

Luxury Dubai & South Africa Escape March 3 - 30, 2025 (28 Days)

Tentative Tour Itinerary



Join Collins Tours for a special opportunity to check off many experiences in one vacation! Experience the opulence that ultra-modern Dubai has to offer before jetting off to South Africa for our up-close and personal safari expeditions next to the world-famous Kruger National Park to see Africa's "Big Five": Lions, leopards, rhinoceros, elephants, and African buffalos! Continuing our journey of South Africa, we visit Cape Town on the western shores of the country along the Atlantic Ocean known for its quality vineyards, breathtaking views of the sea and Table Mountains at every turn before boarding the Norwegian Dawn to experience an incredibly unique sailing crossing the Equator all the way to Lisbon, Portugal! This mid-size ship is well positioned to visit the unique ports of call

along Africa's Atlantic coast as well as Spain's Canary Islands. Your Tour Manager looks forward to meeting you and delivering a well-managed and enjoyable escape where all you have to do is... sit back, relax, and enjoy!

-Sincerely, Greg Collins - President & CEO

Day 1 - Monday, Mar 3 - Home - Overnight Flight to Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Air Package, make your way to your local area airport for your assigned flight connecting with your overnight Air Canada flight to Dubai from Toronto Pearson International Airport. NOTE: 1st checked piece of luggage is free for international flights (up to maximum of 50lbs). 2nd bag is an additional cost and based on weight. Additional fees apply for overweight and over-size bags. Carry-on luggage is free, your bag must be light enough that you can store it in the overhead bin unassisted and typical weight is maximum 22lbs per carry-on bag.
- Visit www.aircanada.com for more details on luggage fees. Luggage payment is paid directly to Air Canada and not included in tour package. Fees are charged on both outbound & return flights.

Day 2 - Tuesday, Mar 4 - 5 Star JW Marriott Marquis Hotel - Dubai, UAE

- Welcome to Dubai! Once a small fishing village in the Arabian Gulf, Dubai is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. One of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates, this city is home to more than 200 nationalities and offers an unforgettable experience.
- Your flight will be landing in the evening. Please proceed to the baggage claim area, clear passport control, and collect luggage where you will meet your tour manager.
- Your deluxe private motor coach will be there to meet us and take us to the luxurious 5-star JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai, our home for the next 3 nights. Located in the heart of the city's downtown district with modern luxury and award-winning service, soaring above Sheikh Zayed Road, our 5-star hotel is the tallest 5-



star hotel in the world and boasts awe-inspiring views of the water and the Dubai cityscape. Your tour manager will check you in and assist the hotel with luggage handling.

• Dinner and the remainder of the evening is on your own.

Day 3 - Wednesday, Mar 5 - Dubai (B, Welcome Reception & Welcome Dinner)

- A delicious international buffet breakfast is included at our hotel.
- After breakfast, meet your tour manager and local guide for a 4-hour tour of Dubai (included). We will explore this cosmopolitan metropolis that has grown to become a global melting pot and a business and cultural hub. Our tour will take us along the Dubai Creek, passing through Bastakiya, an area known for its beautiful old wind-turbined houses, built by wealthy merchants. We will then visit the 180-year-old Al Fahidi Fort, which today houses the Dubai Museum. We will continue our journey by abra a traditional water taxi across the creek. We will stroll through the spice and gold souks, the colourful bazaar markets. A photo stop at Jumeirah Mosque will be made on our way to Burj Al Arab, one of Dubai's most famous landmarks.
- After the tour, we will head back to our 5-star hotel for some time on your own before our group welcome reception. Join your fellow group friends for an exquiste meet and greet cocktail party, Collins Tours style! Appetizers, alcohol and non alcoholic drinks included.
- Tonight meet your tour manager and fellow travelers for a deluxe Welcome Group Dinner at an upscale nearby restaurant (included with wine or beer).

Day 4 - Thursday, Mar 6 - Dubai (B)

- Enjoy another delicious international buffet breakfast
- Today is a free day for you to enjoy. Perhaps you will head to the Dubai Frame, in Zabeel Park, UAE's latest cultural landmark, offering spectacular panoramic views across the city. Or pay a visit to Dubai Mall, the world's largest destination for shopping and entertainment with over 1,200 shops and 150 restaurants. Or maybe explore the 360-degree views from the observation decks at the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world and a global landmark. The options are endless in this magnificent city!
- Tonight meet your tour manager and fellow travelers for a deluxe Welcome Group Dinner at an upscale nearby restaurant (included with wine or beer).
- Enjoy the rest evening as you please before our South African adventure tomorrow morning.

Day 5 - Friday, Mar 7 - Dubai - Flight to Hoedspruit, South Africa - 5 Star Thornybush Game Lodge (B, Group D)

- This morning, enjoy an early breakfast (included) before checking out of your room in time for our departure. Your tour manager handles group hotel check-out, part of the signature Collins Tours service you will receive along our journey together.
- This morning is an early start, and we will head to the Dubai airport for our connecting flight to Johannesburg, South Africa to make our way to Hoedspruit.
- Welcome to the continent of Africa! Please proceed to the baggage claim area and collect luggage where you will meet your tour manager.
- Your deluxe private motor coach will be there to meet us and take us to the incredible 5 Star Luxury Thornybush Game Lodge, our home for the next 2 nights. With a note of sophistication in the design and layout, the thatched main area overlooks a waterhole and riverbed frequently visited by elephants, buffalo, and other large game at our luxurious 5-star lodge. Your tour manager will check you in and assist with luggage handling.
- The time for one of the highlights of this trip has come! Make sure you bring your cameras with you and be ready to capture memories of an unforgettable adventure and excitement! Enjoy an evening safari game drive. A local expert will lead us on an exciting expedition in search of the "Big 5" elephants, African buffalos, lions, leopards, and rhinoceros providing insight into these fascinating creatures along the way. Be sure to keep an eye out as you may also see a graceful impala, a dazzling zebra, or an elegant giraffe. Relax and take in the natural beauty of Kruger National Park while enjoying a picnic lunch surrounded by giraffes (included).
- After the safari adventure, please meet your tour manager and join your fellow Collins Tours group passengers for a delicious group dinner in our luxurious lodge. Tonight, you will sample some delectable local cuisine with wine and beer included with our meal (included). We will share stories together about this unforgettable day.

Day 6 - Saturday, Mar 8 - Kruger National Park - Safari Expeditions (B, L, Group D)

- A delicious breakfast is included at our hotel.
- Make sure you have enough storage on your phones and cameras! Today, we will enjoy another day of safari expeditions at Kruger National Park. This breathtaking national park, with nearly 2 million hectares of unrivaled diversity of life, offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa (included)
- This morning rise up early and enjoy your morning game drive with local guide and tracker! Animals rise early in the morning to feed and hunt, this is sometimes the best time to view the precious wild life or Africa!
- After our morning drive we will return back to the lodge for our lunch, another included meal of this amazing adventure. Take time this afternoon to relax and enjoy your beautiful lodge with an outdoor pool!
- Get set for another evening game drive today, to experience yet another evening of life changing experience! After our evening safari, please meet your tour manager and join your fellow Collins Tours group passengers for a delicious another group dinner in our luxurious lodge. Tonight, you will sample some delectable local cuisine with wine and beer included with our meal **(included).** We will share stories together about this unforgettable day.

Day 7 - Sunday, Mar 9 - Hoedspruit - Flight to Cape Town - The Westin Cape Town (B)

- Enjoy the delicious breakfast that is included at the hotel before checking out of your room in time for our last safari expedition at Kruger National Park. This morning game drive will be another early rise to get the very last chance to experience the most magical setting in the world! Make sure you take in all the beauty of the African wilderness our departure to Cape Town.
- Our deluxe private coach will take us the Hoedspruit airport in time for our flight to Cape Town.
- Once in Cape Town, we will head to the 5-star centrally located Westin Cape Town hotel overlooking the water, our home for the next two nights while enjoying the executive club rooms!
- Dinner and the rest of the evening is on your own.

Day 8 - Monday, Mar 10 - Cape Town (B)

- Enjoy another delicious breakfast that is included at the hotel before we continue onto our exciting day in Cape Town!
- After breakfast, meet your tour manager and local guide for a 4-hour tour of Cape Town (included). We will explore this vibrant South African city affectionally called "The Mother City," known for its natural beauty, creative freedom and incredible spirit with architecture that fuses the traditions of the French, Germans and Dutch. Today we will experience one of the many local wineries with sampling and learning how world famous South African wines are made! (winery included) and ascend to the top of Table Mountain by cablecar for the best vantage point of seeing the city and ocean all in one place.
- After our tour and wine tasting, we return to our hotel for some free time for lunch and to explore the city on your own.
- Dinner and remainder of the evening is at your leisure.



Day 9 - Tuesday, Mar 11 - Cape Town (B, Group D)

- Enjoy another delicious breakfast at the hotel (included).
- Today is a free day for you to explore this vibrant city. Perhaps pay a visit to Robben Island Museum to see the former site of the notorious prison that held Nelson Mandela. Or maybe explore the manicured lawns and beautiful forest in Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. You can finish your afternoon with a stroll by the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront for some shopping and entertainment.
- Tonight, please meet your tour manager and fellow Collins Tours group passengers for a fantastic group dinner with wine and beer at an upscale restaurant close to our hotel (included).

Day 10 - Wednesday, Mar 12 - Embarkation aboard Norwegian Dawn (B, L, D)

• After another full breakfast this morning, your tour manager will check you out of the hotel. We will then board our private transfer to the pier and board our ship.

- All aboard the Norwegian Dawn for your 18-day cruise! **Note:** Your Collins Tours team has completed the check-in process for you! All part of our signature group tour experience.
- Once we arrive at the port, your luggage will be taken by NCL ship staff and delivered to your cabin. We expect to be on board the ship by early afternoon allowing time for lunch on ship while awaiting luggage delivery.
- Make yourself at home on this beautiful Norwegian Cruise Line vessel, the Dawn. Familiarize yourself with the layout of the ship. Get ready for what will surely be a trip of a lifetime with Collins Tours!



- Please note your cabins may not be ready until 3:00 p.m. As the staff work hard to prepare for the new guests you may use the facilities open at this time as part of your cruise package. For those who wish to store carry-on luggage there will be an opportunity once on board.
- The Dawn sets sail this evening at 7:00 pm. Choose from one of the many complimentary dining options onboard the ship for dinner.
- Refer to ship's daily activity itinerary for entertainment/dining options during your first night aboard the Dawn.

Day 11 - Thursday, Mar 13 - At Sea (B, L, Group D)

- The Norwegian Dawn is made for sea days! So many activities to choose from all over the ship! Make sure to pay attention to the daily schedule, ensuring you don't miss a thing! Enjoy a relaxing day at sea.
- Join your tour manager and group friends this evening for a delicious group dinner in one of the ship's main dining rooms (Included)!
- Tomorrow you will awaken in Walvis Bay, Namibia.

Day 12 - Friday, Mar 14 - Walvis Bay, Namibia (B, L, D) Optional Excursion TBA

- Today, we are in Walvis Bay, Namibia from 9:00am 8:00pm. Today join Collins Tours for an exciting optional excursion (price TBA) to enjoy this local gem! This exciting 4.5-hour tour will sure highlight the magical sights in Namibia!
- Enjoy your day in Walvis Bay, located along a natural deep-water harbour by the Namib Desert, making it a perfect location for both migrating and resident birds. Bring your camera and binoculars for the chance to see thousands of flamingos and other species congregating. Or look to the ocean for a chance to see whales or dolphins.
- Dinner and the rest of the evening is on your own.

Day 13 - Saturday, Mar 15 - At Sea (B, L, D)

• It is another day in free-style cruising heaven, so live like the Norwegians... smile bigger, explore further, and relax longer!

Day 14 - Sunday, Mar 16 - At Sea (B, L, Group D)

- Free day to relax and enjoy the Dawn and enjoy the amenities of your ship only an elevator ride away!
- Join your tour manager and fellow passengers this evening for another group dinner in one of the ship's specialty restaurants (Included).

Day 15 - Monday, Mar 17 - Luanda, Angola (B, L, D)

- Today, we are in Luanda, Angola, from 7:00am 5:00pm. Today join Collins Tours for an exciting optional excursion (price TBA) to enjoy this exotic port of call! This exciting 4.5-hour tour will sure highlight the magical sights in Luanda!
- As you explore the largest and capital city of Angola, you will come across colonial architecture and numerous new builds that have been part of the city's revitalization following the end of the Angolan Civil War in 2002. Browse shops and markets and savour the delicious Portuguese-influenced local cuisine.

Day 16 - Tuesday, Mar 18 - At Sea (B, L, D)

• Enjoy another beautiful day sailing as we head to the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa!

Day 17 - Wednesday, Mar 19 - São Tomé, São Tomé and Príncipe (B, L, Group D)

- Today, we are in São Tomé, the capital and largest city of this Portuguese-speaking island country in Central Africa, from 7:00am 5:00pm.
- Explore Africa's second smallest nation, an almost entirely untouched island close to the equator with a population of less than 10,000 people and home to stunning natural beauty.
- Tonight, meet your fellow group friends and experience a fabulous dinner together!

Day 18 - Thursday, Mar 20 - At Sea (B, L, Group D)

- Delight in all the wonderful amenities on our vessel, the Norwegian Dawn.
- Join your tour manager and fellow passengers this evening for another group dinner in one of the ship's main dining rooms (Included)

Day 19 - Friday, Mar 21 - Abidjan, Ivory Coast (B, L, D) Optional Excursion TBA

- Today, we are in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from 7:00am 5:00pm. Today join Collins Tours for an exciting optional excursion (price TBA) to enjoy this unique city! This exciting 4-hour tour will sure highlight the magical sights in Abidjan!
- Enjoy your day in Ivory Coast's economic capital. Abidjan has been called both the "Manhattan of West Africa" and the "Paris of West Africa," explore museums, see historic sites and striking contemporary architecture and savour delicious local cuisine.

Day 20 - Saturday, Mar 22 - At Sea (B, L, D)

• Take the day to relax and enjoy the world-class amenities aboard the Dawn.

Day 21 - Sunday, Mar 23 - At Sea (B, L, D)

• We continue sailing along the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy a relaxing day.

Day 22 - Monday, Mar 24 - Banjul, Gambia (B, L, D) Optional Excursion TBA

- Today, we are in Banjul, Gambia from 7:00am 6:00pm.
- Banjul is the country's capital city that's bustling with commerce. Head to Old Town among the colonial architecture and visit the historic sites and museums. Perhaps journey outside the city to soak in the warm sunshine on one of the nearby beaches or explore a nature reserve that offers excellent bird watching.
- Tonight, our ship continues the adventure and tomorrow we wake in Dakar, Senegal!

Day 23 - Tuesday, Mar 25 - Dakar, Senegal (B, L, Group D)

- Today, we are in Dakar, Senegal from 7:00am 4:00pm.
- As the cultural and economic heart of Senegal, Dakar is a lively city of contrasts. Visit gleaming mosques and cathedrals then browse the colourful stalls of one of the many bustling markets for handmade goods. Tour Place

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de independence and see the colonial architecture of historic buildings lining the central square. Maybe you choose to explore the history and culture of Senegal at one of the city's museums or simply enjoy the present with a beachside stroll.

- Join your tour manager and fellow passengers this evening for another group dinner in one of the ship's main dining rooms (Included)
- Our ship sets sail this evening for Santa Maria, Cape Verde.

Day 24 - Wednesday, Mar 26 - Santa Maria, Cape Verde (B, L, D)

- Today, we are in Santa Maria, Cape Verde from 9:00am 6:00pm.
- This Portuguese-speaking town is dotted with pastel-coloured buildings, all fresco restaurants and live-music bars. Enjoy the turquoise waters surrounding the island, home to many animals, including sharks and sea turtles. The region's weather is renowned for boasting over 350 days of sunshine a year.

Day 25 - Thursday, Mar 27 - At Sea (B, L, D)

• Enjoy the evening aboard the Dawn as we continue our sailing with sights set on Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands, Spain's southernmost region.

Day 26 - Friday, Mar 28 - Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain (B, L, D) Optional Excursion

After another amazing NCL breakfast, welcome to Santa Cruz De

Tanarifa Canary Islands

- Tenerife, Canary Islands
 Today, we are in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, from
- This port is located nearly 1,300 km from mainland Spain and 210 km from Northern Africa. Historically considered a link between the four continents of Africa, North America, South America, and Europe; this city was named as one of the top five places to live in the world.
- Please join Collins Tours for an optional excursion on a beautiful 4.5-hour guided tour of this magnificent island featuring the

Puerta de la Cruz, views of El Teide, San Cristobal de la Laguna and much more. We will explore the city's wide avenues filled with beautiful examples of modernist architecture, many squares, and exotic landscaped areas (**Price TBA**).

• Dinner and rest of the evening is on your own.

11:00am - 9:00pm.

• Tonight, our ship continues the adventure for our last full day at sea.

Day 27 - Saturday, Mar 29 - At Sea (B, L, Farewell Group D)

- Take the day to relax and enjoy some time before disembarkation in Lisbon tomorrow.
- Tonight, meet your tour manager for our Farwell Group Dinner (Included). We will discuss our wonderful memories together, plan our next journey and prepare for our return home to Canada. The remainder of the evening is free.
- Tonight, our ship continues the adventure and tomorrow we wake in Barcelona, Spain!

Day 28 - Sunday, Mar 30 - Disembark Lisbon, Portugal (B)

- This morning, we disembark in Barcelona after a triumphant sailing through Africa!
- After disembarkation, convene with your fellow travelers for a private transfer to the Lisbon Airport where we begin the trek home to our Canadian home cities.
- Meals will be served on the aircraft.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Tour itineraries are ONLY a guideline and may need to be modified by your tour manager. Times on tour itineraries are only estimates as various unforeseen factors, such as weather, traffic, mechanical issues, emergencies, and other "Acts of God," can influence tour timing. Collins Tours is not responsible or liable, in any way, for delays caused by unforeseen events. No refunds or reimbursements will be offered in the event of any such occurrences.
- > Canadian citizens are required to have a valid passport that is good for at least THREE MONTHS AFTER your departure date. Citizens of other countries should call and verify their required documentation.
- ➤ **Baggage allowance details**: For all Air Canada flights to and from Europe: You are allowed one personal and one carry on item at no charge (max dimension: 23 cm x 40 cm x 55 cm). You are also allowed <u>one free checked bag</u> (max weight 23 kg; \$100 fee for overweight bag). Second checked bag is \$100 CAD <u>each way</u>.
- ▶ Duty Free Rules allow you to claim \$800 per person when you have travelled outside Canada for at least 48 hours.
- > All liquids and gels that you are planning to bring on board an airplane must be 3oz or less and sealed in a Ziploc bag and kept in your carry-on. Keep prescription medication in original container or carried with you.
- ➤ Collins Tour is not responsible for lost or stolen baggage and/or personal items.
- > Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for any flight delays, schedule changes, flight gate changes, acts of God, mechanical issues, any emergencies, or any missed connections due from any such events described above or unforeseen circumstances arising not described above, yet may cause similar outcomes or delays. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for providing additional transportations costs, if necessary, reimbursements or and king for these additional expenses, loss of use, or loss of hotel nights, meals, transportation arrangements, or any portion of your planned vacation you have that may or may not be missed. These costs, if any, will be paid directly by the traveler and submitted through the appropriate persons travel insurance for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact our office if you need assistance with all-inclusive medical insurance, trip cancellation and interruption coverage, or quarantine insurance. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd does not anticipate any such concerns or events and only wishes for everyone to ensure proper travel insurance has been purchase in advance.
- > REMEMBER, your tour manager handles hotel check in/check out procedures, overall group management (e.g. timely transitions, itinerary planning), and group representation with airlines, hotels, group activities, Customs and Immigration, and overall operation of each tour. We work hard to ensure that everyone enjoys his/her experience to the fullest. **Gratuities for your Tour Manager are not included in your tour price.** Tipping is your way of saying 'Thank You," for a job well done.
- > Here are our guidelines on *Tipping Etiquette*:
 - Collins Tours guide from \$7.00 \$10.00 per person, per day
 - Bus driver \$4 -\$5 per person per day
 - Private city tour guides- \$3 per person, per day

Hotel Contact Information:

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