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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Friendly Planet Travel Introduces New South Africa Tour, Celebrates with Facebook Sweepstakes**

One Facebook fan will win a free nine-day trip of a lifetime for two on the incredible new 'A Taste of South Africa' tour, valued at up to \$5,400

JENKINTOWN, Pa.—September 11, 2013—[Friendly Planet Travel](#) has announced its latest bucket list travel experience at an exceptionally affordable price and is giving away one free trip to a lucky traveler to celebrate. The new nine-day [A Taste of South Africa tour](#), which starts at just \$1,899, offers a specially designed itinerary that will introduce travelers to South Africa's diverse beauty, wildlife, and culture like never before. To kick off this new offering, Friendly Planet Travel has launched the [Win Wild South Africa Sweepstakes](#) in partnership with [South African Tourism](#) and [South African Airways](#). By entering on Friendly Planet's [Facebook page](#), one lucky fan will receive a trip for two, valued at up to \$5,400, where they explore the African bush in search of Big Five game and revel in the energy, night life, and spirit of Cape Town.

"South Africa is a trip of a lifetime, but the price tag might make this destination little more than a dream for many travelers," says Peggy Goldman, President of Friendly Planet Travel. "We are constantly innovating to make bucket list trips a reality and this brand-new tour is the latest example of that. It brings the breathtaking safari, wildlife, culture, and adventure of South Africa to travelers at an affordable price yet without having to compromise on comfort or the experience in any way. And what better way to celebrate our brand-new tour than with a giveaway for one lucky traveler and a guest to enjoy the best of what South Africa has to offer. We are confident that this tour will become one of our most popular ever."

The [Win Wild South Africa Sweepstakes](#) begins today and will run through Friday, Oct. 11. The grand prize includes round-trip, non-stop airfare from New York (JFK) or Washington, D.C.

(IAD) to Cape Town Airport; all intra-country transfers, ground transportation, and flights; six nights' accommodations in first-class hotels and a game lodge; four safari game drives and all meals at Entabeni Game Reserve, an 85-square-mile private game reserve in a malaria-free area; an English-speaking game ranger/guide; and touring of Table Mountain in Cape Town, often described as one of the most epic views in Africa. Friendly Planet Travel will also be giving away travel-themed prizes to one lucky entrant each week throughout the Sweepstakes period. Weekly prizes will be awarded on Sept. 17, Sept. 24, and Oct. 1.

Friendly Planet's [A Taste of South Africa](#) tour begins in the beautiful jewel of Cape Town, where travelers will stay at the centrally located [Protea Breakwater Lodge](#). They'll have the day to explore the modern, bustling, and vibrant city, complete with gorgeous scenery, fabulous restaurants, and beaches, all bursting with history and culture.

The next day begins with a complimentary breakfast before travelers depart on a panoramic half-day tour of Cape Town that showcases the scenic and historic highlights of the city. The thrilling day of adventure will continue with a cable car ride to the top of [Table Mountain](#), Cape Town's most striking landmark. Later, the tour stops at [Milnerton Lighthouse](#) for spectacular views of the mountain and the city below before proceeding to the country's oldest building, the [Castle of Good Hope](#), an imposing 17th-century Dutch fort set against the mountain's dramatic backdrop. From there, travelers will venture to the historic [Malay Quarter](#) (Bo-Kaap), a neighborhood that was founded by former slaves from Malaysia whose Islamic culture gives the neighborhood a distinct character. The next two days are reserved for personal exploration and sightseeing throughout the city.

Optional excursions available include a trip to [Cape Point](#) for \$75. It includes a brief stop at the famous Chapman's Peak before continuing on by funicular railway to the stunning views of the Cape of Good Hope. Later, the excursion will make a brief visit to the African jackass penguins at [Boulders Beach](#), and then continue to the [Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens](#), where travelers will enjoy a magnificent display of indigenous South African flora.

Additional optional excursions include a half-day morning adventure to the heart of the Cape Winelands for \$55 that allows travelers to experience fine art galleries, architecture, history, and curious and quaint shops. There's also a half-day afternoon excursion to the regional townships of [District Six](#) for \$45. Travelers will explore the oldest township, Langa, and the newer Khayelitsha, the largest district in Western Cape, to see local housing, schools, shopping malls, clinics, and many private organizations providing social and other skills to the people at large.

Day six begins with a flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival, travelers will board a touring coach and drive to [Entabeni Private Game Reserve](#). The [Entabeni Lakeside Lodge](#) is located in the [Waterberg](#) area, named a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, and home to the Big Five game. In the afternoon, travelers will set off on their first game drive with expert rangers in open vehicles to experience the reserve, which boasts more than 55 large mammal species, including the big five, plus more than 300 species of birds, and numerous flora and fauna.

Three additional game drives are included as well as time for leisure, relaxation, or a variety of optional South African activities, such as horseback riding, bush walks, or helicopter flights, available locally for a supplemental cost.

Friendly Planet's [A Taste of South Africa](#) tour is available in 2014 on the departure date of Sept. 13 for \$1,899; Jan. 14, Feb. 1, Feb. 17, March 4, March 23, and Sept. 27 for \$1,999; Oct. 4 for \$2,059; April 19 and Aug. 16 for \$2,299; and May 17 for \$2,399—all if booked by Oct. 8, 2013.

The [Win Wild South Africa Sweepstakes](#) is open to all legal U.S. residents over the age of 21, beginning Sept. 11, 2013 at 9 a.m. EDT and ending Oct. 11, 2013 at 11:59 p.m. EDT. To enter, visit [Facebook.com/FriendlyPlanetTravel](#), like the page, and submit the required information through the Win Wild South Africa Sweepstakes tab. There is no purchase necessary to enter the giveaway. Friendly Planet will announce the winner on its Facebook page and the [Friendly Planet Travel blog](#).

For more information about [A Taste of South Africa](#), or any of the other fascinating adventures that Friendly Planet Travel offers, visit [FriendlyPlanetTravel.com](#).

ABOUT FRIENDLY PLANET TRAVEL

Friendly Planet Travel makes high-quality exotic travel affordable for everyone. Since 1981, Friendly Planet Travel has been arranging all-inclusive escorted discount vacation packages and cruises to the most exciting destinations in the world at the lowest possible prices.

Each year, Friendly Planet Travel offers more than 30 different group travel packages to Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and South America—at discounts of hundreds of dollars off similar vacations. With no hidden charges, add-ons, or surprises, Friendly Planet Travel vacations include convenient flights and airfare; carefully selected, first-class and superior hotels; knowledgeable, English-speaking guides; many meals; planned itineraries; as well as friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Friendly Planet Travel offers its extensive, economical travel services to private groups, including universities, religious institutions, alumni associations, and families. Groups who wish to travel together can count on Friendly Planet Travel's three decades of experience to operate their group travel program expertly and always at the very best possible prices. Visit the company at www.FriendlyPlanetTravel.com. You can also follow Friendly Planet Travel on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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