

SOUTH AFRICA & SOUTH AMERICA FARM & RUGBY STUDY TOUR 2012

DRAFT ITINERARY

September 25 departure

DATE	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
DAY 1 Tue, Sep 25 (Meals on plane then Dinner)	<p>After a 10.00 am departure out of Sydney on Sep 25, our South African Airways flight will arrive the same day at 4.15 pm at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg. Our guide, Marius Botha, will meet us at the airport. From here we will be transferred to our hotel in Pretoria for check-in. Early dinner at the hotel then a free evening.</p> <p><i>Flight: SA7701 Dep Sydney 10.00 am; Arr Jo'burg 4.15 pm (still Sep 25)</i></p>	<p>Pretoria (South Africa) City Lodge Lynnwood Cnr Lynnwood & Darenty Rds Lynnwood, Pretoria</p> <p>Ph: 0011 27 12 471 0300 Fax: 0011 27 12471 0350 www.citylodge.co.za</p>
DAY 2 Wed, Sep 26 (B,L,D)	<p>After breakfast we are transferred back to the airport for our 1 hour flight east to Hoedspruit, near the western boundary of Kruger National Park. On arrival we are transferred to our private game reserve for check-in and lunch. We are in the middle of unspoilt wilderness and home to the "Big Five": lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo plus countless numbers of other mammals, birdlife and savannah animals. After lunch at the lodge we will enjoy a game drive. Qualified and enthusiastic rangers will lead us through close and unrestricted encounters with Africa's big game. Tonight we will enjoy dinner at the lodge.</p> <p><i>Flight: SA1225 Dep Jo'burg 10.30 am arrive Hoedspruit 11.30 am</i></p>	<p>Private Game Reserve Thornbush Waterside Lodge www.waterside-lodge.co.za</p>
DAY 3 Thu, Sep 27 (B,L,D)	<p>Today we can experience all the splendour of the African bush. In addition to two open Land Rover safaris (one in the morning and one in the afternoon/evening) and guided walks, there are numerous additional activities to enjoy. All meals are at the lodge.</p>	<p>Private Game Reserve Thornbush Waterside Lodge</p>
DAY 4 Fri, Sep 28 (B,L,D)	<p>After breakfast at the lodge we check-out of our piece of African paradise, board our private charter coach and travel west to the Marble Hall area. This is in the centre of the Loskop Irrigation Scheme – a major food basket area of South Africa. Local identity Percy MacCaskill will accompany us on farm visits in the region and will tell us more about all the local farming activities. We will visit the farm of Jannie Terblanche. Jannie farms cotton, citrus, wheat, tobacco and maize. This evening at dinner we are joined by some local farmers. Overnight Marble Hall.</p>	<p>Marble Hall Raasblaar Lodge Marble Hall</p> <p>Ph: 0011 27 82 944 0694 www.raasblaar.co.za</p>
DAY 5 Sat, Sep 29 (B,L)	<p>Early visit this morning to Du Toitskraal farm, owned and operated by Johan Maritz. Johan farms cotton, citrus, wheat and soybeans.</p> <p>We continue onto Pretoria and check into our hotel. After a free afternoon we are transferred to Loftus Stadium for the eagerly awaited Test match with the mighty Wallabies up against the Springboks. Transfer after the match to our Pretoria hotel where victory celebrations can continue.</p>	<p>Pretoria City Lodge Lynnwood</p>
DAY 6 Sun, Sep 30 (B,L)	<p>Later this morning we enjoy a Pretoria city tour. Founded in 1855, Pretoria has been the administrative capital of South Africa since 1910. We will visit the Voortrekker Monument, Church Square and the Union Buildings. The Voortrekker Monument is a 41-m-high granite bulk and is a lasting memorial to the fortitude and perseverance of the doughty pioneers who avoided British rule in the Cape Colony by trekking into the unknown interior between 1834 and 1840. Church Square was first used as a market where ox-wagons from far and wide brought their produce on market days. Some of the city's most gracious public buildings were eventually erected on the perimeter of the square. The Union Building is the administrative headquarters of the South African government. We have lunch and then a free afternoon for relaxing or shopping.</p>	<p>Pretoria City Lodge Lynnwood</p>

DATE	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
DAY 7 Mon, Oct 1 (B, meals on plane, then Dinner)	<p>After breakfast, we are transferred to the airport for our 10.35 am flight to Sao Paulo, Brazil, arriving 4.00 pm the same day. After clearing customs, we are transferred to our nearby hotel for check-in. After freshening up, we're then off to a uniquely Brazilian eating experience for dinner – a churrascaria. This is a distinctly Brazilian style of cooking and owes its centuries-old origins to the fireside roasts of the gauchos (cowboys) of southern Brazil. Meat waiters come to your table with knives and a skewer on which are speared various cuts of beef, pork, lamb, chicken, duck, sausage, fish etc ... and the waiters keep coming until you wave a hand in meek submission. It's a great night out for meat-lovers but vegetarians may feel a tad more comfortable at the salad buffet.</p> <p>Flight: SA222 Dep Jo'burg 10.35 am; Arr Sao Paulo 4.00 pm</p>	<p>Sao Paulo (Brazil)</p> <p>Sao Paulo Airport Hotel</p>
DAY 8 Tue, Oct 2 (B,L)	<p>This morning we have an early transfer to the airport for our short flight to Foz do Iguacu (Iguazu Falls, the world's widest falls and arguably the most beautiful). If we have an on-time arrival in Foz do Iguacu (8.50 am), we will board our private charter coach and visit the nearby and giant Itaipu Dam – one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Eight kilometres wide and requiring enough concrete to build five Hoover Dams, the Itaipu Dam spans the Parana River at the Brazil/Paraguay border. During its construction, workers shifted the course of the world's seventh largest river by removing 50 million tonnes of earth and rock to dig a 2 km bypass. Around 160 tonnes of water per second pour onto each turbine generating more than 70 per cent of Paraguay's electricity needs and 30 per cent of southern Brazil's.</p> <p>After our Itaipu Dam visit we continue onto the magnificent Iguazu Falls – where the borders of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay meet. We then enter the Iguazu National Park and check into our magnificent colonial hotel. This is the only hotel within the National Park and is spectacularly located on the edge of the falls. We then take an exhilarating jungle tour and jetboat ride to the base of Gargantua del Diablo (translated as the 'Devil's Throat') – the most impressive part of Iguazu Falls. Other options today include a helicopter flight over the falls and/or a visit to a magnificent bird sanctuary. And of course you have to do the unforgettable stroll along the boardwalk, from the front of our hotel, to many vantage points of the falls including Gargantua del Diablo. Free evening to enjoy this magnificent hotel and setting.</p> <p>Flight: JJ3169 Dep Sao Paulo 7.20 am; Arr Foz du Iguazu 8.50 am</p>	<p>Iguazu Falls</p> <p>Hotel das Cataratas, Iguazu National Park, Foz do Iguazu</p> <p>Ph: 0011 55 45 2102 7000 Fax: 0011 55 45 3522 1717 www.hoteldascataratas.com</p>
DAY 9 Wed, Oct 3 (B,L,D)	<p>Time this morning for a last stroll along the boardwalk before breakfast and check-out. We are then transferred across the border into Argentina for our 12.50 pm flight to El Calafate (via Buenos Aires), arriving in this remote Patagonian town at 8.03 pm. We are met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. Dinner at the hotel.</p> <p>Flight: AR1729 (Aerolineas Argentinas) Dep 12.50 pm; Arr El Calafate 8.03 pm (via BA).</p>	<p>El Calafate (Argentina)</p> <p>Edenia Hotel Punta Soberana, El Calafate</p> <p>Ph: 0011 54 02 902 497021 Fax: 0011 54 02 902 496210 www.edeniahoteles.com.ar</p>
DAY 10 Thu, Oct 4 (B,L)	<p>We are in the arid rain-shadow region of the Argentine Patagonia – sheep country – and in the remote but bustling town of El Calafate. This is an environment ranging from enormous, majestic glaciers through to thick sub-Antarctic woodlands and savage unclimbed crags. El Calafate is sited on the shores of Lago Argentino, one of the world's largest and most beautiful lakes. El Calafate is also the access town for Glacier Perito Moreno, undoubtedly one of the world's natural wonders and one of the very few advancing glaciers on Earth. Early this morning we board our charter coach and visit this glacier as it wages a titanic battle with Lago Argentino. On our spectacular boat cruise to the face of the glacier we will witness huge chunks of ice detonate off the face with the report of a cannon, and plunge into the water below.</p> <p>After our glacier encounter we visit a nearby and very large sheep operation – Estancia Altavista. This estancia (ranch) is 75,000 hectares running 22,000 sheep. We talk to the manager about sheep farming at the southern end of the world and inspect some of the sheep and yards etc before enjoying a fantastic asado (BBQ) at the estancia. Return to El Calafate for overnight. Free evening.</p>	<p>El Calafate</p> <p>Edenia Hotel</p>
DAY 11 Fri, Oct 5 (B, lunch on plane, then Dinner)	<p>After breakfast we are transferred to the airport for our flight north to Buenos Aires, arriving at 1.46 pm. Our charter coach meets us and we continue north to Rosario, Argentina's agricultural capital, and as luck would have it – the venue for the Wallabies historic Test match against the proud Pumas. Our road north takes us through magnificent farming and cattle country. We will arrive late afternoon in Rosario. Here we say hola to Andres Begnis, our farm specialist guide/agronomist and former CEO for the Argentina Minimum Till Association (APPRESID).</p> <p>Flight: AR1871 (Aerolineas Argentinas) Dep 10.15 am; Arr Buenos Aires 1.10 pm</p>	<p>Rosario</p> <p>Hotel Solans Libertador Corrientes 752 (2000) Rosario</p> <p>Ph: 0011 54 341 4241005 www.solans.com</p>
DAY 12 Sat, Oct 6 (B,L)	<p>This morning Andres will be joined by fellow agronomist Nicolas Tettamanti. Along with excellent English skills and a deep knowledge of Argentine agriculture, both Andres and Nicolas also happen to be very keen rugby fans. We have a brief tour of Rosario city and the grain handling facilities on the mighty Parana River before a free afternoon shopping/relaxing/preparing for this evening's Test. A bus will transfer us to and from the game.</p>	<p>Rosario</p> <p>Hotel Solans Libertador</p>

DATE	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
DAY 13 Sun, Oct 7 (B,L,D)	This morning, along with our agronomist guide, we board our charter bus and travel south into the heart of one of the world's most fertile and productive areas of broadacre farming and cattle production – the Argentinean Pampas. Over the next few days our guides will introduce us to some of the magnificent farms and farmers of the pampas. Today we will enjoy a memorable grain and cattle farm visit – with an asado lunch on the farm. Then it's on our way to Pergamino for overnight. Dinner is at a restaurant not far from our hotel – and a favourite of the locals.	Pergamino Raices Hotel San Nicolas 332, Pergamino Ph: 0011 54 2477 422 092 www.raiceshotel.com.ar
DAY 14 Mon, Oct 8 (B,L)	This morning we enjoy another Pampas farm visit on our way east to Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. With downtown's magnificent European architecture, suburbs full of character and a never-ending nightlife, Buenos Aires is one of South America's most exciting cities. After check-in at our superbly located downtown hotel, there's free time this evening to maybe enjoy a meal at one of the superb steakhouses 5 minutes walk from the hotel or you can head to the vibrant nightlife of the nearby Recoleta. There's also the option of a tango show this evening or tomorrow night. There's a first class dinner and tango show right across the road from our hotel.	Buenos Aires Panamericano Hotel Carlos Pellegrini 551 (C1009ABK), Buenos Aires Ph: 0011 54 11 4348 5000 Fax: 0011 54 11 4348 5250 www.panamericano.us
DAY 15 Tue, Oct 9 (B,L)	This morning we enjoy a guided city tour of the major sights of BA to help get our bearings. We will visit famous sights such as La Boca, Puerto Madero and of course the 'Pink Palace' (Presidential Palace) made famous by Evita Perron's many speeches to her people from the Palace balcony – or was that Madonna? We will return to our hotel for a lunchtime meeting with Australia's Austrade representative in Argentina. Then it's a free afternoon in Buenos Aires for your own exploration, sightseeing or shopping. The topography of Buenos Aires is very flat and ideal for guided sightseeing by bicycle. There are several excellent companies offering this very cheap touring option with a difference.	Buenos Aires Panamericano Hotel
DAY 16 Wed, Oct 10 (B)	Free time this morning before transfer to the airport, departing the hotel at 2.30 pm. A late check-out will be arranged. Flight: SA227 Departs Buenos Aires 6.10 pm; Arrives Jo'burg 8.00 am (Oct 11) There is a transit hotel at Jo'burg airport for those wishing to book a room for a few hours. These rooms can't be pre-booked but there are plenty of them. Flight: SA7700 Departs Jo'burg 6.15 pm (Oct 11) Arrives Sydney 3.10 pm (Friday Oct 12) There is an option on the way home to break your journey at Jo'burg for several days and maybe take in Victoria Falls or Capetown and the Garden Route. ADD-ON OPTIONS: If you're not ready to head home just yet there are many other destinations we can help arrange for you. Just some of the popular add-ons include: The breathtaking heights and sights of Peru and Machu-Pichu as well as Lake Titicaca; The Galapagos Islands; Rio de Janeiro; The Amazon etc etc.	Flights home