

A photograph of a leopard walking through a grassy field. The leopard is the central focus, with its distinctive spotted coat and long tail. The background is a soft-focus green landscape. The text 'WHY SOUTH AFRICA?' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

WHY SOUTH AFRICA?

If you're looking for an exciting combination of a "Big Five" safari experience and cosmopolitan cities, South Africa is the ideal destination. With an abundance of activities and full range of lodging styles from five-star and boutique hotels to luxury tented camps, South Africa is an excellent choice for group, independent, self-drive and family travel.

CAPE TOWN With its majestic Table Mountain backdrop, Cape Town is one of the go-to places for 2013, and it is so easy to see why. With its stunning location, fabulous restaurants, excellent shopping, superb wine, fascinating history, exhilarating activities, and hotels that you'll never want to leave, Cape Town has something for everyone. And of course there are terrific opportunities for game viewing just a short flight away at Kruger National Park.

A great way to see the city is from an open top double decker Hop-on, Hop-off bus. The city's Edwardian and Victorian buildings have been meticulously preserved, and many outstanding examples of Cape Dutch architecture are found in the city and its environs. Cobblestone streets and the flat-roofed pastel homes of the Malay Quarter enhance a cosmopolitan ambience, and the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront evokes images of the old seafaring activities.

THE VICTORIA & ALFRED WATERFRONT is South Africa's most visited destination, attracting millions of visitors every year—and for good reason, given the location's combination of shops, restaurants, night-spots, tourist attractions and museums in the city's historic harbor.

You might like to visit the family-friendly Two Oceans Aquarium where you can eyeball sharks, penguins and hundreds of species of sea life. There are lots of outdoor activities available too, ranging from helicopter flights to boat charters and relaxed harbor cruises. Or browse through hundreds of shopping outlets, ranging from larger department stores selling designer labels to boutique jewelry and curio shops. The V&A Waterfront's Amphitheatre is a good spot for live entertainment (usually provided to the public for free) – from concerts to creative workshops and puppet shows.

RESTAURANTS Cape Town is world-renowned for its diverse, stylish restaurants and excellent food, which is always complemented by the range of superb local wines grown nearby. Its diverse multi-cultural ancestry has enjoyed the influence of many cooking traditions: Italian, Malay, Chinese, Japanese, Moroccan, French, Portuguese, Congolese, Greek, Brazilian, Thai and Korean. Surrounded by oceans, the city is blessed with an abundance of seafood; in many eateries the food is strongly Mediterranean, often with a Portuguese or Cape Malay influence.

SHOPPING Cape Town's shopping options invite you to endlessly browse – and buy. At the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, the Victoria Wharf Shopping Center caters to most shopping needs, from designer clothing boutiques and fashion accessory shops to gift stores and food outlets. The Waterfront Craft Market is one of the largest indoor craft markets in South Africa with quality crafts including pottery, leatherwork, furniture, educational toys, clothing, glass art and African arts and crafts. Situated adjacent to Victoria Wharf, The Red Shed Craft Workshop offers a unique interaction between shoppers

and those making the wares. Here, you can order a custom made item and watch specialty crafters at work.

VISIT THE SOUTHERN TIP There are many opportunities to see for yourself how this spectacular southern tip of Africa became known as “The Fairest Cape.” You can schedule an excursion with a drive past the pristine beaches of Camps Bay, Clifton and Llandudno – currently the hottest real estate in the world – to Hout Bay, a functioning harbor and heart of the local crayfish industry. On Hout Bay, you can also book a Seal Island cruise. The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve has a fabulous scenic viewing point, and the spectacular sea and mountain views are reason enough to make the 41 mile trip from Cape Town. Amid the rocky landscape—home to mountain zebra, eland and ostriches—blooms magnificent Cape flora. Continue along the coastline and you get to the beautiful Boulders Beach where you can get close to a colony of penguins.

THE WINELANDS No trip is complete without an excursion to the astonishing winelands region with its breathtaking scenery, warm hospitality, world class cuisine, and some of the finest wines in the world. Nestled between towering mountains, the magnificent Franschhoek Valley is the food and wine heartland of the country, where splendid wines are grown and top chefs create international cuisine.

BIG FIVE SAFARI - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK The Big Five is the term used to describe the most popular and exciting animals to view while on safari in the Kruger National Park, and there are great opportunities to see them at this beautiful reserve. Only a 2.5 hour flight from Cape Town, the world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. Kruger is home to an impressive number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals.

VICTORIA FALLS One of the most spectacular sights in Southern Africa is Victoria Falls, located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Although not close to Cape Town, many visitors feel this extra excursion is well worth the time to see one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Statistically speaking, it is the largest waterfall in the world. This recognition comes from combining the height and width together to create the largest single sheet of flowing water. Whether viewed by helicopter or from the various trails, the splendor of Victoria Falls will take your breath away.

You don’t know what you don’t know... Use the services of a professional travel advisor.

When you are planning to travel and especially to Africa, you use the services of a professional travel advisor. There is just no reason not to use one. They will help with the selection of itineraries flights, hotels, places to visit and will get you the best value for your dollar. They’ll also handle all of the many details, travel insurance protection, assist you with visas when required and most important, they’ll be there for you if you ever encounter a problem.

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Whether you travel by land or by sea, and no matter if you are traveling by yourselves or with family and friends, travel is a rewarding and enriching experience that will enhance your life and create memories that will last a lifetime. **{stb}**

Giuliano Lorenzani, CTC born and educated in Florence Italy together with his wife Judy, have owned Boca Raton Travel & Cruises for over 23 years. Located at 225 East Palmetto Park Road. 561-395-1414



Cape Town



The Winelands



Victoria Falls