

Serendipity Travels

African Adventure

The first six days.

10-13 September 2018

The trip from Bellingham to Johannesburg is not a trivial adventure. In fact, Jo'burg is almost as far away from Bellingham (over 10,000 miles) as one can get, short of a space flight to the moon. We found the most attractive tickets combined a 9½-hour, overnight flight from Seattle to London, a 12-hour layover in London, and then an 11-hour overnight flight from London to Johannesburg. And the time difference? 10 hours.



We arrived in Johannesburg at 8:05 in the morning. After a bit of searching, we found the driver sent by our hostess and made our way to Sunflowers Guesthouse, in Bonaero Park, a suburb of Johannesburg. Needless to say, we weren't really ambitious our first day there. We did manage to make use of Ubers to go wine shopping and out to eat, and our first picture shows us enjoying some of that South African Wine.

To see more pictures of the first two days in South Africa, overlaid on a map, click:
[Johannesburg](#)



On our second day, we caught an Uber over to the commuter train station, rode that (the Gautrain) to town, and took a hop-on hop-off bus tour, hopping off at the SAB World of Beer for lunch and refreshment. After the tour, we reversed our route to home. We did not take the opportunity to visit Soweto, a less prosperous part of town.

14 September 2018

We flew to Durban's King Shaka Airport, where a lodge vehicle picked up us and two other couples. We rode north to the camp and had time to settle in, explore the grounds, and have dinner that first night.

15 September 2018

Bright and early the next morning we were up, met our ranger who would be with us the rest of the week, and set off on a game drive. Our group consisted of two women from Boston, Al and Karen Callery, a woman from Seattle, and occasionally a couple from California. We saw a great variety of animals that first morning, and after breakfast and lunch, went out again in the afternoon to see more. The first of many days that we would explore the park looking for animals in their natural habitat.



To see more pictures of the first two days in the safari camp, click: [Safari I](#)

16 September 2018

Our day started with an early-morning game drive. After breakfast, we went to another reserve where we could touch and feed elephants. Most of the game reserves are "wild," but these elephants had become accustomed to human interaction. Afterwards, we returned to our lodge for another game drive.

To see more pictures of the third day in the safari camp, click: [Safari II](#)



No Maps?

As you probably know, poaching of elephant and rhinoceros horns is a big problem. Some cultures think that the powder obtained by grinding up these horns enhances male performance. To obtain the horns, poachers kill the animal. Our safari camp posted this sign. Although all my photos were originally geotagged, the location data for these pictures has been set to 0° S and 0° E, which is in the Atlantic Ocean.

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN SHARING
PHOTOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. THEY CAN
LEAD POACHERS TO OUR RHINO**

**KINDLY TURN OFF THE GEOTAG
FUNCTION ON YOUR MOBILE PHONES
AND CAMERAS**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO
KEEP OUR RHINO SAFE**