

**African Aero Adventures**  
**WESTERN SWING**  
**Escorted Group Self-Fly Safari**  
**July 01 – 18, 2025**  
**17-nights**

*A rewarding Self-Fly Safari for pilots flying in Africa for the first time.  
The essence of Africa in 13 exciting bush-flying days.  
South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.*

**A chance to see different Eco-systems in Southern Africa. This itinerary covers prime spots in Botswana and Namibia! Fantastic water-based experiences and the best of what scenic Namibia has to offer!! Flying the African sky is a pleasure with great views, good landing strips, and friendly controllers.**

In this itinerary you'll have 4 nights stay in Johannesburg for briefings, safari preparations and pilot validation exercises. **You should arrive by July 01, 2025 or soon thereafter.**

**The price for this Self-Fly Safari® is US\$ 46 128.38 for 2 people sharing a Cessna 172/182 aircraft or similar. In the event you are both pilots and both need validations, add on an additional \$1000 for the second pilot.**

**This price includes:**

All accommodation and meals, except where only Bed and Breakfast is noted. Drinks as noted.  
Lodge standard activities and any extra activities as noted.  
All road transfers to and from airports/airstrips.  
National Park entrance fees, where applicable.  
Rental of a Cessna 172 / Cessna 182 or similar for 35 hours on a dry basis (min 2 hours/day).  
All aircraft landing, passenger, and approach fees while in Johannesburg.  
Excess insurance (hull deductible).  
Licence validation fees, Instructor briefings and dual flight time for your validation for 1 Pilot.  
A subscription to EasyCockpit flight planning software and with preprogrammed flight legs.  
Detailed Flight Itinerary, and Comprehensive TripKit in Pdf and printed form (your bible for your safari).  
All flight clearances  
Pre-completed Customs and Immigration documentation.  
Pre-completed flight plans for your flights (pre-filed where possible).  
Flight following using a Satellite Tracker  
Ground support for the entire duration of the Safari from our offices in Johannesburg  
All Safari briefings  
An escort aircraft from African Aero Adventures to assist with flight briefing and formalities en-route.

**Not included:**

Airfare to South Africa and return  
Personal Medical and Travel insurance  
Visa and entry/exit fees.  
Avgas, oil and aircraft charges and fees en-route (outside Johannesburg).  
Curios, tips, laundry, and drinks unless otherwise noted.  
Items of a personal nature  
Conservation or tourist levy fees charged at some of the lodges (about \$3 - \$10 per person).  
Transportation in and around Johannesburg. We suggest using Uber while you are in Johannesburg.

## **Your Itinerary**

### **July 01, Tue.**

Arrive in the AM at Johannesburg International Airport where you will be transferred to the **Pivot Hotel next door to the Monte Casino Centre**, Fourways, on the outskirts of Johannesburg for 4 nights while completing your pilot validations. We will meet you after your arrival and will commence briefing as soon as you have settled in. We are flexible, however have a lot of work to cover, therefore the sooner we get started, the better. Non pilots can go to all the briefings if they wish.

**Check in is at 14H00 only, so if you are arriving early in the morning, and wish to go directly to a room advise us and we will book an extra night for you.**

**Throughout your time in Johannesburg, optional tours** for non-pilots can be arranged with the Hotel concierge Desk to do various activities such as visit the Lesedi Cultural Village, Origins Center, Sterkfontein Caves, Cradle of Humankind, Lion Park, and Botanical Garden.

**(Bed & breakfast, transfer)**

<https://www.tsogosun.com/hotel/the-pivot-hotel>

### **July 02, Wed.**

**Instructor's briefing and handling check ride.** You'll get a chance to focus on some of the differences of flying in Africa. Professionals do all the briefings. You'll get the lay of the land and a taste of how ATC works (and sounds) in Africa's busiest airspace.

### **July 03 & 04 (Thur & Fri).**

Completion of Validation exercises if not done, time on your own and a final afternoon briefing. Arrange to settle your hotel bill that evening and for an early breakfast.

### **July 05, Sat. – Fly the African Bush –**

Transport yourselves to the departure airport via Uber where we'll meet you to assist in our Self-Fly Safari departure. Sign out the aircraft, load it, check the fuel, top off the tanks, and take care of all the last-minute details. We can store any excess luggage at our offices as required. Soft duffle type bags are recommended for your safari. Soon, we are on our way!

### **July 05 & 06, (Sat & Sun). – Planet Baobab, Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, Botswana**

*(410 nm first Southeast, then North - with 1 fuel and immigration stop) Gweta airstrip, 2 nights, 1st night at Planet Baobab and 2nd night under the stars, Dinner and Breakfast, no activities, airstrip transfers.*

A longish day due to formalities! We will clear out of South Africa at Lanseria Airport. The next leg takes us to Gaborone to refuel and clear Customs and immigration into Botswana. Once formalities have been completed at Gaborone, your destination will be Gweta airstrip and a transfer to Planet Baobab. Planet Baobab is the Baobab Capital of the World, where the average age of each tree is more than 4000 years, and the boundless lunar landscape of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. This is a quirky place in a quirky part of the world, where we live cheek to tusk with old elephants; sleep in basic but oh so Afro-chic Bakalanga Huts; swim in the largest, coolest pool in the Kalahari; eat the finest pan-African cuisine, and of course, drink something cold with hunters and vagabonds, travelers and locals in the funkier bar in Africa. It's the coolest desert oasis around – and a part of Africa that few will experience, but all will remember. Our rooms are scattered beneath a fraternity of colossal baobabs, the 18 thatched huts, take more than a little inspiration from the local Botswana villages, and all are arranged in friendly clusters. An enormous bar area, adorned with wine-bottle chandeliers and cow-hide chairs, is at the heart of the camp. There's an a la carte menu to tickle your taste buds, and an even larger drinks menu to satisfy your parched throat after a day in the desert. Ntwetwe Pans Overnight Trip (With Quad Bikes) -rev your quad bike across the never-ending pans (2 guests per quad bike), before sleeping out under the stars in a magical fly camp (includes a BBQ dinner, tea & coffee, meerkats visit & breakfast).

<https://planetbaobab.travel/>

### **July 07 & 08 (Mon & Tue) - CHOBE PRINCESS BOAT CRUISE, Chobe National Park, Botswana**

*(150 nm North - 1 fuel stop and 2 immigration stops) – Kasane Airport, 2 nights, all meals, transfers, water-based activities soft drinks, local beers & wines (excludes premium imported brands and champagne.)*

The flight to our next destination takes us to Kasane Airport, where we will need to clear customs out of Botswana and catch a boat to Namibia side to clear customs in. Total flight time today is 1 hour 15 min. The next 2 nights will be spent on the Chobe Princess houseboat which is in Namibian territory. As you drift down the Chobe River and spot incredible wildlife scenes, you'll be able to completely relax in an intimate river safari experience. With only a small number of guests per boat staying in one of the three Chobe Princesses is like being on your very own houseboat. The Chobe Princess houseboat itinerary is flexible so while we have a range of activities on offer, you can choose just how much you want to pack into your holiday or how relaxed you want to be. Perhaps you want to enjoy a water-based safari or a village tour on the Namibian side of the river? Or perhaps you'd prefer a spot of bird watching or fishing instead? You may even decide to simply remain on board and soak up the spectacular view as the Chobe Princess houseboat glides its way along the banks of the Chobe River.

<https://zgcollection.com/chobe-princesses/>

### **July 09 & 10 (Wed & Thur) - ANDERSSONS, Ongava Game Reserve, Etosha National Park, Namibia**

*(550 nm first West then West southwest - with 1 fuel stop and immigration stops) - private airstrip, 2 nights, all meals, local drinks (excludes premium imported brands and champagne) laundry, activities, airstrip transfers.*

Another long-distance day. We will need to clear customs out of Namibia, catch a boat back to Botswana side, clear in, find our way back to the airport via taxi and then clear back out of Botswana again for our next flight into Namibia at Rundu.

Flight time to Rundu is around 1 Hr 25 and thereafter we fly to Ongava which is another 1 Hr 20

Andersson's at Ongava links the past, present and future of eco-tourism in one memorable, luxurious experience for our guests. Generously proportioned suites with expansive views across the landscape and an underground hide with a water level view of the animal and birdlife on Ongava Game Reserve, Andersson's at Ongava provides a setting that inspires intimacy without intrusion and a stunning connection to the wild. The natural stone and spacious solid build with innovative roof structure, private viewing deck with 180-degree panorama, television monitor offering 24hour live views of the waterhole, air-conditioning, mosquito net, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer, electronic safe and 220V power. Bird watching, game drive, game viewing, nature walks, rhino approaching, viewing hide and access to Ongava Research Centre Information Service and Visitor Centre.

<https://www.ongava.com/anderssons-at-ongava>

### **July 11 (Fri) - THE STILTZ, Swakopmund, Namibia**

*(225 nm first South Southwest – direct flight) – Swakopmund airport, 1 night, Bed & Breakfast, excluding airport transfers.*

This flight is around 2Hrs 15 Min. The overnight stop in Swakopmund is to experience life in a coastal Namibian town. Unique in every aspect, staying at The Stiltz offers the most spectacular views in Swakopmund. Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the Namib sand dunes, and the bird rich lagoon at the river mouth, the Stiltz offers breathtaking views and unforgettable sunsets. If that does not take your breath away, the architecture of these wooden bungalows built on stilts will. Each private bungalow has been attended to in the finest detail, interlinked by wooden walkways to each other and to the main dining bungalow. The Stiltz offers 8 bungalows of which 7 are twin and 1 is double, each created with great attention to detail and color. Use of natural materials wood, old photos & African art create a very special atmosphere in the villas.

<http://thestiltz.com/index.php#accommodation>

### **July 12 & 13 (Sat & Sun) - KULALA DESERT LODGE, Sossusvlei, Namibia**

*(200 nm first South then East – direct flight) - Geluk Airstrip, 2 nights, all meals, local drinks (excludes premium imported brands and champagne), laundry, activities and airstrip transfers.*

Today we will fly South Coastwise until we turn East towards our destination. Our flight will take us past shipwrecks along the coast and hopefully we will see the pink flamingo's which Namibia is famous for. Turning inland we will pass over spectacular sand dunes en route to the desert area. Flying time is approximately an hour and a half.

Kulala Desert Lodge borders the Namib-Naukluft National Park and accessible through an exclusive-use gate, is close to the iconic red dunes of Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei. Set on 27 000 hectares of pristine private land bordering Sossusvlei, the Kulala Wilderness Reserve offers endless spectacular desert scenery and extraordinary, and unexpected with a wide range of desert-adapted wildlife can be seen on the Kulala Wilderness Reserve. A surprisingly diverse array of insects, reptiles and rodents make their home around Kulala Desert Lodge. At dusk the call of barking geckoes can be heard, and walks reveal the smaller creatures - the buck-spool spider with its multi-entrance burrow or the ambush specialist antlion, to name but a few. Comprising 23 units (including two family units), Kulala Desert Lodge is a convivial camp well suited to groups, families and self-drive guests. Each canvas and thatch room has a flat rooftop, ideal for sleep-outs under the extraordinary night sky.

<https://www.sossusvlei.org/accommodation/kulala-desert-lodge/>

### **July 14 & 15 (Mon & Tue) - CANYON LODGE, Fish River Canyon, Namibia**

*(220 nm South Southeast – direct flight) - Karios Airstrip, 2 nights, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, 1 guided drive, Laundry, airstrip transfers*

A quick 1 hour 30 flight takes us down towards the fish river canyon. Stunning Canyon views prior to approaching the airfield! We stay at Canyon lodge situated on a plain near the edge of the Fish River Canyon, which is touted to be the world's second largest canyon after the Grand Canyon, USA. You'll be able to follow the Fish River from its source to within a few miles of the airstrip. The lodge's chalets are built among huge boulders. The bar is a comfortable place and meals are served in the restaurant. While the lodge will drive you to an impressive lookout point on the canyon rim, the prize view of this colossus is from the air. Flying west from there, take a look at the site of a huge crater resulting from the impact of a meteorite believed to be the size of a car.

<https://gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/canyon-lodge>

### **July 16 (Wed) - Dundi Lodge, Augrabies, South Africa**

*(330 nm first North then Southeast then West Southwest - with 1 fuel stop and 2 immigration stops) - Dundi Lodge Aerodrome, 1 night, Bed & Breakfast.*

Another longish day due to formalities! Initially we fly 30 minutes to Keetmanshoop to clear out of Namibia. Thereafter, a 1 hour 30-minute leg takes us to Upington to refuel and clear Customs and immigration back into South Africa. Once formalities have been completed at Upington, a short 20 minute flight to Dundi Lodge Airstrip.

Situated close to the renowned Augrabies Falls and in the heart of South Africa's largest export table-grape producing region. Dundi Lodge Augrabies Falls is a cool, quiet and convenient retreat. Tranquil and spacious interiors open on to a central courtyard and pool area. The popular restaurant is an ideal venue to entertain clients, celebrate with friends or simply enjoy a delicious meal with select wines at the end of a busy day. Stylish accommodation is well-appointed with guests needs carefully considered. The Dundi airstrip allows for the convenience of charter flights and our sister operation Kalahari Out ventures offer a range of river activities including rafting, fly fishing, nature paddles and overnight safaris, which can be booked. A perfect stop over for flying enthusiasts on a fly-in safari.

<http://dundilodge.co.za/>

**July 17 (Thur): Return to Grand Central**

(470 nm East North East – direct flight): 1 Night Bed & Breakfast & airport transfer.

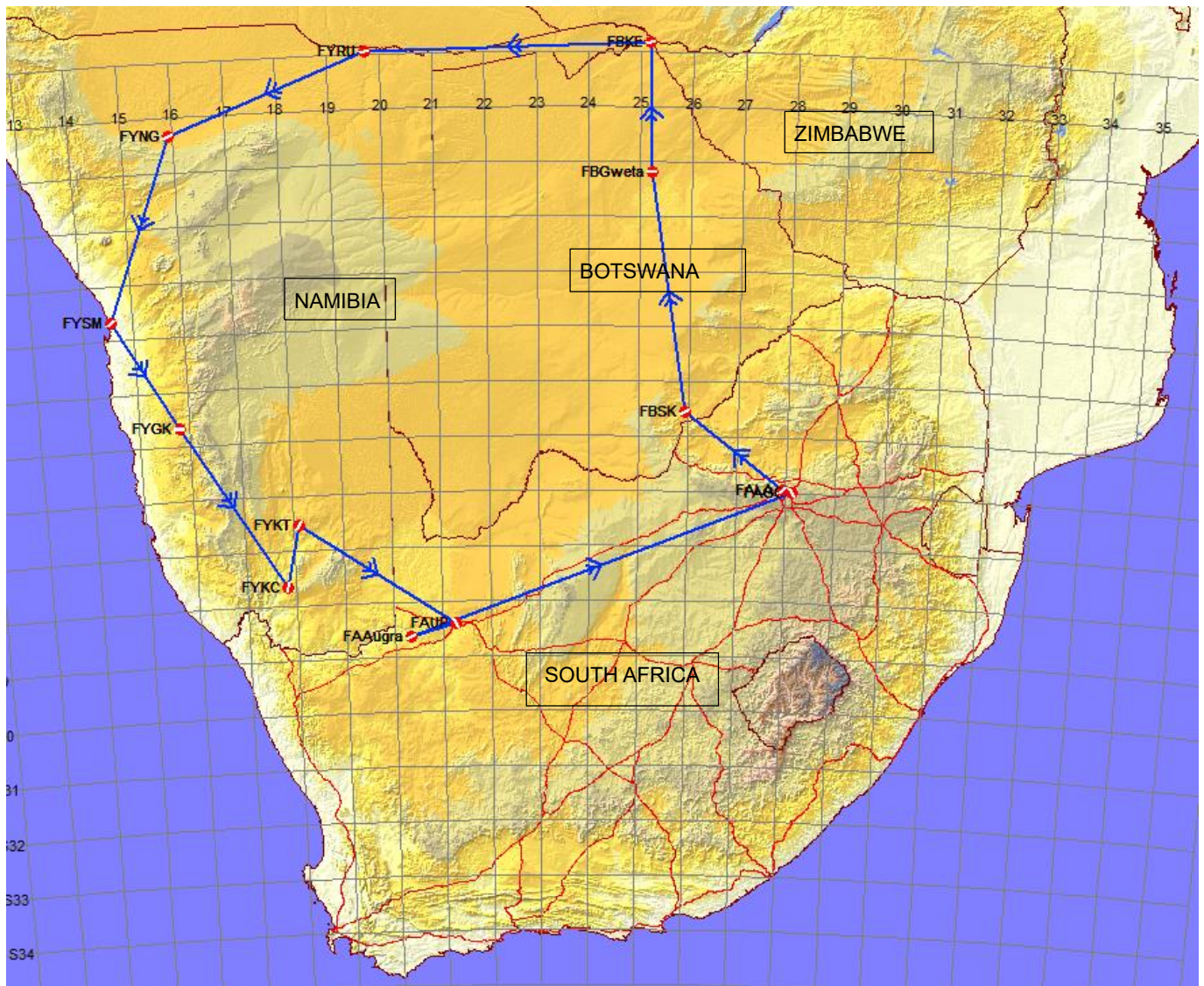
An earlyish start for a long flying, approximately 4hour 30. On your arrival back in Johannesburg we will assist you with refueling the aircraft, direct you to parking bays, help to off-load the planes and check nothing is left behind. You will be transferred to the Tsogo Sun in Fourways. Call home and tell them you are back in civilization! We will join you for dinner and once completed you can return to your room for a good night’s sleep.

**(Bed & breakfast, transfer)**

<https://www.tsogosun.com/hotel/the-pivot-hotel>

**July 18 (Fir)**

A chance to do last minute shopping and repack your bags. Transfer to OR Tambo International airport for your flight home. Let the stories be told!



**AFRICAN AERO ADVENTURES**

<http://www.selfflysafari.com>  
Grand Central Airport, Midrand  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
Tel: +27 82 867 1587  
[enquiries@selfflysafari.co.za](mailto:enquiries@selfflysafari.co.za)