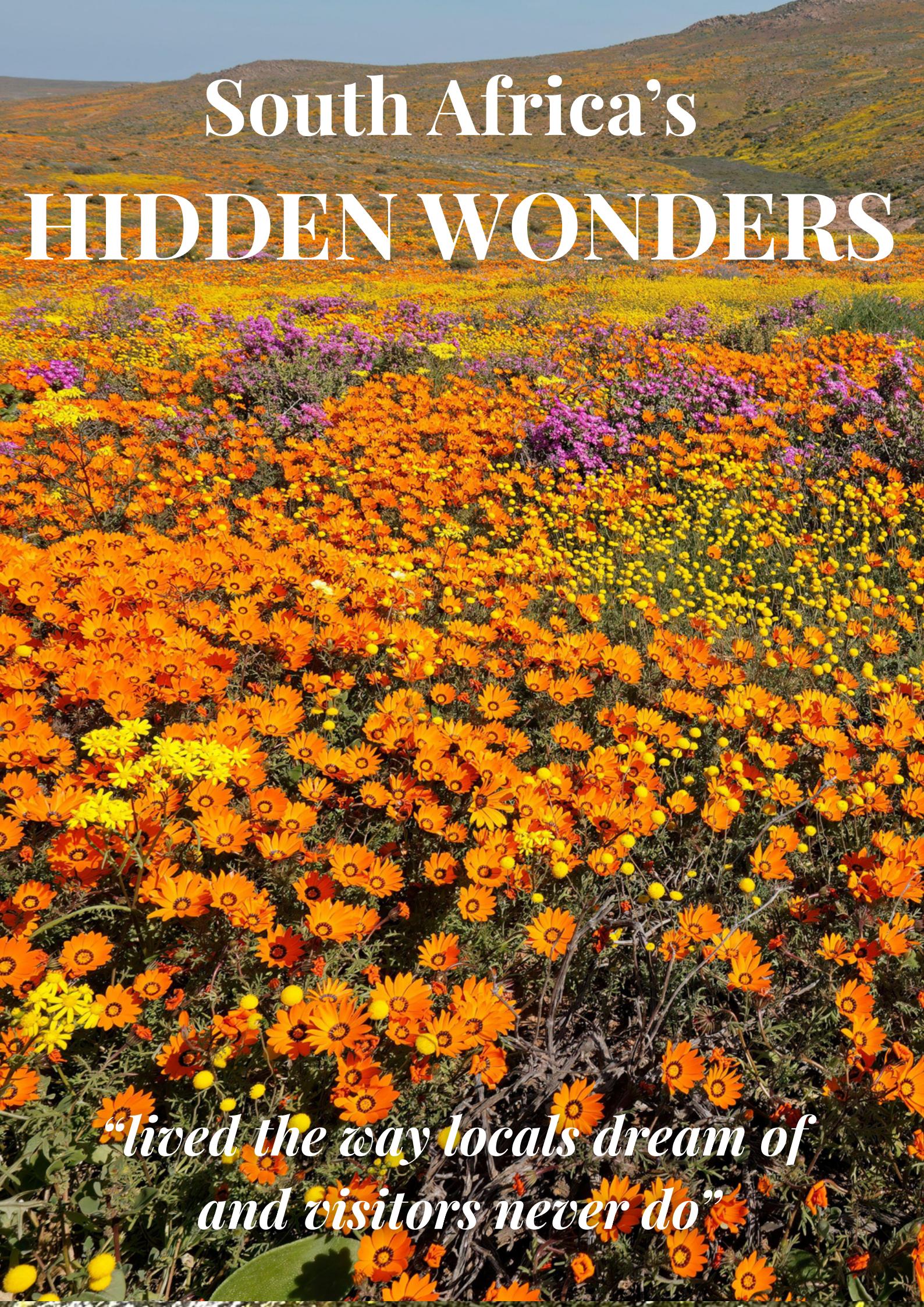




South Africa's HIDDEN WONDERS

*“lived the way locals dream of
and visitors never do”*



a lagoon walked by humans 117,000 years ago

Cape Town – West Coast – Wine Country – Whale Country – Safari

The Cape's Hidden Wonders – By Helicopter is a 12-day September Odyssey for people who have “done” South Africa before — but never like this.

It's built around three rare drawcards that align only once a year:

- *Southern right whales on the Whale Coast at peak season.*
- *The Namaqualand wildflower bloom, when semi-desert turns into a living tapestry.*
- *A private Big Five safari in the Sabi Sand, in that brief window when bush is thinning and game is at its best.*

Instead of long days in a vehicle, you move almost entirely by private helicopter and chartered aircraft, linking the Cape Peninsula, West Coast, Churchhaven, Cederberg, Winelands, Whale Coast and Sabi Sand in a series of 20–60 minute flights that feel like moving postcards.

Along the way you will:

- *Orbit Cape Point and Cape Agulhas in a single heli sweep, crossing two oceans in one arc.*
- *Spend time inside Churchhaven, a hidden lagoon hamlet in the West Coast National Park — as a guest, not a day-visitor.*
- *Walk among Cederberg rock cathedrals and Namaqualand flower fields reached in minutes, not hours.*
- *Taste wines out of the barrel with the winemaker, in cellar corners most never see.*
- *Live in an exclusive villa on the Whale Coast, with mountain-top braais and 4x4 sundowners where only locals go, whales rolling below your terrace.*
- *Close with a fly-in Sabi Sand safari, with your own ranger–tracker team and the freedom to shape each drive.*



Tour Program

For more detailed information: visit www.visitorstoafrika.com/sahw

International Flight:

- *Flights can be self-arranged or arranged through Visitors to Africa*

Day 1 – Cape Town Arrival & Cliff-Side Sanctuary

Arrival, Cliff-Side Sanctuary & First Light on the Atlantic

VIP meet-and-assist in Cape Town, fast-track through formalities and a short drive to your private helicopter. Lift off along the Atlantic Seaboard, tracing beaches and cliff lines to a secluded coastal lodge beneath Chapman's Peak, where you check into your ocean-facing suite, ease into the spa and end the day with a quiet, tailored first dinner above the sea.

Day 2 – Cape Peninsula, Robben Island & Constantia by Heli

Two Oceans, Robben Island & Barrel-Room Secrets

Lift off for a full heli-driven Cape Peninsula day: sweep around Table Mountain and the Twelve Apostles, follow Chapman's Peak to Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope, then cross False Bay to hover above the Boulders Beach penguins before landing for an up-close visit. From there, route out to Robben Island for a privately guided walk through its maximum-security past, then fly back over the Atlantic Seaboard into Constantia for a barrel-room tasting and long, wine-paired lunch at a historic estate, returning to your coastal lodge as the light slides off the mountain.

Day 3 – Kraalbaai & Churchhaven – 117,000-Year Footsteps

117,000-Year Footsteps, Preekstoel & A Night Inside the Lagoon

Heli north along the West Coast to Kraalbaai's turquoise lagoon, where you step onto a white-sand shoreline that has been walked for over a hundred thousand years. A small private boat takes you out to Preekstoel rock, the sandstone pulpit near which "Eve's" 117,000-year-old human footprint was discovered, linking your own steps to some of the earliest we know in Africa. From there you continue into Churchhaven for an overnight in a lagoon-side cottage: a tiny hamlet of whitewashed houses, fig trees and sand tracks, surrounded by early Namaqualand wildflowers and the quiet of a national park after day-visitors have gone.

Day 4 – Into the Cederberg – Rooibos, Rock & Stone Cathedral

Stone Cathedral, Rooibos & Rock Art at Dusk

Fly inland over banded wildflower country into the Cederberg, where sandstone mountains rise in red walls and sculpted towers. You land at a remote lodge for rooibos and scones on the terrace, tasting the plant in the valley that taught it how to live, then settle into your stone-and-thatch suite. The afternoon brings a gentle fynbos walk and an introduction to San rock art under a great overhang — the "stone cathedral" John writes about — before you return to camp for a boma dinner under a vast star-river, with the Milky Way laid across the sky and Cederberg wine in your glass.

Day 5 – Cederberg Depth – Fynbos, Flowers & Firelight

Rooibos Country, Fynbos Walks & a Valley That Remembers

This is your slower day in a valley that remembers. Guided walks take you deeper into the folds of the fynbos, where proteas, ericas and restios reward anyone willing to look closely, and where Stone Age artefacts lie in dry streambeds like breadcrumbs from another time. You visit more intimate rock-art shelters, then drive out into Namaqualand bloom when it's at its best — fields and bands of orange, yellow, pink and purple rolling toward the horizon, springbok and zebra stitched into the scene. Evening is long and reflective: Cederberg wine, firelight, and the sense that you've been allowed to walk through someone else's eternity for a day or two.



Tour Program

Day 6 – Stellenbosch & Helderberg – Cellars Unlocked

Barrels, Fairways & A Long Lunch Under the Oaks

A helicopter hop south carries you out of the mountains and into the orderly patchwork of the Cape Winelands, where vineyards and Cape Dutch homesteads lie tucked between peaks. You touch down near Stellenbosch and the Helderberg for private barrel tastings at historic estates — tasting young wines straight from the cask, hearing the winemaker talk about soil, slope and season in rooms most guests never see. A long, paired lunch under the oaks at a flagship cellar follows, each course matched to specific bottlings, before a gentle afternoon wandering among vines and heritage streets, returning to your estate base as the mountains gather evening light.

Day 7 – Franschhoek to Hermanus – From Vines to Whales

Vines, Long Lunch & Flight to Whale Country

Your final Winelands morning is unhurried: a last tasting in Franschhoek, perhaps a library wine or two brought out just for you, followed by a long lunch that feels more like a conversation than a meal. Only then do you lift out of the valley, following the line John calls “from vines to whales” in September Tides: over Franschhoek Pass, along the vast bowl of Theewaterskloof Dam, then across wheat and canola fields that glow in impossible greens and yellows. You turn into the Hemel-en-Aarde (Heaven and Earth) Valley, trace familiar wine names from above, then tip gently toward the sea and land at your cliff-top villa in Hermanus, where Walker Bay and its whales lie directly below your stoep.

Day 8 – Whale Coast – Bay of Giants

When the Ocean Holds Its Breath

This is your first full day living with the bay of giants. At dawn you step out onto the villa stoep with coffee to watch southern right whales rolling, blowing and breaching astonishingly close to shore — sometimes within a few hundred metres of your front door. Later, a private marine safari in a small, low-capacity boat takes you under the cliffs: whales at eye-level from the water, common dolphins riding the bow wave, seals on rocky outcrops and seabirds writing invisible highways overhead. You return to the villa salt-streaked and wide-eyed, spending the rest of the day on the terrace or by the pool, with long, local-flavoured meals and Walker Bay breathing just beyond the glass.

Day 9 – Whale Coast – Living Like a Local

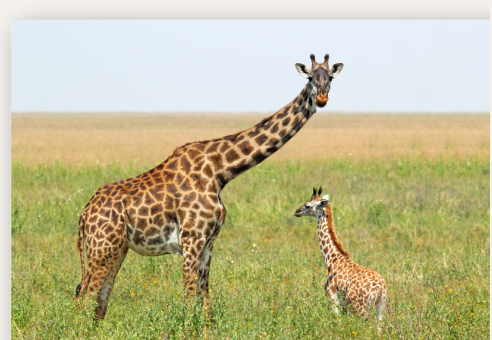
Eye-to-Eye with Giants & Living Like a Local

Day 9 is about living here, not just staying here. In the morning you may walk a stretch of the Hermanus cliff path with John, passing dassies on sun-warmed rocks, fishermen reading the surf and milkwood “cathedrals” that turn the path into a green tunnel, with whales breathing just below. Midday brings time in Hermanus town — galleries, cafes, the old harbour museum — and a private tasting at a small, owner-run brewery with the brewer himself. As the day folds into evening, you might take a 4x4 up to a mountain-top braai spot or a secret local sundowner viewpoint, watching the bay turn to pewter and then ink before returning to your villa for one last night above the sea.

Day 10 – To Sabi Sand – From Sea to Safari

From Cliff-Top Whales to the Heartbeat of the Bush

After a last slow breakfast with the ocean in front of you, you say goodbye to the bay and lift inland by helicopter or private transfer to the airport, then board your charter north-east to the Sabi Sand. The Cape’s cliffs, flowers and whales give way to Lowveld bush and river lines as you approach the airstrip. Your lodge — Sabi Sabi or an equivalent private reserve — welcomes you off the plane; within minutes you’re in your suite or villa, looking out over a waterhole or open savannah. Lunch is served on a shaded deck, followed by a few hours of pure rest — a plunge in your private pool, a spa treatment, or simply watching nyala and impala move through the trees. In the late afternoon you meet your ranger and tracker and head out on your first evening game drive.



Tour Program

For more detailed information: visit www.visitorstoafrika.com/majesty-golf-road

Day 11 – Sabi Sand – Dawn Patrols & Night Eyes

Dawn Patrols, Midday Stillness & Night Eyes

Day 11 follows the rhythm that makes safari so quietly addictive. A knock on the door, coffee and rusks, then out into the half-light for a sunrise game drive. Tracks in the dust, alarm calls in the trees and the experience of watching night fade from the bush as the sun lifts over the horizon. This is your best chance for the classic big-cat moments: lions returning from the hunt, leopards draped along branches, hyenas trotting home, wild dogs on the run.

You return to camp for a lavish breakfast, then the day opens — time for a sleep, a book on your deck, a spa session or a swim overlooking the bush. Late afternoon, you head back out, this time staying until the sky has gone from gold to indigo and the spotlight picks out night creatures: bushbabies, genets, owls and, if you're lucky, predators still on the move. Dinner is again under the stars or in an intimate dining room, with the bush's soundtrack folding gently around conversation.

Day 12 – Sabi Sand Farewell & Homeward Bound

Last Light, Last Tracks & A Quiet Flight Home

Your final morning offers one more chance to hear the bush wake up. If you wish, you join a last dawn drive, letting the sights, smells and sounds of the Sabi Sand write themselves in one more time. After an unhurried breakfast, you pack at ease while staff handle the details behind the scenes. A short transfer takes you back to the airstrip for your charter flight south, routing to Johannesburg or Cape Town to connect with your international departure.

As the aircraft lifts and the Lowveld slides away beneath you, the full arc of South Africa's Hidden Wonders comes into focus: mountain to lagoon, Kraalbaai to Churchhaven, stone cathedrals and wildflower seas, vines and barrels, whales at your front door and finally lion tracks in the dust. It's September done once, properly — the kind of journey that will sit quietly under your skin for the rest of your life.

Why This Odyssey Is Unrepeatable

- *Three September miracles, one line: Peak whale season, Namaqualand wildflower bloom and a Sabi Sand Big Five safari, wired together in a single, coherent journey.*
- *Helicopters as time machines: Long, tiring road days are replaced by 20–60 minute scenic flights over passes, dams, lagoons and flower plains — transit becomes theatre, not dead time.*
- *Doors locals whisper about, not brochures: Churchhaven, Kraalbaai, stone cathedrals in the Cederberg, barrel rooms, cliff-top braais and whale-view villas that almost never appear on public itineraries.*
- *September, seen from inside the story: You don't "do the Cape" and then "do safari"; you live one continuous arc from mountain to lagoon, bloom to vine, vine to whales and whales to wild.*
- *Built from a lifetime on this route: Much of John's book *September Tides* was written on these exact passes, paths and bays — this isn't a product assembled on a screen, it's his own September, offered once or twice a year.*
- *Designed for those who've already seen the postcards: Crafted for repeat visitors and UHNW travellers who thought they knew South Africa and are now ready for what lies behind it.*
- *Deliberately rare: Operates only in late August / September, for 4–6 guests per departure, with extremely limited slots each year.*



www.visitorstoafrika.com



Your Investment in South Africa's Hidden Wonders

Most operators have starting prices or ranges. We don't.

You will not find a price list for this journey on our site or in our brochures. Not because we are hiding it, but because every Hidden Wonders itinerary is engineered around one specific constellation of people — at one specific moment in their lives.

The same route feels utterly different for four lifelong friends, two couples travelling together, or three generations sharing a single September. A single "from USD X" on a website would be fiction.

The clients we serve do not choose us on price. They choose us on the way we think, design and protect their time. So we work under one rule: No number leaves this office until I've had a real conversation with you.

If you would like that conversation, request a Private Consultation and mention South Africa's Hidden Wonders — By Helicopter. We'll schedule a 45-minute call — confidential, no obligation. By the end of that call, we will both know whether we should work together, or whether you would be better served by a different kind of operator.

A Year in Motion — Why Your Guide Matters

For more than 35 years, the curator of this journey — and founder of Visitors to Africa (1995) — has spent over 6,000 days on the road across Southern Africa and the wider world, watching landscapes quietly change people.

He is now turning those African days into a 12-volume series, A Year in Motion — 365 Days in Southern Africa: one book per month, one chapter per day, each chapter a single, living moment. The first volume, September — A Year in Motion: September Tides, is complete; the other eleven months will follow.

Some stories are from journeys with guests; others are from days alone on the road. All are real. No fiction. Just the world as he has seen it from the front seat, the stoep, the saddle and the cockpit.

When you travel with Visitors to Africa, you're not buying an itinerary off a shelf. You're stepping into a landscape that has been walked, driven and written for decades. If you'd like a taste, you're welcome to read the first volume, [September Tides](#).

What's Included — Grand Tour by Helicopter

South Africa's Hidden Wonders — 11 Nights / 12 Days

- *Private aviation & heli transfers in the Cape, plus flights to/from Sabi Sand*
- *11 nights in handpicked 5-star+ properties, including an exclusive Whale Coast villa*
- *Cape Peninsula, West Coast & Cederberg by helicopter, with Kraalbaai, Churchhaven and rock-art experiences*
- *Curated Winelands tastings & lunches, including private barrel-room access*
- *Cliff-top, land-based whale watching and a private marine safari on the Whale Coast*
- *Sabi Sand Big Five safari, with twice-daily game drives and full-board lodging*
- *Personally designed & overseen by John Sparks, with on-trip hosting / concierge support*
- *Scheduled spa time & access to pools and wellness facilities at key properties*
- *All core park fees, levies & a bespoke photo book of your journey after you return*



Private Enquiries & Consultations

Register Your Interest in South Africa's Hidden Wonders – By Helicopter

1. *Ideal travel window in August or September*
2. *Estimated group size (4–6 women)*
3. *Any special occasions or requirements*

Private Consultation: www.jwsparks.com/consultation

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www.visitorstoafrika.com