



WHITE DESERT
ANTARCTICA

ICE AND FIRE

ANTARCTICA & RWANDA



WILDERNESS
SAFARIS



20 days (Cape Town, Antarctica, Rwanda)

8 – 28 January 2023

This 20-day journey offers arguably the most exciting and unique wildlife experiences in the world: weeks-old emperor penguins and endangered mountain gorillas. Fly seven hours at 10 000 feet above the ice to the South Pole and circumnavigate the globe in just a few steps. Witness a colony of 14 000+ emperor penguins and their young chicks, and go abseiling, ice picking and fat biking, all while enjoying the best in Antarctic luxury at Echo, White Desert's brand-new camp. After a few days to rest and reset in Cape Town, embark on a seven-night journey through Rwanda to revel in Kigali's rich history, Akagera National Park's prolific wildlife, and Volcanoes National Park's endangered mountain gorillas.





VIDEO ITINERARY

ICE AND FIRE

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WHITE DESERT
EGYPT





MORE ABOUT WILDERNESS SAFARIS and WHITE DESERT

As leaders in responsible tourism and conservation, Wilderness Safaris offers unforgettable luxury adventures that help preserve biodiversity, conserve wildlife and uplift local communities. Since its founding in Botswana in 1983, Wilderness Safaris has shared its passion for Africa, as well as its custodial sense of protection, and the urgency to protect these ecosystems and the life they support, with thousands of guests. Operating in seven countries across some 40 diverse camps, and protecting 2.3 million hectares (5.6 M acres) of Africa's wilderness, Wilderness Safaris is the world's largest conservation tourism platform.



Founded by world-record polar explorers, White Desert has transformed the isolated beauty of Antarctica into an exclusive playground, offering luxury accommodations and a host of adventurous experiences, including ice climbing, abseiling, rock climbing, and rope walking, as well as the rare highlight of visiting the South Pole. Protecting Antarctica's future is fundamental to White Desert's mission. In addition to supporting scientists performing ground-breaking research on the Antarctic ice shelf, White Desert's operations leave no waste on the continent and their camps are built with the lightest environmental footprint, similar to those of Wilderness Safaris, where all elements can be disassembled, leaving no trace.



As pioneers of impactful, yet luxurious expeditions to Africa and Antarctica, Wilderness Safaris and White Desert have a shared desire to conserve and protect the pristine wilderness areas in which they operate. Through these adventure-filled journeys, guests will not only be exposed to new landscapes, cultures and ecosystems, but also to new ways of viewing the world, our place in it and, ultimately, its sustainability.



RWANDA

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town

Echo

ANTARCTICA

ITINERARY

08 – 10 January 2023: One&Only, Cape Town
10 – 18 January 2023: Echo, Antarctica
18 – 21 January 2023: One&Only, Cape Town
21 – 22 January 2023: Kigali Serena Hotel, Rwanda
22 - 25 January 2023: Magashi Camp, Rwanda
25 - 28 January 2023: Bisate Lodge, Rwanda

During a two-night stay at the One&Only in Cape Town, you will participate in a comprehensive safety briefing by White Desert and will be looked after by a Wilderness Private Journeys guide. You then board a private jet and fly directly to Echo, White Desert's new Antarctic camp. Inspired by the seminal age of space exploration and built from composite fibreglass, each of Echo's six cutting-edge Sky Pods features floor-to-ceiling windows offering uninterrupted views of the dramatic landscape. Three wilderness guides and personal chefs make this experience as luxurious and bespoke as it is adventurous.

During your eight-night stay, you will enjoy the rare opportunity to travel to the South Pole. A five-hour flight takes you to FD83, White Desert's expedition camp, flying 10 000 feet above the ice over the High Polar Plateau. After refuelling, the adventure continues with a two-hour flight to the South Pole, the southernmost point on Earth. From there you fly back to overnight at FD83 before returning to Echo the following morning. This is one of only 10 charters White Desert takes to the South Pole each year.

A thrilling activity is a flight to Atka Bay, where you will have exclusive access to an enormous colony of emperor penguins and their chicks. During the long, dark winter months, the male penguin carries a single egg on his feet until it hatches, while the female hunts out at sea. To keep warm, adult males shelter from the wind in a constantly shifting huddle, until the females return in the spring to feed the newly hatched chicks. Curious and unafraid of humans, the chicks offer an unparalleled wildlife experience and photographic opportunities. Around camp, the surrounding nunataks offer an ideal canvas for ice and mountain activities. Explore windswept peaks, scale ice walls, or hike to a remote overnight camp on a glacier. Other activities include abseiling, rope walking, and fat biking.



ITINERARY

Return to Cape Town aboard the same private jet to reset, re-pack, and prepare for the next leg of your journey. This three-night stay in Cape Town offers plenty of time to explore the best South Africa's Mother City has to offer, hosted by a Wilderness Private Journeys guide.

Next up, Kigali, the bustling and culturally-rich capital of Rwanda, where a private Wilderness Safaris driver and guide will introduce you to the country's rich history. A helicopter flight takes you to Magashi Camp, one of Wilderness Safaris' newest properties, located in Akagera National Park. The park is known for its high numbers of lion, which were reintroduced in 2015 after a 20-year absence, as well as black rhino, which were reintroduced in 2017. The prolific animal sightings at Magashi also include leopard, buffalo, zebra, and giraffe, amongst many other species, making for a classic East African safari experience.

From here, you take a scenic helicopter flight to award-winning Bisate Lodge, located at Volcanoes National Park, for one of the most iconic African wildlife experiences: gorilla trekking. The villas at the supremely elegant Bisate Lodge are located on the slopes of an eroded volcanic crater, overlooking two enormous extinct volcanoes, Bisoke and Karisimbi. In addition to observing a large family of gorillas interacting, you can also trek to see a family of highly entertaining, endemic golden monkeys in the park. Guests must be 15 years or older to go gorilla trekking. A private Wilderness Safaris specialist photographic guide will accompany you from your arrival in Rwanda.

Your onward travel to a port of international departure can be arranged with your Wilderness Travel Designer.



ABOUT ANTARCTICA

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Temperatures: -10°C to -1°C (14°F to 27°F).
- 24 hours of daylight.
- Best chance for calmer seas.
- Glaciers are actively calving.
- Long, drawn-out dawn and dusks creating seemingly everlasting late-night sunsets and sunrises.



Strong conservation ideals.



Remote and exclusive.



An integrated ecotourism and conservation model.



Antarctica is larger than China and India combined and is the coldest, windiest, driest and highest-altitude continent on Earth.



It is the only continent with no native human population.



The continent is almost entirely covered by ice averaging 1.9 km (1.2 miles) in thickness, reaching a maximum depth of 4.5 km (2.7 miles).



It is home to 80% of the world's fresh water, yet no rain has fallen in Antarctica for more than two million years; on average, less than 10 mm p.a. of snow falls in Antarctica.



Nobody owns, or can claim sovereignty over, Antarctica, which is governed by an international treaty signed by 54 nations.



Antarctica is the only continent with no official time zone; White Desert uses UTC throughout its Antarctic operations.

Some of the effects of White Desert's ecotourism presence in Antarctica.

Carbon-neutral since 2007, White Desert is the only air operator on the entire continent to be fully carbon neutral. All solid waste is transported out of Antarctica at the end of the season, and we are working to remove single-use plastic from all our operations. We use photovoltaic panels and solar air heaters. Only biodegradable soaps, shampoo and washing-up liquids are used in camp. We are the first Antarctic operator to utilise Sustainable Aviation Fuel in our operations. Founder Robyn Woodhead sits as Chair of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) Executive Committee. We believe that by showing people this incredible place, we are creating 'Antarctic Ambassadors' who will share the importance of conserving Antarctica for future generations. In addition to providing logistics support, we use our tourist infrastructure to support vital climate-change research.





ABOUT ECHO, ANTARCTICA

Venture into the heart of Queen Maud Land and you'll discover Echo, White Desert Antarctica's brand-new luxury adventure camp. Just a 5-hour private jet flight from Cape Town, the camp is situated amongst pillars of rock, known as nunataks, rising 1 000 m vertically from the icecap. You'll find yourself quickly welcomed into this warm and inviting property, whose accommodation includes six state-of-the-art heated Sky Pods with en-suite washrooms and toilets. Uninterrupted views from the floor-to-ceiling windows are a feature of this ultra-modern camp.

Unwind in the communal lounge as you anticipate bespoke menus prepared by your personal chef. Expect hearty breakfasts, wholesome lunches and warming family-style dinners, with wines from Western Cape vineyards, freshly-baked bread and hot coffee. And enjoy a refreshing cocktail or two at the Ice Bar, made with 100 000-year-old ice.

Using Echo as a base, your adventure guide will introduce you to the stunning Antarctic wilderness where you can spend time hiking, climbing, ice-climbing, abseiling, fat biking and more.





ABOUT AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Temperatures: 12°C to 27°C (54°F to 81°F).
- Extraordinarily scenic landscape of rolling grassy hills, wetlands and lakes.
- Large mammal sightings are very rewarding, with lions, leopard, black rhino, buffalo and elephant seen on the property and along the lakeshore.
- Some 500 species of birds have been counted in the park; many are endemic or rarities.
- Unusual species such as Masai giraffe, topi and Defassa waterbuck may be seen on game drives.

WILDLIFE TO BE SEEN

Lion

Leopard

Black rhino

Papyrus gonolek

Elephant

Giraffe

Some of the effects of Wilderness Safaris' conservation tourism presence in Akagera National Park.

Magashi was established in partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and African Parks, demonstrating our commitment to pioneering impactful and authentic conservation tourism in Rwanda. Magashi's core purpose in Akagera National Park is to help conserve Rwanda's last protected savannah ecosystem, and species like black rhino and the rare and elusive shoebill; furthermore, our presence in Akagera National Park will contribute towards enabling it to become economically self-sufficient for the first time.



ABOUT MAGASHI CAMP

Magashi's home is 6 000 exclusive-use hectares of Akagera National Park, home to lions, rhinos, and an abundance of plains game roaming over its gently rolling hills and open savannah. Watch elephants play in silver-blue Lake Rwanyakazinga, or monitor lions, leopards, and black rhinos, as a citizen scientist. Safari by boat on the lake, where the birdlife is exceptional. Drive across one of the most lovely, calming landscapes imaginable, for up-close-and-personal wildlife encounters – many predators; buffalo, zebra and antelope herds; a journey of giraffes.

Six luxury tents rest like butterflies on the shore of Lake Rwanyakazinga. Approaching by boat, you soon ease into the camp's intimate, relaxed atmosphere – most welcome after a stay in the bustling capital, Kigali. Earthy tones with hints of pink prevail, as does genuine Rwandan hospitality.





ABOUT VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Temperatures: 10°C to 20°C (50°F to 68°F).
- Endangered mountain gorillas reside at the highest elevation of all gorilla species.
- The golden monkey is endemic to the high altitude forests of the Virunga Massif, of which Volcanoes National Park is part.
- Lush and verdant rainforest landscape.
- Some +60 000 indigenous trees have been planted over the past five years as part of Bisate's pioneering reforestation programme to extend gorilla habitat in the park.

WILDLIFE TO BE SEEN

Mountain gorilla

Golden monkey

178 bird species

Serval

Side-striped jackal

Black-fronted duiker

Some of the effects of Wilderness Safaris' conservation tourism presence in Volcanoes National Park.

Wilderness Rwanda's pioneering vision of reforestation and rehabilitation at Bisate means that each guest contributes to biodiversity conservation and local community upliftment – making a far-reaching impact on an iconic endangered species: the mountain gorilla. Through our partnership with the surrounding community, over 200 people from the neighbourhood were employed for Bisate's construction, while a growing number of villagers are permanently employed at Bisate. A local co-operative facilitates the purchase of fresh produce and other goods from Bisate's neighbours.



ABOUT BISATE LODGE

At Bisate, six en-suite Forest Villas perched dramatically on the slopes of an eroded volcanic crater embody Rwanda's rich culture. From your deck, gaze through a curtain of mist at two extinct volcanoes, Bisoke and Karisimbi. Here, gorillas, now numbering more than 1 000 throughout the Virunga massif, await you. For one precious hour, your allocated great ape family may deliver your life's most astonishing encounter. Gorilla trekking is the star attraction, but Volcanoes National Park offers many other adventures including golden monkey trekking and a demanding hike to Bisoke's crater lake.

On lodge property, explore nature trails where birds proliferate and a camera trap recently recorded a first: a silverback gorilla lumbering along the path. Plant a tree for Bisate's reforestation project, helping to expand gorilla habitat and lure wildlife back to the area. Edifying cultural interactions, sophisticated, health-conscious dining, and exuberant hospitality all make your stay superior.






WHITE DESERT
ANTARCTICA



RATE

USD 127 275 per person sharing

USD 64 857 single supplement

[Inclusions and Exclusions](#)

Full booking terms and conditions available upon enquiry.



[VIEW THE VIDEO ITINERARY](#)

The background of the image is a light green topographic map with intricate contour lines and a dashed path. The text is centered on the map.

Our journeys change lives