

OUR FAVORITE PLACES

SOUTH AFRICA

Start with a safari; end with a little urban exploration.

What we love about South Africa: One day you're spotting a pride of lions from your Land Rover; the next, you're sipping pinot noir in the Cape Winelands or slurping oysters on the Cape Town waterfront. "South Africa is an incredibly diverse destination," says David Bragg, a Virtuoso advisor from Nashville. "Safari, coastline, city life – there's really something to offer everyone here."

FIRST TIME Embark on city strolls *and* game drives.

The dry season (April through October) is the best time for a South African safari, and you'll want to plan for at least ten days on the ground. Fly into Johannesburg, Bragg recommends, to kick jet lag and explore the city before heading to the 32-room **Londolozi Private Game Reserve** for a week of game drives, photography lessons, and voluntourism opportunities. Cap off your trip with a few days in Cape Town: "I really like a mix of city, culture, and safari when I visit South Africa," Bragg says, "and this trip covers it all." *Accommodations from \$1,056 per person, including a welcome amenity and breakfast daily.*



NEXT TIME Switch up your safari style.



"A safari is different every time," Bragg says. "Your experience is really based on how the animals are acting in that moment, so it's never the same twice." On a return trip to South Africa, kick off your adventure with a two-day, Pretoria-to-Cape Town journey aboard **The Blue Train**, which channels the glamorous, old-school days of train travel in swanky sleeper cars and a wood-paneled cigar lounge, before heading into Kruger National Park. Later, extend your time on the continent by jetting off to the beach – Bragg sends many travelers to Mozambique post-safari for some secluded relaxation. *Blue Train cabins from \$3,320.*

From left: Herd-spotting in Londolozi Private Game Reserve, the Cape Town coast, and a happy-hour hangout aboard The Blue Train.

PRO TIP: "Pack light," advises Bragg. "Lodge transfer planes have strict weight guidelines; many lodges provide laundry service anyway. If a safari is only part of your trip and you need more than one bag, we can arrange for extra luggage to be stored at the airport."



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