

# SOUTH AFRICA & SWAZILAND Tour

A journey through crafts and rural Africa  
26 September – 11 October 2009



Join Lesley Robin on a new journey to South Africa & Swaziland. Our journey includes the important cities of Durban and Cape Town, but mainly focuses on the rural countryside. From the capital city Johannesburg travel to the Kruger National Park and home to the 'Big Five'... elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and the elusive leopard. Continue overland into the highlands of the Royal Kingdom of Swaziland where we visit an organisation that works with 700 women from 13 different communities designing handmade products from grass, beads, pottery and natural dyes. On to Zululand and Durban, one of the busiest ports in Africa. Fly to Cape Town with breathtaking scenery of the Cape Peninsula. Our visits include Table Mountain, Bo-Kaap and the Malay Quarter with its brightly painted 19th Century houses. Visit the Winelands and explore the historic villages of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek.

Throughout our travels visit markets and self-help projects focussing on crafts – handmade candles, embroidery, weaving, recycled glass. Come discover the vibrancy and spirit of Swaziland and the New South Africa, a truly 'Rainbow Nation'.



Day 1 Sat, Sept 26: Depart London Heathrow on British Airways overnight direct flight to Johannesburg, South Africa. (Note: Flying from the UK to South Africa we should experience no jetlag because South Africa is just 1 hour ahead of GMT). **OVERNIGHT ON FLIGHT.**

Day 2 Sun, Sept 27: Arrival at Johannesburg International Airport where we are met by Lesley Robin. Transfer to our hotel and after an early lunch and check-in to our rooms, visit the weekly Sunday African Market with over 500 stalls selling art, tribal artifacts, clothing, ceramics, jewellery from all over the continent of Africa. (For those joining locally in Johannesburg, rooms are available for check-in from 2pm today). **SANDTON (Johannesburg) – THE BALALAIKA HOTEL (L, D)**

Day 3 Mon, Sept 28: After a leisurely breakfast visit the Kim Sacks Gallery. Kim studied at the Danish School of Design in Copenhagen before returning to South Africa in 1986. Determined to raise the profile of South African artists and craftspeople, she established both the gallery and a ceramics school. In 2009 she mounted an exhibition of embroidery textiles "The Pursuit of Dreaming in Threads" and will talk to us about the embroidery tradition of South Africa. Afternoon visit to the outlet for Kaross, an embroidery initiative started in the rural areas in the late 80s with just five embroiderers from the Shangaan tribe. Today they produce embroidery of the highest quality in passionate colours and unique in design. Meet some of the people involved and learn about their work. **SANDTON (Johannesburg) – THE BALALAIKA HOTEL (B, L, D)**



Photographs: Lesley Robin

Day 4 Tue, Sept 29: Morning drive to the Kruger Park home to an infinite array of animals including elephant, rhino, buffalo and lion. In the late afternoon take a game drive into the reserve in open safari vehicles led by skilled rangers. Our lodge is located in the bush at the entrance to the park on the Sabi River. **KRUGER NATIONAL PARK – KRUGER GATE LODGE (B, L, D)**

Day 5 Wed, Sept 30: After an early breakfast drive through the Game Reserve and cross into the Royal Kingdom of Swaziland, a landlocked country that shares borders with Mozambique and South Africa, a dual monarchy with a King and Queen Mother. Swaziland has an exciting and thriving industry of handmade crafts that combines the best of traditional design and modern techniques. Drive to Piggs Peak and visit Coral Stephens weaving workshop, which employs talented local women from the surrounding area and specialises in products made from hand-woven mohair, wool and silk. Later visit Ngwenya Glass factory to see the production of handmade products from recycled glass. **FORESTERS ARMS HOTEL situated in the Swaziland highlands, a short distance from the capital Mbabane (B, L, D)**



Day 6 Thu, Oct 1: Today we visit an organisation Gone Rural that currently works with 700 women from 13 different communities throughout Swaziland. They design and produce uniquely beautiful handmade home accessories that include the use of grass, beads, pottery and natural dyes. Gone Rural is a Fair Trade company that founded a non-profit organisation to support the women artisans and their communities through health and education programmes and contributes 20% of profit directly back to the women. Swazi women living in mountainous regions harvest the Lutindzi grass once a year in February and dry it outside before bundling and selling it back to the project. Drive to one of their rural communities where you are welcome to try your hand at plaiting of the grass, sisal fibre and stitching technique and a handweaving demonstration. Visit a Swazi homestead and experience this community handcraft project in action. FORESTERS ARMS HOTEL (B, Picnic L, D)

Day 7 Fri, Oct 2: Start our day with a visit to a local school. Drive to the town of Manzini to visit the market, an explosion of energy and color which draws rural people from the surrounding area who come to sell their products – woodcarvings, jewellery, traditional Swazi blankets and cloth in bold designs, masks, grass woven baskets as well as household goods and herbal medicines. After lunch in the Botanical Gardens visit a ‘sangoma’ (traditional healer) and a workshop for handmade candles in highly decorative animal and geometric designs. FORESTERS ARMS HOTEL (B, L, D)

Day 8 Sat, Oct 3: We make an early start for a full day’s drive to Zululand (KwaZulu-Natal). Overnight in traditional beehive huts (with all modern amenities) crafted by the local community. Gain an insight into Zulu customs and see a dynamic dance performance. HOTEL PROTEA SHAKALAND (B, L, D)

Day 9 Sun, Oct 4: A 2-hour drive brings us to Durban, one of the busiest ports in Africa and home to one of the largest communities of Indians outside of India. Visit the downtown covered market for crafts and Indian shops selling spices. After lunch overlooking Durban harbour visit the African Arts Centre outlet. This non-profit organisation provides training and grants for local artists and artisans, helping them promote and sell their art and crafts of exceptional quality. Dinner on your own. DURBAN – PROTEA EDWARD HOTEL situated on Durban’s famous Golden Mile Drive overlooking the Indian Ocean (B, L)

Day 10 & 11 Mon, Oct 5 & Tue, Oct 6: Tuesday morning flight to Cape Town and travel to the Cape Winelands. Rugged, blue-tinged mountains form a dramatic backdrop to the surrounding green valleys where charming towns rest among lush vineyards and olive groves with traditional gabled Cape Dutch architecture. Over the next two days our visits include Franschoek – the valley of the French Huguenots and walking tours of historic Stellenbosch and Paarl to see the important sights. Visit a wine farm. Dinner on your own both days in

Stellenbosch with its many cafes and restaurants, craft shops and art galleries. STELLENBOSCH – HOTEL DORPSHUIS (B, L daily)

Day 12 Wed, Oct 7: Drive to Cape Town stopping on route to visit Groot Constantia, one of the finest examples of Cape Dutch architecture dating back to 1685. Later take the cableway to the top of Table Mountain with its incomparable views of the Cape Peninsula. Walk through downtown Cape Town and visit the original Dutch East India Company gardens established in 1652. Afternoon visit the Gold of Africa Museum. Our hotel is centrally situated in the heart of the Victoria & Albert Waterfront on Cape Town’s working harbour with its outdoor cafes and restaurants, shops and street entertainment. This evening a special dinner with live Cape jazz musicians. CAPE TOWN – PORTSWOOD HOTEL (B, Picnic L, D)

Day 13 Thu, Oct 8: A short drive to Hout Bay where we visit the inspiring community project – Iziko Lobomi. Later see behind the scenes of a small and successful craft-based company that uses recycled materials to produce contemporary items based on traditional techniques, employing artisans from rural areas. Visit Bo-Kaap and the Malay Quarter, home to Cape Town’s Muslim community with its cobbled streets and brightly coloured houses. Visit District Six Museum which gives a real insight of life during the days of Apartheid. Dinner on your own. CAPE TOWN – PORTSWOOD HOTEL (B, L)

Day 14 Fri, Oct 9: A full day trip to the Cape Peninsula visiting the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Point close to where the Atlantic and the Indian oceans meet. Time to explore the seafront village of Kalk Bay where we enjoy a fish lunch overlooking its lively fishing harbour. Dinner on your own. CAPE TOWN – PORTSWOOD HOTEL (B, L)

Day 15 Sat, Oct 10: A leisurely morning to pack and check out of our rooms. Visit to Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden renowned for the beauty and diversity of the Cape flora and for the magnificence of its setting against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. We enjoy our farewell lunch in the garden restaurant before departing for the airport and evening flight back to the UK. (For those who will have joined the tour locally, check-out is 10am today).

Day 16 Sun, Oct 11: Return flight to the UK arrives Heathrow airport this morning.

*(B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)*

**Lesley Robin – Tour Director**

*South Africa & Swaziland is a new destination for the Embroiderers’ Guild organised by Lesley Robin who was born and grew up in South Africa. Lesley is well-known to many Guild members having arranged the Guild’s yearly travel programmes to India, Thailand and Mexico over the past 16 years. Her interest in textiles began in the 70s when she lived and worked in India for many years and also travelled extensively throughout the Indian sub-continent. Her journeys have taken her to many parts of the world in search of discovering the regional crafts of rural villages in places as diverse as Bhutan and Africa, meeting master craftsmen at a traditional and grassroots level as well as highly skilled contemporary and creative artisans.*

Contact Annie Franz at the Embroiderers’ Guild for further information about the tour: Tel: 020 8943 1229 ext. 36



Photographs: Lesley Robin

## BOOKING FORM

SOUTH AFRICA & SWAZILAND with the EMBROIDERERS' GUILD 26 September – 11 October 2009

Surname ..... First Name .....  
(as on passport)

Nationality ..... Date of Birth .....

Place of Birth (city & country) .....

Passport No. .... Place of Issue .....

Date of Issue ..... Date of Expiry .....

Address for Correspondence: .....  
 .....  
 .....

Telephone (day): ..... Telephone (home): .....

Email: .....

Name of Tour: .....

I shall be accompanied by: (optional) .....

Please reserve me a place in a SINGLE room (please note supplement applicable) .....

**INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:**

Please indicate if you would like CTT Group Ltd to book your international group flight from the UK as per the tour itinerary. Return flight London-Johannesburg-London with British Airways £713 to be confirmed (airport transfers included) .....

Please indicate if you are joining locally and arranging your international flights independently .....

Please also indicate if you require airport transfers (additional cost per transfer airport/hotel: £36 per car for maximum 2 persons) .....

I have read the Conditions of Booking and I agree on behalf of all persons listed above by whom I am authorised to make this agreement

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Deposit(s) @ £500 per person £ .....

Cheque (payable to CTT Group Ltd) enclosed for total: £ .....

We accept payment by Debit Cards such as Switch. We also accept payment, subject to a handling charge, by American Express (2% handling charge), and by Visa or Mastercard (3% handling charge).

**SWITCH/VISA/MASTERCARD/AMERICAN EXPRESS**

Valid From: ..... Valid To: ..... 3 Digit Security Code (on reverse): .....

Issue No. (SWITCH) .....

Cardholder's Signature: .....

## IMPORTANT NOTES

This printed itinerary should be used for basic outline informational purposes only.

Passports need to be valid for 6 months beyond trip dates. No visas are required for South Africa for EU countries.

On receipt of your booking form and deposit you will be sent pre-departure details covering health, clothing etc.

## TOUR PRICE

£3764 (LAND ONLY) per person, double occupancy

£713 British Airways Flight London – South Africa return.

£690 Single Supplement if single room required.

Should you require assistance with any arrangements additional to the itinerary please let us know.

## TOUR PRICE (LAND ARRANGEMENTS ONLY) INCLUDES:

Transport: Transfers between international airport & hotel, sightseeing and travel by internal flight, AC private coach.

Accommodation: first-class throughout and chosen where possible for their central location or charm. Accommodations based on twin bedded rooms, double occupancy sharing a room with shower/bath. THE RIGHT IS RESERVED TO SUBSTITUTE HOTELS OF SIMILAR CATEGORY SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY.

Meals: All meals are included as specified on the itinerary.

Gratuities, Taxes & Service Charges: all necessary tips to hotels and restaurant personnel, baggage porters, etc in connection with the services provided.

Entrance Fees & Camera Fees: to all monuments/museums are included and camera fees where applicable.

Craft visits: As per itinerary and donations to NGOs where applicable.

## TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

international air, passports, inoculations, excess baggage charges, meals not specified as included, medical expenses, personal items such as alcoholic beverages, room service, laundry charges, phone calls, travel insurance, etc.

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:

This tour starts in Johannesburg and ends in Cape Town. See Booking Form for group flight details. You can arrange your own independent flight to South Africa.

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

### Making your booking

Please fill in the booking form and send it to us together with the deposit or full payment if booking within 10 weeks of departure. Provided the holiday is available we will make all arrangements and send you confirmation of your booking and all relevant details. It is from then on that a firm contract exists between you and CTT Group Ltd T/A CT Group & Incentive Travel, on the basis of the itinerary sent to you. If the holiday is not available, we will return your deposit or full payment. Once we have confirmed your booking, your deposit is non-returnable except in the special circumstances mentioned below. We will send you a final invoice about 10 weeks before departure and this will show any surcharges due. You must pay the amount due within 10 days of the invoice date. We may otherwise treat the booking as cancelled and apply our cancellation charges. We send you your tickets about 10 days before you go.

### What your money buys

The holiday price includes: If requested with us at the time of booking, economy class air travel, at the lowest quoted fare; sometimes if seats in this category are no longer available, we will have to charge a supplement. Twin or double-bedded room with private bath or shower at the named hotels or substitutes of the same standard. Meals as specified. Meetings, transfers and surface transportation by car, bus or train. Holiday prices cover only the services and duration shown on each itinerary. Check-out time from rooms is generally 12 noon. Where, for reasons of force majeure, altered services are taken or the duration of the holiday is extended, we reserve the right to pass on additional costs in full. Excluded are all expenses of a personal nature such as drinks or laundry. Group tours are based on a minimum number of persons travelling. We must regretfully reserve the right not to operate any tour on which there are insufficient bookings 8 weeks before departure. Full payment, including your deposit, will be refunded.

### Your luggage and belongings

Your free baggage allowance on flights is one suitcase weighing up to 23kg per person and one piece of hand luggage to be taken into the aircraft cabin.

### Airlines and Seating

We are able to quote for upgrades to World Traveller Plus and to Business Class on some British Airways flights. Reserving your actual seat can only be done by you personally once you have received your ticket (or e-ticket).

### Delays at Point of Departure

The scheduled airlines we use will generally provide meals and accommodation to passengers already checked-in in the event of extended delays. The CTT Group t/a CT Groups and Incentives and or The Embroiderers' Guild cannot be held responsible for any alterations that are necessary as a result of any delays caused directly or indirectly to the international flights for reasons within or outside of theirs or the carriers control.

### Passports, Visas and Health

You must have a full British passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date and one blank page in your passport. If you do not travel on a British passport or do not meet these requirements or have any doubt as to your legibility to enter South Africa then please contact us for further advice before confirming your booking.

### Age and Health

We do not operate any age limit on our holidays. However if you are aged over 80, we do require that you should be travelling with a companion. In many of the countries in which we operate, medical facilities are poor, and if you do fall ill, appropriate treatment may be difficult to access. There are no formal health requirements except for those who have recently visited a Yellow Fever area. Recommended precautions will be advised with the confirmation of booking. All clients are themselves responsible to ensuring that they conform to the health regulations regarding vaccinations.

### Surcharges – Our Policy

Our prices are based on tariffs, exchange rates and other costs as at 1st January 2009 and specifically on a rate of £1 = 12 South African Rand. The price of your holiday is subject to surcharges on the following items for increases in: transportation costs, e.g. scheduled airfares and any other airline surcharge which are part of the contract between airlines (and their agents) and the tour operator, government action such as increases in VAT or any other government imposed increases, currency in relation to adverse exchange rate variations, fuel for road vehicles. Even in these cases we will absorb an amount equivalent to 2% of the holiday price, which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges. Only amounts in excess of this 2% will be surcharged. If this means paying more than 10% on the holiday price, you will be entitled to cancel your holiday with a full refund of all monies paid except for any deposits paid to the airline which in some circumstances may be non refundable, and any premium paid to us for holiday insurance and amendment charges. Should you decide to cancel because of this, you must exercise your right to do so within 14 days from the issue date printed on the invoice.

### If you have to cancel

If you find you cannot take your holiday and have to cancel for whatever reason, your deposit will be forfeited. If you cancel, we must impose cancellation charges up to a maximum as follows: between time of booking and 70 days before departure loss of deposit, between 69 – 42 days before departure 30 % between 41 – 28 days before departure 40%, between 27 – 14 days before departure 60%, between 13 – 7 days before departure 80% and between 6 days and departure 100%. Percentages are of total holiday cost. If you are obliged to cancel, you may with reasonable notice, transfer your booking to a third party who satisfies all the conditions required by a person taking that holiday, but you will be obliged to pay for any additional costs resulting from the transfer. Travel insurance is absolutely required to come on the tour. Please make sure it includes cancellation & repatriation (please ask if you need advice on travel insurance).

### Alterations by ourselves

We will do our utmost to provide the holiday arrangements that have been confirmed, but we must reserve the right to modify or cancel any holiday, flight schedule, accommodation or arrangement if unforeseen circumstances arise. In such circumstances, we will inform you as soon as possible, and, should the change be such that it alters the nature of your holiday, we shall offer you the choice of an alternative holiday or a full refund of all monies paid to ourselves.

### Our liabilities to you

We do not exclude or limit any liability to our clients which may arise from proven negligence by any person employed directly by us or by our suppliers and subcontractors, servants or agents of the same whilst acting in the course of their employment in respect of death, bodily injury or illness. If our suppliers are able to exclude or limit liability by virtue of any international convention we will claim the benefit of that exclusion or limitation. Such liabilities shall be subject to English law and all proceedings shall be within the exclusive domain of the English courts. We accept responsibility for ensuring that all parts of the holiday are supplied as described, and that all services shall reach a reasonable standard. These obligations and responsibilities shall be limited where international conventions in respect of air or sea carriers apply. Naturally we cannot assume responsibility for loss or expense due to war, riots, strikes, terrorist activities or natural disasters.

### Complaints

If you have cause for complaint, it makes sense to sort out the problem on the spot, so that you can get on with enjoying the rest of your holiday. If the matter cannot be rectified, please write and tell us as soon as possible after you get back, and we will do our best to sort it out promptly. In the unlikely event that you are still unhappy ABTA's arbitration scheme may be called upon (details on request) may be called upon by either side to bring the matters to a speedy and amicable solution. This does not apply for claims which are solely or mainly in respect of physical injury or illness or the consequences there from. You may alternatively refer the matter to any court of law.

### Debit, Credit and Charge Cards

We do accept payment by debit cards such as Maestro. We also accept payment by credit cards, subject to a handling charge of 3% (Visa, MasterCard's & American Express).

### Consumer Protection

This package is protected by ATOL since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 5158. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. For further information, visit the ATOL website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.atol.org.uk" www.atol.org.uk](http://www.atol.org.uk)

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