960 who was President-General of the African National Congress \(ANC\) from December 1952 until his death in 1967.](#) Because of the parliamentary nature of South Africa's political system where the party that wins most seat in parliament gets to form the government, policy positions at Luthuli House are usually seen as harbingers of government policies, whether domestic or international.

Finally, the day will end with a **guided Tour of the Constitutional Court**. With a local guide, the group will visit the Constitutional Court and the Constitutional Hill precinct and discuss these sites as a backdrop to South Africa's turbulent history and resistance. Post-Apartheid South Africa's second president, President Thabo Mbeki (June 1999-24 September 2008) said it best. Speaking at the opening of the new Constitutional Court building on March 21, 2004, President Mbeki said, "[The court represents the conversion of the negative, hateful energy of colonialism, subjugation and oppression into a positive, hopeful energy for the present and the future; a celebration of the creative potential of our people that has given us an architectural jewel. Constitution Hill also makes the statement that central Johannesburg will continue to grow and thrive, no longer a place of segregation and urban decay, but a leader in our country and continent as the city of the future.](#)"

Through these various sites, the group will learn about the history of Johannesburg, South Africa's main economic and financial center. The group will also learn firsthand South Africa's political and economic institutions and how those institutions have evolved over time from the Apartheid days to the present multiracial society that the country is still attempting to build.

DAY 5 20 MAY, Johannesburg | Kruger National Park Area

Today, the group travels via the 'Panorama Route' to Kruger National Park area. The group will past such natural wonders as the *Blyde River Canyon*, *God's Window* and the *twisted Bourke's Luck Potholes*.

Visit Pilgrim's Rest: Pilgrim's Rest is the gold-rush town where fortunes were made and lost. [The entire town of Pilgrim's Rest was declared a National Monument in 1986 as a living memory of the early gold rush days in South Africa during the late 1800s / early 1900s.](#) Through this visit, the group will get to discuss South Africa's history of natural resources and economic development.

After the small museum town of Pilgrim's Rest, the group will continue its travel to Kruger National Park area and stop at the **Timbavati Game Reserve**. Only minutes away from the wildlife haven of Kruger National Park, Timbavati serves as the perfect base to explore the park and participate in a variety of lodge activities.

Finally, the group will end the day at **Shangaan village**. There, the group get an in-depth look at the local culture as it explores the village by foot. During the walk, the group will visit a clinic, trading store, school and homes of the village inhabitants. The group will even make a stop at the village's herbal and spiritual doctor. Shangaan village will provide a deeper look at life in one of South Africa's villages.

Overall, Day 5 (a travel day) in the Kruger National Park Area and on the way to the Kruger National Park itself will look at the foundation of the South African economy (mining) as well as its history of natural resources and economic development. This day before will preview some of the themes of Day 6 about the tradeoff between economic development and conservation of the world's natural resources and wildlife.

DAY 6 21 MAY Kruger National Park

Game drive at Kruger National Park: Today the group enjoys a full-day game drive at Kruger National Park. Named after South Africa's first president, an ardent naturalist deeply committed to wildlife protection, Kruger is considered the best managed wildlife park on the entire African continent.

Besides enjoying a full-day game drive, the visit at the Kruger National Park will illustrate the conflict that exists in the global environment and in domestic and international politics between the conservation of natural resources and wildlife and the need for economic development. Kruger National Park best exemplifies that dilemma. It shows that countries can benefit from conserving their natural resources through international tourism and other revenue-generating mechanisms. It shows that both economic development and natural resources/wildlife conservation can occur at the same time to the benefit of one country or the global community and environment.

DAY 7 22 MAY, Kruger National Park Area| Johannesburg| Cape Town

Today, the group is set to leave Kruger National Park area and fly to Cape Town through Johannesburg's airport.

Early-morning bush walk: the day will start for the group with a rise and shine for an early-morning adventure into the bush. The area around the lodge offers a unique ecosystem of smaller wild game and bird life. However, you can also expect to see zebra, wildebeest, impala and the occasional leopard or hyena.

Travel via Johannesburg to Cape Town: the group returns to Johannesburg and catches a flight to Cape Town. As the plane lands amid vineyards, sandy beaches and flat-topped mountains, the group will see why Cape Town is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Politically and economically, Cape Town is very important for South Africa. The city is South Africa's second most populous city after Johannesburg. It is also the country's legislative capital. [Cape Town's economy is the second largest municipal economy in South Africa, contributing 11.3% to national gross domestic product in 2013.](#)

[This translates into approximately US\\$ 34.1bn per annum.](#) The group will get to spend the next two days there and learn more about the politics and economy of South Africa and its relationship with the world.

DAY 8 23 MAY, Cape Town

Welcome to Cape Town [*Kaapstad* (in Afrikaans) *iKapa* (in Xhosa)], the national legislative capital of South Africa. Today is a day full of events.

The day starts with *a guided tour of Cape Town*: What better way to get to know Cape Town than with an incredible panoramic view? A cable car will take the group to the summit of **Table Mountain** (*weather permitting*). Table Mountain is a phenomenally beautiful sandstone plateau that overlooks the city.

The group will then head back down the mountain and pass *Devil's Peak* and *Lion's Head*, two mountain peaks that flank Table Mountain, on its way to the *Company's Garden*. The "Company" in question is the Dutch East India Company, and the garden was originally built on its orders to provide vegetables for the colonists. Continuing with the tour, the group will visit *Green Market Square* (one of Cape Town's oldest markets) and the *Castle of Good Hope* (the oldest surviving colonial building in Cape Town.)

Next, the group will **visit Parliament and the Iziko Slave Lodge**. [Parliament is the legislative authority of South Africa and has the power to make laws for the country, in accordance with the Constitution. It consists of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces \(NCOP\).](#) Built in 1679, the Iziko Slave Lodge, the second oldest existing structure of the Cape colony, [was changed many times and it is unclear how much of the existing building dates from the slave period...The Slave Lodge housed the slaves who belonged to the Dutch East India Company \(VOC\). These slaves worked for the VOC and were never sold. Very little is known of the people who lived in the Lodge... \[however\] The role that slaves played in developing the Cape Colony was only fully recognised by the museum during the 1990s.](#) Both Parliament and the Iziko Slave Lodge are important sites for both past and present South Africa.

After Parliament, the group heads to **District 6 Museum**. The museum works with the memories of the District Six experience, removals, and marginalization. District 6 became a symbol of oppression under Apartheid. [It was a mixed neighborhood in every sense of the word. It was crowded with a multiracial blend of working class people, Jews, Muslims, and Christians alike, many of whom were descended from freed slaves and immigrants. In the mid-20th century, a population of roughly 60,000 lived there...During the apartheid regime of the 1960s and '70s, the segregating Group Areas Act saw all the non-white residents of District Six evicted and relocated further outside the city. It was called "slum clearing," but the true intention was to fill the desirably located neighborhood with white residents and high rises.](#) Today, it serves as a reminder of the dark past of the city of Cape Town.

Victoria and Alfred Waterfront: The waterfront is also a perfect place to browse Cape Town's wares. Be part of the exciting atmosphere created by the area's abundance of theaters, restaurants, and shops before catching a ferry to Robben Island.

Finally, the highlight of the day. **Robben Island:** the group will discover a place of exile and isolation. A leper colony for nearly 400 years, it became a stark prison during Apartheid. The group will step inside Nelson Mandela's maximum-security cell where the revolutionary leader was held for 18 years, and walk through the lime quarries where the prisoners were used for hard labor. Despite its grim reputation, the island later came to symbolize triumph in the face of adversity and the power of the human spirit.

Overall, this first full day in Cape Town will be momentous. The group will immerse itself into the political and economic history of the Cape colony as well as the city of Cape Town. Through such historical places as the Parliament, the Iziko Lodge, District 6 Museum, and Robben Island, the group will get to discover the place of the 'Cape' and South Africa in domestic and international political-economy circles.

DAY 9 24 MAY, Cape Town

This last day in Cape Town and South Africa will blend both academic knowledge and relaxation. It the final day of the group in the country and the day is meant for the group to learn as much as enjoy the last leg of this journey.

The day will start with a *guided tour of Cape Peninsula*. The group will get to visit the coastal suburbs of *Sea Point, Clifton* and *Camps Bay* for a bit of relaxation. After lunch, the group will head to **Cape Point Nature Reserve**, home to an array of wildlife and the Cape Point lighthouse. The group will also visit the **Boulders Penguin Colony**, an African penguin colony before stopping at the naval hamlet known as Simon's Town.

Next, on its way back to Cape Town, the group will stop at the **Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens**. This vibrant botanical garden is nestled at the foot of Table Mountain.

Finally, en route back to the city, the group will make the final stop of the day at **De Tuynhuys**. It is the President of South Africa's house when visiting Cape Town. The building was erected in the 1700s. De Tuynhuys is integral part of the history of South Africa. Indeed, President FW de Klerk (1989-1994) [announced from its steps, on 18 March 1992, that South Africa had 'closed the book on apartheid'](#). Years of domestic and international pressures and boycotts finally ended the official state segregation policy.

DAY 10 25 MAY, Cape Town; return Tampa, FL, USA

Today is the group last day in South Africa. The group leaves Cape Town and flies back to Tampa, FL, USA.

Before leaving, the group will head to the **Amy Foundation SA**. It is a local non-profit organization focused on economic and skill development for children and young adults in

vulnerable communities. The group will tour the foundation and meet with local staff and program participants for discussion and cultural exchange.

Once that is achieved, later in the day, the Tour Director will assist the group with the transfer to the airport for the overnight return flight home.

DAY 11 26 MAY, Tampa, FL, USA

Arrival back home in Tampa after a lifetime journey.