

# Missouri Botanical Garden visits South Africa



Blue crane



---

# South Africa in Springtime - September 17 to 30 - 2006

## FLORA, NATURAL HISTORY & CULTURE

Sponsored by The Missouri Botanical Garden

Escorted by Dr. Peter Raven & Dr. Patricia Raven

---

In the South African veld people sit around a camp fire. Above, the Milky Way galaxy pulsates with the light of a billion stars. There's animated conversation, recounting the day's adventures – a lioness with cubs seen here; a fish eagle dives into the river; the spoor of a rhino tracked through miles of bush. After a while the talk ceases, giving way to contemplation. This is Africa's magic at work; keeping away stresses, problems, worries, brought to this place from the cities of the modern world.

Of course the wilderness of grasslands, marshes, forests, wild animals, and safari camps, is only one aspect of South Africa – which for many years used the slogan 'a world in one country' to promote tourism. Some of the other 'worlds' to be seen in this tour are cities with fascinatingly different histories and cultures; subtropical beaches; centuries-old winery estates; fertile valleys that wind between soaring mountains. Our hotels have been selected for location, tasteful elegance and fine service. Cuisine in South Africa's better hotels and restaurants is of high standard – with seafood often outstanding. Be prepared for some wonderful and exotic flavors.

This Missouri Botanical Garden journey begins in a great world city – Johannesburg - which sprang out of the veld after 1886 when gold was discovered on a lonely farm, in an obscure 'Boer Republic'. It is interesting to reflect, as we travel around, that everything we see results from the wealth created by gold. Gold shaped the social and political structure as well – dooming the original republic, creating the British-style Union of South Africa and later a new Republic of South Africa planned on racial divisions. Now, in post-apartheid South Africa, Johannesburg - for so long the industrial and financial hub of Africa - has the freedom to become even greater.

Dr. Peter Raven's work in the Missouri Botanical Garden and the National Academy of Sciences has led him to take a keen interest in South Africa's National Botanic Institute and its National Botanic Gardens, some of which will be visited during this tour. Since South Africa has about 10% of all world plant species, the country has an important role to play in plant ecology. Some of the plant scientists you will meet during this tour, colleagues and friends of Dr. Raven, have made important contributions to botanical knowledge and all are committed to preaching the urgency of plant conservation. You can expect some lively discussions when you meet these people at their workplace, or over a cup of coffee or glass of wine.



Arranging botanical tours to South Africa since 1977

## Itinerary

**17 SEP SUN** Tour arrangements commence today at Johannesburg International Airport with "Meet and Greet" service provided on an individual basis, according to your arrival flight. Transfer by hotel shuttle bus - about 20 minutes - to the modern and sophisticated suburb of Sandton, which lies a few miles north of downtown Johannesburg. Tour participants gather as a group for the first time this evening at a special welcome dinner, with hosts Dr. Peter Raven, Dr. Patricia Raven, and their South African colleague Christopher Dalzell who will accompany the group for the first week. (D)

### Sandton Sun Intercontinental



*Sandton City*

**18 SEP MON** After breakfast in the hotel, a full day's excursion by motor coach will cross a wide area of the Witwatersrand - a name taken from the ridge of low hills, beneath which lies the world's most fabulous gold bearing reef. Modern freeways and broad avenues connect the highrise buildings of downtown Johannesburg to smart suburbs, vast industrial zones, and sprawling apartheid-era townships such as Soweto. A patchwork of urban shanty towns spreads throughout the booming metropolis, for the 'City of Gold' attracts people from all over Africa, as it has done for the past hundred years. A defining landscape feature today is the 'mine dump' - low, whitish hills of crushed ore from which the gold has been extracted, spaced at intervals along the fifty mile long route of the reef. Our first stop is at Walter Sisulu National Botanic Garden in Roodepoort, a town that grew out of an early mining camp. After a guided

tour of the garden enjoy a special lunch with members of the staff. Skirting Johannesburg, travel to Pretoria, the nation's capital city. Avenues lined with Jacaranda trees are a special treat in springtime Pretoria, and though August



*Union Buildings*

is the peak blossom time, we may still hope for something of a show. At Pretoria National Botanic Garden we will be greeted by the staff and treated to a private tour, including the National Herbarium with its huge collection of African plant specimens. Next we visit the Union Buildings - a classically designed structure that houses the executive branch of government. (B,L)

### Sandton Sun Intercontinental

**19 SEP TUE** Coach transfer to Johannesburg International Airport. A morning flight departure of about one hour to Durban. The change of climate is abrupt - from the high thin air of Johannesburg to moist coastal air; from dry grassland to lush sub-tropical trees and shrubs.

At Durban Botanical Garden a picnic lunch and tour has been arranged by our guide Chris Dalzell, who is also Curator of this wonderful Garden located in the heart of the city. A special attraction is the highly regarded orchid house. Our next stop is the Medicinal Market where traditional African (and particularly Zulu) healing practices will be explained. At Silverglen Medicinal Plant Nursery you will see a great variety of plants that were formerly only available by collection in the wild and thus became endangered. Traveling along the Marine Parade, we pass Durban's renowned surfing beaches and continue to our resort hotel overlooking the Indian Ocean just north of Durban. (B,L)

### Zimbali Lodge

**20 SEP WED** The morning will be free to enjoy the splendid amenities of the resort - there is a championship golf course, a spa, tennis and swimming. Optional excursions are available through the concierge, such as a visit to a traditional Zulu village in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. This afternoon, a special visit has been arranged to U'Shaka Marine World, a conservation center that includes a breeding colony of African Penguins, with dinner provided after a guided tour of the facility. (B,D)

### Zimbali Lodge

**21 SEP THU** Early departure along the Dolphin Coast highway to Maputaland, which occupies the northern part of Kwa Zulu-Natal Province. Included in this region is the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park, a World Heritage Site.

As today's drive covers over 200 miles there will be stops, notably at the Raphia Palms reserve near Mtunzini which is also home to very rare Palm Nut vultures. Our destination is a game reserve owned by Conservation Corporation (CC AFRICA) where the company's sustainable travel philosophy is seen at its best. With diverse biomes, a large variety of animals and thrilling day and night expeditions in the wilderness, memories of Phinda visit will be treasured for years to come. After check-in and lunch, the program begins with a sundown cruise through Mzinene River channels. Listen for the calls of 200 bird species and to a myriad of singing insects among the reeds and in the branches of fever trees; the splash of fish and crocodile, and hippo snorting. Night comes quickly at Phinda and after sipping a hot drink, or maybe in true safari style an ice cold gin & tonic, the drive back to the lodge will be interrupted with spotlight viewing of interesting nocturnal creatures. (B,L,D)

### Phinda Resource Reserve

**22 SEP FRI** A full day at Phinda may start with a wake up call (sunrise on this eastern edge of South Africa is soon after 5:00 a.m.), hot coffee and freshly baked rolls. Then, aboard a landrover with naturalist guide and



tracker, explore the rocky foothills of the Ubombo Mountains; follow sandy trails through dense bushland or splash through grassy wetlands (Phinda encompasses 7 distinct ecosystems). When suddenly the engine is switched off and the vehicle lurches to a stop, watch where the tracker points: there could be a pair of cheetah, a pride of lions, elephants, a leopard in a tree, vervet monkeys, a black rhino, or delicately striped nyala antelopes. Back in camp, a lavish buffet breakfast is served. Guests then plan the rest of their day: some deciding to do nothing but enjoy the peaceful scene from the poolside terrace; others joining a guided bush walk or booking the (optional expense) flight to Sodwana Bay for scuba diving along the coral reef. The afternoon has choices too, like the tradition of Tea, the sundown game drive, the cocktail hour. Dinner is served under the stars in a fenced-in 'boma', with candlelight and a cheerful camp fire. (B,L,D)

Phinda Resource Reserve

**23 SEP SAT** Early risers can have one more game drive before breakfast, packing and the return trip to Durban airport. After a two hour flight, arrive in Cape Town and transfer by coach to a stately Colonial-style hotel located in the historic Gardens district ( named for the original Dutch East India Company vegetable gardens). A hotel 'welcome dinner' will introduce the group to Dr. John Manning, distinguished botanical author and scientist, who will accompany the tour for the next week.

(B,D)

Mount Nelson Hotel

**24 SEP SUN** From the city we'll make a full circuit of the Cape Peninsula. Cosmopolitan Sea Point -



*Cape of Good Hope*

blocks of high rise apartments fronting the sea; Clifton - designer-homes poised above curving white beaches. From Camp's Bay southwards there are few structures, on one side Atlantic waves surge against granite rocks, on the other the mountain rises steeply, its flanks covered in 'fynbos' vegetation of proteas and heathers. Hout Bay is a picturesque fishing harbor - a tourist attraction but one where many locals still buy their fish directly off the boats. Chapman's Peak Drive, high above the ocean, is as dramatic as California's Big Sur or the French Riviera. Near its southern end, the Peninsula narrows, finally tapering to a knife edge of rock. From a viewing platform you may notice cold Atlantic waters mixing with a warm current from the Indian Ocean. Besides spectacular scenery, this is a nature reserve protecting a brilliant array of flowering plants: bulbs such as moraeas, watsonia, and gladiolus; proteas and many species of heath-like ericas give a moor-like appearance to the wind swept plateau. Antelope, including eland and bontebok find a home here, as well as zebra, ostrich and several baboon troops. Returning via Simon's Town, we stop to see a resident colony of African penguins. Along the wooded eastern side of Table Mountain, we drive through the fashionable suburbs of Constantia, Newlands and the Groote Schuur Estate, bequeathed by Cecil Rhodes to the people of South Africa. Evening free for individual activities.

(B,L)

Mount Nelson Hotel

**25 SEP MON** On a recent visit to Cape Town, Drs. Peter and Patricia Raven discovered Bartholomeus Klip, a one-stop wheat & sheep farm, luxury guest lodge and private nature reserve. This is springtime and scattered over the veld are at least 800 species of Cape Floral Region plants - we should see many daisies, succulents and flowering bulbs. On the slopes of Elandskloof Mountain and around Voelvlei (a city of Cape Town reservoir) we scout for springbok, gemsbok wildebeest, jackal and bat eared-foxes, to name a few of the wild animals that have been reintroduced here. There are many birds - from tiny colorful finches and weaver birds to the blue crane and soaring eagles. Lunch, including typical Cape dishes, will be provided in the farmhouse. A circular route from Cape Town and back will take in historic small towns and villages of the rich 'Swartland' agricultural country devoted to wheat, deciduous fruit and viticulture. (B,L)

Mount Nelson Hotel



*Lanzerac, Stellenbosch*

**26 SEP TUE** The aerial cableway will take us (weather permitting) to the top of Table Mountain from where the panorama takes in the entire Peninsula, the distant mountain ranges and the surrounding ocean. The rest of the day will be at Kirstenbosch National Botanic Garden, one of 'the great gardens of the world.' Kirstenbosch is devoted to cultivating African plants and is organized in sections, each one brilliantly landscaped against the fabulous background of Table Mountain. You can set your own pace for a garden ramble, then visit the book shop (10% discount if you join the Botanical



*Upper Cable Station*



*View above Kirstenbosch*

Society) and well stocked African-theme gift shop. For lunch, choose from three restaurants. Late this afternoon, Missouri Botanical Garden tour members have been invited to a special reception and light supper by Dr. John Manning and his colleagues and friends of the National Botanic Institute. (B,D)

Mount Nelson Hotel

**27 SEP WED** Grape vines were planted soon after the Dutch arrived in the Cape and wine was made at Groot Constantia as early as 1685 - as it still is today. When French Huguenot refugees arrived in the valley now called Franschoek, viticulture and wine making spread through the districts of Stellenboch and Paarl. This Cape Winelands route, meandering through the Franschoek and Drakenstein valleys, below towering mountain ranges, has nothing comparable in the world. We shall see many stately Cape Dutch-style homesteads: some, dating from the late 17th through early 18th century, were built by Huguenots and named for their lost homelands. Grande Provence, L'Ormarins, La

Motte still flourish and produce world-class wines. We visit a few estates, tour historic buildings and taste wine, with a lunch stop among the vineyards. We'll visit Stellenbosch, the second oldest town in South Africa, with a long history as a cultural and educational center. Driving along the town's broad oak-lined avenues we see fine buildings in the Cape Georgian style, take time to browse art and African-crafts boutiques or enjoy coffee in a student cafe. Return to Cape Town for dinner on own and individual activities. (B,L)

Mount Nelson Hotel

**28 SEP THU** Morning:

A tour of central Cape Town will highlight 18th and 19th century buildings, including townhouses once occupied by prosperous burghers in the time of the Dutch East India Company. The Bo-Kaap Museum tells the fascinating history of slaves brought from Indonesia in the 1700's and their descendants who gave the 'Malay' Quarter a distinctive atmosphere. Continue to The Waterfront which is a very upscale development of top hotels, specialty boutiques and numerous restaurants. Here you may have lunch surrounded by the comings and goings of tugs, fishing boats, yachts and ocean-going ships - with Table Mountain looming above. Afternoon: Included: choice of Robben Island tour (Mandela's former prison-site) or African Township tour (the real lifestyle for the vast majority of South Africans). Evening free for individual activities. (B)

Mount Nelson Hotel

**29 SEP FRI** For the final day, we travel across the Cape Flats and over Sir Lowry's Pass to the attractive seaside resort of Hermanus. At this time of year southern Right Whales visit Walker Bay in considerable numbers and are usually seen only yards from the clifftop walking path. A stop will be made at the small Harold Porter National Botanic Garden, part of the

magnificent Kogelberg biosphere reserve. Harold Porter is a particularly good spot to see *Protea cynaroides*, the 'King Protea' that is South Africa's national flower. Tonight, a 'farewell' dinner party will be held in the Officers' Mess at the Castle of Good Hope (Cape Town Castle) where we are invited as guests of the garrison regiment - The Duke of Edinburgh's Rifles. The 'Dukes' as they have always been known, were founded during British Colonial times in the 1850's and served in Allied armies during the two World Wars of the 20th century. The Castle itself was built in 1674 by the Dutch East India Company and shows its history through collections of art, furnishings, silverware and fine porcelain. (B,D)

Mount Nelson Hotel

**30 SEP SAT** Transfers to the airport will be provided (cost included in basic tour price) according to individual participants flight schedules. Drop off at Cape Town International airport. (B) *See separate brochure for extension tour offer - Victoria Falls & Botswana Safari.*



*Mount Nelson Hotel*



*The Waterfront*

**TOUR PRICE** - per person. **\$6,300**

Price based on 25 - 30 participants.

Supplement for single accommodations **\$2,750**

**INCLUDED IN PRICE:** All accommodations as indicated in the itinerary, at named establishments or substitutes of similar standard and price. Land transportation as indicated in itinerary by chartered motor coach, passenger van, microbus, car, 4WD safari vehicle, and boat, as appropriate. Air travel within South Africa, by scheduled air carrier, as listed in the itinerary. Meals as indicated in the itinerary by the symbols B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner. Sightseeing tours and excursions. Entrance fees and park service fees as applicable. Taxes as levied by local authorities. Hotel service charges and gratuities to hotel and restaurant employees. Carriage and portage of one average-size suitcase per person. Services of qualified drivers, driver-guides, national tourism guides and specialist botanical and naturalist guides. Charges for planning, preparation and operation of the tour as applicable to Geostar Travel and various local tour operators in South Africa. Contribution to Missouri Botanical Gardens. *All tour prices are based on fares, tariffs and currency rates of exchange in effect as of 01/15/2006 and are subject to change.*

**NOT INCLUDED:** International air travel to and from South Africa. Air ticket taxes and airport departure taxes in connection with international flights. Passport and visa costs. Personal items such as phone calls, laundry, room service, beverages that are not included with meals. The customary, but optional, gratuities to driver guides or national tour guides after multi-day motor coach touring and - at safari lodges - to personal guides, trackers, and dining room staff.

**RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS:** To secure a reservation, please complete the Trip Questionnaire & Application form and forward it with a deposit of \$600 per person to Geostar Travel (per check or credit card authorization). The full tour payment is due 60 days before the tour commencement date unless notice is given of an earlier date that may be required to meet hotel payment conditions. The prices represent a cash discount and if final payment is not by means of cash or a check, the full price, which is 2.5% more than the cash price, will apply. Acceptable credit cards are Visa, MasterCard, American Express.

**CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:** The deposit is refundable, less a service charge of \$250 per person if you cancel more than 90 days before tour commencement. For cancellation less than 90 days, but more than 60 days, from commencement, the charge will be \$600 [due to non-refundable terms applied by certain lodges with very limited capacity]. Less than 60 days from tour commencement the minimum cancellation charge will be \$600 *and* any refund will be limited to amounts actually recovered from suppliers (hotels, transport companies etc.). *Trip cancellation insurance is available and is recommended strongly by Geostar Travel and Missouri Botanical Garden.*

**DOCUMENTATION:** A valid passport is required for entry into South Africa and return to the United States. Visa is not required for U.S. passport holders joining this tour. Non-U.S. citizens should ascertain if they need a South African visa by contacting the nearest South African embassy or consulate. There are no *required* immunizations for persons traveling directly from the U.S. to South Africa. All governments (including the USA) may at any time change their rules for entry and reentry and have the right to refuse entry for any reason. South Africa, notably, has sometimes refused entry to travelers who have fewer than two blank visa pages in their passports. Some countries have required that a passport be valid for a specified time (e.g. 6 months) beyond the travelers arrival date. *Because of these arbitrary and changeable rules it is imperative that tour participants accept sole responsibility for verifying the passport, visa, health and other requirements for each destination, and for reentry to the United States or their country of residence.* In the U.S. travelers should check requirements with the embassy or consulate of countries concerned and by consulting the U.S. Department of State - Travel Advisory Section [ internet address <http://travel.state.gov>] Geostar will endeavor to obtain and pass on to tour participants any relevant travel information or warnings that may be issued but *Geostar will not accept any liability for damages that result from the actions of any government.*

**RISKS & HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS:** There are inherent risks in joining this tour and all participants will be asked to sign a Release stating that they are aware of such risks and that they hold harmless Geostar and its affiliates from any damages that may result. It is the sole responsibility of tour participants to decide if they are fit enough for the included activities. This tour does not visit any declared malaria zones, though there has been some incidence in coastal Kwa Zulu Natal Province near the Mozambique border. South Africa's Kruger National Park is in a malaria zone and the disease is prevalent in parts of neighbouring countries. Geostar recommends that you consult your personal physician prior to taking this tour. Health advisories are also available from the U.S. Government Center for Disease Control [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and from the State Dept. <http://travel.state.gov>

# VICTORIA FALLS & BOTSWANA

September 30 - October 5, 2006

**This Central Africa adventure is a natural extension to the Missouri Botanical Garden's  
*South Africa in Springtime* expedition with Drs. Peter and Patricia Raven**



## Itinerary

**30 SEPSAT** Leave the hotel at about 8:00 this morning and transfer to Cape Town airport for a two-hour South African Airways flight to Johannesburg. Continuing on South African Airways international service, fly northward over the country of Zimbabwe. The landing approach to Livingstone airport, Zambia, is over the Zambezi River and Victoria Falls. The drive from airport to hotel through Livingstone town is a distinct contrast to the sprawling cities of South Africa. This is tropical Central Africa, though climate is much modified by the elevation above sea level. After check in there will be time to admire the view from the terraced lawns that front the Zambezi, hearing the roar and seeing the spray as the river plunges over the 'Falls' - *Musi-oa-Tunya* – in the native language. An optional 'Sundowner' cruise is available, gliding along the Zambezi River to view the wonderful trees and animals along the river banks and islands.

Royal Livingstone Hotel

**01 OCT SUN** A few minutes walk from the hotel the Eastern Cataract outlook provides your first close up view of the falls. A paved footpath, on the lip of the gorge provides spectacular views of the falling curtain of water directly opposite. The sound thunders all around and every now and then you're pelted with warm rain as the spray swirls across the gorge. There's an interesting geological museum and an outdoor crafts market at the parking lot, worth checking out before returning to the hotel. Many optional trips are available: the city of Livingstone has many excellent art and craft galleries; aerial tours by microlight or helicopter; river rafting; bungee jumping from the Falls Bridge!

(B) Royal Livingstone Hotel

**02 OCT MON** The overland transfer to our next destination is an adventure in itself, giving a close up view of life in Central Africa, of modern civic buildings, town homes, smallholdings, schools and playing fields. People go to and from the town - on foot, by African-style taxi, wheezing bus or flatbed truck. Passing through a national park, the long straight tar road is lined with beautiful trees, from which eagles and vultures scan their territory. At Kazangula take a ferry across the Zambezi to the Botswana side and then drive to our lodge in Chobe National Park. Meandering through a vast flood plain, the Chobe River sustains a wealth of animal life. A boat ride before dinner, gliding quietly along river channels, will set you in the right mood for a good dinner .

(B,L,D) Chobe Game Lodge

**03 OCT TUE** Chobe's size means that a game drive can last several hours. Rise before dawn if you will, and wrapped in a warm blanket, ride out in a 4 x 4 safari vehicle – open sided for the best viewing. October marks the end of the dry season and the animals gather at pools and river banks for their morning drink – predators too. There's a very large elephant population in Chobe. The herds of impala are everywhere and beautiful Sable and Roan antelope may well be sighted. Birds on their southward flight across Africa will have reached Chobe by this time, joining many resident species. When you return to the lodge for breakfast, the sun will be high and the temperature quite hot. Many guests relax at the poolside terrace during the hot hours, until it is time to choose between an afternoon safari drive or sundown river cruise. Three delicious meals are served daily and the hard work of game tracking is rewarded with a sumptuous dinner on the terrace.

(B,L,D) Chobe Game Lodge

**04 OCT WED** The wilderness experience changes from day to day, hour to hour. Today you may come across a pride of lions, or spot a leopard in a tree; possibly track a rhino through the bush. Whether you choose a river cruise or safari drive you will have another wonderful African adventure.

(B,L,D) Chobe Game Lodge

**05 OCT THU** One more African dawn and it will be time to leave Chobe, retracing the route across the Zambezi to Livingstone. Our flight on South African Airways departs midday to Johannesburg, in good time to connect to overnight flights to the USA or Europe. (B)



**PRICE:** \$2,990 per person sharing double accommodations.  
Based on a group of 10-12 persons.

Supplement for single room: \$650

**INCLUDED:** Land accommodations. Transfers, by land and water, game viewing drives by safari vehicle and boat with local guides. All meals as listed in the itinerary.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Scheduled air travel Johannesburg/ Livingstone round trip, estimated at \$400 per person. Cape Town/Johannesburg flight not included in extension prices but can usually be included at nominal extra fare in an international flight from USA to South Africa. Full airline details and fare quotes will be provided on registration for this extension tour.

**HEALTH CAUTION:** Areas visited in this 'Victoria Falls & Botswana' safari lie within a designated malaria zone. Although no immunizations are required, public health organizations consider it vital for visitors to take anti-malaria prophylaxis before entering a malaria zone. Consult your personal health care provider.

**The Okavango Delta - add to your wilderness experience with a private tour.**

Instead of flowing to the sea the Okavango River goes the other way, its flood waters seeping into the sands of the Kalahari Desert. Scattered around the Delta, a couple of dozen safari camps each can accommodate about twenty fortunate guests. Botswana Conservation strictly limits safari operations in the Delta, aiming for low impact tourism that will benefit the local population while leaving the environment pristine.

As a participant in the Missouri Botanical Garden 'Victoria Falls & Botswana' you should consider adding the Okavango if you can possibly spare a few more days. You'll be so near - less than an hour's flight by light plane from Kasane - yet you may think you've landed on another planet. Xugana Island Lodge lies in the heart of the Delta, a water camp with structures raised on stilts. A two night stay is best, followed by a transfer to Camp Moremi for two nights in the Moremi Wildlife Reserve. This trip would end with an air transfer to Maun, to connect with airline service to Johannesburg.

The price for a 4 – night stay in the Okavango is approximately \$2500 per person and includes all the usual safari activities as well as 3 light plane transfers. The airline fare from Maun to Johannesburg is offset by not requiring air service from Livingstone. Detailed safari and air travel prices will be provided on application. Because camps are few and the number of beds very limited, early booking is essential. *Call Geostar at 1-800-624-6633 to add the Okavango. Note: this will be a private tour, not part of the Missouri Botanical Garden tour.*



## Responsibility

GEOSTAR TRAVEL INC. of Santa Rosa CA (Geostar) the tour operator, and Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) act only as agent for the passenger in arranging transportation and other services related to this tour. Geostar as agent holds itself free of responsibility for damage occasioned from any cause. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The usual passage contract used by the airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between such airlines and the passenger. Geostar, MBG and its agents will not be responsible for any damage, expense or inconvenience caused by late departure, changes in schedules, strikes or other conditions. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour prices provide only for the period stated in the itinerary. The right is reserved to substitute accommodations and modes of transport and to make any changes in the itinerary when deemed necessary or when caused by changes in airline schedules. Geostar, MBG and their agents and affiliates take no responsibility for special arrangements or for problems incurred by passengers physically unable to participate in the planned activities. No refund can be made for absence from any part of the tour. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain, any person as a tour member for any reason which affects the operation of the tour or the rights, welfare and enjoyment of other tour members. Geostar and MBG are not responsible or liable for defaults of those not directly under their control. *Travel insurance for trip cancellation, accident and medical costs is available and is strongly recommended by Geostar.*

GEOSTAR TRAVEL INC.  
1100 College Avenue  
P O Box 1882 Santa Rosa CA 95402  
(707)433-2503 (800)624-6633  
[www.Geostartravel.com](http://www.Geostartravel.com)

CST # 1003097-10

